

Middlesbrough Council Phase 2 Ward Boundary Review Submission

1. Background and relevant information

- 1.2 In March 2023 the LGBCE informed the Council that it was to carry out an Electoral Review of Middlesbrough Council in order to deliver electoral equality for voters in local elections.
- 1.3 The LGBCE calculates electoral equality in an authority by dividing the number of electors in a ward by the number of Councillors elected to represent that ward. This gives an 'electoral ratio'. High levels of electoral equality for a local authority will be a situation where a high proportion of wards across the authority have roughly the same electoral ratio and where no ward or division has a ratio which is significantly above, or below, the average for the authority, and that ward arrangements help the council work effectively. The review will also look at creating ward patterns that are appropriate, reflecting community ties and identities.
- 1.4 On 26 July 2023 Overview and Scrutiny Board received an overview of the proposed Ward Boundary review. The overview covered how the review would take place and the timescales involved. It was explained the process consisted of two phases the first focussing on overall size of the Council – that is the number of elected Members that the Council requires to properly undertake its duties and responsibilities.
- 1.5 Phase One of the electoral review is to determine the number of Councillors who should represent the local authority, referred to by the LGBCE as determining 'council size'.
- 1.6 The LGBCE required that in determining the number of Councillors, it agreed the Council's projected electorate for 2029. Based on Office for National Statistics data, and the methodology set out by the Commission, Middlesbrough's projected electorate for 2029 was 104,225 based on the 2023 baseline of 97,154 which was agreed with the Commission.
- 1.7 The Phase One submission was considered and approved by OSB and was submitted in advance of the deadline of 31st October 2023. It suggested an increase in Councillors from 46 to 47.
- 1.8 The LGBCE carefully considered the submission made by the Council on the number of members Middlesbrough should have. It considered there was insufficient evidence to justify the proposed increase to 47 and was therefore minded to recommend that 46 Councillors should be elected to the council in future.
- 1.9 On 19 December 2023 the LGBCE wrote to the Chief Executive informing him that the next stage of the Electoral Review was commencing, and this stage was to consider the new pattern of ward arrangements for the town, based on

a Council size of 46 Councillors. The LGBCE also informed the Council that the closing date for representations would be 11 March 2024.

2. Phase Two: Consideration of the Warding Pattern for the town

2.2 In considering the warding pattern for an Authority, the LGBCE has regard to the statutory criteria set down in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. In broad terms these are:

The need to secure equality of representation

- 2.3 Each Councillor under the new warding arrangements must represent between +/- 10% of the average.
- 2.4 Given the Council size of 46 Members, and the projected electorate of 104,225, the optimum Member: elector ratio is 2,266 per Member.
- 2.5 To fall within the +/-10% of average requirement, this gives a target range of between 2,033 and 2,500 electors per Councillor under the new warding arrangements.

The need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

- 2.6 The Commission will look for strong boundaries and defined communities.
- 2.7 Factors such as access to public or other facilities, travel and communications should be considered. The location of doctors' surgeries, hospitals, libraries or schools could be relevant factors. Access to shops and other services could also be relevant, as might an area's history, culture, and traditions.
- 2.8 The existence and activities of residents' associations and local voluntary organisations might contribute to the evidence of community identity and interest.
- 2.9 Importantly, the Commission will require well-argued evidence of community identity if it is to be persuaded to move from equality in the number of electors each Councillor represents.

The need to secure effective and convenient local government

- 2.10 The Commission will be looking for factors such as coherent wards with good transport links. There should be reasonable road links across the ward so that it can be easily traversed, and so that all electors in the ward can engage in the affairs and activities of all parts of the ward without having to travel through an adjoining ward.
- 2.11 Wards should not be so large in terms of physical extent or electorate that it prevents a Councillor from effectively representing the people in it

2.12 The Commission takes the view that wards or divisions returning more than three Councillors results in a dilution of accountability to the electorate. Consequently, it will not normally recommend a number above that figure.

3. Process

3.2 Following the practice adopted during the previous Ward Boundary Review it was decided that the Overview and Scrutiny Board (OSB) would co-ordinate the Council's submissions to the LGBCE.

3.3 OSB first considered the second phase of the review at its meeting held on 18 January 2024. It was the view of OSB that managing the development of the Council's submission to the Commission through the Scrutiny process, prior to discussion and approval by full Council, would result in more meaningful opportunities for democratic participation by all Members of the Council than simply to have a debate (or debates) in full Council. OSB therefore resolved to hold 4 workshop sessions to manage the preparation of the Council's submission.

3.4 In order to engage as many Members as possible in the process, and in particular to utilise their knowledge of the communities that they represent, OSB agreed to run workshops to which all Members of the Council were invited to participate. The workshops were run during the day and the evening in order to maximise the opportunity of Members to attend. The workshops were structured around the Southern Wards of the town (Coulby Newham, Hemlington, Kader, Ladgate, Marton East, Marton West, Nunthorpe, Park End and Beckfield, Stainton & Thornton, Trimdon) and the Northern Wards of the Town (Acklam, Ayresome, Brambles & Thortree, Berwick Hills & Pallister, Central, Linthorpe, Longlands & Beechwood, Newport, North Ormesby, Park). Nineteen Councillors participated across the four workshops.

3.5 In phase two the LGBCE requires the Council to meet the statutory criteria of Electoral equality for voters (eg, all voters should carry the same weight, based on forecast electorate); Community identities and interests (eg, all communities should be represented); and Effective and Convenient local government (eg, coherent wards that are logical to represent)

3.6 In consideration of the statutory criteria, the objectives of the workshops were:

- To utilise members knowledge of the communities that they represent mapping identifiable, strong, 'natural' communities with which electors identity strongly and/ or have identifiable interests
 - Considering the possible boundaries between those identified communities that would result in effective and convenient local government.

4. Initial Considerations

4.2 The following Wards were identified as falling outside a 10% variance of the optimum Councillor to elector ratio:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Variance from Optimum Ratio</u>
Stainton & Thornton	+80%
Central	+15%
Trimdon	+13%
North Ormesby	-15%
Berwick Hills & Pallister	-17%
Park End & Beckfield	-20%

4.3 While Central and Trimdon Wards had a higher than 10% variance, feedback from the workshops was these two wards did not need to be changed because of their physical and community makeups.

4.4 Working on the predicted 2029 elector population already agreed with the Commission (as part of the Council size consultation) the variance, based on the current ward structure, can be found at Appendix 1.

4.5 Overview & Scrutiny Board has considered a number of matters. These include:

Projected build and demolitions

4.6 The projected elector population figures agreed with the Commission have taken into account the best available estimates relating to new build housing that will come into occupation between now and beyond 2029.

4.7 However, given the current national and regional economic climate, these projections cannot be assured. OSB is mindful of the fact that any major fluctuation in these figures could trigger a further review.

4.8 Again, with a mind to future-proofing its recommendations, OSB noted that there are areas of town where there is little opportunity for new build, and areas of town – particularly the southern fringes of the area where new build is far more likely.

4.9 In view of this, if there is to be a variance of greater than +/-10% from the optimum elector/Councillor ratio, then wherever possible variance between 10% and 15% should be limited to areas of town where fewer opportunities for development exist.

5. Member Workshops

- 5.2 Council officers convened four workshops for members to engage with the review process. Each workshop lasted three hours and 19 members attended the workshops which is a significant increase on the degree of engagement with the boundary review process in 2013.
- 5.3 Members were asked to identify what they considered to be identifiable, strong, 'natural' communities with which electors identified strongly and/ or have identifiable interests. They were also asked to consider the possible boundaries between those identified communities that would result in effective and convenient local government. Over the nearly 12 hours of discussion members and officers took great care to address community links and to draw boundaries that would best refer to local identity and community consciousness. The workshops were universally well-received by members with a wide range of cross-party contributions and collaboration by members and varied suggestions around how the boundaries could be redrawn effectively.
- 5.4 During the workshops Members were mindful of elector numbers with any proposals but their primary consideration was community interest. Due to this it was felt that all other wards did not need to change even if their elector variance was above or below 10%.
- 5.5 All proposals made during the workshops were considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 28 February 2024. OSB deliberated the proposals and found they were all valid and well thought out. Only one proposal was not included as part of the Council's submission, and this can be found in Appendix 4. The proposals approved for inclusion in the Council's submission can be found at Appendix 2.

