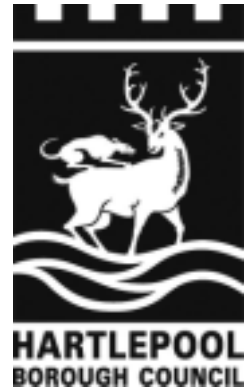


GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday 26 November 2010

at 2.00 pm

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

Councillors Aiken, C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Fleet, Flintoff, Gibbon, James, Simmons and Wells

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
- 3. MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2010.
- 4. ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 4.1 Further Electoral Review of Hartlepool – *Chief Solicitor (To Follow)*
- 5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

4 October 2010

The meeting commenced at 4.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor Martyn Aiken (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Marjorie James, Chris Simmons, and Ray Wells.

Also Present: Councillor Geoff Lilley as substitute for Councillor Steve Gibbon
in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2.
Councillor Hilary Thompson.

Officers: Hayley Martin, Constitutional and Administrative Solicitor
Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

13. Declarations of interest by members

Councillors G Lilley and H Thompson declared and prejudicial interest in Minute No. 15 and left the meeting during its consideration.

14. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2010

Confirmed.

15. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to serve on School Governing Bodies (*Director of Child and Adult Services*)

The Governor Support Officer updated members in respect of vacancies that currently existed for Local Authority (LA) representative governors, and to request members to make recommendations to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder in respect of the appointment of Local Authority representative governors to serve on school governing bodies. A schedule set out at as appendix to the report gave details of vacancies which currently existed for LA representative governors, together with applications received in respect of the vacancies. The applications included at appendix B to the report, together with three additional

applications tabled at the meeting, contained exempt information under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006) namely, information relating to any individual (para 1).

Members considered the applications submitted. In relation to the vacancy at Greatham Primary School, the Committee noted the interest reported and requested that a full application form be submitted. In relation to the Seaton Nursery vacancy members suggested that Officers determine if there was any interest from the Seaton Ward Councillors before reconsideration of the vacancy and the submitted application at the next meeting. Members supported all the other applications received.

Decision

That the Children's Services Portfolio Holder be advised that this Committee's recommendations on the applications received is as follows: -

1. That consideration of the vacancy at Greatham Primary School be deferred until such times a full application form was received from the Councillor who had expressed an interest in the position.
2. That the Seaton Ward Councillors be contacted in relation to the vacancy at Seaton Nursery to determine if there was any interest from them prior to reconsidering the vacancy and the current application.
3. That all the remaining applications for vacancies received should be supported.

16. Further Electoral Review of Hartlepool (*Chief Solicitor*)

The Constitutional and Administrative Solicitor outlined the report to the Committee which informed members as to the receipt of correspondence through the Local Government Boundary Commission for England with their provisional recommendations as to "Council size". In total some twelve submissions were received "including substantial proposals from Hartlepool Borough Council and Mayor Drummond". The correspondence from the Commission dated 17th September, 2010, was submitted as an appendix to the report. The letter showed that the Commission was currently minded to recommend a Council size of 33 and that all submissions were available upon their website. However, Members should note that the proposed 33 Members, relates to the presumption of a Council electing by thirds.

The report also set out the process of the review following on from the preliminary period and the Council size consultation, and also the criteria the Commission was required to have regard to. Members were asked to consider as part of the "Stage One" process, the appropriate electoral arrangements which should operate within the Borough, taking into account the Commission's 'minded to recommend' Council size of 33.

Members suggested that it would be appropriate to reconvene the Working Group previously established by the Committee to prepare the submission on council size. The Working Group could then look in detail through a series of meetings at potential recommendations for Council on Ward boundaries.

Decision

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Electoral Review Working Group be reconvened to develop recommendations on the ward boundaries in accordance with the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's provisional recommendations as to a Council size of 33 Members.

The meeting concluded at 4.30 p.m.

CHAIR

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

26 November 2010



Report of: Chief Solicitor

Subject: FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 In a report dated 4th October 2010 the Committee was informed as to the receipt of correspondence through the Local Government Boundary Commission for England with their provisional recommendations as to "Council size". To make Members generally aware of submissions received by the Commission and also to outline the ongoing process of this particular review.

2. COUNCIL SIZE CONSULTATION

- 2.1 As Members of the Committee will be aware the period from 20th July – 30th August, 2010, allowed submissions on "Council size" to be submitted to the Commission. In total some 12 submissions were received *"including substantial proposals from Hartlepool Borough Council and Mayor Drummond"*. The correspondence from the Commission dated 17th September, 2010 stated that the Commission is currently minded to recommend a Council size of 33 and that all submissions are available upon their website at www.lgbce.org.uk. This "mind to recommend" was reported to Council on 16th September, 2010. and it can be confirmed that this correspondence was also despatched to Members of the Borough Council. However, Members will note that the proposed 33 Members, relates to the presumption of a Council electing by thirds.
- 2.1 The submissions received by the Commission were from the following individuals/bodies;
- Hartlepool Borough Council
 - Mayor Drummond
 - Rift House Neighbourhood Action Plan Forum
 - New Deal for Communities

- Councillor Geoff Lilley
- Michael Ward
- UKIP – Hartlepool Branch
- Seaton Councillors
- Rossmere Councillors
- Mel Dickson
- Elwick Parish Council
- Furness, Cameron and Belk Residents Association

- 2.2 It should be noted, that some submissions did not make any particular recommendation upon Council size whilst others recommended a reduction or retention of the existing number of Councillors. Of note (and as the Council is now in the process of the formal “Stage One” of the Electoral Review), one representation indicated a desire that the name of the Seaton Ward be renamed “Seaton Carew Ward”. It was also an indication from the Elwick Parish Council that their *“Members were adamant that the rural character of the ward must be maintained”*.

3. PROCESS OF THE REVIEW

- 3.1 To remind Members as to the process of the review following on from the preliminary period and the Council size consultation, the following is an outline (with dates) of the overall process of a review;

Stage One (28th September, 2010 – 20th December, 2010) - This will incorporate the initial consultation stage on electoral arrangements ie how many Councillors in a ward, where should ward boundaries be, the names of proposed wards and how recommendations would impact on the community. Of particular note, the proposed ward pattern must reflect community identity.

Stage Two (21st December, 2010 – 28th March, 2011)

This will cover the Commission’s deliberations and analysis of the “evidence based” representations received. This period can also incorporate further clarification being sought by the Commission on those submissions.

Stage Three (29th March, 2011 – 19th June, 2011)

This will entail the publication of the Commission’s draft recommendations and consultation thereon. Again, this will entail evidence based submissions in response to those draft recommendations. Again, commentary should reflect aspects of community identity and overall electoral equality and effective and convenient local government.

Stage Four (20th June, 2011 – 27th September, 2011)

This will cover the period of the Commissions consideration of representations on the draft recommendations and publication of their final recommendations. Those final recommendations thereafter need to proceed before Parliament, who are unable to modify recommendations. Therefore they can only be accepted or rejected. It is the Commission's intention to complete their review no later than the end of September, 2011 to ensure the implementation of elections in 2012.

4. STATUTORY CRITERIA

4.1 Although mentioned above, Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act, 2009 requires the Commission to have regard to the following criteria;

- **The need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities,**
- **The need to secure effective and convenient local government, and**
- **The need to secure equality of representation**

4.2 Further, the Commission must have regard to the desirability of securing the appropriate number of Councillors in each Ward of a District/Borough Council which elects by halves or by thirds. In addition, the Commission must take into account any changes to the number and distribution of electors that is likely to take place from the end of the review to a period covering the next 5 years. For the purpose of this report, Members are again reminded of those protections as provided in a report to General Purposes Committee dated 23rd August, 2010, as provided below;

Name of unitary ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2010	Variance 2010	Electorate 2016	Variance 2016
Brus	3	4,801	8%	4,916	8%
Burn Valley	3	4,167	-6%	4,098	-10%
Dyke House	3	3,464	-22%	3,257	-20%
Elwick	1	1,683	14%	2,657	75%
Fens	3	4,070	-8%	4,022	-12%
Foggy Furze	3	3,850	-13%	3,939	-14%
Grange	3	4,112	-7%	4,074	-11%
Greatham	1	1,713	16%	1,677	10%
Hart	3	5,148	16%	5,445	20%
Owton	3	4,081	-8%	4,026	-12%
Park	3	4,636	5%	4,697	3%
Rift House	3	4,630	4%	4,678	3%
Rossmere	3	4,734	7%	4,759	4%
Saint Hilda	3	4,312	-3%	4,246	-7%
Seaton	3	5,253	19%	5,123	12%
Stranton	3	3,996	-10%	5,076	11%
Throston	3	4,766	8%	4,681	3%

4.3 Members are also reminded that the Commission can make the following recommendations for local authority electoral arrangements;

- The total number of Councillors to be elected to the Council (known as “Council size”)
- The number and boundaries of wards or divisions
- The number of Councillors to be elected for each ward or division, and
- The name of any ward or division

4.4 The Commission are also obliged to make recommendations for changes to electoral arrangements of existing parishes represented by Parish Councils within the local authority under review, where the same are directly consequential to their recommendations for changes to district wards. The Commission cannot make recommendations for changes to the external boundaries between local authorities or Parishes or consider the creation of new Parish areas. Equally, the Commission cannot make recommendations for changes as part of the electoral review to the external boundaries between local authorities or Parishes or consider the creation of new Parish areas. Although they have powers to initiate reviews of external boundaries under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act, 2007, they cannot alter during an electoral review. Similarly, the Commission cannot make recommendations for changes to how often local authorities hold elections (the electoral cycle) although under the 2007 Act, local authorities can resolve to effect changes to their own electoral cycle. There is also the presumption that authorities that elect by thirds should return three Councillors from each ward. It should also be noted, that this presumption can also relate to a number divisible by three. However, this presumption needs to be considered against the statutory criteria and consequently is open to the Commission not to *“recommend uniform patterns for the number of Councillors per ward...if, in our view or shown in evidence provided to us, may result in unacceptable levels of electoral inequality, does not reflect communities or hinders the provision of effective and convenient local government.”*

4.5 The Working Party as part of the “Stage One” process has considered, the appropriate electoral arrangements which should operate within the Borough, taking into account the Commission’s ‘minded to recommend’ Council size of 33. The attached submission is a first draft for the committee’s consideration and comment.

5. RECOMMENDATION

To note and comment upon draft submission on warding arrangements.

6. CONTACT OFFICER

Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor

Hartlepool Borough Council



**Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission
for England as part of the
Electoral Review of Hartlepool Borough Council
On Warding Arrangements**

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council became an all purpose unitary authority following the Cleveland (Structural Change) Order, 1995. Since 2002 the Council has operated executive arrangements based upon an Elected Mayor and Cabinet model. The Mayor was initially elected in 2002 for a period of three years and from 2005, for a term of office of four years. The Council currently has 47 Councillors covering 17 electoral wards.
- 1.2 A Periodic Electoral Review through the Electoral Commission commenced in 2001 and concluded in 2003. Through the Borough of Hartlepool (Electoral Changes) Order 2003, 'all out' elections were held in 2004. The final recommendations upon this earlier review concluded that the existing electoral arrangements provided for an unequal representation of electors in Hartlepool. In nine of the seventeen wards the number of electors represented by each Councillor varied by more than 10% from the average for the Borough and two wards varied by more than 20%. It was anticipated that by 2006 the situation was expected to continue with the number of electors per Councillor forecast to vary by more than 10% from the average in eight wards and by more than 20% in two wards. The recommendations as adopted formed the following electoral arrangements;
- Hartlepool Borough Council should have 47 Councillors, as at present;
 - There should be 17 Wards, as at present;
 - The boundaries of 15 of the existing Wards be modified and two Wards should retain their existing boundaries.
- 1.3 It was noted that the above recommendations would lead to improved levels of electoral equality but noted a forecast that in three Wards, Elwick, Greatham and Seaton there would be a marginal deterioration by more than 10% from the average for the Borough in 2006. During this earlier review, the then three main political groups on the Council supported the retention of 47 Councillors.
- 1.4 On the basis of the December, 2009 electoral register, Hartlepool met the criteria for a further electoral review, wherein 35% of the Council's wards had variances of more than 10% from the average.
- 1.5 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (the Commission) are required by statute to take into account any changes to the number and distribution of electors that are likely to take place within the next 5 years (the period 2011-2016).

