

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Electoral review

September 2023

(originally published in March 2022. The report was amended in May 2022 to reflect analysis of all submissions; and July 2023 to accurately reflect our recommendations for parish arrangements)

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A note on our mapping:

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

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

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

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- 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.

¹ 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

Why Stockton-on-Tees?

7 We are conducting a review of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council ('the Council') as some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors is 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 electors 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 27 wards, one more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 23 wards should change; four 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 take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Review timetable

14 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Stockton-on-Tees. We then held three periods of consultation with the

public on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

15 The review was 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 began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
11 May 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
19 July 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
23 November 2021	Publication of further draft recommendations; start of limited consultation
10 January 2022	End of limited consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
29 March 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

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

17 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.

18 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	2027
Electorate of Stockton-on-Tees	145,129	147,797
Number of councillors	56	56
Average number of electors per councillor	2,592	2,639

19 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 2027. Norton South will have a variance of -11%.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

21 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period six 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 2027.

22 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. Due to the Commission's decision to

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

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

carry out an additional round of consultation and delays caused by the Covid-19 outbreak, the review will now conclude in 2022. We are content that these figures remain a reasonable forecast of local electors in 2027 and have therefore used them as the basis of our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

23 The Council currently has 56 councillors. As part of our final recommendations we are proposing that the Council should have 56 councillors. This figure has been arrived at following a series of decisions which the Commission took in relation to, firstly, how many councillors are needed to enable the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively, and secondly, how the pattern of wards reflects community identities.

24 We initially looked at evidence provided by the Council and decided that retaining the existing council size would ensure that it could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 56 councillors.

25 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.

26 Having listened to the views expressed during the consultation on our draft recommendations, we decided to undertake a period of further consultation on a pattern of wards that we considered better reflected our statutory criteria. In order to adopt wards with strong boundaries, based on the evidence we received, our further draft recommendations were for a council size of 57 – one more than we announced at the beginning of the consultation. We were satisfied that this would still ensure that the Council would be able to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 Following our further draft recommendations consultation, we received significant evidence which objected to our most recent proposals for the south of the borough. Therefore, after careful consideration, we were persuaded to revert to our draft recommendations in this area. As a consequence of this decision, we have maintained a council size of 56 for our final recommendations.

Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 34 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one borough-wide proposal from the Conservative Group. The 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.

29 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.

30 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

31 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 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.

32 We also visited the area in order to look at various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Stockton helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed for our final boundary recommendations.

33 Our draft recommendations were for five three-councillor wards, 20 two-councillor wards and one one-councillor ward. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

34 We received 116 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included one borough-wide proposal from a local resident. The 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. In particular, we received a number of strongly evidenced objections to our draft recommendations from the Grangefield and Kirklevington communities. In light of the evidence received, we decided to undertake another round of consultation on our recommendations in Fairfield, Grangefield, Ingleby Barwick, Newtown, Southern Parishes and Yarm.

Further draft recommendations

35 As stated above, we undertook a period of further limited consultation on our new draft recommendations for the rural south and centre of the borough.

36 We received 125 submissions in response to this consultation, including a petition submitted by Councillor Clark. The majority of comments regarding the centre of Stockton expressed support for the Conservative Group's proposals, titled 'Plan B'. This included requests for two single-councillor wards in Grangefield and Newtown. In the south, we received compelling evidence in support of our draft recommendations for Southern Parishes, Yarm and Ingleby Barwick.

37 Based on the evidence received during this consultation, we have made some amendments to our proposals for Fairfield, Grangefield and Newtown. We have also decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Southern Parishes, Yarm and Ingleby Barwick as final.

Final recommendations

38 Our final recommendations are for three single-councillor wards, 19 two-councillor wards and five three-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

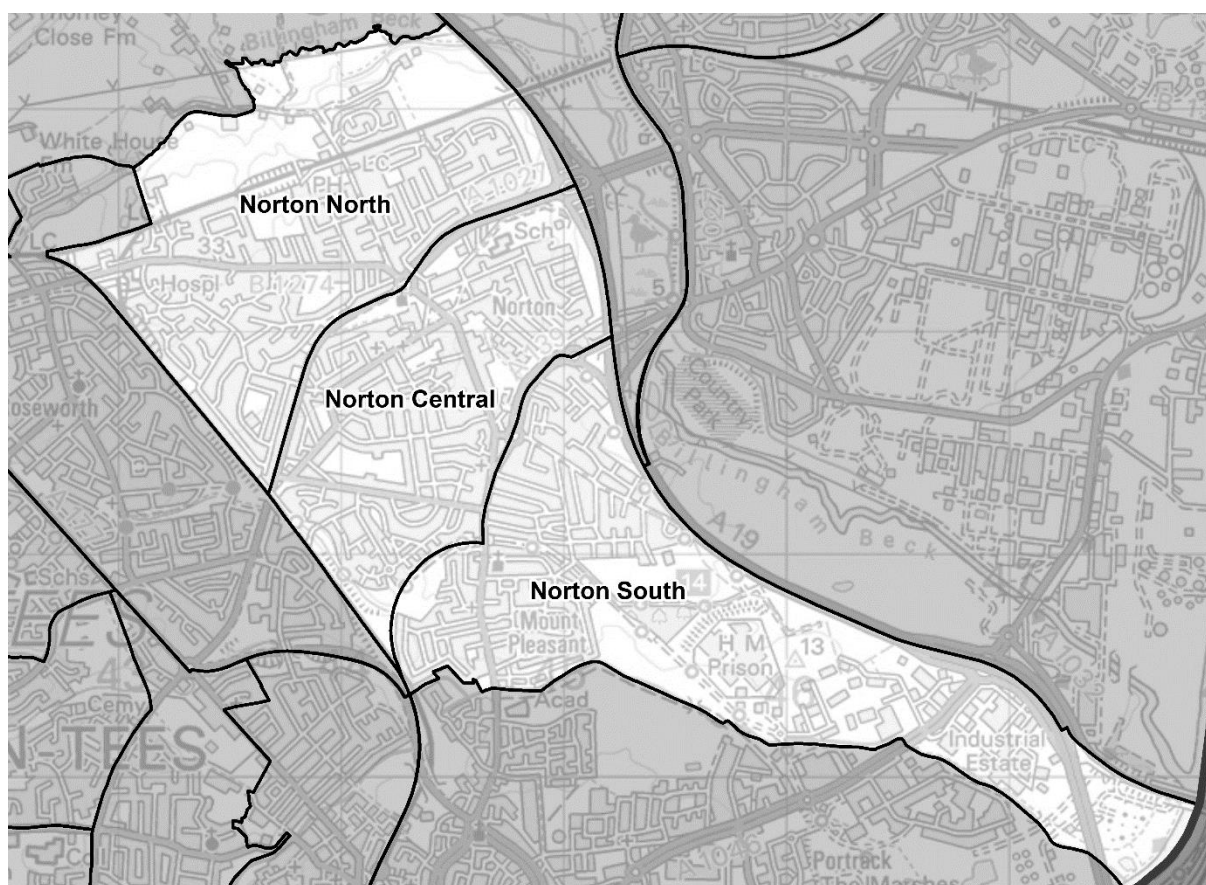
39 The tables and maps on pages 9–55 detail our final recommendations for each area of Stockton-on-Tees. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

40 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 63 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Norton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Norton Central	2	-10%
Norton North	2	-6%
Norton South	2	-11%

