

# Community Governance Review Sub-Committee Agenda

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**Date:** Friday, 26th February, 2021

**Time:** 2.00 pm

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting

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## How to Watch the Meeting

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The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

## PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in any item on the agenda.

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**Contact:** Paul Mountford, Executive Democratic Services Officer  
**Tel:** 01270 686472  
**E-Mail:** paul.mountford@cheshireeast.gov.uk

### 3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relating to the work of the body in question. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman or person presiding will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers. Members of the public are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

### 4. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 3 - 4)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2020

### 5. **Community Governance Review - Formal Consultation on Draft Proposals** (Pages 5 - 296)

To give consideration to a report on the draft proposals for formal consultation.

**Membership:** Councillors M Asquith, J Bratherton (Chairman), L Crane, S Edgar, T Fox, A Martin (Vice-Chairman), B Murphy, A Stott and P Williams

## **CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the  
**Community Governance Review Sub-Committee**  
held on Friday, 6th March, 2020 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,  
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

### **PRESENT**

Councillor J Bratherton (Chairman)  
Councillor A Martin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors L Crane, S Edgar, B Murphy, P Williams and D Edwardes (for Cllr Moreton)

### **Other Members present**

Councillors B Evans and J Rhodes

### **Officers in attendance**

Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance  
Paul Mountford, Executive Democratic Services Officer  
Rebecca Holtum, Project Manager  
Phil Christian, Business Intelligence Manager

### **Also present**

Dr Melvyn Humphreys, Association of Electoral Administrators

### **Apologies**

Councillors D Marren and R Moreton

## **8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **9 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

## **10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

## **11 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: PRE-CONSULTATION SURVEY RESPONSES AND NEXT STEPS**

The Sub-Committee considered a report which provided an update on the pre-consultation survey and reminded members of the next steps and the process for proposal development.

A period of pre-consultation had been initiated on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019, inviting any person or body interested in the review to provide a response to a survey. The survey itself was live for a period of 14 weeks and closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Details of the responses received were set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

In addition to the pre-consultation survey submissions, the preparatory data required to develop the Council's proposals had now been received, including electorate numbers; the number of councillor seats representing each ward; existing requests from parish councils for a review; and electorate growth forecasts. The data included all factors previously agreed as points of focus: known concerns of parishes; wards with significant variances to the average population density and/or councillor ratios; Local Plan developments; and known built-environment changes.

Subject to the approval of the Sub-Committee and the Constitution Committee, stage 2 of the review process would now commence: the preparation of draft recommendations for formal consultation.

Dr Melvyn Humphreys attended the meeting and provided his expert opinion on the approach to date and the next steps in the review process.

### **RESOLVED**

That the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee recommends to the Constitution Committee that the pre-consultation survey responses be acknowledged and the initiation of the Council's proposals for all parish wards be agreed.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.36 pm

Councillor J Bratherton (Chairman)





*Working for a brighter future together*

## **Community Governance Review Sub Committee**

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**Date of Meeting:** 26 February 2021

**Report Title:** Community Governance Review – Formal Consultation on Draft Proposals

**Senior Officer:** Brian Reed – Head of Democratic Services and Governance

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### **1. Report Summary**

- 1.1 Following its meeting held on 6 March 2020, there have been 6 Member workshops to develop the attached informal draft recommendations at Appendix B, which if approved, will be the subject of a 12-week consultation exercise.
- 1.2 Dr M Humphries will be available during the meeting to provide an expert opinion on the consultation process and the further progress of the Community Governance Review.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To recommend to the Constitution Committee that:

The draft proposals attached at Appendix B to this report be formally agreed for the purposes of consultation and consulted-upon for a 12-week period.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 The terms of reference for the Community Governance Review, attached at Appendix A, as approved by the Constitution Committee on 22nd November 2018, referenced the need for the Council to formally consult on the draft proposals.

#### 4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1 No other options have been considered, as there is a statutory duty to consult electors and others during the CGR process as detailed in Section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

#### 5. Background

- 5.1 At its meeting held on 20 September 2018, the Constitution Committee resolved that :
- a Borough-wide review of the governance arrangements of all of the Borough's town and parish councils be undertaken, commencing as soon as reasonably practicable after the 2019 all-out elections, and concluding well in advance of the May 2023 elections;
  - a sub-committee of the Committee be appointed to conduct the review, working with an officer working group, and make appropriate recommendations to the Constitution Committee for decision; and
  - the sub-committee comprise representatives of all of the Council's political groups, on the basis of relevant proportionality drawn from the Constitution Committee, provided that the Liberal Democrat Group representative shall be nominated by its Group Leader.
- 5.2 Following that meeting, a Community Governance Review Sub Committee was established, which agreed the terms of reference, as set out in Appendix A. These were subsequently approved by the Constitution Committee.
- 5.3 The terms of reference for the Community Governance Review, referenced the need for the Council to publish its plan for consultation during the review, including the receipt of submissions to assist in the preparation of draft proposals.
- 5.4 A pre-consultation survey was initiated on the 28th October 2019, which invited any person or body interested in the review to provide a response to a survey. The survey itself was "live" for a period of 14 weeks. Having formally closed on the 31st January 2020, the Council received submissions from:

Individuals	201
On behalf of a town/parish council	56
As an elected ward councillor	11
On behalf of a group, organisation or club	6
As a former elected ward councillor	1

On behalf of a local business	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>276</b>

5.5 At its meeting held on 6 March 2020, the Sub-Committee considered the pre consultation survey responses and the next steps for the review, and resolved that the pre-consultation survey responses be received and the initiation of the development of the Council's proposals for all parish ward boundaries be approved. Since that meeting, 6 Member workshops have taken place to develop the draft proposals for consultation.

5.6 At those workshops, Members gave informal consideration to the following data:

- Electorate numbers taken from the 2019 electoral register;
- The number of councillor seats representing each ward;
- Wards where the respective town/parish council have requested a review within the last 2 years or so;
- Electorate growth forecasts up to 2025 (the period advised by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England);
- Pre-consultation survey submissions;
- Known concerns expressed by parishes;
- Wards with significant variances to the average population density and/or councillor ratios;
- Local plan developments;
- Known built-environment changes.

5.7 As previously reported, the review is being conducted in four phases:

- Stage 1 – Data gathering and identification of points of focus and a preconsultation engagement, where initial submissions are invited (completed).
- Stage 2 – Consideration of submissions received and draft recommendations are prepared (completed).
- Stage 3 – Formal 12 week consultation on published draft recommendations (current stage for consideration).
- Stage 4 – Adjust draft recommendations accordingly, with final recommendations being prepared to seek approval via Full Council (Autumn 2021).
- Review Closure – Publish final recommendations, amend/update relevant records and, if appropriate, undertake a resolution to make a

reorganisation order (Autumn onwards, to be concluded well in advance of the May 2023 elections).

5.7 The Sub-Committee is now requested to;

1. Give formal consideration to the informal deliberations and conclusions of the Member workshops, and determine the consultation proposals based upon the content set out in Appendix B to this report; and
2. Recommend to the Constitution Committee that a formal 12 week consultation exercise on those draft proposals commence (stage 3, as outlined above).

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

6.1.1 The general powers of Cheshire East Borough Council as a Principal Council to conduct a Community Governance Review of its area (CGR) are contained in Section 82 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (the 2007 Act).

6.1.2 Section 93 of the 2007 Act sets out the duties with which the Principal Council must comply when undertaking a CGR, including the duty to consult electors and others during the CGR process. The cornerstone principles of the CGR are contained in Section 93(4) and require the principal council to have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and is effective and convenient.

6.1.3 Section 100 of the 2007 Act requires principal councils to have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (formerly the Department for Communities and Local Government) and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

6.1.4. Section 81 of the 2007 Act requires the principal council to draw up and publish the terms of reference for the review which are attached at Appendix A to this report

6.1.5 Sections 87 to 91 of the 2007 Act set out the recommendations arising from the CGR. The principal council is required to make recommendations as to:

- a) whether a new parish or parishes should be constituted
- b) whether existing parishes should or should not be abolished or whether the area of existing parishes should be altered or
- c) what the electoral arrangements for new or existing parishes, which are to have parish councils, should be

In addition, the principal council has a discretion to also make recommendations about:

- d) the grouping or degrouping of parishes
- e) adding parishes to an existing group of parishes or
- f) making related alterations to the boundaries of a principal councils' electoral areas

## **6.2.Finance Implications**

6.2.1. There would appear to be no direct financial implications for this Council, which can be identified at this stage. There will be financial implications for town and parish councils, which they will consider when making representations in response to the formal consultation.

