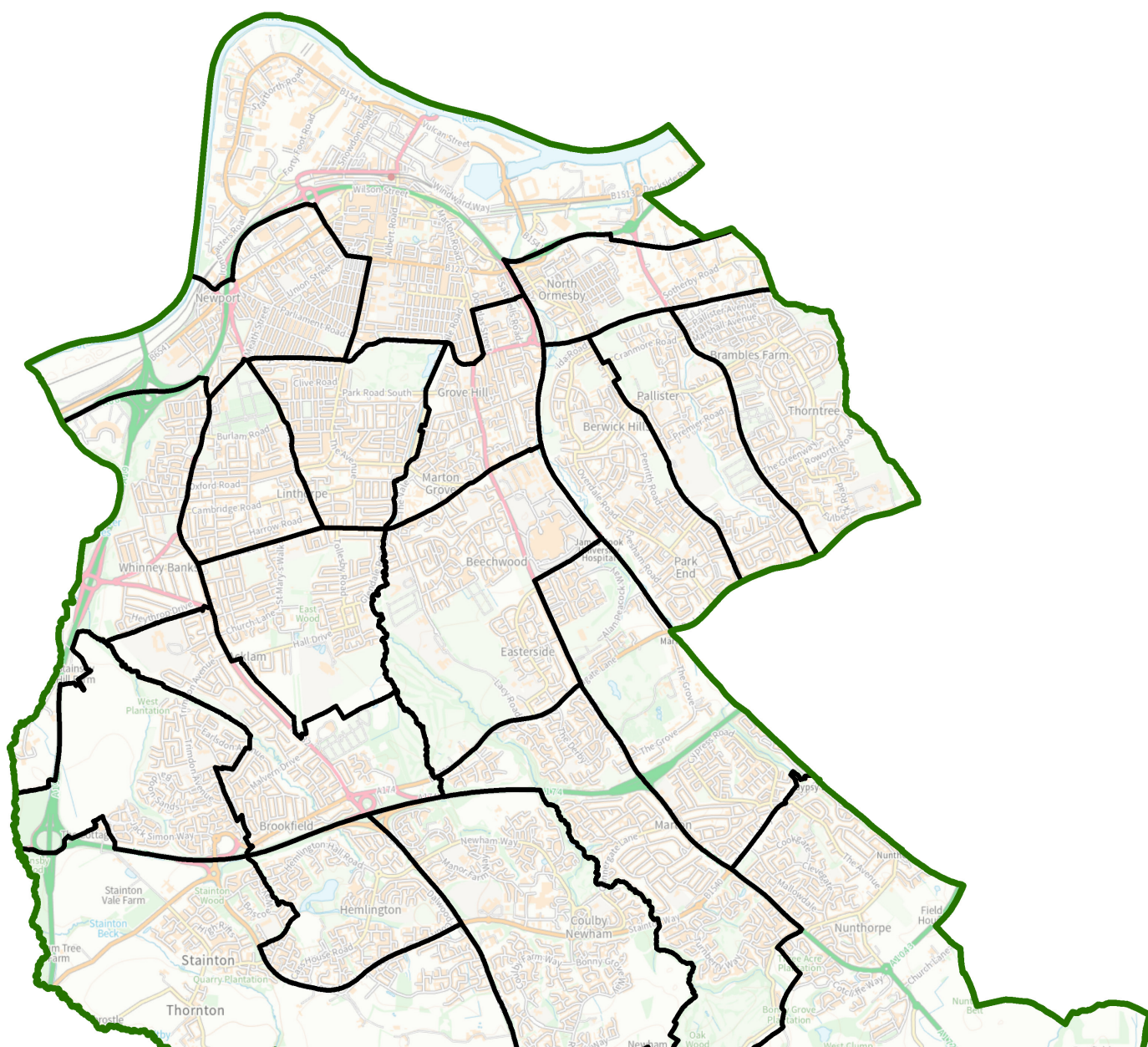


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Middlesbrough Council Final Recommendations

July 2025

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Professor Colin Mellors OBE
(Chair) | • Steve Robinson |
| • Andrew Scallan CBE
(Deputy Chair) | • Wallace Sampson OBE |
| • Amanda Nobbs OBE | • Liz Treacy |
| | • Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive) |

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail on the powers that we have, as well as further guidance and information about electoral reviews and the review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Why Middlesbrough?

7 We are conducting a review of Middlesbrough Borough Council ('the Council') as some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Middlesbrough are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

Our proposals for Middlesbrough

9 Middlesbrough should be represented by 46 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Middlesbrough should have 20 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of 15 wards should change; five will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Middlesbrough.

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices or car and house insurance premiums, and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Middlesbrough. We then held three periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
12 December 2023	Number of councillors decided
19 December 2023	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
11 March 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
9 July 2024	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
16 September 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming recommendations
14 January 2025	Publication of further draft recommendations; start of third consultation
24 February 2025	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and confirming final recommendations
29 July 2025	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

19 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2023	2030
Electorate of Middlesbrough	99,075	104,497
Number of councillors	46	46
Average number of electors per councillor	2,154	2,272

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Middlesbrough are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2029, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2024. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2029.

23 In March 2024 we noted a number of small discrepancies between the electoral forecasts and the housing development data provided by the Council. We discussed this with Council officers and, in early April 2024, agreed upon a small revision to the

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

forecast with the addition of 242 electors. Overall, this raised the projected forecast increase in the electorate from 5.2% to 5.5%. We considered the effect on the warding schemes submitted during the initial consultation to be negligible.

24 The Middlesbrough Independent Councillors' Association stated that the population of North Ormesby ward had increased but the electorate had decreased and that this therefore demonstrated the potential for far larger growth than that of the forecast. Differentials in population and electorate do not, of themselves, demonstrate the forecast is inaccurate. We are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time and have used them to produce our final recommendations.

25 It should be noted that, given we have carried out a period of further limited consultation, the five-year forecast year will now be 2030 rather than 2029. This is because the final recommendations will be published later than originally planned. However, we are content that the forecast figure for 2029 can reasonably be used as an approximation for forecast electors in 2030.

Number of councillors

26 Middlesbrough Borough Council currently has 46 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 46 councillors: for example, 46 one-councillor wards, 23 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received three submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. One resident cited the Council's financial situation, another the perceived effectiveness of the existing councillors and a third '15-minute cities'. We were not persuaded that these submissions provided evidence in relation to the decision-making structure of the Council and the representational role of elected members. We have therefore confirmed our recommendation that the Council be represented by 46 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 63 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two borough-wide proposals from the Council and Middlesbrough Labour Group ('Labour'). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 The two borough-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Middlesbrough. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. However, the Council's proposals included nine wards with electoral variances greater than 10% from the borough average – three of which were greater than 30% – while the Labour proposals, which sought to address this, still included five wards with variances greater than 10%.

