

REPORT OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

ELECTORAL REVIEW 2013

BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In October 2011 the Local Government Boundary Commission (the Commission) 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.
- 1.2 The Commission 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.
- 1.3 When the electoral variances in representation across a local authority become notable, a further electoral review (FER) is required. The Commission's criteria for initiating a FER in those circumstances is as follows:
- More than 30% of a council's wards/divisions having an electoral imbalance of more than 10% from the average ratio for that authority; and/or
 - One or more wards/divisions with an electoral imbalance of more than 30%; and
 - the imbalance is unlikely to be corrected by foreseeable changes to the electorate within a reasonable period.

In Middlesbrough, both criteria had been triggered: seven wards (30%) had an electoral variance of more than 10% from the average, and one ward (Middlehaven) had an electoral variance more than 30% from the average.

- 1.4 The first stage of an electoral review is to determine the number of councillors who should represent the local authority, referred to by the Commission as determining 'council size'.
- 1.5 The Commission required that in determining the number of Councillors, it agreed the Council's projected electorate for 2018. Based on Office for National Statistics data, and the methodology set out by the Commission, a projected electorate for 2018 of 101,559 was agreed with the Commission.
- 1.6 During the preliminary stage of the review, the Commission received proposals on Council size from Middlesbrough Council, from political groups and from individual Councillors.

- 1.7 The Commission accepted the view of the Council that the Council size should reduce from 48 elected Members plus the elected Mayor to 46 elected Members plus the elected Mayor, and that this Council size would best ensure effective governance and decision making arrangements in the future.
- 1.8 In June 2012 the Commission went out to public consultation on a Council size of 46 elected Members plus the elected Mayor.
- 1.9 On 27 November 2012 the Commission wrote to the Chief Executive informing her 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 Commission also informed the Council that the closing date for representations would be 18 February 2013.
- 1.10 In view of the fact that a Council meeting had been set for Wednesday 20 February, the Commission was approached for an extension to the consultation period. The Commission agreed, but only until Friday 22 February 2013.

CONSIDERATION OF THE WARDING PATTERN FOR THE TOWN

- 2.1 In considering the warding pattern for an Authority, the Commission 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

- 2.2 Each Councillor under the new warding arrangements must represent between +/- 10% of the average.
- 2.3 Given the new Council size of 46 Members, and the projected electorate of 101,559, this gives an average electorate of 2208 electors per Member.
- 2.4 To fall within the +/-10% of average requirement, this gives a target range of between 1,987 and 2,429 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.

PROCESS

- 3.1 Following notification by the Commission on 27 November 2012 that the next stage of the Electoral Review was commencing, it was decided to refer the matter to the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Board (OSB) for initial consideration. At the same time the Commission was approached, as noted above, for an extension to the consultation period.
- 3.2 OSB first considered the matter at its meeting held on 18 December 2012. 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 meet on a weekly basis to manage the preparation of the Council's submission.
- 3.3 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 would be invited to participate. The workshops would be run during the day and the evening in order to maximise the opportunity of Members to attend. Seventeen Councillors participated in the workshops.

- 3.4 The main objective of the workshops was to assist the OSB in:
- mapping identifiable, strong, ‘natural’ communities with which electors identify strongly and/ or have identifiable interests
 - considering the possible boundaries between those identified communities that would result in effective and convenient local government
- 3.5 OSB also extended an invitation to the three largest political groups on the Council to make presentations with regard to their proposals for future warding arrangements.
- 3.6 OSB also extended the same invitation to Councillor Maelor Williams, the only Liberal Democrat member of the Council. Whilst Councillor Williams is not a ‘group’, he had undertaken an extensive piece of work on future warding arrangements for the town and circulated this to all Members. It was the view of OSB that the invitation should be extended in view of his interest and to recognise the work that he had undertaken.
- 3.7 All three Groups – the Labour Group, the Conservative Group and the Middlesbrough Independent Councillors’ Association – made presentations to OSB on 17 January 2013, as did Councillor Williams.

INITIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 In its presentation to the Council on 22 February 2012, the Commission informed the Council that the wards that had triggered the Electoral Review were as follows:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Variance from average</u>
Middlehaven	-35%
Acklam	+14%
Brookfield	+13%
Stainton & Thornton	+12%
Linthorpe	+12%
Coulby Newham	+11%
Beckfield	-11%

- 4.2 These figures clearly indicate that there are a number of areas in the town that require particular consideration both in terms of existing and predicted elector distribution.
- 4.3 Working on the predicted 2018 elector population already agreed with the Commission (as part of the Council size consultation) the variance, based on the current ward structure, will be:

Ward_Name	Optimum electors / Councillor	Projected electors 2018	Variance on optimum (number and %)
Acklam	4416	4769	353 / 7.99% (over)
Ayresome	4416	4576	160 / 3.62 (over)
Beckfield	4416	3634	782 / 17.7% (under)
Beechwood	4416	3756	660 / 14.95% (under)
Brookfield	4416	5375	959 / 21.71% (over)
Clairville	4416	4070	346 / 7.84% (under)
Coulby Newham	6624	6780	156 / 2.36% (over)
Gresham	6624	5326	1298 / 19.60 (under)
Hemlington	4416	4102	314 / 7.11% (under)
Kader	4416	4162	254 / 5.75% (under)
Ladgate	4416	4047	369 / 8.36% (under)
Linthorpe	6624	7043	419 / 6.33% (over)
North Ormesby & Brambles Farm	4416	4351	65 / 1.47% (under)
Marton	4416	4332	84 / 1.90% (under)
Marton West	4416	4271	145 / 3.28% (under)
Middlehaven	4416	2584	1832 / 41.49% (under)
Nunthorpe	4416	4032	384 / 8.7% (under)
Pallister	4416	4218	198 / 4.48% (under)
Park	4416	4310	106 / 2.40% (under)
Park End	4416	4429	13 / 0.29% (over)
Stainton & Thornton	2208	2702	494 / 22.37% (over)
Thorntree	4416	4460	44 / 1.00% (over)
University	4416	4230	186 / 4.21% (under)

4.4 Overview & Scrutiny Board has given consideration to a number of matters. These include:

Future proofing

4.5 OSB gave careful consideration to the fact that a variance of more than +/- 10% from the average elector/Councillor ratio can give rise to further Electoral Reviews. It is therefore the opinion of OSB that wherever possible, a maximum deviation of +/-5% should be the target when future warding arrangements are considered by the Council.

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 2018, and demolitions that will take place during the same period.
- 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: indeed, this is exactly what occurred with the 2012 predicted figures for growth in Middlehaven, which have proven to have been overly optimistic.
- 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 and areas where large numbers of demolitions have already taken place – where new build is far more likely.
- 4.9 In view of this, if there is to be a variance of greater than +/-5% from the optimum elector/Councillor ratio, then wherever possible variance between 5% and 10% should be limited to areas of town where fewer opportunities for development exist, and variance between 0% and 5% should be the target in areas where there is greater likelihood of new development.

MEMBER WORKSHOPS

- 5.1 As noted above, 17 Councillors participated in the Member Workshops held on 10 January 2013.
- 5.2 In three separate group exercises, Members were asked to identify what they considered to be identifiable, strong, 'natural' communities with which electors identify strongly and/ or have identifiable interests, and to consider the possible boundaries between those identified communities that would result in effective and convenient local government. At this point in time Members were not asked to give consideration to elector numbers.
- 5.3 The three Member work groups identified 37 different areas of town as clearly identifiable communities that meet with the Commission's definition. The results are as follows:
- 5.4 All three Member workshops agreed on the following 20 clearly identifiable communities:

Acklam	Marton Manor
Beechwood	Netherfields
Berwick Hills	Newport
Brambles Farm	North Ormesby
Brookfield	Nunthorpe
	Pallister Park

Coulby Newham
Easterside
Hemlington
Linthorpe
Marton

Park End
Priestfields
Stainton
Thorntree

- 5.5 Two of the Member workshops agreed on the following 6 clearly identifiable communities:

Grove Hill
Tollesby
Town Centre

Town Farm
West Lane
Whinney Banks

- 5.6 One of the Member workshops identified the following 11 clearly identifiable communities:

Boyd's Estate
Gresham
Longlands
Ormesby
Prissick
Saltersgill

St Hilda's
St John's Gate
Thornton
Tollesby Hall
University

- 5.7 OSB noted that whilst all of the above might be considered to be clearly identifiable communities with a strong sense of identity, and other attributes that would meet the Commission's statutory criteria, they ranged in size from less than a hundred electors (St Hilda's) to several thousand electors (eg Acklam and Linthorpe areas of town). Some, such as Boyd's Estate and St John's Gate, are a single small group of houses, whilst others cover a substantial part of the town.