1.6 The Borough is characterised by three distinct geographical elements:

- the main urban area of Hartlepool including Seaton Carew and the industrial areas to the south
- an area of rural hinterland encompassing the settlements of Hart, Elwick, Dalton Piercy, Greatham and Newton Bewley.
- the residential, employment and recreational area of Wynyard

1.7 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2007) ranks Hartlepool 19th out of the 354 English districts (% of population in the worst 10% of wards). Twelve of the seventeen wards either fully or partly fall within this IMD criteria. A significant percentage of the local population are in receipt of benefits and over a quarter of residents feel that they need to improve their literacy and/or numeracy. 29.5% of children are in poverty in the town.

1.8 The Council is in the process of preparing its Core Strategy. In broad terms the 'preferred' form of development over the next 15 years is for compact urban growth which will seek to consolidate new development within the existing built up area of Hartlepool – on brown-field and undeveloped sites, but with some significant areas of growth on green-field land to the west and south-west of the current built-up area. The main new development area will provide approximately 2,750 new dwellings (of which 500 are predicted to be built by 2016) on land to the west/south west of the Fens and Owton areas (currently part of the Elwick ward). Smaller sites (50-100 dwellings) are proposed along the western edge of town within the Park and Clavering areas (currently part of the). The other main areas of housing development - based on existing planning consents and estimated start and build rates are expected to be within the marina/Mainforth Terrace area (Stranton ward), Middle Warren (Hart ward), the hospital site (Brus ward).

1.9 The Council, along with its housing partners have pursued a programme of housing market renewal focussing on some of the worst areas. A strategic intervention programme is being pursued involving clearance of 1300 -1500 properties and replacement with 600-700 new sustainable homes, (principally within Stranton, Dyke House and Foggy Furze). Planning policies are also proposed to be included in the Core strategy which will seek to secure a minimum level of 10% affordable housing on any new developments of over 15 units.

1.10 Successful community regeneration programmes including New Deal for Communities, Working Neighbourhoods Funding, and Neighbourhood Action Plan, Housing Market Renewal Funding and neighbourhood management activities have helped create strong local communities and encouraged active participation in local decision making.

1.11 The Council in this submission have considered the statutory criteria;

- Community Identity
- Effective and Convenient Local Government
- Electoral Equality

1.12 The significant involvement of Members as community advocates and leaders was recognised by the Audit Commission in their Comprehensive Performance Assessment (2007) and again in their Comprehensive Area Assessment (2009) of the Council. Members are proactively involved in a variety of 'outside bodies' and voluntary organisations for the benefit of their communities.

1.13 The Council on 11th December, 2008 resolved to maintain its present electoral arrangements through elections by 'thirds'. By law the Commission is obliged to take into account *the scheme for elections employed by the Council* when it makes its recommendations. Further, the appropriate number for elections by thirds is three or a number divisible by three.

1.14 A Further Electoral Review of Hartlepool Borough Council commenced on the 20th July, 2010 with an initial short consultation specifically on council size (the total number of councillors to be elected to the council). The Council prepared a submission which was approved by full Council on the 25th August 2010 and submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for their consideration. The recommendation made was that the Council size should be retained. A number of other submissions were made to the Commission from the Mayor of Hartlepool, Councillors, Parish Councils local organisations and local residents. Following which the Commission proposed that the Council should have 33 councillors. In its press release on the 28 September, the LGBCE states that its decision on council size means it is 'minded' to recommend 33 councillors for Hartlepool but is not legally bound by that number in its final recommendations. Therefore this submission on warding arrangements cannot be considered in isolation and reference should also be made to the Council's earlier submission on council size.

1.15 Having completed this initial consultation, the LGBCE began the second part of its consultation on electoral arrangements to determine warding arrangements within the Borough. The following submission sets out the proposals of the Council having accepted the proposals on the recommended council size.. The submission is based on a pattern of 11 wards each containing three councillors.

2. Introduction and background

- 2.1 This submission by Hartlepool Borough Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England relates to the Further Electoral Review of the Borough, which commenced on the 20th July 2010. The submission sets out the characteristics of the Borough of Hartlepool, the roles and functions of the Elected Mayor, his Cabinet and Councillors and provides recommendations upon the proposed warding arrangements for the Borough of Hartlepool. The Council's General Purposes Committee on the 12th July 2010 established a Cross Party Working Group to make recommendations to the Committee and then to Council over the submission of the Council's proposals as part of the Electoral Review.
- 2.2 Hartlepool Borough Council is composed of an elected Mayor, elected every four years (except for the first term, from 2002, which was three years), and 47 councillors, with one-third elected three years in four. As a result of Periodic Electoral review undertaken by the Electoral Commission and concluded in 2003, all Members of the Council resigned in 2004 and their seats were filled in an all-out election that took place in May 2004. The Councillors elected served for 2, 3 or 4 years according to the election results. Councillors are democratically accountable to residents of their ward. The overriding duty of councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them.
- 2.3 In January 2003, the final recommendations of the previous electoral review (commenced in 2001) were published to reflect the 68,252 registered electors in Hartlepool, covering 17 Wards, with 47 councillors. The review included the projected electorate statistics to 2006 – as set out in Fig 1.

Fig 1

	Ward name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2001)	Number of electors per Councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2006)	Number of electors per Councillor	Variance from average %
1	Brus	3	4,551	1,517	4	4,572	1,524	4
2	Burn Valley	3	4,523	1,508	4	4,365	1,455	-1
3	Dyke House	3	4,328	1,443	-1	4,169	1,390	-5
4	Elwick	1	1,386	1,386	5	1,647	1,647	12
5	Fens	3	4,190	1,397	-4	4,037	1,346	-8
6	Foggy Furze	3	4,152	1,384	-5	4,000	1,333	-9
7	Grange	3	4,654	1,551	7	4,500	1,500	2
8	Greatham	1	1,711	1,711	18	1,648	1,648	12
9	Hart	3	4,137	1,379	-5	4,755	1,585	8
10	Owton	3	4,242	1,414	-3	4,087	1,362	-7
11	Park	3	4,276	1,425	-2	4,535	1,512	3
12	Rift House	3	4,670	1,557	7	4,531	1,510	3
13	Rossmere	3	4,382	1,461	1	4,469	1,490	2
14	St Hilda	3	4,283	1,428	-2	4,180	1,393	-5
15	Seaton	3	4,777	1,592	10	4,968	1,656	13
16	Siranton	3	3,806	1,269	-13	3,937	1,312	-10
17	Throston	3	4,184	1,395	-4	4,507	1,502	2
	Totals	47	68,252	-	-	68,907	-	-
	Averages	-	-	1,452	-	-	1,466	-

2.4 Those recommendations were as follows:

- That the existing electoral arrangements provided for an unequal representation of electors in Hartlepool:
 - In 9 of the 17 wards the number of electors represented by each Councillor varies by more than 10% from the average for the Borough and 2 wards varied by more than 20%;
 - By 2006 the situation is expected to continue, with the number of electors per Councillor forecast to vary by more than 10% from the average in 8 wards and by more than 20% in 2 wards.

On the basis of the above, recommendations for future electoral arrangements were that:

- Hartlepool Borough Council should have 47 Councillors, as at present
- There should be 17 wards, as at present
- The boundaries of 15 of the existing wards should be modified and 2 wards should retain their existing boundaries.

2.5 The purpose behind these proposals was to ensure that in future each Borough Councillor represents approximately the same number of electors, bearing in mind local circumstances and that:

- 15 of the proposed 17 wards and number of electors per Councillor would vary by no more than 10% from the Borough average
- This improved level of electoral equality is forecast to marginally deteriorate, with the number of electors per Councillor in 3 wards, Elwick, Greatham and Seaton expected to vary by more than 10% from the average for the Borough in 2006

2.6 On the basis of the December, 2009 electoral register, Hartlepool met the criteria for a further electoral review, wherein 35% of the Council's wards had variances of more than 10% from the average. The current electorate and variances thereto, are set out below in Fig 2;

Fig 2

Name of unitary ward	Cllrs per ward	Electorate 2010	Variance 2010
Brus	3	4,801	8%
Burn Valley	3	4,167	-6%
Dyke House	3	3,464	-22%
Elwick	1	1,683	14%
Fens	3	4,070	-8%
Foggy Furze	3	3,850	-13%
Grange	3	4,112	-7%
Greatham	1	1,713	16%
Hart	3	5,148	16%
Owton	3	4,081	-8%
Park	3	4,636	5%
Rift House	3	4,630	4%
Rossmere	3	4,734	7%
Saint Hilda	3	4,312	-3%
Seaton	3	5,253	19%
Stranton	3	3,996	-10%
Throston	3	4,766	8%

2.7 With particular reference to the current electoral arrangements operated by Hartlepool Borough Council, the Commission must also have regard *“to the desirability of securing the appropriate number of Councillors in each ward of a District or Borough Council which elects by halves or by thirds”*. The 2009 legislation also requires the Commission to take into account any changes to the number and distribution of electors that are likely to place within the next 5 years. These projections therefore cover the period from the anticipated end of the review (2011) until 2016. Details of these projections as supplied by Tees Valley Unlimited are illustrated in Fig 3 below.

Fig 3

Name of unitary ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2010	Variance 2010	Electorate 2016	Variance 2016
Brus	3	4,801	8%	4,916	8%
Burn Valley	3	4,167	-6%	4,098	-10%
Dyke House	3	3,464	-22%	3,257	-20%
Elwick	1	1,683	14%	2,657	75%
Fens	3	4,070	-8%	4,022	-12%
Foggy Furze	3	3,850	-13%	3,939	-14%
Grange	3	4,112	-7%	4,074	-11%
Greatham	1	1,713	16%	1,677	-10%
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Park	3	4,636	5%	4,697	3%
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Seaton	3	5,253	19%	5,123	12%
Stranton	3	3,996	-10%	5,076	11%
Throston	3	4,766	8%	4,681	3%

2.8 The methodology for electorate projections for current boundaries is based on the following:

2.9 17+ Population

The projections for the number of electors in 2016 used the Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) 2009 based population projections for the 17+ population for the whole Borough of Hartlepool. This has just been updated to incorporate the recently produced 2009 Mid Year Estimates from ONS. The projections are done using the POPGROUP software developed by Manchester University and used extensively across Local Authorities and regional bodies in England and Wales. The 17+ population is used as the electoral register comprises all of those aged 17 or over when the register comes into effect.

2.10 The projections use national trends in birth and death rates and local migration information from the National Health Service Central Register. The ratio between the number of electors on the current Electoral Register and the TVU's projection for the 2010 17+ population is applied to the 17+ population for 2016. This gives an estimate for the total number of 2016 Electors for the Borough. If there were no change in the housing stock at all, the numbers of electors in each Ward or Polling District could be calculated by applying this ratio to the individual Ward/Polling District 2010 electorate.