31 Our draft recommendations were based on the Labour proposals, with amendments to ensure improved electoral equality. We also took account of the local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

32 We visited the Middlesbrough area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Middlesbrough helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations consultation

33 We received 244 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a submission by Labour which referenced several areas of the borough, but we received no complete schemes at this stage. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in North Ormesby & Brambles, Marton East and Stainton & Stainsby Hall Farm wards.

Further draft recommendations consultation

34 We were persuaded to amend our proposals and conduct a period of further limited consultation for 11 wards. Although these amendments were made in response to local evidence, many of them had not been consulted on previously and resulted in notable changes to our original draft recommendations, necessitating a further round of consultation. We received 56 submissions during consultation on our further draft recommendations. These included partial schemes from the Middlesbrough Independent Councillors' Association (MICA) and Labour. An alternative to our proposed Hemlington North and Stainton & Hemlington South wards was also submitted by Councillor Nicky Walker and which was developed by herself and Councillor Tom Mohan (Hemlington), Councillor David Coupe (Stainton & Thornton), and Stainton & Thornton Parish Council. This alternative was also supported by Hemlington Community Council.

Final recommendations

35 Our final recommendations are for seven three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and one single-councillor ward. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

36 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations and further draft recommendations with modifications to Acklam North and Trimdon wards, as well as Hemlington North and Stainton & Hemlington South wards, which are named Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton wards, respectively, in our final recommendations.

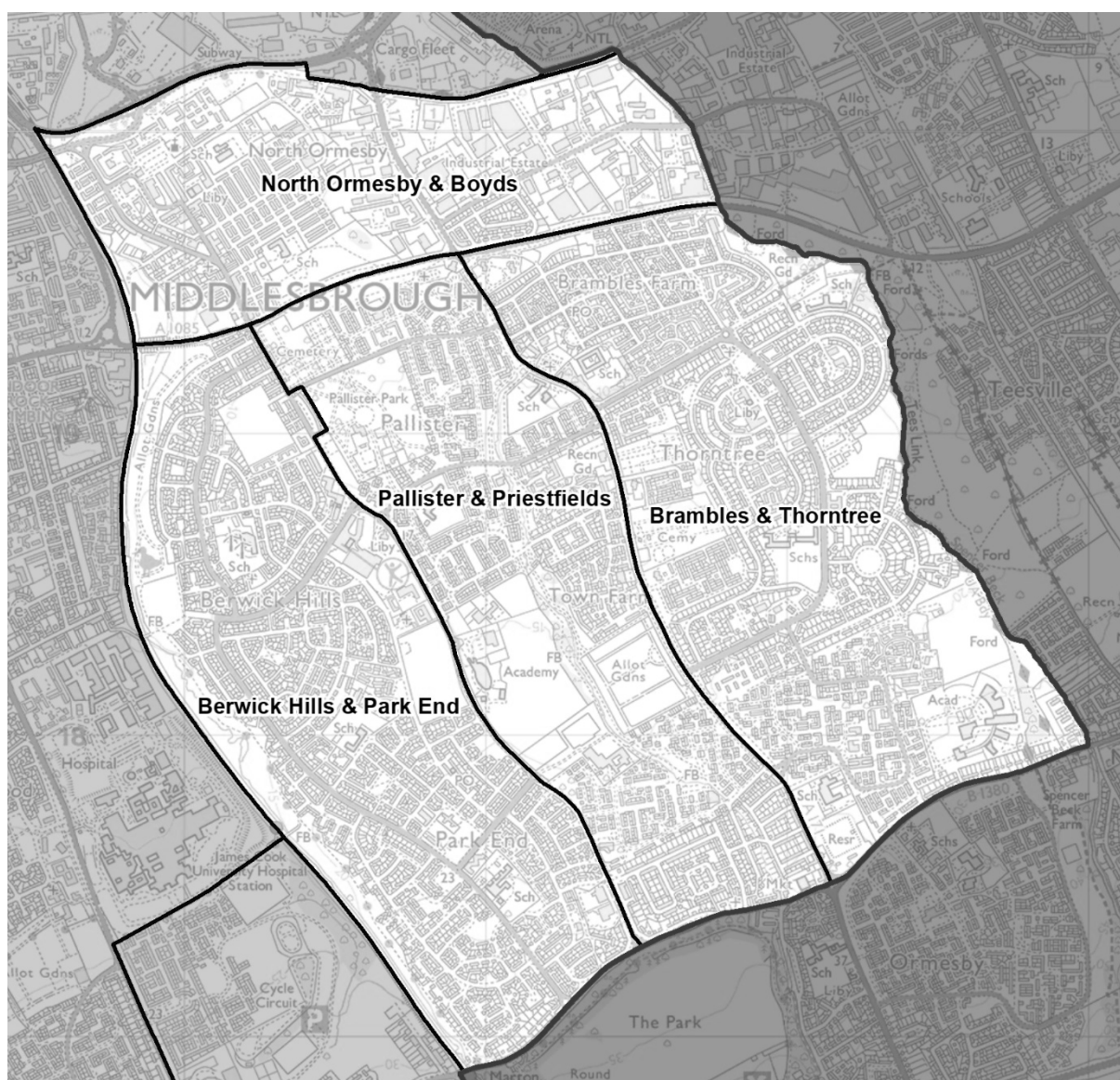
37 The tables and maps on pages 9–21 detail our final recommendations for each area of Middlesbrough. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

38 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 29 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

East Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Berwick Hills & Park End	3	-10%
Brambles & Thorntree	3	-5%
North Ormesby & Boyds	1	-4%
Pallister & Priestfields	2	0%

Berwick Hills & Park End, Brambles & Thorntree, North Ormesby & Boyds, Pallister & Priestfields

39 We received eight submissions in response to our further draft recommendations for East Middlesbrough. Councillor Julia Cooke wrote to express her preference for the further draft recommendations over the draft recommendations, approving of the proposed Berwick Hills & Park End ward as the two estates 'seamlessly blend together'. Councillor Cooke also supported the

proposed Brambles & Thorntree and Pallister & Priestfields wards, as the existing wards place parts of Pallister, such as Homerton Road, in Brambles & Thorntree ward. However, she proposed that Dorrien Crescent be included in Pallister & Priestfields ward rather than Berwick Hills & Park End, as in our further draft recommendations.