COMMUNITY REGENERATION OFFICERS

- 5.8 In a separate exercise, the Council's Community Regeneration Officers were also asked to identify area of the town that might meet the Commission's statutory criteria. Staff identified a large number of the communities that were also identified by Members through the workshops, along with a further two areas of town:

Breckon Hill

Park

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

6 Only two comments have been received to date. These are:

Peter Cookson from Marton West Community Council has made the following comments:

Marton West ward is a very viable and well defined community who recognise themselves as a cohesive and tight knit area. This is reflected in a strong Community Council which is regarded as a very well run structure by the residents and agencies attending. The community regularly take part in Britain in Bloom competitions with local people taking a very strong active involvement in the organising of their entry. Marton West is a very strong community and would be against any re-writing of its boundaries.

M Khalil Majid has made the following comments:

I wish to express my concern and opposition to the changes to being proposed to the University ward. I feel strongly against the proposal to add a very integral part of the University ward into North Ormesby.

I oppose the proposal on the following grounds;

The proposed addition of University ward to North Ormesby does not serve the needs to the residents.

It does not address the very specific and individual needs of these wards as they have distinct and unique requirements.

The demographic makeup and profile is completely opposite.

There is a natural barrier between the two areas (A66 link road, Railway Track, The beck and the green belt)

There are two distinct and unique communities in the two areas which are different; amalgamating the two wards will not address this effectively.

North Ormesby ward has its own unique community, unique history and heritage and this should be kept separate adding the ward to University will over time diminish this treasured history.

The makeup and profile of the University is predominantly made up of ethnic minorities and town centre communities, adding it to North Ormesby take away its distinct town centre focus as North Ormesby is nowhere near the town centre.

It makes more sense to leave North Ormesby as it currently is.

If the change needs to occur then it is more natural and logical if University and Middlehaven wards are amalgamated as the profiles and boundaries are more complementary and closer in every aspect.

The boundary proposals have been made to meet Party Political Electoral aspirations and not he needs of the community/ areas.

There has been very little consultation with the public

The change will break up the shape of the diverse communities, and tearing existing communities' part.

The idea of 2000 residents per councillor is completely bonkers as some areas may have diverse mix of properties with higher / lower residents and high densities of populations for very small areas therefore the needs of residents are not wholly met by 2000 residents per councillor idea by ripping apart ward boundaries.

The changes to ward boundaries actually conflict with the Boundary Commissions ethos of enhancing communities not destroying communities by creating barriers and new identities to areas for political motives.

Please re-think the new boundaries.

CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS

- 7.1 At its meeting held on 17 January 2013 the OSB received initial proposals for consideration from the three main political Groups on the Council, and from Councillor Williams (Liberal Democrat).
- 7.2 The proposals from the Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA) concentrated on possible boundary changes in a small number of wards, primarily the East Middlesbrough, Middlehaven, University and Gresham.
- 7.3 The proposals from the Conservative Group also concentrated on possible boundary changes in a limited number of wards, primarily Middlehaven, University, Gresham, Stainton & Thornton, Hemlington, Beckfield and Brookfield.
- 7.4 At the following meeting held on 23 January 2013, the OSB received a number of mapped options for consideration, based on the Member workshops and the previous proposals from the political Groups and Councillor Williams. The Conservatives and Councillor Williams presented a joint proposal to this meeting.
- 7.5 OSB agreed to commission the officers to undertake further work on the Labour Group proposals, as it considered these most accurately reflected community identity, and to be the best fit in terms of electoral equality.
- 7.6 The Labour Group proposals adopted a radical re-Warding of the town, and comprised 23 wards: 1 single Member ward, 1 three member ward, and 21 two Member wards. All the proposed wards were within +/-10% of the optimum elector/ Councillor ratio, and 18 were within the +/-5% preferred by OSB. For ease of reference, a map showing the current wards is attached at Appendix 1; a map showing the Labour Group proposals is attached at Appendix 2; and an overlay map of both of these is attached at Appendix 3. The ward proposals put forward by the Labour Group are also contained in Table 1 below:

TABLE 1: Warding Proposals from Labour Group

Proposed ward name	Councillors	Projected Electorate 2018	% variance from optimum elector/ Member ratio
Acklam Green	2	4302	-2.59
Belle Vue	2	4397	-0.43
Berwick Hills	2	4687	+6.14
Brambles & Pallister	2	4604	+4.26
Central	2	4216	-4.54
Coulby Farm	2	4593	+4.00
Crescent	2	4547	+2.97
Green Lane	2	4597	+4.10
Hemlington	2	4247	-3.83
Ironmasters	2	4131	-6.454
Ladgate	2	4531	+2.61
Linthorpe Village	2	4241	-3.96
Linthorpe West	2	4127	-6.54
Marion	3	6115	-7.68
Newham Grange	2	4321	-2.15
North Ormesby & Breckon Hill	2	4552	+3.09
Nunthorpe	2	4517	+2.29
Park End & Priestfields	2	4647	+5.23
South Acklam	2	4462	+1.04
St Chads	2	4567	+3.42
Stainton & Thornton Villages	1	2106	-4.61
Thorn tree	2	4576	+3.61
Trimdon	2	4431	+0.33

- 7.7 It was noted that the two main proposals (from the Labour Group and from Councillor Williams and the Conservatives), and the outcomes from the Members' workshops, shared many common features, especially in terms of community identity. The map showing an overlay of the outcomes from the Members' workshops is attached at Appendix 4.

CONSIDERATIONS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THE LABOUR GROUP

- 8.1 In developing its proposals the Labour Group had taken a number of considerations into account.
- 8.2 First, the residential areas of Middlesbrough have been gradually moving to the south of the borough, and continue to do so. In Victorian times the southern extremity of the town was to the north of the A66, and completely contained in the northern part of the current Middlehaven ward. By 1947 Beechwood was the new development on the southern edge of the town, and by the 1980s Hemlington and those parts of Coulby Newham north of Stainton Way marked the southern boundary. In the past 20 years there have been further developments in the southern part of Coulby Newham, and in Marton West. Over the next 10 years this trend will continue, with developments at Stainsby Hill, Grey Towers, Hemlington Grange and Rose Cottage pushing the residential areas of the town south to the boundaries with North Yorkshire. This trend, along with demographic changes, has had a significant effect on the distribution of where electors are living within the Borough boundary, and will continue to do so over future years.
- 8.3 This leads on to the second consideration, which was to the 'future proofing' of any revision of ward boundaries. There was a view that the previous review had fully taken into account community identities, but had failed in respect of defining the boundaries between those communities: this had led to the current need for the present review, as the predicted electorate figures that would ensure continuing equality of representation had not been sustainable within the chosen ward structures. The Labour Group had taken into consideration the advice of the Commission, which notes that community identity is hard to define and is often subjective, and that electoral equality is the only criterion which the Commission can measure with precision. The Labour Group had therefore taken the view expressed by the Commission when it addressed the Council in February 2012 that the current pattern of wards, in itself, should not be a major consideration.
- 8.4 The approach taken by the Labour Group has therefore been that ward patterns should – as far as possible – reflect community: that interests and identities and boundaries of communities should be identifiable: but that ensuring electoral equality now and into the foreseeable future - within those considerations - was of primary importance

- 8.5 Finally, in making its proposals, the Labour Group was satisfied that the proposed ward structure would meet the Commission's requirement that no proposed ward is so large that it would be difficult for a Councillor to represent, or so small that its Councillor might not be able to contribute effectively to the wider business of the Council.

CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

- 9.1 OSB has given consideration to the Electoral Review at its meetings held on 18th December 2012, the 3rd, 17th, 23rd and 30th of January 2013 and the 7th February 2013, all of which were held specifically to discuss this matter. The original proposals shown in Table 1 above were subject to some changes of ward names, and some minor amendments to ward boundaries to ensure equality of representation and to better reflect effective and convenient local government.
- 9.2 The decision of the OSB is that the wards shown in Table 2 below are recommended by the Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission as the new warding pattern for Middlesbrough, and that they are in future represented by the number of Councillors indicated:

TABLE 2: Overview & Scrutiny Board Warding Proposals

Proposed Ward name	Councillors	Projected electors 2018	Variance from optimum elector / Councillor ratio
Acklam Green	2	4,270	-3.31%
Acklam South	2	4,462	+1.04%
Belle Vue	2	4,396	-0.45%
Berwick Hills	2	4,646	+5.20%
Brambles & Pallister	2	4,649	+5.27%
Central	2	4,395	-1.29%
Coulby Farm	2	4,593	+4.00%
Crescent	2	4,248	-3.79%
Green Lane	2	4,597	+4.10%
Hemlington	2	4,247	-3.83%
Ironmasters	2	4,352	-1.45%
Ladgate	2	4,351	+2.61%
Linthorpe Village	2	4,442	+0.60%
Linthorpe West	2	4,223	-4.36%
Marton	3	6,422	-3.06%
Newham Grange	2	4,321	-2.15%

North Ormesby & Breckon Hill	2	4,221	-4.42%
Nunthorpe	2	4,211	-4.65%
Park End & Priestfields	2	4,644	+5.16%
St Chads	2	4,567	+3.42%
Stainton & Thornton Villages	1	2,106	-4.61%
Thorntree	2	4,576	+3.61%
Trimdon	2	4,431	+0.33%

9.3 Attached at Appendix 5 is the detailed consideration for each of the proposed wards. For each ward there is a brief explanation of the proposal, and a table providing the evidence and rationale as to how each of the recommendations meets the Local Government Boundary Commission's criteria. In order to try and present these in an incremental manner as they impact on the town and on each other, they are presented in geographical order, rather than in alphabetical order, starting from the north of the town and progressing as follows:

Ironmasters
 Central
 Crescent
 Acklam Green
 South Acklam Ward
 Trimdon
 Linthorpe
 Linthorpe West
 Green Lane
 Belle Vue
 St Chad's
 Ladgate
 Stainton & Thornton Villages
 Hemlington
 Newham Grange
 Coulby Farm
 Nunthorpe
 Marton
 North Ormesby & Breckon Hill
 Brambles and Pallister
 Berwick Hills
 Park End & Priestfields
 Thorntree

9.3 Attached at Appendix 6 are A3 maps of each of the proposed wards. These are presented in alphabetical order.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 It is the recommendation of the Overview & Scrutiny Board that the Council adopts the warding pattern for the town, the numbers of Members representing each of these wards, and the boundaries for the wards, as indicated in Appendix 5 and Appendix 6 attached: and that these recommendations are forwarded to the Local Government Boundary Commission as the Council's submission to the Commission's consultation.

Councillor Jan Brunton
Chair
Overview & Scrutiny Board
7 February 2013

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR REVISED WARDING

Wards are listed in the following order:

Ironmasters
Central
Crescent
Acklam Green
Acklam South
Trimdon
Linthorpe Village
Linthorpe West
Green Lane
Belle Vue
St Chad's
Ladgate
Stainton & Thornton Villages
Hemlington
Newham Grange
Coulby Farm
Nunthorpe
Marton
North Ormesby & Breckon Hill
Brambles and Pallister
Berwick Hills
Park End & Priestfields
Thorn tree

Ironmasters Ward

The current ward of Middlehaven has experienced significant difficulties over a number of years. The ward currently has a variance of minus 35%, and this is forecast to increase to minus 41.5% by 2018.

Successive schemes to regenerate the community of St Hilda's, which is in Middlehaven ward to the north of the A66, have failed to produce the intended improvements. Plans were developed in the late 1990s to significantly regenerate the area around Middlesbrough docks, and to develop a mix of housing, entertainment venues, office accommodation and the new Middlesbrough College. However, the economic downturn has resulted in far less inward investment that was anticipated, in particular in respect of new housing development. Only 94 electors currently live in the whole of the Middlehaven ward to the north of the A66.

It is now felt that Middlehaven is no longer viable as a ward in its own right, lacking both the community identity, and the electorate numbers that the intended development of the Middlehaven complex would have secured.

Middlehaven ward south of the A66 is split east and west. The two main residential segments are separated by the town centre, which comprises the main shopping areas of the town, the Town Hall and Civic Centre, significant amounts of office accommodation – much of it empty – the older University buildings, the law courts, the Central Library, and the new Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (mima). There is some, but very little, residential accommodation in this town centre area, most of the electorate in Middlehaven living either to the east or the west of the town centre.

The most logical solution is for the main residential areas of Middlehaven ward to be divided east and west by a ward boundary through the town centre. However, in view of the low population this has significant effects on the neighbouring wards of Gresham, University and North Ormesby & Brambles Farm.

The proposed ward boundary for Ironmasters Ward takes in the western area of the current Middlehaven ward, extending south to Parliament Road, incorporating the area to the west of Albert Road and Linthorpe Road. This area includes the northern half of the current Gresham Ward, and a small segment in the west of the current University Ward. It also takes in the northern part of the West Lane area of Ayresome Ward, which is currently dissected by the A66.

The proposed Ironmasters Ward will have a variance of 1.45% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Ironmasters	2	4,352	-1.45%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Ironmasters Ward would have a 1.45% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio, so allowing for the anticipated increase in elector population over the forthcoming five years that will result from the revised estimates for redevelopment in Middlehaven, along with the Union Street area, where 215 houses have already been demolished in preparation for rebuild.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The area bounded by Union Street, Linthorpe Road and Parliament Road has a strong community identity, as does the newer housing area to the south of Newport Road and to the south of Grange Road. To the far south west of the proposed ward is the small area of West Lane. Currently this is part of Ayresome Ward, but has no vehicular access to the rest of Ayresome Ward due to the A66.</p> <p>There is a major community resource at the centre of the residential part of the proposed ward, the Newport Community Hub: this is a large purpose built centre run by the Council but with an active management committee. The centre has a large community cafe and provides a wide range of activities and services to more than 500 users a week. The Newport Community Hub is immediately adjacent to housing to the South of Newport Road, and houses the neighbourhood management team and the Ethnic Minority Inclusion Team. The Newport Community Hub adjoins Newport Primary School. There is also a community centre at the eastern end of Newport Road, and the St Cuthbert's Youth Centre lies in the West Lane area of the proposed ward.</p> <p>The southern part of the ward has a high minority ethnic population. There is a Mosque, along with places of worship of other denominations, in the ward.</p> <p>Gresham Road and Parliament Road are major shopping streets with several Asian shops. Linthorpe Road is also a major shopping area. Shops in the ward include Tesco and Sainsbury's stores, as well as a wide range of smaller local retail businesses.</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 ward. There are bus services along Linthorpe Road and Union Street, and the town centre is within easy walking distance of the housing south of Grange Road. The proposal for the West Lane area would give the residents better vehicular and public transport access to the rest of the new ward, also having a bus route into town along Stockton Road and Newport Road.</p>

Central Ward

As previously noted, the current ward of Middlehaven has experienced significant difficulties over a number of years. The ward currently has a variance of minus 35%, and this is forecast to increase to minus 41.5% by 2018.

Successive schemes to regenerate the community of St Hilda's, which is in Middlehaven ward to the north of the A66, have failed to produce the intended improvements. Plans were developed in the late 1990s to significantly regenerate the area around Middlesbrough docks, and to develop a mix of housing, entertainment venues, office accommodation and the new Middlesbrough College. However, the economic downturn has resulted in far less inward investment that was anticipated, in particular in respect of new housing development. Only 94 electors currently live in the whole of the Middlehaven ward to the north of the A66.

