

Middlesbrough

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Alex Davis

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Middlesbrough Labour Group (Political groups)

Comment text:

Related subject: Middlesbrough

Dear whom it may concern,

Please find attached a submission from the Labour Group in response to the LGBCE Further Draft Recommendations for Middlesbrough.

Should you require any further information or clarity regarding the Labour Group's submission, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Alex Davis
Political Assistant to the Labour Group

Attached Documents:

- response-to-further-draft-recommendations.pdf



RESPONSE TO FURTHER DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

General comments

The Labour Group would firstly like to thank the LGBCE for their hard work on the further draft recommendations for Middlesbrough. With the exceptions of proposals for South-West Middlesbrough and the name of one ward in East Middlesbrough, the Labour Group broadly supports the LGBCE's further draft recommendations for Middlesbrough.

South-West Middlesbrough

The Labour Group has resolved to support the alternative cross-party proposal for Hemlington and Stainton and Thornton wards drawn up and proposed by Hemlington Ward Labour Councillors Nicky Walker and Tom Mohan, Stainton and Thornton Conservative Councillor David Coupe and Stainton Parish Council. We understand this proposal also has the support of Hemlington Community Council.

Briefly, the proposal would allow for the retention of the current Hemlington Ward and Stainton and Thornton Ward boundaries (with addition of the farm road to South of A174 as proposed by LGBCE) and make both 2-councillor wards. We believe this would provide the electoral equality required of +/-10% with -5% for Hemlington Ward and is within-10% (-9.75%) for Stainton & Thornton Ward for 2029. It also fits more appropriately other the other statutory criteria of community identity and effective and convenient local government, as outlined in the cross-party proposal.

The rationale for this alternative proposal for South-West Middlesbrough is explained in more detail within the cross-party proposal, which the LGBCE should have already received prior to this submission.

East Middlesbrough

The Labour Group supports the current locations of the ward boundaries within East Middlesbrough. However, the Labour Group proposes renaming the proposed ward of "Pallister and Priestfields" to "Pallister, Town Farm, and Priestfields".

The basis for this proposal is that the Town Farm area, a community based around the Town Farm allotments and situated predominately to the west of the Unity City Academy, represents its own distinct community within East Middlesbrough, much as Pallister Park and Priestfields do. Local residents in this area will often refer to themselves as living in / being from "Town Farm". Since the Town Farm area is entirely contained within the proposed Pallister and Priestfields Ward, the Labour Group sees



no reason to not consider Town Farm as a community on equal footing to Pallister and Priestfields, and suggests this should be reflected in the proposed ward's name.

We recognise this could render the ward name slightly lengthier than the LGBCE typically finds desirable, but we believe that the inclusion of Town Farm would promote convenient and effective local government. Specifically, through helping Town Farm residents to more easily identify the ward to which they belong, and to feel appropriately represented by their Ward Councillors.

Importantly, the Labour Group would support the current proposed name over an alternate yet unproposed name. The reason for this is that any shorter name which attempts to represent all three communities in a more succinct way is unlikely to produce a ward name that reflects local community identities. We particularly caution against attempts to shorten Town Farm to simply "Farm" as this is likely to cause confusion with the nearby Brambles Farm area, also in East Middlesbrough.

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