

HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL



*Municipal Building,
Kingsway,
Widnes.
WA8 7QF*

14 August 2018

**TO: MEMBERS OF THE HALTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

You are hereby summoned to attend an Extra Ordinary Meeting of the Halton Borough Council to be held in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall on Wednesday, 22 August 2018 commencing at 6.30 p.m. for the purpose of considering and passing such resolution(s) as may be deemed necessary or desirable in respect of the matters mentioned in the Agenda.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David W R', is written in a cursive style.

Chief Executive

-AGENDA-

Item No.		Page No.
1.	MINUTE'S SILENCE	
	Council will be asked to observe a minute's silence in memory of the late Honorary Alderman Reg Eastup.	
2.	COUNCIL MINUTES	1 – 4
3.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
4.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
5.	WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW	5 - 76

COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council on Wednesday, 11 July 2018 in the Council Chamber, Runcorn Town Hall

Present: Councillors J. Bradshaw, Abbott, Baker, M. Bradshaw, D. Cargill, E. Cargill, Carlin, Cassidy, Dennett, Fry, Gilligan, Harris, P. Hignett, R. Hignett, S. Hill, V. Hill, Horabin, Howard, Jones, Leck, M. Lloyd Jones, P. Lloyd Jones, C. Loftus, K. Loftus, Logan, A. Lowe, J. Lowe, MacManus, McDermott, A. McInerney, T. McInerney, Morley, Nelson, Philbin, Polhill, C. Plumpton Walsh, N. Plumpton Walsh, Joe Roberts, June Roberts, Rowe, Sinnott, G. Stockton, J. Stockton, Teeling, Thompson, Wainwright, Wall, Wallace, Wharton, Whitley, Wright and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors C. Gerrard, Nolan, Osborne and Woolfall

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: I. Leivesley, M. Reaney and A. Scott

Also in attendance: None

Action

COU15 COUNCIL MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Council were taken as read, and, subject to the inclusion of the appointment of Councillor Wall as a Member Without Portfolio being noted, the minutes were signed as a correct record.

COU16 LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader had circulated his briefing to Members.

COU17 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Executive Board meetings on 15 March 2018, 19 April 2018, 15 May 2018 and 14 June 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU18 MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The Council considered the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 28 March 2018.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be received.

COU19 QUESTIONS ASKED UNDER STANDING ORDER 8

It was noted that no questions had been submitted under Standing Order No. 8.

COU20 IMPROVEMENTS TO WORK FACILITIES AT CEMETERY SITES (MINUTE EXB 145 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources, on improvements to work facilities at cemetery sites in Runcorn and Widnes.

RESOLVED: That the scheme be included in the 2018/19 Capital Programme and funded as set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report.

Strategic Director
- Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

COU21 2018/19 TO 2020/21 CAPITAL PROGRAMME (MINUTE EXB 13 REFERS)

The Council considered a report of the Operational Director, Finance, on the 2018/19 to 2020/21 Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: That the updated Capital Programme for 2018/21, including the forecast spend and funding, as set out in Table 1 and Table 2 attached to the report, be approved.

Operational
Director - Finance

COU22 STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT (MINUTE STC 2 REFERS)

Standards Committee had considered the report of the Operational Director, Legal and Democratic Services/ Monitoring Officer, which summarised the work of the Standards Committee in its Annual Report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

COU23 ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS

The Council considered the report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator, outlining the Annual Reports for each of the Policy and Performance Boards (PPBs) for 2017/18, which had been submitted and which outlined their work and made recommendations for future work programmes.

RESOLVED: That the 2017/18 Annual Reports, submitted from the Policy and Performance Boards, be

received.

COU24 APPOINTMENT TO AN OUTSIDE BODY

RESOLVED: That the appointment of Councillor Louise Whitley as a representative of Halton Borough Council on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee be approved.

Chief Executive

(N.B. Councillor Joan Lowe declared a Disclosable Other Interest in Minute HEA 33 as her son's partner worked for a provider in Halton)

COU25 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARDS

The Council considered the reports of the following Boards in the period since the meeting of Council on 7 March 2018:-

- Children, Young People and Families;
- Employment, Learning and Skills and Community;
- Health;
- Safer;
- Environment and Urban Renewal; and
- Corporate Services.

COU26 COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Council considered the reports of the following Committees in the period since the meeting of Council on 7 March 2018:-

- Development Control;
- Regulatory; and
- Appointments.

Meeting ended at 6.38 p.m.

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REPORT TO:	Council
DATE:	22 August 2018
REPORTING OFFICER:	Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community and Resources
PORTFOLIO:	Leader
SUBJECT:	Ward Boundary Review
WARDS:	Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to submit the attached submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), being the Council's proposals to the Commission in relation to its views as to the most appropriate warding arrangements for the Borough from May 2020 elections.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS: That

- 1) the Council endorses the attached submission and that it be forwarded to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England; and**
- 2) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, be authorised to make minor drafting amendments to the submission prior to forwarding it to the Commission.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The LGBCE (the Commission) is undertaking an Electoral Review of the Council. This review had been triggered by the fact that the electorate in the Farnworth Ward in Widnes is 33% higher than the average electorate across each of the wards in the Borough. Significant divergence in the size of one ward from the average electorate in other wards of the Borough is one of the Commission's criteria that triggers a review.
- 3.2 The ward boundary review process is undertaken in four stages:
- 1) Preliminary Period – ended May 2018

The Commission invited the Council to submit its views on what it believes is the appropriate Council size for Halton. The Commission concluded at

the end of this stage that it was 'minded' to recommend a Council size of 54.

2) Consultation on Warding Patterns: 26 June 2018 – 3 September 2018

The Commission invited the Council and other interested parties to submit to it suggestions for patterns of wards based on a Council of 54, hence this submission.

3) Consultation on Draft Recommendations: 8 November 2018 – 14 January 2019

Having considered responses to the above consultation on warding patterns, the Commission will produce draft recommendations of its own which will be subject to a further round of consultation.

4) Final Recommendations

The Commission will publish its final recommendations in March 2019. A Parliamentary Order will be made in Summer 2019 with the first (all out) elections taking place with the new warding arrangements in May 2020.

3.3 As part of this phase of the review the Commission has asked the Council for its views in relation to future warding arrangements. Attached to this report is that submission. The submission recommends the following arrangements that:

- There should be 19 wards in the borough.
- 18 of those wards would be 3 member wards.
- 1 of those wards would be a single member ward.
- That the Council size should therefore be 55.

The justification for those arrangements are contained in the submission.

3.4 The Council is requested to endorse the submission.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Council has to have sufficient Elected Members to ensure:

- its governance arrangements are effective;
- its scrutiny arrangements are effective;
- that there are sufficient Members to carry out the representational role of Councillors within the Borough; and
- that any new warding arrangements:

- 1) New wards should leave each Councillor representing roughly the same number of voters as other Councillors elsewhere in the authority.
- 2) New wards should – as far as possible – reflect community interests and identities, and boundaries should be identifiable. Consider transport links, community groups and facilities, natural or physical boundaries, parishes and shared interests.
- 3) New wards should promote effective and convenient local government. Consider the number of Councillors for the geographic size of and the links between parts of the ward.

4.2 These issues have been taken into account in coming to this set of proposals.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report. However, there will be a cost to the Council of implementing the eventual change to the pattern of wards. These costs will have to be met from existing Council resources.

6 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 There are no direct implications for the Council's priorities, however, it is clearly important that the policy issues identified in paragraph 4 are met to ensure the efficient and effective running of the Council.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 There are no specific risks associated with this report.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no equality and diversity issues associated with this report.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Local Government Commission Technical Guidance Report	LGBCE website	Ian Leivesley Strategic Director Enterprise, Community and Resources

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ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Submission on ward patterns to the Local Government
Boundary Commission for England

August 2018

Halton Today

Halton Borough Council was created in 1974. The Cheshire (Boroughs of Halton and Warrington) (Structural Change) Order 1996 created a unitary authority for Halton which came into existence on 1 April 1998. The council serves a population of **125,700** covering the two towns of Widnes and Runcorn and the Parishes of Hale, Halebank, Preston Brook, Moore, Daresbury and Sandymoor. The two towns of Widnes and Runcorn face each other across the River Mersey. The borough benefits from excellent connectivity and transport infrastructure. There are good road and rail connections to London (less than 2 hours by train) and Birmingham. Similarly there is good proximity and access to airports at Liverpool and Manchester and to the Merseyside seaports.

Halton is also part of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. This is one of the few City Regions to have secured a Devolution Agreement with the Government, meaning decision making and resources around key priorities are managed locally.

The initial Devolution Agreement in November 2015 secured £900 million of funding over the next 30 years and identified a number of priority areas where resources and decision making would be devolved to us. These are employment and skills, housing and planning, transport, innovation, business growth and support, energy, culture and finance.

The borough has inherited a difficult legacy from its industrial past, particularly social and economic problems. With changes to industry and employment the borough has comparatively high levels of deprivation. Halton Borough Council has however a record of being a high performing council and has a strong record of delivering good services and impressive regeneration projects.

The council's approach to regeneration has been transformational, ranging from the Sci- Tech Daresbury campus (with Enterprise Zone status) that is an international hub for world class science; to the building of the Mersey Gateway bridge which consolidates the strategic position of Halton in the region; and the Mersey Multimodal Gateway (3MG) that will become the UK's largest inter-modal logistics park with 6 daily train services to the south coast and handling 150,000 containers per annum.

The work led by the council with housing provider partners has transformed the Castlefields estate from the concrete deck access flats through an investment of £100m over a 10 year period. What has been innovative is the follow-up work, with housing trusts, the Halton Employment Partnership and Halton People into Jobs and other partners, to work with residents to create employment opportunities. This includes, for example, supporting residents to find employment on the Mersey Gateway build, through establishing job clubs, signposting support to employment and volunteering.

Regeneration is important for Halton to redress the community profile of the borough with its high comparative levels of deprivation and poor health. Regeneration over the last ten years has seen the remodelling of the borough leading to huge improvements in the physical appearance. The next phase will be to consolidate this, through major projects scheduled as part of the Mersey Gateway *Plus* Regeneration Project. This unlocks significant development and investment opportunities within Halton, the City Region and beyond. It seeks to build on the existing strengths and assets of the local area to continue the physical regeneration and transformation of Halton and further enhance the Borough's economic offer. The plan sets out a cohesive package of development opportunities and identifies the key infrastructure and enabling projects the Council is looking to bring forward to complement and support growth.

The point of the above narrative is that given some of the challenges the Borough faces, the drive from elected members to deliver improvements is significant. Much of the improvement needs significant

community engagement and involvement and Halton's members are at the heart of much of that activity.

Background

In September 2017 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) began a review of the electoral arrangements of Halton Borough Council. The review was to look at the appropriate number of elected members for the Borough and the warding arrangements.

The review was triggered due to the number of wards with electoral imbalances across the borough (variance of more than 10% from the average ward electorate based on the 2017 Electoral Register) and specifically the Farnworth ward, which was over 25% above the average size.

Following the conclusion of the first part of the Review in May 2018, the LGBCE confirmed that it is minded to recommend that the Council should have 54 Councillors.

As part of the announcement in June the Commission opened the second stage of their electoral review, its consultation on warding patterns; inviting the Council, interested parties and members of the public to suggest a pattern of wards within the Borough to accommodate that number of Councillors. The Commission asked that submissions be made to it by 3 September 2018.

This submission is Halton Borough Council's response to this consultation and seeks to provide a full scheme for a pattern of wards across Halton, which meets the statutory criteria which the LGBCE is required to have regard for.

