

# New electoral arrangements for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Draft Recommendations

May 2021

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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

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## A note on our mapping:

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

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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

## What is an electoral review?

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

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

## Why Stockton-on-Tees?

7 We are conducting a review of Stockton-on-Tees ('the Council') as the value of each vote in borough elections varies depending on where you live in Stockton-on-Tees. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

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

## Our proposals for Stockton-on-Tees

9 Stockton-on-Tees should be represented by 56 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Stockton-on-Tees should have 26 wards, the same number as there are now.

11 The boundaries of 24 wards should change; two will stay the same.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

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

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

## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 11 May 2021 to 19 July 2021 We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 19 July 2021 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 35 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

17 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Stockton-on-Tees. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

18 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 October 2020	Number of councillors decided
27 October 2020	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
11 January 2021	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
11 May 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
19 July 2021	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
5 October 2021	Publication of final recommendations





## Analysis and draft recommendations

19 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

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

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

	2020	2026
Electorate of Stockton-on-Tees	145,129	147,797
Number of councillors	56	56
Average number of electors per councillor	2,592	2,639

22 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but one of our proposed wards for Stockton-on-Tees will have good electoral equality by 2026.

## Submissions received

23 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

24 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2026, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2021. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 1.8% by 2026.

25 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

## Number of councillors

26 Stockton-on-Tees Council currently has 56 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 56 councillors. For example, 56 one-councillor wards, 28 two-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received one submission that referred to the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. The submission did not argue for a specific number of councillors to represent the Council and did not include accompanying evidence. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 56-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 34 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one borough-wide proposal from the Conservative Group. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council collated the views of different political groups and forwarded these to the LGBCE. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the borough.

30 The Conservative Group's borough-wide scheme provided a mixed warding pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Stockton-on-Tees. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards provided for good electoral equality in some areas of the borough, broadly used clear boundaries, and in some cases provided evidence of community identity. Consequently, we have generally based our draft recommendations on the proposals from the Conservative Group and local residents, subject to modifications in some areas to provide clearer boundaries and reflect evidence of community identity received from other local interests.

31 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Stockton-on-Tees. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

## Draft recommendations

32 Our draft recommendations are for five three-councillor wards, 20 two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward. We consider that our draft

recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

33 The tables and maps on pages 8–32 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Stockton-on-Tees. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

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

34 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 39 and on the large map accompanying this report.

35 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Norton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Norton North	2	-6%
Norton Central	2	-10%
Norton South	2	-11%

### *Norton North, Norton Central, and Norton South*

36 We received two submissions regarding wards in Norton, from the Conservative group and a local resident.

37 The Conservative Group proposed retaining the existing ward boundaries. The resident suggested that the wards, from north to south, should be renamed ‘Norton North’, ‘Norton Central’, and ‘Norton South’. They argued that the current naming arrangement is “nonsensical” and “unnecessarily confusing”.

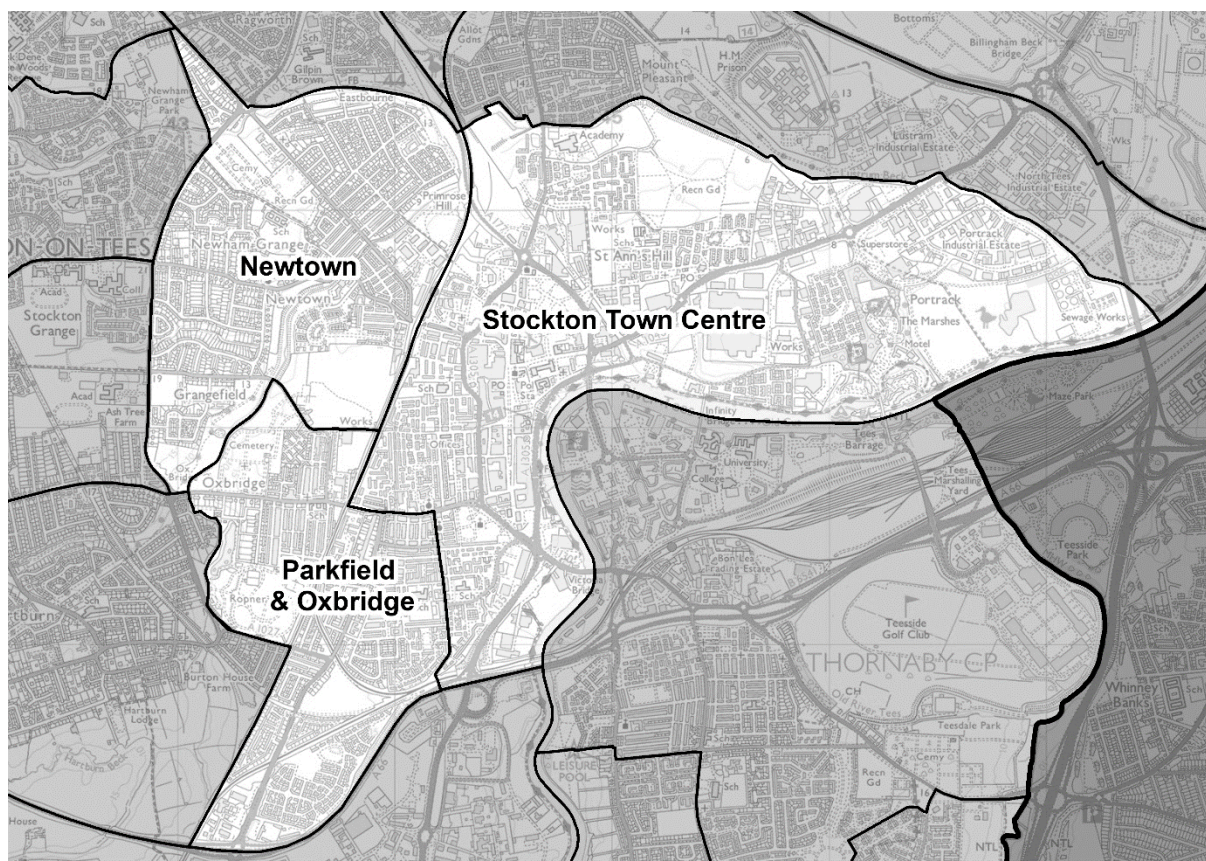
38 We agree that the existing ward names do not accurately reflect the makeup of the area and propose that ‘Norton West’ is renamed Norton North, with ‘Norton North’ being renamed to Norton Central. We have been persuaded by a resident’s argument that this will better reflect the geographical spread of the wards in the area.

39 We have based our draft recommendations for Norton on the proposal made by the Conservative Group to retain the existing boundaries, subject to a small

amendment to the boundary between our proposed Norton South ward and Stockton Town Centre ward to the south of the area. The boundary will move from Lustrum Beck, which currently divides the road into two different wards, to run around the back of the properties on Brentford Road and Swinburn Road. We accept that this modification will lead to the ward having 11% fewer electors than the average for the borough by 2026. However, this arrangement more accurately reflects the access routes to properties on Hills Drive and the developments taking place here, which do not currently have internal access to the rest of our proposed Norton South ward. We therefore propose that they are included in Stockton Town Centre with the other properties on this road.

40 Our draft recommendations are therefore for a two-councillor Norton North ward, a two-councillor Norton Central ward, and a two-councillor Norton South ward. These proposed wards would have 6% fewer, 10% fewer, and 11% fewer electors than the district average by 2026, respectively.

## Central Stockton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Newtown	2	1%
Parkfield & Oxbridge	2	2%
Stockton Town Centre	2	-8%

### *Stockton Town Centre*

41 We did not receive any submissions that suggested new boundaries for the existing Stockton Town Centre ward. However, we are proposing to amend the northern boundary with Norton South in order to include the entirety of the properties from Hills Drive in the ward, discussed further in paragraph 39.

42 Our proposed ward would have an electoral variance of 8% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

### *Parkfield & Oxbridge*

43 We received six submissions regarding this area, from the Conservative Group, Labour Group, and four local residents.

44 The Conservative Group proposed reducing the size of the existing two-councillor ward, using the A66 as the ward's southern boundary. They also

suggested that electors from Hartburn Avenue be included in Hartburn ward, with the proposed western boundary of Parkfield & Oxbridge following the railway line, A107, and Lustrum Beck. Properties from Ropner Avenue, Bromley Road, Kilburn Road, Crayke Road, and Burnside Grove would move to Hartburn ward.

45 The Labour Group's proposed Parkfield & Oxbridge ward had similar boundaries to the ward proposed by the Conservatives. They also recommended that electors from the west of Hartburn Avenue be included in Hartburn ward, however instead suggested that the boundary run directly up the A107 to Oxbridge Lane before converging with the current boundary at Lustrum Beck.