It is now felt that Middlehaven is no longer viable as a ward in its own right, lacking both the community identity, and the electorate numbers that the intended development of the Middlehaven complex would have secured.

Middlehaven ward south of the A66 is split east and west. The two main residential segments are separated by the town centre, which comprises the main shopping areas of the town, the Town Hall and Civic Centre, significant amounts of office accommodation – much of it empty – the older University buildings, the law courts, the Central Library, and the new Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art (mima). There is some, but very little, residential accommodation in this town centre area, most of the electorate in Middlehaven living either to the east or the west of the town centre.

The most logical solution is for the main residential areas of Middlehaven ward to be divided east and west by a ward boundary through the town centre. However, in view of the low population this has significant effects on the neighbouring wards of Gresham, University and North Ormesby & Brambles Farm.

The proposed ward boundary for Central Ward takes in the eastern area of the current Middlehaven ward, extending south to Albert Park. It incorporates the area to the east of Linthorpe Road and extends as far as Marton Road and Angle Street to the west. The ward also includes most of the current University Ward, other than the Breckon Hill area.

The area is predominantly Victorian terrace housing with rear yards and shared alleys, but there is a small number of more modern housing infill sites, all being small developments. Teesside University and the recently developed Middlesbrough College, which is in the Middlehaven area of town, are both within the proposed ward.

The area is also characterised by the high minority ethnic community, mainly Pakistani in origin.

The proposed Central Ward will have a variance of 1.29% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Central	2	4,359	-1.29%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Central Ward will have a 1.29% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This will allow for the projected development of residential accommodation at Clairville and in Middlehaven over the next five years, but should the development not go ahead as projected then the variance from the optimum will still be within the required +/-10 of average.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>There is a strong sense of community identity in the area, especially around the Victoria Road and Waterloo Road area. The residents of the smaller modern housing developments also have a strong sense of community identity. There is an active Community Council, and a residents association in the area.</p> <p>There are three mosques in the ward, which also serve as community centres for the Asian community. The International Centre and the Abingdon Road Children’s centre both provide community facilities and services.</p> <p>The area has a large number of small shops and convenience stores, a new health centre offering a range of medical services, cafes and a range of service industries.</p> <p>All areas of the ward are within walking distance of the town centre, where the Town Hall, the Central Library, the art gallery (mima) and many other public buildings and services are located.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>Vehicle and pedestrian access across the whole of the ward is excellent, except for the area to the north of the A66 which is somewhat less accessible. There are bus services along Marton Road, Linthorpe Road and Borough Road.</p>

Crescent Ward

The forecast is that the current ward of Gresham will have a 19.6% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. Linthorpe Ward, immediately to the south of Gresham, is forecast to be 6.33% over the optimum by 2013, largely as a result of the residential housing that has recently been developed on the old hospital site immediately to the south of Ayresome Street, the current boundary between Gresham Ward and Linthorpe Ward.

The proposal is to create a new ward, mainly comprising the southernmost streets of Gresham ward and the northernmost streets in Linthorpe ward, but also taking in small parts of Park and Ayresome wards.

It will also incorporate the southern part of West Lane, which (as noted in the Ironmasters Ward section above) is dissected by the A66

The proposed boundary will be Parliament Road to the north, Linthorpe Road to the east, Clive Road and St Barnabas Road to the south (so taking in the whole of the new development on the hospital site), and the A66 to the west.

The proposed Crescent Ward will have a variance of 3.79% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Crescent	2	4,248	-3.79%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Crescent Ward would have a 3.79% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio. No further major residential developments are forecast for this area in the foreseeable future.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>This is one of the many areas of town where relatively small areas have a community identity, but are too small to warrant separate representation, within the requirement to ensure equality of representation.</p> <p>The area between Parliament Road and Ayresome Street is older terraced street housing. The area to the south of Ayresome Street is mainly modern build, completed in the last 5 years, and built on the former hospital site. To the far west of the ward is the southern part of the West Lane community, which (as already noted) has no vehicular access or public transport links to the northern part of West Lane area, having been dissected by the A66, a major trunk road. There is a footbridge over the A66 linking the two parts of the West Lane area.</p> <p>Geographically the proposed ward is compact, and vehicle and pedestrian access across all parts of the ward is reasonably good.</p> <p>To the east of the ward there is an active community provision, Ayresome Community Enterprise, in the Worcester Street centre which is attached to Ayresome Primary School. This is run by an enthusiastic group of residents, and includes a cafe and computer suite. The Credit Union runs weekly sessions. The Sacred Heart Primary School lies to the south of Ayresome Street.</p> <p>To the west of the ward is the Meath Street Community Centre, a purpose built centre with a large community garden.</p> <p>Parliament Road, the northern boundary, has a large number of diverse local shops and a Tesco Express, and there is a Sainsbury's store and a post office on Crescent Road. There is a further supermarket on the corner of Kensington Road and Linthorpe Road in the south east of the ward.</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 ward. There are bus services along Linthorpe Road and Union Street, and the town centre is within easy walking distance of the housing south of Grange Road.</p>

Acklam Green Ward

The forecast is that the current ward of Ayresome will have a 3.6% variance greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. Ayresome Ward is on the north western boundary of Middlesbrough immediately to the south of Middlehaven. The Acklam Road forms a strong boundary to the east, and Mandale Road is the southern boundary with Kader ward.

As previously noted the current Ayresome ward includes the West Lane community, which is dissected by the A66 trunk road. It has also been explained why it is proposed that the northern part of West Lane should be moved into the proposed Ironmasters Ward, and the southern part of West Lane moved into proposed Crescent Ward.

Immediately to the south of the current Ayresome ward is the northern tip of the current Kader ward. The area to the immediate south of Mandale Road comprising the streets of Chalford Oaks, Heythrop Drive, Minsterley Drive, etc., has no direct vehicular access to the remainder of Kader Ward, due to the Acklam Grange School and playing fields. There are no shops, community or other facilities in the small cluster of streets. This area shares much in common in terms of housing and socioeconomic factors with the area directly to the north of these streets, which is bounded by Mandale Road, Levick Crescent and Acklam Road.

It is therefore proposed that this small group of streets should be contained within the proposed Acklam Green Ward. The proposed ward would then have a variance of 3.31% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Acklam Green	2	4,270	-3.31%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Acklam Green Ward would have a 3.31% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This will allow for the further projected development of Acklam Green.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The housing in the ward was developed between the 1930s and the 1950s, the more modern housing to the south of the ward.</p> <p>Over the past 10 years the area around Harehills Road has been the subject of significant development, with a lot of the former social housing area of Whinney Banks having been demolished and replaced with mixed housing. The project, which is under the management of West Middlesbrough Neighbourhood Trust, is not yet complete and further build is anticipated by 2018.</p> <p>Close to the centre of the proposed ward is Whinney Banks primary school. There is a Surestart service, and immediately adjacent to the school is a newly built community facility which houses the integrated youth support service, provides community function rooms, and a community sports facility. Next door is the Ahlul al Bait centre which also offers cultural and community facilities.</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 ward. There are bus services along Acklam Road running the full length of the ward and into the town centre.</p> <p>The Acklam Road, the eastern boundary of the ward, provides a wide range of small independent shops.</p>

Acklam South Ward

The forecast is that the current ward of Kader will have a 5.75% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018.

Kader Ward runs to the west of Acklam Road for most of its length, and then crosses to the eastern side of Acklam Road at its southern end.

The ward has never had a particularly strong community identity, being split into four sections: the area round Heythrop Drive to the north of Acklam Grange school, which has no direct vehicle access to the remainder of the ward; the section around Lodore Grove which has no direct vehicle access to the remainder of the ward north or south, all access being onto Acklam Road; the central section from Trimdon Avenue south to the A174, which has good vehicle and pedestrian access; and the area to the east of Acklam Road, which is a small self contained area of housing with access only onto Acklam Road.

This area is in effect the southern end of Acklam, a significant area of the town that is bounded by Green Lane to the north, the A174 trunk road to the south, and more or less all of that area to the west of Marton West Beck.

