

# Middlesbrough

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## Comment text:

Related subject: MIDDLESBROUGH

Please find attached letter with suggested proposals regarding Phase III of the Middlesbrough Ward boundary review. I have worked with the Middlesbrough Independent Councillors Association (MICA) on this document and they will also forward a copy

## Attached Documents:

- ward-boundary-phase-iii.pdf

21<sup>st</sup> February 2025

Review Officer (Middlesbrough)  
LGBCE, 7th Floor  
3 Bunhill Row  
London  
EC1Y 8YZ

Dear Sirs,

We thank the LGBCE for their work on the boundary report and appreciate how complex the process has been for the committee. We would also thank the LGBCE for the excel Middlesbrough figures file provided.

We were not entirely in agreement with Phase II recommendations when published. We accepted Berwick Hills & Pallister changes however we noted after the consultation there was an oversight, and we failed to notice polling station HB Bellamy Court with circa 379 electorate had been taken out of this ward and placed into North Ormesby, we would have objected to that recommendation. Park End & Beckfield, we agreed with phase II recommendations. The proposed North Ormesby & Brambles and the Thorntree and Town Farm were in our opinion incorrect, and Councillor Graham Wilson engaged in the consultation and forwarded the reasons why he objected. We appreciate we have an opportunity during this phase to have our say.

This additional consultation, Phase III concerns us as we would not expect the huge change in the ward boundary which covers East Middlesbrough. The vertical boundary lines on the map splitting the three wards evenly does not fit with our vision. Whilst the map shares the electorate more equally between Councillors the result is communities are no longer together which should be linked by shops, pubs, places of worship etc. East Middlesbrough should be adjusted as little as possible to keep the communities together.

Below is the Phase III deviances proposed by the LGBCE per the 4 suggested new wards.

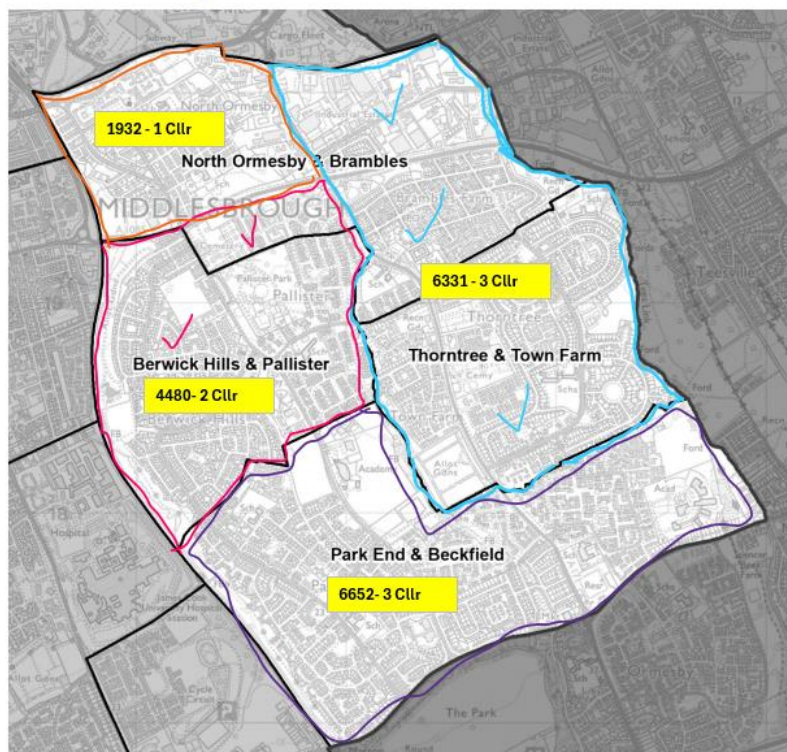
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Berwick Hills & Park End	3	-10%
Brambles & Thorntree	3	-4%
North Ormesby & Boyds	1	-4%
Pallister & Priestfields	2	0%

We would like to offer the following solutions which we feel would be fairer for all Councillors representing East Middlesbrough. We have reverted to LGBCE Phase II map, showing on page 2 for the purpose of our recommendations. The electorate numbers are as provided by the LGBCE in the Middlesbrough Figures excel file. Our percentage deviance is based on an electorate of 2,272 per Councillor which is the figure which was used from the start of this process.