46 Two residents suggested that the area be represented by three councillors. However, a three-councillor ward which uses the existing boundaries in this area would have a projected electoral variance of 21% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026. One resident also queried if the ward could be split into two but did not provide any evidence or outline what areas these new wards would include.

47 Based on a virtual tour of the area, we were able to confirm that the A66 provides for a strong and identifiable boundary between wards. We agree that the Conservative Group's proposed arrangement provides for a good reflection of communities in the area, as well as a sensible reflection of access routes for electors on Burnside Grove. We have therefore adopted the Conservative Group's proposals in their entirety as part of our draft recommendations.

48 Our proposed ward would have an electoral variance of 2% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

### *Newtown*

49 We received two submissions regarding this area, from the Conservative Group and a local resident.

50 The Conservative Group proposed that the existing two-councillor Newtown ward be extended south along the A1027, including the entirety of Stockton Grange and Grangefield in the ward. They argued that this area is more associated with its neighbours in Newtown, and that the other electors in the existing Grangefield ward also have more affinity with neighbouring wards.

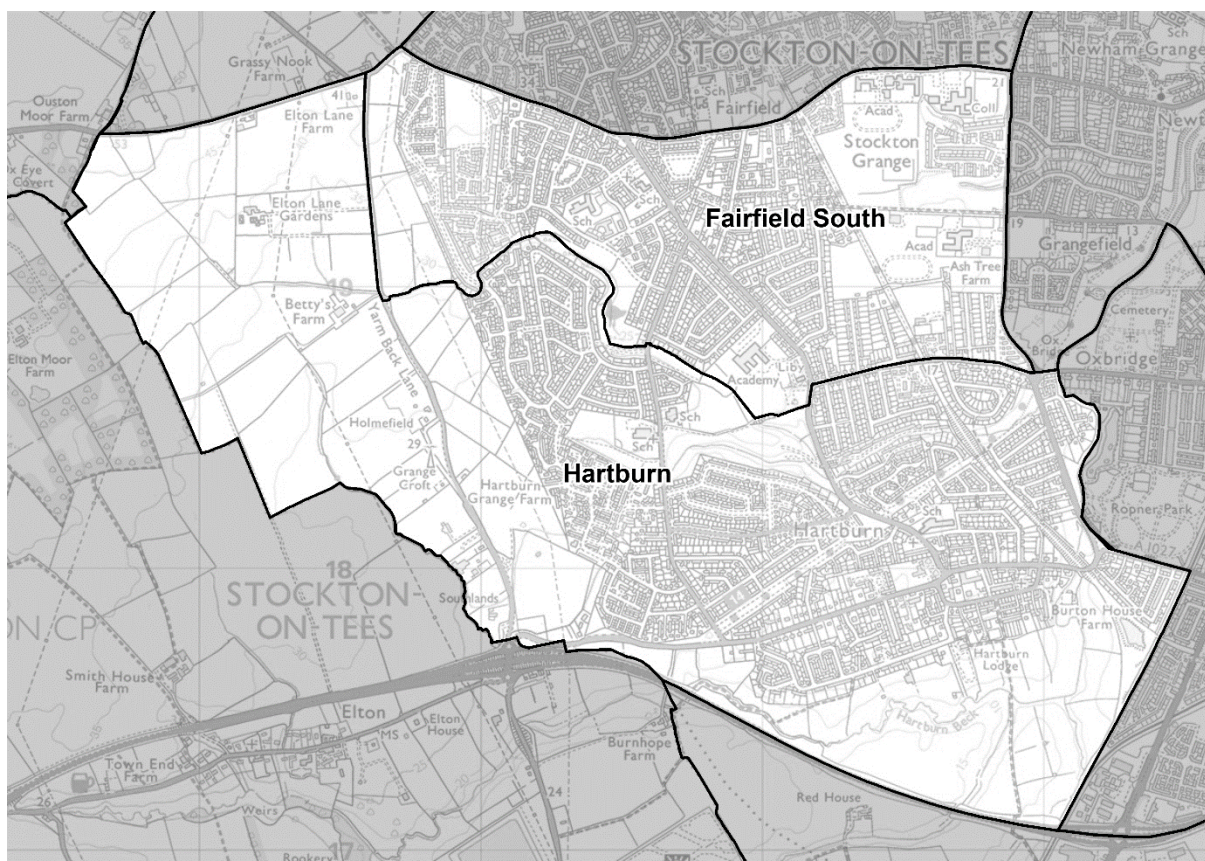
51 A local resident requested that Bishopton Road be used as the boundary between Newtown and Grangefield wards. However, an arrangement which used Bishopton Road as a boundary would lead to Newtown ward having 14% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026. In our view, this level of electoral inequality cannot be justified by the evidence provided and we are therefore not adopting this proposal.



52 We have based our draft recommendations for this area on the Conservative Group's proposed Newtown ward. Without modification, the proposed ward would have an electoral variance of 11% more electors than the borough average by 2026. We have not been convinced that the evidence justifies this level of electoral inequality in this particular area, and so we have made an amendment to the north of the ward. We propose that the Ragworth area is instead incorporated into Roseworth ward in order to improve electoral equality across the centre of Stockton, with the A177 forming the northern boundary of Newtown. On our virtual tour of the area we noted that this area shares amenities and access routes with both wards, but we would be particularly interested to hear alternative proposals from electors about what they feel is a defining boundary in this area.

53 Our proposed ward would have an electoral variance of 1% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

## Hartburn and Fairfield



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Fairfield South	2	-5%
Hartburn	3	-3%

### *Hartburn*

54 We received six submissions regarding this area, from the Conservative Group, the Labour Group, and three local residents. All submissions argued for variations of the same proposal: that electors west of Hartburn Avenue should be included in Hartburn ward.

55 The Conservative Group's proposals, as described in paragraph 44, sought to include all electors from Hartburn Avenue and those properties south of Oxbridge Lane in a three-councillor Hartburn ward. In this arrangement, the western boundary of the ward would be extended north-west along Lustrum Beck, before tracking back along Oxbridge Lane to converge with the current boundary on Green's Lane. The Conservative Group argued that this area is locally identified as being part of Hartburn, evidencing both road names and the location of Hartburn Primary School. This sentiment was also reflected in three submissions from local residents, who all argued that these areas identify strongly with Hartburn.

56 The Labour Group made a similar proposal, outlined in paragraph 45.

57 We are recommending adopting the Conservative Group's proposed Hartburn ward, which includes all properties to the west of Hartburn Avenue. We note that electors in this area clearly identify with Hartburn and acknowledge the strong community evidence provided regarding how the area is defined.

58 Our proposed ward would have an electoral variance of 3% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

### *Fairfield South*

59 We received two submissions relating to this area, from the Conservative Group and local councillors.

60 The Conservative Group proposed a three-councillor Fairfield ward, increasing the size of the ward based on evidence of community identity. Their submission highlighted that many residents in the current Grangefield ward are more closely aligned to Fairfield, therefore arguing that electors within the perimeters of Bishopton Road West, Oxbridge Avenue, and Oxbridge Lane should be included in an extended Fairfield ward. Were we to adopt this proposal in its entirety, the ward would have an electoral variance of -13% with three councillors, or +30% with two councillors. In our view, this level of electoral inequality is not justified by the evidence provided and we are therefore not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

61 Fairfield ward councillors primarily argued that the boundaries should remain as they are. However, as the ward is forecast to have 13% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026, these levels of electoral inequality must be addressed.

62 The councillors also proposed some minor amendments to the existing boundaries for levels of electoral equality to be improved.

63 They suggested including either of the planned developments on Darlington Back Lane and Yarm Back Lane. They also proposed that electors on the north side of Darlington Back Lane be included in Fairfield ward. While we acknowledge these proposals, we did not feel that there was sufficient evidence to adopt either as part of our draft recommendations.

64 Alternatively, the councillors recommended extending the south-western boundary of Fairfield to include Surbiton Road, Moulton Grove, and adjoining roads. Having visited the area on our virtual tour of the borough, we do not consider this to be a strong or identifiable boundary. We were also concerned that this would unnecessarily split what appears to be a single cohesive community in Hartburn. We

have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

65 The Fairfield ward councillors also suggested that electors from The Avenue and Bishopton Court continue to identify with Fairfield and some “believe they still reside in the Fairfield Ward”, mirroring evidence we received from the Conservative Group. They recommended that this area be included in Fairfield ward.