Norton North, Norton Central and Norton South

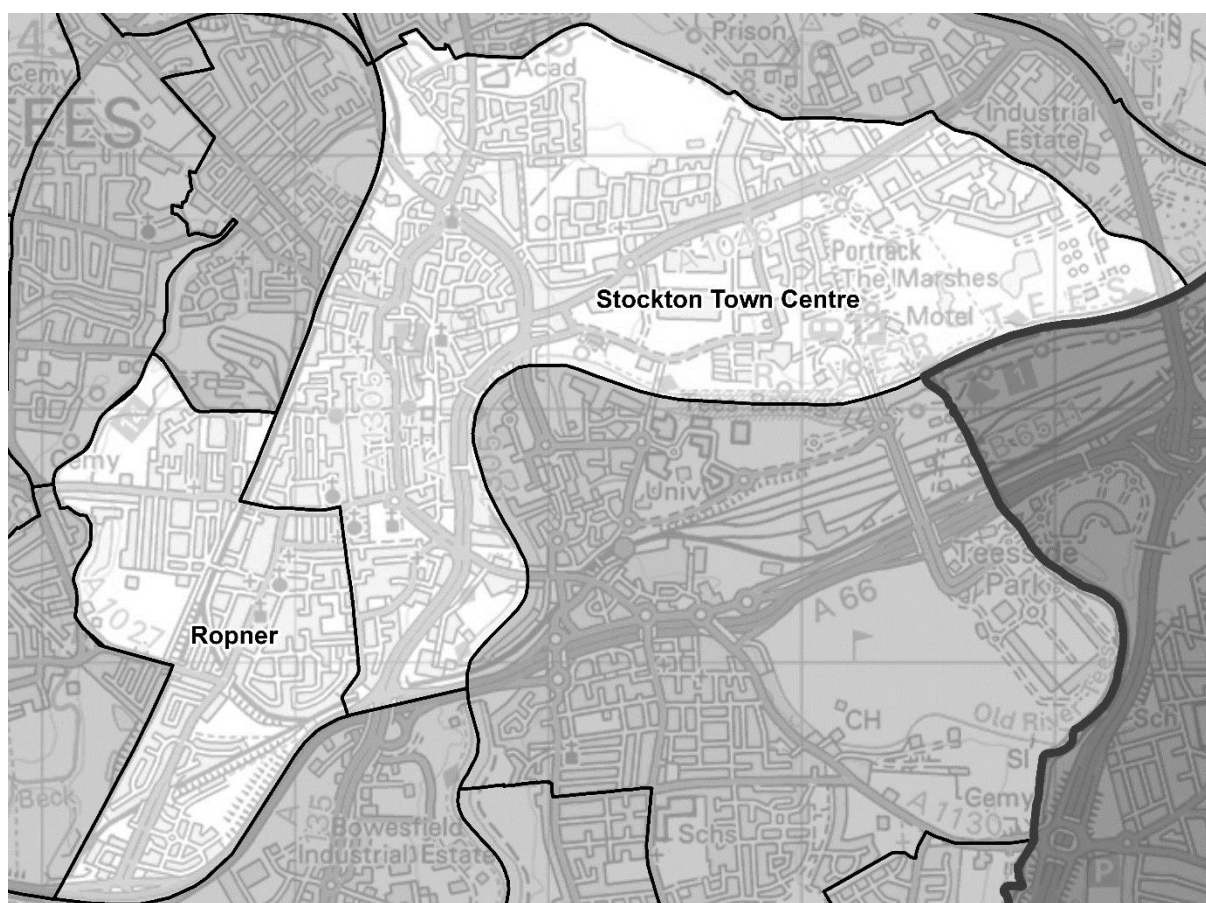
41 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the existing boundaries, subject to a small amendment to the boundary between Norton South ward and Stockton Town Centre ward to the south of the area. In response to our draft recommendations we received one comment on our proposals, from a local resident.

42 The resident proposed including the majority of Grindon & Thorpe Thewles parish in a new two-councillor Norton North ward, the boundaries of which would extend southwards to Bingham Road to include properties to the east of the High Street. Properties to the south of Junction Road and north of the A1027 would move to a new two-councillor Norton Central ward with those properties east of the High Street. Norton South ward would remain the same as present. While we acknowledge this proposal, we do not consider these to be strong or identifiable boundaries and are not persuaded that there is sufficient community evidence to

justify this change.

43 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for the wards of Norton North, Norton Central and Norton South as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 10% fewer, 6% fewer and 11% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

Central Stockton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ropner	2	2%
Stockton Town Centre	2	-8%

Stockton Town Centre

44 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the existing ward boundary, with the exception of amending the northern boundary to include the entirety of the properties from Hills Drive in the ward. In response to our draft recommendations we received two comments on our proposals, from the Labour Group and a local resident.

45 The Labour Group were in agreement with our recommendations.

46 A local resident proposed retaining most of the existing boundaries of Stockton Town Centre, outlining a census output area which they argued should be moved into the ward in order to improve electoral equality. While we acknowledge this proposal, we do not consider census output areas to provide strong or identifiable boundaries and are not persuaded that there is sufficient community evidence to

justify this change.

47 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Stockton Town Centre as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 8% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

Ropner

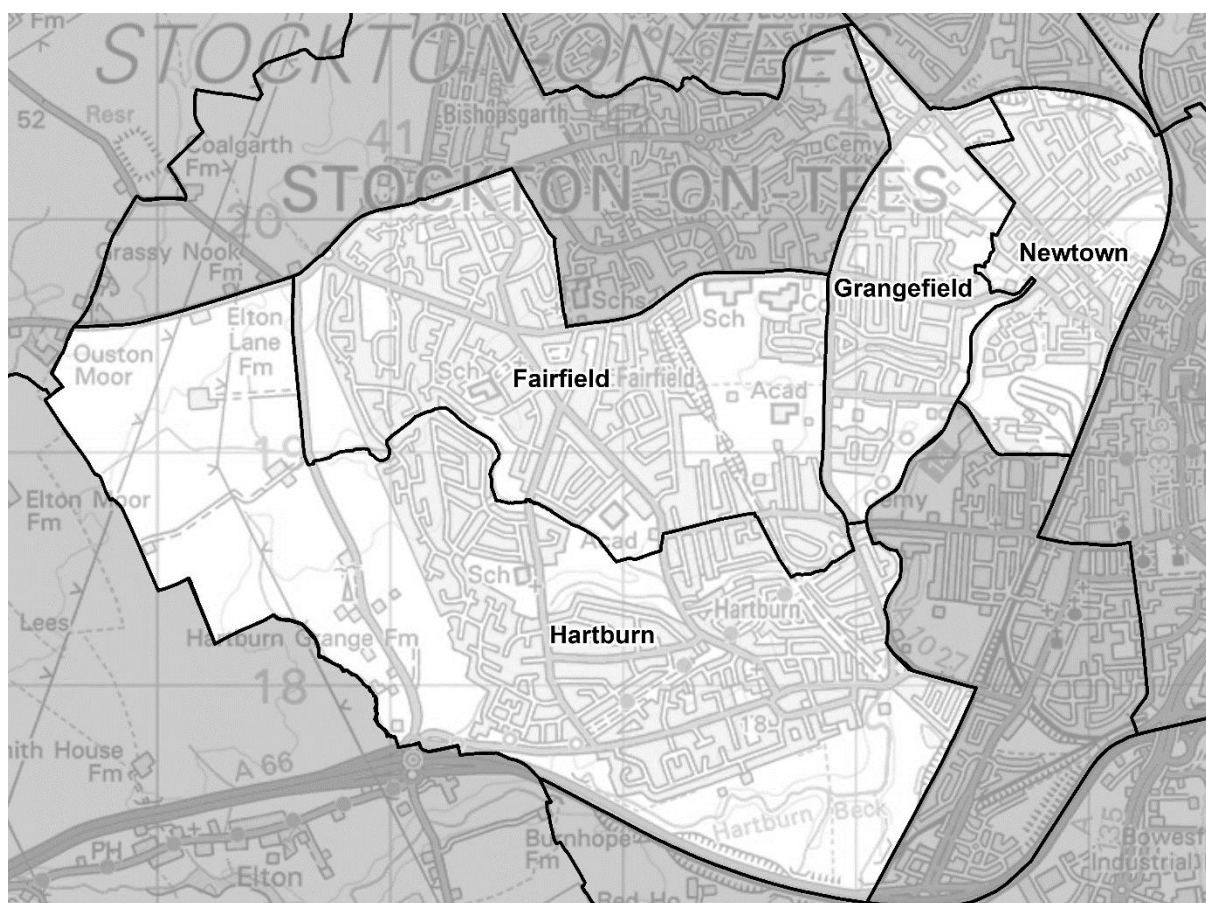
48 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the Conservative Group's proposals to reduce the size of the ward. These included using the A66 as the ward's southern boundary, moving along the railway line, A107, and Lustrum Beck to the west. In response to our draft recommendations we received three responses to our proposals, from the Labour Group, a local councillor and a local resident.

49 Both the Labour Group's and the councillor's representations were in agreement with our proposals; however, they suggested that the ward be renamed Ropner after the name of a local park. They argued that the existing ward name of Parkfield & Oxbridge is outdated, as the area known locally as Parkfield is not fully within the ward. This leads to confusion with local residents about which councillor represents them, and residents of the ward do not associate themselves with this name. We agree that the existing ward name does not accurately reflect the makeup of the area and propose that the ward is renamed Ropner.

50 A resident proposed retaining most of the existing ward boundaries, outlining three census output areas which they argued should be moved into other surrounding wards in order to improve electoral equality. While we acknowledge this proposal, we do not consider census output areas to provide strong or identifiable boundaries and are not persuaded that there is sufficient community evidence to justify this change.

51 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Ropner ward as final (with the exception of the name change described above). Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 2% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

Fairfield, Grangefield, Newtown and Hartburn



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Fairfield	3	-10%
Grangefield	1	-2%
Hartburn	3	-6%
Newtown	1	4%

Fairfield

52 On the basis of the evidence we received during the consultation on our draft recommendations, our further draft recommendations for this area reverted back to the existing two-member Fairfield ward – with the inclusion of electors with access from Bishopton Road West. Political groups, local councillors and a number of local residents had all objected to our previous draft recommendations, which split the area into two two-councillor wards: Fairfield South and Fairfield North & Elm Tree.