THE COUNCIL'S APPROACH

In providing its proposed warding arrangements the Council has used the three statutory criteria the Commission has to follow, namely:

- 1 **The need to secure equality of representation** - New wards should leave each Councillor representing roughly the same number of voters as other Councillors elsewhere in the authority.

- 2 **The need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities** - New wards should, as far as possible reflect community interests and identities, and boundaries should be identifiable. Consider transport links, community groups and facilities, natural or physical boundaries, parishes and shared interests.

- 3 **The need to secure effective and convenient local government** - New wards should promote effective and convenient local government. Consider the number of Councillors for the geographic size of and the links between parts of the ward.

In addition, the Council recognised the fact that the Commission is required to seek a pattern of three member wards, where a Council elects its members by thirds, as Halton does. The Council was also aware that in circumstances where the justification was strong, the Commission would consider ward membership of less than three members, in exceptional circumstances.

In its earlier submission to the Commission the Council introduced its own additional criteria in that it does not believe it sensible or practical to have a ward or wards that crossed the river Mersey, as it is felt this would certainly not meet the 'community interest and identity' test.

METHODOLOGY

The Council commenced the development of its proposals on the basis of a Council of 54 members with the aim of each member representing, roughly, 1,857 electors and for each ward having an electorate of 5,572, using the projected electorate populations for 2024. At the initial stages of developing proposals the Council worked on the basis of having 9 three member wards on each side of the river, recognising the Commission's requirements to 'seek' a pattern of three member wards across the Borough.

It became apparent quite quickly that following the Commission's criteria and the Council's own criteria two important issues arose. Firstly, given that Runcorn had approximately 4,000 (projected by 2024) more electors than Widnes there was an inequality of representation in that in a three member 18 warding arrangement across the Borough, with 9 wards on each side of the river, then Runcorn members would be representing on average 147 electors more per member by 2024. We then looked at a three member 18 warding arrangement across the borough with 10 wards on the Runcorn side of the river and 8 wards on the Widnes side of the river but then Widnes members would be representing 268 electors more per member by 2024, which would give an even greater inequality of representation than 9 three members wards on each side of the river.

Additionally it became apparent that finding new warding arrangements in Runcorn that recognised and retained the distinctly different nature of the parished areas would be difficult if the drive for three member wards was to be followed. The Council, therefore, set about finding a warding pattern which dealt with these additional issues.

THE COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS

Widnes

Widnes is situated on the North side of the River Mersey and is bounded by the River Mersey, Warrington, St Helen's, Knowsley and Liverpool.

The Council believes it has developed a sustainable set of proposed new wards in Widnes, on the basis of **9 three member wards**. It believes that these proposals meet both the Commission's criteria and its own criteria of the River Mersey being a firm boundary, as described earlier in this submission.

Those proposed new wards for Widnes are described in Appendix A attached to this submission and contain a clear justification for each new ward and how each ward meets the Commission's criteria.

Wherever possible those wards are defined by strong boundaries and in some cases we believe our proposals actually strengthen the ward boundaries and more closely reflect community interests and identity.

The Council is confident that these proposals:

- demonstrate electoral equality;
- reflect community interests and identities;
- would promote effective and convenient local government; and
- would be sustainable, as they recognise projected movements in elector numbers

Runcorn

Developing a pattern of 9 three member wards in Runcorn has proved more challenging, given the following set of circumstances:

- there are more strong, physical boundaries within Runcorn, particularly due to the expressway and busway traffic system and the canal network;
- the distinctively different nature of the parished area in east Runcorn; and
- the inequality (compared with Widnes members) created by developing a 9 three member ward arrangement.

The existing Daresbury Ward contains, in their entirety, the Parishes of Moore, Daresbury, Preston Brook and Sandymoor. It is within this area of Runcorn where significant housing growth is projected to take place. This will make the existing Daresbury Ward too large to sustain a three member arrangement. Such a ward would not meet the Commission's electoral equality test. However, as mentioned earlier, those parished areas are distinctly different to the rest of Runcorn, reflected in the fact that there are four existing Parish Councils representing those specific electors.

The Council's proposed solution to this issue is to create a single member ward which would cover the Parishes of Preston Brook and Daresbury and a three member ward, covering the Parished areas of Sandymoor and Moore.

This would have the knock on effect of having an additional member of the Council to the submission made earlier, giving a Council of 55 members. The Council believes it has come up with a sustainable solution with the rest of Runcorn being covered by 8 three member wards. It would mean, in totality, Runcorn would have 28 members contained in 9 three member wards and 1 single member ward.

Whilst the Council recognises that this represents a slight departure from its original submission for 54 members and introduces 1 single member ward in the Borough, it believes this provides a sensible and sustainable solution as:

- it retains and recognises the distinct and different identity and interests of the parished areas within two new wards;
- provides better electoral equality across the whole of the Borough, as within these arrangements the average Runcorn member would only represent 70 more electors than a Widnes member;
- reflects community interests and identities;
- would promote effective and convenient local government; and
- would be sustainable, as this reflects projected movements in electoral numbers.

The proposed new wards for Runcorn are attached in Appendix B to this submission and contain a clear justification for each new ward and how each new ward meets the Commission's criteria.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Attached in Appendix C are the proposed names for each of the new wards, together with justifications.
- Attached in Appendix D is a list of building blocks (Polling Districts) that the Council has used to develop the new wards.

OVERALL CONCLUSION

The Council is recommending the following to the Commission:

- given the justification contained in this submission that the Council from May 2020 be made up of 55 elected members;


- there be 19 wards in the Borough;
- there be 18 three member wards; 9 three member wards in Widnes and 9 three member wards in Runcorn.
- there be 1 single member ward in Runcorn, as described in the Appendices to this report.

Appendix A: Widnes Warding Pattern

Appleton Chadwick

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	4976
Variance	-6%
Forecast Electorate (proposed boundary) 2024	5,271
Variance:	-4%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	The Town Centre Bus station is located within the proposed ward and several public transport routes are available. Peelhouse Lane provides access to residents to travel locally, and Green Oaks Way allows access to the retail aspect of the ward.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	Several residents groups are noted with local interests and other groups such as the Friends of Victoria Park and various church groups. Local facilities, shopping and health services are located within the ward. The ward has 2 schools which act as a community hub for parents.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The ward contains the town centre of Widnes as well as the most prominent public park (Victoria Park). This provides a sense of place. Northern Boundary – railway line and a busy main road that leads to the By-Pass (Watkinson Way). Southern Boundary – the end of what is recognised as Widnes Town Centre. Eastern Boundary – the By- Pass (Watkinson Way). Western Boundary – the busy main road of Birchfield Road and the Town Centre.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly urban estates, housing areas are linked with retail and business purposes. There is a large public park within the ward. It can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

The proposed Appleton Chadwick Ward is situated around the area of Appleton Village. It contains two schools, numerous local shops, churches, Widnes Town Centre and the municipal park (Victoria Park) which all contribute to the community identity and cohesion of the ward. The proposed new ward boundary involves moving two neighbourhoods into the proposed new ward from two neighbouring wards and two areas out of the proposed new ward into the neighbouring two wards. We feel that our proposals for this ward would best meet all three of the Commission's criteria. Our proposals are as follows:

- 1) The new build Chadwick estate becomes part of the proposed Appleton Chadwick Ward. This contributes to the electoral equality of the ward without splitting up communities, in addition there is a new build estate in the current Appleton Ward with a social club and medical centre that sits between these two estates.
- 2) The area below the town centre (from Gerrard Street) is moved into the Riverside, New Town & St Michaels Ward. There are numerous reasons for this, not least being that there is no community connection between these residents and the proposed Appleton Chadwick or indeed the current Appleton Ward. The sense of belonging for this area of Widnes is with the long-term community links with the Lugsdale/New Town area. This current section of the

Appleton ward is completely spilt from the rest of the ward by the Town Centre shopping area and it makes no sense that this community is not within a ward with the rest the community of the Lugsdale area.


3) The Columba apartments (Frederick Street) and the area to the East of Frederick Street (Dean Close area) are moved into the neighbouring proposed Kingsway Heath Ward. The current boundary between these wards is very weak at this point, with residents currently having to leave the current Appleton Ward and enter the current Kingsway Ward to get to their homes. We feel that the community that lives around the Simms Cross area of Widnes are currently split up and that the boundary should become the much stronger boundary of Widnes Town Centre. We feel that this would better reflect community interests and identity and be much less confusing in terms of convenience of representation.

4) That the houses on the East side of Birchfield Road up to the boundary of the railway line are included in the proposed Appleton Chadwick, this is because they live adjacent to Victoria Park which is in the proposed Appleton Chadwick ward and it would be much more practical, democratic and give a greater convenience for these residents to have the same councillors as the councillors that cover the Victoria Park area.

Bankfield

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,162
Variance:	-2%
Forecast Electorate (proposed boundary) 2024	5015
Variance:	-8%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	The secondary train station (Hough Green) is located within the proposed ward and several public transport routes are located here (Particularly along Liverpool Road). Liverpool Road acts as the access point for most of the residential area of the ward.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	There are local facilities, including shopping and health services located within the ward. The ward has 2 Primary schools and one Secondary school. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community. There is also a shared green space, Hough Green Park.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	Several active residents groups are noted with local interests including church groups. The local scouts/guides HQ is also located within the ward and contributes to community cohesion.	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The main Widnes-Liverpool railway line runs across the northern boundary of the ward. It is also made up of the Borough Boundary. Northern Boundary – Railway Line Southern Boundary – Busy main road & industrial area Eastern Boundary – Prescott Road and Hale Road Western Boundary – the neighbouring borough of Knowsley	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly urban estates, housing areas are linked with some retail purposes. There is a large public park within the ward. It can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

We feel that our proposals for this ward would best meet all three of the Commission's criteria. Our proposals are as follows:

- 1) The existing ward boundary running down the centre of Hale Road is confusing and cuts off the residents living in the courts along Hale Road from the current Broadheath and proposed Bankfield. They have a strong boundary between them and their current Broadheath ward and also the proposed Bankfield Ward in the form of a solid brick wall, therefore we feel that they belong with the community that lives opposite them in the same road and also the community that they share their local shops with in Montgomery Road. We propose that this area is moved into the proposed Riverside St Michael's Ward.


- 2) That the houses in Hale Road around the shared community green facility should all be part of the same ward, instead of split up into two different wards as they currently are. This boundary is currently confusing to residents. We propose that these houses are moved into the proposed Riverside St Michael's Ward.
- 3) That the current Ditton polling districts of GE and GF are moved in their entirety to the Bankfield Ward.
- 4) That from (but not including) Coronation Drive in the current GA polling district is transferred into the Bankfield Ward. *

*The current boundary between the GA polling district and GD polling district which we are proposing to remain in Ditton is inadequate, it is drawn down the centre of a small road (Phillip Rd) in a social housing estate and we do not believe this to be a strong boundary and believe those residents should have the same representatives, as they are clearly one community. We believe our proposal creates a much more identifiable and stronger boundary to the current one.

Birchfield

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,764
Variance:	+9%
Forecast Electorate (proposed boundary) 2024	5,602
Variance:	+2%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Several public transport routes are located here – Birchfield Road acts as a connecting road between the town centre and the north of Widnes. The majority of the ward is served by two major roads – Birchfield road (B5419) to the east of the ward, and Queensbury Way – which runs through the entirety of the Upton Rocks estate.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	Local facilities include the Birchfield sports & social club and local public houses which act as community hubs and contribute to the identity of Birchfield. To the north of the ward the Ford social club also acts as a community hub. There are several shared green spaces	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	that allow communities to come together. The ward has one Sixth Form College.	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	Birchfield is the most northern ward in Widnes Northern Boundary – neighbouring boroughs of Knowsley and St Helen's. Southern Boundary – the railway line Eastern Boundary – the centre of the busy Birchfield Road. Western Boundary – the main road of Prescott Road.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly large urban estates. The northern part of the ward is rural can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

Located in the northwest quarter of Widnes, Birchfield ward has seen some major changes over recent years, with the formation of the Upton Rocks residential estate.