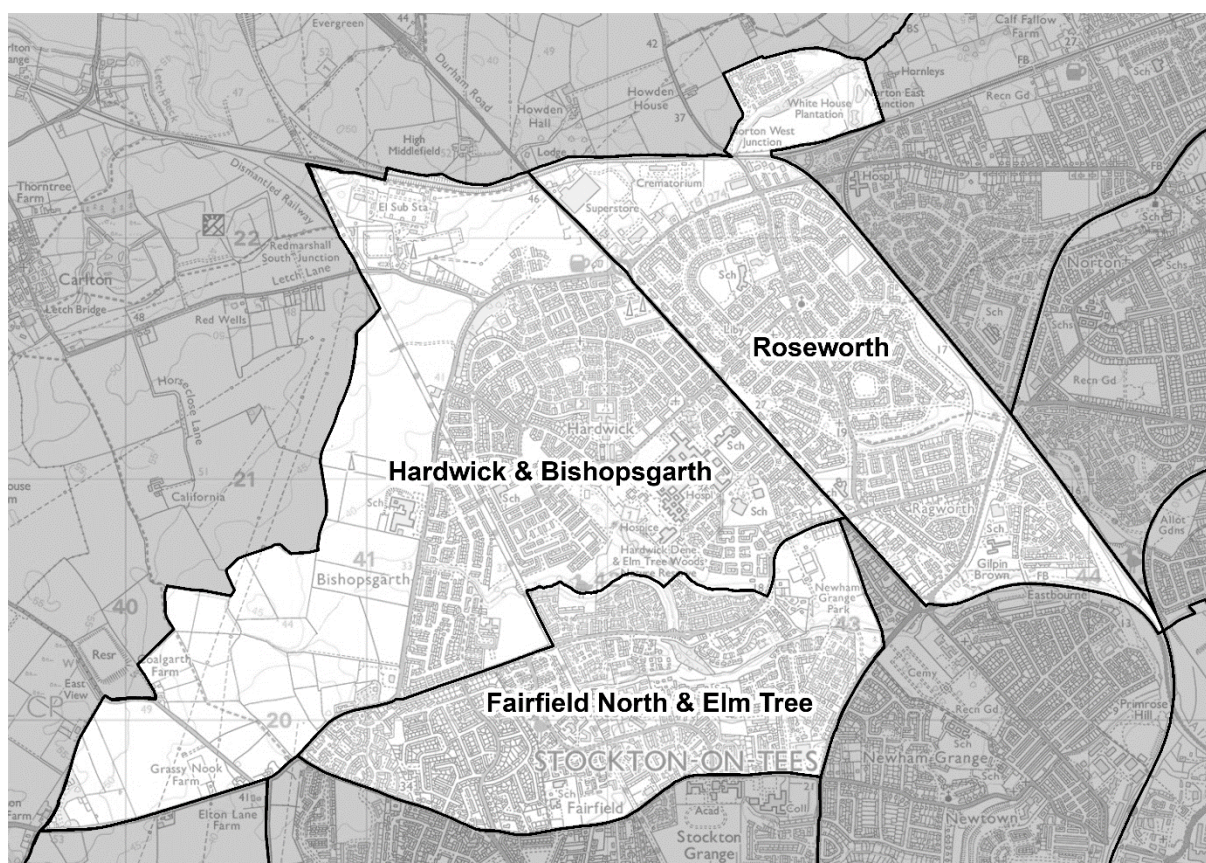
66 Having visited the area on our virtual tour of the borough, we agree that the Conservative Group’s proposal provides strong and identifiable boundaries. We also note the evidence from both submissions that communities within the current Grangefield ward share an affinity with Fairfield. However, as discussed in paragraph 60, it would not be possible to achieve electoral equality in this area while using their proposed pattern of wards. Furthermore, were we to adapt their scheme and cross the boundary of Oxbridge Lane, including electors from Preston Road, Kingsley Road, Chelmsford Avenue, Waltham Avenue, Hillcrest Avenue, Phoenix Gardens, Oulston Road, and Coxwold Road, this would significantly worsen electoral equality in our proposed Hartburn ward to -13%.

67 We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that none of the proposed patterns of wards provided for a good balance of our three statutory criteria. We have therefore partially adopted the Conservative Group’s scheme, identifying some alternative boundaries based on the evidence we received regarding communities in Fairfield.

68 We are proposing a two-councillor Fairfield South ward, extending its boundaries east along Oxbridge Lane and Oxbridge Avenue. We are persuaded by the evidence that electors with access from Fairfield Road identify with Fairfield, looking towards the area for the use of local amenities, and have sought to reflect this in our proposed warding pattern. We also note that this arrangement provides for strong and identifiable boundaries. In order to secure good levels of electoral equality in the ward, we recommend that Bishopton Road West form the entirety of the ward’s northern boundary. Electors to the north of this area will be included in a new Fairfield North & Elm Tree ward, as described below.

69 Our proposed ward would have an electoral variance of 5% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

## Fairfield North & Elm Tree, Hardwick & Bishopsgarth, and Roseworth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Fairfield North & Elm Tree	2	-1%
Hardwick & Bishopsgarth	3	-6%
Roseworth	2	8%

### *Fairfield North & Elm Tree and Hardwick & Bishopsgarth*

70 We received three submissions relating to this area, from the Conservative Group, Fairfield ward councillors, and the Liberal Democrat Group.

71 The Conservative Group and the Fairfield councillors provided evidence regarding community identity in Fairfield, as described in paragraphs 60-66. Both schemes retained the existing northern boundary of the ward, which currently extends north to Darlington Back Lane. The Conservative Group also proposed retaining the existing Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree Ward. The Liberal Democrat group stated that the areas of Bishopsgarth and Elm Tree should be kept together “since that is how people identify where they live”.

72 We have considered all of the evidence received and as noted above, we are of the view that none of the schemes we received for the Fairfield area provided for a good balance of our three statutory criteria. Furthermore, while we acknowledge the

Liberal Democrat Group's submission, it would not be possible to retain the existing ward boundaries in Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree, implement the persuasive community evidence received for Fairfield, and ensure for good levels of electoral equality across the borough.

73 We are therefore recommending that the existing Fairfield ward is divided at Bishopton Road West. The northern portion of the ward should be included in a new two-councillor Fairfield North & Elm Tree ward. Darlington Back Lane should continue to act as the northern boundary of the ward, with the exception of the inclusion of electors from Meadowsweet Lane, Celandine Way, and Gentian Way. We propose that this ward be named Fairfield North & Elm Tree, which acknowledges both communities and the geographical spread of the ward.

74 We are of the view that this arrangement provides for a sensible reflection of communities, access routes, and the general geography of the area. On our virtual tour we noted the self-contained nature of the streets adjoining to Bishopton Road West, and accordingly we consider that this forms a strong boundary. We also observed that there is good access between Rimswell and Elm Tree by foot and road. We particularly welcome local comments on this view during our consultation on these draft proposals.

75 As a result of our recommendations for Fairfield North & Elm Tree, and in order to retain a good balance of our statutory criteria across the whole area, we are recommending incorporating Bishopsgarth into a three-councillor ward with Hardwick. We note that these areas also share access routes by foot and by road.

76 Our proposed Fairfield North & Elm Tree and Hardwick & Bishopsgarth wards would have electoral variances of 1% fewer and 6% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026, respectively.

### *Roseworth*

77 We did not receive any submissions that suggested new boundaries for the existing Roseworth ward. However, we have made some amendments to the ward as a consequence of the proposals received for Northern Parishes and Newtown wards.

78 As noted in paragraph 54 we are proposing that the A177 form the ward's southern boundary, in order to improve electoral equality in the neighbouring Newtown ward. The Ragworth area will be incorporated into Roseworth ward.

79 We are also recommending that Buckthorne Crescent be included in the ward. As a consequence of the strong proposals received for Northern Parishes (see paragraphs 116-117), and to improve electoral equality across wards, we propose that this area be included in Roseworth ward. After visiting the area on our virtual

tour, we were of the view that this proposal reflects communities and access routes on the ground, as residents are likely to look to Roseworth ward for the use of local amenities. We particularly welcome local comments on this view during our consultation on these draft proposals.

80 Our proposed two-councillor Roseworth ward would have an electoral variance of 8% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

## Thornaby



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Mandale & Victoria	2	8%
Stainsby Hill	2	7%
Village	2	3%

### *Mandale & Victoria, Stainsby Hill, and Village*

81 We received three submissions relating to Thornaby, from the Conservative Group, Thornaby Independent Association, and a local resident.

82 The Conservative Group's submission indicated a need to reduce the number of councillors representing Thornaby, as evidenced by the area's projected decrease in electors. They proposed a two-councillor Mandale & Victoria ward, enabling for better levels of electoral equality across the whole of Thornaby. This was supported by a representation from a local resident, who also argued that the ward should be represented by two councillors.

83 The Conservative Group's scheme recommended reducing the size of Mandale & Victoria ward in order to improve electoral equality and accommodate one fewer councillor, moving electors from the estates lying south of Lanehouse Road and west of Thortree Road into Village ward. As Stainsby Hill is forecast to have 13% fewer



electors than the borough average by 2026, they also proposed that electors from Littleboy Drive, Vale Drive, Lansdowne Road, and those properties with access from the west of Mitchell Avenue be included in this ward in order to improve electoral equality.