53 In response to our consultation on the further draft recommendations, we received over 50 submissions from this area, including from the Conservative Group, Labour Group, councillors, residents and a petition from Councillor Clark.

54 The Conservative Group put forward a proposal titled 'Plan B', which combined our draft recommendations and our further draft recommendations. They suggested a three-member Fairfield ward which would include the entirety of the current ward, stretching east to Oxbridge Avenue. The Group argued that this would be a significantly stronger arrangement, as it more accurately reflects the focus points of local communities and local people's understanding of the area. They also noted that the areas currently within the west of Grangefield ward are locally identified as being a part of Fairfield.

55 The Labour Group and councillors Perry and Woodhead commented that they were supportive of our further draft recommendation proposals.

56 We received 43 submissions from local residents that directly supported the Conservative Group's 'Plan B'. Several of these submissions, including representations from Councillors Innes and Richardson, stated that this proposal would better reflect the community identity of Fairfield and the use of local amenities by residents to the east of Fairfield Road.

57 A number of residents objected to our further draft recommendations on the basis that they believed they already lived in Fairfield ward. These residents, all living on Whitton Road, Orchard Road and adjoining roads, argued that their area should be included in a Fairfield rather than the existing Grangefield ward.

58 Councillor Clark's petition collated the views of 60 residents from across the existing Grangefield ward, arguing that our further draft recommendation proposals provided the best balance of our statutory criteria for Grangefield. They argued that residents from the Whitton Road area do identify as living in Grangefield, not Fairfield, and that while some residents would prefer to live in Fairfield this would make Grangefield ward 'too small'.

59 We also received a handful of submissions which argued to retain the existing boundary of Fairfield ward. However, the existing ward is forecast to have 13% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027. In our view, this level of electoral inequality has not been justified by the evidence we have received.

60 We carefully considered the submissions received for this area across all three rounds of consultation and assessed the merits of a number of different warding patterns. On balance, we agree that the Conservative Group's 'Plan B' best reflects communities in the area whilst also providing for good levels of electoral equality. While we note the views expressed in Councillor Clark's petition, we believe that this solution more accurately reflects the community interests and identities of residents across Fairfield and Grangefield. This also reflects the evidence that we have gathered across each round of consultation. We have therefore adopted this

proposal as part of our final recommendations.

61 Our final recommendations will provide for fair levels of electoral equality, with 10% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

Grangefield and Newtown

62 Our further draft recommendations set out the differing views regarding our original draft recommendation proposals for these areas. As a result of compelling evidence regarding Grangefield, our proposals for this area were for a single-councillor Grangefield ward and a single-councillor Newtown ward.

63 In response to the consultation on our further draft recommendations, we received over 50 submissions from this area, including from the Conservative Group, Labour Group, councillors, residents and a petition from Councillor Clark.

64 The Conservative Group put forward a proposal titled 'Plan B', based on two single-councillor wards for the area. They suggested a Grangefield ward which would include Newham Grange and Stockton Grange, alongside a Newtown ward bounded by the A177, the railway line and Lustrum Beck. The Group argued that this arrangement would best accommodate the evidence submitted by residents in both Grangefield and the neighbouring Fairfield ward. They also noted that 'the area proposed is a particularly tight-knit community that reverts to its original identity'.

65 The Labour Group commented that they were supportive of our further draft recommendation proposals.

66 We received 43 submissions from local residents that directly supported the Conservative Group's 'Plan B'. Several of these submissions argued that Grangefield is its own distinct community, with its own schools, community centres, local facilities and housing styles. A number of representations highlighted that the current boundary between Newtown and Grangefield wards does not reflect the geography of the area, and that Allendale Road, Coniston Road and Kendal Road should be in the ward.

67 Councillor Clark's petition collated the views of 60 residents from across the existing Grangefield ward, arguing that our further draft recommendation proposals provided the best balance of our statutory criteria for Grangefield.

68 We also received a handful of submissions which argued to retain the existing boundary of Grangefield ward. However, this would not be possible given the strong evidence we have received regarding Fairfield and Hartburn wards.

69 We carefully considered the submissions received for this area across all three rounds of consultation and assessed the merits of a number of different warding patterns. Given the strong evidence we have received from residents in Grangefield regarding their community identity, we agree that the Conservative Group's 'Plan B'

best reflects communities in the area whilst also providing for good levels of electoral equality. While we note the views expressed in Councillor Clark's petition, a number of representations highlighted that the boundary proposed in our further draft recommendations did not reflect the geography of the area, and that Allendale Road, Coniston Road and Kendal Road should be in Grangefield ward. This also reflects evidence from previous rounds of consultation, where local residents have requested a single-member ward for the Grangefield and Newham Grange area. We have therefore adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

70 Our final recommendations are for a single-councillor Grangefield ward and a single-councillor Newtown ward, with electoral variances of 2% fewer and 4% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

Hartburn

71 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the Conservative Group's proposals. This included incorporating all electors from Hartburn Avenue and those properties south of Oxbridge Lane in a three-councillor Hartburn ward. In response to our draft recommendations we received seven responses to our proposals, from local residents.

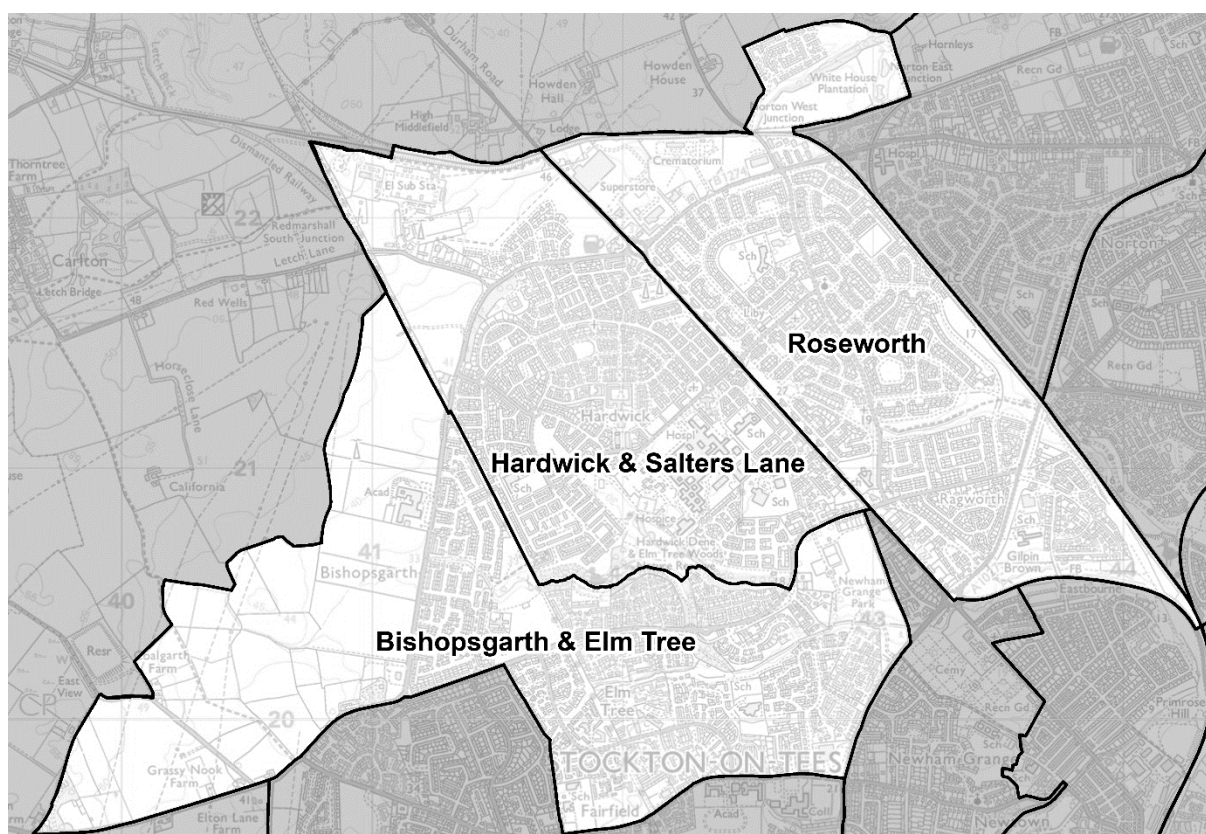
72 A resident argued that the boundary of Hartburn ward should extend east past the railway line to include electors from Preston Farm and Queensgate estate. While we acknowledge this suggestion, we do not consider the proposal to facilitate strong or identifiable boundaries and are not persuaded that there is sufficient community evidence to justify this change.

73 Six local residents agreed with our draft recommendation proposals.

74 As part of our further draft recommendation consultation, local residents strongly supported the Conservative Group's 'Plan B'. As part of their proposal Oulston Road and Coxwold Road, which we included in Hartburn as part of our original draft recommendations, would join Fairfield ward. On reflection, we agree that this area would be best represented in a Fairfield ward, alongside other properties with access from Oxbridge Lane. We are therefore including this suggestion in our final recommendation proposals.