The table shows the new +/- deviances based on our response below. The total electorate of East Middlesbrough is expected to be 19,395 (2029) The breakdown of electorate numbers is as it stands in 2025 and as provided by LGBCE.

## Proposed Ward Boundary for East Middlesbrough

### East Middlesbrough



	Total	Cllr No.	Cllr Ea	Target	%
<b>North Ormesby</b>	1,932	1	1,932	2,272	<b>-15%</b>
<b>Brambles &amp; Thorntree</b>	6,331	3	2,110	2,272	<b>-7%</b>
<b>Park End &amp; Beckfield</b>	6,652	3	2,217	2,272	<b>-2%</b>
<b>Berwick Hills &amp; Pallister Park</b>	4,480	2	2,240	2,272	<b>-1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,395</b>				

### PARK END & BECKFIELD

Purple outline on the map above and staying the same as per Phase II recommendations, Page 10, Para 47 we accept this proposal showing a -2% deviation. We would draw your attention to approved planning for 18 bungalows to be built on Peniston Road in the Netherfields region of the ward, 25 to 36 electorate, whilst this would not change the -2% deviance this is the final remaining land available for housing in Netherfields. We ask LGBCE to keep Netherfields in the current Park End & Beckfield Ward.

This ward as it shows on the map above was how the ward used to look before the last change to the ward boundary in 2014. Park End & Beckfield comprises of polling district OAM, OB and OC and we would need to add 539 electorate from polling district HDM out of Berwick Hills & Pallister Ward giving a total electorate of 6,652 which matches the Middlesbrough figures file numbers, and the Phase II reporting figures provided last time. The electorate of 539 currently residing in the Berwick Hills and Pallister Ward do live in the Park End area and they would slot into this Ward without disruption. It would also reduce confusion when elections do take place. Children in Park End & Beckfield Ward and Berwick Hills & Pallister Ward attend St Pius Primary School and residents use the shops and other facilities across both existing wards.

## **NORTH ORMESBY**

Orange outline on the map above. North Ormesby is a challenging ward with high levels of deprivation.

I would like to draw your attention to the historically predicted electorate numbers for North Ormesby (Source LGBCE previous consultations).

<b><u>Year</u></b>	<b><u>Electorate No's</u></b>
2012	2231
2018	2268
2023	1976
2025	1932

North Ormesby without doubt has added to its population with the building of new housing opposite North Ormesby Market Place and that is showing during the growth in the 2012 and 2018 predicted electorate numbers. No housing has been demolished since the last 2 reviews and there are only a small number of houses boarded up and unoccupied. For reasons unknown we would hazard a guess a lot of citizens are not registered on the electoral register. If Middlesbrough Council were to instigate a full review within the North Ormesby area and residents did register through assistance on the doorstep then there is a possibility that the electorate numbers will rise. If we assume that 2018 electorate of 2,268 was correct, then a one Councillor North Ormesby Ward would have a 0% deviation. Using the figure of 1,932 (44 less than we started this process) the electorate of North Ormesby is -15%. We feel -15% should be accepted and approved for North Ormesby due to the challenges this ward faces and the uncertainty the electorate figures are correct.

For the reasons above we would draw caution to adding Circa 214 from the Boyd estate electorate to North Ormesby which you state would increase the electorate to 2,190 as we suspect the North Ormesby 2018 electorate number of 2,268 to be more accurate than the new figure of 1,932. Adding the Boyd estate to North Ormesby could result, if newly registered residents from North Ormesby were added to the electoral register in this ward to 2,482 residents ( $2268 + 214$ ) resulting in a +9% deviance for North Ormesby. We would suggest LGBCE make further enquiries with Middlesbrough Council democratic services department to enquire how many houses are showing nobody listed on the electoral register or to use the previously provided figures in 2012 and 2018 when electoral numbers were more accurate.

The Boyd estate, 214 electorate should remain in the current Brambles and Thorntree Ward and allow continuity of current councillor and North Ormesby should remain as one Councillor with 1,932 current registered electorate. Action should be taken by Middlesbrough Council to update the electoral register.