We feel that our proposals for this ward would best meet all three of the Commission's criteria. Our proposals are as follows:

- 1) The area to the north of Cronton Lane and to the west of Norlands Lane to be moved into the proposed Birchfield ward. This area includes a number of newly formed housing estates, who already utilise the shops and pub/restaurant on Cronton Lane. These estates often contain electors that have the same socio-economic make up and will therefore have common issues with regards to electoral representation.

Ditton, Halebank & Hale Village

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,473
Variance:	+4%
Forecast Electorate (proposed boundary) 2024	5,389
Variance:	-2%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Despite the ward consisting of large rural areas it can be navigated easily via Hale/Halegate Road which runs through the majority of the ward. There are also regular bus services that provide transport links throughout the ward.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	<p>Several active residents groups are noted with local interests. There are youth clubs and ecclesiastical links across the ward. Pickerings Pasture is a large green space that brings communities together.</p> <p>The Ward also consists of two distinct communities that consist of the Parishes of Hale and Halebank.</p> <p>There are shopping opportunities and health services located within the ward.</p>	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>The ward has three Primary schools. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>There are also many nature walks & tourist attractions including Pickerings Pasture and Hale Lighthouse.</p>	
Parishes	Hale, Halebank	Accepted as no Parish boundaries are split.
Identifiable boundaries	<p>The ward has the considerable boundary of the river Mersey and also the Borough boundary.</p> <p>Northern Boundary – Busy main road Southern Boundary – the River Mersey Eastern Boundary – Busy main road and industrial areas. Western Boundary – neighbouring local authorities of Liverpool and Knowsley</p>	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly rural. The northern part of the ward is urban and can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

The proposed ward consists of two parish areas, Hale & Halebank. Although the Parish areas have strong individual community identities they also have shared interests/issues with regards to the Mersey Estuary and surrounding areas.

Hale is a thriving community situated on the border of Halton next to Liverpool Airport. At its centre of community activities are the new Village Hall, Youth Centre and its two village pubs. The village has a large amount of visitors and walkers who enjoy visiting its park, war memorial and seeing the many historical buildings and thatched cottages. Its most famous son is the Childe of Hale, John Middleton who grew to the incredible height of 9 feet 3 inches. Many stories have been written about Hale's giant and there is a large statue of him which is a popular tourist attraction. St Mary's church situated in Hale serves the communities of both Hale and Halebank.

Hale Duck Decoy which dates back to the seventeenth century lies between Hale and Pickerings Pasture and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

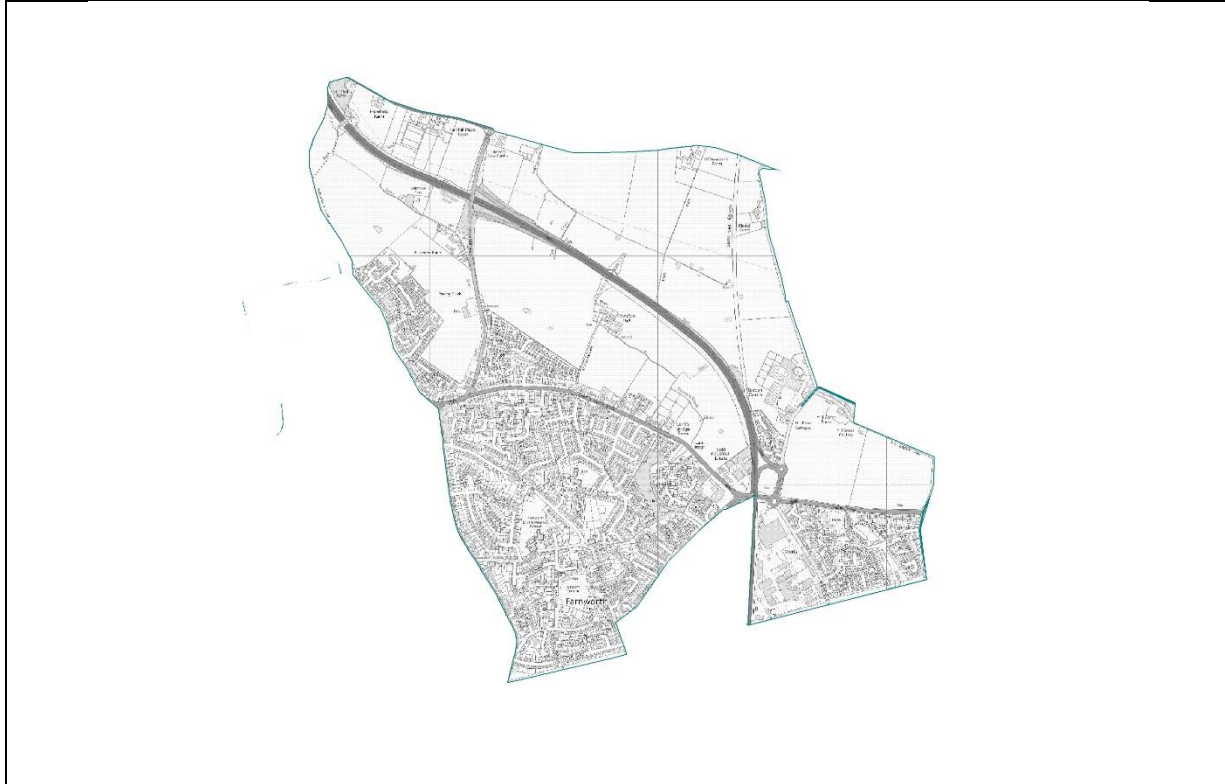
The proposed ward has a nature reserve (Pickerings Pasture) which is a community hub for both parishes and other surrounding areas.

Whereas the previous Hale Ward boundary kept the village of Hale separate from the area of Hale Bank, the new Ditton, Halebank and Hale Village ward is much larger geographically and encompasses a number of previously separate estates. The proposed ward retains its physical and administrative limits, with the River Mersey to the south and the area of Speke across the boundary to the west. The north part of the proposed boundary now runs up to the Ditchfield Road area of Widnes, which was previously located in the Ditton ward. To the east, the proposed boundary now excludes the western portion of the Ditton Road estate and St Michaels Industrial Estate. These areas are now located within the proposed Riverside, New Town and St Michaels Ward. It is felt that this allows electoral equality to be achieved as well as retaining community identities across the ward.

Farnworth

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	6,034
Variance:	+15%
Forecast Electorate (proposed boundary) 2024	5,882
Variance:	+7%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Several public transport routes are located here – Birchfield Road and Lunts Heath Road connect the town centre and the north of Widnes.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	<p>Several active residents groups are noted with local interests.</p> <p>There are local facilities, including shopping opportunities as well as a number of health services. The ward has two Primary schools. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>There are various green spaces that bring communities together within the ward including Wilmere Lane playing fields and Widnes Cricket Club.</p>	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	The ward consists of the Historic Village of Farnworth which forms a large part of the community identity today: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farnworth,_Cheshire	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	Farnworth is the most north easterly ward in Widnes and is largely made up of the Borough boundary and the railway line to the south. Northern boundary - the neighbouring local authority of St Helen's. Southern boundary – the railway line Eastern Boundary – Busy main road and railway line. Western Boundary – the centre of the busy Birchfield Road	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is split between urban and rural. The southern part of the ward is urban can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

Farnworth has become much larger in terms of resident numbers in recent years, however at its centre it retains a strong sense of identity due to it being the site of the historic village of Farnworth. It contains two schools, village shops, churches, restaurant and pubs.

We recognise that to achieve as near to electoral equality as possible that the Farnworth ward has to be substantially reduced in number, however, we propose that as much of the longest standing parts of the Farnworth ward are retained within the new Farnworth ward as possible.

We feel that our proposals for this ward would best meet all three of the Commission's criteria. Our proposals are as follows:

- 1) The transferring of the top part of Barrow's Green Lane to Halton View, to join the rest of Barrow's Green Lane which is already in the current Halton View and in the proposed Halton View ward.
- 2) The transfer of the houses to the East of Derby Road (up to the Lunt's Heath Junction) and the electors in Peel House Lane into their neighbouring ward of Appleton Chadwick – as the majority of the houses in the section are new build properties and the proposed neighbouring

ward of Appleton Chadwick has got one single estate of very new builds in what could be described as the same sweep of land. In between these new estates is a social club and a doctor's surgery and pharmacy, so we believe that this proposal would result in a cohesive community. We recognise that this proposal crosses a railway line, however, the existing Farnworth ward cannot remain at the same size and we believe this proposal gives the best chance for the Farnworth Ward to retain its historic strong sense of community identity, while also connecting the new build communities into the same proposed ward of Appleton Chadwick.

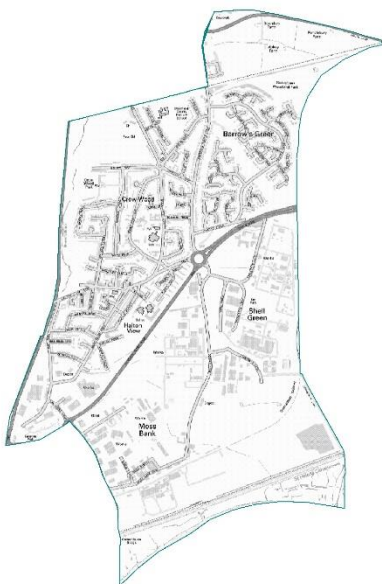
3) To achieve as near to electoral equality as possible we propose that the centre of Norlands Lane becomes the new boundary between Farnworth and Birchfield Ward.

We believe that these proposals give Farnworth a strong geographic boundary, retains its historic core within one ward and achieves as close to electoral equality as possible for Farnworth.

Halton View

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,636
Variance:	+7%
Forecast Electorate (proposed boundary) 2024	5,578
Variance:	0%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Public transport routes are numerous – due to the close proximity to the town centre. Vehicle access is provided via Fiddlers Ferry Way (A562) which allows quick access into and away from the ward. Internally, Barrows Green Road and Moorfield provide access to the estates.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	Several active residents groups are noted with local interests including ecclesiastical links. Close to town centre with shopping & health facilities. The ward has three Primary schools. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools,	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	they form an important part of the Community.	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	Halton View is the most eastern ward in Widnes – It shares a boundary with the Local Authority of Warrington. Northern Boundary - railway line. Southern Boundary - the River Mersey and busy high speed main road/junction Ashley Way. Eastern Boundary - neighbouring local authority of Warrington. Western Boundary - Watkinson Way, a busy high speed main road.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly urban can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

The current ward of Halton View has a strong sense of community, with the local community firmly identifying themselves as 'Halton Viewers'. There are two churches in Halton View and three schools, a number of pubs, a social club and a range of local shops. Halton View also has two parks. To the west it has the strong geographic boundary of Watkinson Way, a busy high speed main road. To the East is the neighbouring local authority of Warrington, to the South is the river and a busy high speed main road/junction in Widnes – Ashley Way. To the North is the railway line.