The proposed ward of Acklam West would comprise most of the current Kader ward, but, as previously noted (see Acklam Green), the northernmost area of Kader, to the north of Acklam Grange School, should become part of the new Acklam Green Ward. The remainder of the new ward would largely follow the current Kader boundaries, but with the inclusion of the Brookfield estate.

The final small change would be to move the Police headquarters site on Ladgate Lane into the proposed Newham Grange Ward. This site is due to be sold and developed as private housing, and it is considered that this new area of housing would be too remote from the remainder of the South Acklam Ward for there to be any meaningful community identity, and that it would not bring about effective and convenient local government.

The proposed South Acklam Ward will have a variance of 1.04% greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Acklam South Ward	2	4,462	+1.04%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new South Acklam Ward would have a 1.04% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This will allow for the further projected development of Ladgate Lane Police HQ.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>This entire area of town has an extremely high level of owner occupation, mostly built from the 1950s to the 1970s. It is generally considered by the electors to be the part of the Acklam area of town, and as a consequence has a high level of community identity.</p> <p>The ward has a secondary school, which includes the Middlesbrough City Technology Centre and a newly developed community and sports facility, the Acorn Centre, and a primary school. To the northern end of the Acklam Road there are a number of shops, including a Tesco Express. There are more local shops to the south of the ward at The Oval.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has reasonable road links throughout the majority of the residential parts of the ward, and easy pedestrian access between all the residential parts of the ward. There are bus services along Acklam Road running the full length of the ward and into the town centre. There is also a bus service along Trimdon Avenue and into the town centre.</p>

Trimdon Ward

The forecast is that the current ward of Brookfield will have a 21.71% variance greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018.

Brookfield ward is on the western edge of Middlesbrough, bordered to the west by the A19 trunk road, to the south by the A174 trunk road, and to the east by the Blue Bell Beck.

The reason for the anticipated increase in ward size is the development of Stainsby Hall Farm, which will significantly increase the size of the ward in terms of elector numbers.

As noted, it is proposed that the Brookfield Estate is incorporated into the proposed South Acklam Ward. Other than this, no change is proposed for the ward boundary. However, if that the Brookfield estate is taken out of the ward, it is proposed that the ward be renamed Trimdon Ward

The proposed Ironmasters Ward will have a variance of 0.33% greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Trimdon Ward	2	4,431	+0.33%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Trimdon Ward will have a 0.33% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio by 2018.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will continue to have strong boundaries, being much the same as the current ward, with the new development to the south but still within the described boundaries created by the A19 and the A174. All access into and out of the existing housing in Trimdon Avenue and Baldoon Sands area is onto the Acklam Road. The new housing will have a separate access point off the westernmost end of Low Lane. There are two primary schools in the ward, and a small shopping parade on Trimdon Avenue.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has reasonable road and pedestrian links throughout the majority of the ward. There is a bus services along Trimdon Avenue and onto Acklam Road into the town centre.</p>

Linthorpe Village Ward

The forecast is that the current ward of Park will have a 2.4% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. Linthorpe is presently a three Member ward.

The area commonly identified as Linthorpe – as opposed to current electoral area of Linthorpe ward – is extensive, bordered by Valley Road and the Vale to the east, Green Lane to the South, Acklam Road to the west and Ayresome Street to the north.

The current Park Ward is entirely within the larger area widely recognised as being Linthorpe, but presently excludes the area around Sycamore Road and Beech Grove Road, which is also firmly recognised as being part of Linthorpe.

The Linthorpe Road runs through the centre of the Linthorpe area. From its junction with Park Road South to the junction with Cumberland Road and Devonshire Road is the area known as Linthorpe village (or more commonly just the Village). Linthorpe village also takes in the streets running immediately off it to the east and to the west. This entire area has several shops providing a wide range of facilities including three pharmacies, a number of doctors surgeries, cafes, car parking, a post office, places of worship and the Linthorpe Community Centre.

At present Linthorpe village is in Park Ward, and not Linthorpe Ward.

The proposal is that the new Linthorpe Village Ward would comprise most of the current Park Ward, less some of the streets in the north western area which would move into the proposed Linthorpe West Ward and the proposed Crescent Ward. The area of Linthorpe around Sycamore Road and Beech Grove Road, currently in Clairville ward would also be incorporated into Linthorpe Village Ward.

The resulting new Linthorpe Village Ward would take in much of Linthorpe village: the remainder of the Village would be in the proposed Linthorpe West Ward. Under this proposal, the Linthorpe Road and Linthorpe village would serve to bring together, under two new wards, most of the area of town recognised as being the Linthorpe area. This will serve to strengthen the identity of both proposed wards.

The proposed Linthorpe Village Ward would have a variance of 0.60% more than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Linthorpe Village Ward	2	4,442	+0.60%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Linthorpe Ward will have a 0.60% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>Linthorpe Village has a strong community identity and the proposed new ward will strengthen the boundaries of the ward.</p> <p>The main shopping areas are the Village itself, and there is also a parade of shops at the very south east corner of the ward at the end of Eastbourne Road. The ward has a primary school, a number of places of worship, doctors surgeries, cafes, pharmacies and other facilities. There is an active community centre in the middle of the Village.</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 numerous bus services through the ward and into the town centre.</p>

Linthorpe West Ward

The forecast is that the current ward of Linthorpe will have a 6.33% variance greater than than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. Linthorpe is presently a three Member ward.

As previously noted, the area commonly identified as Linthorpe – as opposed to current electoral area of Linthorpe ward – is extensive, bordered by Valley Road and the Vale to the east, Green Lane to the South, Acklam Road to the west and Ayresome Street to the north. The area currently takes in the wards of Linthorpe, Park and part of the Clairville. It comprises a significant number of Victorian and early 20th century houses, along with housing built up until and just after the 1940s. To the north of the ward is an area of more modern housing, built during the last decade, on the sites of the old Middlesbrough football ground and the former workhouse / hospital site.

The proposal is that most of the current Linthorpe ward becomes Linthorpe West Ward, a two member ward. The new housing referred to above would become part of the proposed Crescent Ward, and the housing to the Cambridge Road would become part of the proposed Green Lane Ward.

The new Linthorpe West Ward would also have Linthorpe village on its eastern border. As noted previously (see Linthorpe Village Ward) the Village area several shops providing a wide range of facilities including three pharmacies, a number of doctors surgeries, cafes, car parking, a post office, places of worship and the Linthorpe Community Centre. It has also been noted that the proposal relating to Linthorpe West Ward and Linthorpe Village Ward will serve to bring together, under the two new wards, most of the area of town recognised as being the Linthorpe area, and that this will serve to strengthen the identity of both proposed wards.

The Linthorpe West Ward would have a variance of 4.36% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Linthorpe West Ward	2	4,223	-4.36%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Linthorpe West Ward will have a 4.36% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>Linthorpe West is a fairly affluent ward, with a very high level of owner occupation and no real social housing.</p> <p>The main facilities lie on the borders of the ward. Roman Road and Linthorpe Road, the boundary to the east, have a large number of shops with a range of small shops and cafes, a Tesco Express and a medium size independent supermarket. The western boundary is Acklam Road, again with a wide range of small neighbourhood shops. On the southern boundary, Cambridge Road, there is a large medical centre and a small hospital. There are a number of places of worship offering meeting rooms, but no major community facilities.</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 along Acklam Road, Cambridge Road and Linthorpe Road running the length of the ward and into the town centre.</p> <p>Reducing from three to two Councillors in such a compact area will serve to offer better accountability to the electorate.</p>

Green Lane Ward

The proposed Green lane Ward will comprise the southern part of the current Linthorpe ward and the northern part of the current Acklam ward. As noted above, the forecast is that the current ward of Linthorpe will have a 6.33% variance greater than than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. The forecast is that Acklam ward will have a 7.99% variance greater than than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018.

Green lane Ward will be bounded by Cambridge Road to the north, Roman Road and Tollesby Road to the east, Hall Drive to the south, and Acklam Road to the west. These form strong and identifiable boundaries for the ward.