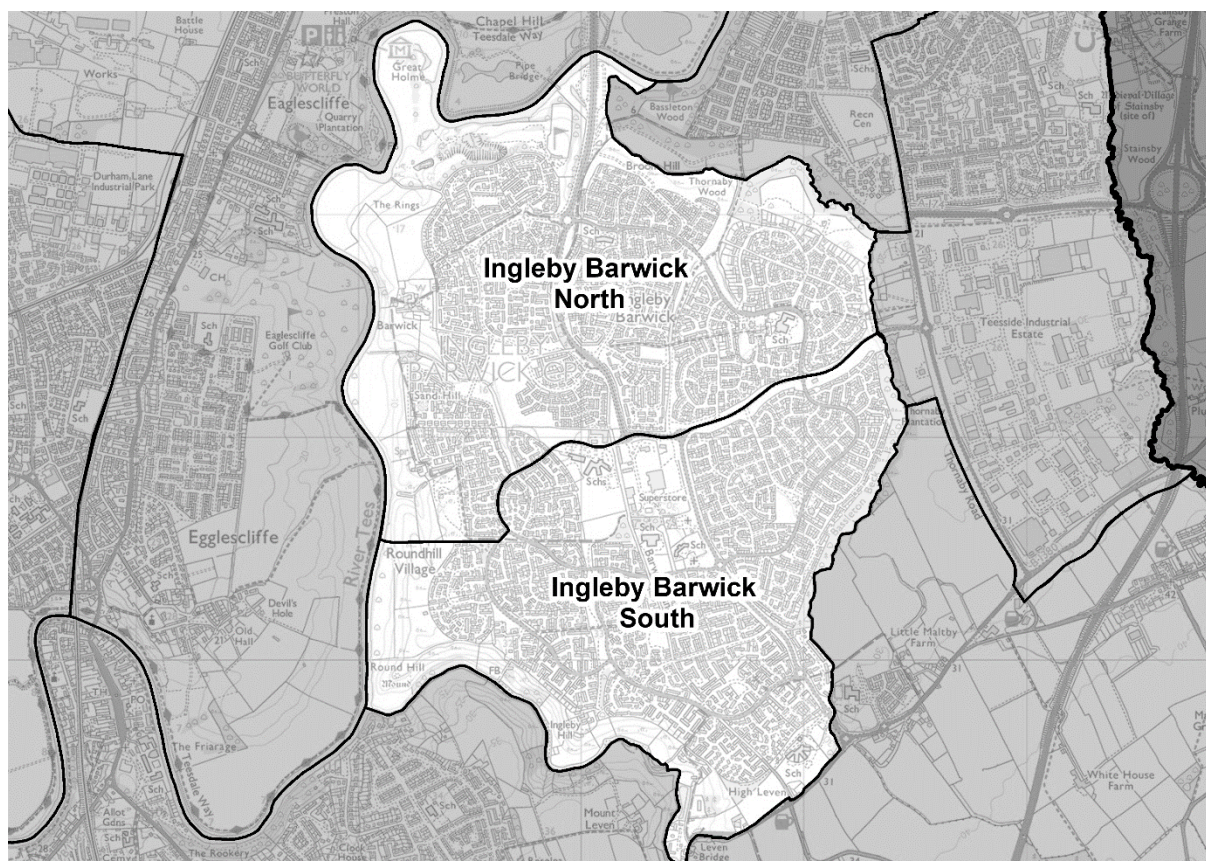
84 Thornaby Independent Association proposed a small alteration to the existing boundary between Village and Stainsby Hill wards, moving electors from south of Lockerbie walk into Stainsby Hill ward. They argued that this would provide a “clear dividing line” between wards.

85 As part of our virtual tour of the area, we were able to confirm that Lanehouse Road, Thorntree Road, and Humber Road appear to be the most appropriate boundaries between Mandale & Victoria and Village. However, we do not consider the Conservative Group’s proposals for Stainsby Hill to reflect access routes for residents living in Littleboy Drive, Vale Drive, or Lansdowne Road.

86 Our draft recommendations are therefore based on a combination of the submissions received, with some alterations in order to provide for a better balance of our statutory criteria. We agree that properties accessed from Mitchell Avenue should be included in Stainsby Hill and propose that the existing western boundary of the ward is modified to reflect this, moving around the backs of houses before re-joining Mitchell Avenue. We note that Thornaby Independent Association’s submission provides for a sensible reflection of communities in the area and are recommending adopting their proposal for the boundary between Village and Stainsby Hill wards. We are also adopting the Conservative Group’s proposed Village and Mandale & Victoria wards, with the exception of the alterations mentioned above.

87 Our draft recommendations are therefore for a two-councillor Mandale & Victoria ward, a two-councillor Stainsby Hill ward, and a two-councillor Village ward. Our proposed wards would have electoral variances of 8% more, 7% more, and 3% more electors than the borough average by 2026, respectively.

## Ingleby Barwick



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Ingleby Barwick North	3	3%
Ingleby Barwick South	3	5%

### *Ingleby Barwick North and Ingleby Barwick South*

88 We received three submissions regarding Ingleby Barwick, from the Conservative Group, Ingleby Barwick Independent Association, and a local councillor.

89 The Conservative Group's proposals for the area were based on the existing arrangement, modifying the boundary between the current 'east' and 'west' wards to include electors from Blair Avenue and the east side of Brecon Crescent in Ingleby Barwick East. If we were to adopt this proposal in its entirety, Ingleby Barwick East and Ingleby Barwick West would have electoral variances of 15% more and 11% more electors than the borough average by 2026. In our view, this level of electoral inequality is unacceptably high. We are therefore not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

90 Ingleby Barwick Independent Association suggested increasing the number of councillors representing the area by one, splitting the existing Ingleby Barwick West ward into two two-councillor wards at Blair Avenue. If we were to adopt this proposal in its entirety, their proposed Ingleby Barwick North West and Ingleby Barwick South West wards would have electoral variances of 5% fewer and 15% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026. Given the high level of electoral inequality produced by this proposal, we are not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

91 Ingleby Barwick Independent Association also proposed that the parishes of Maltby and Hilton should be included either in Yarm ward or a new 'Rural Parishes' ward.

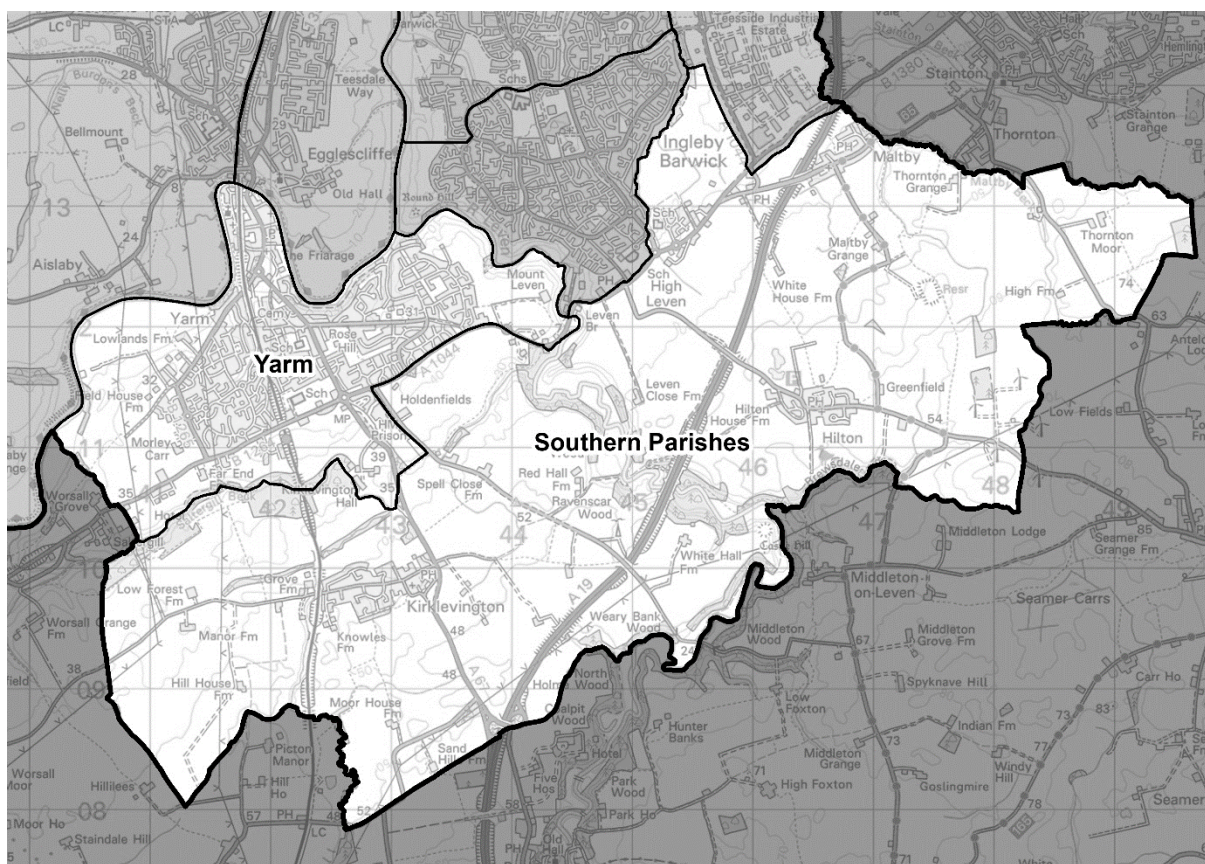
92 A local councillor proposed dividing the parish into 'north' and 'south' wards at Ingleby Way. Lowfields, Broomhill, and the Rings would comprise Ingleby Barwick North, with Beckfields, Roundhill, Soberhall, and the villages of Maltby and Hilton moving to Ingleby Barwick South. They argued that this arrangement "geographically and numerically makes a lot more sense than the current warding pattern". On our virtual tour of the area, we were able to confirm that these proposals for dividing the area at Ingleby Way appeared a sensible reflection of communities. However, their proposed Ingleby Barwick North and Ingleby Barwick South wards would have electoral variances of 3% more and 23% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