40 We included Dorrien Crescent in our proposed Brambles & Thorntree ward because, although the boundary otherwise runs along Ormesby Road, Dorrien Crescent is separated from the rest of Pallister & Priestfields ward by Pallister Park. Councillor Cooke pointed out that there are a number of issues relating to Pallister Park which affect residents of Dorrien Crescent, such as antisocial behaviour, and so it would be better to have them represented by councillors already dealing with these issues. We gave careful consideration to this proposal but concluded that our further draft recommendations offered the best balance of our statutory criteria. We consider that the relative isolation of Dorrien Crescent to the rest of Pallister & Priestfields ward would not adequately reflect local community identity, and nor would the proposal produce good electoral equality, as this would leave Berwick Hills & Park End with 11% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2030.

41 Councillor Ian Blades' submission appeared to be responding to our draft recommendations rather than the further draft recommendations as, for example, he makes reference to a boundary on Cranmore Road, which is a feature of the former but not the latter. Councillor Graham Wilson argued that the existing Brambles & Thorntree ward did not need to change. We recognise that the current Brambles & Thorntree ward will have good forecast electoral equality, with 7% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average by 2030. However, this cannot be said of the neighbouring wards, all of which have between 15% and 20% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. We have to consider the wider area when formulating our recommendations and this means Brambles & Thorntree would almost certainly need to change in order to accommodate changes made elsewhere. Furthermore, as Councillor Cooke pointed out, the existing ward contains a part of Pallister, which does not accurately reflect community identity in that area.

42 MICA submitted an alternative pattern of wards for East Middlesbrough which was based instead upon our draft recommendations. This is because the group did not consider that the further draft recommendations kept established communities together, though we did not consider that sufficient evidence was submitted in support of this. The primary changes to our draft recommendations wards were to broadly return to the existing Brambles & Thorntree and North Ormesby wards, with 539 electors from the former moved to Park End & Beckfield ward and the Addington Drive area returned to Berwick Hills & Pallister ward.

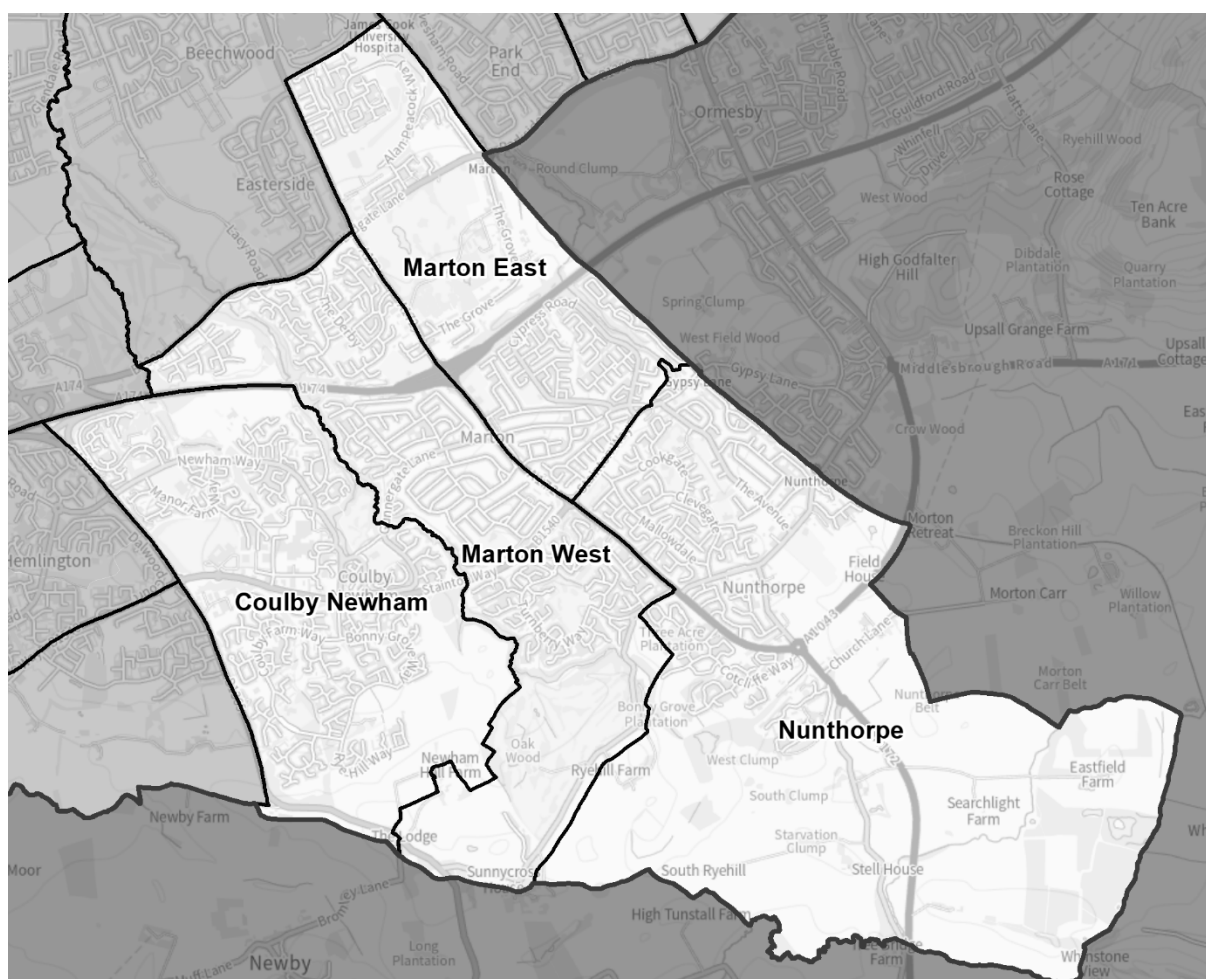
43 This proposal rested upon the group disputing the electoral forecast for North Ormesby, which would leave the existing ward with 15% fewer electors per councillor

than the borough average. The group drew attention to historical elector numbers for the ward, which were counted as 2,231 in 2012 and forecast to be 2,268 for 2018, falling to a count of 1,932 today. The group asserted that the ward 'without doubt has added to its population' and that 'there is a possibility that the electorate numbers will rise'. However, we do not consider that this provides sufficient evidence to challenge the Council's electoral forecast, which we remain satisfied is the most accurate at this time. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our final recommendations.

44 A resident also submitted an alternative proposal for the area, which would involve adding North Ormesby to a three-councillor Pallister & Priestfields ward and the Boyds estate to Brambles & Thorntree. We were not persuaded that sufficient evidence was given to support this, and previous rounds of consultation have made it clear that North Ormesby has a distinct community identity which would be best represented in its own ward. We have not, therefore, adopted this proposal in our final recommendations.