75 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Hartburn ward as final, subject to the small amendment above. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 6% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree, Hardwick & Salters Lane and Roseworth



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	2	-1%
Hardwick & Salters Lane	2	6%
Roseworth	2	8%

Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree

76 Our further draft recommendations for this area reverted to the existing warding pattern, noting the strong community evidence received that the two areas should remain together in a two-councillor ward.

77 Submissions from the Labour Group, Liberal Democrat Group and a local resident were supportive of our further draft recommendation proposals.

78 We therefore confirm our further draft recommendations for Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 1% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027.

Hardwick & Salters Lane

79 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on our own proposals, as a result of persuasive community evidence received for Fairfield ward. This included incorporating Bishopsgarth into a three-councillor ward with Hardwick and Salters Lane. In response to our draft recommendations we received three responses to our proposals, from the Labour Group, the Liberal Democrat Group and a local resident.

80 The Labour Group agreed with our proposals. However, they noted that the name Salters Lane should be retained in any of our proposals as this is more reflective of residents' understandings of the area.

81 The Liberal Democrat Group made a number of proposals for the area based on our draft recommendations. They suggested that 'a proportion of the current Hardwick boundaries be absorbed into the new Roseworth boundaries and return a 2- or 3-member ward (depending on how much of wards are combined)'; however, they did not specify which area of Hardwick ward should be included in Roseworth.

82 A local resident proposed retaining most of the existing boundaries of Hardwick & Salters Lane, outlining a census output area which they argued should be moved into Roseworth ward in order to improve electoral equality. While we acknowledge this proposal, we do not consider census output areas to provide strong or identifiable boundaries and are not persuaded that there is sufficient community evidence to justify this change.

83 As a consequence of the strong community evidence received regarding the boundaries of Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree ward, we are recommending retaining the existing boundaries of Hardwick & Salters Lane.

84 Our final recommendations for Hardwick & Salters Lane will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 6% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

Roseworth

85 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on our own proposals, as a result of persuasive community evidence received for Northern Parishes and Newtown wards. This included incorporating Ragworth and the Elms development into the ward. In response to our draft recommendations we received three responses to our proposals, from the Labour Group and two local residents.

86 The Labour Group and a local resident both proposed retaining the existing boundaries of Roseworth. They argued that the area is its own distinct community and is forecast to have fair levels of electoral equality, and therefore its boundaries should remain the same. The Labour Group suggested that both the Elms development and Ragworth are also distinct communities and should remain

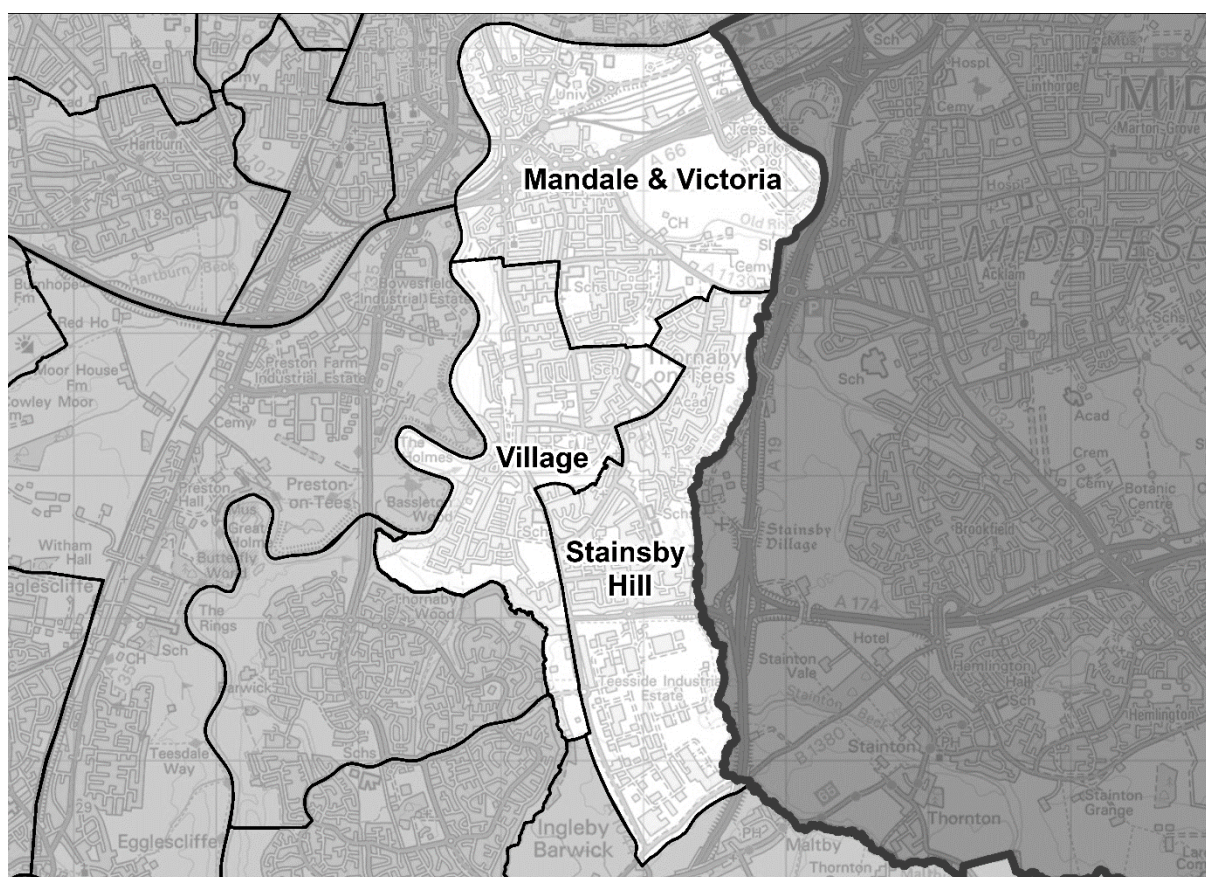
separate from Roseworth.

87 Another local resident agreed with our proposals for the Elms development, as it is 'not a good fit with the Northern Parishes'. They suggested that the development could be placed in Norton North ward; however, they accepted that access routes to the area run through Roseworth ward. The resident also argued that the Elms will likely have a shared identity with new housing being built in the north of Roseworth

88 Having carefully considered the evidence provided in light of our draft and further draft recommendations for Newtown ward (paragraphs 62–70), we are recommending that Roseworth ward extend its southern boundary to the A177. As noted in our draft recommendations, including the Elms development in Roseworth ward will improve electoral equality across wards in the area. We also agree that this proposal reflects communities and access routes on the ground, as residents from the Elms are likely to look to Roseworth ward for the use of local amenities. We are therefore recommending that the Elms is included in Roseworth ward as part of our final recommendations.

89 Our final recommendations for Roseworth ward will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with 8% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

Thornaby



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Mandale & Victoria	2	8%
Stainsby Hill	2	7%
Village	2	3%

Mandale & Victoria, Stainsby Hill and Village

90 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a combination of the submissions we received, as well as our own proposals. These included reducing the size of Mandale & Victoria ward in order to improve electoral equality and moving electors from the estates lying south of Lanehouse Road and west of Thorntree Road into Village ward. We also proposed that properties accessed from Mitchell Avenue and Trenchard Avenue be included in Stainsby Hill ward. In response to our draft recommendations we received six responses to our proposals, from Thornaby Independent Association, Thornaby Town Council and four local residents.

91 Thornaby Independent Association objected to our draft proposals. They disagreed with our proposal to reduce the size of Mandale & Victoria ward by one councillor, which they argued was politically motivated, and suggested that the existing boundaries should be maintained between Village and Mandale & Victoria wards. They also suggested that developments taking place adjacent to Thornaby

Road, part of Maltby Parish, should be included in Village ward. These proposals were reiterated by Thornaby Town Council and local residents.

92 Two residents also argued that we retain the existing ward boundaries in the area, while a third agreed with our draft proposals.

93 A local resident proposed altering the existing boundary of a three-councillor Mandale & Victoria ward to include electors from Thames Avenue, Tweed Avenue and part of Clarendon Road. They suggested that the boundary of a two-councillor Village ward be amended to run down Trenchard Avenue before moving south-east to include properties from part of Havilland Road, Halifax Road, Victor Way and part of Valiant Way. Finally, they proposed that the existing Stainsby Hill ward be paired with Maltby and Hilton parishes.

94 While we acknowledge the concerns of Thornaby Independent Association and Thornaby Town Council, we consider our review processes to be transparent. Submissions are analysed solely on the basis of how their content relates to our three statutory criteria of electoral equality, community identity and efficient local government.