2.11 New Housing

Housing information was provided by the Hartlepool Borough Planning Officers showing the exact locations of identified sites with planning permission (as at the end of June, 2010) along with the expected number of houses to be built to 2016. TVU holds Local Authority boundary information in digitised format that allows the sites to be allocated to the relevant Ward or Polling District. Each new house is projected to generate just less than 2 electors (see below). From this, the initial figure for the number of electors is calculated as the current number of electors plus 2 electors for each new house (or minus 2 electors for each clearance). Once all the adjustments for the new housing have been made, all Wards or Polling Districts are adjusted equally so that they sum to the Hartlepool Borough 2016 total electorate.

2.12 Electors per House

Movers tend to be younger people, often with families and with two or more adults present; fewer older people move for whom there are more single elector households. Hence the number of electors per household for movers is assumed to be higher than the overall average – this is confirmed by looking at Elector numbers in new properties built since 2001: for Hartlepool as a whole, the number of electors living in newer houses was 1.84 and this figure has been used for new build.

3. The Borough of Hartlepool

- 3.1 Hartlepool is located on the North East coast within the Tees Valley sub-region. It is a compact town, combining dense urban areas, an established marina and expanding suburbs with a number of distinct rural villages set in attractive countryside. The A19 passes through the western rural part of the Borough and the A1(M) is close by. Trains travel along the east coast connecting Hartlepool to Newcastle, the rest of the Tees Valley, York and London. Hartlepool also has a significant port facility and a world-class marina as well as easy access to both Durham Tees Valley and Newcastle Airports.
- 3.2 Hartlepool retains a clearly defined sense of its own history and identity, with a population of 91,900. The diverse nature of Hartlepool's population presents many challenges for the delivery of services which the Local Authority continues to successfully meet. This being illustrated by the award of either 'Excellent' or '4 Star' status in every Comprehensive Performance Assessment and a rating of 3 out of 4 through last years Comprehensive Area Assessment. It has been recognised that a quarter of the local population have 'limiting long term illnesses'. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the national averages and deaths from heart disease and cancer are significantly higher than average. The Borough also features a slightly higher proportion of both children and older people than the national average. Slightly less than 2% of the population are from Black and Ethnic minority communities. All told, 2.6% (ONS, 2007) of the total population are of groups other than 'White British'.
- 3.3 The Borough of Hartlepool comprises three distinct geographical elements:
- the main urban area of Hartlepool including Seaton Carew and the industrial areas to the south
 - an attractive rural hinterland within which lie the five villages of Hart, Elwick, Dalton Piercy, Greatham and Newton Bewley and,
 - the residential, employment and recreational area at Wynyard
- (Hartlepool Core Strategy Issues and Options, October 2007)*
- 3.4 The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2007) ranks Hartlepool 19 out of 354 English districts (% of population in the worst 10% of wards). There are currently 17 wards in Hartlepool, as follows:

Elwick	Park	*Owton
Hart	**Grange	**Rossmere
*Brus	**Stranton	**Fens
*Saint Hilda	**Burn Valley	Greatham
**Throston	**Rift House	Seaton
*Dyke House	**Foggy Furze	

*Full wards which fall within the worst 10% (IMD 2007)

**Part wards which fall within the worst 10% (IMD 2007)

- 3.5 The Hartlepool Partnership provides the strategic partnership for the town and oversees the preparation and delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy, Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy and Local Area Agreement. The Partnership includes key public, private and community sector representation with the Council providing the strategic management and servicing of the partnership. The elected Mayor is the chair of the Partnership. First published in 2002, the Community Strategy has been updated and the current strategy document which is entitled 'Hartlepool's Ambition' covers the period 2008 to 2020.

- 3.6 Hartlepool's Sustainable Communities Strategy establishes the vision of the town as being:-

'Hartlepool will be a thriving, respectful, inclusive, healthy, ambitious and outward looking community, in an attractive and safe environment, where everyone is able to realise their potential.'

The goal is:-

"To regenerate Hartlepool by promoting economic, social and environmental wellbeing in a sustainable manner."

- 3.7 The Neighbourhood Renewal Area (NRA) comprises full or part wards as shown above which fall within the worst 10% of wards as they do not meet the standards in the following key areas / themes (see generally below).

Jobs & Economy	Environment
Lifelong Learning & Skills	Housing
Health & Wellbeing	Culture & Leisure
Community Safety	Strengthening Communities

3.8 Community Strategy Objectives for each of these themes are;

- [Jobs and the Economy](#)-Develop a more enterprising, vigorous and diverse local economy that will attract new investment, enable local enterprises and entrepreneurs to be globally competitive and create more employment opportunities for local people.
- [Lifelong Learning and Skills](#)-All children, young people, individuals, groups and organisations are enabled to achieve their full potential through equal access to the highest quality education, lifelong learning and training opportunities.
- [Health and Wellbeing](#)-Work in partnership with the people of Hartlepool to promote and ensure the best possible health and wellbeing.
- [Community Safety](#)-Make Hartlepool a safer place by reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, and tackling drugs and alcohol misuse.
- [Environment](#)-Secure and enhance an attractive and sustainable environment that is clean, green, safe and valued by the community.
- [Housing](#)-Ensure that there is access to good quality and affordable housing in sustainable neighbourhoods and communities where people want to live.
- [Culture and Leisure](#)-Create a cultural identity for Hartlepool which attracts people to Hartlepool and makes us proud to live and work here.
- [Strengthening Communities](#)-Empower individuals, groups and communities, and increase the involvement of citizens in all decisions that affect their lives.

3.9 Communities across the NRA have been identified as part of the Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) process, the boundaries of which take into account natural and man-made boundaries. Some of the NAP boundaries straddle over two or three wards.

3.10 Hartlepool's current population (91,900) has increased by 3,300 on the 2001 Census¹. Approximately 20% of the population are under 16, 12% of the population are aged 16 – 24; 25% are aged 25 – 44; 23% are aged 45 to retirement and; 19% are aged retirement and over¹.

3.11 61% of the population are of working age, 25.3% of which receive key benefits¹. 71.4% of those of working age are economically active with

62.7% of these in employment¹. The official unemployment rate (based on the working age population) is 7.0%.

- 3.12 29.5% of children are in poverty in the town¹. In 1999, the Government pledged a commitment to eradicate child poverty from a national baseline of 3.4 million children who were living in poverty during 1998 / 99. This resulted in the establishment of Government targets to cut child poverty by a quarter by 2004 / 05, by half by 2010 / 11 and to eradicate child poverty by 2020. The eradication of child poverty is a key target in Hartlepool's Local Area Agreement (LAA) between 2008 and 2011, with Hartlepool Borough Council being one of only 45 Local Authorities in the country to include NI 116 as a priority target. Under this indicator, the Council has a responsibility to respond to reduce the proportion of children in poverty, specifically in the delivery of the key public services that are critical to improving poor children's life chances; co-ordination of activities by key players to reduce worklessness and poverty; the tailoring of solutions to meet the needs of local people and ensuring engagement of individuals and groups at risk of being marginalised. As part of the LAA refresh the 2010 / 11 target has been revised to be expressed in terms of the gap between Hartlepool and other North East Authorities. Child poverty also features prominently in the Sustainable Communities Strategy (2008).

Source: Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee, Interim Report, Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion in Hartlepool, April 2010

- 3.13 Nearly a quarter of Hartlepool residents (25%) feel that they need to improve their literacy and / or numeracy². This presents many challenges and it is particularly important, therefore, for Ward Members to interact with their constituents on a face-to-face basis, ensuring that they serve the whole community.
- 3.14 Hartlepool has a population density (persons per hectare) of 9.8, with 40,500 households and 42,100 dwellings¹. 51% of households are owner occupiers, 36% are social sector renters and; 12% are private renters². In terms of house types, 14.3% are detached houses, 29.3% are semi-detached, 37% are terraced housing, 8.9% bungalows, 9.8% flats/maisonettes and 0.7% other accommodation types. Terraced housing is concentrated in the wards in and around the central area of town.
- 3.15 93% of residents are satisfied with their accommodation and 67% are very satisfied². 12% of households feel that run down properties are a problem in Hartlepool². 38% of households have a weekly gross income of between £100 and £300 which equates to between £5,200 and £15,600 per annum². 23% of working age residents have GCSE (grades A-C) / Vocational GCSE². 63.1% of the working age population have achieved an NVQ2 or over².

¹ Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit, 2010

² Ipsos MORI, 2008

- 3.16 The Local Development Framework (LDF) provides the spatial element of the Community Strategy. The LDF has until recently been required to be in general compliance with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) which sets the regional strategic framework for planning including the establishment of targets for new housing development, employment, land allocations and strategic infrastructure. On 6th July 2010 the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the revocation of Regional Spatial Strategies with immediate effect. This decision is subject to a legal challenge. The indication from government is, however, that they are looking to transfer decision-making away from the regional level down to the local level with councils and local communities having a greater say in the determination of local planning policy and priorities.
- 3.17 The RSS established housing targets for each individual local authority area over the plan period (originally 2004-21). For Hartlepool the total net housing growth figure was 2750 dwellings over this period with an annual target of between 390 and 400. Whilst the revocation of the RSS would remove the obligation on the Council of achieving these targets, the evidence of need established through strategic housing market assessments and the Councils ambition of growth identified in local and sub-regional regeneration strategies, supports the need to deliver significant growth targets. In view of the recent downturn in new house building resulting from the credit crunch and the reduced availability of public funding to support house building, the Council is currently reviewing its housing projections. Whilst this work is not yet complete, initial assessments suggest that the annual target may reduce to nearer 350 per annum, with the Elwick and Stranton wards being the ones most likely to see reduced growth over the short to medium term.
- 3.18 The Council is currently preparing its Core Strategy which as well as providing the strategic planning policy framework will identify those areas where new development and growth should take place. The Council is currently at the 'Preferred Options' stage where interested parties are being consulted on proposed policies. Proposals for housing reflect national priorities in seeking to balance supply and demand, support sustainable growth, provide affordable homes and improve sustainability and design.
- 3.19 In broad terms the 'preferred' form of development over the next 15 years is for compact urban growth which will seek to consolidate new development within the existing built up area of Hartlepool – on brown-field and undeveloped sites, but with some significant areas of growth on green-field land to the west and south-west of the current built-up area. The main new development area will provide

approximately 2,750 new dwellings (of which 500 are predicted to be built by 2016) on land to the west/south west of the Fens and Owton areas (currently part of the Elwick ward). Smaller sites (50-100 dwellings) are proposed along the western edge of town within the Park and Clavering areas.

3.20 The other main areas of housing development – based on existing planning consents and estimated start and build rates are expected to be within the marina/Mainsforth Terrace area (Stranton ward), Middle Warren (Hart ward), the hospital site (Brus ward). As part of the Council's housing regeneration programme, a key issue is the quality of the local housing stock which is characterised by large areas of older, terraced properties with limited amenities which are in low demand. Since 2003, the Council, along with its housing partners have pursued a programme of housing market renewal focussing on some of the worst areas. A strategic intervention programme is being pursued involving clearance of 1300 -1500 properties and replacement with 600-700 new sustainable homes, principally within Stranton, Dyke House and Foggy Furze). Planning policies are also proposed to be included in the Core strategy which will seek to secure a minimum level of 10% affordable housing on any new developments of over 15 units. Depending on location and local demand this provision could be transferred to alternative sites within the main housing regeneration areas.