Green lane Ward will comprise a very high proportion of owner occupied housing, taking in some of the more affluent areas of the town. The ward has a primary school, and there is a shopping parade on Acklam Road with a variety of local shops including a small local supermarket. The ward contains a large areas of open space, given over to playing fields, a football club, a bowling green and Middlesbrough RUFC ground.

The ward also contains the only Grade 1 listed building in Middlesbrough, Acklam Hall. Previously a secondary school and then part of Middlesbrough College, it is now empty awaiting development. Planning permission has been approved for use as residential accommodation, provision of care facilities , a medical resource centre and a restaurant.

The Green Lane Ward would have a variance of 4.1% greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio. This will still allow for the projected residential accommodation planned for Acklam Hall.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Green Lane Ward	2	4,597	+4.10%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Linthorpe West Ward will have a 4.10% variance greater than the optimum elector/Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>Linthorpe West is a fairly affluent ward, with a very high level of owner occupation and no real social housing.</p> <p>The main facilities lie on the borders of the ward. Roman Road and Linthorpe Road, the boundary to the east, have a large number of shops with a range of small shops and cafes, a Tesco Express and a medium size independent supermarket. The western boundary is Acklam Road, again with a wide range of small neighbourhood shops. On the southern boundary, Cambridge Road, there is a large medical centre and a small hospital. There are a number of places of worship offering meeting rooms, but no major community facilities.</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 along Acklam Road, Cambridge Road and Linthorpe Road running the length of the ward and into the town centre.</p> <p>Reducing from three to two Councillors in such a compact area will serve to offer better accountability to the electorate.</p>

Belle Vue Ward

The new Belle Vue Ward will largely comprise the area presently within Clairville ward. It is forecast that the current ward of Clairville will have a 7.84% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018.

As previously noted, it is proposed to move the part of Linthorpe comprising Sycamore Road, Beech Grove Road and the adjoining streets into the Linthorpe Village Ward, with which it has a far greater community identity.

At the same time it is proposed to move the roads immediately to the north of the James Cook University Hospital, which include Belle Vue Grove, Farndale Road and adjoining streets into Belle Vue Ward, with which they will have far greater community identity. It is also proposed that a small number of streets either side of the very eastern area of Marton Burn Road are also contained within Belle Vue Ward for the same reason. It is proposed the hospital is also part of the Belle Vue Ward.

Much of the centre of the ward, around the Grove Hill area, was built as social housing and has been demolished. There is development of replacement housing planned for the future.

The ward will have strong boundaries, with the railway line to the east, Valley Road to the west and Keith Road and Marton Burn Road to the south.

The Belle Vue Ward will have a variance of 0.45% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio. This will still allow for the projected development planned for the Grove Hill area.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Belle Vue Ward	2	4,396	-0.45%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Belle Vue Ward will have a 0.45% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This will allow for the projected development of housing in the Grove Hill area of the ward.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>There is a strong sense of community identity in the area. The Belle Vue shops are easily accessible to the residents of the ward, and there is a shopping parade at the eastern end of Marton Burn Road and Bishopton Road.</p> <p>The Grove Hill area has one of the Council's Community Hubs, which provides a number of community facilities and a range of community services. There is a primary school, and medical facilities on Marton Road near to the Belle Vue shops.</p> <p>The area has strong community involvement, with the Longlands Area Residents association to the east of Marton Road and the Grove Hill Residents & Youth association to the west of Marton road..</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>Vehicle and pedestrian access across the whole of the ward is excellent. There are bus services along Eastbourne Road, Marton Burn Road and along Marton Road into the town centre..</p>

St Chad's Ward

It is forecast that the current ward of Beechwood will have a 14.95% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. The new St Chad's Ward will largely largely comprise the present Beechwood ward along with a small part of Acklam ward.

Beechwood estate was developed as social housing at the end of the 1940s, and is bounded by Marton Road to the east, Keith Road to the north, an open area comprising playing fields and allotments to the south and Marton West Beck to the west.

On the other side of the beck, currently in Acklam ward is Glendale Road which has similar housing to that on the east side of the beck. To the west of Glendale Road is more recent housing built as owner occupied housing. The Ward has two primary schools and two secondary schools. More or less central to the ward is St Chad's church and the Saltersgill Avenue shops which includes a local Sainsbury's.

St Chad's Ward will have a variance of 3.42% greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
St Chad's Ward	2	4,567	3.42%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Belle Vue Ward will have a 3.42% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>There is a strong sense of community identity in the area. The Saltersgill Avenue shops are readily accessible to the residents of the ward, and there is a shopping parade at the eastern end of Marton Burn Road and Bishopton Road.</p> <p>The ward has two community centres, one to the eastern end and one to the western end of the ward, and there is a medical centre on the Marton Road. There are two primary schools and two secondary schools in the ward.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>Vehicle access across the ward is good, and there is excellent pedestrian access across the whole of the ward. There are bus services along Marton Road into the town centre.</p>

Ladgate Ward

It is forecast that the current ward of Ladgate will have an 8.36% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018.

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. 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.

The proposal is to leave Ladgate Ward much as it is now, but to include the area to the east of Marton Road that was previously occupied by the Middlesbrough College, and is now to be developed into approximately 240 housing units.

The revised Ladgate Ward will have a variance of 2.61% greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Ladgate Ward	2	4,531	2.61%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Ladgate Ward will have a 2.61% variance greater 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. Broughton Avenue has a number of 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, and places of worship in the ward.</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>

Stainton & Thornton Villages Ward

Stainton and Thornton villages are fairly unique in Middlesbrough as being almost rural villages on the edge of the town

It is forecast that the current ward of Stainton & Thornton will have a 22.37% variance greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. It also has a large tract of greenfield land that has been identified for future housing development. There is a high expectation that a significant number of new housing will be completed and lived in by 2012. As it stands, the ward will not meet the requirements in respect of equality of representation in future years.

Hemlington Ward, immediately to the east of Stainton and Thornton villages, is forecast to be 7.11% under the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018.

The present ward of Stainton & Thorntree includes two distinct housing areas on the western fringe of Hemlington community. The northern of these is primarily owner occupied, whilst the southern area (the Dales Park estate) was developed as social housing and shares far more socioeconomic characteristics with other social housing estates in the Hemlington Ward.

The proposal is therefore to move the Dales Estate into Hemlington Ward.

The proposed Stainton & Thornton Villages Ward will have a variance of 4.61% less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio in 2018, thus allowing for further development in the Hemlington Grange area.

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Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Stainton & Thornton Villages Ward	1	2,106	-4.61%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Stainton & Thornton Villages Ward would have a 4.61% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p>Stainton & Thornton Villages Ward has one of the larger areas of greenfield land that has been identified for future development. It is anticipated that some 250 new homes will be built in the ward by 2018, and so the variance below the optimum will ensure a degree of future proofing in terms of equality of representation.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>Stainton and Thornton villages are fairly unique in Middlesbrough as being almost rural villages on the edge of the town albeit with some more recent housing development.</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. There is a Camphill Village Trust community for people with learning difficulties, and this provides homes and work for residents. There are also a number of working farms in the ward.</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 ward. There are bus services into Middlesbrough.</p> <p>Stainton has a village shop, a village pub, a hotel, a health club and a parish church.</p>

Hemlington Ward

Hemlington Ward is a large area to the south of the town built as a mix of owner occupier and social housing. It is forecast that it will be 7.11% under the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. There are no housing developments planned for the ward.

The neighbouring ward of Stainton & Thorntree includes two distinct housing areas on the western fringe of the Hemlington estate. The northern of these, around the Briscoe Way area, is primarily owner occupied and shares many socioeconomic factors with the eastern area of Stainton. The southern area, the Dales Estate, was developed as social housing and shares far more socioeconomic characteristics with Hemlington Ward.

The proposal is therefore to move the Dales Estate into Hemlington Ward. However, to do this in isolation of any other actions would skew the optimum Councillor / elector ratio of the Hemlington ward in the other direction.

The electors in the north eastern corner of Hemlington, around Southdean Drive and Kielder Rise, share more socioeconomic characteristics with the neighbouring ward of Coulby Newham than with the adjacent areas of the Hemlington estate. They do not particularly relate to the rest of Hemlington, and tend not to attend Hemlington Community Council meetings. It is therefore proposed that the streets round Southdean Drive and Kielder Rise are moved into what is currently the Coulby Newham ward to the east.