We feel that our proposals for this ward would best meet all three of the Commission's criteria. Our proposals are as follows:

- 1) That the new build housing estate on Page Lane and the houses on the West side of Page Lane, are transferred to the proposed Halton View ward, as those residents are currently cut off completely from the ward that they are currently in and strongly identify that they live in Halton View. The current boundary is extremely confusing, as once on Halton View Bridge, Widnes residents strongly believe that all of that area is Halton View.
- 2) To transfer the area at the top of Barrows Green Lane into the Halton View ward, for similar reasons to the minor adjustment above and also because those residents utilise facilities such as Sunny Bank Park which is in the current and proposed Halton View ward and the majority of Barrow's Green Lane is in the current and proposed Halton View awrd. We recognise this

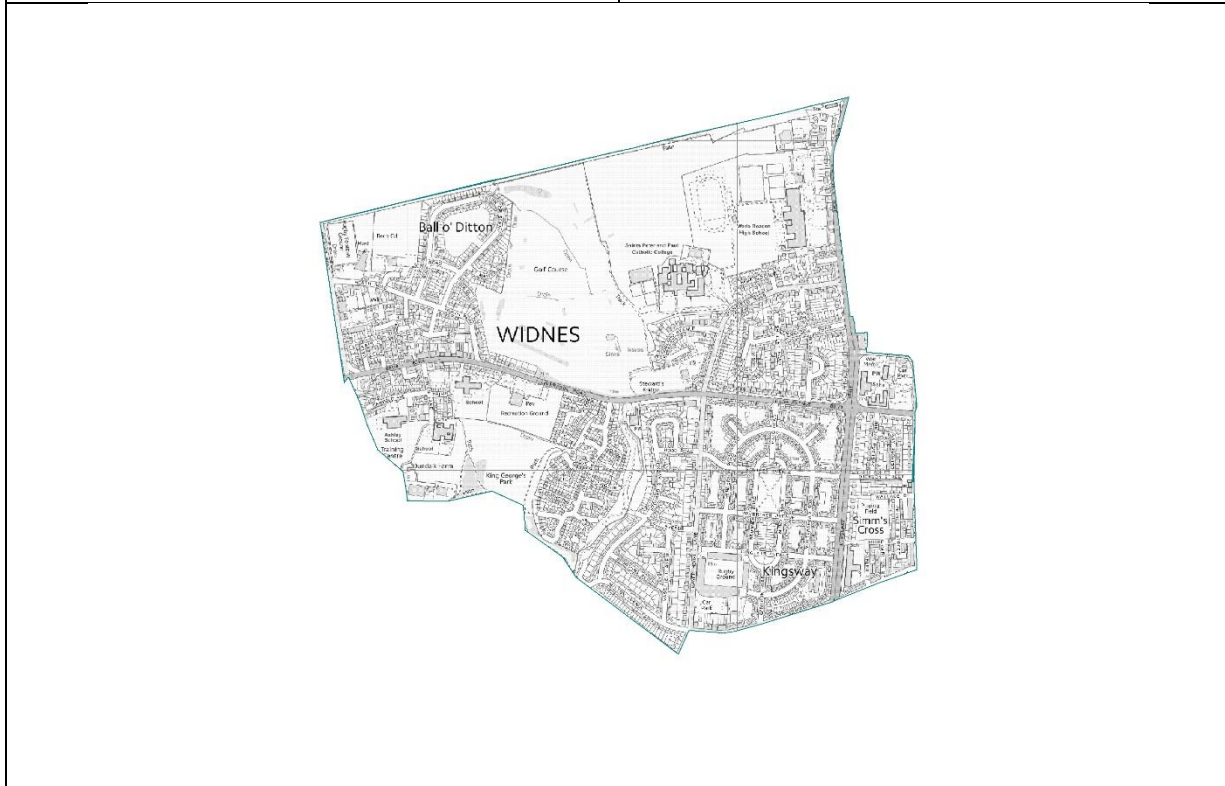
would result in the Halton View Ward crossing the railway line, however, we believe this to be justified due to the strong sense of belonging to Halton View that these residents display and will also achieve electoral equality. Additionally the railway line has a bridge over it that forms part of Barrows Green Lane.

We did consider proposing moving the housing estate at the top of Moorfield Road into Halton View, however, this would have resulted in Halton View not achieving electoral equality and with such stronger geographic boundaries to all other sides of the Halton View Ward, it was felt that, although desirable from a community cohesion perspective, it was not possible due to the aim of achieving as near as possible electoral equality.

Kingsway Heath

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,483
Variance:	+4%
Forecast Electorate (proposed boundary) 2024	5,417
Variance:	-1%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Public transport routes are numerous – due to the close proximity to the town centre. Access to all residential areas by vehicle are provided by these two major roads, Kingsway and Liverpool road.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	Residents have good access to shared services. Several active residents groups are noted with local interests. Close to the town centre and good for local facilities - shopping opportunities and health services are within the ward. The ward has two Primary schools, two Secondary schools and two Special schools. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	Leisure facilities are at the heart of the ward promoting community cohesion and identify. This includes Halton Stadium, home of Widnes Vikings Rugby League Club.	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The main Widnes-Liverpool railway line runs across the northern boundary of the ward. Northern Boundary – railway line Southern Boundary – Milton Road Eastern Boundary – the busy Birchfield Road and the Town Centre Western Boundary – the busy Prescott Road	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly urban but also contains a golf course and numerous school playing fields.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

Kingsway Heath Ward contains five schools, a number of small local shops, pubs, the Halton Stadium, the Frank Myler Pavilion, Leigh Rec and King George's playing fields. It is a community made up of its own sections that come together as a community as a whole due to the infrastructure of the ward and the shared history of many of its residents.

We feel that our proposals for this ward would best meet all three of the Commission's criteria. Our proposals are as follows:

- 1) That the changes take place as stipulated in the Appleton Chadwick ward proposal - that the residents that live in the Columba apartments (Frederick Street) and the residents to the East of Frederick Street (Dean Close area) are transferred to the proposed Kingsway Heath Ward. These residents have to enter the current Kingsway Ward to get to their homes, therefore it makes no sense that they are in a different ward to their neighbours.
- 2) That the houses on the East side of Birchfield Road are included in the proposed Appleton Chadwick, this is because they live backing on to Victoria Park which is in the proposed

Appleton Chadwick ward and it would be much more practical and democratic for them for their councillors to be the same as the ones that cover the park area.

- 3) That the area of Heath Road/Lynton Crescent and the Ball O'Ditton area are transferred to the proposed Kingsway Heath ward. This is because they are a community within their own right, distinct from the area that is proposed to make up the new Bankfield ward and also due to the need for as close as possible electoral equality. The residents here do have linked facilities with the proposed Kingsway Heath Ward, such as the Frank Myler Pavilion and there is evidence of community connectivity between the two areas due to mutual community involvement regarding Widnes Golf Club, which resulted in a shared community campaign as the golf club land connects the current Kingsway ward with this area.

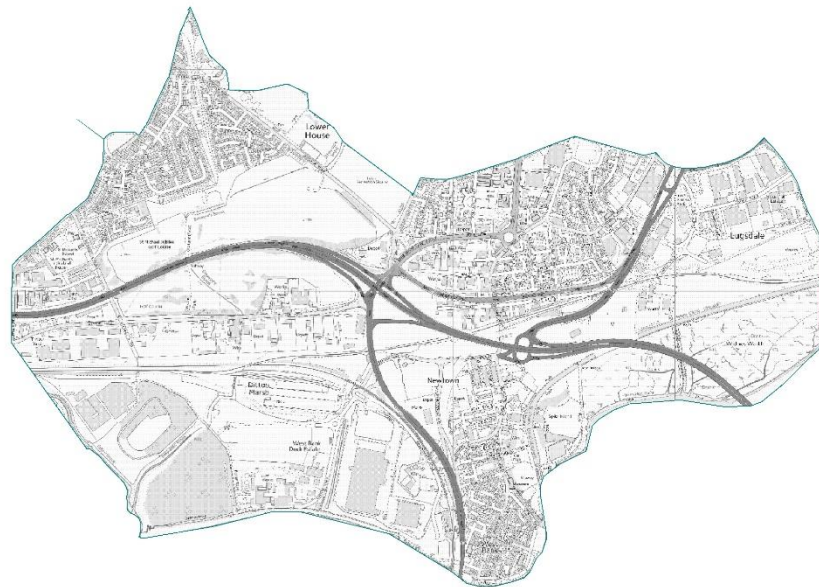
These proposals mean that to the north, Kingsway, Simms Cross and Ball O Ditton's boundary would be a railway line. To the South, the town centre shopping area and a busy main road. To the East the Town Centre Shopping Area. To the West a busy main road, major road junction and playing fields.

We believe that these proposals give the proposed Kingsway Heath ward a strong geographic boundary, and achieves as close to electoral equality as possible.

Riverside, New Town and St Michaels

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	4989
Variance:	-5%
Forecast Electorate (proposed boundary) 2024	5,014
Variance:	-8%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Public transport routes are numerous – due to the close proximity to the town centre. A number of major roads run through the ward, including Ashley Way, Watkinson Way and the newly opened Mersey Gateway. Dundalk Road provides good access to residential areas.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	Residents have good access to shared services. It contains the area of West Bank which has a strong identity both historically and currently. Several active residents groups are noted with local interests. Close to the town centre and good for	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	local facilities, shopping opportunities and health services within the ward. The ward has four Primary schools. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	Northern Boundary - busy main road and the Town Centre. Southern Boundary - the River Mersey and industrial areas. Eastern Boundary - busy main road and industrial areas. Western Boundary - busy main road and major road junction.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area has a number of residential estates but is largely dominated by industrial and business locations and can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

Riverside, New Town and St Michaels Ward is currently made up of the community of West Bank, a strong and distinct community in its own right as well as the Lugsdale area and St Michael's area. Each of these communities has their own sense of community identity, with churches, shops and services situated within in them.

We feel that our proposals for this ward would best meet all three of the Commission's criteria. Our proposals are as follows:

- 1) That for reasons set out in the Appleton proposal we propose that the area to the South of the town centre is transferred to the proposed Riverside, New Town & St Michael's ward. There are numerous reasons for this, not least being that there is no community connection between these residents and the current Appleton or proposed Appleton Chadwick ward; their sense of belonging is with the long- term community links with the Lugsdale/New Town area. This current section of Appleton is completely spilt from the rest of Appleton by the

Town Centre shopping area and it makes no sense that this community is not within a ward with the rest of the Lugsdale area.

- 2) That the area from (and including) Milton Road is transferred to the proposed Riverside, Town and St Michael's ward due to the need to achieve as close as possible electoral equality and to give a strong geographic boundary between the proposed neighbouring wards.
- 3) To the West of the current ward in the St Michael's area we propose that the whole of Dundalk Road is put into the Riverside, New Town and St Michaels Ward, including the extra care facility of Barkla Fields. The local shops and public transport for these residents is already in the Riverside, New Town and St Michaels Ward and a pensioner's housing court is currently situated within the current Riverside Ward on the other side of Dundalk Road. We feel these two pensioner facilities belong in one ward, to give continuity of representation due to common themes that are raised between them.
- 4) That the current boundary running down the centre of Hale Road is confusing and cutting off the residents living in the courts along Hale Road from the Broadheath and proposed Bankfield ward that they are currently in. They have a strong boundary between them and the proposed Bankfield Ward in the form of a solid brick wall, therefore we feel they belong with their community that lives opposite them and the community that they share their local shops with.
- 5) That the houses in Hale Road around the shared community green facility should all be part of the same ward, instead of being split up into two different wards as they currently are. This boundary is currently confusing to residents, therefore they should all be in the proposed Riverside, Town & St Michael's ward.
- 6) That Hale Road becomes the boundary for Riverside, New Town and St Michaels Ward, transferring the houses in Coronation Drive and one half of Canterbury Road area into the Ditton, Halebank & Hale Village Ward. This boundary is currently very confusing to residents as Canterbury Road is not a main road, it is a small road within a social housing estate and it is not right that they currently have different representatives when they clearly are part of one community.
- 7) That the boundary of St Michael's Road is moved to Hale Road, this would mean that Ditton, Halebank & Hale Village Ward's boundary would begin at Hale Road and into Wyncroft Road, which is a through Road into the rest of the Ditton, Halebank & Hale Village Ward.