## **6.3.Policy Implications**

6.3.1. There are no direct policy implications.

## **6.4.Equality Implications**

6.4.1. There would appear to be no direct equality implications for this Council, which can be identified at this stage.

## **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

6.5.1. There are no direct HR implications.

## **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

6.6.1. Accepting the closure of the period of pre-consultation and the progression to proposal-development is a necessary step to progressing the review and so any delay will have implications to the overall timetable.

## **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1. Any rural community implications will be known during the development of the proposals, when changes to boundaries are considered, which will therefore be considered at the decision-making stage.

## **6.8. Implications for Children & Young People/Cared for Children**

6.8.1. There are no direct implications for children and young people.

## **6.9.Public Health Implications**

6.9.1. There are no direct implications for public health.

## **6.10. Climate Change Implications**

6.10.1. There are no direct implications for climate change.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. All wards will be affected to some extent and ward members may choose to make representations as part of the consultation process.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

8.1. Consultation and engagement are critical factors in this review process, in order to demonstrate the validity of any change proposals.

8.2. The first stage of informal consultation has now concluded. A second and formal period of consultation is now proposed on the recommendations. This will follow the requirements relating to the duty to consult electors and others during the CGR process as detailed in Section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

## **9. Access to Information / Contact Information**

9.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

Name: Brian Reed

Job Title: Head of Democratic Services and Governance

Email: [brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

## Terms of Reference of the Community Governance Review

The terms of reference of the Community Governance Review are set out in this section of the report as follows:

### Introduction

1. Cheshire East Borough Council has decided to undertake a Community Governance Review (Review) of the governance arrangements of all of the parishes in its area.
2. This Review will relate to the whole of the Borough, in order to consider making changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements; and potentially the alteration, merging, creation and abolishing of parishes, the naming of parishes and the adoption of an alternative style for new parishes. It might also involve changes to the electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; the council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and whether to divide the parishes into wards for the purposes of elections).
3. In some cases it might be appropriate to group parishes under a common parish council or to de-group existing groupings of parishes.
4. Whilst the primary focus of the Review will be town and parish council matters, the outcome will be presented to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, which has responsibility for Borough Council ward matters. In a limited number of instances, the Council may wish to request the Commission to alter a Borough ward boundary so that it is coterminous with a parish boundary. There may also be a need to make changes that arise in consequence of the Review (termed “consequential matters”), and these might include provisions for the transfer of parish council staff, property and assets, or the setting of precepts for any new parish councils that may be formed.
5. The Boundary Commission for England has power to alter Borough ward boundaries.
6. At present, there are 142 parishes in the Borough. Of these, 27 are divided into parish wards for the purposes of parish elections. There are 1,018 parish councillors, with each parish councillor representing an average of 296 electors. However, the electoral quota (the ratio of electors to parish councillors) varies widely, and ranges from one councillor to eight electors to one to 3,703 electors across the Borough. There are 44 parishes that are grouped under common councils and there are 16 such parish councils. At the last ordinary parish elections in 2015, 46 (27% per cent) of the 186 parish ward elections were contested and led to a poll. However, 125 of the 1,018 parish council seats remained unfilled at the close of the last ordinary elections. Many of these vacant seats have since been filled under the parish councils’ powers of co-option. Parish precepts (the amount that each parish requests to be raised

from council tax) vary widely as do the council tax band D equivalents (the average council tax charged to the households of the parish) between the different parishes, with the band D equivalents ranging from £7.49 to £108.64 across the parishes of the Borough.

7. The Council will produce maps and data sets to provide further statistical information on these matters.
8. The Council considers that the present structure of parish governance serves its residents well, and it is not considered that extensive changes will follow from the Review. However, the present arrangements pre-date the creation of the Council in 2009, and were put in place by the demised authorities. The Council is mindful that there has been considerable change to the population and geography, as well as to the settlements of the Borough following housing developments since that date. The Local Plan also has a bearing on the Review, given that housing allocations have been made which have not yet been implemented.
9. The Review offers the opportunity to ensure that the tier of parish governance is fit for purpose for the future.
10. The data sets that the Council will produce will show the areas in which new development is programmed, especially over the next five-year period between 2019 and 2024, and will provide electorate forecasts for this period. These will be provided because the Council is required to consider any change in the number or distribution of the electors that is likely to occur over the period of five years when it considers parish electoral arrangements.
11. In undertaking the Review, the Council will adhere to Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (as amended) ("the 2007 Act") and the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972 in its work. The following regulations apply, in particular, to consequential matters arising from the Review: Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/625), and Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/626). The Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has issued Guidance on Community Governance Reviews in accordance with section 100(4) of the 2007 Act in March 2010, and the Council will have regard to "the Guidance".
12. Links to the 2007 Act and the Guidance are provided here:  
  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2007/28/contents>  
  
<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/how-reviews-work/other-types-of-review/about-community-governance-reviews>
13. Section 93 of the 2007 Act requires the Council to consult the local government electors for the area under Review and any other person or body who appears



to have an interest in the Review, and to take the representations that are received into account by judging them against the criteria in the 2007 Act and in these Terms of Reference. The Council will publish its plan for consultation during the Review, and this will include the receiving of submissions to assist the Council in preparing its draft proposals together with an appropriate period of consultation on those proposals. The Council is also required to publish all decisions taken as part of the Review and the reasons for taking those decisions.

14. The contents of this report comprise the Terms of Reference of the Review, and the Council publishes these Terms of Reference in accordance with Section 81 of the 2007 Act.

### **Parish Areas**

15. In this part of the Terms of Reference, further consideration is given to parish areas, an element of the review that may lead to the creation of new parishes, altering the boundaries between existing parishes and, possibly, abolishing some existing parishes.
16. In particular, the Council is mindful that it is many years since the last Review of parishes was conducted within what is now the Borough of Cheshire East, and during that interval there has been considerable new development accompanied by a new distribution of population in the Borough. Many of these developments have traversed parish boundaries and have created new communities of identity. Housing allocations in the Local Plan will have the same effect.
17. Section 93(5) of the 2007 Act requires that the Council must have regard to the need to secure that the tier of parish governance:
  - reflects the identities and interests of the different communities in the area. The Council considers that this is a 'community of identity' test, which is especially applicable to the new developments that presently traverse parish boundaries.
  - is effective and convenient. The Council considers that this is a 'viability' test, and the Council is anxious to ensure that parishes are viable and possess a precept that enables them to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner.
  - takes into account any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area that reinforce the 'community of identity' test.
18. The Guidance (paragraphs 46-48) emphasises that electors should be able to identify clearly with the parish in which they are resident, because it is considered that this sense of identity and community lends strength and legitimacy to the parish structure, creates a common interest in parish affairs, encourages participation in elections to the parish council, leads to

representative and accountable government, engenders visionary leadership and generates a strong, inclusive community with a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride.

19. The Borough of Cheshire East is entirely parished and there are no areas of the Borough that do not lie within a parish. The Council notes that the Guidance states that “the abolition of parishes should not be undertaken unless clearly justified” (paragraphs 117-124). The Council intends that the whole of Cheshire East shall continue to be divided into parish areas and there is a strong presumption that, with the possible exception of a few very small parishes, all the Borough’s parishes shall have parish electoral arrangements.
20. The Council considers that the boundaries between parishes will normally reflect natural and man-made defining points between communities. These defining points will be either natural or man-made: they might include rivers or man-made features such as railways or motorways – those defining points that create a community of identity. The views of local residents and the parish councils will have an important bearing in this matter.
21. Where changes to boundaries are considered appropriate, the Council will endeavour to select boundaries that are and are likely to remain easily identifiable.
22. The Council considers that ‘natural’ settlements or settlements as they are defined in the documents that make up its Local Plan, including the Local Plan Strategy (adopted 2017) should not in normal circumstances be partitioned by parish boundaries.
23. The Council recognises that, in its rural area, a strong sense of community can prevail over an extensive but otherwise sparsely populated area. Parishes in these areas may have limited capacity to facilitate service provision and effective local government; even so, arrangements in these areas, when they accord with the wishes of the inhabitants of the parish, will at least represent convenient local government.