45 Labour's submission stated that the group was in agreement with the proposed boundaries, proposing only that Pallister & Priestfields ward be renamed 'Pallister, Town Farm & Priestfields', with the caveat that the former would be preferred to any third alternative. However, we consider that this proposed name would be relatively long and have determined to maintain 'Pallister & Priestfields' as the name of our proposed ward. We therefore confirm our further draft recommendations for East Middlesbrough as final.

South-East Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Coulby Newham	3	-6%
Marton East	2	8%
Marton West	3	4%
Nunthorpe	2	9%

Coulby Newham, Marton East, Marton West and Nunthorpe

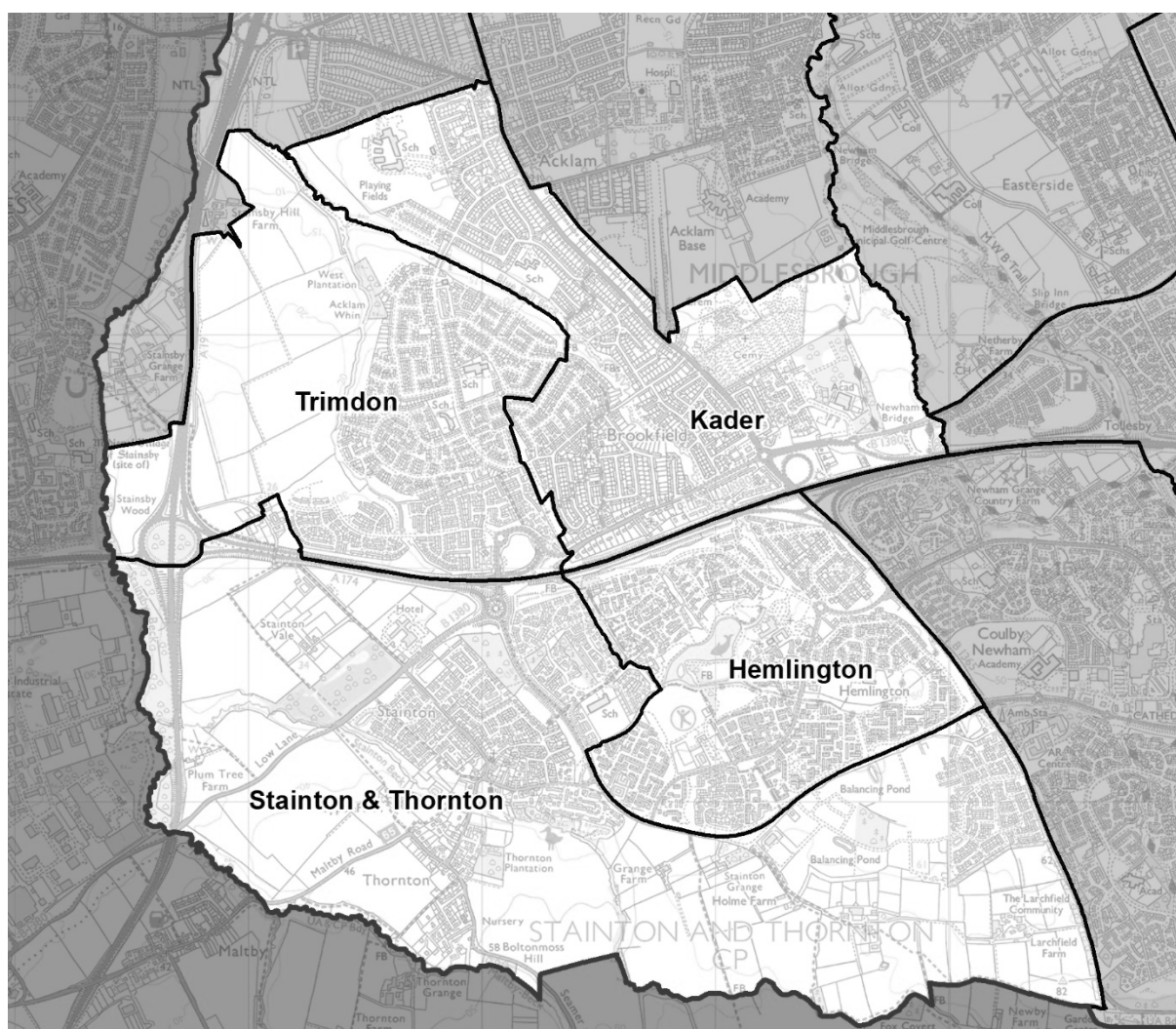
46 We received nine submissions in support of the proposed boundaries in our further draft recommendations, including eight from residents and one from Councillor David Jackson. All but one of these were in response to our decision to include Marton Manor in a three-councillor Marton West ward, with one resident approving of the inclusion of Borrowby Rise and all of Ellerbeck Avenue in Nunthorpe ward. We did not receive any submissions in response to our recommendations for Coulby Newham.

47 The MICA submission disagreed with the inclusion of Marton Manor in Marton West ward, stating the two were separate communities divided by the A174 dual

carriageway, instead proposing to make Marton Manor a single-councillor ward with 9% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average. The proposal was also supported by Councillor Ian Morrish, who opposed the geographical length of the ward, arguing the quickest route between its two extremes – Newham Hall in the south and Pearwood Place to the north – would be through Coulby Newham ward. However, given how relatively remote Newham Hall is, this would also be true of travelling to the northernmost point of the existing Marton West ward. We also do not consider the A174 to necessarily be an effective barrier between the two areas, since one can cross it via the A172.

48 Additionally, this proposal would not take account of the 661 electors in the Ladgate Woods/Orchid Gardens estate, which would leave a single-councillor Marton Manor ward with 21% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2030. Likewise, Kader, the only other ward to which they could be assigned, would be left with 15% more electors per councillor. This course of action was proposed by a resident who considered that the area did not associate with Marton Manor and that they were not connected except for Ladgate Lane, which is also the proposed ward boundary. The resident also disputed previous evidence given to us which stated that the area was in the catchment area for Marton Manor Primary School. While acknowledging the differing views in respect of this aspect of our recommendations, we did not consider that the evidence provided was sufficient to justify a 15% electoral variance for Kader ward or a single-councillor Marton Manor ward. We have therefore not adopted either proposal in our final recommendations. We therefore confirm our further draft recommendations for South-East Middlesbrough as final.

South-West Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Hemlington	2	-5%
Kader	2	0%
Stainton & Thornton	2	-10%
Trimdon	2	1%

Hemlington and Stainton & Thornton

49 Of the 56 submissions we received in response to our further draft recommendations, 36 concerned South-West Middlesbrough, the vast majority of which were opposed to our proposed Hemlington North and Stainton & Hemlington South wards. These were almost unanimously against the division of Hemlington across the two wards.