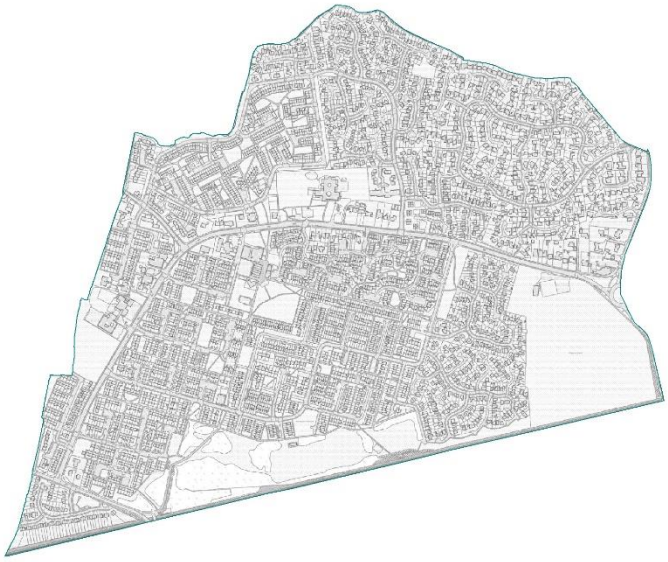
These proposals mean that to the North Riverside's boundary would be a busy main road and the Town Centre. To the South, the River, and industrial areas. To the West a busy main road and major road junction. To the East a busy main road and industrial areas.

We believe that these proposals give Riverside, New Town and St Michaels a strong geographic boundary, and achieves as close to electoral equality as possible for Riverside, Town and St Michaels.

Hough Green

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,145
Variance:	-2%
Forecast Electorate (proposed boundary) 2024	5,031
Variance:	-8%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	The ward is served by a single main road running through the estate (Hough Green Road) – Public Transport operates on this road on a regular basis.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	<p>Several active residents groups are noted with local interests.</p> <p>Local facilities include shopping opportunities and health services. The ward has two Primary schools. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>There is a Community Centre and Children’s Centre both of which stimulate community cohesion and act as community hubs for the ward.</p>	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	There are also several open spaces where communities can come together.	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	Northern Boundary – Neighbouring borough of Knowsley. Southern Boundary –m railway line Eastern Boundary – busy main road Prescott Road. Western Boundary – Neighbouring of Knowsley.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is dominated by residential estates and can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

The proposed ward of Hough Green contains the residential area of Hough Green. The main thoroughfare through the ward (Hough Green Road) splits the estate into a north and south side. Located in the south west corner of the ward, Hough Green Train Station provide transport links to both Liverpool and Manchester.

In geographical terms, the proposed Hough Green is bordered with the Local Authority of Knowsley to the west and north of its location.

The ward has 2 primary schools, a dedicated GP surgery and a community centre all serving its residents. The area also has a number of playing fields and a recreation ground available to the public.

The proposed Hough Green ward is the only ward in the borough that we propose no changes for as it already strongly meets the Commission's three criteria.

Proposals: Number of Councillors and Electors by Ward (Widnes)

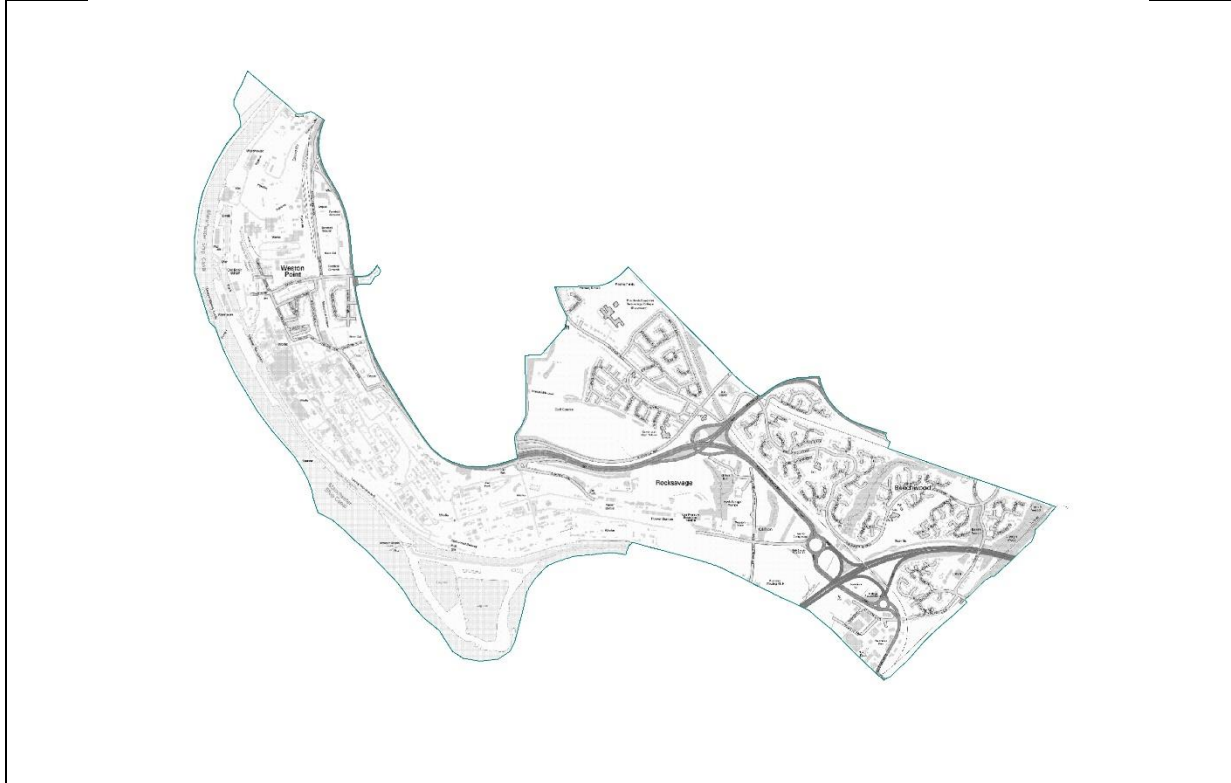
Ward Name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Appleton Chadwick	3	4,976	1,659	-6	5,271	1,757	-4
Bankfield	3	5,162	1,721	-2	5,015	1,672	-8
Birchfield	3	5,764	1,921	9	5,602	1,867	2
Ditton, Hale Village & Halebank	3	5,473	1,824	4	5,389	1,796	-2
Farnworth	3	6,034	2,011	15	5,882	1,961	7
Halton View	3	5,636	1,879	7	5,578	1,859	2
Hough Green	3	5,145	1,715	-2	5,031	1,677	-8
Kingsway Heath	3	5,483	1,828	4	5,417	1,805	-1
RiversideTown & St Michael's	3	4,989	1,663	-5	5,014	1,671	-8

Appendix B: Runcorn Warding Proposals

West Runcorn

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,286
Variance:	-5%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	5,148
Variance:	-6%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	The eastern part of the ward is well served by public transport. Beechwood Avenue runs through the length of the main housing estate and there is easy access to the M56 via the newly configured Junction 12.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	The area of Beechwood has a strong identity with residents even contributing towards an annual levy to maintain and access local facilities. The ward also contains Weston Point (including the Port of Runcorn/Weston regeneration area) and the residential area popularly known as The Heath.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>Several active residents groups are noted with local interests.</p> <p>There are a number of ecclesiastical sites available to the community.</p> <p>Local facilities include shopping opportunities within the ward and there are health services located within the ward. The ward has three Primary schools, one Secondary school and a special school. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>Residents have access to a shared Community Centre which hosts a variety of events and activities.</p> <p>The ward also contains a prestigious Golf course.</p>	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The Mersey Estuary borders the ward to the west. The southern boundary of the ward is shared with Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area has a number of residential estates, but also some of the largest industrial/chemical estates. It can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further Evidence:

Our proposals for a new West Runcorn ward make it, geographically, the largest ward in Runcorn. This arises as the west of Runcorn is heavily industrialised by factories concerned principally with chemical manufacture. The small local communities of Weston Point, Clifton and the larger residential area of Heath and Beechwood have close ties to the industries. Many people within these areas are employed or have family related ties to those employed within the local chemical industry.

Our proposed ward forms the western boundary of Runcorn and the Council concluded there was a strong case for these boundaries. The ward adjoins the Manchester Ship Canal to the south and its northern boundary predominantly follows the line of the A533 expressway and railway line, effectively the railway line and dual carriageway form a distinct and defining boundary that affect the movement of electors and the shaping of communities. The only grounds we found for discounting these strong boundaries as being divisive was at Betchworth Close (and its adjoining small closes). This small residential area is linked to the main body of the Beechwood area by an overhead roadway that crosses the railway line. We discounted the potential of extending the current Beechwood ward into Halton Lea ward as there was weaker local links and no sharing of community services, for example Beechwood and Palacefields have their own separate community centres, yet Beechwood Community Centre was the local community centre to residential areas within the Heath ward. The Heath School within the current Heath ward serves significantly the educational requirements of Beechwood for mixed secondary school and sixth form provision.


Beechwood Avenue and Clifton Road is the same major thoroughfare for the main residential communities.

Weston Point and Clifton Village are both small residential areas located away from the main body of the residential communities. It is recognised that these are distinct local neighbourhoods which have limited ties to other areas of the town but that local geography dictates that these areas are best served with the West Runcorn ward.

Halton Castle & Windmill Hill

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,014
Variance:	-10%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	5,243
Variance:	-4%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Castlefields Avenue which runs throughout the ward has a number of bus services and connects much of the ward for car users. Daresbury Expressway (and the adjoining Mersey Gateway crossing) is nearby.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	The proposed ward consists of 3 established communities, 2 “new town” estates (Castlefields & Windmill Hill) and the Historic Halton Village: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halton,_Runcorn The new town residents share similar issues & challenges and are both part of established regeneration programmes. Halton Village residents, whilst having their own identity, have long standing relationships with Castlefields residents and often access the same facilities.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>There are a number of ecclesiastical sites available to the community.</p> <p>There are numerous community groups in the area. Residents have access to a shared Community Centre which hosts a variety of events and activities.</p> <p>Excellent for local facilities, close proximity to the local centre and Runcorn Shopping City and numerous health services. The ward has a number of Primary schools. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>There are also a number of Scout Groups active within the ward.</p>	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The ward has the Central Expressway (A533) to the west and the River Mersey to the north acting as physical boundaries.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is split – with all residential estates to the south and large scale industrial estates to the north.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

The Halton Castle and Windmill Hill Ward largely comprises Halton Village, Castlefields estate and Windmill Hill estate.

Halton Village is a historic village community that predates the decision to develop this area of east Runcorn as a New Town under the 1946 New Town Act. The Castlefields and Windmill Hill estates share some of the challenges associated with high levels of deprivation.

Castlefields estate was a unique example of modernist town planning. When it was designed and developed, it was highly lauded as offering a radical alternative to the crowded industrial suburbs of the great northern cities. Whilst many aspects of the estate remain strong assets, such as its attractive setting and location, aspects of its design and management over the last few decades have resulted in

a legacy of poor quality and inappropriate housing, buildings and spaces. English Partnerships, working closely with the Council and registered social landlords later developed a strategic and spatial vision for the area which has seen deck access housing demolished and the estate largely rebuilt with new modern housing.

Windmill Hill is located close to Castlefields and the two estates share a number of social and community services. In particular the award winning Phoenix Park is a key meeting place for both communities and since the closure of GP services in Windmill Hill the two estates share the provision of services at the local Castlefields Community Centre.