### **The Grouping of Parishes**

24. A grouping arrangement for parishes may best be considered as a working alliance of parishes that have come together under a common parish council, with the electors of each of the grouped parishes electing a designated number of councillors to the council. It has been found to be an effective way of ensuring parish governance for small parishes that might otherwise be unviable as separate units, while retaining their separate parish identity. Under section 94 of the 2007 Act, new parishes of less than 150 electors will be unable to establish their own parish council.
25. At present, there are 16 grouping arrangements, involving 44 parishes, in operation in Cheshire East Borough. There are six parishes, outside the grouping arrangements, that have fewer than 150 electors. In a further seven

of the Borough's 142 parishes there is no parish council, and the representative body in those parishes is their parish meeting which must meet at least twice each year.

26. The Council will consider whether a grouping arrangement may be an appropriate way forward for small parishes while noting the Guidance (paragraph 114) that "it would be inappropriate for it to be used to build artificially large units under single parish councils."

### **Names and Styles**

27. The Council does not envisage that there will be many changes of parish names in this Review. Where it might be necessary to consider forming a new parish, the Council will endeavour to reflect existing local or historic place-names, and will give a strong presumption in favour of names proposed by local interested parties. However, the Council considers that composite names of parishes are rarely in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The Council would wish to avoid composite names other than in exceptional circumstances where the demands of history, local connections or the preservation of local ties make a pressing case for the retention of distinctive traditional names.
28. The 2007 Act introduced 'alternative styles' for parishes by inserting section 17A into the Local Government Act 1972. This allows existing parish councils (or the Borough Council during a community governance review) to adopt an 'alternative style' to replace the style "parish". However, only one of three prescribed styles can be adopted: "community", "neighbourhood" or "village".
29. Where a new parish is being created, the Council will make recommendations as to the name of the new parish and whether or not it shall have one of the alternative styles. Where an existing parish is under Review, the Council will make recommendations as to whether the name of the parish should be changed, but it will be for the parish council or parish meeting to resolve whether the parish should have one of the alternative styles.

### **Electoral Arrangements**

30. An important part of the Review will cover the electoral arrangements of the parishes, including any new parishes that are formed. The term 'electoral arrangements' covers the way in which a council is constituted for the parish, including:
  - the ordinary year in which elections are held;
  - the number of councillors to be elected to the council;
  - the division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors;
  - the number and boundaries of any such wards;
  - the number of councillors to be elected for any such ward;
  - the name of any such ward.

These matters are considered in turn.

### **Ordinary year of election**

31. The next elections for parish councils in Cheshire East are programmed for 2019. As agreed by the Council's Constitution Committee, the Review will have no implications for those elections.
32. It is intended that the Review should be completed well before the elections scheduled for 2023. In particular, it will be necessary to ensure that the Review is completed to allow the various commencement requirements (setting the parish precepts, altering electoral registers, altering council tax bases, etc.) to be in place in good time for those elections.

### **A council for a parish**

33. Section 94 of the 2007 Act sets out the duties that the Council has with regard to the creation of a council for a parish:
  - where the number of electors is 1,000 or more – a parish council must be created;
  - where the number of electors is 151-999 – a parish council may be created, with a parish meeting being the alternative form of parish governance;
  - where the number of electors is 150 or fewer – a parish council is not created.
34. The Council holds a strong presumption in favour of the formation of parish councils for all parishes of more than 150 electors.

### **The number of parish councillors**

35. The Council notes that the number of parish councillors for each parish council shall not be less than five (section 16, Local Government Act 1972). There is no maximum number in the legislation and there are no rules or guidance relating to the allocations of councillors. The Guidance (paragraph 156) states that "each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities," and therefore the Council is prepared to pay particular attention to existing levels of representation, the broad pattern of existing council sizes which have stood the test of time and the take-up of seats at elections in its consideration of this matter.
36. The Guidance (paragraph 157) makes the point "that the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors". The Council will look at those parishes where there has been a history of uncontested elections and/or the need to co-opt members in order to fill

vacancies, questioning whether the present levels of representation are appropriate or whether there is a 'democratic surplus' in a parish.

37. Section 95(6-7) of the 2007 Act also requires the Council to have regard to the following factors when considering the number of councillors to be allocated to a parish:
- the number of local government electors for the parish;
  - any change in that number which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the Review starts.
38. The following factors will also be important considerations for the Council as it looks at parish council sizes:
- the different demands and consequently different levels of representation that are appropriate between urban and rural parishes;
  - the level of the precept and levels of service provision;
  - the challenges of population sparsity and securing an appropriate level of representation in such areas;
  - the traditional scale of representation in a particular parish;
  - the need to support a warding arrangement in a particular parish and achieving a good parity of representation between wards.
39. The data sets that the Council will publish will provide important information on all these matters.

### **Parish warding**

40. The 2007 Act (section 95(3)) requires that, on considering whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections of the parish council, the Council should consider the following:
- whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient;
  - whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council.
41. Whilst the Council will consider each case on its merits in line with these criteria, it also considers that warding arrangements should be clearly and readily understood by and should have relevance for the electorate in a parish; they should reflect clear physical and social differences within a parish, whether urban or rural: one parish but comprising different parts. Furthermore, ward elections should have merit; not only should they meet the two tests laid down in the Act, but they should also be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The additional costs of multiple ward elections should not be wasteful of a parish's resources.

### **The boundaries and names of parish wards**

42. The Council emphasises that parish ward boundaries should be clearly understood; and should take account of community identity and interests within a parish that comprises different parts. Where there is the need to do so, every attempt will be made to fix ward boundaries that are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties which might be broken by the fixing of any particular boundaries. These requirements are laid down in section 95(5) of the 2007 Act.
43. The Guidance (paragraph 163) has suggested a further relevant consideration. Whilst it is understood that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England has no current intention of doing so; when it undertakes a review of the Borough electoral wards, it is prohibited from splitting an unwarded parish or a parish ward by a Borough electoral ward boundary. This legal restriction does not apply to Reviews of parish electoral arrangements undertaken by the Borough Council, but the Commission has requested that the Council bear this in mind, which the Council will do. It is noted that the Review may result in a loss of coterminosity between Borough electoral ward boundaries and parish and parish ward boundaries, which will be undesirable for the effective conduct of elections and that may not be resolved in the short term.
44. In the naming of parish wards, the Council will be mindful of existing local or historic place names, and there will be a presumption in favour of ward names proposed by local interested parties.

### **The number of councillors to be elected for parish wards**

45. The Council has noted that the 2007 Act (paragraph 95(5)) requires it to have regard to the following when considering the number of councillors to be elected for each ward:
  - the number of local government electors for the parish;
  - any change in the number, or distribution, of the local government electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the Review starts.
46. The Guidance (paragraph 166) has advised, and this Council concurs, that “it is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the elections of councillors” to a parish council. While there is no provision in legislation that each parish ward councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors, the Council concurs with the Guidance that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.
47. The Council is likewise anxious to avoid the risk that, where one or more wards of a parish are over-represented by councillors, the residents of those wards

(and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council. During the Review process and in its consultations, the Council is committed to consistently showing the ratios of electors to councillors that would result from its proposals.

48. The foregoing considerations, which are considered to be equitable, will also guide the Council when it considers the number of councillors to be elected to a common council by each parish within a grouping arrangement.

### **Consequential Matters**

49. The Review will be completed when the Council adopts the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order. This Order may cover any consequential matters that appear to the Council to be necessary or proper to give effect to the Order. These may include:
- the transfer and management or custody of property;
  - the setting of precepts for new parishes;
  - provision with respect to the transfer of any functions, property, rights and liabilities;
  - provision for the transfer of staff, compensation for loss of office, pensions and other staffing matters.
50. In these matters, the Council will be guided by the 2007 Act and the regulations referred to above.
51. The Council is mindful that it may recommend that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England make alterations to the boundaries of the Borough electoral divisions to reflect changes made at parish level. The Council notes that it will be for the Commission to decide if related alterations should be made and, if so, when they should be implemented, and that the Commission may find it appropriate to conduct an electoral Review of affected areas.
52. Earlier in this document it was noted that, in a limited number of instances, the Council may wish to request the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to alter a Borough ward boundary so that it is coterminous with a parish boundary.