50 We proposed this in our further draft recommendations because, although we had been able to unite the entire area generally agreed to be Hemlington within a

single ward in our draft recommendations, this was no longer possible given our approach in the Stainsby Hall Farm and Stainton area. As such, Briscoe Way and the surrounding area would fall outside of the ward.

51 We therefore investigated whether there was a more equitable way to divide Hemlington along geographical features such as Blue Bell Beck/Hemlington Lake and proposed a single-councillor Hemlington North ward and a three-councillor Stainton & Hemlington South ward. The response to our further draft recommendations has been to make clear that the area within the existing Hemlington ward is more united as a single community than we had previously understood.

52 An alternative pattern of wards was submitted by Hemlington Councillor Nicky Walker, who developed the proposal with Hemlington Councillor Tom Mohan, Stainton & Thornton Councillor David Coupe, and Stainton & Thornton Parish Council. The scheme was also supported by Hemlington Community Council, Luke Myer MP and Labour. This involved retaining the existing ward boundaries with an extra councillor being allocated to the currently single-councillor Stainton & Thornton ward. This would restore good electoral equality, with Stainton & Thornton having 10% fewer electors per councillor than the borough average, thus providing room for future growth between now and 2030, while Hemlington would have 5% fewer.

53 In her submission, Councillor Walker noted that Hemlington Lake was a unifying point for the community rather than a division, and that the community enjoyed common amenities such as Viewley Hill Shopping Centre, Hemlington Recreation Centre and the various green spaces in the ward. She also noted that Stainton Way served as a major barrier between the communities of Hemlington and Hemlington Grange, and that there is a lack of pedestrian, cycle, and public transport links between Stainton and Hemlington.

54 A number of residents made similar points, with one providing evidence of shared community amenities such as Hemlington Library, Viewley Hill Centre, Hemlington Family Hub and the two primary schools in the ward, all of which are used by residents on both sides of the lake. Tees Valley Together CIO, a local charity, emphasised the strong sense of community cohesion in the existing ward. There were also some submissions in support of the further draft recommendations. One resident wrote in favour of the single-councillor ward, stating that local councillors were rarely seen in the area of Hemlington in which they lived, which they attributed to the size of the ward. Another stated that the proposals were superior to the existing wards and draft recommendations.

55 Having given careful consideration to all the submissions received, we have concluded that the alternative pattern of wards based on the existing arrangements offers the best balance of our statutory criteria. We have retained only one aspect of

our further draft recommendations, namely of including the residential buildings of Stainsby Hall Farm in Stainton & Thornton ward, rather than Trimdon. As the farm itself is expected to become a housing estate by 2030, these properties will be accessible only from the other side of the A174, which a resident noted is a private road with public right of way until just before the properties themselves. As this concerns only seven electors at present, it does not affect the electoral variances of either ward.

Kader and Trimdon

56 We received 10 submissions in response to our further draft recommendations for Kader and Trimdon wards. Six of these recommended including the approximately 10 electors of Stainsby Grange and Stainsby Hill Farm in Acklam North ward. These included submissions from Councillors Jackie Young and Ian Morrish, MICA, and two residents. These properties are most closely linked by road to Thornaby-on-Tees outside the boundaries of the Borough of Middlesbrough and have no road access to the rest of Trimdon ward. The nearest accessible ward is Ayresome (Acklam North in our recommendations) and residents report that they must drive through this ward to get to their polling station in Trimdon, though it should be noted that even this involves briefly exiting the borough. Given the difficulties this creates with regard to effective and convenient local government, we have decided to include the area in Acklam North ward in our final recommendations. This does not affect the electoral variances of either ward.

57 Two residents wrote in support of our further draft recommendations in Trimdon, which restored the proposed boundaries of the ward to Blue Bell Beck, and thus the green spaces to the ward. Councillor Dennis McCabe wrote to protest the removal of Runswick Avenue, Sedgefield Road, Topcliffe Drive and their associated streets from the ward into Kader, citing potential confusion among older residents of the existing ward and, in his opinion, the clarity of the existing boundary compared to that in our further draft recommendations.

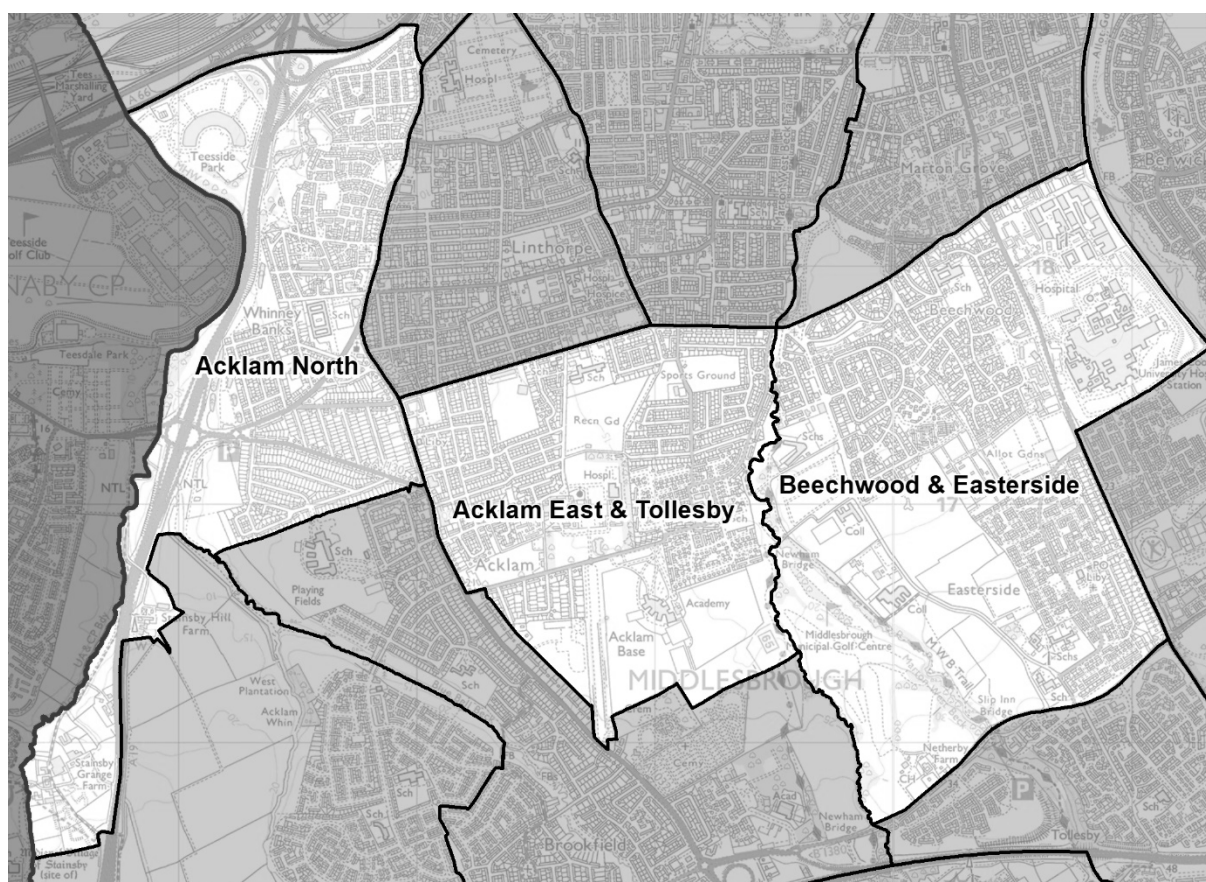
58 However, as explained in the further draft recommendations report, we found it necessary to transfer the approximately 500 electors on these streets for the sake of good electoral equality, as otherwise Kader would have 11% fewer electors than the borough average and Trimdon 12% more. While it would be possible to achieve good electoral equality with a smaller transfer of electors, for example by including only electors on the north side of Runswick Avenue in Kader ward, we consider that this would produce a less clear boundary. As such, we chose a natural break in the housing on Earlsdon Avenue and otherwise transferred only whole streets, which we believe provides for a clear ward boundary.