95 We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that none of the proposed patterns of wards provided for a better balance of our three statutory criteria than our draft proposals. It would also not be possible to achieve good levels of electoral equality within the parish of Thornaby in its current arrangement, as Stainsby Hill ward is projected to have an electoral variance of -13% by 2027. Furthermore, maintaining the existing boundaries between Mandale & Victoria and Village wards would create an electoral variance in Village ward of -14% by 2027. In our view, this level of electoral inequality has not been justified by the evidence.

96 We have also not been convinced that there is compelling evidence to include the developments taking place adjacent to Thornaby road in Village ward. On our visit to the area we noted that the land is currently undeveloped: it does not appear to have any community links to Village ward, being unpopulated by any electors, and is divided from Thornaby by a main road and an industrial estate. Furthermore, we would be unable to adopt this proposal without creating an unviable parish ward of fewer than 100 electors in Maltby parish.⁵

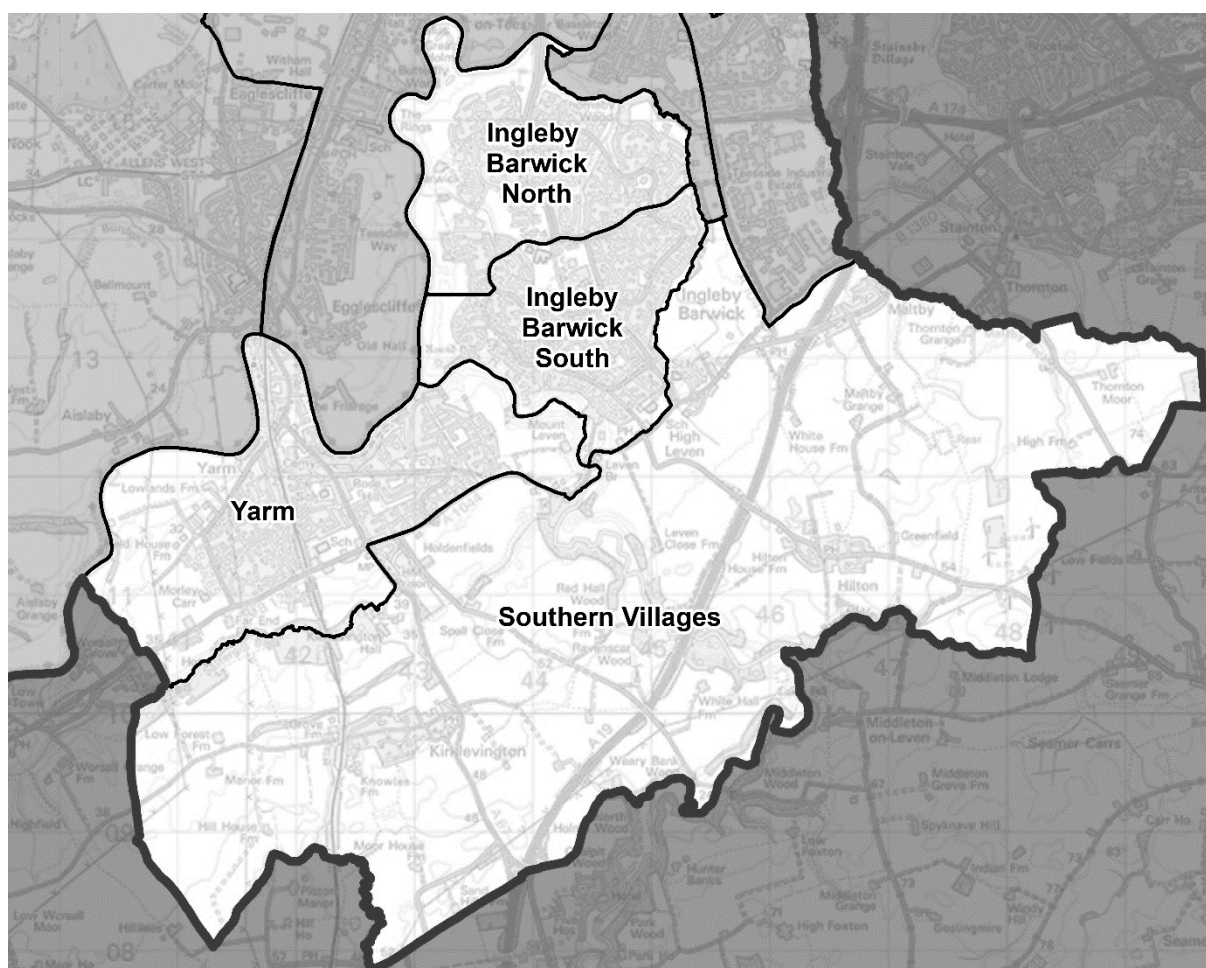
⁵ We will not normally recommend the creation of parish wards that contain no or very few electors (fewer than a hundred) unless it can be demonstrated to us that, within a short period of time, there will be sufficient electors as to warrant the election of at least one parish councillor. This is because 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.

97 While we recognise that reference was made to the extent of parishes and historic town boundaries in some of the submissions we received, our recommendations cannot take this into account and do not change the extent of parishes: it is for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to decide whether to change them in the future.

98 Thornaby Town Council requested that the area to the west of the A1405, included in our draft recommendation Stainsby Hill ward, remain as part of Village ward. They argued that the properties in this area strongly identify with Village ward. We agree with this proposal and will be adopting the existing boundary here as part of our final recommendations.

99 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Mandale & Victoria, Stainsby Hill and Village wards as final, subject to the small amendment above. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with electoral variances of 8% more, 7% more and 3% more electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

Ingleby Barwick, Southern Villages and Yarm



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Ingleby Barwick North	3	3%
Ingleby Barwick South	3	5%
Southern Villages	1	1%
Yarm	3	4%

Ingleby Barwick, Southern Villages and Yarm

100 Our further draft recommendations set out the differing views regarding our original draft recommendation proposals for these areas. These were for a three-councillor ward comprising Yarm parish and the Green Lane housing estate to the south of Green Lane; a single-councillor Southern Parishes ward comprising Maltby, Hilton, Castlelevington and the remainder of Kirklevington parish; and two three-councillor wards for Ingleby Barwick: Ingleby Barwick North and Ingleby Barwick South.

101 In response to our consultation on the draft recommendations, we received a mixed reaction to our proposals. Kirklevington & Castlelevington Parish Council's view was that their parish should not be divided by borough ward boundaries, which

was supported by several residents. A number of other residents were in support of our draft recommendations, with more making alternative proposals.

102 After careful consideration, we published further draft recommendations based on a combination of the comments received. The only alternative we identified to splitting Kirklevington parish was to include the developments taking place in Little Maltby Farm, currently part of Maltby parish, in an Ingleby Barwick ward. We proposed the addition of an extra councillor in the area, dividing Ingleby Barwick into East, West and South wards. Doing so enabled us to recommend a warding arrangement where Kirklevington parish was represented in its entirety in a single-councillor Southern Parishes ward, with a three-councillor Yarm ward comprising the entirety of Yarm parish. We asked residents for their views on this potential arrangement.

103 In response to our further draft recommendations consultation, we received responses to our proposals from the Conservative Group, Councillor Sherris, Hilton Parish Council, Ingleby Barwick Independent Society and local residents.

104 The Conservative Group were in support of our further draft recommendation three-member Yarm ward; however, they proposed some alterations to other wards in the south so that Maltby parish would also not be split across two wards. In the Group's proposals, Kirklevington, Castlelevington and Hilton parishes would be included in a single-councillor 'Kirklevington & Hilton' ward, with Maltby joining a new Ingleby Barwick East ward. They also proposed a small amendment between our proposed Ingleby Barwick East and South wards. The Group argued that it would be hypocritical for Maltby parish to be split in order to ensure that Kirklevington parish is not.

105 Councillor Sherris stated that he did not support the existing Yarm ward being split. He also suggested that, if the Commission went ahead with its proposals for Southern Parishes, the ward should be named 'Kirklevington & Southern Parishes' due to extra developments taking place in the village.

106 Hilton Parish Council and 11 residents strongly objected to our further draft recommendation proposals, arguing in favour of our draft recommendations. Respondents provided detailed community evidence regarding the Green Lane developments, noting their geographic distance from Kirklevington village (including the natural divide of Saltergill Beck), use of local facilities in Yarm such as schools, shops and pubs, and proximity to Yarm train station. The parish also provided evidence regarding Little Maltby Farm, noting that the area has no direct access to Ingleby Barwick but is within a mile of Maltby village, where residents have shared access to schools, the local Co-op and Maltby Cricket Club. They also argued that the area shares 'greater proximity, community and identity links' than the Green

Lane development does with Kirklevington.

107 Residents also reflected on the benefits of a ward which would group rural villages together and allow them to be represented separately from the interests of the larger towns of Yarm and Ingleby Barwick.

108 A local resident proposed retaining the existing ward boundaries in Yarm and that the ward be represented by four councillors. It is our view that four or more-councillor wards do not aid effective and convenient local government, potentially diluting the accountability of councillors to the electorate. Furthermore, it would not be possible to adopt this proposal whilst also reflecting the evidence received regarding other parishes in the south of the borough, where respondents have argued strongly for a rural parishes ward. It would also create a -46% electoral variance for our proposed Southern Parishes ward. We are therefore not adopting this proposal.