### **What Happens Next in the Review**

53. The Council is establishing a Review website where it will publish maps and data sets to support the Review. Paper copies of these documents will be available at the Council's main offices at Westfields, Macclesfield Town Hall and Municipal Buildings, Crewe.
54. The Council will also commence a process of consultation, including providing briefings for the parish councils, to enable it to prepare Draft Proposals in the Review.

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# **Cheshire East Council Community Governance Review Draft Recommendations**

**Production date: 18/02/2021**

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## Section 1: Introduction

Cheshire East Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review of all the parishes within the Borough area. In this review, the Council will be guided by the relevant legislation in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the *Guidance on Community Governance Reviews* that the government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have issued (the *Guidance*)<sup>1</sup>, and the Terms of Reference for the review that were adopted by the Constitution Committee on 22 November 2018. Link [Here](#)

This Review relates to the whole of the Borough and gives consideration to changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements across the Borough. These changes include the alteration, merging, creation and abolishing of parishes; the naming of parishes, and the adoption of an alternative style for new parishes. They may also involve changes to the electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; the council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and whether to divide the parishes into wards for the purposes of elections). The general principles for the proposals that the Council is making along with the different types of recommendations are outlined below.

Town and parish councils are the first tier of local government and they are statutory bodies. They serve their electorates; they are independently elected by their local government electors, and they raise their own precept. Town and parish councils work towards providing local services and improving community well-being. Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs, and striving to improve the quality of life and community well-being within their areas.<sup>2</sup>

Cheshire East Council is responsible for community governance arrangements within the Borough. It is considered good practice to review community governance every 10-15 years. This is the first review carried out by Cheshire East Council, which was created in 2009. At the commencement of the review, there were 142 parishes in the Borough. Of these, 27 were divided into parish wards for the purposes of parish elections. There were 1,018 parish councillors, with each parish councillor representing an average of 296 electors. However, the electoral quota (the ratio of electors to parish councillors) varies widely, and ranges from one councillor to eight electors to one to 3,703 electors across the Borough. There were 44 parishes that were grouped under

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<sup>1</sup> Guidance on community governance reviews, CLG (now MHCLG)/ LGBCE, March 2010

<sup>2</sup><https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/800-all-about-local-councils/file>

common councils and there were 16 such parish councils. At the last ordinary parish elections in 2019, 46 (27 per cent) of the 186 parish ward elections were contested and led to a poll. However, 125 of the 1,018 parish council seats remained unfilled at the close of nominations at the last ordinary elections.

The Council requested initial submissions from the existing parish councils and electors and other interested organisations to a deadline of 31 January 2020. The submission responses that have been received are available [here](#). The Council has given careful consideration to submissions where they have been received. The Council has also undertaken considerable analytical work in late 2020 and early 2021 and has held informal workshops with elected Members.

The Council now makes the following Draft Recommendations for changes to the community governance arrangements of the parishes of the Borough. In making the following proposals the Council has taken account of the legislation, the *Guidance* and its own Terms of Reference. It has also considered the initial submissions that were received, alongside the comprehensive data sets and evidence and analysis that have been assembled for each parish. The Draft Recommendations comprise a series of graduated proposals, beginning with parishes where no changes are being proposed, to parishes where there are proposals to alter the current electoral arrangements, to small parishes where mergers to form new parishes are being proposed, and finally to more significant area or boundary changes – largely adjoining the Borough's urban parishes – which have a consequential or knock-on effect for the surrounding parishes.

The Council is consulting on these Draft Recommendations for a 12 week period.

This consultation stage provides electors and other interested persons or bodies with an opportunity to make the case for alternative proposals to those now recommended by the Council. An alternative case must demonstrate that any alternative proposals are in line with the general principles of a Community Governance Review, as they are laid down in the legislation and the *Guidance*. (Further guidance is provided on these general principles below.) The Borough Council will endeavour to make decisions that are based on the analysis of all the evidence that is received or further information that it collects. It is therefore very important that submissions are well argued and backed by credible evidence.

The Borough Council will give careful consideration to all submissions and alternative proposals that it receives. They will be balanced against the legislation, the *Guidance* and the Council's Terms of Reference. In due course, the Council will publish its Final Recommendations in this review, which will form the basis of a new Cheshire East (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2023.

The Cheshire East Community Governance Review does not include the electoral arrangements for the Borough Council or parliamentary seats. These would be the responsibility of central government through the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Boundary Commission for England, respectively.

The Council is committed to an open decision-making process and maintaining a record of the decisions taken by the Review Sub-Committee in this Community Governance Review, and these are available [here](#).

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## Section 2: General principles and types of recommendation

Much of this report contains the Draft Recommendations or proposals that Cheshire East Council is making for the future community governance in the Borough. Every endeavour has been made to base these proposals on the principles laid out in the legislation and *Guidance* and in the Council's Terms of Reference.

Any submissions containing alternative proposals should make the following general principles their starting point, and they should support their alternative proposals with credible evidence.

### Parish areas and their boundaries

The Council has begun its review by giving consideration to the parish areas and their boundaries.

In particular, the Council has been anxious to ensure that each parish:

- reflects the identities and interests of the different communities in the area. The Council considers that this is a 'community of identity' test, which is especially applicable to the new developments that presently traverse parish boundaries.
- is effective and convenient. The Council considers that this is a 'viability' test, and the Council is anxious to ensure that parishes are viable and possess a precept that enables them to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner.
- takes into account any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area that reinforce the 'community of identity' test.

In its Terms of Reference, the Council stated its intention that the whole of Cheshire East should continue to be divided into parish areas, and there is a strong presumption that, with the possible exception of a few very small parishes, all the Borough's parishes shall have parish electoral arrangements.

The Council also stated its intention to select boundaries that are and are likely to remain easily identifiable as it drew up proposed boundaries between the communities of identity.

The Council clearly stated its view that ‘natural’ settlements or settlements as they are defined in the documents that make up its Local Plan, including the Local Plan Strategy (adopted 2017), should not in normal circumstances be partitioned by parish boundaries.

### **Names and styles**

By and large, in these Draft Recommendations the Borough Council has sought to defer to local views with regard to the names of any new parishes and the names of any new or altered parish wards. In its Terms of Reference, however, the Council did state its view that composite names of parishes, comprising a number of names linked by the words ‘and’, ‘with’, etc., are rarely in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The Council would wish to avoid composite names other than in exceptional circumstances where the demands of history, local connections or the preservation of local ties make a pressing case for the retention of distinctive traditional names.

The Council has also deferred to local views with regard to any proposals to adopt an ‘alternative style’ for any new parishes that are being proposed. Under section 17A of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council may, during a Community Governance Review, adopt an ‘alternative style’ to replace the style “parish” for any new parishes that are created by the review. However, only one of three prescribed styles can be adopted: “community”, “neighbourhood” or “village”.

The councils of eleven parishes in the Borough (Alsager, Bollington, Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Middlewich, Nantwich, Poynton, Sandbach and Wilmslow) have historically used the style of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Acts. This is a matter over which this review has no remit, and it will lie at the discretion of the council of a new parish as to whether it would wish to adopt the style of ‘town’ in accordance with Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Parish grouping and electoral arrangements**

Having given consideration to the parish areas and their boundaries, the Council has then proceeded to give consideration to the parish groupings and electoral arrangements.

The Council has considered whether grouping arrangements are an appropriate way forward for its small parishes, and whether the alternative of merging the parishes under a single unwarded or a warded parish council would be more readily understood by both electors and parish councillors.

In turn, the Council has considered the electoral arrangements of each parish. The term ‘electoral arrangements’ covers the way in which a council is constituted for the parish, including:

- the number of councillors to be elected to the council;
- the division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors;
- the number and boundaries of any such wards;
- the number of councillors to be elected for any such ward;
- the name of any such ward.

The Council is required by law to consider any change in the number or distribution of the local government electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the Review started. This is why these Draft Recommendations make frequent reference to the electorate as the Council has projected it for 2025 (for further details about the projections, see Appendices 2 to 4 of these Recommendations and the Community Governance Review electorate forecasts technical report, which is available [Here](#)).

The Council holds a strong presumption in favour of the formation of parish councils for all parishes of more than 150 electors.