93 We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that none of the proposed patterns of wards provided for a good balance of our three statutory criteria. We have therefore partially adopted a combination of the schemes received, identifying some alternative boundaries in order to secure good electoral equality to the south of Ingleby Barwick.

94 We are proposing a three-councillor Ingleby Barwick North ward and a three-councillor Ingleby Barwick South ward, dividing the area at Ingleby Way and Blair Avenue. We are persuaded by the evidence provided by a local councillor and agree with the evidence provided in other submissions about Blair Avenue also forming a strong boundary. We propose dividing the wards to the north of Roundhill Village, accommodating for the developments taking place to the west of Roundhill Avenue. Based on further evidence received and the need to secure good electoral equality in the area, we are also recommending that the villages of Maltby and Hilton are included in a new Southern Parishes ward (discussed below). Under our proposal, Ingleby Barwick's wards will be coterminous with the parish boundary.

95 Our proposed Ingleby Barwick North and Ingleby Barwick South wards would have electoral variances of 3% more and 5% more electors than the borough average by 2026, respectively.

## Yarm and Southern Parishes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Southern Parishes	1	-1%
Yarm	3	5%

### *Yarm and Southern Parishes*

96 We received five submissions regarding Yarm and Southern Parishes, from the Conservative Group, Ingleby Barwick Independent Association, Independent councillors, a local councillor, and a local resident.

97 The Conservative Group proposed splitting Yarm ward into two two-councillor wards, evidencing the large volume of planned developments in the area as well as the ward's forecast electoral variance of +20%. They suggested that the area be divided at The Spittal and Thirsk Road, with the area falling to the east being included in a 'Yarm East' ward with Kirklevington parish. The remainder of Yarm parish would comprise a Yarm West ward. If we were to adopt this proposal in its entirety, the proposed Yarm West ward would have an electoral variance of -23% with two councillors or a 47% variance with one councillor. In our view, this level of electoral inequality is unacceptably high. We are therefore not adopting this proposal

as part of our draft recommendations.

98 A local resident proposed that Yarm be represented by four councillors. It is our view that four-councillor wards do not aid effective and convenient local government, potentially diluting the accountability of councillors to the electorate. We are therefore not adopting this proposal.

99 We received three other proposals from a local councillor, Ingleby Barwick Independent Association, and Independent councillors. The local councillor argued that the River Tees forms a natural boundary to the Yarm, and that the parishes of Maltby and Hilton should not be included in the ward. On the other hand, Ingleby Barwick Independent Association argued that the villages have more in common with the other rural parishes in the area; therefore, they should be in a ward which reflects their rural interests. Independent councillors agreed that there should be an additional ward to represent Maltby, Hilton, and the new housing developments in the area.

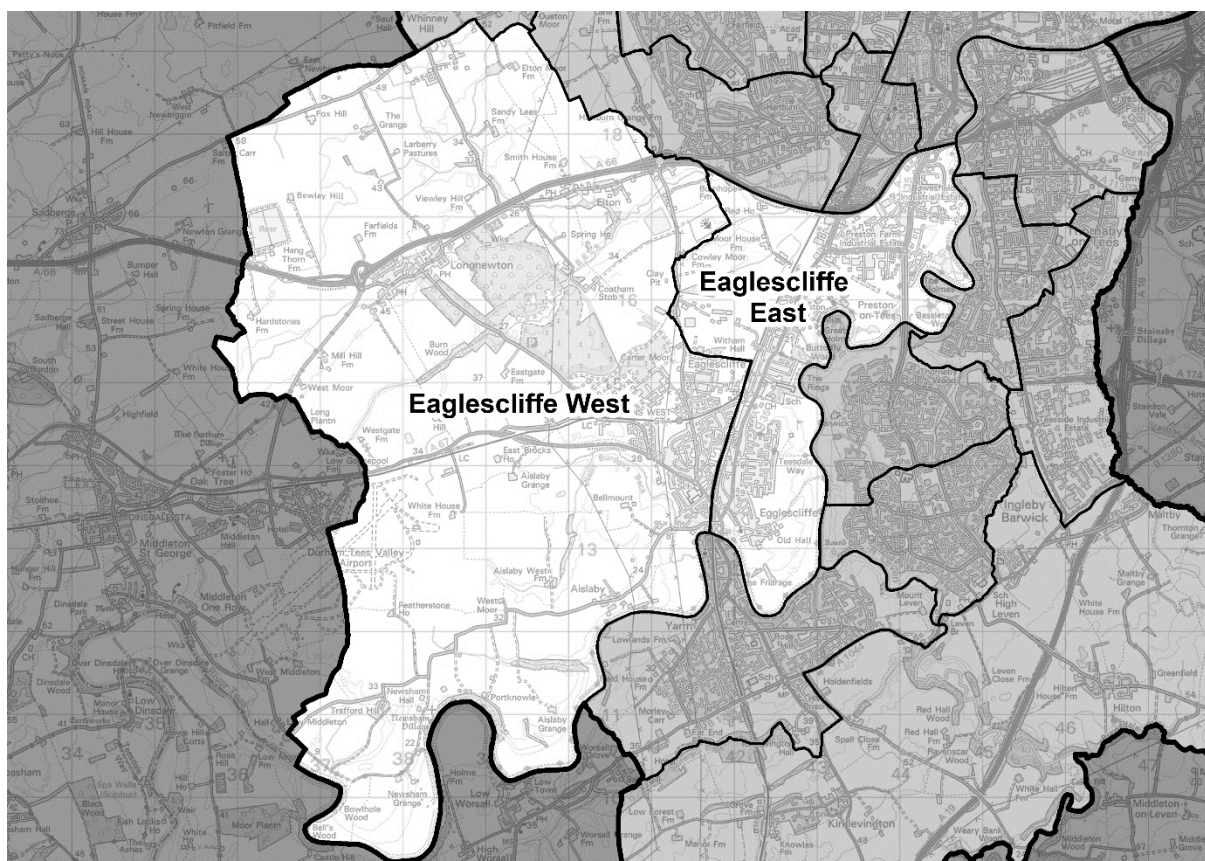
100 Our draft recommendations are based on a combination of the submissions received and our own proposals. It would not be possible to achieve electoral equality within the parish of Yarm in its current arrangement. As previously noted, the ward is projected to have an electoral variance of +20% by 2026, and there are few clear and identifiable boundaries which support an arrangement of wards internal to the parish while producing fair electoral variances. Furthermore, we are persuaded that electors in the parishes of Maltby, Hilton, Castlelevington, and Kirklevington have similar community identifies and interests.

101 We therefore propose a three-councillor Yarm ward, comprising the entirety of Yarm parish. We are also recommending that the boundary of the ward extend slightly south of Green Lane, in order to include all developments with access from the north as well as Yarm train station. The boundary will follow Saltergill Beck to HMP Kirklevington before re-joining the parish boundary.

102 We are also proposing a single-councillor Southern Parishes ward that will include the parishes of Maltby, Hilton, Castlelevington, and the remainder of Kirklevington.

103 Our proposed Yarm and Southern parishes wards will have electoral variances of 5% more and 1% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

## Eaglescliffe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Eaglescliffe East	2	-9%
Eaglescliffe West	2	6%

### *Eaglescliffe East*

104 We received three submissions regarding the Eaglescliffe area, from the Conservative Group, Ingleby Barwick Independent Association, and a local resident.