The LGBCE has 3 main considerations to consider when making a decision, one being as near as possible equal representation. Please bear in mind, Draft Phase III of the proposed newly named ward of Stainton and Hemlington South if their changes were in place today each Councillor (3) would currently serve 1,804 electorate (-16%) until it would apparently rise to 2,064 (-9%) in 2029. Stainton and Hemlington South is not an area listed with high deprivation and house building is planned over the next 10 years plus. Electoral numbers are dependent on house building and occupancy therefore, considering this lower representation of residents per councillor we believe the North Ormesby Ward Councillor should be able to continue representing North Ormesby as a stand-alone ward Councillor (-15%). The North Ormesby councillor would still represent more electorate than the proposed Stainton and Hemlington South councillors until such times as the housing is built in South Middlesbrough.

I appreciate LGBCE considers the electoral numbers which are provided by Middlesbrough Council democratic services however we believe the electorate numbers are not in line with the population of North Ormesby.

### **BRAMBLES AND THORNTREE WARD**

Blue outline on the map above. This ward should remain unchanged and stay as it presently stands in 2025. The Boyd estate with 214 electorate sits comfortably in the current ward. The ward is currently managed well with 3 Councillors and the LGBCE ought to consider moving The Boyd Estate back into this ward.

We appreciate a certain amount of modification was needed within the whole of East Middlesbrough but this ward in our opinion did not need any changes. Several large social housing estates are almost ready to be occupied, and more housing is planned for building within the next few years. We note electorate numbers have increased to reflect this in both the LGBCE Phase II and Phase III report. As it stands a -7% deviance would be acceptable based on the fact there will be many new residents joining the ward and it is unclear at this time how many adults of voting age will occupy each dwelling. It is a known fact children once they reach 18 years of age are more likely to reside with their parents for longer and in 5 to 10 years the electorate in this Ward would increase if that was the case.

Adding Netherfields to this ward does not make logical sense. The current Brambles and Thorntree ward are large enough to cover with the Boyd Estate, Brambles Farm, Thorntree and Town Farm as one complete ward. Adding another housing area none of the current Councillors are familiar with would be unfair on the residents of Netherfields. Netherfields for the purpose of our response should remain in the Park End & Beckfield Ward as per the map on Page 2 and as shown as part of the LGBCE Phase II report. We would add that the current Brambles and Thorntree Ward has numerous shopping precincts, schools and other community facilities to manage and adding further community facilities such as shops and Community Centre would increase the workload immensely.

### **BERWICK HILLS & PALLISTER PARK**

Pink outline on the map above. As we understood from Phase II recommendations this ward would be reduced to a 2 Councillor Ward. We understand the need to adjust the boundary for the whole of East Middlesbrough due to large differences in Councillor representation. Berwick Hills & Pallister Park would lose a proportion of the ward which would move back to Park End & Beckfield and we accept this proposal. Whilst preparing this latest response we noticed an oversight on our part within the Phase II report being that polling area HB – Bellamy Court Residents Lounge (379 electorate) had been moved to North Ormesby & Brambles Farm, had we noticed that change at the time we would have responded during Phase II consultation. We appreciate we can make additional comments as per Phase III consultation.

We accept Phase II consultation proposals for this ward with the exception of the removal of polling area HB – Bellamy Court Residents Lounge (379 electorate). We would ask that the LGBCE consider moving this area back into the Berwick Hills & Pallister Park Ward as per the map on page 2. A deviance of -2% would be acceptable.

### **STANTON & HEMLINGTON NORTH**

We acknowledge the boundary changes across the whole of Middlesbrough originally stemmed from unfair representation in Stanton with one Councillor having a 80% deviance due to proposed house building to the South of Middlesbrough. Representation over the next 10 to 20 years allows this ward to grow and the Council representation to expand as the new housing is built and the

electorate grows. We would like to point out that over the next 5 to 10 years the 3 councillors in this ward will be well below the average representation that other Councillors in other wards are facing, some with a lot more challenges than this ward will face thus our request to ask the LGBCE to accept our proposals for North Ormesby representation. We do not object to changing this newly proposed ward to a 3 Councillor ward even though electorate representation is -16% as we understand this ward will be better served by 3 Councillors as the ward grows and expands.