While the size of a parish council may vary considerably, the Council still considers that the size of parish councils in the Borough should be broadly equivalent across parishes with a comparable electorate. In Section 3.2, the Council provides an analysis of the present sizes of parish councils in the Borough. A proposal for a different parish council size to that which the Borough Council is proposing in these recommendations should argue clearly why an exception should be made for the parish in question and the proposal should be supported by evidence. It should focus on issues that might include: the requirements and demands of rural representation, the traditional and historical level of representation that the parish has had, the workload of the parish council as reflected in its precept and provision of services to the parish, any additional representation that may be required to support a warding / grouping arrangement, or the demand in the parish for seats on the parish council as reflected in highly contested elections.

The Borough Council has also given careful consideration to the present warding arrangements of the parish councils. In considering whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council, the Council is required by legislation to consider the following:

- whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient;
- whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council.

In its Terms of Reference document the Council stated that it would consider each case on its merits in line with these criteria.

However, it also expressed its view that warding arrangements should be clearly and readily understood by and should have relevance for the electorate in a parish; they should reflect clear physical and social differences within a parish, whether urban or rural: one parish but comprising different parts. Furthermore, ward elections should have merit; not only should they meet the two tests laid down in the legislation, but they should also be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The additional costs of multiple ward elections should not be wasteful of a parish's resources.

A proposal concerning the warding of a parish for the purpose of parish council elections should hold these principles in mind and be supported by evidence.

It has already been noted that the Borough Council has sought to defer to local views with regard to the names of any new or altered parish wards.

In allocating parish councillors to parish wards, the Council has been particularly mindful of the government's *Guidance* that "it is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the elections of councillors" to a parish council. While there is no provision in legislation that each parish ward councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors, the Council concurs with the *Guidance* that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards. The Council has therefore attempted to ensure that the ratio of electors to councillors across the different wards of a parish is equitable insofar as that is practical.

### **Risk in the conduct of elections**

The Borough Council has been mindful of its desire to avoid risk in the conduct of elections. Such risk arises where the electors at a single parish or parish ward election find themselves voting at the same polling station for two different borough ward elections (or vice versa). In such a situation there is an enhanced risk that an elector might be issued with an incorrect combination of ballot papers and that papers might be placed in the incorrect ballot box, adding risk to the conduct of an election count.

The Borough Council seeks to mitigate such risk, particularly through the provision of a different polling station (possibly in the same building or polling place). In some instances, however, the size of the affected electorate may be so small that it is not viable to provide a separate polling station.

Table 2.1 shows the graduated hierarchy of proposals that are now being made in these Draft Recommendations.

**Table 2.1: Types of recommendation**

No Change	<p>In 18 parishes, the Council is proposing that no change in either the parish area or its electoral arrangements is required in this Review. These 18 parishes include two parishes where a boundary change was considered, but is not being proposed by the Borough Council.</p> <p>No change is considered where the evidence and/or pre-consultation survey responses do not suggest the need for a change.</p> <p>In addition, no change is being considered where there is also a low probability of a parish being affected by a significant town or parish expansion, which would otherwise trigger the need to review the boundaries.</p>
Electoral Arrangement Change	<p>In turn, there are 29 parishes where the Council considers that the existing parish area and its boundaries work well to represent its 'community of identity'. These 29 parishes include three parishes where a boundary change was considered, but for which the Borough Council proposes only an electoral arrangement change.</p> <p>In these 29 parishes the Council is proposing an adjustment to the parish council's electoral arrangements.</p> <p>These changes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An adjustment to the councillor numbers to better reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of its size (see Section 3.2 below);</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The formation, abolition or alteration of a parish warding arrangement because the Council considers that the tests that are laid out in the legislation and noted above are not adequately met by the current arrangement;</li> <li>• An adjustment to the numbers of councillors allocated to each parish ward to ensure a more equitable ratio of electors to parish councillors in accordance with the government's <i>Guidance</i>.</li> </ul> <p>The general principles that lie behind these proposals have been outlined above.</p>
Mergers of small parishes	<p>In some instances, the Borough Council has found it appropriate to propose the merger of small parishes where it considers that the community of identity test or the viability test cannot be met.</p> <p>This has been the case particularly with regard to several grouped parishes where it is proposed that a single unwarded or a warded parish council would be more readily understood by both electors and parish councillors.</p> <p>These mergers effectively involve the formation of new parishes with new parish electoral arrangements, and the Council requests local views as to their name and style.</p>
Boundary Changes	<p>Finally, there are those parishes (mainly the urban parishes that use the designation of town) that have already undergone significant outward expansion, and where they are due to undergo further outward expansion (as shown in the Council's housing development data records, forecasts and future development plans).</p> <p>With regard to these parishes, there is sometimes a need to redraw boundaries to ensure that the parish area is enlarged to continue to reflect the local communities of identity and to facilitate effective and convenient local government in those areas.</p>

	<p>However, the redrawing of these boundaries has consequential or knock-on effects, not only on the expansion parish in terms of its electoral arrangements, but also for the parishes that are yielding areas to the expansion parish (the residual parishes).</p> <p>In some cases, those residual parishes may cease to offer effective and convenient local government and become unviable, in which cases mergers and alterations of parish areas have been required. In other cases, it has been found necessary to adjust the electoral arrangements of the residual parishes because of changes to their electorates.</p> <p>The resulting mergers effectively involve the formation of new parishes with new parish electoral arrangements, and the Council also requests local views as to their name and style.</p> <p>In these Draft Recommendations, the affected parishes are usually dealt with together in this report because of the consequential or knock-on considerations that arise.</p>
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## Section 3: Evidence

### Section 3.1: Main types of data used to inform the Review

In undertaking this Review, Cheshire East Council has collected and assessed key data for each parish and parish ward. The range of data used is set out in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1: Main types of data used to inform the Review**

<p>Electorate size and housing development data</p>	<p>To calculate projected electorate figures for 2025 (being the term for which this review is required to be mindful of changes in the numbers of local government electors), the Council has relied upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the scale and exact locations of expected future housing developments within the Borough, including additional housing development evidence that has become available since the electorate forecasts were produced in early 2019;</li> <li>the Council's housing development plans, as set out in its Local Plan Strategy.</li> </ul> <p>Details of the approach used to forecast elector numbers for existing parishes and parish wards, including the data sources, assumptions and methodology, are set out in the Council's Electorate forecasts technical report (2019). Appendix 2 of these Draft Recommendations summarises this approach and also sets out how elector numbers were forecast for those areas (generally small sub-areas of individual parishes) that it is proposed should be moved from one parish to another under the proposed boundary changes. Therefore, recommendations have been made in the context of both current council sizes and estimated future council sizes.</p> <p>Although the term for which this review is required to be mindful of changes in the numbers of local government electors is 2018-25, the Council has also taken account of Local Plan Strategy development beyond 2025 and up to 2030 (the end date of the current Local Plan Strategy), particularly for those parishes where large developments are anticipated during 2026-30.</p>
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	However, the electorate forecasts were produced only up to 2025, and the recommendations on seat numbers for parish councils and parish wards are based on anticipated electorates for 2025.
May 2019 local elections nominations data	<p>The Council has used the Returning Officer's data on the number of nominations at the last ordinary elections for the Borough's parishes (May 2019) relative to the number of seats, including the numbers of parish councillors that did not go through the process of nomination and election and who were therefore co-opted to the parish council to fill vacancies that remained unfilled at those elections.</p> <p>This may be taken as a general and comparative indication of the level of democratic interest in the parish council. The level of co-option for seats on a parish council may suggest that there are too many seats on that existing council.</p>
Band D charge and precept	The Council has used data on the Council Tax Band D charges and the parish council precepts, as these provide a general and comparative indication of the level of expenditure – and thus the level of work – that the parish council undertakes in its parish.
Pre-consultation survey responses	Responses to the pre-consultation survey, which ran from 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2019 to January 31 <sup>st</sup> 2020 (the first of two public consultations planned for the Community Governance Review).
Responses to these Draft Recommendations	<p>Responses to the proposals contained in these Draft Recommendations in a consultation period that runs for a 12 week period will be carefully considered.</p> <p>However, as has already been emphasised, submissions containing alternative proposals should make use of the general principles that are outlined above as their starting point, and they should support their alternative proposals with credible evidence.</p>

## Section 3.2: Analysis of Council Sizes

In 1992 Aston Business School produced research for the whole of England showing how the number of councillors varied according to the size of the council's electorate.<sup>3</sup> Although the research underlying this 'National Data' is now 30 years old, it is unlikely that this has changed substantially. In Table 3.2, this analysis is compared with recent (2018) data for Cheshire East.