109 Ingleby Barwick Independent Society were supportive of our further draft recommendations; however, they suggested some amendments be made to include Thirwall Drive, Rochester Court and adjoining roads in our proposed Ingleby Barwick South ward.

110 One resident was supportive of our further draft proposals for Ingleby Barwick.

111 On our visit to the area we looked at each proposal on the ground, noting that there is no obvious connection between the Green Lane development – which looks towards Yarm for its local facilities – and Kirklevington. We also observed that there is no immediate foot or road access between the two areas, which are divided by fields and a beck, other than a track marked ‘unsuitable for motor vehicles’.

112 When visiting Maltby and Ingleby Barwick, we noted the self-contained nature of the Little Maltby Farm development and its geographic distance from both areas. We did not consider that the homes being built here would look strongly to the north.

113 We carefully considered the submissions received for the south of the borough across all three rounds of consultation and assessed the merits of a number of different warding patterns. Given the persuasive evidence we have received regarding both Green Lane and Little Maltby Farm developments, as well as the evidence we gathered on our visit to the area, we agree that our draft recommendation proposals provide the strongest pattern of wards.

114 While there was some support for our further draft recommendations in Ingleby Barwick, we are unable to adopt these proposals whilst also accommodating the evidence we received regarding Kirklevington and Yarm. Proposals from the Conservative Group and Ingleby Barwick Independent Society contradicted much of

the evidence we have received from residents, specifically regarding Maltby parish.

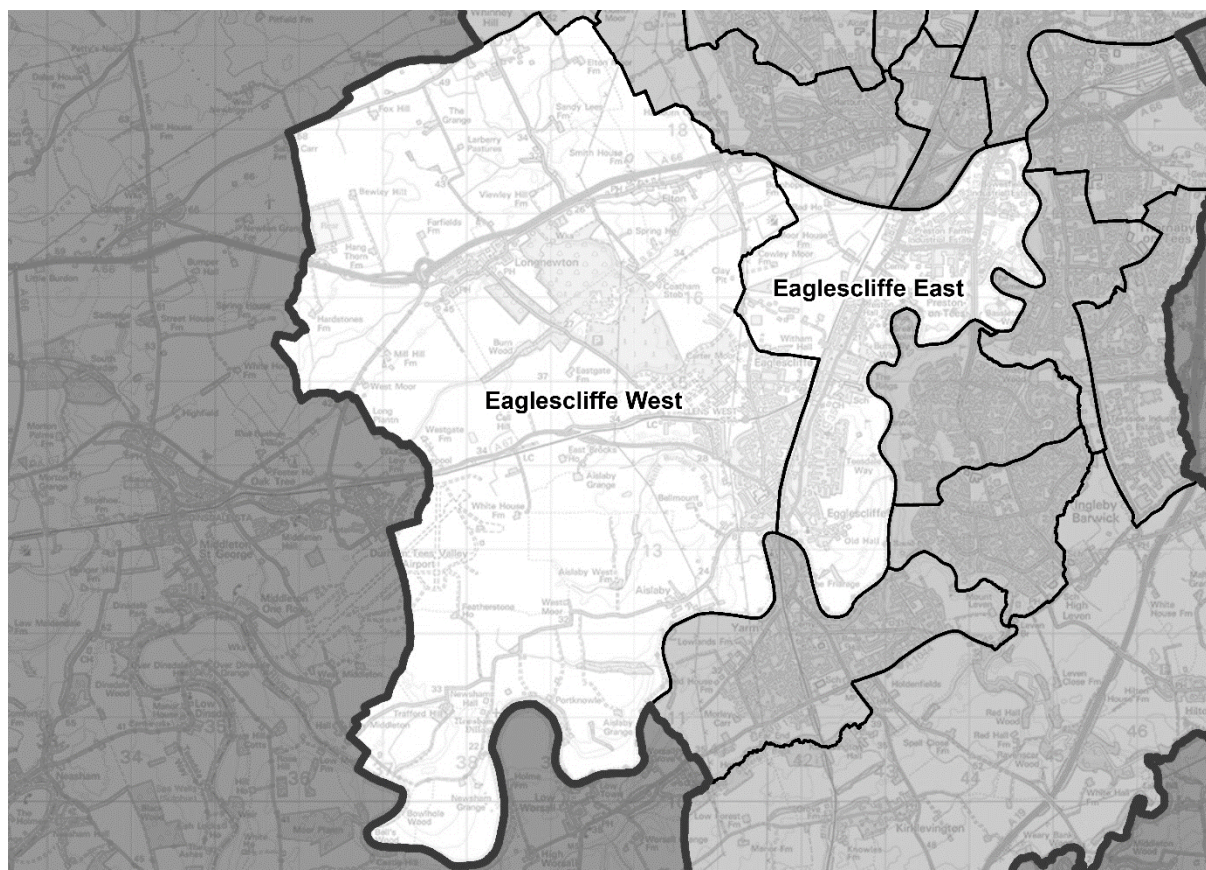
115 We acknowledge the submissions which objected to our draft recommendations, some of which argued for the retention of the existing Yarm ward and raised concerns regarding dividing Kirklevington village from Yarm. However, the ward is projected to have an electoral variance of +20% by 2027 and this poor level of electoral equality must be addressed. Furthermore, the geography and spread of the electorate in the south of the borough make it difficult to create a pattern of wards which would be satisfactory to everyone. Given the evidence received, we do not consider other options to have a better balance of our statutory criteria than our draft recommendations.

116 However, we propose a small amendment which will include Kirklevington Hall in the same ward as Kirklevington village, as argued for by residents at a previous stage of consultation. This will also include HMP Kirklevington Grange in Southern Villages ward.

117 Hilton Parish Council and five residents also suggested that our proposed Southern Parishes ward be named 'Southern Villages' as this would more accurately reflect the makeup of the ward, which would include the whole villages of Kirklevington, Hilton and Maltby. We agree that this name would better reflect the communities in the south of the borough and will be adopting this as part of our final recommendations.

118 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Ingleby Barwick North, Ingleby Barwick South, Southern Villages and Yarm as final, subject to the small amendment above. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with electoral variances of 3% more, 5% more, 1% more and 4% more electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

Eaglescliffe



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Eaglescliffe East	2	-9%
Eaglescliffe West	2	6%

Eaglescliffe East and Eaglescliffe West

119 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a combination of the submissions we received, as well as our own proposals. These included splitting the area into two two-councillor Eaglescliffe East and Eaglescliffe West wards. In response to our draft recommendations we received three responses to our proposals, from the Conservative Group, Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Parish Council and a local resident.

120 The Conservative Group supported our draft recommendation proposals, with the exception of recommending that Elton parish be moved into Eaglescliffe East ward. They argued that this will improve electoral equality between the wards, and that there is a clear geographical link between Elton parish and Eaglescliffe East as they are joined by Preston-on-Tees parish. While we accept that this modification would lead to improved electoral equality between wards, we are not convinced that there is sufficient community evidence to adopt this change as part of our final