The above changes will result in a Councillor / elector ratio in Hemlington that is 3.83% lower than the optimum by 2018

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Hemlington Ward	2	4,247	-3.83%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Hemlington Ward would have a 3.83% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>Hemlington area has strong boundaries, being bordered by the A174 trunk road to the north, the B1365 to the east, and Stainton Way to the south and west. Hemlington was built as an integrated housing scheme, with some areas built as social housing, and others that were built for owner occupation. Consequently, it is not possible to suggest that there is a single homogenous community within the overall Hemlington area.</p> <p>However, the proposed Hemlington Ward will have strong community identity. The ward has two primary schools, playing fields, and a large lake at its centre. There is a doctors' surgery and a dental practice.</p> <p>The library acts as a community hub, offering a range of community facilities. The area also has a number of smaller community facilities, run by the local residents along with Erimus Housing, the main provider of social housing. There are three churches in the area, and a strong Community Council.</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 ward. There are bus services into Middlesbrough.</p> <p>More or less central to the ward is the Viewley Shopping Centre, a medium sized shopping centre with a post office and a library, recently saved from closure as a result of community action.</p>

Newham Grange Ward

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.

It is forecast that the Newham Grange Ward will be 2.36% under the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. There are no housing developments planned for the ward.

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.

The proposal is to create a new two Member ward of Newham Grange which will comprise the part of the existing Coulby Newham ward that is to the north of Stainton Way.

This area has a strong community identity, but is too large for a single Member ward and too small for a two Member ward. In order to achieve the correct Councillor / elector ratio, it is proposed that the new ward will also include two new areas: the streets round Southdean Drive and Kielder Rise that are currently in Hemlington Ward; and a small number of streets that are currently in Marton West ward, lying to the west of Tollesby Lane / Gunnergate Lane and are clustered round Linden Crescent and Marlborough Road.

The proposed Newham Grange ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 2.15% lower than the optimum by 2018

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Newham Grange Ward	2	4,321	-2.15%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Newham Grange Ward would have a 2.15% 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>The Community Centre has an active residents' committee. The community centre was under threat of closure as a result of the Council's budget cuts for 2013/2014, but a transfer to the management committee has recently been agreed by the Council.</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 Farm Ward

As noted elsewhere, 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.

As indicated in the section covering the proposals for the Newham Grange 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.

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.

The proposal is to create a new two Member ward, Coulby Farm Ward, which will comprise the part of the existing Coulby Newham ward that is to the south of the Parkway

This area has a strong community identity, and has its own Community Forum that concentrates on matters that affect Coulby Newham ward to the south of Stainton Way.

In order to achieve the required Councillor / elector ratio, it is proposed that Turnberry Way and the streets leading off it, which are currently in the south west corner of Marton West ward, are incorporated in to Coulby Farm Ward. This area of housing is the most recent part of the Coulby Newham Master Plan, drawn up in 1975, to have been completed..

The proposed Newham Grange ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 4.0% more than the optimum by 2018. This is taking into account the proposed development of housing on 'Site 44 Longridge', which will be the final stage of development covered by the Coulby Newham Master Plan.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Coulby Farm Ward	2	4,593	+4.00%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Newham Grange Ward would have a 4.0% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This takes into account the future development of Site 44 Longridge.</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 Newham Grange.</p> <p>The Community Centre has an active residents' group, and there is a Community Forum concerned with matters in this part of the current Coulby Newham ward. The Lingfield Countryside Centre, also a community facility, is in the ward.</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

The current ward of Nunthorpe has a projected 8.7% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. As with other wards on the southern edge of Middlesbrough, this is an area where future development of any size is most likely. The proposals for Nunthorpe are therefore intended to future proof equality of representation in the ward so far as is possible.

Nunthorpe has a strong sense of community. It is one of the most affluent areas of Middlesbrough, and comprises almost exclusively owner occupied housing. The northern half of the ward is fairly well developed in terms of housing the southern half is mainly farmland with some new residential development at Grey Towers, and the village of Nunthorpe to the south east of the ward. There is an active Parish Council, one of just two in Middlesbrough.

Planning permission has been granted in respect of further housing development at Grey Towers.

The proposal is for Nunthorpe to stay largely as at present, with one small change. This is to incorporate the very small executive housing development of De Brus Park into Nunthorpe. De Brus Park is a development of about 10 large detached houses to the north east of Brass castle Lane. Again, it is considered that the residents of De Brus Park relate far more to the Nunthorpe area than to the proposed Coulby Farm area.

The proposed Nunthorpe Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 4.65% less than the optimum by 2018.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Nunthorpe Ward	2	4,211	-4.65%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Nunthorpe will have a 4.65% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>There are three primary schools in the ward, and shops next to Nunthorpe railway station, although they are, in fact, just over the border in Redcar & Cleveland. There is an active Community Council in the area..</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>The ward has good road and pedestrian links between all parts of the ward. There is a railway station on the Middlesbrough to Whitby line. There is also a bus services into Middlesbrough.</p>

Marion Ward

The current ward of Marion has a projected 1.9% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. The current ward of Marion West has a projected 3.28% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018.

Marion – 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.

Marion ward currently lies to the east of Marion Road. It is bounded by Stewart Park to the north, Redcar & Cleveland to the east, Marion Road to the west and Gypsy lane to the south.

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

The proposal is to combine most of the current Marion ward with the current Marion West ward into a new, larger, Marion Ward. This would become the only three Member ward in the Council. It would provide a greater strength of community identity, brought together by the Stokesley Road which runs through the middle of the new ward, and which has many of the shops and other facilities common to both parts of the new ward.

The proposed Marion Ward will be a three Member ward and will have a Councillor / elector ratio 3.06% less than the optimum by 2018.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Marton Ward	3	6,422	-3.06%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Marton Ward will have a 3.06% 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.</p> <p>There is a large shopping parade in the centre of the ward, the Marton Road shops, which has a good variety of local shops and other facilities. There is a library and a post office in the same location, and the ward has a pharmacy. In addition, there are also some local shops in Woodrow Avenue. The ward has two schools, places of worship and an active community centre with a strong local management committee. In addition to the Community Councils there is a Friends of Stewart park, which is in the ward, and a Friends of Marton Library, which is run with the involvement of local volunteers.</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 Marton Road and into the town centre.</p>

North Ormesby & Breckon Hill Ward

The current ward of North Ormesby & Brambles Farm has a projected 1.47% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio. However, the current ward, which takes in North Ormesby to the north of the trunk road and Brambles Farm to the south of the trunk road, does present serious issues with regard to community identity and effective and convenient local government.

North Ormesby is one of Middlesbrough's older, most readily identifiable communities with a high degree of resources and facilities within its boundaries. In many ways it has the feel and the characteristics of a small township with a high street, a shopping area, and several commercial and public buildings. However, in terms of equality of representation it is too big to be a single member ward, and too small to be a two member ward.

It is considered that the Brambles Farm estate should be part of east Middlesbrough rather than North Ormesby. It lies to the south of the trunk road and its natural focus in terms of community identity, resources and services is far closer to the east Middlesbrough area than to North Ormesby. In considering the options, the broader issues concerning the whole east Middlesbrough area were taken into account. The current Beckfield Ward is projected to have a 17.7% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. The east Middlesbrough area of the Borough is very strongly defined. Boundaries to the east and to the south east are with a neighbouring authority. To the west is a railway line with vehicular crossings only at the southernmost and northernmost boundaries of east Middlesbrough. The northern boundary is the Trunk Road dual carriageway: to the south east the B1380 and Stewart Park. It was therefore felt that future patterns of warding in the east Middlesbrough area would have to be contained within those distinct boundaries. This is dealt with in more detail in the following section, East Middlesbrough.

The proposed solution is to create a new ward comprising North Ormesby and Breckon Hill.