59 A resident also wrote in opposition to our further draft recommendations for the ward and reiterated support for the Brookfield & Trimdon ward we put forward in our original draft recommendations. It should be noted that the principal factor which

made this proposal untenable in our further draft recommendations was the evidence against the inclusion of Stainsby Hall Farm in a ward with Stainton. Once it became clear that this did not offer the best balance of our statutory criteria, it was not possible to maintain Brookfield & Trimdon ward while ensuring good electoral equality. As we also received evidence at the same time that Brookfield and Kader shared local amenities, the continued pairing of these communities in a single ward became a logical progression.

60 We therefore confirm our further draft recommendations for Kader and Trimdon wards as final, with the exception of Stainsby Grange and Stainsby Hill Farm, which we have added to Acklam North ward.

South-Central Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Acklam East & Tollesby	2	6%
Acklam North	2	-2%
Beechwood & Easterside	2	10%

Acklam North

61 We received 13 submissions including a petition with more than 250 signatures in response to our recommended Acklam West & Whinney Banks ward, many of which concerned Mandale Meadow and the other green spaces along Blue Bell Beck and Saphwood Beck. Five of these, including the petition, advocated changing the name of the ward to 'Acklam North'.

62 One resident argued that the proposed name in our draft recommendations was inappropriate because it suggested that Whinney Banks was separate to the other communities which make up the ward, rather than part of the whole. This was echoed by another resident who, while approving of the proposed name change from 'Ayresome', questioned why 'Whinney Banks' was needed. They proposed that the ward be named 'Acklam West'. Councillor Jackie Young, who represents the existing Ayresome ward, provided a detailed account of the history of the area as being built on land in the north of the Acklam Estate. We also note that most of the ward lies

significantly north of Acklam East & Tollesby which would make Acklam North a more appropriate ward name than Acklam West. We have therefore adopted this proposal in our final recommendations and, as discussed in paragraph 56, added properties in Stainsby Grange and Stainsby Hill Farm.

Acklam East & Tollesby

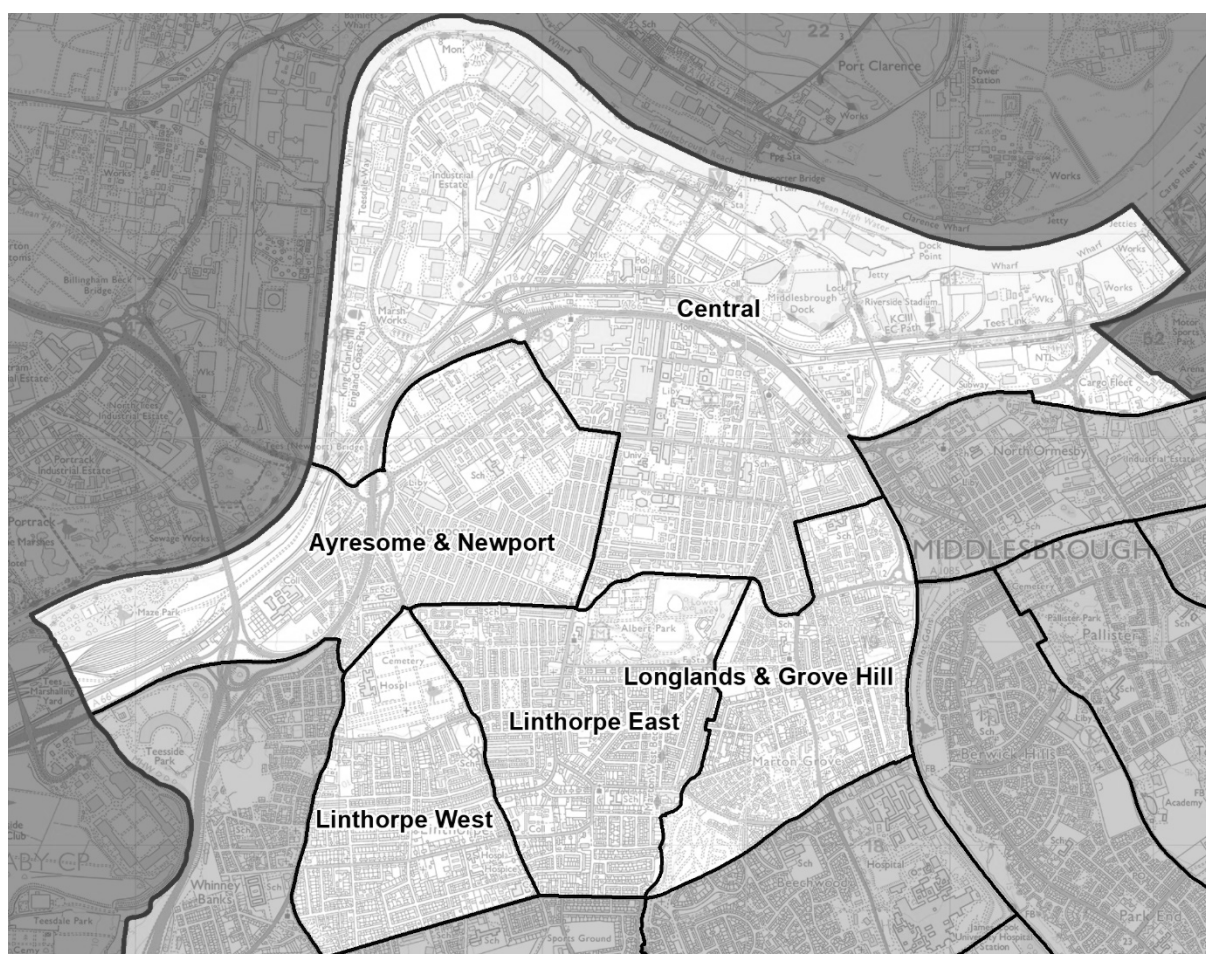
63 In our further draft recommendations, we transferred Adcott Road, Bewley Grove and Cowley Road from Kader ward to Acklam East & Tollesby ward. This was because, as a resident wrote to say, this area identified strongly with Acklam and that Acklam Road was considered a natural boundary between the two communities. We did not receive any further submissions with regard to this area in the latest consultation so have confirmed this in our final recommendations. We have returned Outwood Academy and Kader Football Club to the ward, as we had transferred the area to Kader in our draft recommendations on the understanding that Kader Football Club was a significant community marker for the area. However, councillors Jim Platt and Sharon Platt explained in their submission that the club had in fact moved to available grounds in the area, and that Marton Football Club was also based in the ward.