6. Proposals

- 6.2 While the details of each ward proposals can be found in Appendix 2, it is important to stress these proposals are made adhering to the statutory requirements described above while being mindful of the Boundary Commission's recommendation that overall Councillor size remain at 46.
- 6.3 Most of the changes proposed are within the East Middlesbrough area. As Appendix 2 highlights, this area of Middlesbrough has several distinct and common characteristics whose community narratives have been grouped together to try and reflect this.
- 6.4 East Middlesbrough (currently North Ormesby, Berwick Hills and Pallister, Brambles and Thorntree and Park End and Beckfield) was identified early in the process as an area where it would be necessary to delete one Councillor from the overall total with a concomitant extra Councillor required in the South of the town due to projected housing developments.
- 6.5 The wards in East Middlesbrough are a self-contained area with strong community connections. They are bordered to the East and South by Redcar

and Cleveland, to the North by the railway line and A66 and to the West by the railway line and the beck valley.

- 6.6 As a result, any changes would need to be within the confines of those clearly identified boundaries. For example- linking the East Middlesbrough Wards with wards to the West beyond the beck valley and the hospital would encroach into the Marton area which has no community or geographical link. The workshops deliberated at length over how to redraw the East Middlesbrough Boundaries and the ward Councillors across all political groups were in agreement that the Council's proposed changes met the well-defined community connections within East Middlesbrough to a much greater degree than the current boundaries.
- 6.7 The proposals for East Middlesbrough have changed optimum Councillor/ electorate variances, however there were no iterations that would not have changed these variances without affecting other wards whose variances fell within tolerance.
- 6.8 It could also be argued that the proposed changes to the variances in East Middlesbrough is a positive given this area's relatively high deprivation levels which increases access to elected Members.
- 6.9 Proposals were also made for name changes only to some wards. This was partly for community purposes but also efficient and effective local government purposes. These suggestions can be found at Appendix 3.

<i>Ward</i>	<i>Changed/Unchanged</i>	<i>Number of Councillors</i>
Acklam	Unchanged	2
Ayresome	Unchanged	2
Berwick Hills and Parkend	New	2
Brambles & Thorntree	New	2
Central	Unchanged	3
Coulby Newham North	New	2
Coulby Newham South	New	2
Easterside	New	1
Hemlington	Unchanged	2
Kader	Unchanged	2
Linthorpe	Unchanged	2
Longlands & Beechwood	Unchanged	3
Marion East	Unchanged	2
Marion West	New	3
Netherfields & Preistfields	New	2
Newport	Unchanged	3
North Ormesby & Boyds	New	1
Nunthorpe	New	2
Trimdon	Unchanged	2
Park	Unchanged	3
Pallister	New	2
Stainton & Thornton	New	1

Table 1 – Electorate Variances from optimum ratio 2,226 electors per Councillor using existing warding patterns.

<i>Ward</i>	<i>North/South</i>	<i>Cllrs</i>	<i>Ward Electorate (2029 Projections)</i>	Avg. Elector per Cllr (2029) Projections	<i>Electorate per Cllr (Projections 2029)</i>	<i>"Drift" between Electorate Per Cllr and 2,266 Average</i>	<i>Variance from Average</i>
Stainton & Thornton	South	1	4,082	2,266	4,082	1,816	80%
Central	North	3	7,804	2,266	2,601	335	15%
Trimdon	South	2	5,104	2,266	2,552	286	13%
Marton East	South	2	5,001	2,266	2,500	234	10%
Nunthorpe	South	2	4,802	2,266	2,401	135	6%
Longlands & Beechwood	North	3	7,185	2,266	2,395	129	6%
Park	North	3	6,920	2,266	2,307	41	2%
Newport	North	3	6,762	2,266	2,254	-12	-1%
Linthorpe	North	2	4,476	2,266	2,238	-28	-1%
Kader	South	2	4,458	2,266	2,229	-37	-2%
Ayresome	North	2	4,453	2,266	2,226	-40	-2%
Acklam	North	2	4,419	2,266	2,209	-57	-2%
Marton West	South	2	4,403	2,266	2,201	-65	-3%
Ladgate	South	2	4,388	2,266	2,194	-72	-3%
Hemlington	South	2	4,296	2,266	2,148	-118	-5%
Brambles & Thorntree	North	3	6,331	2,266	2,110	-156	-7%
Coulby Newham	South	3	6,278	2,266	2,093	-173	-8%
North Ormesby	North	1	1,932	2,266	1,932	-334	-15%
Berwick Hills & Pallister	North	3	5,675	2,266	1,892	-374	-17%
Park End and Beckfield	South	3	5,457	2,266	1,819	-447	-20%

Chart 1 - Electorate Variances from optimum ratio 2,226 electors per Councillor using existing warding patterns.

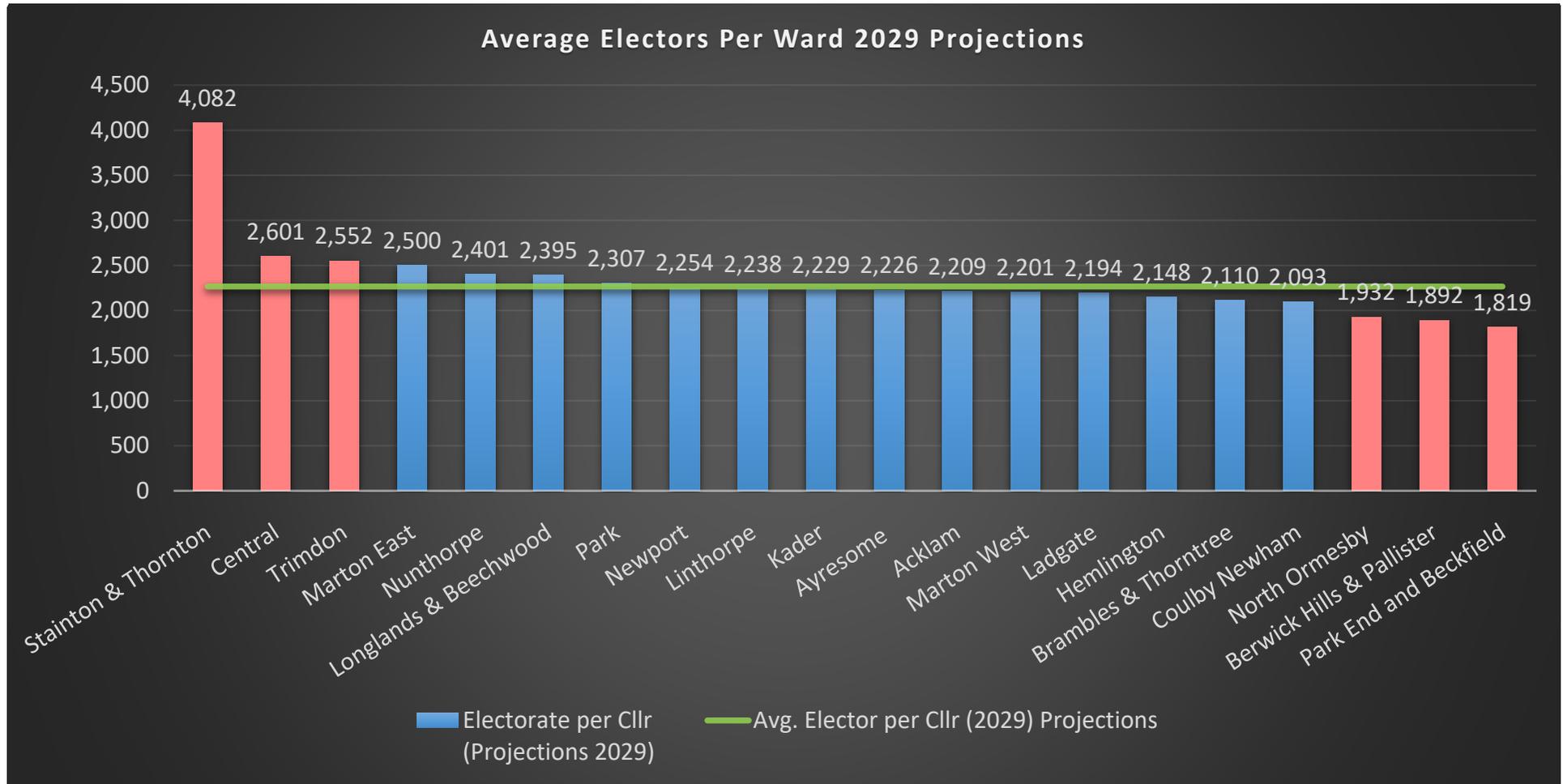
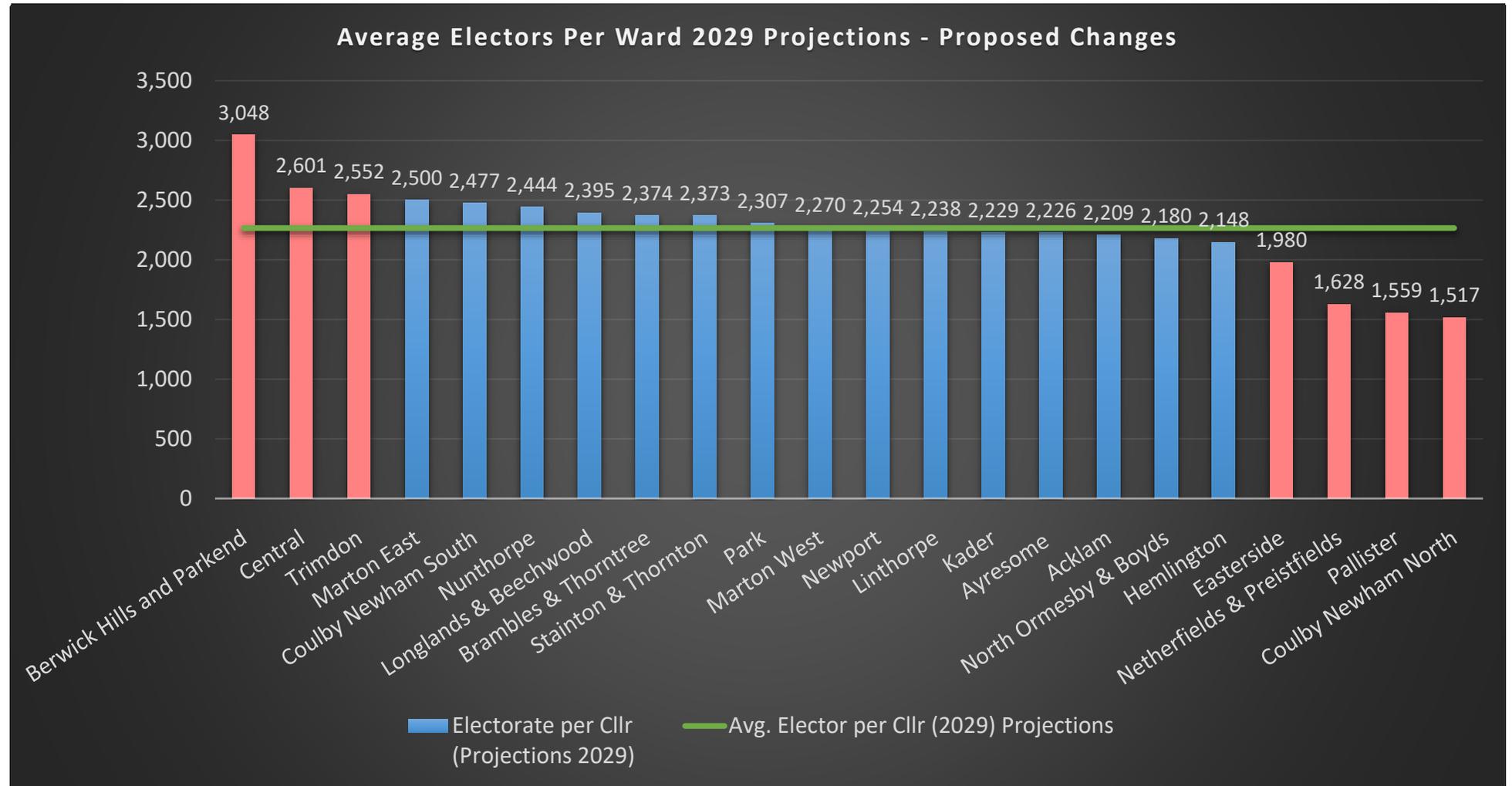


