

Chief Executive's Department  
Civic Centre  
HARTLEPOOL

6<sup>th</sup> December, 2010

The Mayor (Stuart Drummond)

Councillors Aiken, C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Atkinson, Barclay, Barker, Brash, R W Cook, Cranney, Fleet, Fleming, Flintoff, Gibbon, Griffin, Hall, Hargreaves, Hill, Ingham, Jackson, James, Laffey, Lauderdale, Lawton, A E Lilley, G Lilley, London, Maness, A Marshall, J Marshall, J W Marshall, McKenna, Dr. Morris, Payne, Plant, Preece, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Sutheran, Thomas, H Thompson, P Thompson, Turner, Wells, Worthy and Wright.

Madam or Sir,

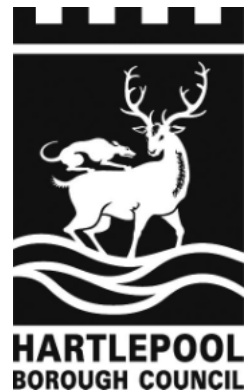
You are hereby summoned to attend an extraordinary meeting of the COUNCIL to be held on THURSDAY, 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool to consider the subjects set out in the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

P Walker  
Chief Executive

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# **EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL AGENDA**



**Thursday 16 December 2010**

**at 7.00 p.m.**

**in the Council Chamber,  
Civic Centre, Hartlepool.**

1. To receive apologies from absent members.
2. To receive any declarations of interest from members.
3. To receive any announcements from the Chair, the Mayor, members of the Cabinet or the head of the paid service.
4. To receive reports from the Council's committees and working groups other than any overview and scrutiny committee and to receive questions and answers on any of those reports;
  - (i) Report of General Purposes Committee – Further Electoral Review of Hartlepool (to follow)

# COUNCIL

16 December 2010



**Report of:** General Purposes Committee

**Subject:** FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW - HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In the Chief Executive's Business Report (2) dated 16 September 2010, Council was informed as to the receipt of correspondence through the Local Government Boundary Commission for England with their provisional recommendations as to "Council size". Based on these recommendations, the General Purposes Committee, through its Working Party established on 12 July, have formulated a submission on Warding Arrangements.

## 2. COUNCIL SIZE CONSULTATION

- 2.1 As Council 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](http://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, Council 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, proposed ward name change and representations regarding the retention of ward character.

### 3. PROCESS OF THE REVIEW

- 3.1 To remind Council 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 Commission's 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.

4.3 Council 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 General Purposes Committee 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 and applying the statutory criteria. The attached submission on Warding Arrangements was approved by the General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 6 December 2010. As indicated, it is an expectation that a submission is made to the Commission by 20 December 2010.

**5. RECOMMENDATION**

That Members consider the submission on proposed Warding Arrangements to be forwarded to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

**6. CONTACT OFFICER**

Peter Devlin, Chief Solicitor

# Hartlepool Borough Council



**HARTLEPOOL**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

# Contents

	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Statutory Criteria</b>	<b>3</b>
- Equality of Representation	
- Effective and Convenient Local Government	
- Community Identity	
<b>3. Proposed Warding Arrangements</b>	<b>7</b>
- Map showing natural boundaries	
- Map showing proposed ward pattern	
<b>4. Consultation</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>5. Conclusion</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>6. Recommendation</b>	<b>33</b>

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This submission by Hartlepool Borough Council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) relates to the Further Electoral Review of the Borough, which commenced on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2010, with an initial short consultation specifically on council size. The Council prepared a submission which was approved by full Council on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and submitted to the LGBCE for their consideration. A number of other submissions were also made to the Commission from the Mayor of Hartlepool, Councillors, Parish Councils, local organisations and local residents. Following on from this consultation the Commission was minded to recommend 33 elected members in addition to the elected mayor.
- 1.2 Consequently, this submission sets out proposals for warding arrangements based on the Commission's proposed council size of 33 elected members. The LGBCE has stated that it will aim to produce a pattern of 11 wards each containing 3 members in recognition of the Council's election by thirds. When gathering and considering information submitted to the cross party Working Group consideration has been given to the Commission's 'technical guidance' and the statutory criteria with an overall aim in establishing a pattern of wards that achieves good electoral equality, reflects community identity and interests and provides for effective and convenient local government. The working group has also sought to use strong easily-identifiable boundaries when deciding where ward boundaries should be drawn and to ensure that the pattern of wards means that everyone's vote in Hartlepool is of equal value regardless of where they live.

## **2. Statutory Criteria**

Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 requires the Commission to have regard to the following statutory criteria:

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

### **(i) Equality of Representation**

We have aimed to ensure 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 1 based on current wards.

**Fig 1 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
Owton	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	1:1692
Throston	2617	4756	1:1585	4681	1:1560

### **Proposed Councillor to Electors Ratios**

A ratio of 3 councillors for approximately 6500 electors is based on a projected 2016 electorate of 71,381, thus giving 11 wards.

The proposed ward pattern would leave 8 proposed wards with a forecast electorate within the 10% variance. The remaining 3 wards each have compelling reasons for variances outside the tolerance of 10%. These are identified below:-

- East Ward – the variance in this ward allows for overriding factors such as strong and definite natural boundaries and maintaining community identity.
- Victoria Ward – the variance in this ward allows for overriding factors such as strong and definite natural boundaries and maintaining community identity. There is also potential growth as housing redevelopment takes place.

- de Bruce Ward – the variance in this ward allows for future housing development which currently has an outline planning approval to develop around 500 extra dwellings. It is likely that a start on this development will commence by 2016. This would increase forecast electoral numbers by between 800 and 1000.

When considering the variances within these 3 wards the Working Group also had regard to the LGBCE technical guidance where there is an appreciation that “areas can be very different based on geography and demography, which may have knock-on effects on the levels of electoral representation achieved.”

## **(ii) Effective and Convenient Local Government**

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”.*

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”.*
- Council’s to have a *“general power of competence”*
- To allow Council’s *“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 group 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”*.

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.

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.

As in the earlier submission consideration has been given to the ‘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”.***

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....”***



### **(iii) Community Identity**

Community identity is hard to define. The LGBCE states it “cannot be easily measured and can often mean many different things to different people”. Community identity could be 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.

#### **Parishes**

Measured consideration has been given to Parish Councils in the Borough when deciding on ward patterns and boundaries. Parish Councils represent democracy at its most local level. Where possible we have tried to ‘nest’ parish councils within the proposed wards. 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 live. There will also be the advantage that parish councils will, by virtue of the ward arrangements, have access to 3 members as opposed to the current arrangement of one member representation. However, on balance, greater weight has been placed on strong boundaries and maintaining community identity, when mapping wards with an underlying aim of equality of representation.

### **3. Proposed Warding Arrangements for Hartlepool Borough Council**

The Working Group identified the main communities within the town, taking into account any manmade or natural barriers, such as major roads and the railway line that act 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, whilst also ensuring that the proposals would deliver electoral equality.

The following section provides:

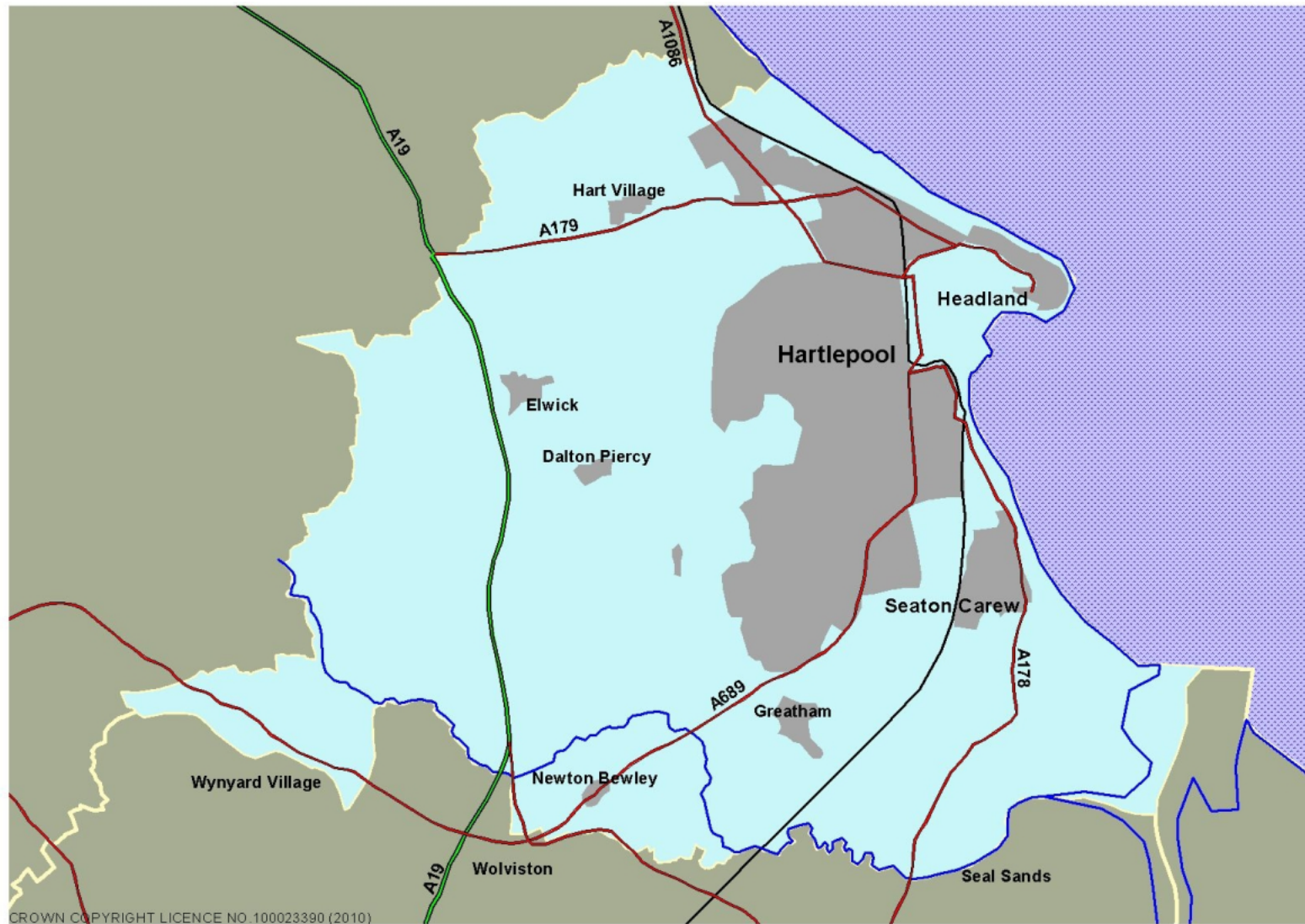
Map A showing the natural boundaries within the Borough  
Map B showing the proposed ward pattern

Followed by:

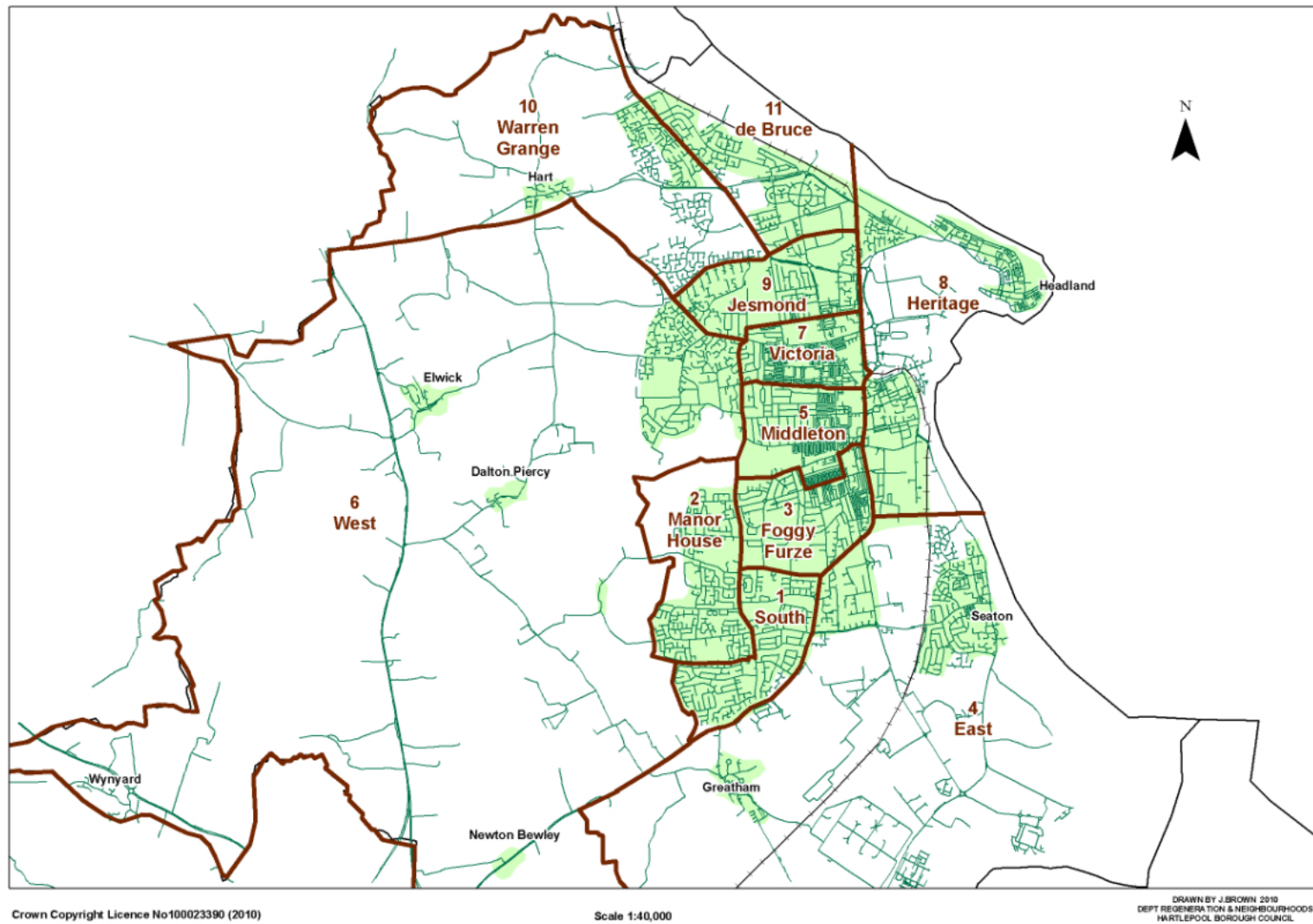
- an individual description of each proposed ward arrangement;
- the rationale behind the determination of each proposed ward;
- the proposed electorate at 2016;
- proposed ward name.

The proposed 33 Councillors covering 11 wards would result in every one of the town's electorate being represented by three councillors in their ward regardless of whether they live in the town centre or in one of the rural villages. Such multi-representation provides a better facility for democratic accountability through cross party support and co-operation in wards as is in place now.