Beechwood & Easterside

64 Councillor Tony Grainge objected to our proposed Beechwood & Easterside ward and reiterated that he thought Easterside should be a single-member ward, as in the Council's initial scheme. In particular, he argued there was little connection between the two estates except for the Beechwood, Easterside & District Social Club. However, the ward proposed by the Council would have an electoral variance of -13% and we were not persuaded that sufficient evidence had been received to justify this relatively high variance.

65 Luke Myer MP (Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland) supported the proposal and provided additional evidence for shared community ties between the two estates, such as the shops on Saltersgill Avenue being used by Easterside residents and children from both communities attending Trinity Catholic College. On the basis of the evidence received, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final, with the minor addition of Middlesbrough Municipal Golf Course from Kader ward. Given our decision to include the adjacent Orchid Gardens estate in Marton West ward, we consider that this change will ensure more clearly defined ward boundaries in this area.

North-Central Middlesbrough



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Ayresome & Newport	3	-1%
Central	3	4%
Linthorpe East	3	2%
Linthorpe West	2	-1%
Longlands & Grove Hill	2	5%

Ayresome & Newport

66 We received nine submissions which objected to the loss of 'Ayresome' as a ward name in the borough. However, although we proposed renaming the existing Ayresome ward 'Acklam West & Whinney Banks', six of the submissions appeared to believe we had renamed the ward Newport, despite this being a different existing ward. For example, one respondent wrote: 'I object to the erasing of the name Ayresome and making it known as Newport', while three residents proposed 'Ayresome & Newport' as a compromise.

67 We consider that the confusion which this appears to have generated supports the contention made by numerous contributors to this review that the existing

Ayresome ward is misnamed, being more properly a part of Acklam, while the Ayresome community lies further north. Additionally, we note that the existing Newport ward contains both Newport Primary School and Ayresome Primary School, making the proposed name of 'Ayresome & Newport' a logical fit for the ward. We have therefore adopted this proposed ward name in our final recommendations.

Central, Linthorpe East, Linthorpe West and Longlands & Grove Hill

68 We received two submissions in response to our draft recommendations in this area, both of which referred to Linthorpe. One resident supported the renaming of Park ward to 'Linthorpe East' on the basis that much of the ward lies within the Linthorpe Conservation Area. Another resident, who asserted that the total number of councillors should be reduced, questioned why Linthorpe was split into two wards with a total of five councillors when larger areas in the borough were represented by three. This is because our allocation of councillors is based on electors and Linthorpe is a densely populated area, while geographically large areas such as Central ward are more sparsely populated. On the basis of the evidence received, we have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations in this area as final.

Conclusions

69 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Middlesbrough, referencing the 2023 and 2030 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2023	2030
Number of councillors	46	46
Number of electoral wards	20	20
Average number of electors per councillor	2,154	2,272
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

Final recommendations

Middlesbrough Borough Council should be made up of 46 councillors serving 20 wards representing one single-councillor ward, 12 two-councillor wards and seven three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Middlesbrough Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Middlesbrough Council on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk

What happens next?

70 We have now completed our review of Middlesbrough Borough Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2027.

Equalities

71 The Commission is satisfied that it complies with its legal obligations under the Equality Act and that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Middlesbrough Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Acklam East & Tollesby	2	4,640	2,320	8%	4,830	2,415	6%
2	Acklam North	2	4,229	2,115	-2%	4,465	2,233	-2%
3	Ayresome & Newport	3	6,510	2,170	1%	6,762	2,254	-1%
4	Beechwood & Easterside	2	4,932	2,466	14%	4,994	2,497	10%
5	Berwick Hills & Park End	3	6,135	2,045	-5%	6,135	2,045	-10%
6	Brambles & Thorntree	3	5,908	1,969	-9%	6,508	2,169	-5%
7	Central	3	6,501	2,167	1%	7,060	2,353	4%
8	Coulby Newham	3	6,278	2,093	-3%	6,382	2,127	-6%
9	Hemlington	2	4,296	2,148	0%	4,296	2,148	-5%
10	Kader	2	4,547	2,274	6%	4,547	2,274	0%
11	Linthorpe East	3	6,796	2,265	5%	6,920	2,307	2%
12	Linthorpe West	2	4,457	2,229	3%	4,476	2,238	-1%
13	Longlands & Grove Hill	2	4,288	2,144	0%	4,756	2,378	5%
14	Marton East	2	4,649	2,325	8%	4,924	2,462	8%
15	Marton West	3	6,280	2,093	-3%	7,065	2,355	4%