Table 2 - Electorate Variances from optimum ratio 2,226 electors per Councillor using following Member workshops. Wards that have been amended are highlighted in yellow. The proposals create two additional wards while maintaining the overall Councillor number of 46. While the proposals create greater variances for Easterside, Beckfield, Pallister and Coulby Newham North those variances

<i>Ward</i>	<i>North/South</i>	<i>Cllrs</i>	<i>Ward Electorate (2029 Projections)</i>	Avg. Elector per Cllr (2029) Projections	<i>Electorate per Cllr (Projections 2029)</i>	<i>"Drift" between Electorate Per Cllr and 2,266 Average</i>	<i>Variance from Average</i>
Berwick Hills and Parkend	South	2	6,095	2,266	3,048	782	34%
Central	North	3	7,804	2,266	2,601	335	15%
Trimdon	South	2	5,104	2,266	2,552	286	13%
Marton East	South	2	5,001	2,266	2,500	234	10%
Coulby Newham South	South	2	4,953	2,266	2,477	211	9%
Nunthorpe	South	2	4,887	2,266	2,444	178	8%
Longlands & Beechwood	North	3	7,185	2,266	2,395	129	6%
Brambles & Thorntree	North	2	4,747	2,266	2,374	108	5%
Stainton & Thornton	South	1	2,373	2,266	2,373	107	5%
Park	North	3	6,920	2,266	2,307	41	2%
Marton West	South	3	6,811	2,266	2,270	4	0%
Newport	North	3	6,762	2,266	2,254	-12	-1%
Linthorpe	North	2	4,476	2,266	2,238	-28	-1%
Kader	South	2	4,458	2,266	2,229	-37	-2%
Ayresome	North	2	4,453	2,266	2,226	-40	-2%
Acklam	North	2	4,419	2,266	2,209	-57	-2%
North Ormesby & Boyds	North	1	2,180	2,266	2,180	-86	-4%
Hemlington	South	2	4,296	2,266	2,148	-118	-5%
Easterside	North	1	1,980	2,266	1,980	-286	-13%
Netherfields & Prestifields	South	2	3,255	2,266	1,628	-639	-28%
Pallister	North	2	3,117	2,266	1,559	-708	-31%
Coulby Newham North	South	2	3,034	2,266	1,517	-749	-33%

Chart 2- Electorate Variances from optimum ratio 2,226 electors per Councillor using following Member workshops.



Easterside Ward

Physical Characteristics

The current Ladgate ward comprises the older social housing of Easterside estate to the north of Ladgate Lane, and a more modern residential development to the south of Ladgate Lane (Marton Manor). It has strong boundaries with Marton Road to the east, the A174 trunk road to the south, Marton West Beck to the west and playing fields to the north.

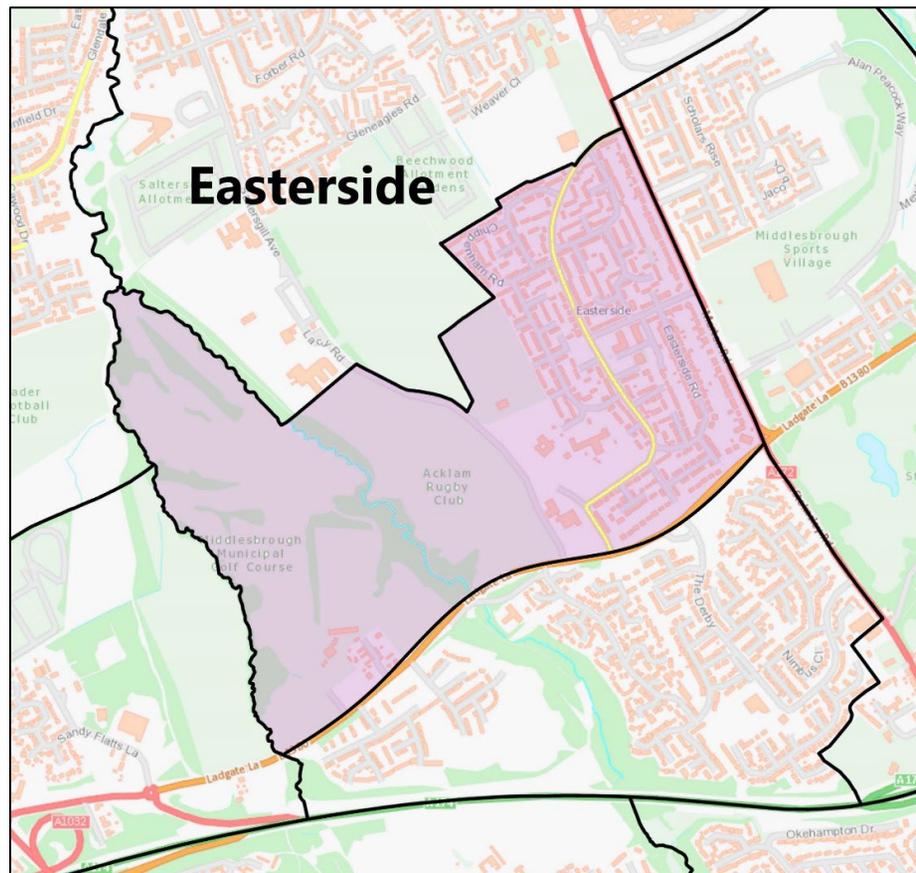
Community Characteristics

It is recognised that there are two distinct communities within the current Ladgate Ward namely those within the Easterside Estate and those in Marton Manor. While Ladgate Lane could be viewed as a barrier there are pedestrian crossing points however residents of both Easterside and Marton Manor see Ladgate Lane as a barrier. Residents in Easterside tend to use the facilities in the North of the Ward i.e., within the confines of the Easterside Estate whereas those of Marton Manor tend to access facilities in the Marton area of the town which can be several miles from their home such as the shopping parade at Marton shops and the Community Centre in Marton. Although the A174 is a main road the facilities in Marton can be accessed from Marton Manor via car or walking through the subway or across the bridge on the A174.