In forming its ward arrangements the Council considered that the Windmill Hill area should not be included within a new ward shared with the Sandymoor parish area as the two communities are poorly linked and share limited services. There are closer ties and community cohesion in forming Windmill Hill with Castlefields estate.


The proposed ward is dominated by Halton Castle which looks out over the ward and it is a richly diverse area, with both an industrial estate to the north and the largest concentration of listed buildings in Runcorn to the south.

The majority of the boundaries we have proposed for this ward are formed by the Mersey estuary, two expressway systems and natural breaks near dwellings owing to green spaces.

Daresbury

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	971
Variance:	-48%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	1,911
Variance:	+5% (1 member ward)



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Excellent vehicular access with the M56 running centrally as well as the A56 (which runs all the way from the north of the ward to the south).	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	<p>There are a number of ecclesiastical sites available to the community.</p> <p>Local facilities, shopping opportunities and health services are located within the ward. The ward has one Primary school. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend this school, it forms an important part of the Community.</p> <p>The ward contains the rural village of Daresbury, birthplace of Lewis Carroll which has a strong community identity</p>	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daresbury and Preston Brook Village, both of which are in the parish of All Saints Daresbury.	
Parishes	Daresbury, Preston Brook	Accepted as no Parish boundaries are split
Identifiable boundaries	The ward is bordered to the north and east by the neighbouring authority of Warrington, to the south by Cheshire West and Chester and to the west by the physical boundary of the railway line linking Warrington to Crewe.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is very rural with a few residential pockets. It can easily be navigated and represented by 1 member and the parish councillors.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

The proposed ward comprises the parishes of Daresbury and Preston Brook and encompasses the most rural areas of the borough, which are in close proximity to the wider Cheshire countryside.

This ward is required to be a one member ward as about 95% of its external boundary of 13.8 miles comprises indivisible and unmovable barriers to forming ward arrangements. The proposed ward has a substantial borough boundary with the Cheshire West & Chester borough and its western boundary is the M56 motorway and the 3.88 mile Warrington to Crewe loop railway line. Given its rural character there are limited links across the motorway and railway line, effectively forming in the Council's view strong arguments for a one councillor ward.

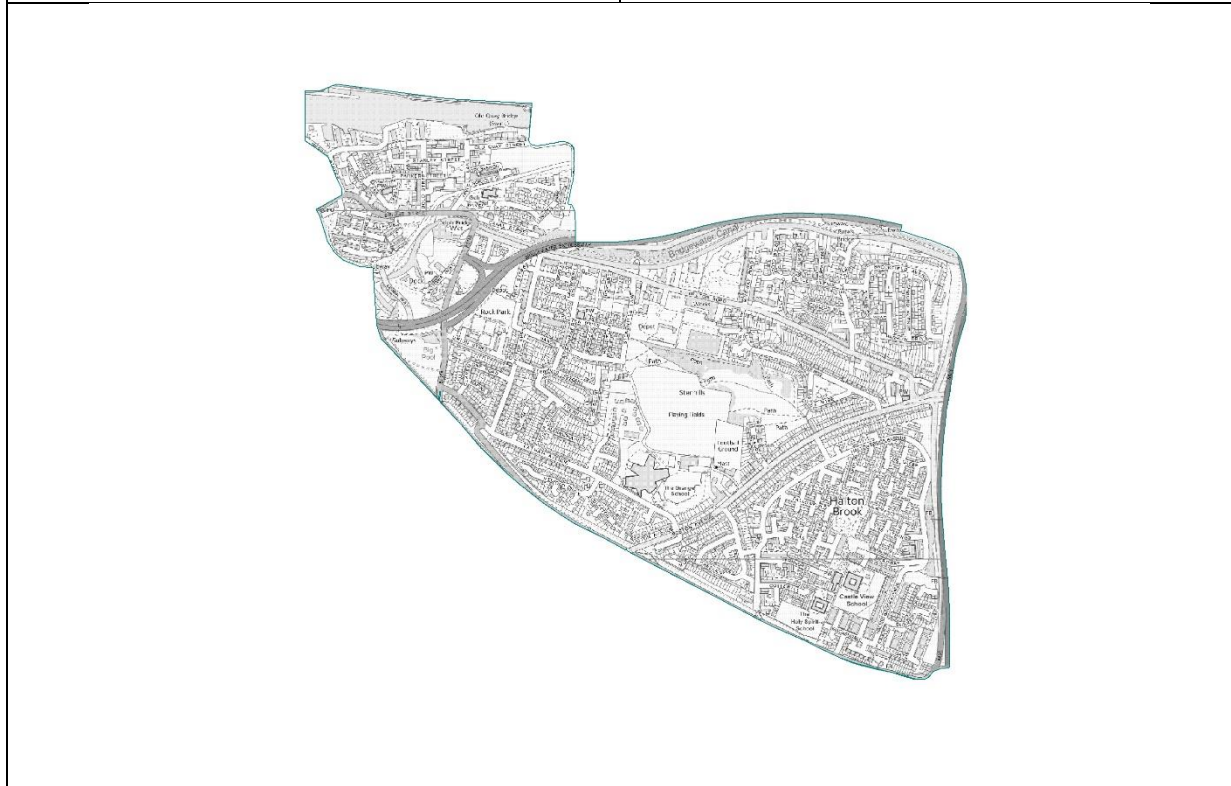
Like the Moore and Sandymoor parishes this proposed ward has seen significant change and growth. The ward is the location of Sci-Tech Daresbury, a National Science and Innovation Campus that is one of only two world class communities of its kind in the UK. Farming and rural trades still form an important aspect here and local people have chosen to settle in this community as it offers 'village life'.

The two parishes of Daresbury and Preston Brook share similar community interests and activities here revolve around the parish halls and the work of two active Parish Councils. The areas have a close affinity with Warrington, having separate post codes to communities in Runcorn. Residents commonly commute to Warrington for shopping and leisure activities and it is noted that local properties are commonly sold through estate agents in Warrington rather than Runcorn.

Bridgewater

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,798
Variance:	+4%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	6,096
Variance:	+11%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Public transport links are good due to the close proximity to Runcorn Old Town and the main thoroughfare of Boston Avenue. The main roads of Halton Road and Boston Avenue allow residents within the ward to access a wide proportion of the area.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	<p>The ward has a number of established communities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halton Brook • The residential area of Runcorn Old Town including the modern apartment developments of the Deck <p>These communities will have similar issues and challenges.</p> <p>There are active community groups in the</p>	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>area.</p> <p>There are a number of ecclesiastical sites available to the community.</p> <p>Good for local facilities, close proximity to the old town and a number of health services and leisure facilities (including a public swimming baths). The ward has three Primary schools and one Secondary school. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>There is also a Scout group, Youth Centre and a Community Centre which offers a range of events and activities.</p>	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The Mersey estuary runs across the northern boundary of the ward and the Central Expressway acts as the eastern boundary of the ward.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is largely residential and can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

This proposed ward extends across much of what was formerly the Halton Brook ward but extends westward to deliver electoral equality and even strong community cohesion.

With the exception of the Halton Brook estate, which was built in the late 1960s, much of the housing that developed to form this ward has its origins in the growth and prosperity the canal brought to Runcorn. The proposed ward area was also once known for its canalside tannery works off Halton Road and there continues to be very strong connectivity within the area and access about the ward for residents.

Boston Avenue, Latham Avenue, Halton Road and Bridge Street are all key routes through the ward which support movement and emphasise the need for our proposals. There are strong local

community interests throughout the ward which focus around shops, public houses and open spaces. Rock Park and Stenhills are two key parks and the proposed ward enjoys waterfront access to both the Mersey and Bridgewater Canal.

Halton Lea

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	4,530
Variance:	-19%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	5,298
Variance:	-3%

Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Public transport links are excellent due to the extensive service operating out of Runcorn Shopping City and throughout the ward. Access to the area and its associated estates is mainly via the Central Expressway (A533) which provides quick and easy access to the Mersey Gateway.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	This ward is largely made up of the Hallwood Park estate which has a long established community identity (previously being part of the Southgate estate https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southgate_Estate) It is also part of significant regeneration plans focussing around the Healthy New Town project.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>There are many community groups in the area.</p> <p>There is one ecclesiastical site available to the community.</p> <p>Excellent for local facilities, close proximity to the Runcorn Shopping City and a number of health services and leisure facilities. The ward has four Primary schools. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>There are two Community Centres which offer a range of events and activities. The main Library in Runcorn (Halton Lea Library) is also based within this ward.</p> <p>Residents do not need to leave the ward for day to day services</p>	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The proposed ward also includes half of the Palacefields district to the point where the busway system forms a natural ward boundary along with the southern express way.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is a mix of residential estates and retail parks can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

This proposed ward is the Halton Lea town centre area. It comprises the retail areas of Runcorn Shopping Centre and Trident Retail Park and includes the surrounding residential area which are closely tied to the town centre. These communities are directly served by the retail area and there are footpath and bridge linkages about the area.

Previously the Halton Lodge estate was divided between the Grange and Halton Lea wards and our proposal sees this community now comprised within a single electoral ward. The Hallwood Park estate links to it and the adjoining retail park. Also included within the proposed ward is an area known locally as 'The Brow' estate. This comprises a residential area that was built in the early 1970s as one

of the first New Town communities and is a distinct community. The proposed ward also includes half of the Palacefields district to the point where the busway system forms a natural ward boundary. There is a consistent synergy between the different areas. For example, there is a significant degree of social housing and Riverside housing association has property at Palacefields, Hallwood Park and Halton Lodge.

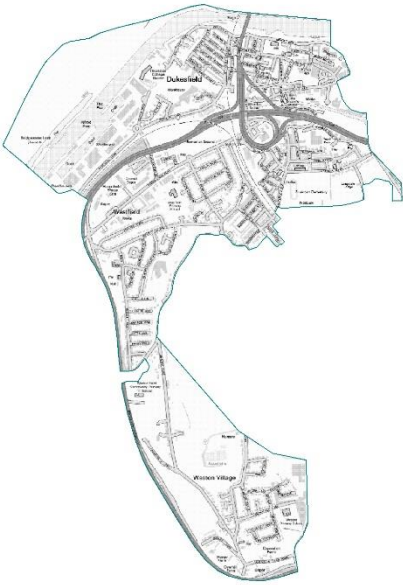
The proposed ward also includes two local community centres, four playgrounds and four local schools. Despite its appearance on paper there is a significant degree of pedestrian connectivity. In particular the area is well served by bus routes owing to the fact Halton Lea is the main terminus for bus services in Runcorn.

The Halton Lea area has been designated as a Healthy New Town (<http://www.healthynewtown.org.uk/>). The designation of Healthy New Town status for Halton Lea recognised its distinct challenges and shared community needs which we would hope to see enhanced through our proposed ward arrangement

Mersey View

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,461
Variance:	-2%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	5,746
Variance:	+5%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	The main Bus station is located within the proposed ward and several public transport routes are located here. There is a bus route between Weston Village and the Town Centre. Vehicular access in Mersey Ward is primarily focused on the Weston Point Expressway (A557) which eventually becomes the Bridgewater Expressway (A533) and allows access further onto the Mersey Gateway.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	Residents used shared greenspace services, e.g. Runcorn Hill Park. This ward contains the main “town” part of Runcorn including established communities like Dukesfield, Higher Runcorn & Weston Village (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weston, Runcorn)	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>It is also part of the Runcorn Station Quarter regeneration project.</p> <p>Several active residents groups are noted with local interests.</p> <p>There are a number of ecclesiastical sites available to the community.</p> <p>The award winning Brindley Theatre, hosting a range of events throughout the year is located within the ward. The ward also contains a library, Scout group and Youth Centre.</p> <p>Strong for local facilities - shopping and health services are located within the ward. The ward has five Primary schools.</p> <p>As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>Areas of Runcorn Town Centre are proposed to be joined with Weston Village.</p>	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The ward is located alongside the Mersey estuary and in places has a view of the estuary. This provides a sense of place and an identifiable boundary. It also bordered by the Weston Point expressway.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly urban estates, housing areas linked with retail and business purposes and can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

The Mersey View ward comprises much of the older parts of old Runcorn and Weston village. Neighbourhoods share strong historic ties, with Whit Walk parades once having once been a key celebration for residents which culminated with a people assembling at Runcorn Hill Park.