**Table 3.2: Average number of seats, by council size**

Number of electors in parish council	Number of Cheshire East parish councils in electorate size band <sup>4</sup>	Number of seats (averages and ranges) for each electorate size band			Ratios of electors per seat for each electorate size band
		Cheshire East average (2018)	Cheshire East seat number range (2018)	National data (1992)	Cheshire East ratio range (2018)
<b>300 or fewer</b>	30	6.8	5-11	5-8	8-60
<b>301 - 500</b>	19	8.8	6-19		25-71
<b>501 - 1,500</b>	28	9.1	7-15	6-12	39-157
<b>1,501 - 2,500</b>	7	10.6	7-12		132-251
<b>2,501 - 10,000</b>	14	12.4	7-22	9-16	219-737
<b>10,001 - 20,000</b>	6	15.3	12-20	13-27	652-1,327
<b>20,000 or more</b>	3	17.3	12-20	13-31	1,088-3,404

It should be noted that the legal minimum number of parish councillors for each council is five (Section 16, Local Government Act 1972). The National Association of Local Councils considers that a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small, and it considers that a practical working minimum should be seven (NALC Circular 1126/1988). The government's *Guidance* makes the point that "the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of

<sup>3</sup>Tricker, M. et.al., *Roles and Activities of Parish and Town Councils in England* (London, HMSO, 1993)

<sup>4</sup> Figures exclude Cheshire East's seven parishes that have no councils and whose representative bodies are their parish meetings, as they have no councillors.

councillors” (*Guidance*, paragraph 157). It is therefore Cheshire East Council’s view that, where possible, the minimum number of parish councillors for any parish council should be set at a working minimum of seven. It is worthy of note that this figure is also consistent with the current (2018) average council size for the smallest parishes of 300 or fewer electors.

There is no requirement in legislation that the number of councillors should be proportional to electorate size. The view given in the *Guidance* is as follows: “In considering the issue of council size, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, it should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes. This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government.” (*Guidance*, paragraph 156)

With regard to parish wards, the *Guidance* adds another consideration, which is that the levels of representation and the ratios of electors to parish councillors should be broadly equitable. This report has already noted the emphasis in the *Guidance* “that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors” (*Guidance*, paragraph 166). Likewise, the Borough Council has emphasised its view in the Terms of Reference that “it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards.”

## Section 4: Final assessment and recommendations

### Section 4.1: No change

#### Arclid

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation, which indicated no change, and is therefore consistent with the Cheshire East Council current consideration.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
7	239	34.1	369	52.7

#### Aston by Budworth

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;

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- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Aston by Budworth.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
7	266	38	289	41.3

## Bosley

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Bosley.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
7	382	54.6	387	55.3

### Bradwall

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation, which indicated no change, and is therefore consistent with the Cheshire East Council current consideration.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
7	154	22	162	23.1

## Buerton

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Buerton.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
8	449	56.1	466	58.3

## Bunbury

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

During the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey, one individual response proposed a change to the boundary with Spurstow. However, Bunbury Parish Council requested no change to its boundary and there were no survey responses from Spurstow. In proposing that no change be made to this parish, the Borough Council was also mindful that Spurstow is in the Wrenbury borough ward, while Bunbury is in the Bunbury borough ward.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
10	1,096	109.6	1,230	123

### Goostrey

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation, which raised a concern outside the remit of a community governance review, requesting a change across Boroughs.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.



Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
10	1,866	186.6	1,862	186.2

### Hassall

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Hassall.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
7	231	33	231	33

## Haughton

The parish of Haughton presently has no parish council, and its representative body is the meeting of the electors of the parish ('the parish meeting'), a meeting that is required by legislation to be convened twice each year.

Where the electorate of a parish is between 150 and 1,000 electors, it is for the Borough Council to decide whether or not the parish should have a council. As a general principle, the Council has sought to ensure that all the parishes of the Borough have a parish council.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Haughton.

In this Review, Haughton is the only parish that does not currently have a parish council which is not affected by any proposals to merge it with other parishes. It could therefore remain as a parish where the only form of governance is its parish meeting.

Equally, because the electorate of Haughton lies within the range where the Borough Council has discretion in this matter, the Borough Council could recommend that a parish council is formed for this parish. If a parish council was formed, it would comprise seven councillors with a ratio of electors to councillors of 25.9 (2025 electorate).

While it is suggested that no change be made to this parish, Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations, including the formation of a parish council and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

The current and forecast future electorate is as shown below. As Haughton is (and would continue to be) a parish meeting and has no councillors, councillor numbers and ratios are not applicable.

Electors (2018)	Electors (2025)
178	181

## High Legh

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation, which indicated no change, and is therefore consistent with the Cheshire East Council current consideration.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
10	1,403	140.3	1,408	140.8

## Mere

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Mere.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
8	524	65.5	524	65.5

### Newhall

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Newhall.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
9	693	77	839	93.2

### Pickmere

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation, which requested a change outside the remit of a community governance review.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
8	612	76.5	704	88

### Pott Shrigley

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Pott Shrigley.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
7	210	30	223	31.9

### Smallwood

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation, which indicated no change, and is therefore consistent with the Cheshire East Council current consideration.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
8	556	69.5	559	69.9

### Twemlow

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Twemlow.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
7	182	26	203	29

## Section 4.2: Electoral arrangement or internal changes only (to councillor numbers or warding arrangements)

### Alderley Edge

The current governance arrangements of Alderley Edge Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
9	3,708	412

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Alderley Edge has a relatively low number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends an increase to twelve seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received multiple representations, with the majority indicating a preference of no change, which is therefore partially consistent with Cheshire East Council's recommendation that only the number of seats be changed. One representation indicated the need for change, however the scope of this change is outside the remit of a community governance review.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed increase in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
12	3,846	320.5



## Ashley

The current governance arrangements of Ashley Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
8	250	31.3

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Ashley has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Ashley.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	254	36.3

## Audlem

The current governance arrangements of Audlem Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
12	1,580	131.7

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Audlem has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to ten seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation, which indicated a preference for no change in Audlem.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
10	1,834	183.4

### Betchton

The current governance arrangements of Betchton Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
10	552	55.2

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Betchton has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to eight seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

At the ordinary elections of 2019, five out of ten members were co-opted in Betchton, which adds weight to the case for a reduction in seats. In addition, of all the parish councils with ten or more seats Betchton has the second lowest Band D charge of £8.55,

which may be taken as a general and comparative indication of the level of expenditure and thus the level of work that the parish council undertakes in its parish.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Betchton.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
8	576	72

### Chelford

The current governance arrangements of Chelford Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
7	1,054	150.6

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Chelford has a relatively low number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends an increase to ten seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation, which indicated a preference for no change in Chelford.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed increase in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
10	1,364	136.4

### Cholmondeley and Chorley Parish Group

Cholmondeley and Chorley parishes are currently grouped under a common parish council.<sup>5</sup>

The current governance arrangements of Cholmondeley and Chorley Parish Council are as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Cholmondeley	6	134	22.3
Chorley (near Wrenbury-Cum-Frith)	5	90	18
<b>Cholmondeley and Chorley</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>20.4</b>

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Cholmondeley and Chorley Parish Council has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

The recommended number of seats for each parish – four for Cholmondeley and three for Chorley – is based on their respective shares of the parish group's electorate (using the 2025 electorate forecasts). This approach minimises the disparity between the parishes' ratios of electors to councillors.

<sup>5</sup> It should be noted that Cheshire East has two parishes called Chorley: one (near to Wrenbury-Cum-Frith) which is grouped with Cholmondeley and one (near to Wilmslow).