Proposal

The proposal is for the development to the south of Ladgate Lane (Marton Manor) to become part of the Marton West Ward and the area north of Ladgate Lane and the Easterside Estate become Easterside Ward.

If Marton Manor does become part of Marton West Ward the number of Councillors in this ward would decrease to 1, the proposed elector/Councillor ratio would be 1,980.



Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Easterside Ward	1	1,980	-13%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Easterside Ward will have a -13% variance less than the optimum elector/Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>There is a currently strong sense of community identity in the area with residents of the Easterside Estate rarely utilising facilities outside of the area. Broughton Avenue has several shops and has one of the Council's Community Hubs, which provides a number of community facilities and a range of community services.</p> <p>There is a library, two primary schools and a school for children with special needs.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>Vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward is good. There are bus services through the ward and into the town centre.</p>

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Stainton & Thornton Villages Ward	1	2,373	5%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>Stainton & Thornton Villages Ward would have a 5% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>There is a very strong sense of community identity and community pride. There is a primary school, an active village hall, and Stainton & Thornton Parish Council is one of two Parish Councils within the Middlesbrough area. It has also has an active Community Council.</p> <p>Stainton no longer has a village shop and post office, but it has a village pub, a hotel, a health club, hairdressers and nail bar and a parish church.</p> <p>The new proposed housing developments within the area known as Hemlington Grange (land to the east of Stainton Beck) does not currently have any shops or a community centre. There is no direct path between Hemlington Grange and Stainton and so there are difficulties in sharing events that take place in Stainton in The Memorial Village Hall.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has good road links, and easy pedestrian access, between all the residential parts of the proposed ward. There are bus services into Middlesbrough.</p>

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR REVISED WARDING

Coulby Newham North

Physical Characteristics

The physical characteristics adhere to the existing northern part of the Coulby Newham ward ie, all of the land north of Stainton Way.

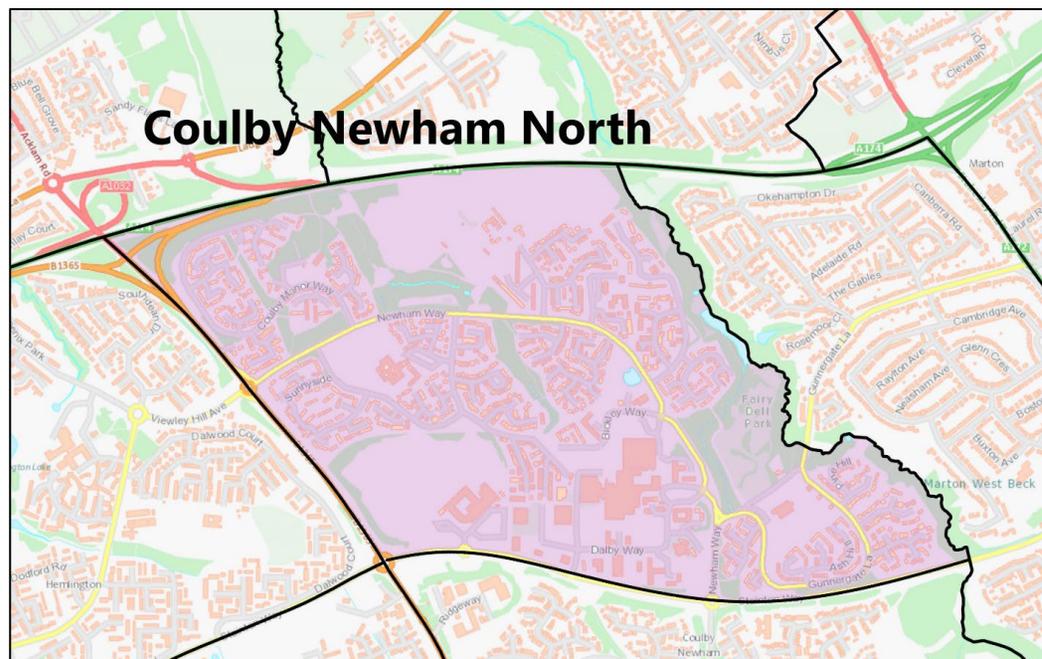
At present, the Coulby Newham ward covers the whole of the Coulby Newham area, north and south of Stainton Way. It is presently a three Member ward.

Community Characteristics

The area to the north of Stainton Way is the original Coulby Newham and was built with large proportion of social housing. It also has major facilities that serve the whole of south Middlesbrough. These include a major shopping mall, a large 'out of town' Tesco supermarket, a major sports and leisure facility, the Rainbow Centre, which includes a swimming pool, the cathedral, a police station, and a fire station. There is a major Academy, the Newham Grange Leisure Farm and health facilities that serve an area wider than Coulby Newham itself.

Proposal

The proposed boundary for Coulby Newham North would be Stainton Way acting as the Southern Boundary with the North, East and West boundary remaining in place. It is also proposed becomes a two Member ward as the proposed Coulby South Ward detailed below will also become a 2-member ward.



Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Coulby Newham North	2	1,517	-33%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Coulby Newham North Grange Ward would have a -33% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity, as it mainly comprises the original Coulby Newham development. Whilst built as an integrated housing scheme (ie social housing and owner occupier housing side by side), many residents have since exercised their right to buy.</p> <p>As noted above, the ward will have major retail, sports and leisure facilities that serve the whole of south Middlesbrough. There is a primary school and an academy in the ward. There is a doctor’s surgery, dentist and pharmacy in the ward.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has good road links, and excellent pedestrian and cycleway access, between most parts of the ward. There are regular bus services into Middlesbrough.</p>

Coulby Newham South Ward

Physical Characteristics

The Coulby Newham ward presently covers the whole of the Coulby Newham area, north and south of Stainton Way, and is presently a three Member ward.

The area to the north of Stainton Way was built with large proportion of social housing and has a large number of major facilities that serve the whole of the south Middlesbrough area, such as a large supermarket, leisure facilities and health facilities.

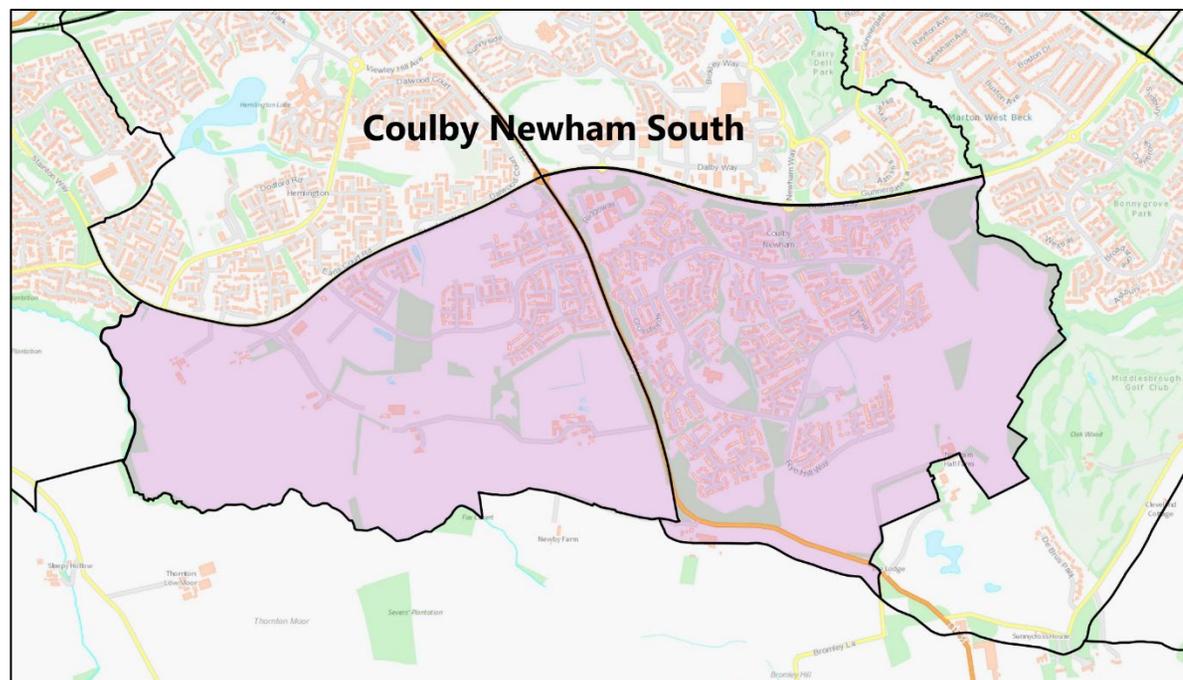
By contrast, the newer part of Coulby Newham, to the south of Stainton Way, is primarily housing, and was mainly built as owner occupier properties with some smaller areas of social housing.