The neighbourhoods of the proposed electoral ward comprise mostly Victorian housing and there is a good degree of synergy across the area with residents sharing social and community facilities, e.g. The Brindley Theatre, Runcorn Swimming Pool, Runcorn Hill Park. Shopping and health services are located within the proposed ward, meaning residents don't need to travel further afield for day to day services. A bus station is located within the proposed ward and there are bus routes between the Westfield area, Weston Village and the Town Centre. Runcorn railway station is also located here.

The proposed ward is distinct in its identity owing to the geography of the area. Most dwellings have either a view of the Mersey or are in close proximity to the estuary, situated as it is in the north western tip of the town.

At this time the Council is proposing the delinking of the A533 at Mersey ward and the proposed scheme is intended to break up the road as a barrier to cross ward movement, meaning the residential neighbourhoods either side of the road will see better connectivity in the future.

Our proposals for Mersey View ward will see the establishment of a boundary that strongly reflects historic ties and is best suited to the interests of local communities.

Norton South

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,806
Variance:	+4%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	5,697
Variance:	+4%

Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Access to the ward is primarily via the Southern Expressway (A533) which runs along the length of the southern side of the ward. Access to the estates is via the main roads of Palacefields Avenue and Murdishaw Avenue. Bus Services are available due to the close proximity to Runcorn Shopping City and Halton Hospital.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	Residents have good access to shared services. This ward has a number of established communities with shared issues & challenges, mainly in the new town estates of Palacefields, Brookvale & Murdishaw.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>Several active residents groups are noted with local interests.</p> <p>There are a number of ecclesiastical sites available to the community.</p> <p>Good for local facilities - shopping and health services are located within the ward. The ward has three Primary schools and one Secondary school.</p> <p>As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>The ward contains a leisure centre as well as a number of Youth Centres. Residents don't need to leave the ward for day to day services</p>	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	<p>The southern boundary of the ward is shared with Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority.</p> <p>The proposed boundaries to the south of the ward are defined by the North Wales to Manchester railway line and the A533.</p>	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly urban estates can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

The Norton South ward includes areas of the Palacefields estate with Brookvale, Sutton Park and an area of Murdishaw. Since the 1970s this entire area had been known as the Norton ward.

The ward is distinguished by the fact that the Runcorn busway passes through the heart of the four communities linking them as a cohesive single electoral area. The social and community interests of

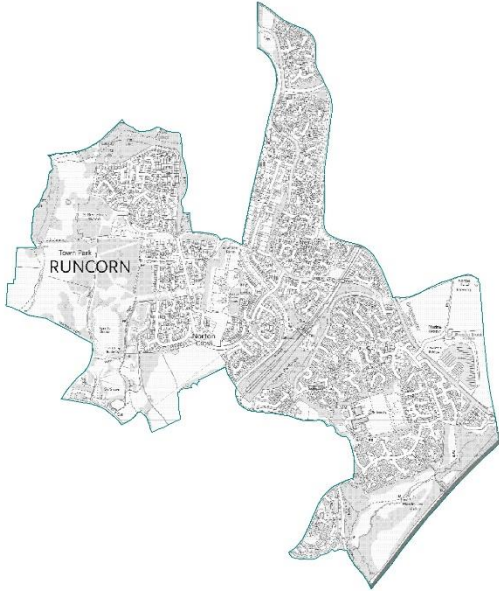
these areas are widely shared. The area comprises a significant amount of social housing and there is, in close proximity, easy access to a hospital, leisure centre, and local schools. No fewer than three local centres are distributed within the ward.

The proposed boundaries to the south of the ward are defined by the North Wales to Manchester railway line and the A533 which create an impermeable boundary, for this reason forming a ward to incorporate Beechwood was felt impractical. To the north the busway system and clearly defined areas of open space form a natural place in which to form electoral boundaries. The eastern boundary of the proposed ward reflects the current boundary between Norton South and Norton North wards and the Council has felt no justification for amending this boundary given that electoral equality in this and adjoining wards can be achieved by moving boundaries to the west.

Norton North

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	4,975
Variance:	-11%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	5,069
Variance:	-7%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	The ward is well served by the thoroughfare of Barnfield Avenue, joining Norton Station Road and onto Windmill Hill Avenue East. This route runs through the entirety of the ward from North to South, connecting the Daresbury Expressway and J12 of the M56 Runcorn East station provides access to rail services.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	The proposed ward consists of a number established communities including Norton and Marina Village. The area is also a focus for regeneration with the Runcorn East train station an important transport link for the Borough. There is an ecclesiastical site available to the community.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>Local facilities include shopping opportunities and health services (including the major Murdishaw Health Centre).</p> <p>The ward also contains the leisure facility Runcorn Snowsports Centre.</p> <p>The ward has two Primary schools. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p>	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The eastern boundary of the ward is the M56 motorway/railway line as well as the Bridgewater Canal, and the presence of Greenspaces and woodland areas.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly urban estates and can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

This ward extends across a significant area of central Runcorn. It comprises urban areas between some of the older New Town estates (built as a consequence of the Runcorn New Town Master Plan, 1964) and the rural parishes to the east.

A significant amount of the housing stock has been built in Norton North ward over the last 30 years and there is a mix of social housing and private dwellings which make for a diverse ward area.

The proposed Norton North ward has a good mix of infrastructure and community facilities which are shared by residents across the area.

Runcorn East station is central to the ward and there are local bus services. There is also good pedestrian routes about the ward, including links to the Bridgewater Canal and Town Park. These

provide an important focus for leisure and recreation as does Preston Brook Marina which is located locally.

The ward boundaries are formed mostly on the current Norton North ward and we have found no reason to substantially move away from the current electoral arrangements as there exists strong defining features that form the boundary to the area including the Bridgewater Canal, M56 motorway and the presence of greenspaces and woodland areas.

Sandymoor

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	3,065
Variance:	-45%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	5,043
Variance:	-8%

Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Access to the two main residential areas in the ward is via the Daresbury Expressway, which runs through the entirety of the ward from west to east.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	<p>Communities are largely based in detached housing.</p> <p>This ward contains two established communities, the relatively modern development of Sandymoor https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sandymoor and Moore Village https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moore, Cheshire</p> <p>This is also the area of Runcorn which is expected to contain the major residential developments over the coming years.</p>	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>Some local facilities, shopping opportunities and health services are contained within the ward. The ward has one Primary school and one Secondary school. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>The ward has a number of publicly accessible woodlands, namely Green Wood, Bog Wood, Oxmoor Wood and Brook Wood.</p> <p>There is a Community Centre which offers a range of events and activities.</p>	
Parishes	Sandymoor, Moore.	Accepted as no Parish boundaries are split
Identifiable boundaries	The proposed boundary follows the Manchester Ship Canal to the north and a major railway line to the south. It also contains the Borough boundary to the east.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area has a large residential estate and the rural community of Moore and can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

The proposed ward comprises the parishes of Moore and Sandymoor and encompasses a substantial area of land that is designated for housing and employment.

Moore and Sandymoor have seen substantial change and growth and the opening in the early 1990s of the new A558 have seen both parishes witness significant change.

The social and economic fortunes of the two communities is substantially shared, employment sites are located within the area forming Manor Park. This is a major site within the Liverpool City Region for general industrial, warehousing and supply chain business. Many local people work here and close by at Sci-Tech Daresbury, a National Science and Innovation Campus established in 2006.

There are strong social links across the proposed ward, enhanced by the fact both communities are on Runcorn Road. There is one secondary school within the proposed ward and a new local centre is proposed for Sandymoor which is anticipated to serve the developing communities. The parishes share an interest having new green spaces and good links to the wider countryside. Keckwick Hill is a

prominent local beauty spot and Creamfields, one of the UKs most prominent music festivals is held in the area locally.

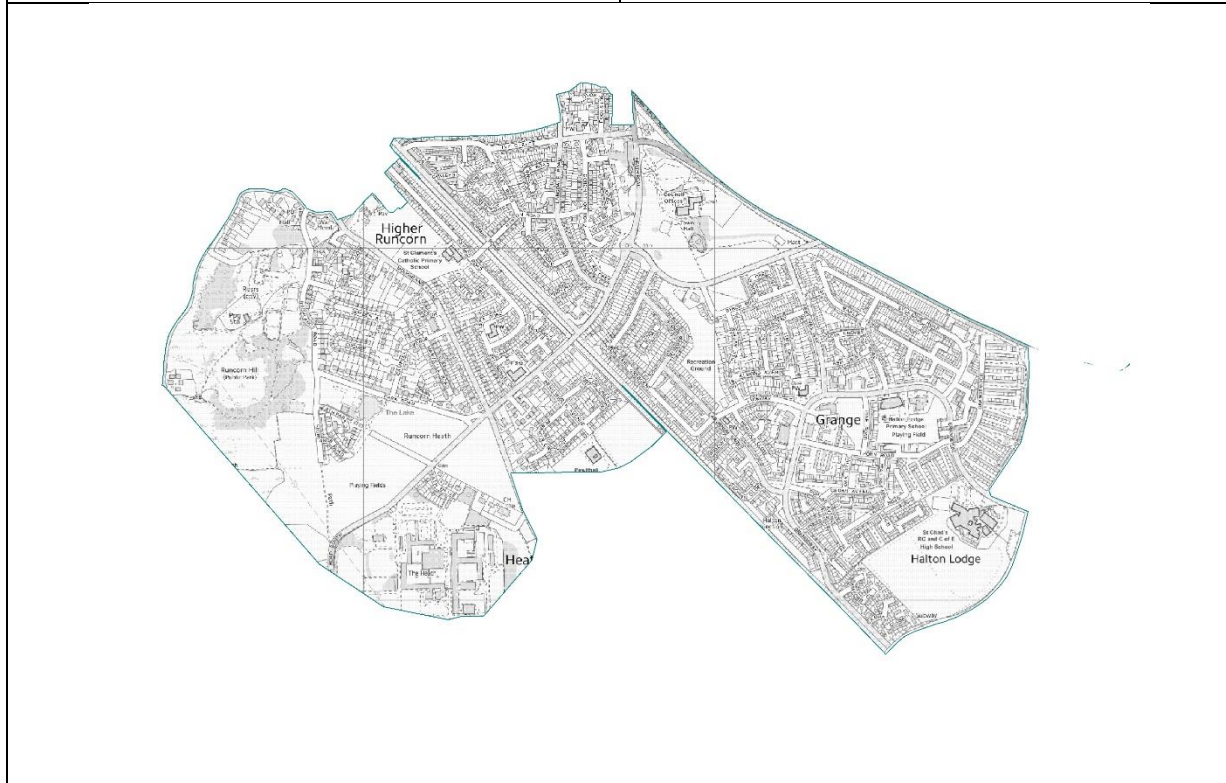
The parish councils form an active aspect of the local communities, organising activities and responding to local planning matters, this being particularly important given the extent to which developments have occurred and might be planned for the proposed ward.

The proposed boundary is desirable because it follows the Manchester Ship Canal to the north and a major railway line to the south. Urban areas are excluded from the ward to the west, reflecting that this community and its interests differ markedly from the New Town communities to the west.