105 The Conservative group proposed to increase the geographical spread of Eaglescliffe, splitting the area into two two-councillor 'Eaglescliffe East' and 'Eaglescliffe West' wards. They suggested that the A66 form the northern boundary of Eaglescliffe East, with the railway line to the west and river to the east also providing for strong and identifiable boundaries. Their proposed Eaglescliffe West ward to the west of the railway line included the remainder of Preston-on-Tees and Egglecliffe parishes with Newsham and Aislaby. However, this proposal would create an electoral variance of 11% more electors than the borough average by 2026 for Eaglescliffe West.

106 We received two other submissions from Ingleby Barwick Independent Association and a local resident. Both suggested variations of a warding pattern

where Western Parishes be amalgamated with Northern Parishes to form a two-member ward. Ingleby Barwick Independent Association also suggested including the parishes of Newsham and Aislaby in this ward. If we were to adopt this proposal in its entirety, this would result in a ward with 62% more electors than the borough average by 2026. In our view, this level of electoral inequality is unacceptably high.

107 Our draft recommendations are based on a combination of the submissions received, as well as our own proposals. We are persuaded by the strength of the boundaries suggested in the Conservative Group's scheme; however, we recommend making a few alterations to their proposals in order to secure a better balance of our statutory criteria.

108 We are recommending adopting the Conservative Group's proposed two-councillor Eaglescliffe East ward, with the exception of including the entirety of Preston-on-Tees parish in the ward. While we accept that the railway line is a strong and identifiable boundary, using the railway line as a boundary in this area would create an unviable parish ward<sup>5</sup>.

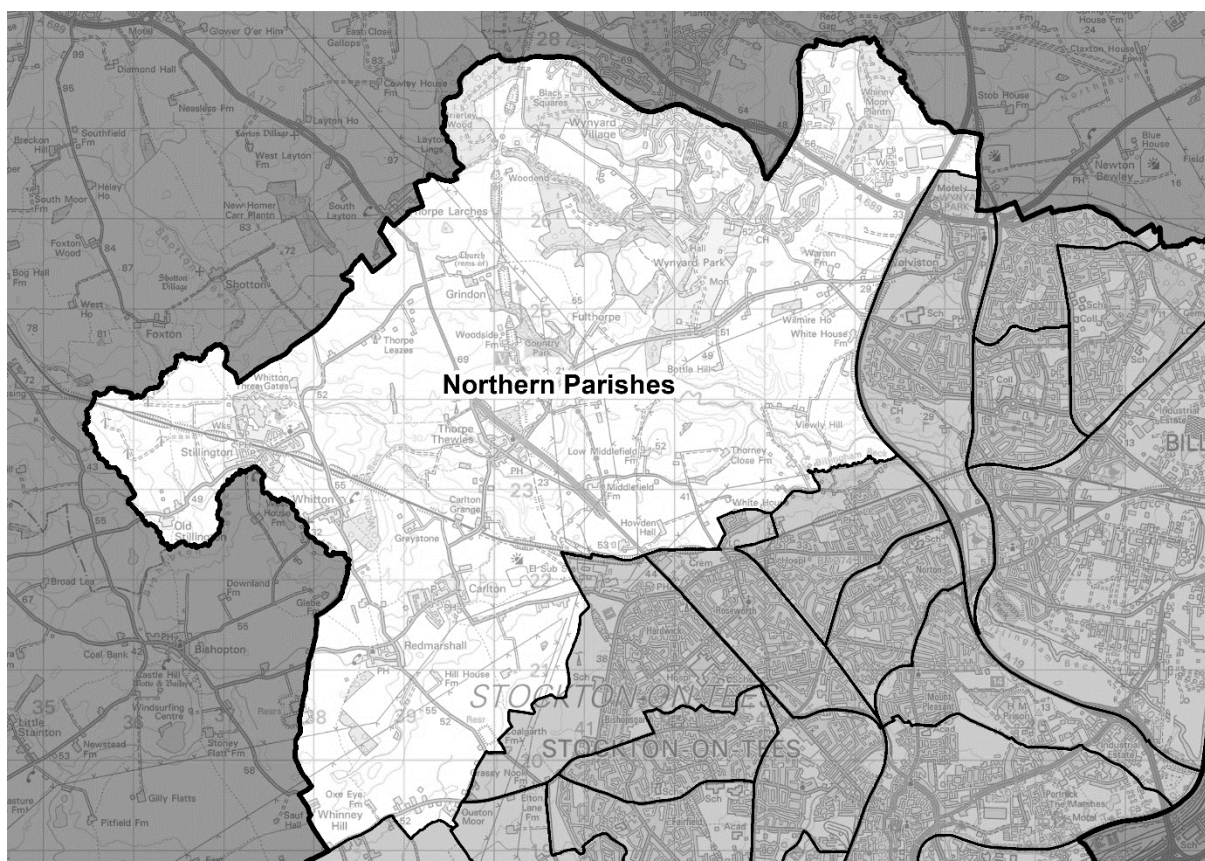
109 We are also recommending adopting the Conservative Group's proposed two-councillor Eaglescliffe West ward, with the exception of including the parishes of Longnewton and Elton. This will improve electoral equality in the ward. On our virtual tour of the area, we noted that these areas share a great deal of access routes with the other parishes in the Eaglescliffe area and share similar rural interests. We particularly welcome local comments on this view during our consultation on these draft proposals.

110 Our proposed Eaglescliffe East and Eaglescliffe West wards will have electoral variances of 9% fewer and 6% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

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<sup>5</sup> We will not normally recommend the creation of parish wards that contain no or very few electors (fewer than a hundred) unless it can be demonstrated to us that, within a short period of time, there will be sufficient electors as to warrant the election of at least one parish councillor. This is because each parish ward must by statute return at least one parish councillor. To do so, there must be a reasonable number of local government electors in the parish ward to make the election of a councillor viable.

## Northern Parishes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Northern Parishes	2	7%

### *Northern Parishes*

111 We received four proposals in relation to this area, from the Conservative Group, Ingleby Barwick Independent Association, Billingham Labour councillors, and a local resident.

112 The Conservative Group proposed a two-councillor Northern Parishes ward, otherwise retaining its existing boundaries. If we were to adopt this proposal, Northern Parishes ward would have 11% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

113 Billingham Labour councillors argued that Wolviston and Wynyard parishes should be included in Billingham West ward. We did not feel that there was sufficient evidence to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

114 We received two further submissions regarding this area. Ingleby Barwick Independent Association suggested amalgamating the existing Northern Parishes and Western Parishes wards (described in paragraph 106). They also recommended



moving the parish of Wolviston to Billingham West ward, described further below. A local resident proposed including the parishes of Resdmarshall, Carlton, Stillington & Whitton, Grindon & Thorpe Thewles, and Wynyard in a two-councillor ward.

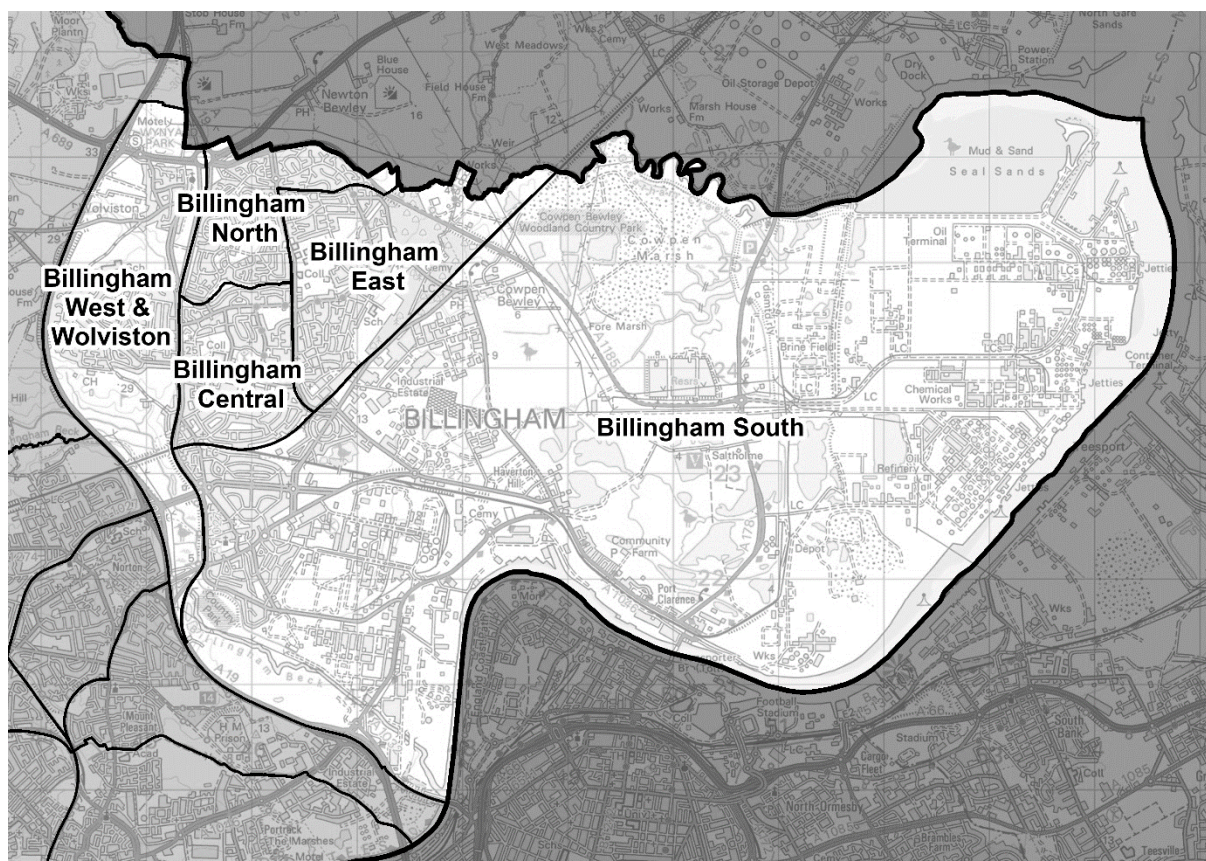
115 We carefully considered the proposals for this area and assessed the merits of a number of different warding patterns. While we acknowledge the submissions from the Conservative Group and Ingleby Barwick Independent Association, we are not persuaded by their proposals for Northern Parishes. Adopting either of these proposals would result in poor levels of electoral equality across the north of the borough.