As part of Middlesbrough's Local Plan (2014) large sections of southeastern the current Coulby Newham Ward have been identified for housing development. This will consist of approximately 1,000 three, four and five bedroom houses with a percentage of affordable housing included.

Community Characteristics

There are stronger community ties between residents in the south of the current Coulby Newham Ward and those in the southeastern quarter of Stainton and Thornton Ward (also referred, locally, as Newham Grange).

The proposal is to create a new two Member ward, *Coulby Newham South*. East to West this will comprise the area between the existing Coulby Newham/ Marton West boundaries and Stainton Beck. North/ South the proposed Ward will encompass the area between Stainton Way and boundaries of the existing Coulby Newham and Stainton and Thornton Wards.



The area of Stainton and Thornton Ward between Stainton Beck in the West to Coulby Newham Ward in the east is locally referred to as Newham Grange (which was a proposal during the previous boundary review of 2013). Large parts of this area have been identified for housing development with approximately 1,000 houses of a similar nature to those in Coulby Newham described above.

Transport infrastructure in that area (both current and proposed) lends itself to those living in the Newham Grange area travelling east to amenities in Coulby Newham ward rather than travelling west to Stainton and Thornton ward.

Proposal

It is proposed that land from the current Stainton and Thornton Ward namely the land east of Stainton Beck and up to the western boundary of the current Coulby Newham Ward (south of Stainton Way). It is also proposed that it becomes a two Member ward as the proposed Coulby North Ward detailed above will also become a 2 member ward.

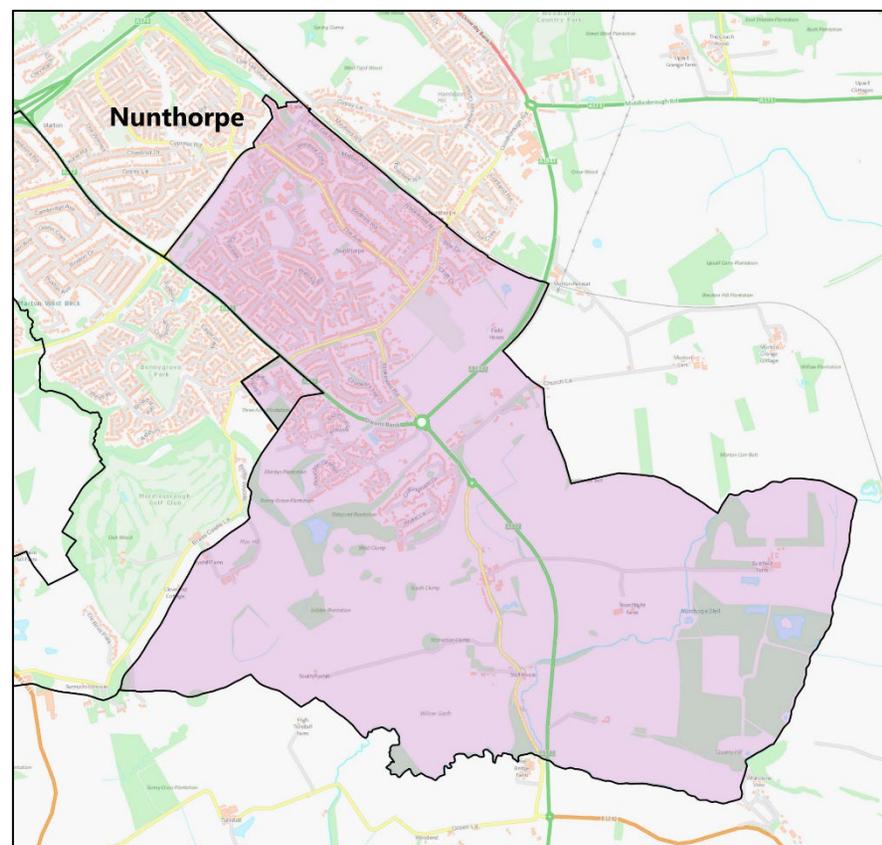
Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Coulby Newham South	2	2,477	9%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Coulby Newham South Ward would have a 9% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This considers the future development in the area.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity. It has local shops and a post office. There is a primary school in the ward. The major Parkway shopping centre and Rainbow sports / leisure provision that serve the whole of south Middlesbrough are close by in the proposed adjoining ward of Coulby Newham North.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has good road links between most parts of the ward. , There are excellent pedestrian and cycleway links across the whole of the ward. There are regular bus services into Middlesbrough.</p>

Nunthorpe Ward

There is an active Parish Council (just one of two in Middlesbrough), which has led on the development of the Nunthorpe Neighbourhood Plan. The Governance Review of 2022 confirmed community support for the Parish Council, with continuing local interest evidenced by the contested Parish elections of May 2023. A new community hub at the centre of Nunthorpe is emerging on Stokesley Road, with a Medical Centre already opened, a Community Centre underway, and a large restaurant nearby.

To the north of this hub, the ward is fairly well developed in terms of housing. To the west, the new development of Grey Towers Village is almost complete. The southern part of the ward is mainly farmland, but also includes the original village of Nunthorpe. To the east is Nunthorpe Grange, zoned in the 2014 Local Plan for the construction of 250 dwellings, some of which are planned to be built by 2029. The draft 2024 Local Plan proposes no further construction of houses in Nunthorpe.

The proposal is for Nunthorpe to remain as at present, with one change. The residents of Borrowby Rise and Plantation View at the northern part of Grey Towers Village feel strongly that they are part of Nunthorpe, because they are an integral part of Grey Towers Village. Their only access is through Grey Towers Village, directly via Dixon's Bank and Ellerbeck (as distinct from the Marton West developments accessible via Brass Castle Lane). Their address is "Nunthorpe", and until this review most of the residents assumed that they are part of Nunthorpe Ward. A recent survey has evidenced the overwhelming desire of the residents to be confirmed as belonging to the Nunthorpe community. The proposed Nunthorpe Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 8% more than the optimum by 2029, which is felt to be exceptionally justified by the strength of community support for the proposal.



Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Nunthorpe Ward	2	4,887	8%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u> The new Nunthorpe will have a 8% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u> The ward has a strong community identity. It has an active Parish Council and there is a residents group active in the Grey Towers area. There is also an active Community Council in the area.</p> <p>There are three primary schools in the ward, and shops next to Nunthorpe railway station and a shopping parade on The Avenue. There is also a newly opened doctors surgery.</p> <p>The ward is served by 2 railway stations - Nunthorpe and Gypsy Lane.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u> The ward has good road and pedestrian links between all parts of the ward. There are 2 railway stations on the Middlesbrough to Whitby line. There is also a bus services into Middlesbrough.</p>

Marlon West Ward

Physical Characteristics

Marlon West ward lies mainly to the west of Marlon Road, with Brass castle Lane at the southern boundary, Marlon West Beck on the western boundary and the A174 Parkway to the north.

The current ward of Marlon West has a projected 3% variance greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2029.

Community Characteristics

Marlon – the area, as opposed to the electoral ward(s) – is an area of Middlesbrough with a strong sense of community and community identity. It is one of the more affluent areas of Middlesbrough and comprises almost exclusively owner-occupied housing.