3.21 Hartlepool's compact central area includes several town centre communities who have easy access to both town centre and local facilities. Successful community regeneration programmes including New Deal for Communities, Working Neighbourhoods Funding, and Neighbourhood Action Plan, Housing Market Renewal Funding and neighbourhood management activities have helped create strong local communities and encouraged active participation in local decision making. Whilst at the current time future public funding towards these areas is uncertain the key focus of community regeneration is likely to remain on the wards of Dyke House, Stranton, Grange, Foggy Furze, Rift House, Burn Valley, St Hilda, Brus, Owton and Throston.

3.22 In terms of broader regeneration activities, the Council's focus is towards investment in the central area of town. The main priorities revolve around continuing development of the marina area for mixed-use commercial, leisure and residential development; and, development of an Innovation and Skills Quarter (ISQ) which will support expansion plans for the two main higher/further education establishments, create new business start-up facilities and secure high quality environment as a means of attracting visitors and investment. Adjacent to the town centre and marina, plans are being pursued to increase investment in the port. Original proposals for a mixed use development of 83 hectares of land (including up to 3000 dwellings) have been shelved by the owners of the port in favour of

investment in large scale offshore wind and renewable energy development. This will lead to a significant increase in new job opportunities. The loss of the port land for housing has however led to the need to allocate new housing sites to the west and south-west of the town.

3.23 Beyond the central area, regeneration priorities include developing the town's tourism economy including enhancement and development opportunities at Seaton Carew, the Headland and the coastal fringes. The other main focus is on supporting and encouraging investment in the Southern Business Zone – which incorporates 17 individual industrial estates and business parks which ranging from small local businesses to large scale multi-national manufacturing companies.

3.24 The coalition government has recently announced the abolition of regional development agencies and their replacement with more 'streamlined' local enterprise partnerships (LEPs). Details of how LEPs will function are still to be determined but government have indicated that they should provide strategic leadership in their areas and set out local economic priorities. They will be expected to create the right environment for business and growth by tackling issues such as planning, housing, local transport and infrastructure priorities. LEPs will be expected to form effective partnerships involving businesses and civic leaders with equal representation. At the time of preparing this submission, it is known that Tees Valley Unlimited (TVU) has submitted a bid to become a LEP covering the five Tees Valley Local Authority areas (Hartlepool, Stockton, Darlington, Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland).

3.25 There are currently 5 Parish Councils within the Borough:

- Dalton Percy
- Elwick
- Greatham
- Hart
- Headland

and 3 Parish Meetings

- Brierley
- Claxton
- Newton Bewley

with a large area of the Borough being un-parished.

All the parishes are single warded and represent 9% of the electorate in the Borough.

3.26 The existence of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings provides a valuable additional layer of representation for the electorate locally, allowing for divergent views to be aired in a local environment, giving way for specific issues to be dealt with by the Parish Council or directed to the Borough Council. Parish Councils and their elected parish members, can assist the Borough Councillors who represent parished areas, in particular for those Borough Councillors whose Ward are geographically 'rural' and covers several parish councils. By comparison, in un-parished areas, there may be residents associations or other forums at which local issues are considered. An important factor of effective and convenient local government for parish councils is a direct and supportive partnership with the Borough Councillor(s) representing their area – in Hartlepool close working relationships exist and enhance the wellbeing for the parish electorate.

4.. Statutory Criteria considered when developing warding arrangements

(i) Equality of Representation

We have aimed to ensure as nearly as possible equality of electoral representation, whilst maintaining community identity.

The current ratio of electors to Councillor as well as the projections to 2016, are exhibited below in fig 4 based on current ward.

Fig 4 Current Councillor to Electors Ratios

Ward	Properties	Electors 2010	Ratio 2010	Electors 2016	Ratio 2016
Brus	3017	4797	1:1599	4916	1:1639
Burn Valley	2706	4150	1:1383	4098	1:1366
Dyke House	2527	3465	1:1155	3257	1:1086
Elwick	939	1677	1:1677	2657	1:2657
Fens	2198	4063	1:1354	4022	1:1341
Foggy Furze	2336	3842	1:1281	3939	1:1313
Grange	2636	4100	1:1367	4074	1:1358
Greatham	917	1698	1:1698	1677	1:1677
Hart	3156	5145	1:1715	5445	1:1815
Oulton	2646	4078	1:1359	4026	1:1342
Park	2352	4632	1:1544	4697	1:1566
Rift House	2786	4635	1:1545	4678	1:1559
Rossmere	2802	4752	1:1584	4759	1:1586

Saint Hilda	2709	4306	1:1435	4246	1:1415
Seaton	2801	5250	1:1750	5123	1:1708
Stranton	3202	3984	1:1328	5076	1:1392
Throston	2617	4756	1:1585	4681	1:1560

Insert figures for 11 wards 33 councillors

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(ii) Effective and Convenient Local Government

- 4.2 The Coalition Government have indicated in their “Programme for Government” that “localism” will feature strongly in their radical programme for reform relating to communities and local government. It is detailed within that document:

“The Government believes that it is time for a fundamental shift of power from Westminster to people. We will promote decentralisation and democratic engagement, and we will end the era of top down government by giving new powers to local Councils, communities, neighbourhoods and individuals”.

- 4.3 This potential seismic change will involve the promotion and radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government” as well as to community groups. Indeed some of the measures indicated through the Coalition Government will have a fundamental impact upon the role of elected Members and the delivery of effective and convenient local government. The above agenda is a wide and comprehensive series of planned reforms which will have an impact both for this Council and local government in general. Some of the planned reforms impacting upon local authorities and their communities are further set out below and include:

- The creation of “directly elected Mayors” (which has clear resonance for Hartlepool Borough Council), *“subject to confirmatory referendums and full scrutiny by elected Councillors”.*
- Councils to have a *“general power of competence”*
- To allow Councils *“to return to the Committee system, should they wish to”*
- A radical reform of the Planning system *“to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, based on the principles set out in the Conservative party publication “Open Source Planning”.*
- The provision of *“incentives for local authorities to deliver sustainable development, including the new homes and businesses”.*
- That Councillors will be *“given the power to vote on large salary packages for unelected Council officials”.*

- 4.4 The White Paper: “Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS” (2010) also heralds the transfer of PCT health improvement functions to local authorities, building upon the “wellbeing” powers of local authorities. This will require local authorities to promote the “joining

up” of local NHS services, social care and health improvement. These proposals are designed to achieve “local democratic legitimacy” through, for example, the operation of Health and Wellbeing Boards, adopting a strategic approach through the integration of health and safeguarding services with the involvement of local authority members being pivotal.

4.5 This legislative programme will have a fundamental impact upon the “future shape” of this Council as well as the representational roles and community engagement/ involvement of Councillors.

4.6 When considering proposals on warding arrangements, there has also been consideration of the LGBCE technical guidance. In particular the impact on individual councillors where wards are not so large in terms of area or electorate or contain such a large number of parish councils, that it prevents a councillor from effectively representing the ward. Given that Hartlepool Borough Council elect by thirds, and the proposed 11 wards each contain 3 councillors, it is considered the impact will be minimal.

4.7 As in the earlier submission consideration has been given to ‘Comprehensive Performance Assessment’ (2007) of the Borough that;

“Councillors of all parties are involved in community leadership; for example, the five Scrutiny Committees are actively supported by Resident Representatives, and Neighbourhood Consultative Forums, involve all Ward Councillors in effective engagement with local communities”.

4.8 In their Comprehensive Area Assessment (2009) the Council were seen to be “performing well” and it was further noted;

“It is making good progress on its priorities and is contributing strongly to the Hartlepool Partnership initiatives. Hartlepool Council works well with its local partners on very challenging and ambitious plans to revitalise the town and secure a better future for the people of Hartlepool. It understands the local community and its needs well because it carries out a lot of research and involves local people and organisations in developing plans. It delivers good and improving services....”

4.9 Members of the Borough Council are involved in a variety of outside bodies (**Appendix 1**) and there is also a close connection with the many voluntary organisations and bodies operating within the

Borough (**Appendix 2**). This engagement illustrates the “diversity” of the Council in its involvement with its community. The Council is somewhat unique in that it operates an electoral scheme based on election by thirds. This retains some consistency and experience within the membership of the Council and avoids any deficit or dilution of the skills and experience of Members operating as a corporate body and as individuals acting as community champions have particular knowledge of their communities, its needs, requirements and aspirations. Consequently the development of a “professional Councillor” is to be avoided, in that the current arrangements and remuneration through allowances provides effective engagement and value for money as well as present accountability of Members to their communities.

(iii) Community Identity

4.10 Community identity is hard to define. In the LGBCE’s technical guidance community identity is defined by the location of public facilities such as doctors’ surgeries, hospitals, residents’ associations, libraries or schools. For others an area’s history and tradition may be the basis of its sense of community identity. Some areas may be subject to development and population dispersal. Major roads could be seen to be the focus of an area if they are the location of shops or community facilities which people visit regularly. Also major roads, rivers or railway lines are physical barriers marking the boundary between different communities.

4.11 This submission has considered all these factors in producing its findings in relation to the pattern of proposed wards within the Borough of Hartlepool.

4.12 Each of these issues has been extensively reviewed and considered by the authority with supportive reasoning contained within this submission. This submission presents the case for the recommended **Warding arrangements for Hartlepool Borough Council**

5 Proposed Warding Arrangements for Hartlepool Borough Council

The Working Party developed its warding arrangement proposal firstly by Accepting the LGBCE decision on council size of 33 Councillors and a pattern of 11 wards each containing 3 councillors.

This gave the target for each Councillor to represent an electorate of 6500

The Working Party then identified the main communities within the town, which are shown on the map on the following page. It also identified any manmade or natural barriers, such as major roads or rivers that acted as boundaries between communities. Using their local knowledge of the communities within the town it then proposed warding arrangements that would reflect the community identities and interests of the town, whilst also ensuring that the proposals would deliver electoral equality. In some cases, this meant that several communities would need to be brought together in a single ward, even if they did not share the same community identity.

The tables below provide a description of the proposed ward arrangement together with the rationale as to how these warding arrangements have been developed, the proposed 11 wards and proposed names. Every effort has been made to ensure that the proposed warding arrangements reflect community identities and any natural or man made physical barriers such as railway lines, rivers and roads that mark the boundaries of different communities.

MAP A - Natural boundaries



MAP B – Current ward pattern – TO BE INSERTED



MAP C – Proposed ward pattern – TO BE INSERTED

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The proposed wards as shown on the map are described below in terms of reasoning, facilities and local identity in the following table. Ward sizes, including projected housing figures have been taken into account. Where it has been possible, natural boundaries have been used to determine the proposed wards, key routes, main roads, natural divides, railway lines etc. As is the case with some existing wards, some proposed wards will contain distinct communities. It is likely that Parishes would be largely unaffected by the proposed wards as people will still associate with their parish regardless of in which ward they fall.

The tables below shows how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

- equality of representation
- reflecting community interests and identities
- providing for convenient and effective local government

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The proposed wards as shown on the map are described below in terms of reasoning, facilities and local identity in the following table. Ward sizes, including projected housing figures have been taken into account. Where it has been possible, natural boundaries have been used to determine the proposed wards, key routes, main roads, natural divides, railway lines etc. As is the case with some existing wards, some proposed wards will contain distinct communities. It is likely that Parishes would be largely unaffected by the proposed wards as people will still associate with their parish regardless of in which ward they fall.