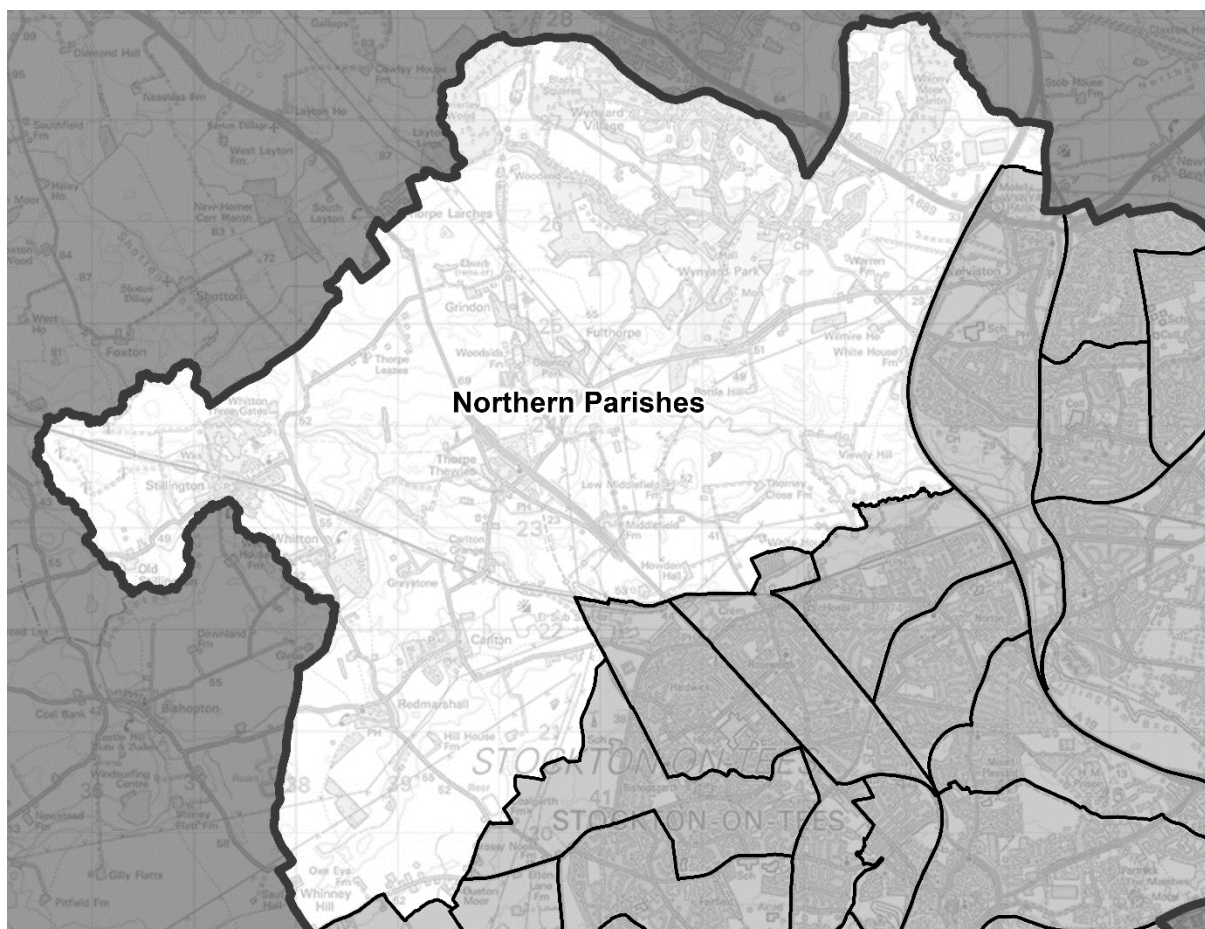
recommendations.

121 Egglecliffe & Egglecliffe Parish Council agreed with our draft recommendation proposals.

122 The resident proposed pairing Elton parish with the majority of the existing Hartburn ward. They also recommended an Egglecliffe North ward, containing the parishes of Longnewton, Newsham, Aislaby and the eastern portions of Yarm and Egglecliffe parishes. Finally, they recommended that the remainder of Yarm and Egglecliffe parishes should be paired with Preston-on-Tees parish in an Egglecliffe South ward. While we acknowledge this proposal, we do not consider the proposals to include strong or identifiable boundaries and are not persuaded that there is sufficient community evidence to justify this change.

123 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for the wards of Egglecliffe East and Egglecliffe West as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with electoral variances of 9% fewer and 6% more electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

Northern Parishes



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Northern Parishes	2	7%

Northern Parishes

124 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a resident's proposal, with some modifications in order to secure improved levels of electoral equality. This included grouping the parishes of Redmarshall, Carlton, Stillington & Whittington, Grindon & Thorpe Thewles and Wynyard in a two-councillor ward. In response to our draft recommendations we received five responses to our proposals, from Stillington & Whittington Parish Council, Redmarshall Parish Council and three local residents.

125 Stillington & Whittington and Redmarshall Parish Councils agreed with our proposals to include both parishes in Northern Parishes ward. A resident objected to Stillington & Whittington parish being included in Northern Parishes but did not suggest an alternative arrangement.

126 A resident proposed that the existing Western Parishes ward should retain its boundaries, with Wynyard parish moving from Northern Parishes ward to a Billingham ward. However, a single-councillor Northern Parishes ward would have

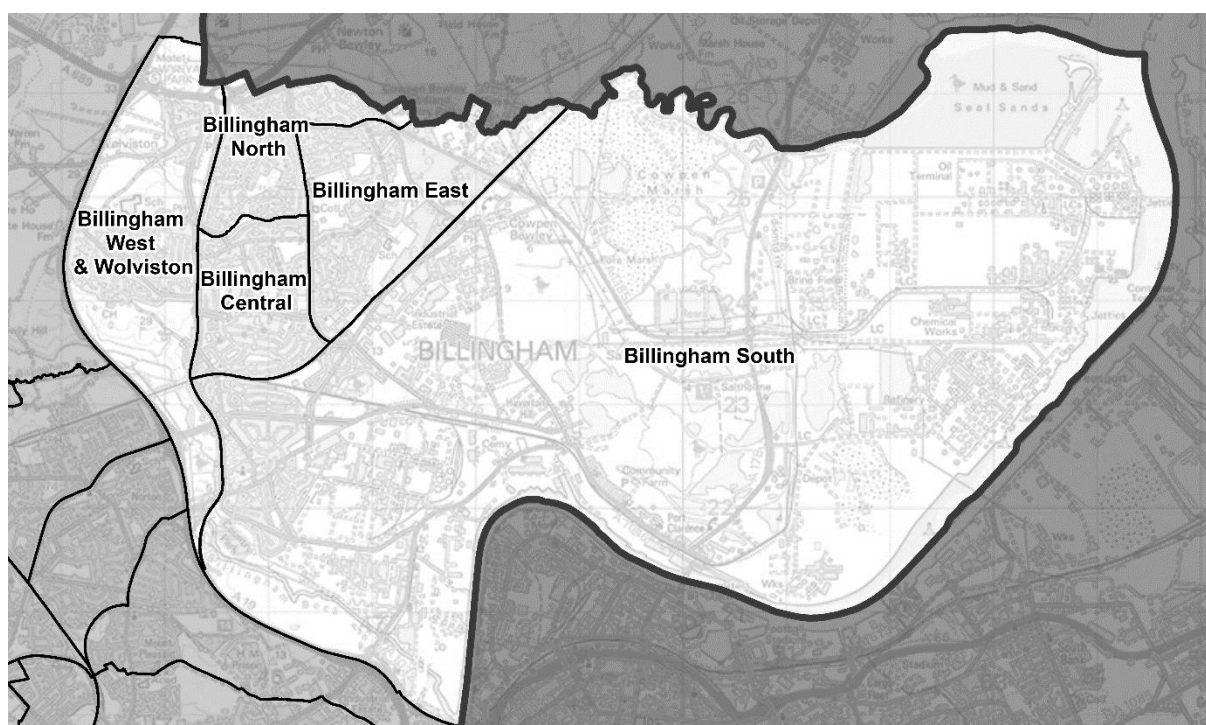
an electoral variance of 48% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027, which in our view would be unacceptably high. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

127 Another resident proposed a two-member Wynyard & Western Parishes ward, which would include Wynyard, Stillington & Whitton, Carlton and Redmarshall wards. It would also include a small portion of Grindon & Thorpe Thewles parish, the rest of which would be included in a new Norton North ward. While we acknowledge this proposal, dividing Grindon & Thorpe Thewles parish as proposed would create an unviable parish ward.⁶ We are also not persuaded that there is sufficient community evidence to justify this change.

128 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Northern Parishes ward as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality, with an electoral variance of 7% more electors than the borough average by 2027.

⁶ 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.

Billingham and Wolviston



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Billingham Central	2	4%
Billingham East	2	0%
Billingham North	2	-1%
Billingham South	2	8%
Billingham West & Wolviston	2	-10%

Billingham Central, Billingham East, Billingham North, Billingham South and Billingham West & Wolviston

129 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a combination of the submissions received and our own proposals. This included our proposal for a Billingham West & Wolviston ward, the extension of Billingham South ward to the railway line, and including electors from Sidlaw Road, Cambrian Road, Porlock Road and Lammermuir Road in Billingham Central ward. In response to our draft recommendations we received four responses to our proposals, from the Labour Group, Billingham Town Council and three local residents.

130 The Labour Group and Billingham Town Council provided comments on the changes to Billingham parish's electoral arrangements as a result of our draft recommendation proposals.

131 A resident put forward proposals for Billingham based on the current polling districts in the area. These included pairing Wolviston village with the existing

Billingham North ward, extending Billingham East ward to include Seal Sands, expanding Billingham Central ward westwards to Clifton Avenue, and moving electors between Pentland Avenue and the railway line into Billingham South ward. While we acknowledge this proposal, we do not consider polling districts to provide strong or identifiable boundaries and are not persuaded that there is sufficient community evidence to justify this change.

132 A further resident argued that the Seal Sands area should not be included in a Billingham ward as it is mostly uninhabited land. However, our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the borough.

133 A third resident agreed with our draft recommendation proposals.

134 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for the wards of Billingham Central, Billingham East, Billingham North, Billingham South and Billingham West & Wolviston as final. Our final recommendations will provide for good levels of electoral equality, with electoral variances of 4% more, 0%, 1% fewer, 8% more and 10% fewer electors than the borough average by 2027, respectively.