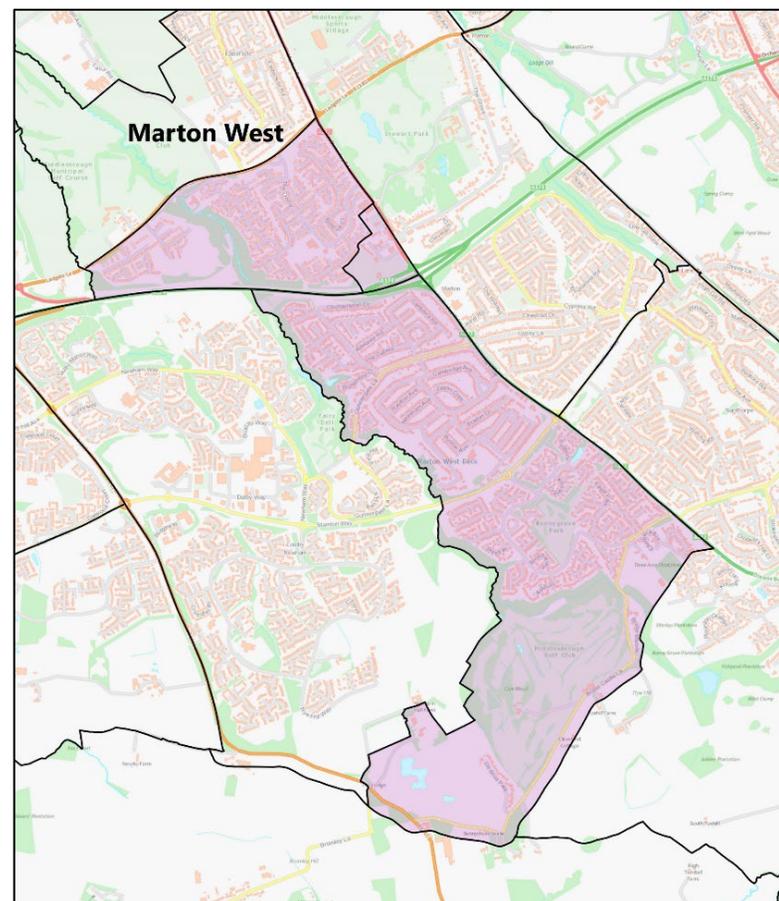
Proposal

The proposal is to combine the southern part of the current Ladgate Ward ie, South of Ladgate Lane.

It would provide a greater strength of community identity, brought together by the Stokesley Road which runs through the middle of the ward, and which has many of the shops and other facilities common to both parts of the new ward. Residents who reside in the southern part of the current Ladgate ward identify as living in Marlon, they also use facilities in the Marlon East and Marlon West Ward such as the shopping parade on Stokesley Road, community centers and public houses.

It is also proposed that the row of cottages on Stokesley Road close to St Cuthberts Church and the apartments at The Wickets move to Marlon West Ward from Marlon East as they are situated to the West of Stokesley Road.

The proposed Marlon West Ward will be a three Member ward and will have a Councillor / elector ratio 0% variance against the optimum by 2029.



Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Marton West	3	6,811	0%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Marton West Ward will have a 0% variance against the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity.</p> <p>There is a large shopping parade on Stokesley Road which is in the Marton East ward but is accessed by residents of Marton West, the shopping parade has a good variety of local shops and other facilities. There is a library and a post office in the same location, and also a pharmacy. In addition, there are also some local shops in Woodrow Avenue. There are two local schools and a place of worship.</p> <p>There is an active Community Council in this ward, but it is not anticipated the proposal will affect its activities.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There is good vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward, and there are bus services along Stokesley Road and into the town centre.</p>

North Ormesby & Boyds Ward

Physical Characteristics

The current ward of North Ormesby has a variance of -15% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

The current ward has several resources and facilities within its boundaries which are currently four arterial roads: the A66 to the north, Trunk Road to the south, Cargo Fleet Lane (A171) to the east and Stokesley Road (A172) to the west.

The east of Cargo Fleet Lane is largely industrial units. The proposed ward would also contain the Boyds Estate, currently within the boundary of Brambles and Thorntree ward. Despite its small size, the Boyds estate has an equally strong community identity as North Ormesby. However, the Boyds Estate does not identify with Brambles and Thorntree Ward partially due to the Trunk Road separating it from the remaining population of the ward.

Community Characteristics

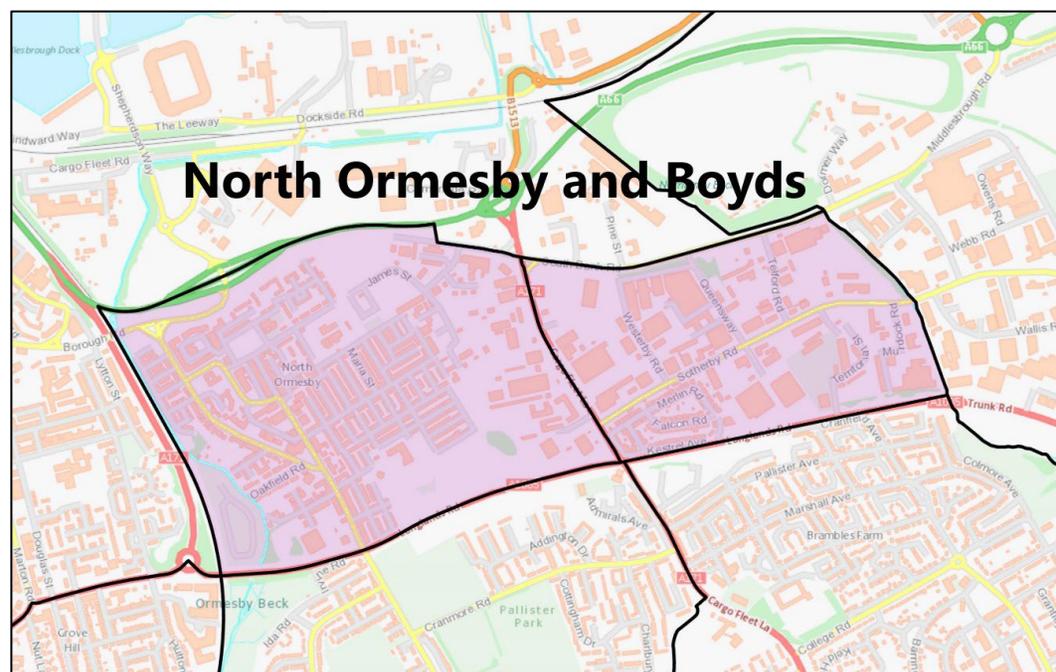
North Ormesby has a defined community identity and has many characteristics of a small township with a high street, a shopping area, and several commercial and public buildings. It is one of Middlesbrough's older, most readily identifiable communities.

Since the last Ward Boundary Review a new Lidl supermarket has been built on the border of the current North Ormesby Ward and the Boyd Estate which residents from both areas access.

Proposal

The proposal would be to extend the boundaries of the current North Ormesby Ward to the east using Trunk Road (A1085) as the southern boundary and the existing boundaries of Brambles and Thorntree Ward to the north and east. North Ormesby Ward would then encompass the industrial estate adjacent to Cargo Fleet Lane and the Boyds Estate. It is also proposed that the expanded North Ormesby Ward would remain a single member ward as there is only a small increase in electors.

It is accepted the expansion of the current North Ormesby Ward offers the opportunity for other changes in east Middlesbrough which in turn allows for changes in the south of the town. However, given the geography of the area, the self-contained nature of North Ormesby, and the lack of community connection of the Boyds Estate to Brambles and Thorntree Ward it is considered that this solution is the 'best fit' that can be achieved.



Given the access points from all boundaries and the strong community identities of both North Ormesby and the Boyds Estate the new ward would provide effective and convenient local government.

The proposed North Ormesby & Boyds Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio of 4% less than the optimum Councillor ratio by 2029.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
North Ormesby & Boyds Ward	1	2,180	-4%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new North Ormesby & Boyds Ward will have a -4% variance against the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This will allow for other boundary changes in east Middlesbrough that will better reflect those communities and enable further changes to the south of the town.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity.</p> <p>North Ormesby has all the characteristics of a small self-contained township with a high street, a market, several shops, public buildings and services. There are two primary schools and various places of worship of different denominations, including the prominent Hindu temple. There is a major health centre. The Community Hub incorporates the library and the youth and community centre and provides a range of community resources and services. The area has an active residents' association.</p> <p>The Boyd Estate is a much smaller area with some xxx electors. While there are physical boundaries to the east and south of the estate, these are both main roads offering improved access to the facilities of North Ormesby arguably greater than its current ward of Brambles and Thorntree.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>Both the North Ormesby part of the ward and the Boyds Estate part of the ward have good vehicle access to other parts of the ward. The Council acknowledges that access between the North Ormesby area of the ward and the Boyd Estate is not ideal..</p>

EAST MIDDLESBROUGH - CONTEXT

Physical Characteristics

The East Middlesbrough area is currently made up of the wards of Park End and Beckfield, Brambles and Thorntree, Berwick Hills and Pallister.

The area also contains a number of housing estates, built incrementally in several phases over a 30 - 40 year period between the 1930s and the 1960s. These estates include Brambles Farm, Thorntree, Pallister Park, Park End, Overdale, Netherfields, Beckfields, Town Farm and Thorntree. There is also a very small community to the far south of the area sometimes referred to as Little Ormesby: this is a small area of private housing which has been surrounded by what was then municipal housing.