The table below shows how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria of:

- equality of representation
- reflecting community interests and identities
- providing for convenient and effective local government

Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
1 (South Ward)	6960	+7%	The proposed ward incorporates the west of Catcote Road and a residential area which forms part of the Fens estate. It is an area comprising private housing and former council houses and includes a proposed south west extension which incorporates extensive 'green wedge' and landscaping. Local connections include three primary schools: Rossmere, which has seen investment in through the Primary Capital funding, St Teresa's and Fens as well as three churches. Rossmere Park, which has play facilities and tea room available for use by the community is situated in the proposed ward. The Friends of Rossmere Park is an active group looking after the interests of the park. New investment will be seen in the area with the development of a skatepark. There is a collection of recreation and youth oriented space. The proposed ward has a good range of local facilities including shopping parades on lower Owton Manor Lane and Catcote Road. Rossmere Community Building, Rossmere Youth Centre and the Sure Start Centre are situated in the proposed ward as well as a number of public houses. The proposed ward increases access to community facilities for

			<p>residents living within the Fens estate.</p> <p>In relation to the forecast electoral variance of +7%, natural boundaries have been used to define the proposed ward and it is known that there will not be any major development in the future, particularly not by 2016.</p>
2 (Manor House Ward)	6908	+6%	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the Owton and Rift House (west of Catcote Road) communities. Historically these communities were built as one and share a broad range of community facilities within the proposed ward. The communities are physically connected and share similar neighbourhood issues. Shopping facilities include local shopping parades at Brierton Lane, Catcote Road, Wynyard Road and St. Patrick's on Owton Manor Lane. Shared community facilities include Owton Manor Community Centre and Library, Owton Rossmere Resource Centre, Manor West Centre, Rift House Community Building, Rift House Children's Centre, St. Columba Church Hall and the premises of the Solid Rock Youth Project, Manor Residents' Association and Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA), from which a variety of services are delivered. Manor College of Technology, English Martyrs School and Sixth Form College plus three primary schools: Owton Manor, Grange and Rift House as well as Catcote Special School are situated in the proposed ward, alongside a number of churches which serve the area. The former Brierton School site and Brierton Sports Centre are also situated in the proposed ward. Laurel Gardens, a sixty unit extra care facility is now open in Orwell Walk, with some of its facilities open to the local community. Summerhill Country Park and Visitors Centre, which serves the town, along with a quarry, Brierton Farm and Dalton Beck are also situated in the proposed ward. It also includes an area of proposed housing development.</p> <p>In relation to the forecast electoral variance of +6%, natural boundaries have been used to define the proposed ward and it is known that there will not be any major development in the future, particularly not by 2016.</p>
3	6832	+5%	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the area east of Catcote Road and a small area</p>

(Foggy Furze Ward)			<p>of Rossmere including Stranton cemetery and the area west of Belle Vue Way. It includes the communities of Belle Vue, Foggy Furze and Rift House. It incorporates a range of housing types and is also the focus of housing market renewal activity. Four primary schools are situated in the proposed ward including Stranton, which has a community learning centre attached to it, St. Aidan's, St. Cuthbert's and Kingsley. Five churches feature in the proposed ward, along with the Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre, Stranton Centre, recreation grounds serving the south of the town and a nursery. There are several main shopping parades and a range of individual shops throughout the area as well as a number of public houses.</p> <p>In relation to the forecast electoral variance of +5%, natural boundaries have been used to define the proposed ward and it is known that there will not be any major development in the proposed ward in the future, particularly not by 2016. However, if anything the variance may decrease if remaining older terraced housing is replaced with lower density new builds.</p>
4 (East Ward)	7346	+13%	<p>The proposed ward is bounded by the A689 which is the main route into the town. It incorporates the settlement of Seaton Carew, the coastal strip and the industrial land to the south (Southern Business Zone). Also included is Greatham village and the industrial parts of the existing Foggy Furze and Fens wards (also part of the Southern Business Zone) and the residential area of Rossmere to the east of Stockton Road (Jutland Road / Seaton Lane). The communities within the proposed ward are surrounded by similar industries and farming and have more in common together than with any other ward. It has a cluster of private sector businesses, particularly in the industrial parts and at Queens Meadow. Seaton Carew is a distinct settlement and a seaside resort with traditional seafront attractions. It has a library, community centre, shopping parades at Elizabeth Way and Station Lane, several public houses / clubs, golf course, cricket ground, local parks and playing fields. Five primary schools and a number of churches are situated in the proposed ward and are shared by the communities. A Post Office, a small number of shops and parade as well as a community centre and a number of public houses also feature in the proposed</p>

			<p>ward. The existing Greatham ward is mainly rural. The label given to an electoral ward does not diminish definite village communities, such as Greatham which will retain its own village identity. It will also benefit from a further two elected members as this would increase from one to three. It will also reduce the village's sense of isolation.</p> <p>Although the forecast electoral variance is outside of the tolerance at +13%, very strong and definite natural boundaries have defined the proposed ward. If the boundary had been defined differently, it would have been at the expense of another ward's forecast electorate and at the risk of destroying community identity.</p>
5 (Middleton Ward)	6212	-4%	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the main part of the town centre and adjacent town centre communities to the west. Shared facilities include three primary schools: Eldon Grove, Ward Jackson and St. Joseph's as well as 10 churches. To the north of Elwick Road there are large terraced streets and Victorian semi's and detached houses as well as small terraced streets in the south of the ward. It incorporates the main education area including Hartlepool Sixth Form College, Hartlepool College of Further Education and Cleveland College of Art & Design. It also includes a full range of town centre facilities (railway station, transport interchange, Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, central library and brewery). Burn Valley Gardens is situated in the proposed ward providing play facilities, bowling greens and open space (as part of a 'green wedge'). Family Wood, part of Tees Valley Community Forest also features in the proposed ward. A shopping parade along Elwick Road is included as well as a number of individual shops across the area. St. Matthew's Hall / Community Centre is situated in the proposed ward along with the Salvation Army.</p> <p>In relation to the forecast electoral variance of -4% it is known that there will not be any major development in the proposed ward in the future, particularly not by 2016.</p>

6 (West Ward)	6514	-	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the residential areas of Naisberry Park, West Park, Ward Jackson Park, as well as the villages of Elwick, Dalton, Wynyard, Newton Bewley and the surrounding rural area. All of these areas are made up largely by low density residential properties, including a range of executive and prestigious homes. They share similar environments and schools. The secondary school, High Tunstall College of Science, provides a link between these areas and the two primary schools: St. Peter's, Elwick, Church of England and West Park. A historic natural flow of households from the urban conurbation into the villages exists. The proposed ward contains the recreational areas of West Park Cricket Club, Throston Golf Club and Ward Jackson Park – a historic Victorian park with a café, community facilities and play area. There are also a number of public houses, a church, a supermarket and a range of individual shops situated within the proposed ward.</p> <p>Clear geographical lines have been used to define the proposed ward boundary. The label given to an electoral ward does not diminish definite village communities, which will retain their village identity. Also, the villages will benefit from a further two elected members as they increase from one to three. This will reduce the sense of isolation felt by residents in the villages. For example, residents within the Elwick village were left without a voice due to the illness of their only elected member which added to their isolation status.</p>
7 (Victoria Ward)	5554	-14%	<p>The proposed ward incorporates part of the town centre fringe with a mix of terraced houses and large Victorian / Edwardian town houses, built around the turn of the 20th century. Shared facilities include three primary schools including Sacred Heart, Lynnfield School, which has a community learning centre attached to it, along with Brougham Primary School with the Brougham Centre (a community centre) attached to it. Other links include a number of churches including Grange Road Methodist Church which has a resource centre attached to it, along with the Nasir Mosque in Brougham Terrace. A local shopping centre at Murray Street including a multi-cultural centre (Salaam Centre), a number of shops along Duke Street and a supermarket serve the community. In</p>

			<p>addition, there are a number of social clubs in the area. The proposed ward would take in part of the town centre fringe comprising Hartlepool United Football Club, Mill House Leisure Centre, Town Hall Theatre, Civic Centre and Police station. North Cemetery features prominently and the Friends of North Cemetery strive to improve it in many ways. The proposed ward is also the focus of housing market renewal activity.</p> <p>Although the forecast electoral variance is outside of the tolerance at -14%, very clear geographical boundaries have defined the proposed ward. If the boundary had been defined differently, it would have been at the expense of another ward's forecast electorate and at the risk of destroying community identity. There is the potential for the number of households in the proposed ward to increase beyond 2016 with the benefit of local knowledge.</p>
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8 (Heritage Ward)	6767	+5%	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the Headland, Central Estate and marina communities, which surround the operational port and Victoria Harbour and which share the maritime heritage. The key tourist areas of the Headland and marina share strong common themes and include the visitors centre and Heugh Gun Battery. The marina also incorporates adjacent housing and mixed use areas with access to the town centre shopping and leisure facilities. Both the Headland and marina have benefited significantly from recent regeneration activities. Local connections include two primary schools, a number of churches, two local shopping parades, several community / sport and leisure centres and a number of public houses. The proposed ward also includes the Town Square, Borough Hall, several large converted civic buildings, a retail park, rugby ground, football ground, cemetery, open space / play area, operational Port Authority land and a working fish quay. The Central Estate Management Organisation (CEMO), a community owned company made up of residents of the Central estate serves the Central community. The proposed ward also incorporates part of the town centre comprising the docks, Hartlepool Maritime Experience, Navigation Point and Yacht Club.</p> <p>In relation to the forecast electoral variance of +5% this is unlikely to change as proposed developments have been included in the projected electorate forecast.</p>
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9 (Jesmond Ward)	6083	-6%	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the communities of Throston (South of Throston Grange Lane) and Dyke House as well as part of Oakesway Industrial estate. It comprises a range of housing types. The communities share amenities including Grayfields sport and recreation facilities, which serves the north of the town. Dyke House Sports & Technology College which is currently being re-developed through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Two primary schools plus Jesmond School which will be a new build with investment through Primary Capital funding and Springwell Special School are also situated in the proposed ward. Shared community facilities include Throston Grange Community Centre, Wharton Annexe, the Avondale Centre attached to Dyke House Sports & Technology College and Chatham House, all of which provide a range of services and activities to the local community. The recently refurbished St. Oswald's Church Hall is also available for use by the community. Other connections include a local centre at the top of Wilshire Way, a small shopping parade on Chatham Road and individual shops across the proposed ward. Two libraries and two churches also serve the local community and Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, which houses a wide range of small businesses and start-up facilities is situated in the proposed ward. The Dyke House area is the focus of significant housing market renewal activity.</p> <p>In relation to the forecast electoral variance of -6% this allows for any additional build as the economic climate improves, however, no development is currently planned. It is very unlikely that the forecast electorate will decrease by 2016.</p>
10 (Warren Grange Ward)	6774	+4%	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the communities of Clavering, Middle Warren and Hart Village. It comprises a new housing development which is still in progress as well as a more established area within Clavering estate. It also incorporates Hart village, sharing a commonality between the north western rural fringe and the edge of the urban area. Connections include Clavering and Hart Primary Schools, a community centre and play area, small local centre, two supermarkets and public houses serving the local community. The Joseph Rowntree extra care village is situated in the proposed ward. A caravan park,</p>

			<p>Hart Reservoirs and a 'green wedge' (informal play area) and recreation area also feature in the proposed ward.</p> <p>The boundaries of the proposed ward are very clear geographical separations. The label given to an electoral ward does not diminish definite village communities, which will retain their village identity. Also, the village will benefit from a further two elected members as they increase from one to three. This will reduce the sense of isolation felt by residents in the village.</p>
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11 (Debruce Ward)	5504	-15%	<p>The proposed ward includes the communities of West View and King Oswy. The defining boundary is Easington Road. It also includes part of Oakesway Industrial Estate. Connections are around St. Hild's Secondary School and three primary schools: Bamard Grove, West View and St. John Vianney's as well as six churches of varying denominations and West View Community Centre and Library. Two main shopping areas in King Oswy and Brus corner and a number of public houses also feature in the proposed ward. Hartlepool Hospital, which serves the town is based in the proposed ward, along with West View cemetery, Mayfield Park Rugby Club, King George v playing field, golf course and West View Youth Project.</p> <p>There is a link between Hartlepool and the Debruce family with the proposed ward. In relation to the forecast electoral variance of -15% this allows for any additional build. There is currently a planning application to develop around 500 extra dwellings along the coast line in the proposed ward. It is likely that these will be developed by 2016, subject to planning permission. This would increase forecast electoral numbers by between 500 and 800. The opportunity also exists for development in Hart village or beyond.</p>
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6 Consultation

The Working Party shared its proposals with the wider Council membership. Once the Working Party had come up with its first draft set of proposals it consulted via party political groups, so that Councillors who were not on the Working Party were able to comment on the proposals first-hand.