Conclusions

135 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Stockton-on-Tees, referencing the 2020 and 2027 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

	Final recommendations	
	2020	2027
Number of councillors	56	56
Number of electoral wards	27	27
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

Final recommendations

Stockton-on-Tees Council should be made up of 56 councillors serving 27 wards representing three single-councillor wards, 19 two-councillor wards and five 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 final recommendations for Stockton-on-Tees on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

136 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.

137 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 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.

138 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, Egglecliffe, Grindon & Thorpe Thewles, Ingleby Barwick, Kirklevington and Thornaby.

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

Final recommendations

Billingham Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

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

140 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Egglecliffe parish.

Final recommendations

Egglecliffe should comprise 13 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Egglecliffe East	6
Egglecliffe West	7

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

Final recommendations

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

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

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

Final recommendations

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

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

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

Final recommendations

Kirklevington Parish Council should comprise six councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Kirklevington Village	3
Kirklevington Green Lane	3

143 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Thornaby Town Council.

Final recommendations

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

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

What happens next?

144 We have now completed our review of Stockton-on-Tees. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2023.

Equalities

145 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

Final recommendations for Stockton-on-Tees

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Billingham Central	2	5649	2825	9%	5470	2735	4%
2	Billingham East	2	5346	2673	3%	5271	2636	0%
3	Billingham North	2	5398	2699	4%	5226	2613	-1%
4	Billingham South	2	5907	2954	14%	5717	2859	8%
5	Billingham West & Wolviston	2	4890	2445	-6%	4734	2367	-10%
6	Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree	2	5044	2522	-3%	5219	2610	-1%
7	Eaglescliffe East	2	4793	2397	-8%	4823	2411	-9%
8	Eaglescliffe West	2	4897	2449	-6%	5620	2810	6%
9	Fairfield	3	7177	2392	-8%	7128	2376	-10%
10	Grangefield	1	2,639	2639	2%	2,583	2583	-2%
11	Hardwick & Salters Lane	2	5321	2661	3%	5602	2801	6%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Hartburn	3	7186	2395	-8%	7423	2474	-6%
13 Ingleby Barwick North	3	8284	2761	7%	8179	2726	3%
14 Ingleby Barwick South	3	8512	2837	9%	8302	2767	5%
15 Mandale & Victoria	2	5693	2847	10%	5726	2863	8%
16 Newtown	1	2657	2657	3%	2742	2742	4%
17 Northern Parishes	2	4581	2291	-12%	5645	2823	7%
18 Norton Central	2	4929	2465	-5%	4777	2389	-10%
19 Norton North	2	5051	2526	-3%	4978	2489	-6%
20 Norton South	2	4814	2407	-7%	4690	2345	-11%
21 Ropner	2	5201	2601	0%	5379	2690	2%
22 Roseworth	2	5775	2888	11%	5681	2841	8%
23 Southern Villages	1	1662	1662	-36%	2653	2653	1%
24 Stainsby Hill	2	5820	2910	12%	5645	2823	7%

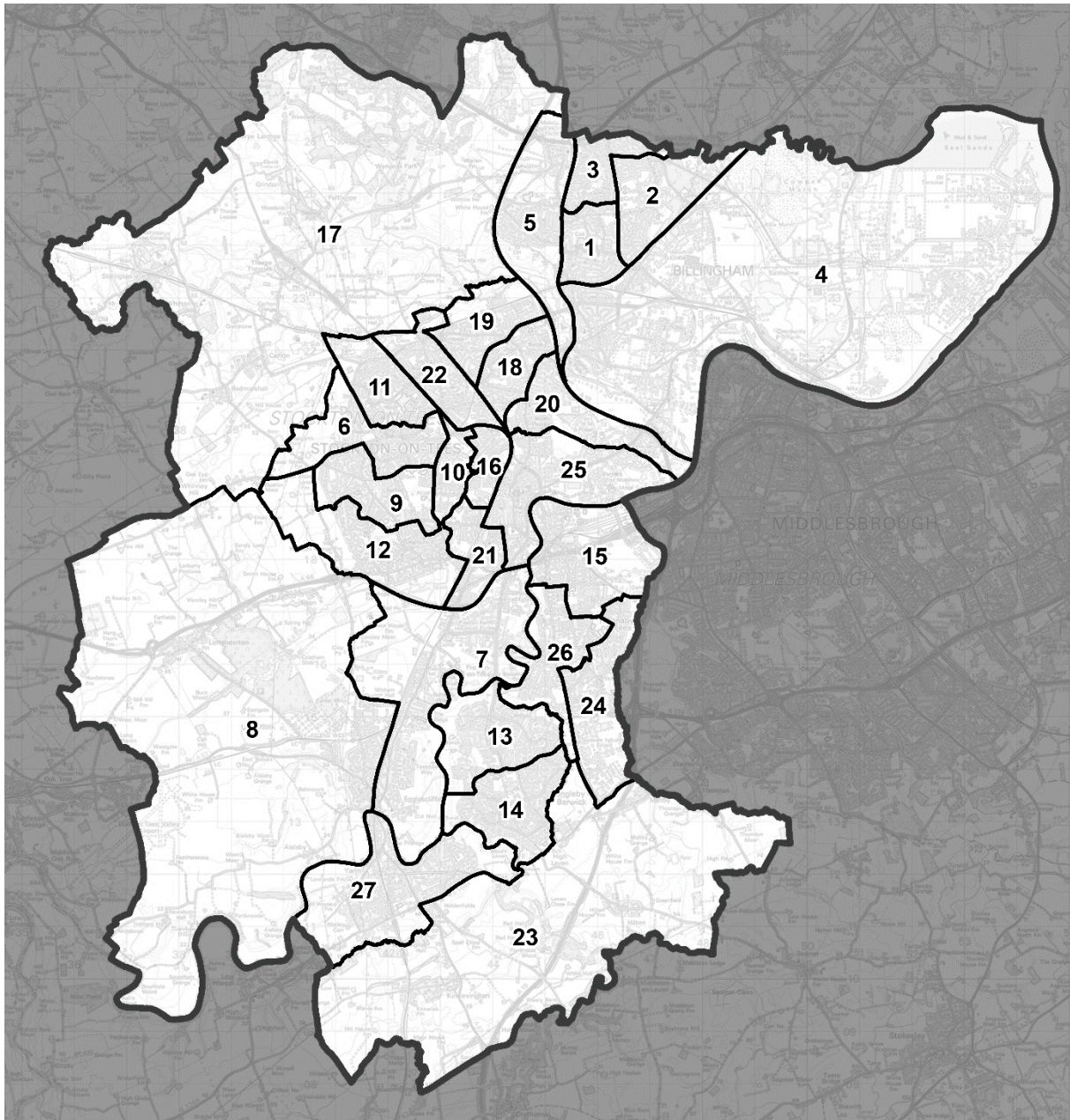
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25 Stockton Town Centre	2	4626	2313	-11%	4874	2437	-8%
26 Village	2	5610	2805	8%	5452	2726	3%
27 Yarm	3	7667	2556	-1%	8258	2753	4%
Totals	56	145,129	-	-	147,797	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,592	-	-	2,639	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Stockton-on-Tees 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	Bishopsgarth & Elm Tree
7	Eaglescliffe East
8	Eaglescliffe West

9	Fairfield
10	Grangefield
11	Hardwick & Salters Lane
12	Hartburn
13	Ingleby Barwick North
14	Ingleby Barwick South
15	Mandale & Victoria
16	Newtown
17	Northern Parishes
18	Norton Central
19	Norton North
20	Norton South
21	Ropner
22	Roseworth
23	Southern Villages
24	Stainsby Hill
25	Stockton Town Centre
26	Village
27	Yarm

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

Appendix C

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

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-east/stockton-on-tees/stockton-on-tees

Submissions received in response to our draft recommendations

Local Authority

- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Political Groups

- Fairfield & Yarm Independents
- Ingleby Barwick Independent Society
- Stockton-on-Tees Conservative Group
- Stockton-on-Tees Labour Group
- Stockton-on-Tees Liberal Democrat Group
- Thornaby Independent Association

Councillors

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

Parish and Town Councils

- Billingham Town Council
- Egglecliffe & Eaglescliffe Parish Council
- Kirklevington & Castlelevington Parish Council
- Redmarshall Parish Council
- Stillington & Whitton Parish Council
- Thornaby Town Council

Local Residents

- 100 local residents

Submissions received in response to our further draft recommendations

Local Authority

- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council

Political Groups

- Fairfield & Yarm Independents
- Ingleby Barwick Independent Society
- Stockton-on-Tees Conservative Group
- Stockton-on-Tees Labour Group
- Stockton-on-Tees Liberal Democrat Group
- Thornaby Independent Association

Councillors

- Councillor H. Atkinson (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Flynn (Thornaby Town Council)
- Councillor N. Innes (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Richardson (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Sherris (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)

Parish and Town Councils

- Hilton Parish Council
- Thornaby Town Council

Local Residents

- 110 local residents

Petitions

- Councillor C. Clark

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 inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

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