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2029)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	Stainton & Hemlington South	3	5,412	1,804	-16%	6,192	2,064	-9%

## **HEMLINGTON NORTH**

The -3% variance would be acceptable for a one Councillor ward. There are no further plans to build in the area and therefore for years to come the electorate would be best served by continuous representation going forward.

## **MARTON WEST**

### **Phase III Boundary Deviation Figures**

Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2029
Coulby Newham	3	-6%
Marton East	2	8%
Marton West	3	4%
Nunthorpe	2	9%

The current ward of Marton West is served well with 2 Councillors. The ward has a petrol station with convenience store, a set of shops and a pub, playpark and Lingfield Primary School. Residents who reside in the ward appreciate travel is required to go supermarket shopping, visit religious venues, doctors, dentist or attend sports and recreational facilities such as Brass Castle Golf Course which falls within Marton West Ward.

The Marton Manor housing estate is not generally thought of as part of Marton. We do appreciate the naming of the housing estate may be confusing to some. Children on this estate would attend Marton Manor Primary School and have use of local shops and the estate is split from Marton West by a major A road the A174 Parkway which is a major route east to west from the south side of Middlesbrough. We would add cyclists and pedestrians are not permitted to use this road. Putting safety aside we would suggest that by using polling station MCM electorate then the Marton Manor estate can become a one Councillor ward with an electorate of 2066 by 2029 with a deviance of -9% which is acceptable for an estate which is growing yearly, similar to the newly proposed Stainton and Hemlington South Ward.

### **Phase III Boundary NEW Recommended Figures (New Ward Marton Manor)**

<b>Check your data</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2029</b>
Number of councillors:	<b>46</b>	<b>46</b>
Overall electorate:	<b>99,075</b>	<b>104,225</b>
Average electorate per cllr:	<b>2,154</b>	<b>2,266</b>

Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2023	Variance 2023	Electorate 2029	Variance 2029
Ladgate	1	2,322	8%	2,322	2%
Marton West	2	4,214	-2%	4,403	-3%
Marton Manor NEW	1	1,721	-20%	2,066	-9%

### **TRIMDON**

We were pleased to note the green spaces were back in the ward. We also accept the moving of Cotherstone Drive, Gatenby Drive, Grisedale Close, Runswick Avenue, Sedgfield Road, Topcliffe Drive, and the section of Earlsdon Avenue which runs parallel to them into Kader Ward. A 1% deviation is acceptable for this ward.

Stainsby Hall Farm, access from Mandale Road and the Stainsby Grange properties to the West of the A19 are accessible from the current Ayresome Ward, circa 30 residents, 15 properties. The nearest shops, churches, community centres, doctors and dentists are in the Ayresome Ward boundary and not in Trimdon as residents would have to drive through Ayresome Ward to reach the facilities mentioned above in Trimdon Ward. We would have no objection to these residents moving into Ayresome Ward. Whilst this will not change the deviance for either Trimdon or Ayresome Ward the residents at this time would have closer contact with Ayresome Ward Councillors.

### **KADER WARD**

We were pleased with the LGBCE change to the Kader Ward boundary to include Brookfield. We agree Cotherstone Drive, Gatenby Drive, Grisedale Close, Runswick Avenue, Sedgfield Road, Topcliffe Drive, and the section of Earlsdon Avenue which runs parallel to them currently in the Trimdon ward should move to Kader Ward and Adcott Road, Bewley Grove and Cowley Road should move to Acklam East & Tollesby. A 0% deviance is acceptable for this ward.

### **NUNTHORPE**

We have no comments to add for this ward.

This response is provided by the Middlesbrough Independent Councillor Association Group (MICA) and Independent Councillor for Ayresome Ward, Councillor Jackie Young.

If you have any questions for the MICA Group please get in touch. We would welcome an opportunity to discuss in detail our group response.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Mick Saunders (Chair MICA)  
Councillor Dennis McCabe (MICA)  
Councillor Brian Hubbard (MICA)  
Councillor Graham Wilson (MICA)  
Councillor Donna Jones (MICA)  
Councillor David Jackson  
Councillor Jim Platt (MICA)  
Councillor Tony Grainge (MICA)  
Councillor Sharon Platt (MICA)  
Councillor Stephen Hill (MICA)  
Councillor Ian Morrish (MICA)  
Councillor Christine Cooper (MICA)  
Councillor Jackie Young (Independent Middlesbrough)