East Middlesbrough has extremely strong boundaries. To the east and south is the neighbouring authority of Redcar & Cleveland. To the west is a railway line and beck, with no road crossings other than at the northernmost and southernmost boundaries. To the north is the A1085 trunk road.

Community Characteristics

Each of these estates has a strong sense of community, a strong sense as to where each of their boundaries lie, and their own social and cultural identity. However, as the development of East Middlesbrough was phased, the distribution of facilities was not even across each of these estates, although most included neighbourhood shops, many of which still survive. This uneven pattern of development has further been distorted by a number of locally and nationally funded regeneration schemes over the years which concentrated new resources on the areas of highest social disadvantage within the area.

Proposal

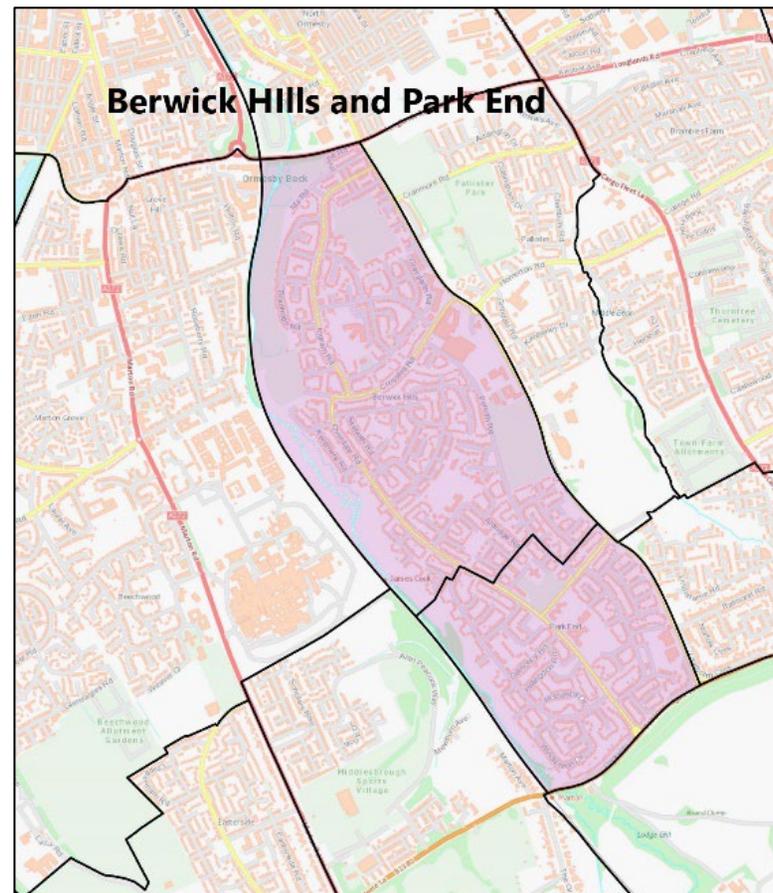
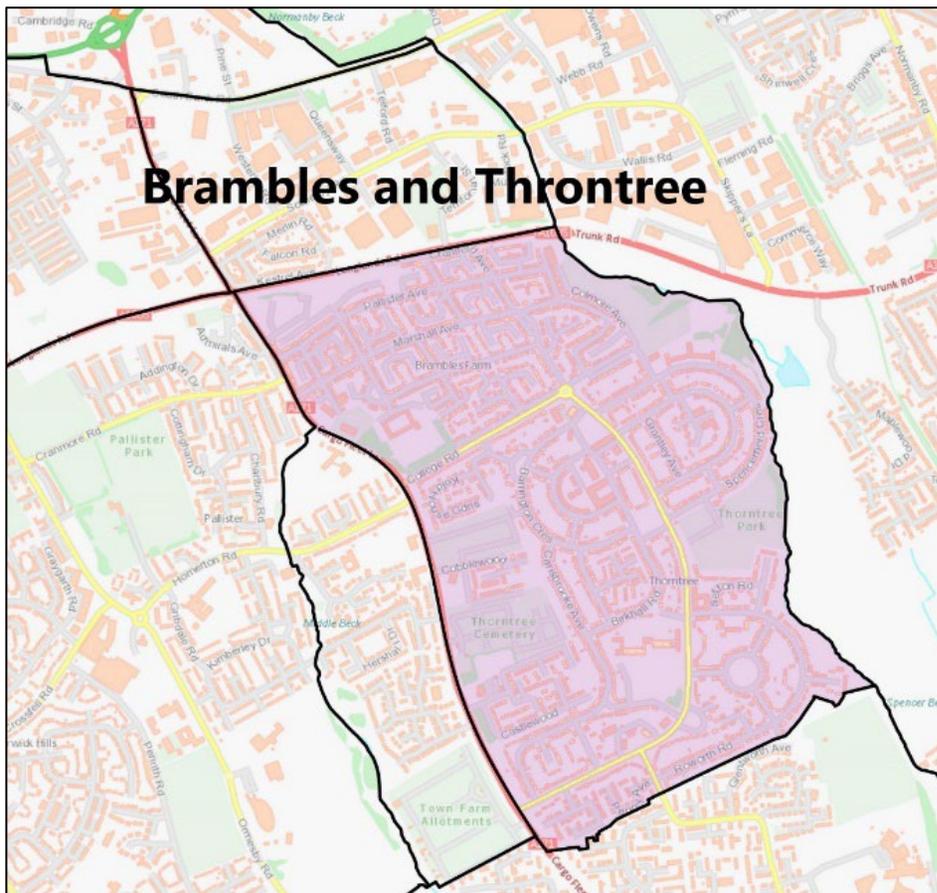
The number of electors forecast to be living in this area by 2029 is 17,214. Taking into consideration the optimum elector / Councillor ratio this equates to 8 elected Members representing the entire East Middlesbrough area.

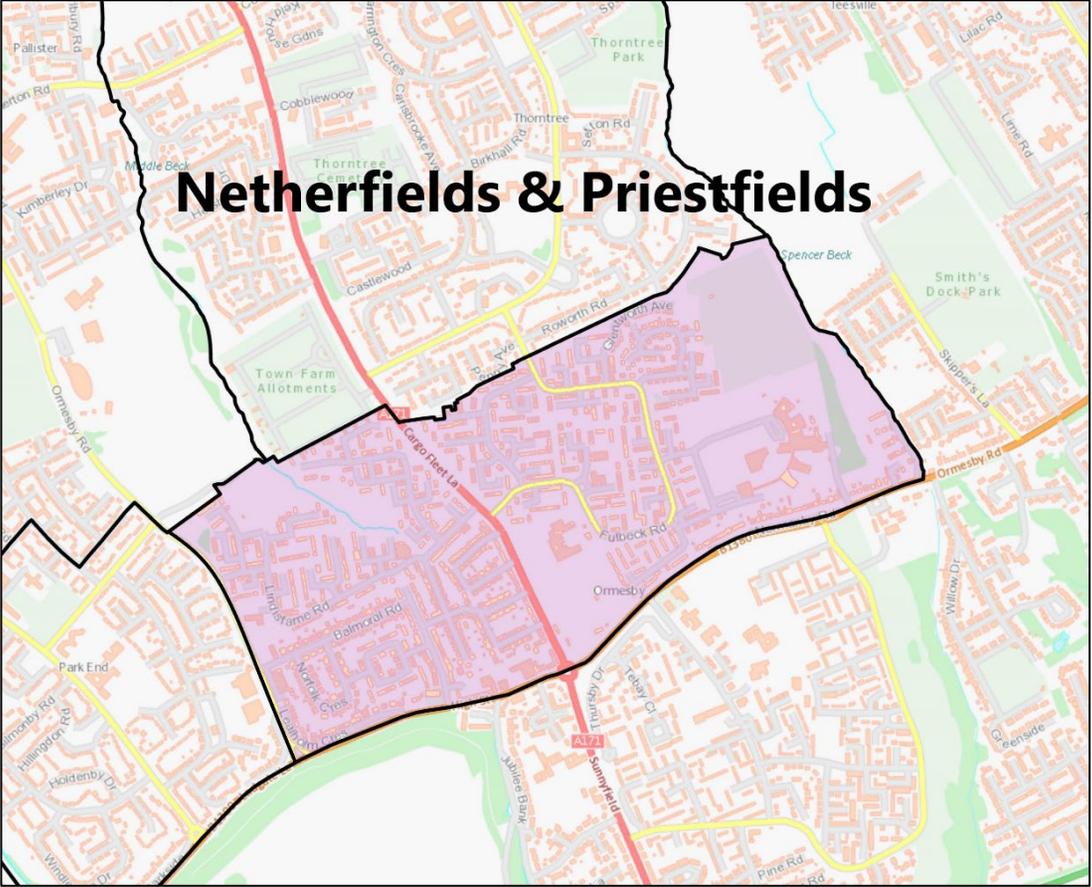
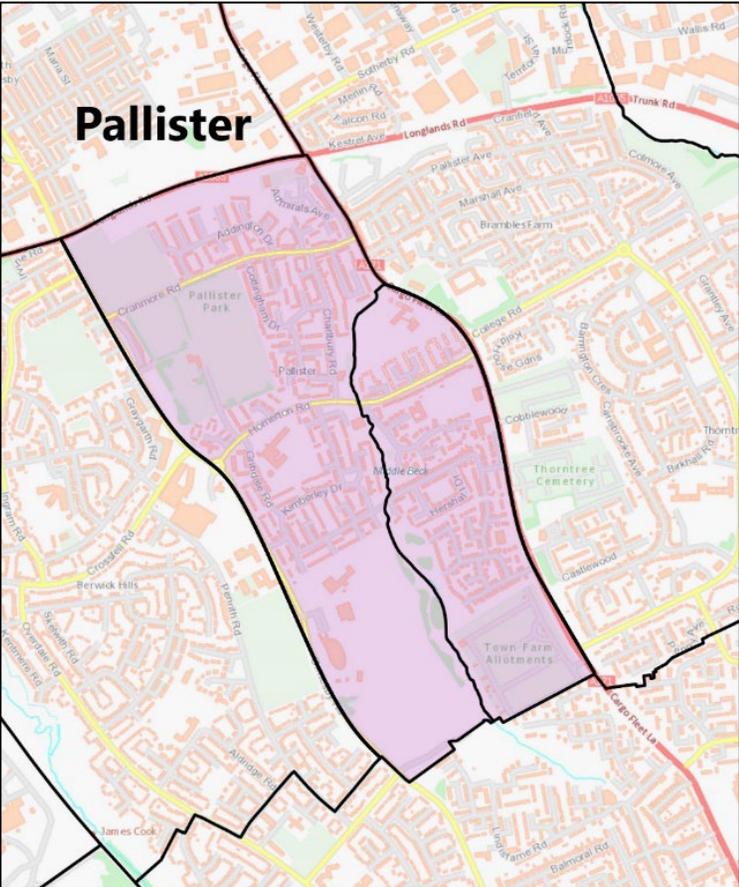
The Council has therefore taken the view that four two-Member wards will meet the requirements with regard to equality of representation and, in the view of the Council, offer the best option in terms of accessibility by the electorate to their elected representatives, and the accountability of Councillors to the electorate. The proposed wards will be:

- Brambles and Thorntree
- Berwick Hills and Park End
- Pallister
- Priestfields and Netherfields.

The approach taken by the Council has therefore been to look at the best possible fit in terms of equality of representation based on four wards each returning two Members, whilst at the same time identifying boundaries that will achieve a reasoned and reasonable clustering of the individual communities in the East Middlesbrough area as a whole.

Not only will the proposals achieve the desired outcomes for East Middlesbrough it will also allow the council to maintain 46 Councillors and fulfil electoral equality to the South of the town namely the proposed creation of the new Coulby Newham South Ward.





Brambles and Thorntree Ward

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Brambles and Thorntree	2	4,747	5%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Brambles and Thorntree Ward will have a 5% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The changes to Brambles and Thorntree Ward will enhance the community identities already present in the ward. For example, while Brambles and Thorntree have their own community identities they are neighbouring estates to each other with no physical boundaries between them. To achieve this the Boyds Estate will move to the proposed North Ormesby and Boyds Ward (as describe above) and the area of Town Farm (to the west of the Ward will become part of the proposed Pallister Ward (discussed below). Both areas have strong community identities in their own right, but have a better community fit to other areas of east Middlesbrough. Both areas have access to local shopping facilities, primary schools, and community centres.</p> <p>There is an active Community Council in this ward, but it is not anticipated the proposal will affect its activities.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There is generally good vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward, and there are bus services running through the ward.</p>

Berwick Hills & Park End Ward

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Berwick Hills & Park End Ward	2	6,095	34%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Berwick Hills & Park End Ward will have a 34% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity, bringing together both estates of Berwick Hills and Park End.</p> <p>Within the ward are two primary schools and a City Academy, several playing fields and places of worship. There are small shops in the ward, and a major supermarket and shopping area in the eastern central area of the ward. There is also a library and a major sports and activities facility including a swimming pool, the Neptune Centre.</p> <p>There are medical and dental facilities in the ward, and one of the Council's Community Hubs, which provides several community facilities and a range of community services, is sited at the Berwick Hills centre.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There is generally vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward, and there are bus services running through the ward and to the town centre.</p>

Netherfields and Priestfields Ward

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Netherfields & Priestfields Ward	2	3,255	-28%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Netherfields & Priestfields Ward will have a 28% variance below than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity, bringing together the Netherfields and Priestfields housing estates into one ward. Both of these areas have strong and established communities identities with each have a physical indicator of their own estate (e.g. Welcome To signs...)</p> <p>There are small local shops in both estates including a post office, and a larger parade of shops on Ormesby Road. There is a primary school and a health centre in the ward. There are no major community facilities.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There is generally vehicle and pedestrian access across the ward, and there is a bus services running through the ward and to the town centre.</p>

Pallister Ward

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Pallister Ward	2	3,117	-31%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The Pallister Ward will have a -31% variance than the average optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The Pallister area of the town has a strong community identity that has never identified with Berwick Hills or Brambles Farm (to the West and East respectively). The ward has its own Primary School and has a community centre located in Pallister Park itself. This acts as a hub to the wider are. The area also has the East Middlesbrough Events Centre, which holds well attended community events that act as a community focal point.</p> <p>While it does not have its own shopping facilities it well served by the supermarket close by. There are medical and dental facilities, and one of the Council's Community Hubs, which provides several community facilities and a wide range of community services, situated on the opposite side of Ormesby Road</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>There are good transport and pedestrian links throughout the ward, and bus services through the ward and to the town centre.</p>

Ward Name Changes

To alleviate confusion it has been proposed to change some names of wards in the Town to provide clarity to residents on which elected member they should be contacting for advice and support.

The following changes have been proposed. Where proposals effect the same ward Council are asked to decide which proposal they prefer.

- Acklam Ward change to Acklam East & Tollesby Ward
- Ayresome Ward change to Acklam West & Whinney Banks or Whinney Banks & West Lane
- Linthorpe Ward to Linthorpe East
- Park Ward to Linthorpe West
- Ayresome to Acklam North

Central & North Ormesby Ward Proposal - A proposal made at a Member Workshop. While this was considered to be valid and well thought out based on geographic considerations OSB deemed there was insufficient evidence to support the proposal from a community perspective. Statistically, the proposal also created a significant variance from the optimum elector/ Councillor ratio.

As such OSB did not include this proposal for submission to the Boundary Commission.

Central & North Ormesby Ward

Physical Characteristics

The current ward of North Ormesby has a variance of -15% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

The current ward has several resources and facilities within its boundaries which are currently four arterial roads: the A66 to the north, Trunk Road to the south, Cargo Fleet Lane (A171) to the east and Stokesley Road (A172) to the west.

One of the main arterial routes into Middlesbrough town centre runs through the current North Ormesby ward, which crosses through into Central ward. Many of the towns bus routes pass through North Ormesby to gain access to the centre. North Ormesby borders with the Central Ward. North Ormesby is connected to Central Ward via the North Ormesby flyover which cars and pedestrians can both use to access the town centre.

Community Characteristics

North Ormesby has a defined community identity and has many characteristics of a small township with a high street, a shopping area, and several commercial and public buildings. It is one of Middlesbrough's older, most readily identifiable communities.

Proposal

The proposal is to combine the current Central Ward with North Ormesby.

The proposed Central & North Ormesby Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio of 43% greater than the optimum Councillor ratio by 2029.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2029	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Central & North Ormesby Ward	3	9741	+43%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Central & North Ormesby Ward will have a +43% variance against the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This will allow for other boundary changes in east Middlesbrough that will better reflect those communities and enable further changes to the south of the town.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity. North Ormesby has all the characteristics of a small self-contained township with a high street, a market, several shops, public buildings and services. There are two primary schools and various places of worship of different denominations, including the prominent Hindu temple. There is a major health centre. The Community Hub incorporates the library and the youth and community centre and provides a range of community resources and services. The area has an active residents' association and Community Council.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has excellent road links, and easy pedestrian access, between all the residential parts of the ward. There are bus services running through North Ormesby to access Middlesbrough Town Centre.</p>