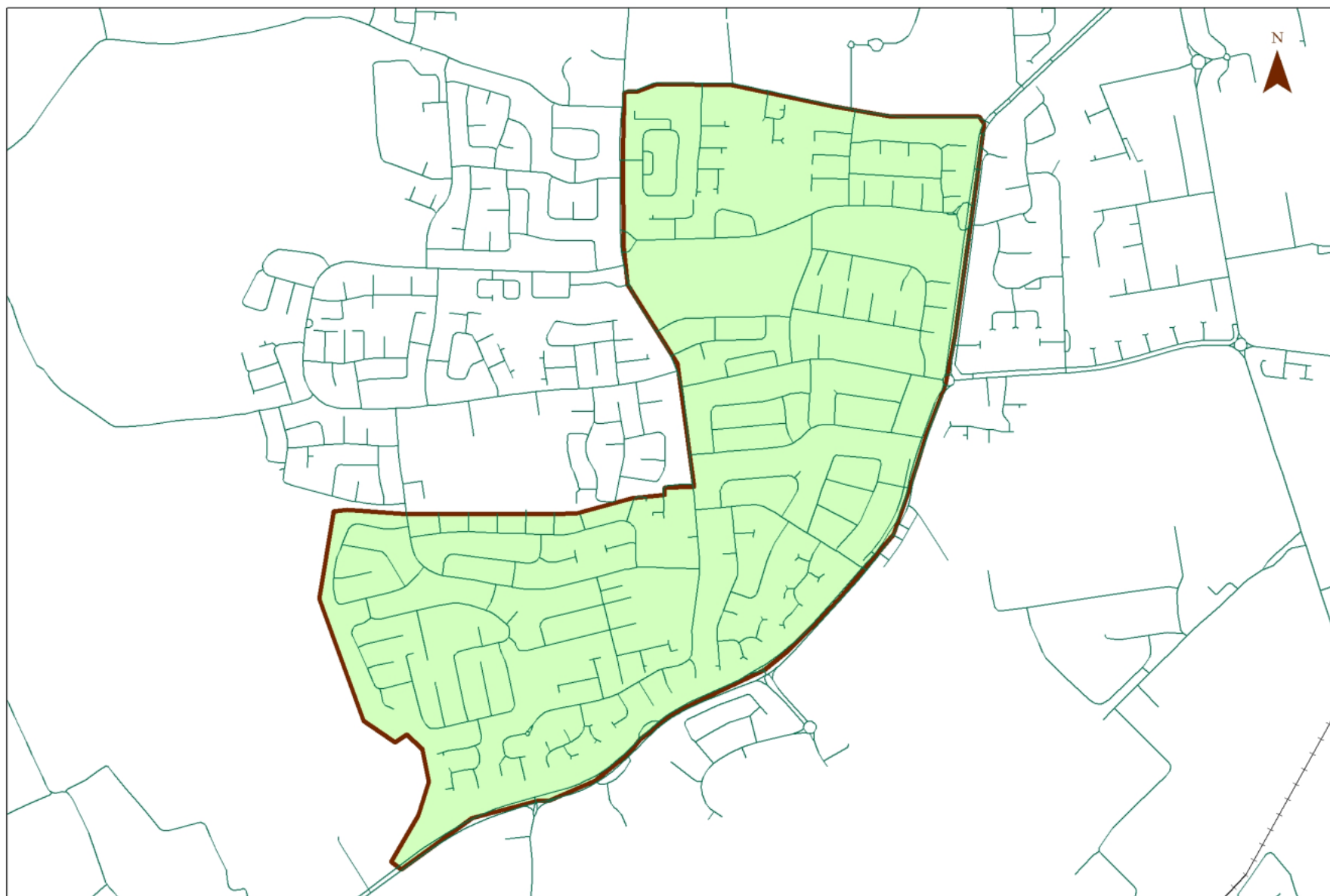
## MAP A - Natural Boundaries



**MAP B – Proposed Ward Pattern**



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%	<p>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 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/Ardrossan Community Building, Rossmere Youth Centre and a Children's Centre are situated in the proposed ward as well as a number of public houses. The proposed ward increases access to community facilities for 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>



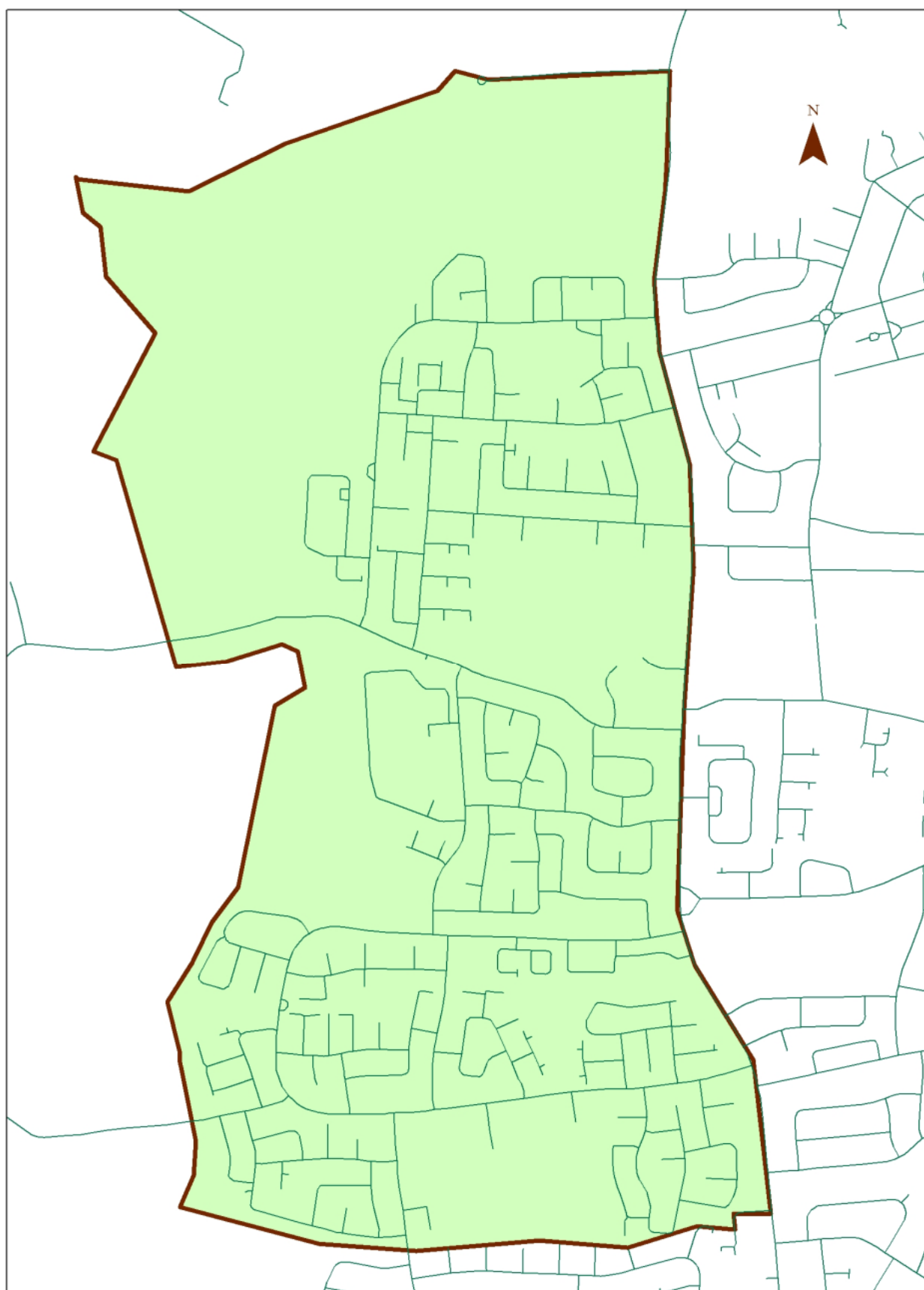
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## Proposed South Ward

Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
2 (Manor House Ward)	6896	+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 no major developments are planned up to or beyond 2016.</p>



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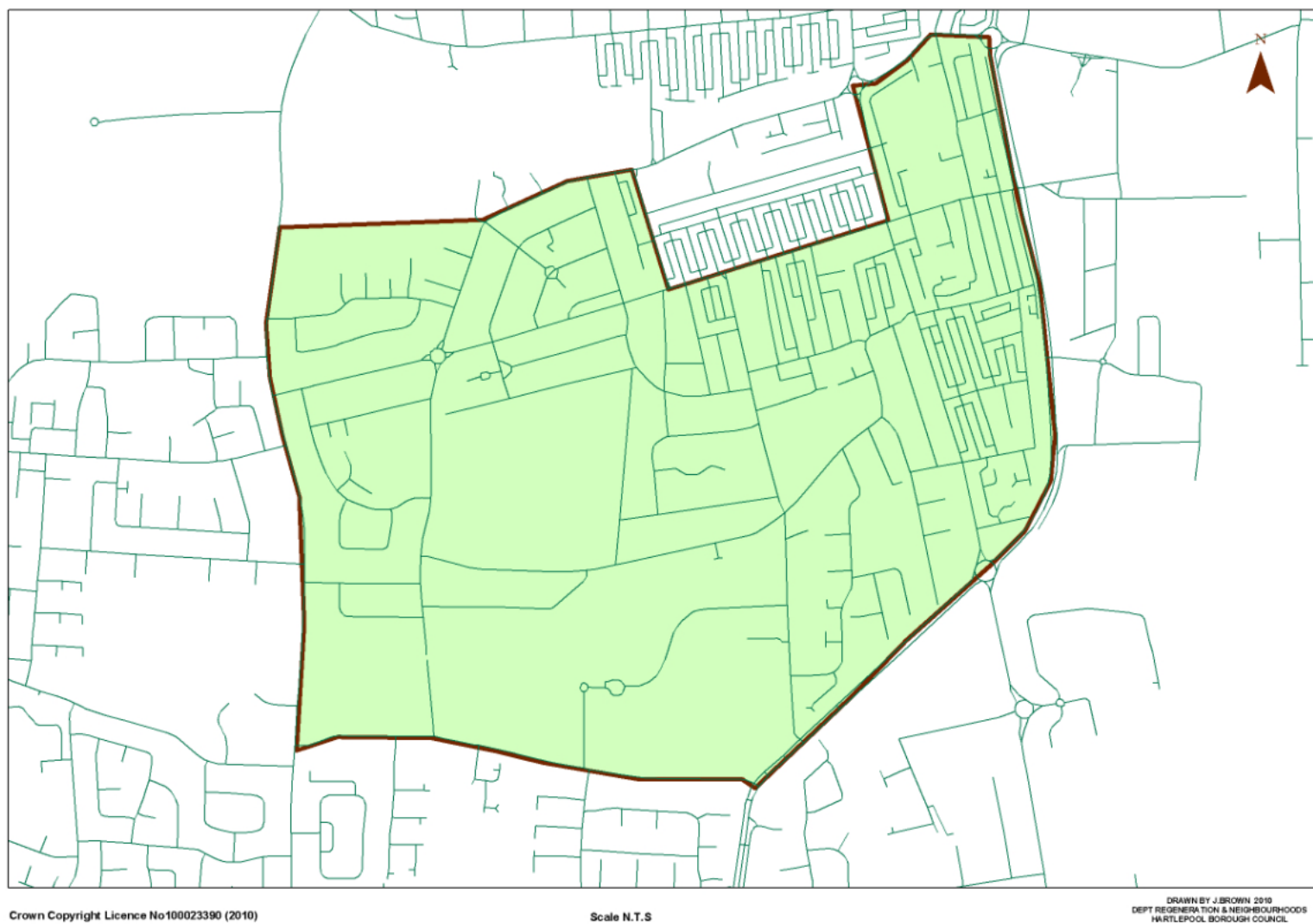
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## Proposed Manor House Ward