This exercise received a decent response from councillors, comments from which were used to facilitate further deliberations by the Working Party.

7 Conclusion:

8 Recommendations;

DRAFT

APPENDIX 1

Outside Bodies 2010 - 2011

Archives Joint Committee	1 Member
Cleveland Emergency Planning Joint Committee	1 Member
Association of North East Councils	2 Members
Executive	1 Member
Hartlepool Economic Forum	1 Member
Hartlepool Partnership	7 Members
Hartlepool Revival Board	1 Member
Local Government Association	
General Assembly	2 Members
Urban Commission	1 Member
Rural Commission	1 Member
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	1 Member
Safer Hartlepool Partnership	4 Members
Executive	1 Member
Tees Valley Leaders & Chief Executives Meeting	2 Members
Tees Valley Unlimited	
Leadership Board	1 Member
Planning and Economic Strategy	1 Member
Transport Tees Valley	1 Member
Housing Board	1 Member
Regional Flood Defence Committee	1 Member
(Rotates 2-yearly with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)	
Schools Admission Forum	5 Members of the Children's Services

Scrutiny Forum

Tall Ships Board

Executive Members

4 Members of the
Executive

Non-Executive Members

7 members

Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

3 Members of Health
Scrutiny Forum

Tees Valley Local Access Forum

1 Member

Association for Public Service Excellence

2 Members

Durham Coast Rail Line Steering Group

1 Member

Durham Heritage Coast Partnership Steering Group

1 Member

Hartlepool and District Sports Council

3 Members

Hartlepool Power Station Community Liaison Committee

4 Members

Housing Hartlepool

4 Members

HMS Trincomalee Trust (3 year term expires 2011)

2 Members

National Society for Clean Air

3 Members

Museums Libraries Archives North East

1 Member

Northern Consortium of Housing Authorities

2 Members

North East Strategic Migration Partnership

1 Member

North East Rural Affairs Commission

1 Member

Regional Arts Council

1 Member

Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

2 Members

Tees Valley Arts – Board of Directors

1 Member

North East Purchasing Organisation

3 Members

Cleveland Police Authority

3 Members

Cleveland Police Joint Committee

4 Members

North Eastern Sea Fisheries Committee

1 Member

Local Joint Consultative Committee

9 Members

National Association of Councillors Northern Branch	3 Members
General Management Committee	3 Members
North East Regional Employers Organisation	3 Members
Executive	1 Member
Teesside Pension Fund	1 Member
Tees Valley Environmental Protection Group	3 Members
Together Project Steering Group	5 Members
Age Concern Teesside	1 Member
Brierton Community Sports Centre Management Committee	1 Member
Cleveland Fire Authority	4 Members
Durham Tees Valley Airport Board	1 Member
Durham Tees Valley Airport Consultative Committee	1 Member
Furness Seamen's Pension Fund	2 Members
Hartbeat (Barnado's)	1 Member
Hartlepool Access Group	2 Members
Hartlepool Carers	1 Member
Hartlepool Citizen's Advice Bureau	2 Members
Hartlepool Deaf Centre	2 Members
Hartlepool Fair Trade Town Steering Group	1 Member
Hartlepool Families First	1 Member
Hartlepool Indoor Bowling Club	1 Member
Hartlepool People Centre	1 Member
Hartlepool Voluntary Development Agency	3 Members
Hartlepool War Memorial and Crosby Homes	1 Member
Henry Smith Educational Trust	4 Members
Heugh Battery Trust	1 Member

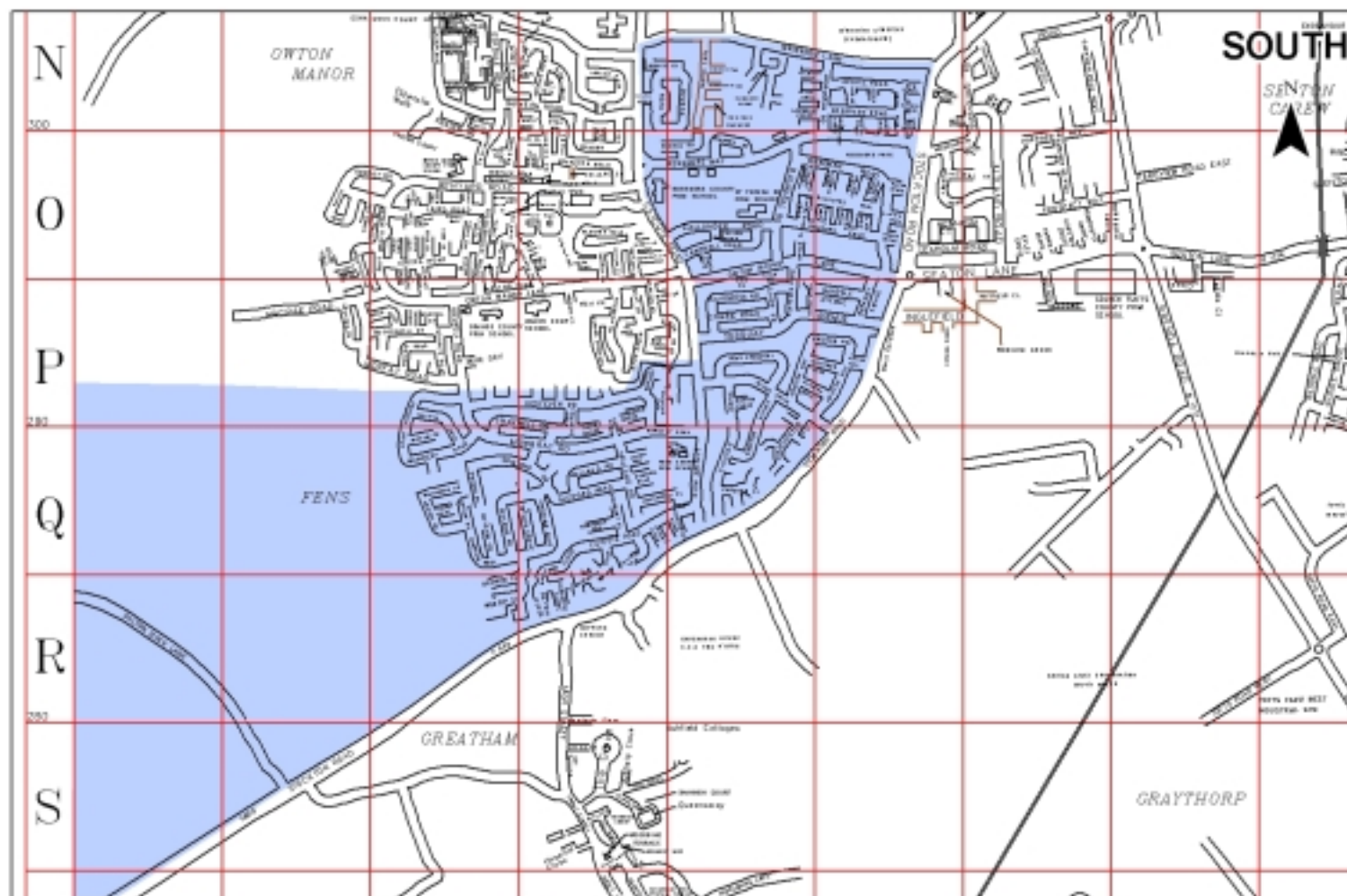
Merchant Navy Welfare Board	1 Member
New Deal for Communities Steering Group	3 Members
North Tees Women's Aid	1 Member
Northern Regional Brass Band Trust	1 Member
Outdoor Bowls Consortium	2 Members
Owton Fens Community Association	2 Members
Owton Rossmere Community Enterprise Limited	1 Member
PATCH Management Committee	1 Member
Preston Simpson Scholarship in Music	3 Members
River Tees Port Health Authority	2 Members
Sarah Alice Todd Charity	2 Members
Seaton Community Centre	3 Members
SITA Board	1 Member
Sterndale Scholarship	2 Members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum
The Studio Management Committee	1 Member
Teesside Environmental Trust	1 Member
Teesmouth Field Centre	1 Member
Tees Valley Community Foundation – Grant Giving Panel	1 Member
Victoria and Jubilee Homes	4 Members
West View Advice and Resource	1 Member
West View Project	3 Members

APPENDIX 2

There are a large number of Residents Associations and other groups operating within the Borough, involving Members in their respective communities. The following table identifies some of those groups; in order to provide an illustration of that community (and Member) involvement. The community / voluntary sector is a key partner in the design and delivery of services that communities want. The Hartlepool Compact aims to strengthen the relationship between the public sector and the community / voluntary sector, working towards shared objectives to improve the quality of people's lives within Hartlepool.