116 Our draft recommendations are based on a resident's proposals, with some modifications in order to secure improved levels of electoral equality. We agree with the resident's view that the parishes of Redmarshall, Carlton, and Stillington & Whitton share an affinity with the current Northern Parishes ward. We also note that the proposed ward has good internal access routes. However, if we were to adopt their proposals in full, this would result in a new Northern Parishes ward having 12% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

117 We are recommending adopting a resident's proposed two-councillor Northern Parishes ward, with the exception of Buckthorne Crescent (described in paragraph 79). After visiting the area on our virtual tour, we were of the view that our proposal reflects communities and access routes on the ground, as residents from Buckthorne Crescent are likely to look to Roseworth ward for the use of local amenities. This will also improve electoral equality across wards. We particularly welcome local comments on this view during our consultation on these draft proposals.

118 Our proposed Northern Parishes ward will have an electoral variance of 7% more electors than the borough average by 2026.

## Billingham and Wolviston



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Billingham Central	2	4%
Billingham East	2	0%
Billingham North	3	-1%
Billingham South	2	8%
Billingham West & Wolviston	2	-10%

### *Billingham West & Wolviston*

119 We received five submissions in response to our consultation regarding Billingham West and Wolviston village, from the Conservative Group, Billingham Labour councillors, Ingleby Barwick Independent Association, West Words, and a local resident.

120 The Conservative group's scheme stated that they proposed to "merge the area that is within the boundaries of Wolviston Road, Roseberry Road, Grosmont Drive and West of the Playing Fields. This area has Sidlaw/Pollock Rd [sic] within". However, this area is already part of Billingham West ward. As such, their proposals are to maintain the existing arrangement. However, as the ward is forecast to have 17% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026, these levels of electoral

inequality must be addressed.

121 Billingham Labour councillors proposed that Wolviston and Wynyard parishes should be included in Billingham West ward. They also recommended including Carlton Avenue and the roads north of Monkseaton Drive in Billingham North ward. As noted in paragraph 113, we did not feel that there was sufficient evidence to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

122 Ingleby Barwick Independent Association and West Words both suggested that Wolviston village be included in the existing Billingham West ward. This would extend the boundary northwards on both the A19 and Wolviston Road, with the new ward boundary following the northern edge of the parish.

123 A local resident proposed extending Billingham West ward east across the A1027, with electors to the south of Belasis Avenue being included in the ward.

124 Our draft recommendations in this area are based on the submissions received from Ingleby Barwick Independent Association and West Words. As part of our virtual tour of the area, we were able to confirm that the A19 and Wolviston Road appear to be the most appropriate boundaries between wards. We are persuaded by the evidence received that Wolviston should be included in Billingham West ward. We are therefore recommending a two-councillor Billingham West & Wolviston ward.

125 Our proposed ward would have an electoral variance of 10% fewer electors than the borough average by 2026.

#### *Billingham Central, Billingham East, Billingham North, and Billingham South*

126 We received three submissions in response to our consultation regarding the Billingham area, from the Conservative group, Billingham Labour councillors, and a local resident.

127 The Conservative group's scheme used the existing arrangement in this area with some alterations. They proposed to extend the boundary of Billingham North to include electors from the western side of Low Grange Avenue. This would then form the north-western boundary of a new three-councillor 'Billingham South' ward, which included the remainder of the current Billingham East ward. The boundaries of Billingham Central would remain the same.

128 Billingham Labour councillors also proposed a warding arrangement based on the existing wards in the area. This arrangement extended the boundaries of the current Billingham South ward, incorporating electors from St David's Close, St Cuthbert's Avenue, St Oswald's Crescent, St Columba's Avenue and St Aidan's Crescent in the ward. They also proposed that Wolviston Road should form the western boundary of Billingham Central ward, moving electors from Sidlaw Road and

adjoining roads into the ward. Their proposals for Billingham North are as described in paragraph 121.

129 A local resident argued for Billingham South ward to be reduced to a single councillor ward, with its southern boundary running along Belasis Avenue. In this arrangement electors to the south of Belasis Avenue would move into Billingham West, with electors from Haverton Hill and Port Clarence included in an extended Billingham East Ward. The boundary between the two wards would continue to utilise the railway line before following ground detail to the edge of the borough in Bamlet's Bight. They also argued for Wolviston village to be included with the existing Billingham North ward.

130 We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that, while they all resulted in reasonable levels of electoral equality, none of the proposed patterns of wards provided for a good balance of our three statutory criteria in Billingham. Having visited the area on our virtual tour of the borough, we consider Wolviston Road, Bypass Road, and the town's railway lines to act as significant barriers between communities and therefore provide the most appropriate boundaries. As a result, our draft recommendations are based on a combination of the submissions received and our own proposals.

131 In the centre of Billingham, we have adopted a resident's proposal for a two-councillor ward that uses Wolviston Road as its western boundary. We agree that electors from Sidlaw Road, Cambrian Road and Porlock road share affinity with Billingham Central, and propose that they are included in the ward. We believe that this arrangement provides for a more identifiable boundary whilst reflecting communities and the access routes in the area.

132 In the east of the town, our proposed two-councillor Billingham East ward will retain Marsh House Avenue as its western boundary, extending northwards and moving across Wolviston Beck Lane to the edge of the borough. This will include all electors with access from Low Grange Avenue in Billingham East ward. In the south the railway line will form the southern boundary of the ward, as described below. This modification ensures for good electoral equality in the area while utilising a strong and identifiable boundary.

133 As a consequence of this change, we are proposing a two-councillor Billingham North ward. This ward will retain its existing boundaries, with the exception of Wolviston Beck Lane as described above.

134 To the south of the town, we propose a two-councillor Billingham South ward which fully utilises the railway line as its entire north-western boundary. This will include Cowpen Bewley and all properties on Cowpen Lane in the ward, reflecting our understanding of access routes for local residents in the area while improving

electoral equality.

135 Our draft recommendations are therefore for a two-councillor Billingham Central ward, a two-councillor Billingham East ward, a two-councillor Billingham North ward, and a two-councillor Billingham South ward. These proposed wards would have 4% more, 0% more, 1% fewer and 8% more electors than the district average by 2026, respectively.

## Conclusions

136 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Stockton-on-Tees, referencing the 2020 and 2026 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2020	2026
Number of councillors	56	56
Number of electoral wards	26	26
Average number of electors per councillor	2,592	2,639
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	6	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	1	0

#### Draft recommendations

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council should be made up of 56 councillors serving 26 wards representing one single-councillor wards, 20 two-councillor wards and 5 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Stockton-on-Tees. You can also view our draft recommendations for Stockton-on-Tees on our interactive maps at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

137 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be

divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

138 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

139 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Billingham Town Council, Grindon & Thorpe Thewles, Kirklevington, Ingleby Barwick, and Thornaby.

140 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Billingham Town Council.

#### Draft recommendations

Billingham Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing 5 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Billingham Central	3
Billingham East	3
Billingham North	3
Billingham South	2
Billingham West	4

141 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Grindon & Thorpe Thewles parish.