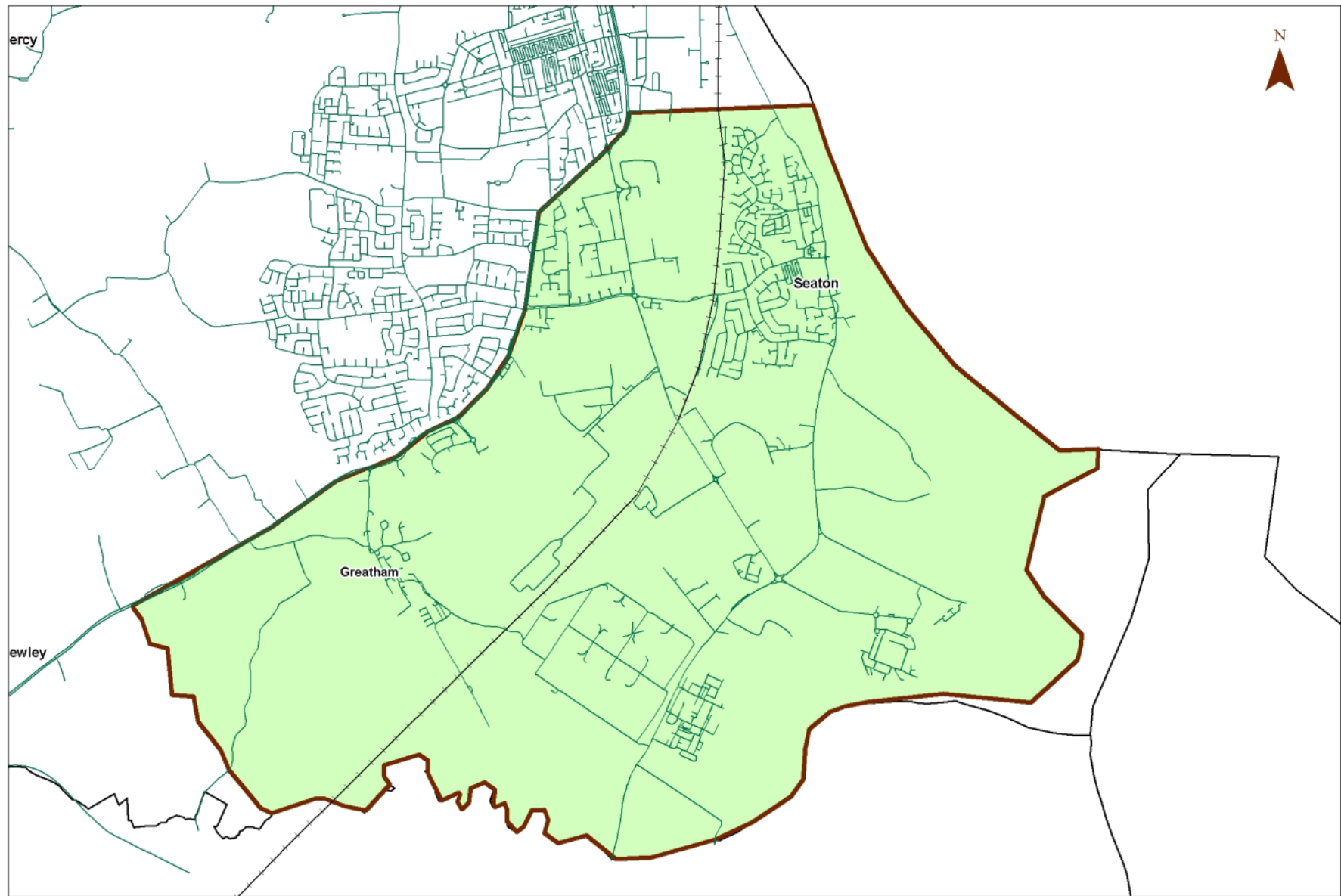


Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
3 (Foggy Furze Ward)	6820	+5%	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the area east of Catcote Road and a small area of Rossmere including Stranton cemetery and 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 on-site, 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 and sport and recreation grounds. 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>



## Proposed Foggy Furze Ward

Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
4 (East Ward)	7322	+13%	<p>The proposed ward is bordered by the A689 which is the main route into the town. It incorporates the settlement of Seaton Carew, the coastal strip which includes Seaton Dunes and several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), plus the industrial land to the south of the town (Southern Business Zone) including Queens Meadow Business Park. Also included within the proposed ward is Greatham village and the residential areas adjacent to Seaton Lane. The communities within the proposed ward are surrounded by similar industries and farming land and have more in common together than with any other ward. 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, a golf course, a cricket ground, local parks and playing fields. Five primary schools and a number of churches are situated in the proposed ward which are shared by these communities. In Greatham there is 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 ward. The existing Greatham ward is mainly rural. The proposed ward boundary will ensure that the residents of Greatham village have the same right to electoral representation as the rest of the town (i.e. three Ward Councillors).</p> <p>Although the forecast electoral variance is outside of the preferred tolerance at +13%, very strong and definite natural boundaries of a dual carriageway and the coastline have defined the proposed ward. If these boundaries were to be defined differently, it would, in the opinion of the Council weaken community identity and cohesion.</p>