In 2019, two out of six members were co-opted in Cholmondeley and four out of five members in Chorley. This adds weight to the case for a reduction in seats.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Cholmondeley and Chorley.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Cholmondeley	4	140	35
Chorley (near Wrenbury-Cum-Frith)	3	89	29.7
<b>Cholmondeley and Chorley</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>32.7</b>

## Cranage

The current governance arrangements of Cranage Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
7	1,024	146.3

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Cranage has a relatively low number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends an increase to nine seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received multiple representations, with the majority indicating a preference of no change, which is therefore partially consistent with Cheshire East Council's recommendation that only the number of seats be changed. Two representations indicated the need for change, and a merger with Goostrey was proposed. The Borough Council is not satisfied that such a merger would meet the tests laid down in the legislation as it is considered that the two parishes comprise two distinct communities of identity centred on the settlements of Cranage and Goostrey. While both parishes are located in the Dane borough ward, in recent elections an alternative polling station for Cranage has been required, due to unavailability of the former station, and instead the electors of Cranage voted in Holmes Chapel as it was considered that this was more accessible to them than Goostrey.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed increase in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
9	1,042	115.8

## Disley

The current governance arrangements of Disley Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
7	3,998	571.1

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Disley has a relatively low number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends an increase to twelve seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation on Disley, which raised a concern outside the remit of a community governance review, requesting a change across borough council boundaries.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed increase in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
12	4,000	333.3

### **Dodcott cum Wilkesley**

The current governance arrangements of Dodcott cum Wilkesley Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
8	376	47

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Dodcott cum Wilkesley has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Dodcott cum Wilkesley.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	395	56.4

## Hankelow

The current governance arrangements of Hankelow Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
5	258	51.6

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Hankelow has a relatively low number of seats for a council of its size. The Borough Council considers that a parish of five councillors is at risk of being unable to conduct its business, and favours the view of the National Association of Local Councils that a preferred minimum number of seats on a parish council is seven. Therefore Cheshire East Council recommends an increase to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors and would be in line with NALC's recommendations.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Hankelow.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed increase in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	292	41.7



### Hatherton and Walgherton Parish Group

Hatherton and Walgherton parishes are currently grouped under a common parish council.

The current governance arrangements of Hatherton and Walgherton Parish Council are as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Hatherton	7	290	41.4
Walgherton	3	125	41.7
<b>Hatherton and Walgherton</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>41.5</b>

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Hatherton and Walgherton has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

The recommended number of seats for each parish – five for Hatherton and two for Walgherton – is based on their respective shares of the parish group's electorate (using the 2025 electorate forecasts). This approach minimises the disparity between the parishes' ratios of electors to councillors.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Hatherton and Walgherton.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Hatherton	5	300	60
Walgherton	2	127	63.5
<b>Hatherton and Walgherton</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>61</b>

### Lower Withington

The current governance arrangements of Lower Withington Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
7	448	64

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Lower Withington has a relatively low number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends an increase to eight seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Lower Withington.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed increase in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
8	452	56.5

### **Newbold Astbury cum Moreton**

This parish is warded for the purposes of elections to its parish council. The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Astbury	9	442	49.1
Moreton	4	138	34.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>44.6</b>

A representation from the Newbold Astbury cum Moreton Parish Council was received through the pre-consultation survey, indicating a preference for no change to the governance of the parish.

However, compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Newbold Astbury cum Moreton has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to eight seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

It is also considered that the current warding arrangement is no longer equitable. It is the Government's Guidance that: "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards."

In proposing the retention of a warding arrangement for a parish, the legislation requires it to be shown that the number or distribution of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient. This legal test cannot be fulfilled in this parish, as, although this parish is presently divided into wards, all the electors of this parish vote together at Astbury Village Hall.

Furthermore, it should be shown that it is desirable that an area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council and that the parish therefore comprises different parts. The parish warding should be clearly understood by and be relevant to the electors of the parish, and it is also relevant to ask if the additional costs of separate ward elections in some cases would represent an effective use of a parish's maybe limited resources. It is not considered that these legal tests are met in this instance.

Therefore Cheshire East Council proposes the removal of the warding arrangement for this parish.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed removal of the warding arrangement and the decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
8	595	74.4

## Odd Rode

This parish is warded for the purposes of elections to its parish council. The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Mount Pleasant	5	1,267	253.4
Rode Heath	5	1,770	354
Scholar Green	5	1,495	299
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4,532</b>	<b>302.1</b>

No representations were received during the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey for Odd Rode.

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Odd Rode has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to 12 or 14 seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

The Borough Council proposes that the current parish wards and ward boundaries are retained as they will retain the separate representation on the Parish Council of the different communities within this parish. However, the Borough Council considers that the number of seats on the parish council should be reduced. Indeed, only 13 nominations were received for the 15 current seats on the Parish Council in 2019 (five in Mount Pleasant and four each for the other two wards), which in itself implies that an allocation of 12 to 14 seats is most appropriate.

The Borough Council is anxious to receive comments on whether the allocation of seats should be reduced to 12 or 14, and the following tables are provided for guidance. While 12 seats would meet the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size, it will be seen that 14 seats can be divided more equitably between the parish wards (based on each ward's share of the electorate).

A council of 14 seats:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Mount Pleasant	4	1,274	318.5
Rode Heath	5	1,774	354.8
Scholar Green	5	1,571	314.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4,619</b>	<b>329.9</b>

A council of 12 seats:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Mount Pleasant	3	1,274	424.7
Rode Heath	5	1,774	354.8
Scholar Green	4	1,571	392.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4,619</b>	<b>384.9</b>

## Ollerton with Marthall

This parish is warded for the purposes of elections to its parish council. The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Marthall	3	139	46.3
Ollerton	7	316	45.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>455</b>	<b>45.5</b>

No representations were received during the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey for Ollerton with Marthall.

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Ollerton with Marthall has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to seven seats.

The Borough Council proposes that the current parish wards and ward boundaries are retained as this parish comprises two separate communities based on the settlements of Marthall and Ollerton, and it is desirable that they retain their separate representation on the parish council.

It is accepted that an allocation of seven seats is rather low for a parish of this size (with 505 electors anticipated by 2025), and the Council notes that in the 2019 local elections, four nominations were received for Marthall's three seats and seven for Ollerton's seven seats. For all other parishes that have an expected electorate of more than 450, a total of at least eight seats has been proposed. However, the Borough Council is concerned that an allocation of eight seats cannot be divided as fairly between the two existing wards as seven can. It is an important principle in this review that the ratios of electors to parish councillors across the wards of a parish are as equitable as can be.

The limitations of an allocation of eight seats can be seen in the following table. This allocation would give an unfair representation on the parish council to the electors of the Ollerton parish ward:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Marthall	2	156	78
Ollerton	6	349	58.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>63.1</b>

The Borough Council is anxious to learn of local views on this matter, but is presently proposing the following governance arrangements which allow for a more equitable representation between the two wards:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Marthall	2	156	78
Ollerton	5	349	69.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>72.1</b>

### Peover Inferior

The parishes of Nether Peover (in Cheshire West and Chester) and Peover Inferior (in Cheshire East) are grouped under a common parish council called Lower Peover.

Any alterations to this grouping arrangement or to the electoral arrangements of the grouped Parish Council would require a joint review or joint action from both Cheshire principal councils.

Therefore, the Borough Council is proposing that there should be no boundary changes with regard to the parish of Peover Inferior in Cheshire East.



The current distribution of seats between the two parishes that are represented on the grouped Parish Council is uneven, as shown by the electorate ratios in the following table:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018/ 2020)*	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018/ 2020)*
Nether Peover	4	342	85.5
Peover Inferior	3	93	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

\* Figure for Nether Peover is for 2020, but Peover Inferior figure is for 2018. Exact figures for the overall parish group electorate and ratios are not available for either year.

The following table shows that this imbalance in the electorate ratios will increase during the period leading to 2025 (being the term for which this review is required to be mindful of changes in the numbers of local government electors).

Fewer seats would better reflect Peover Inferior's share of the electorate, although this parish had enough nominations (three) to fill its allocated seats in the 2019 local elections. Furthermore, a reduction of Peover Inferior's allocation of seats to one would reduce the size of the grouped council to five. The Borough Council considers that a parish of five councillors is at risk of being unable to conduct its business, and favours the view of the National Association of Local Councils that a preferred minimum number of seats on a parish council is seven.

The Borough Council is anxious to hear the views of the electors and other interested bodies (including the existing council of the grouped parish and Cheshire West and Chester Council) on this matter: whether Peover Inferior's allocation of seats should be retained at three (which would mean a council size of seven seats for the Lower Peover Parish Group) or reduced to one (meaning only five seats for the council of the parish group).

No representations were received during the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey for Peover Inferior.