Grange

Criteria 1 Electoral Equality

Estimated Electorate (proposed boundary) 2018	5,977
Variance:	+7%
Electorate (Numbers 2024):	5,987
Variance:	+9%



Criteria 2 Determining community interests and identity

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Transport links	Within the area, the intersecting roads of Moughland Lane and Heath Road allow local residents to move freely around the ward. Public transport links are excellent due to the close proximity to Runcorn Old Town.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria
Community interests & Facilities	The ward contains the Grange estate - a long and clearly identifiable community. Several active residents groups are noted with local interests. There are a number of ecclesiastical sites available to the community. Excellent for local facilities - shopping opportunities and health services are located within the ward. The ward has	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

	<p>two Primary schools and one Secondary school. As a large proportion of pupils from the proposed ward attend these schools, they form an important part of the Community.</p> <p>The ward has a Community Centre offering a range of events and activities. There are also a number of Scout groups, a children's centre and a Youth Centre within the area.</p> <p>Residents do not need to leave the ward for day to day services.</p>	
Parishes	Not applicable	
Identifiable boundaries	The northern perimeter of the ward boundary follows the perimeter of Runcorn Cemetery and the route of the Liverpool to London railway line which forms a significant barrier to considering incorporating the ward in a southern direction.	Accepted as meeting with the criteria

Criteria 3 Promoting effective and convenient local government

Factors	Assessment	Outcome
Size of ward	The area is mainly urban estates and can easily be navigated and represented by 3 members.	The proposed area promotes effective and convenient access and linkages.
Coterminosity		Not applicable
'Doughnut' wards	A doughnut ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected
Detached wards	Good transport routes and linkages are already noted. A detached ward in this area is unjustified.	Rejected

Further evidence:

This proposed ward contains residential areas which were built at Runcorn between 1900 and 1950. Boston Avenue, Heath Road, Moughland Lane and Grangeway are principal arteries through the proposed ward allowing a good ease of access and portability of services.

The neighbourhoods of Higher Runcorn and the Grange share community use of playing fields at Heath Park and recreation grounds at Runcorn Hill Park and Runcorn Town Hall Gardens. There are two local shopping areas, these being at Grangeway and at Langdale Road. There are two Secondary schools within the ward and three primary schools. The Grangeway Community Centre is the principal community use facility for the entire ward area and provides a range of cultural, sporting and social activity. The ward is also home to Runcorn Town Hall, a listed building as well as a civic and administrative centre.

The proposed boundaries of the Grange ward are drawn on the open spaces to the south of the ward and along major roads within the residential areas. The northern perimeter of the ward boundary follows the perimeter of Runcorn Cemetery and the route of the Liverpool to London railway line which forms a significant barrier to considering incorporating the ward in a southern direction. It was therefore natural that, to accommodate other ward arrangements having electoral equality we would need to include within the ward an area that was formerly within the Heath ward.

Proposals: Number of Councillors and Electors by Ward (Runcorn)

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
West Runcorn	3	5,286	1,762	-5	5,148	1,716	-6
Halton Castle & Windmill Hill	3	5,014	1,671	-10	5,243	1,748	-4
Daresbury	1	971	971	-48	1,911	1,911	5
Bridgewater	3	5,798	1,933	4	6,096	2,032	11
Halton Lea	3	4,530	1,510	-19	5,298	1,766	-3
Mersey View	3	5,461	1,820	-2	5,746	1,915	5
Norton South	3	5,806	1,935	4	5,697	1,899	4
Norton North	3	4,975	1,658	-11	5,069	1,690	-7
Sandymoor	3	3,065	1,022	-45	5,043	1,681	-8
Grange	3	5,977	1,992	7	5,987	1,996	9

Appendix C: Proposed Names

Proposed name for the Ward	Considerations / Reasoning
Sandymoor ward	This ward comprises the parishes of Sandymoor and Moore. Given that Sandymoor represents a large proportion of the new electorate it is proposed that the area be known as Sandymoor ward.
Daresbury ward	This ward comprises the parishes of Daresbury and Preston Brook. The name is proposed as the district forms part of the parish of Daresbury within the diocese of Chester, and the name has long lasting meaning to the area. Daresbury has prominent features such as the science and technology campus and the village is a tourist attraction owing to it being the birthplace in 1832 of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, better known by his pen name Lewis Carroll.
Norton North ward	A large proportion of the new electorate was in the former Norton North ward. It is therefore proposed that the current name be retained.
Halton Castle and Windmill Hill ward	<p>The defining feature of this ward is the historic Halton Castle, built in the 11th century; it formed part of land overseen by the Barons of Halton.</p> <p>There is also a strong community identity at Windmill Hill which was built on the site of an ancient Windmill.</p> <p>Given the strong community identities and the topography of the area it is felt an appropriate new name would be Halton Castle and Windmill Hill ward.</p>
Norton South ward	<p>A large part of the new electorate was in the former Norton South ward and this proposed ward now incorporates a larger footfall including an area of the Palacefields estate area.</p> <p>It is noted that from as early as the 1970s the entire area was known as the Norton ward until newly built estates at Brookvale, Palace fields, and Murdishaw resulted in a review of electoral review and new ward arrangements. It is now proposed that the name Norton ward be reinstated to reflect this area.</p>
Halton Lea ward	<p>This ward comprises the Halton Lea shopping district and the adjoining estate areas closest in proximity to it. Halton Lea is the defining feature of the area.</p> <p>A large proportion of the land area within this new ward was within the former named Halton Lea ward so it is felt appropriate that this name continue to be used.</p>
Grange ward	This ward is mainly formed from the former Grange ward. New ward arrangements now include other areas of the Higher Runcorn district. Whilst Higher Runcorn is shown on Ordnance Survey, the location reference is not commonly known and therefore it is recommended Grange ward be retained.
West Runcorn ward	This ward now comprises areas of the Beechwood ward and

	<p>Heath ward. It covers a substantial geographic area of west Runcorn so the name West Runcorn ward is proposed.</p> <p>Whilst the Council has endeavoured to retain ward names where possible it was felt that in this we could not justify retaining the names of Beechwood ward or Heath ward as neither name was representative of neighbourhoods such as Weston Point or Clifton village. The one aspect all neighbourhoods share is that they are in West Runcorn.</p>
Mersey View ward	<p>The defining feature of this new ward is that a substantial area is elevated with views to the Mersey estuary or housing is located in close proximity. Weston village in particular affords views of the Mersey estuary.</p> <p>It is felt Mersey View ward is a small departure from a name which many electors have been accustomed yet reflect for the benefit of Weston village electors the topography of the village.</p>
Bridgewater ward	<p>A large proportion of the electorate was in the former Halton Brook ward. Our ward arrangements now extend the ward into areas of the former Mersey ward.</p> <p>It is noted the actual Halton Brook estate forms a small area of the overall ward so a new name would be more appropriate.</p> <p>The Bridgewater Canal crosses the new ward and is commonly viewed or is required to be crossed to move about the ward.</p>
Ditton, Halebank & Hale Village	The name is a reflection of the 3 communities that make up the proposed ward
Halton View	The name simply reflects the Community it covers
Farnworth	The wards main community feature is Farnworth Village and this is reflected in the proposed name
Birchfield	The names simply reflects that it covers the Birchfield community
Bankfield	For many years the local secondary school that serves this area was called Bankfield, the name is proposed to reflect this history in the proposed ward.
Hough Green	Name is retained as this ward is not proposed to change
Riverside, New Town & St Michael's	The name is a reflection of the 3 communities that make up the proposed ward
Kingsway Heath	This ward covers the area traditionally known as Kingsway. However, in order to give the proposed new residents that live around the Heath Road area a sense of identity with the ward it is proposed that the name also includes Heath.
Appleton Chadwick	As this ward covers the area traditionally known as Appleton. However, in order give the new residents potentially coming into the ward a sense of belonging it is proposed that the ward name also includes Chadwick

Appendix D: Building Blocks (Polling Districts) for Proposed Wards

Ditton, Halebank & Hale Village	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
JA		1,527
GB		1,051
GD	Hale Rd & Pitville moved to ED. Canterbury etc moved in. GA from Coronation moved in	1,427
GC		1,384
TOTAL		5,389

Halton View	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
CA	Top of Barrows Green taken from Farnworth	1,825
CB		1,746
CC	New houses on Page Lane taken from Appleton	1,476
CD		531
TOTAL		5,578

Farnworth	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
AA	Boundary changed to Norlands Lane	2,917
AB		1,658
AC	Top of Barrows Green given to Halton View	831
AD	Boundary changed to Derby Road - Chadwick Park to Appleton	476
TOTAL		5,882

Birchfield	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
XA	Boundary changed to Norlands Lane	3,648
XB		1,454
TOTAL		5,602

Bankfield & Hough Green Park	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
FA		663
FB		815
FC		808
FD	Dundalk moved to EC. Groves moved to EC. 40 in Hale Road moved to ED. Grange Drive and odds from Hale Road moved into EC	1,113
GA	From Coronation Drive moved into GD	454
GE		630
GF		531
TOTAL		5,014

Upton	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
HA		2,068
HB		830
HC		1,140
HD		993
TOTAL		5,031

Riverside & St Michael's	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
EA		579
EB		1,135
EC	Barkla & Dundalk added from FE & FD. Groves from FD added. Hale Road odds moved in from FD. Elizabeth moved from FE	982
ED	Hale Road 40 moved from FD. Hale Rd & Pitville moved from GD. Canterbury etc moved to GD	1,290
DE	Milton Road moved from DC. Bottom of lower house moved in.	500
BE	Milton Road Moved from DD. Milton Road moved from DC. Bottom of lower house	528
TOTAL		5,014

Kingsway, Simms Cross and Ball O'Ditton	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
DA	Parkside of Birchfield moved to Appleton	812
DB		585
DC	Milton Road moved to DE. Lowerhouse past shop to DE	2,105
DD	Dean Close etc moved from Appleton. Milton Rd to BE	756
FE	Moved from Broadheath & Barkla, Dundalk to EC Riverside. Elizabeth to EC	1,147
TOTAL		5,405

Appleton Chadwick	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
BA	Chadwick Park and right side of Derby Road and top of Peelhouse moved from Farnworth	2,034
BB		1,458
BC	Page Lane moved to HV	1,573
BD	Page Lane moved to HV & Dean Close to Kingsway	206
TOTAL		5,271

Sandymoor	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
TT		4,403
TK		640
TOTAL		5,043

Daresbury ward	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
TL		1,192
TM		719
TOTAL		1,911

Norton North ward	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
RA		2,541
RB		2,528
TOTAL		5,069

Halton Castle & Windmill Hill	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
OA		1,554
OB		838
OC		1,276
HV	Addition of Halton Village residents from OD	300
SA		1,274
SB		829
TOTAL		5,243

Norton South	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
ZX		1,059
ZY		1,567
ZZ		1,994
QB		1,077
TOTAL		5,697

Halton Lea	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
QA		2,654
QC		1,035
QD		569
OD	Outside of Halton Village	740
HL avenue	Addition of Halton Lodge Avenue residents	300
TOTAL		5,298

Grange	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
NC	Rest of NC after removal of Halton Lodge	1,600
NB		1,619
NA		1,266
LB		1,502
TOTAL		5,987

West Runcorn	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
PB		1,628
PA		1,266
LD		1,538
LA		716
TOTAL		5,148

Mersey View	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
KA		1,899
LC		924
KC		730
KD		955
KE		1,238
TOTAL		5,746

Bridgewater	Polling District Changes/Splits	2024
MA		2,046
MB		1,354
MC		1,564
KB		1,132
TOTAL		6,096