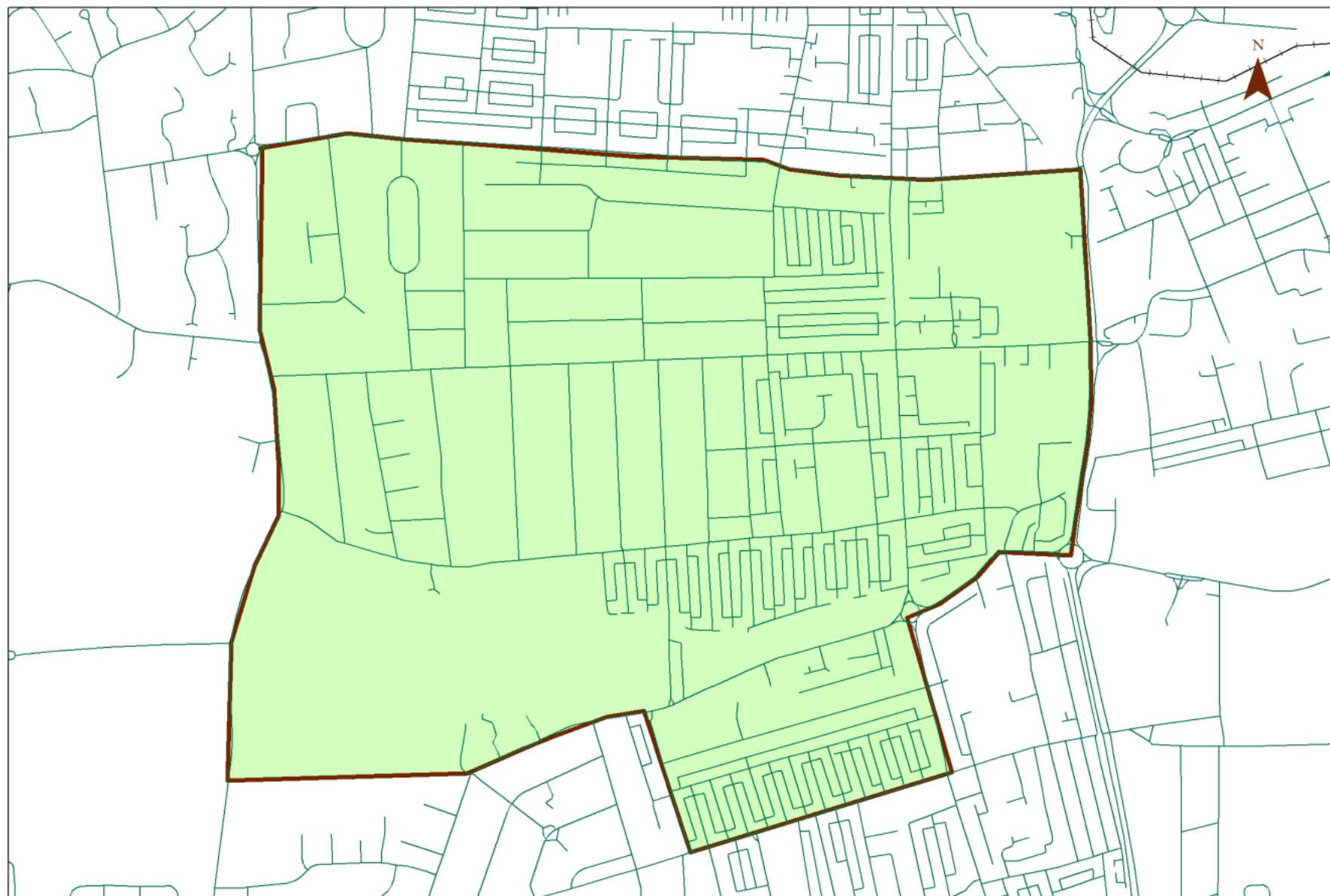
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## Proposed East Ward

Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
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. The housing in this ward is made up largely of Victorian housing with a mix of large detached and semi-detached and smaller terraced properties.</p> <p>It incorporates Hartlepool Sixth Form College, Eldon Grove Primary School, St Mathews Community Centre and a range of town centre facilities including Middleton Grange Shopping Centre, the central library and a brewery. Burn Valley Gardens – a strategic ‘green wedge’ - is situated in the proposed ward providing play facilities, bowling greens and open space. At the top (western) end of Burn Valley Gardens is a Family Wood which forms part of Tees Valley Community Forest. Other facilities within the proposed ward include a shopping parade along Elwick Road as well as a number of individual shops across the area. The proposed ward incorporates a number of churches and other places of worship catering for a diverse multi-cultural community.</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>



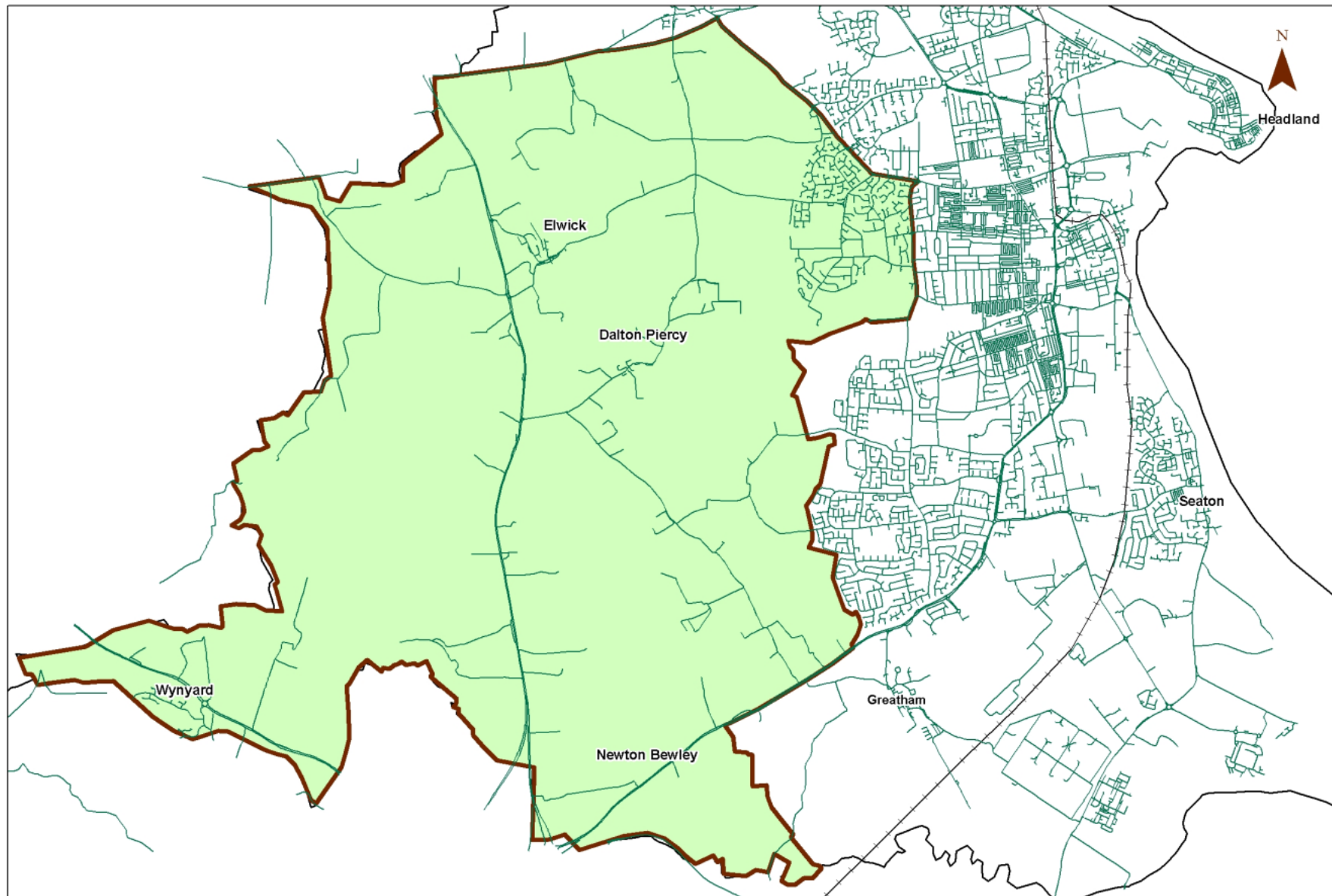
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## Proposed Middleton Ward

Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
6 (West Ward)	6514	-	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the residential areas of Naisberry Park, and West Park and the villages of Elwick, Dalton Piercy, Wynyard and Newton Bewley, plus the surrounding rural areas. These areas are largely made up of 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. The proposed ward incorporates Ward Jackson Park – an historic Victorian park which contains a café, community facilities and play and recreation area. Other recreation facilities include West Park Cricket Club and Throston Golf Club. 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. There is an historic natural flow of households from the urban conurbation into the villages within the proposed ward. The proposed ward boundary will also ensure that the residents of the villages have the same right to electoral representation as the rest of the town (i.e. three Ward Councillors).</p>