#### Draft recommendations

Grindon & Thorpe Thewles Parish Council should comprise 6 councillors, as at present, representing 2 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Grindon & Thorpe Thewles	4
White House Plantation	2

142 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ingleby Barwick parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Ingleby Barwick Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing 2 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ingleby Barwick North	6
Ingleby Barwick South	6

143 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kirklevington parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Kirklevington Parish Council should comprise 6 councillors, as at present, representing 2 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Green Lane	3
Kirklevington	3

144 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Thornaby parish.

**Draft recommendations**

Thornaby Parish Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing 2 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Mandale & Victoria	5
Stainsby Hill	5
Village	4



## Have your say

145 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole borough or just a part of it.

146 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Stockton-on-Tees, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

147 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

148 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Stockton-on-Tees)**  
**The Local Government Boundary Commission for England**  
**PO Box 133**  
**Blyth**  
**NE24 9FE**

149 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Stockton-on-Tees which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of voters.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

150 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

151 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in Stockton-on-Tees?

152 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

153 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

154 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk). A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

155 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

156 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

157 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Stockton-on-Tees in 2023.



## Equalities

158 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.



# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Draft recommendations for Stockton on Tee

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Billingham Central	2	5,649	2,825	9%	5,470	2,735	4%
2	Billingham East	2	5,346	2,673	3%	5,271	2,636	0%
3	Billingham North	2	5,398	2,699	4%	5,226	2,613	-1%
4	Billingham South	2	5,907	2,954	14%	5,717	2,859	8%
5	Billingham West & Wolviston	2	4,890	2,445	-6%	4,734	2,367	-10%
6	Eaglescliffe East	2	4,793	2,397	-8%	4,823	2,411	-9%
7	Eaglescliffe West	2	4,897	2,449	-6%	5,620	2,810	6%
8	Fairfield South	2	5,014	2,507	-3%	5,033	2,517	-5%
9	Fairfield North & Elm Tree	2	5,423	2,712	5%	5,249	2,625	-1%
10	Hardwick & Bishopsgarth	3	6,842	2,281	-12%	7,411	2,470	-6%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11 Hartburn	3	7,449	2,483	-4%	7,679	2,560	-3%
12 Ingleby Barwick North	3	8,284	2,761	7%	8,179	2,726	3%
13 Ingleby Barwick South	3	8,512	2,837	9%	8,302	2,767	5%
14 Mandale & Victoria	2	5,693	2,847	10%	5,726	2,863	8%
15 Newtown	2	5,296	2,648	2%	5,325	2,663	1%
16 Northern Parishes	2	4,581	2,291	-12%	5,645	2,823	7%
17 Norton Central	2	4,929	2,465	-5%	4,777	2,389	-10%
18 Norton North	2	5,051	2,526	-3%	4,978	2,489	-6%
19 Norton South	2	4,814	2,407	-7%	4,690	2,345	-11%
20 Parkfield & Oxbridge	2	5,201	2,601	0%	5,379	2,690	2%
21 Roseworth	2	5,775	2,888	11%	5,681	2,841	8%
22 Southern Parishes	1	1,602	1,602	-38%	2,600	2,600	-1%
23 Stainsby Hill	2	5,704	2,852	10%	5,647	2,824	7%
24 Stockton Town Centre	2	4,626	2,313	-11%	4,874	2,437	-8%



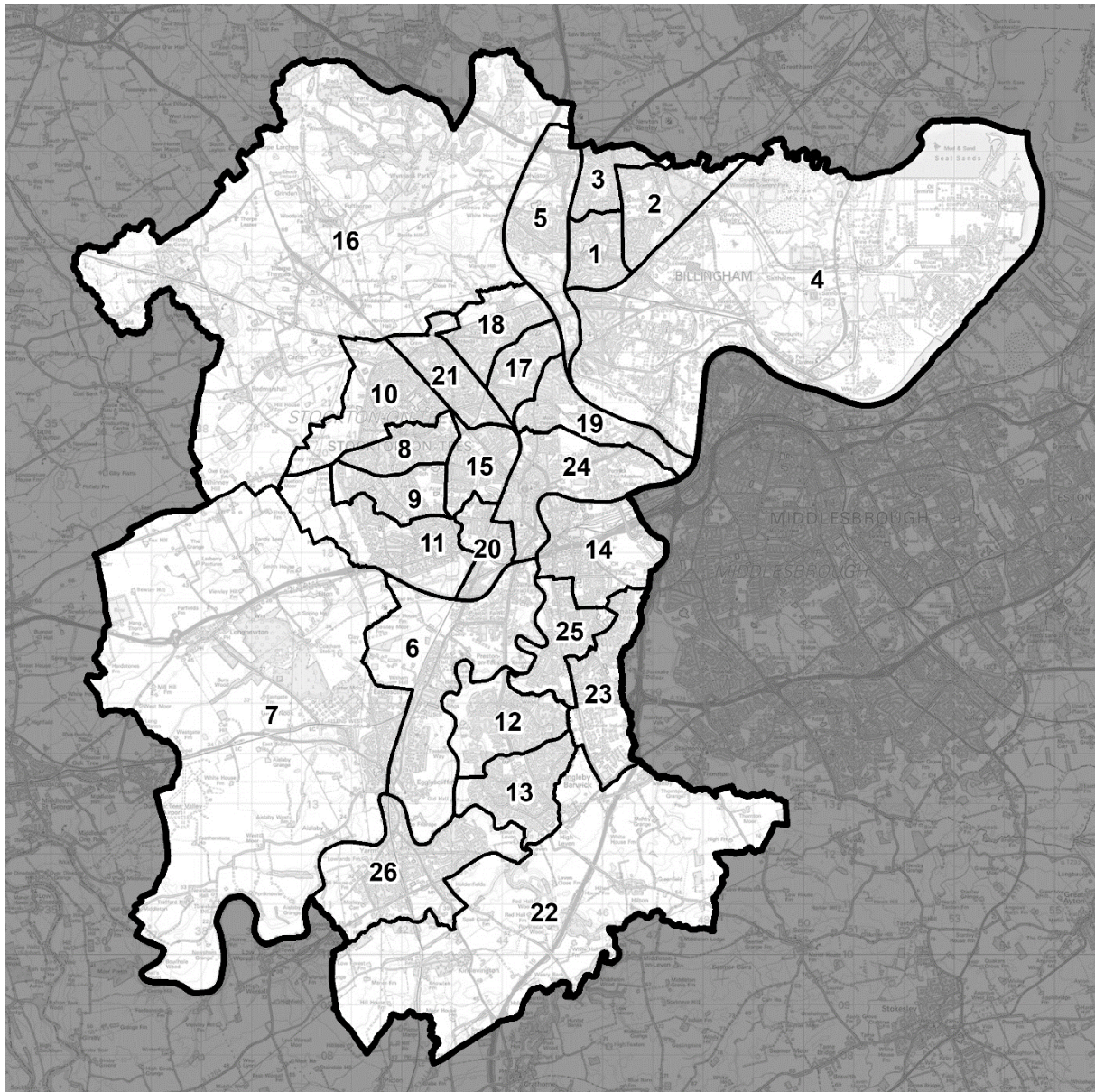
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25 Village	2	5,726	2,863	10%	5,450	2,725	3%
26 Yarm	3	7,727	2,576	-1%	8,311	2,770	5%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>145, 129</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>147,797</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,592</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,639</b>	<b>–</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Stockton-on-Tees Borough council.

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

## Appendix B

### Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Billingham Central
2	Billingham East
3	Billingham North
4	Billingham South
5	Billingham West & Wolviston
6	Eaglescliffe East
7	Eaglescliffe West
8	Fairfield North & Elm Tree
9	Fairfield South

10	Hardwick & Bishopsgarth
11	Hartburn
12	Ingleby Barwick North
13	Ingleby Barwick South
14	Mandale & Victoria
15	Newtown
16	Northern Parishes
17	Norton Central
18	Norton North
19	Norton South
20	Parkfield & Oxbridge
21	Roseworth
22	Southern Parishes
23	Stainsby Hill
24	Stockton Town Centre
25	Village
26	Yarm

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-east/stockton-on-tees/stockton-on-tees>

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

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

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-east/stockton-on-tees/stockton-on-tees>

#### *Local Authority*

- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

#### *Political Groups*

- Billingham Labour Party
- Fairfield & Yarm Independents
- Ingleby Barwick Independent Association
- Stockton-on-Tees Conservative Group
- Stockton-on-Tees Labour Group
- Stockton-on-Tees Liberal Democrat Group
- Stockton-on-Tees Independent Group
- Thornaby Independent Association
- West Words

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor M. Perry & Councillor B. Woodhead MBE (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Sherris (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
- Councillor T. Strike (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)

#### *Local Residents*

- 28 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

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

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

Local Government Boundary Commission for  
England  
1st Floor, Windsor House  
50 Victoria Street, London  
SW1H 0TL

**Telephone:** 0330 500 1525

**Email:** [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

**Online:** [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

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