Ward	Residents Association
Elwick	None
Hart	Clavering and Hart Station Residents Association Hartfields Residents Association
Brus	Brus Ward Residents Association
Saint Hilda	Headland Residents Association Friends of Regent Square Moorside Residents Association Galley's Field Residents Association
Throston	Throston Grange Residents Association Springwell Residents Association Middle Warren Action Group
Dyke House	Dyke House Residents Association Middleton & Raby Road Action Group Lancaster Road Residents Association Friends of North Cemetery
Park	Park Residents Association
Grange	Cobden Area Residents Association Lynnfield Area Residents Association Hartwell Residents Association Hutton Avenue Residents Association
Stranton	Dent / Derwent Residents Association Furness, Cameron & Belk Residents Association
Burn Valley	Burn Valley North Residents Association Oxford Road Residents Association
Rift House	Rift House Community Association Rift House East Residents Association

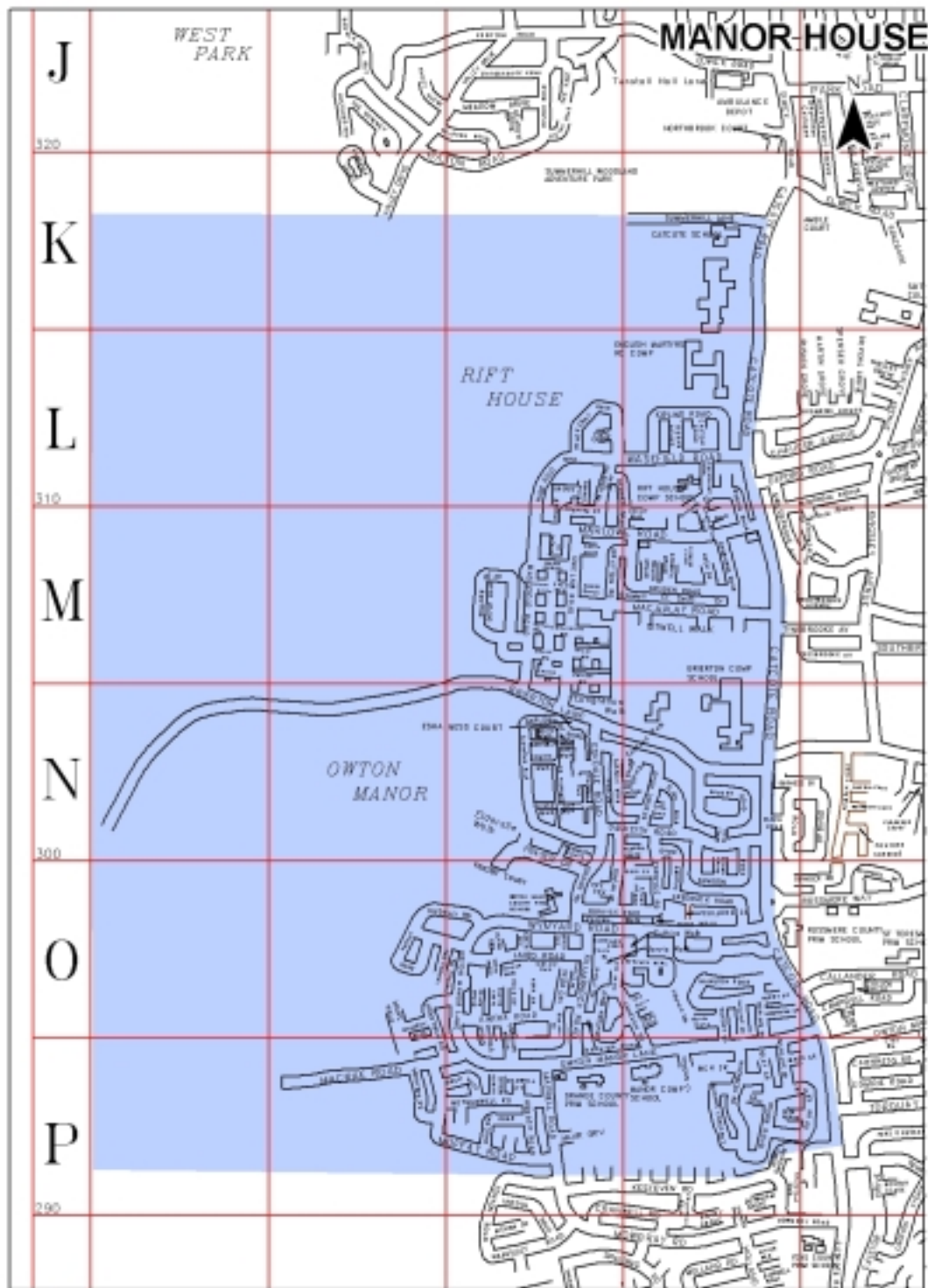
Foggy Furze	St. Cuthbert's Residents Association Stockton Road Residents Association Belle Vue Residents Association
Owton	Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA) Manor Residents Association Owton Manor West Neighbourhood Watch & RA
Rossmere	Bramley Court Residents Association Friends of Rossmere Park Rossmere Residents Group (Section A East)
Fens	Fens Residents Association
Greatham	Greatham Community Association
Seaton	Elmtree Community Action Group Elmtree Park Community Association Seaton Carew Residents Association



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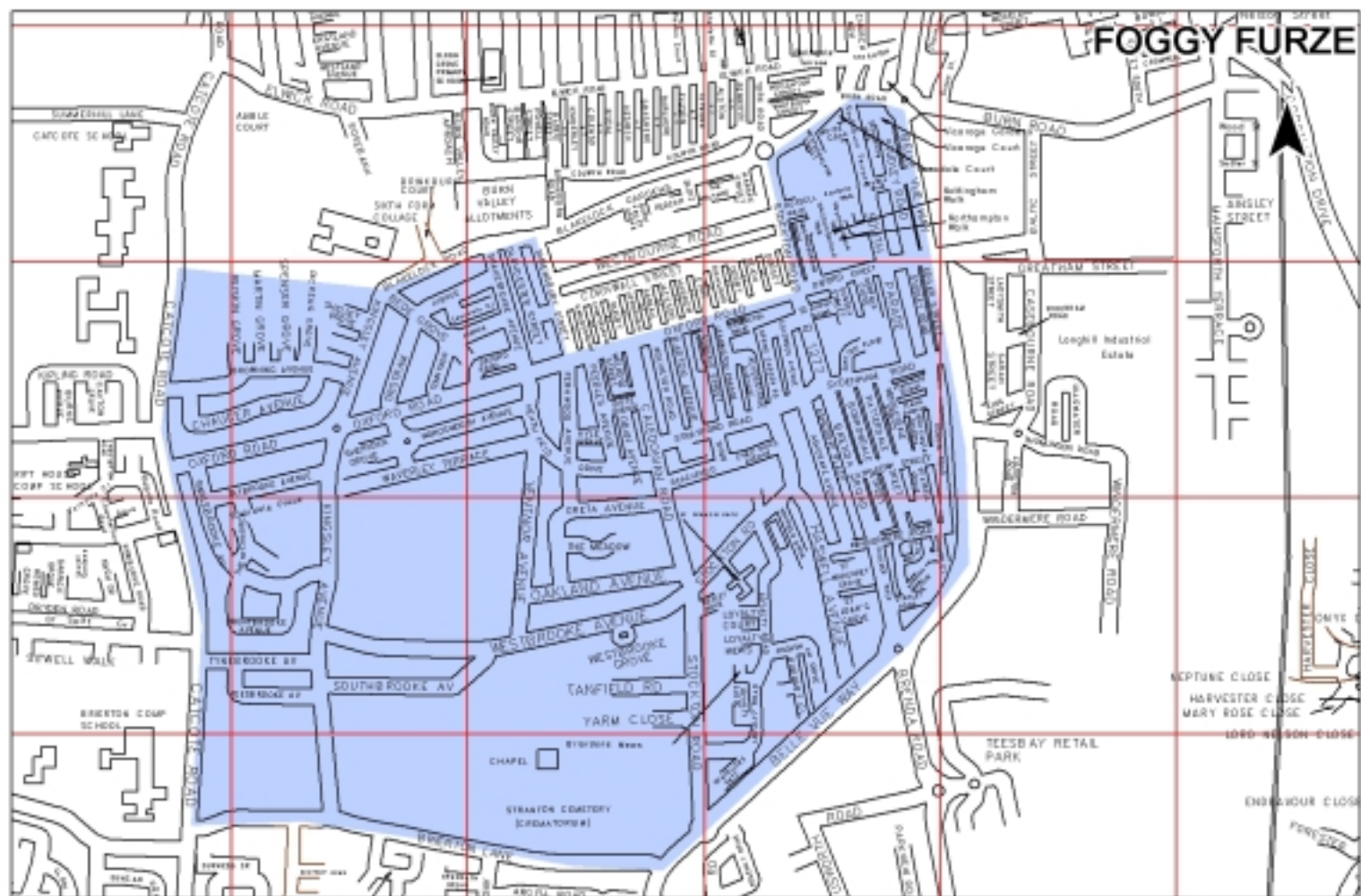
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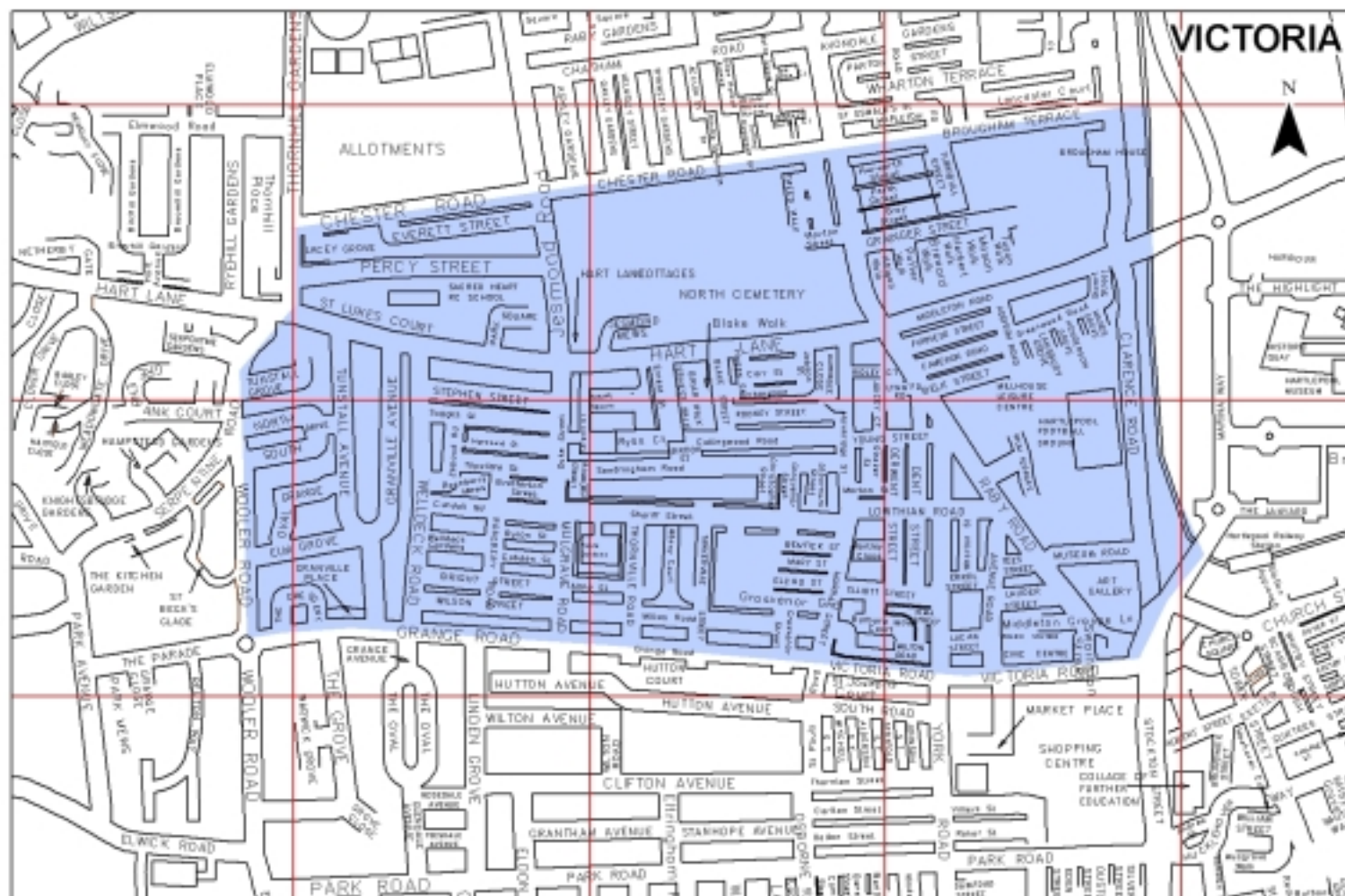
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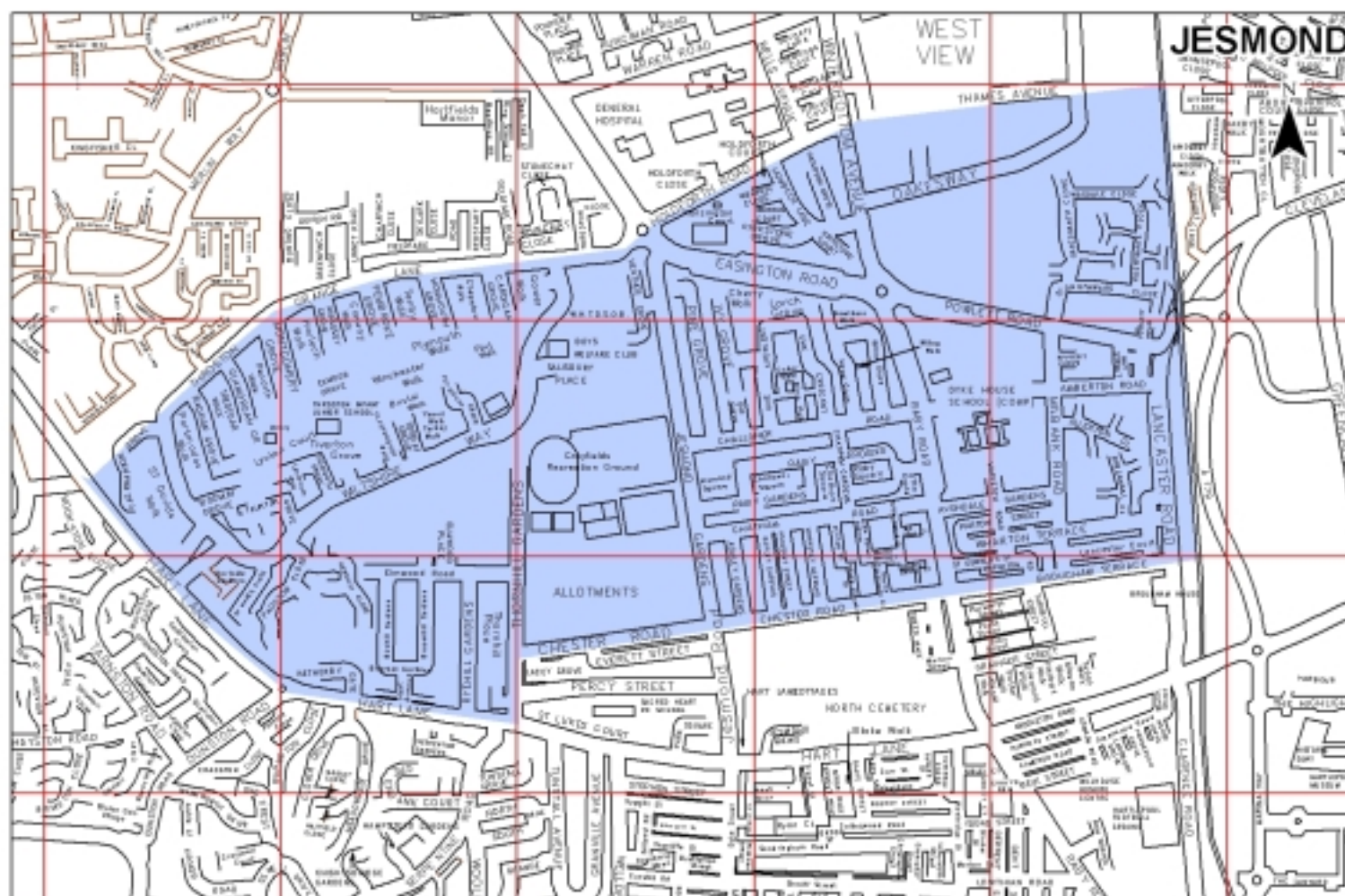