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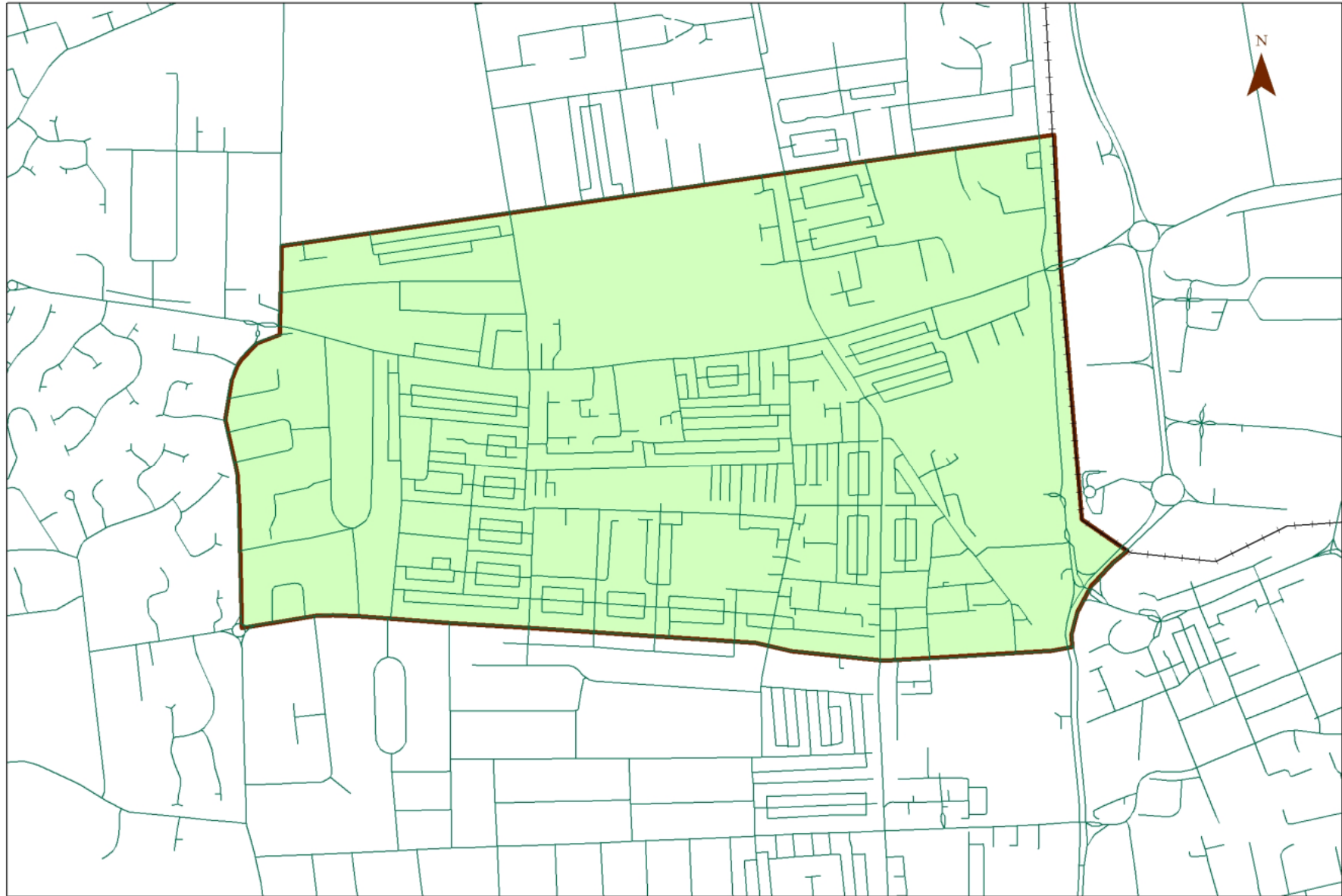
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## Proposed West Ward



Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
7 (Victoria Ward)	5554	-14%	<p>The proposed ward includes a mix of terraced houses and large Victorian / Edwardian town houses, built during the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Shared facilities include three primary schools - Sacred Heart, Lynnfield School and Community Learning Centre along with Brougham Primary School and the adjacent Brougham Centre (a community centre). There are a number of churches and other places of worship within the area including Grange Road Methodist Church which has a resource centre and two mosques. A local shopping centre at Murray Street serves the local community and facilities here include a multi-cultural centre (Salaam Centre). A number of shops along Duke Street, a supermarket and a number of social clubs also serve the community within this proposed ward. North Cemetery is a prominent feature within the area and the Friends of North Cemetery strive to improve its environment and use as a community resource.</p> <p>The proposed ward takes in part of the town centre fringe including the Victoria Ground, the home of Hartlepool United Football Club, Mill House Leisure Centre, the Town Hall Theatre, the Civic Centre and Police station.</p> <p>Although the forecast electoral variance is outside of the preferred tolerance at -14%, very clear geographical boundaries have defined the proposed ward. If these boundaries were to be defined differently, it would, in the opinion of the Council weaken community identity and cohesion.</p> <p>The proposed ward is also the focus of housing market renewal activity and there is the potential for the number of households to increase up to and beyond 2016 as housing redevelopment takes place.</p>



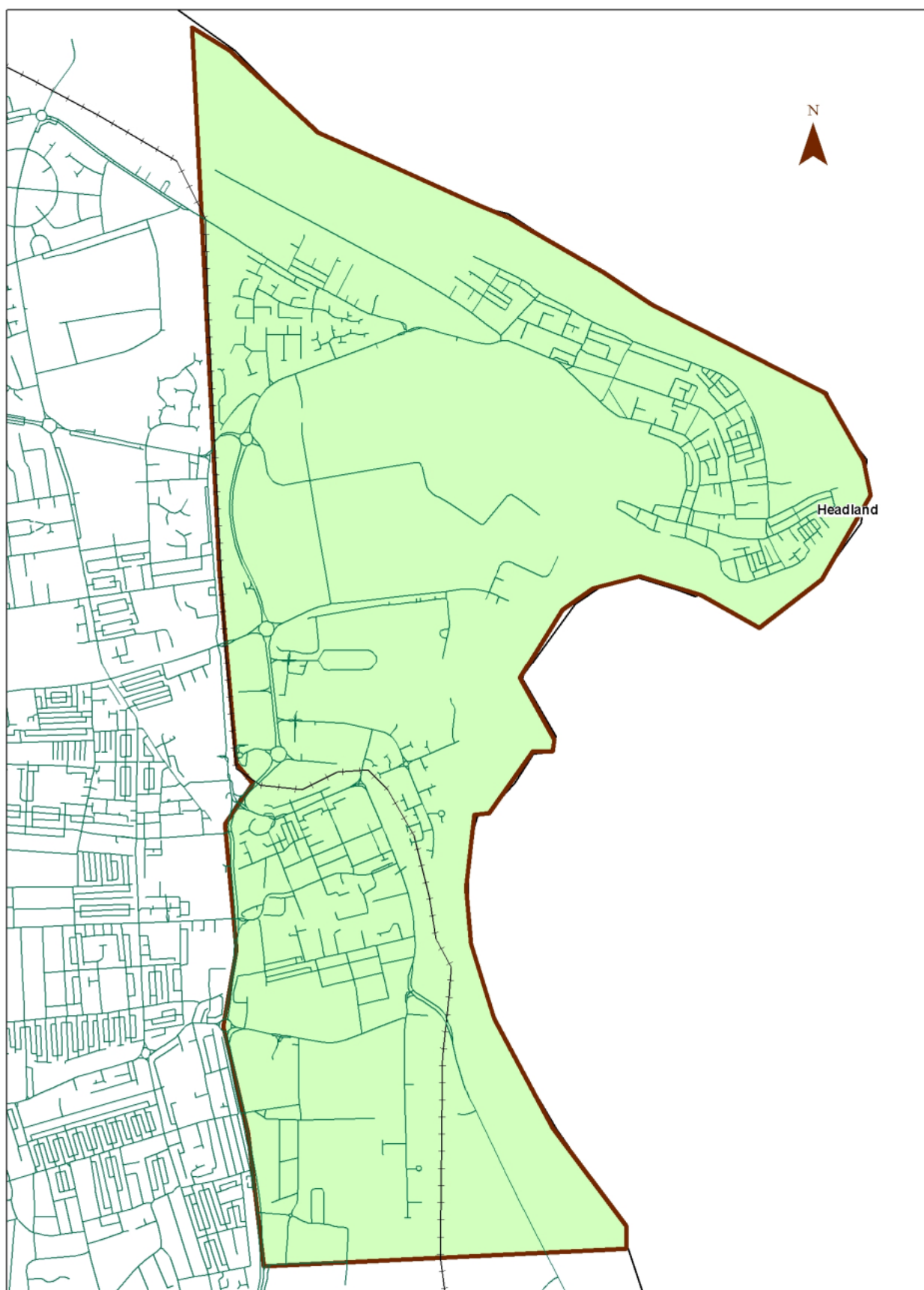
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## Proposed Victoria Ward

Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
8 (Heritage Ward)	6750	+4%	<p>The proposed ward is defined by its strong historic and maritime heritage and contains the main visitor and tourist locations in the town and the working port, around which are located the communities of the Headland, Central Estate, the marina and Burbank. The key tourist areas of the Headland and marina share common identities and include several visitor attractions such as the Hartlepool Maritime Experience, the marina, the Art Gallery and Tourist Information Centre, the Heugh Gun Battery and the historic St Hilda's Church. Both the Headland and marina have benefited significantly from recent regeneration activities. Part of the coastal strip to the north of the proposed ward includes a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p>The Headland formed the original settlement of Hartlepool. Its high quality environment includes a number of historic Listed buildings and large Victorian houses which form part of a conservation area. The area also includes more recent housing development of a range and mix of sizes. Facilities include the Borough Hall – a large multi-use public building, a library, a sports centre, a health centre, a local shopping parade at Northgate, a number of churches and several pubs. Other facilities are shared with the nearby Central Estate community including St Bega's and St Helen's primary schools, community sports ground, Hartlepool Rovers rugby club, as well as Spion Kop and Central Park informal recreation areas. Both areas have strong community and voluntary sector support networks.</p> <p>The marina and Burbank communities are located to the south of the port and the proposed ward also incorporates part the of town centre. Two primary schools, St. Josephs and Ward Jackson serve these communities as well as a number of churches and both areas have strong community networks.</p> <p>The proposed ward also includes the key regeneration area known as the Innovation and Skills Quarter which incorporates the rebuilt Hartlepool College of Further Education, the refurbished Cleveland College of Art and Design and will include new business incubation space. Other amenities within the proposed ward include two large supermarkets, town centre shop units, Navigation Point restaurant area and shops, a yacht club, water sports facilities, and pubs and clubs centred around Church Street.</p> <p>In relation to the forecast electoral variance of +4% there is the potential for some small scale additional development up to and beyond 2016.</p>



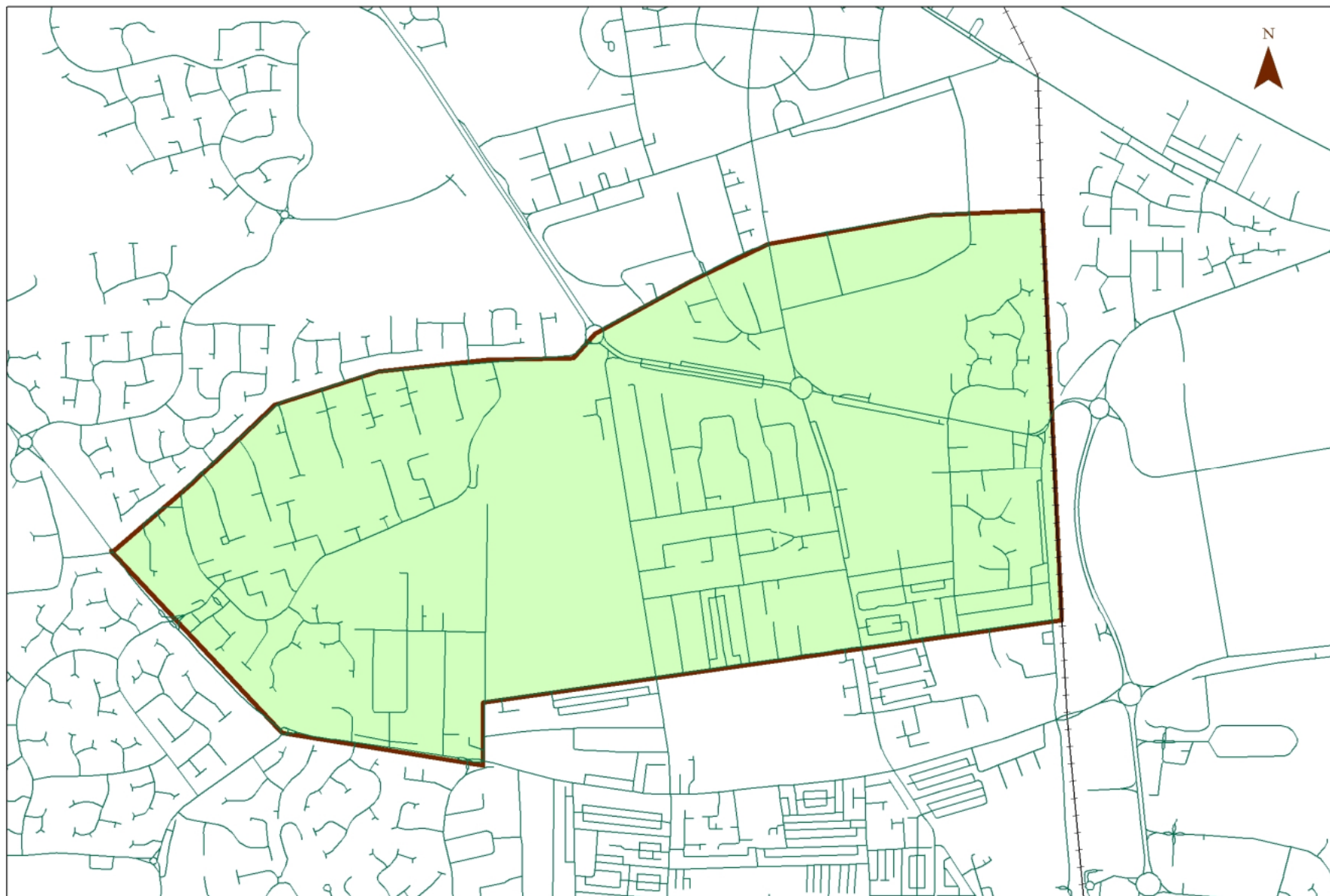
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## Proposed Heritage Ward

Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
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 serve the north of the town and Dyke House Sports &amp; Technology College which is currently being re-developed through the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Three established primary schools are situated in the proposed ward: Throston, Springwell and Jesmond Road, the latter of which is being re-built with investment through the schools Primary Capital Programme. Shared community facilities include Throston Grange Community Centre and library, Wharton Annexe, the Avondale Community Learning Centre, Chatham House and the recently refurbished St. Oswald's Church Hall, all of which offer a range of services and activities to the local community. Other connections include a local centre at the top of Wiltshire 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 some additional build on already cleared housing market renewal sites. Apart from this there is unlikely to be any significant change in population before 2016.</p>



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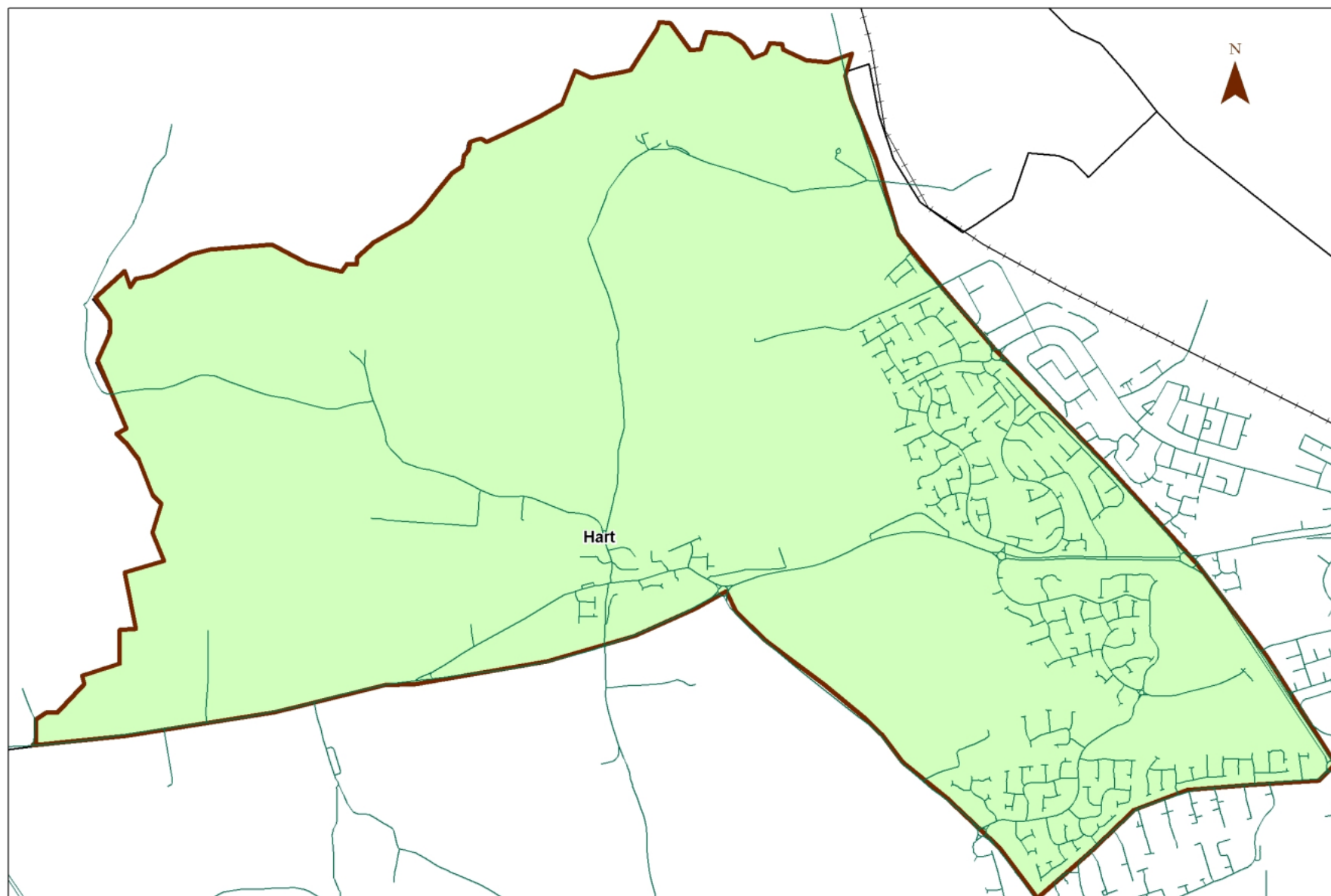
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## Proposed Jesmond Ward

Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
10 (Warren Grange Ward)	6766	+4%	<p>The proposed ward incorporates the communities of Clavering, Middle Warren and the village of Hart. It comprises a new housing development of Middle Warren which is still in progress, as well as a more established residential area within Clavering estate. It also incorporates the village of Hart, sharing a commonality between the north western rural fringe and the edge of the urban area. Amenities include Clavering and Hart Primary Schools, the Saxon church of Saint Mary Magdalene, a community centre and play area, small local centre at Clavering, a green wedge incorporating informal recreation facilities at Middle Warren, two supermarkets and a number of public houses serving the local community. Hartfields Extra Care Village - a partnership initiative between the Joseph Rowntree Trust, Hartlepool Borough Council and the local PCT is situated in the proposed ward and provides a range of independent and supported living accommodation. A caravan park and Hart Reservoirs are also situated in the proposed ward.</p> <p>Clear geographical lines have been used to define the proposed ward boundary. There is an historic natural flow of households from the urban conurbation into the villages within the proposed ward. The proposed ward boundary will also ensure that the residents of the villages have the same right to electoral representation as the rest of the town (i.e. three Ward Councillors).</p>





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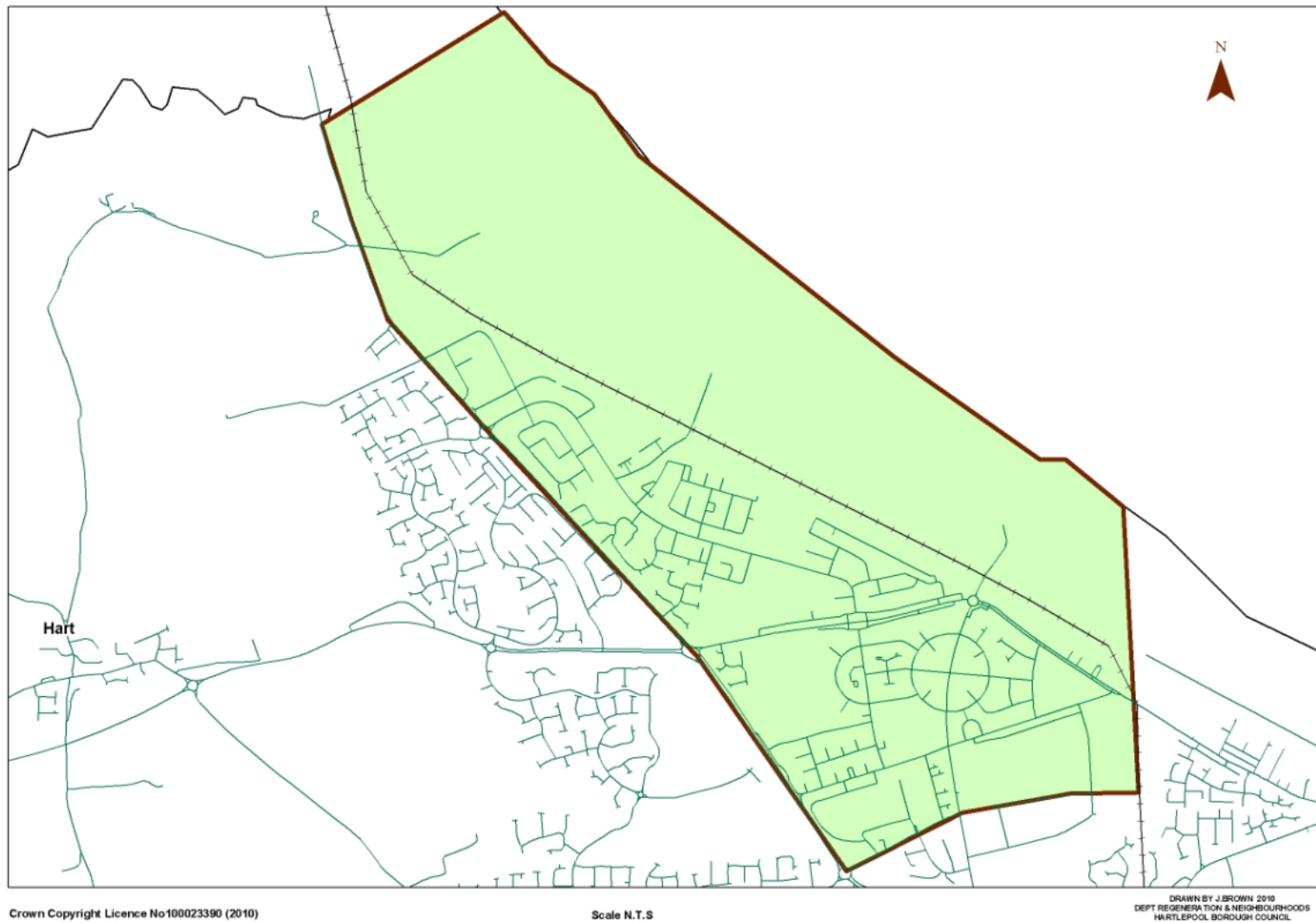
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## Proposed Warren Grange Ward



Proposed Ward Name	Forecast Electorate 2016	Forecast Electoral Variance 2016	Evidence and rationale that proposals meet the three statutory criteria
11 (de Bruce 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 and the northern coastline which incorporates sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) and Special Protection Areas. There are community links between 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. Northern Lights Academy, a £4.5 million state-of-the-art facility to encourage arts in the region is situated in the proposed ward, along with Hartlepool City Learning Centre which is located within the Space to Learn building.</p> <p>In relation to the forecast electoral variance of -15%, this allows for a proposed future housing development which currently has an outline planning approval to develop around 500 extra dwellings. It is likely that a start on this development will commence by 2016. This would increase forecast electoral numbers by between 800 and 1000.</p>



**Proposed de Bruce Ward**

#### 4. **Consultation**

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

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

Publicity has been given to the Further Electoral Review via the Council's website

#### 5. **Conclusion**

This submission, therefore, represents consideration of all the factors highlighted above. In particular, the statutory criteria has been a fundamental basis for decision making and the principles and guidance on these criteria have been extensively reviewed and considered by the Working Group with supportive reasoning and evidence contained within this submission. There has been regard to the strong sense of community when considering ward names and the names suggested have tried to reflect the locality of the ward and the associated history, strong ties that exist within the community. This submission presents the case for the recommended **Warding arrangements** for **Hartlepool Borough Council**

#### 6. **Recommendation**

That the Commission carefully considers the Council's submission on warding arrangements, when forming its draft recommendations due to be published in the Spring of 2011.