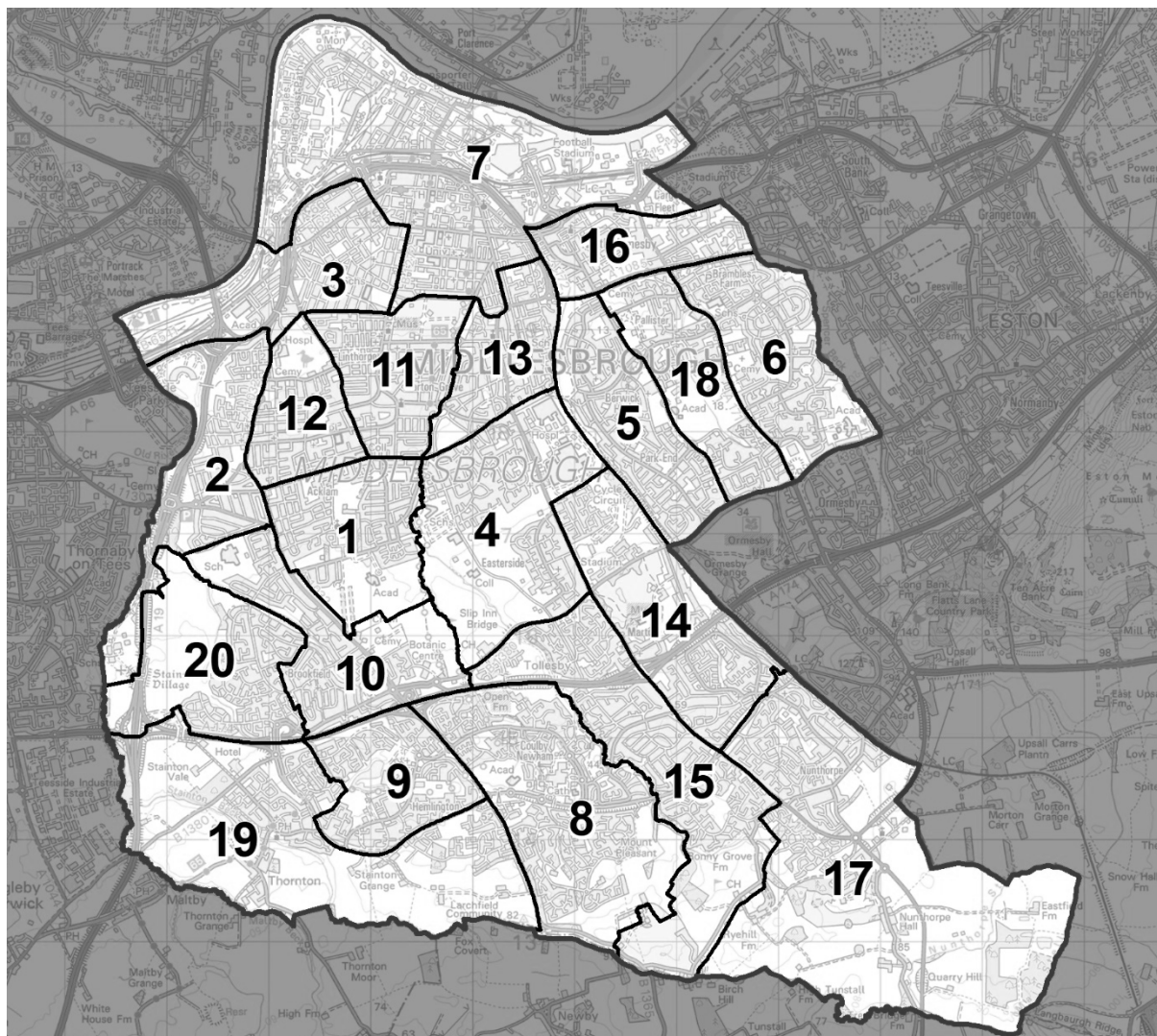
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
16	North Ormesby & Boyds	1	2,190	2,190	2%	2,190	2,190	-4%
17	Nunthorpe	2	4,391	2,196	2%	4,952	2,476	9%
18	Pallister & Priestfields	2	4,548	2,274	6%	4,561	2,281	0%
19	Stainton & Thornton	2	3,310	1,655	-23%	4,090	2,045	-10%
20	Trimdon	2	4,190	2,095	-3%	4,584	2,292	1%
	Totals	46	99,075	–	–	104,497	–	–
	Averages	–	–	2,154	–	–	2,272	–

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Middlesbrough Borough Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the borough. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Acklam East & Tollesby
2	Acklam North
3	Ayresome & Newport
4	Beechwood & Easterside
5	Berwick Hills & Park End
6	Brambles & Thorntree
7	Central
8	Coulby Newham
9	Hemlington
10	Kader
11	Linthorpe East
12	Linthorpe West
13	Longlands & Grove Hill

14	Marton East
15	Marton West
16	North Ormesby & Boyds
17	Nunthorpe
18	Pallister & Priestfields
19	Stainton & Thornton
20	Trimdon

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/middlesbrough

Appendix C

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/middlesbrough

Submissions received in response to our draft recommendations

Political Groups

- Middlesbrough Labour Group

Councillors

- Councillor D. Coupe (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor T. Grainge (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor L. Hurst (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Jackson (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor D. McCabe (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor M. McClintock (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor J. McConnell (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Middleton (Dalton Piercy Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Platt (Middlesbrough Borough Council)*
- Councillor S. Platt (Middlesbrough Borough Council)*
- Councillor J. Rathmell (Nunthorpe Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Thompson (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor G. Wilson (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Young (Middlesbrough Borough Council)

* Included in a single submission

Members of Parliament

- Luke Myer MP (Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland)

Local organisations

- Brambles & Thorntree Community Council
- Friends of Blue Bell Beck
- Grey Towers Residents' Association
- Marton West Community Council
- Thirteen Housing Group

Parish and Town Councils

- Nunthorpe Parish Council
- Stainton & Thornton Parish Council

Local residents

- 220 local residents

Petitions

- 254 signatures in support of Ayresome ward being renamed Acklam North and using becks as ward boundaries
- 52 signatures in support of Ayresome ward being renamed Acklam North and using becks as ward boundaries

Submissions received in response to our further draft recommendations

Political Groups

- Middlesbrough Independent Councillors' Association (MICA)
- Middlesbrough Labour Group

Councillors

- Councillor I. Blades (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Cooke (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Jackson (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor D. McCabe (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor T. Mohan (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor I. Morrish (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Platt (Middlesbrough Borough Council)*
- Councillor S. Platt (Middlesbrough Borough Council)*
- Councillor N. Walker (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Thompson (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor G. Wilson (Middlesbrough Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Young (Middlesbrough Borough Council)

* Included in a single submission

Members of Parliament

- Luke Myer MP (Middlesbrough South & East Cleveland)

Local organisations

- Tees Valley Together CIO

Parish and Town Councils

- Stainton & Thornton Parish Council

Local residents

- 38 local residents

Petitions

- Six signatures in support of the existing Hemlington boundaries
- 108 signatures against Hemlington ward being split in two

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Changes Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority.
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a specific ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row,
London,
EC1Y 8YZ

Telephone: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Online: www.lgbce.org.uk

www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

X: @LGBCE