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 HARTLEY NODDY & BROUGHAM COUNCILS

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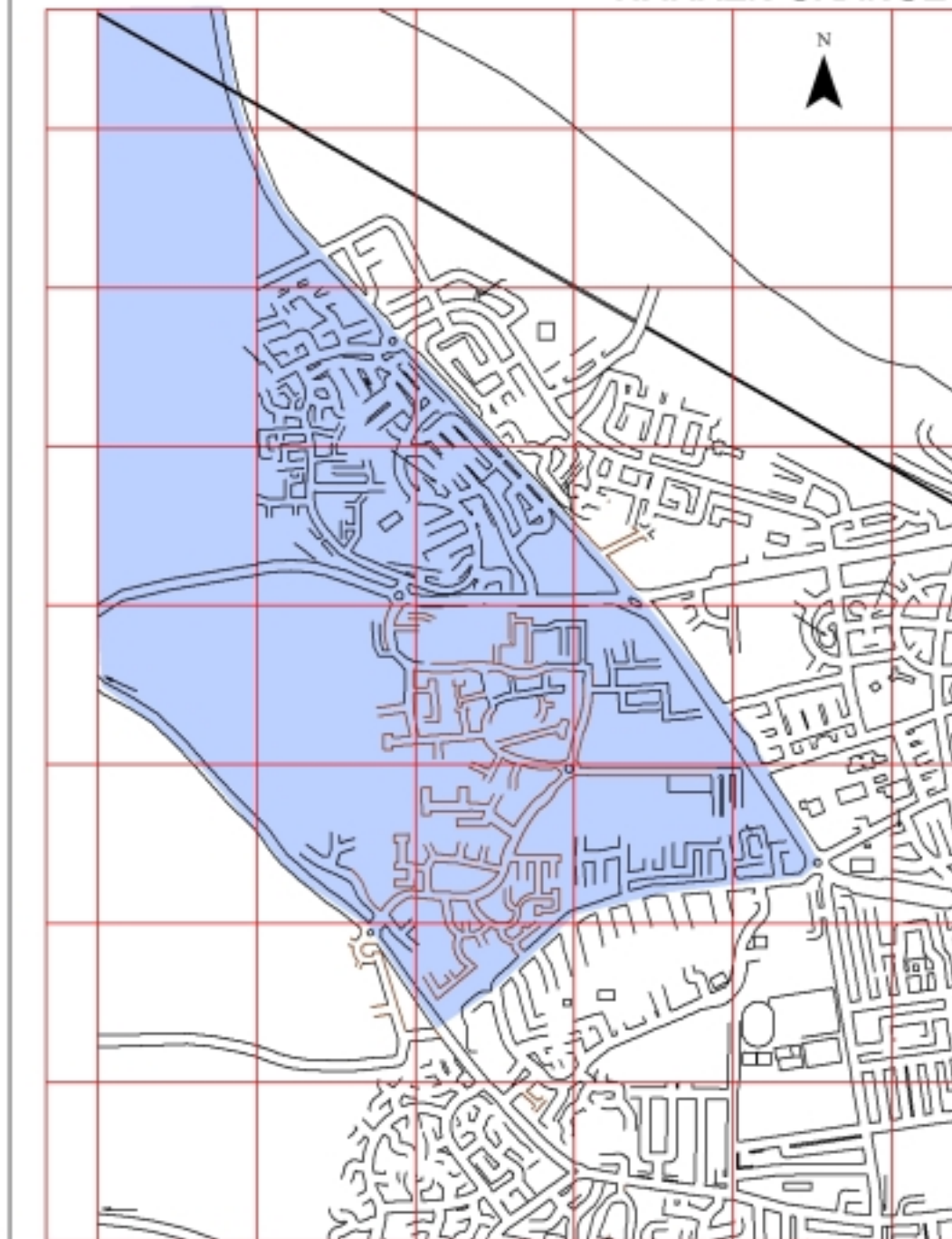


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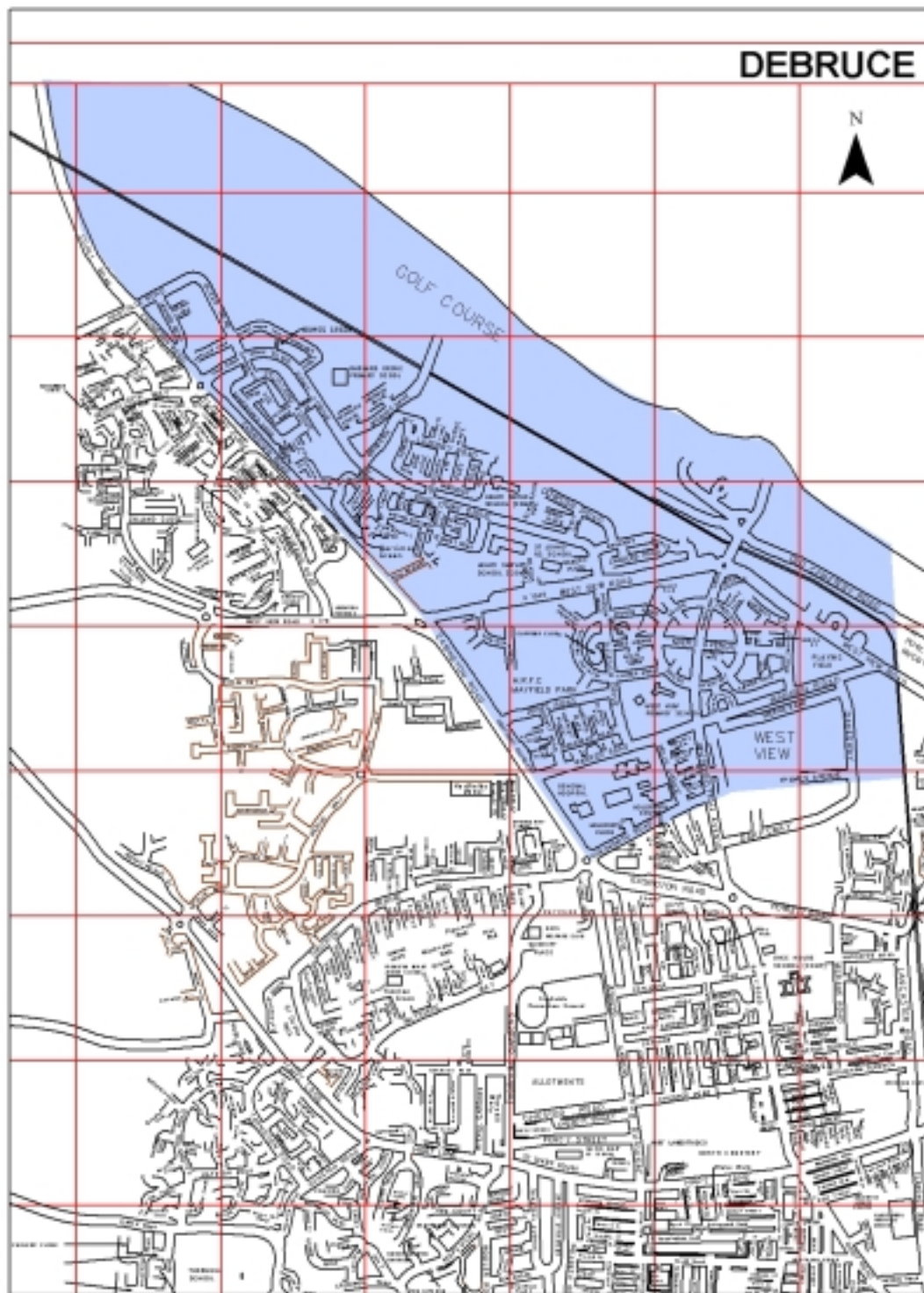
WARREN GRANGE



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