Breckon Hill is the easternmost community in the current University Ward. It is a small area that is well defined by major roads: Borough Road to the north, the A172 to the east, Longlands Road to the south and Marton Road to the west. Mainly older housing, it has a range of facilities within or directly adjacent to its boundaries. A recent Community Profile of the area noted that "University Ward can feel divided by the Marton Road which runs through the middle of the ward".

The new North Ormesby & Breckon Hill Ward will be bounded by Redcar & Cleveland Borough to the east and the north east, by the A66 to the north, Marton Road to the west and by the A1085 to the south. The Boyds Estate, a tiny community to the north of the A1085 and the east of Cargo Fleet Lane will also be contained within this ward, as it identifies far more strongly with North Ormesby than with Brambles Farm and the rest of east Middlesbrough south of the trunk road..

It is accepted that many of the issues that existed in combining North Ormesby and Brambles Farm into a single ward potentially exist with this proposed solution. However, given the geography of the area, the self contained nature of North Ormesby, the need to return Brambles Farm to east Middlesbrough and the need to ensure equality of representation across the whole of North Ormesby and the east Middlesbrough area, it is considered that this solution is the 'best fit' that can be achieved.

The proposed North Ormesby and Breckon Hill Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 4.42% less than the optimum by 2018.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
North Ormesby & Breckon Hill Ward	2	4,221	-4.42%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new North Ormesby & Breckon Hill Ward will have a 4.42% variance less than the optimum elector/ Member ratio. This will allow for the projected development of approximately 150 units of housing over the next five years on the former Longlands College site, which is in the Breckon Hill area. Should the development not go ahead as projected then the variance from the optimum will still be within the required +/-10 of average.</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 including Surestart services. The area has an active residents' association..</p> <p>Breckon Hill is a much smaller area with some xxx electors. The purpose built community centre is well used, providing community rooms, a computer suit, community cafe, money advice, employment advice and training, and other services. The Sure Start centre, providing services for under 5s, is being incorporated into the adjoining Breckon Hill School, which has taken on responsibility for Early Years services, delivered in partnership with the Playgroup Network and Middlesbrough Council. There is an active community centre management committee and a Friends of Breckon Hill School. Saltwells Green, a small local park in Breckon Hill, was refurbished in 2007 with funding from a community grant.</p> <p><u>Effective and convenient local government</u></p> <p>Both the North Ormesby part of the ward and the Breckon Hill part of the ward have good vehicle and pedestrian access in those parts of the ward. The Council acknowledges that access between the North Ormesby area of the ward and the Breckon Hill area of the ward is more difficult.</p>

EAST MIDDLESBROUGH

East Middlesbrough area is currently made up of the wards of Beckfield, Park End, Pallister and Thorntree, along with the Brambles Farm part of the North Ormesby & Brambles Farm ward.

The projections for 2018 are that Beckfield and Pallister will be under the optimum elector / Councillor ratio (by 17.7% and 4.48% respectively), whilst Park End and Thorntree will be above the optimum elector / Councillor ratio (by 0.29% and 1.0% respectively).

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.

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 a 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.

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.

The number of electors forecast to be living in this area by 2018 is 18,515. Taking into consideration the optimum elector / Councillor ratio this equates to 8 elected Members representing the entire East Middlesbrough area. However, it is the view of the Council that the area does not fit readily into identifiable electorate divisions that will fully achieve all three of the statutory criteria: equality of representation, community identity and interests, and effective and convenient local government.

At the same time, it is not considered that there is such an overwhelming case to be made in respect of any of the individual communities in East Middlesbrough in respect of community identity and interests or effective and convenient local government that the Commission should be asked to consider exceeding the 10% variance in respect of the Councillor / elector ratio when considering the warding arrangements for any of these areas.

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 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.

Brambles and Pallister Ward

The current ward of Pallister has a projected 4.48% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018.

The proposal is to create a new ward taking in Brambles Farm, which is currently part of the North Ormesby & Brambles Farm ward, and the eastern part of Pallister ward. It will also include the Creekwood and Cobblewood, area as the only access to these roads is off Cargo Fleet Lane, and not into Thorntree estate which is directly to the east of them.

The ward will have mainly strong boundaries with the A1085 Longlands Road to the north, Redcar & Cleveland to the east, College Road, the City Academy and playing fields to the south, and a line to the east of Ormesby Road to the west.

The proposed Brambles and Pallister Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 5.27% greater than the optimum by 2018.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Brambles and Pallister Ward	2	4,649	+5.27%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Brambles and Pallister Ward will have a 5.27% variance greater than than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward will have a strong community identity. The Brambles Farm area has a community facility operated through the Hope Foundation, a voluntary organisation offering a number of facilities and services in the area. The Community Council and the area housing forum meet here. There is a Surestart service and a day nursery, and there are local shops. There are play and leisure facilities in the north east part of the area.</p> <p>The Pallister estate has the Charlbury Road Community Centre, and a Surestart Centre offering a range of services and facilities. There is a shopping parade on Cargo Fleet Lane.</p> <p>There are three primary schools in the area, various places of worship, and Pallister Park which offers junior+ youth clubs, community facilities and a range of community services including floodlit games facilities and bowling greens.</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 Ward

The current ward of Pallister has a projected 4.48% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. Park End ward has a projected 0.29% variance greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. Berwick Hills ward

The proposal is to create a new ward taking in the western part of Pallister ward and the northern part of Park End ward. These areas comprise the original estate of Berwick Hills that was developed in the mid 1960s.

The ward will have good boundaries with the railway line to the west, the A1085 Longlands Road to the north, a line to the east of Ormesby Road to the west and Delamere Road to the south.

The proposed Berwick Hills Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 5.2% greater than the optimum by 2018.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Berwick Hills Ward	2	4,646	5.2%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Berwick Hills Ward will have a 5.2% 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 those parts of the previous wards that were originally the Berwick Hills estate.</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 a number of community facilities and a range of community services, is sited at the Berwick Hillscentre.</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>

Park End & Priestfields Ward

The current ward of Park End ward a projected 0.29% variance greater than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. The current Beckfield ward has a projected 17.7% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018

The proposal is to create a new ward taking in the southern part of Park End ward and the western part of Beckfield ward to the west of Cargo Fleet Lane. The ward will have good boundaries with Delamere Road to the north, Ormesby Road to the east, Redcar & Cleveland boundary to the south and the railway line to the west.

The proposed Park End & Priestfields Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 5.16% greater than the optimum by 2018.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Park End & Priestfields Ward	2	4,644	5.16%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Park End & Priestfields Ward will have a 5.16% 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 those parts of the previous wards that were originally the Park End and Beckfields housing estates.</p> <p>There are small local shops at Langley Court, 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>

Thorntree Ward

The current ward of Beckfield has a projected 17.7% variance less than the optimum Councillor / elector ratio by 2018. The eastern boundary and the southern boundary of the ward are both with a neighbouring authority, Redcar & Cleveland. The ward is currently dissected north / south by Cargo Fleet Lane, a busy main road offering a major access link into and out of east Middlesbrough.

The proposed Thorntree Ward will incorporate the eastern half of Beckfield ward to the east of Cargo Fleet Lane, and the majority of the current Thorntree ward less the part of Pallister that lies to the west of Cargo Fleet Lane.

The area will have a strong identity, bringing together the estates of Thorntree and Netherfields. The ward will have strong boundaries, bounded on the east and south by Redcar & Cleveland, to the west by Cargo Fleet Lane, and to the north by College Road.

The revised Thorntree Ward will have a Councillor / elector ratio 3.61% greater than the optimum by 2018.

Proposed ward name	Proposed number of Councillors	Electorate forecast 2018	Variance	Evidence and rationale
Thorntree Ward	2	4,576	+3.61%	<p><u>Equality of representation</u></p> <p>The new Thorntree Ward will have a 3.61% variance greater than the optimum elector/ Member ratio.</p> <p><u>Community identity and interests</u></p> <p>The ward has a number of shops throughout at Shelton Court, Beresford Buildings and at Fulbeck Road. There are three primary schools, a secondary school, a library and places of worship. There are medical and dental facilities, and one of the Council's Community Hubs, which provides a number of community facilities and a wide range of community services, is sited in the ward.</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>