The following tables are offered for guidance:

If the number of Peover Inferior seats was retained at three:

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Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)*	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Nether Peover	4	414	103.5
Peover Inferior	3	94	31.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>72.6</b>

\* The 2025 forecast shown for Nether Peover is Cheshire East's forecast, but is based on Electoral Register and housing development data provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

If the number of Peover Inferior seats was reduced to one:

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)*	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Nether Peover	4	414	103.5
Peover Inferior	1	94	94
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>101.6</b>

\* The 2025 forecast shown for Nether Peover is Cheshire East's forecast, but is based on Electoral Register and housing development data provided by Cheshire West and Chester Council.

### Plumley with Toft and Bexton

This parish is warded for the purposes of elections to its parish council. The Plumley parish ward is focused on the village of that name, while the Toft and Bexton ward comprises dispersed rural dwellings. At present the electors of the two wards vote separately at two different polling places at Plumley Village Hall and St John the Evangelist Church in Toft.

No representations were received during the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey for Plumley with Toft and Bexton.

The present governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Plumley	9	571	63.4
Toft and Bexton	2	84	42
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>59.5</b>

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Plumley with Toft and Bexton has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council recommends a decrease to eight, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

An allocation of eight parish councillors would lead to an overall ratio of electors to councillors of 86.5.

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Plumley	7	607	86.7
Toft and Bexton	1	85	85
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>692</b>	<b>86.5</b>

The Borough Council seeks the views of electors and other interested bodies on whether the existing warding arrangement should be retained.

Consultation responses that support or object to a proposed warding arrangement should be mindful of the relevant legislation along with the Borough Council's Terms of Reference document. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election

might be impractical or inconvenient. It may be considered that this test is satisfied because the electors of the two wards presently vote separately at two different polling stations. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections. It may be considered that having a separate parish ward for the representation of 85 electors (2025 electorate) would be an inappropriate use of the parish's budget in the funding of separate elections for two wards.

## Prestbury

This parish is warded for the purposes of elections to its parish council. The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Butley	6	1,314	219
Fallibroome	1	85	85
Prestbury	5	1,434	286.8
<b>Prestbury</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,833</b>	<b>236.1</b>

For a council of its size, Prestbury's number of seats is in line with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2). Cheshire East Council therefore recommends no change in the total number of seats.

However, as the previous table shows, the current distribution of seats between the parish wards is inequitable, with a large disparity between the parish wards' ratios of electors to councillors (ranging from 286.8 electors per councillor in Prestbury to 85 in Fallibroome).

Furthermore, there is a strong case for removing the existing warding altogether. In proposing the retention of a warding arrangement for a parish, the legislation requires it to be shown that the number or distribution of the local government electors for

the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient. This legal test cannot be wholly fulfilled in this parish, as the electors of the Fallibroome parish ward currently vote at Prestbury Village Hall, a polling station which is in the parish's Prestbury ward.

Furthermore, it should be shown that it is desirable that an area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council and that the parish therefore comprises different parts. The parish warding should be clearly understood by and be relevant to the electors of the parish, and it is also relevant to ask if the additional costs of separate ward elections in some cases would represent an effective use of a parish's resources. It is not considered that these legal tests are met in this instance; indeed, the present ward boundaries partition the principal settlement of Prestbury in a manner that is probably not clearly understood by the electors of the parish. Therefore Cheshire East Council recommends the removal of the existing warding.

In responses to the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey, Prestbury Parish Council noted their area's distinct identity and did not wish to be merged with a neighbouring parish (although an individual response supported a merger with Macclesfield). The Parish Council requested that the parish's name and its total of 12 seats be kept, but noted the uneven elector per councillor ratios and proposed that the Fallibroome and Prestbury wards be merged. This, presumably, would have resulted in two wards: Prestbury and Butley, but the Borough Council, for the reasons given above, does not consider that there is any merit in retaining any warding arrangement in this parish.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed removal of warding would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
12	2,847	237.3

## Rainow

The current governance arrangements of Rainow Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
12	1,048	87.3

Through the pre-consultation survey we received an individual representation about Rainow, which favoured no change.

However, compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Rainow has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council therefore recommends a decrease to ten seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
10	1,188	118.8

## Siddington

The current governance arrangements of Siddington Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
8	279	34.9

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Siddington.

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Siddington has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council therefore recommends a decrease to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	275	39.3

### Spurstow

The current governance arrangements of Spurstow Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
8	320	40

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Spurstow.

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Spurstow has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. Cheshire East Council therefore recommends a decrease to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

After the last ordinary elections in 2019, five out of eight members were co-opted in Spurstow. This high proportion of co-options adds to the case for a decrease in the number of seats.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed decrease in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	325	46.4

### Swettenham

The current governance arrangements of Swettenham Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
5	246	49.2

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Swettenham has a relatively low number of seats for a council of its size. Furthermore, the Borough Council considers that a parish of five councillors is at risk of being unable to conduct its business, and favours the view of the National Association of Local Councils that a preferred minimum number of seats on a parish council is seven. Therefore Cheshire East Council recommends an increase to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors and in line with NALC's recommendations. No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Swettenham.



The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed increase in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	266	38

### Warmingham

The current governance arrangements of Warmingham Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
5	191	38.2

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Warmingham has a relatively low number of seats for a council of its size. Furthermore, the Borough Council considers that a parish of five councillors is at risk of being unable to conduct its business, and favours the view of the National Association of Local Councils that a preferred minimum number of seats on a parish council is seven. Therefore Cheshire East Council recommends an increase to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors and in line with NALC's recommendations.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Warmingham.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed increase in the number of seats would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	209	29.9

### Willaston

Willaston is currently warded for the purposes of elections to the Parish Council. The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
North	2	701	350.5
Village	10	1,927	192.7
<b>Willaston</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,628</b>	<b>219</b>

For a council of its size, Willaston's number of seats is in line with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2). Cheshire East Council therefore recommends no change in the total number of seats.

However, as the previous table shows, the current distribution of seats between the parish wards is inequitable, with a large disparity between the parish wards' ratios of electors to councillors: a ratio of only 192.7 electors per councillor for the Village ward, but 350.5 for the North ward.

Cheshire East Council therefore recommends that the number of seats for the North ward be increased to four and the number for the Village ward be decreased to eight. This recommendation is based on the two parish wards' respective shares of the parish's

electorate (using the 2025 electorate forecasts). This approach minimises the disparity between the parish wards' ratios of electors to councillors and produces a much fairer distribution of seats than under the current governance arrangement.

In 2019, three out of ten members were co-opted in the Village ward, but there were no co-options required for the North ward. This adds further weight to the case for reducing the number of Village ward seats.

During the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey, Willaston Parish Council proposed realigning the boundary with Stapeley, so that it runs along Newcastle Road and brings the housing north of the A500 into Willaston. An individual respondent proposed the same change.

It should be noted that such a change would affect around 20 properties that are currently in the parish of Stapeley and that would be transferred by this change to the Village ward of the parish of Willaston. The parish of Willaston is in the Willaston and Rope borough ward, but the parish of Stapeley is in the Nantwich South and Stapeley borough ward, and the affected properties would remain in that borough ward even if the parish boundary was changed. Such a change of boundary would require the provision of an additional polling station to mitigate the risk in the conduct of elections that is of particular concern to the Borough Council and that is described in Section 2 above. As the number of electors concerned is so small, the Borough Council does not consider that it can support this proposal.

The Parish Council also felt that a better balance could be struck in its distribution of seats by decreasing the Village ward allocation to nine seats and increasing the North ward allocation to three seats. However, while this proposal provides further support to the Borough Council's proposed redistribution, it would not give as equitable a ratio of electors to councillors as the allocation that the Borough Council is now proposing.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed redistribution of parish ward seats would be as follows:

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
North	4	1,101	275.3
Village	8	2,132	266.5
<b>Willaston</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3,233</b>	<b>269.4</b>

## Section 4.3: Mergers of multiple parishes to form new parishes, but no boundary changes

### Agden, Little Bollington and Millington

Agden and Little Bollington are currently parish meetings and therefore have no councillors. Millington is currently an individual parish council.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish Meeting	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Agden	N/A	148	N/A

Parish Meeting	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Little Bollington	N/A	144	N/A

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Millington	5	151	30.2

In 2019, two of Millington's five members were co-opted, which raises questions about its viability as an individual parish.

For all three areas, the forecast number of electors in 2025 is little different to that in 2018: 146 in Agden, 142 in Little Bollington and 149 in Millington. The latter figure also raises questions about whether Millington should continue to exist as an individual parish.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Agden, Little Bollington or Millington.

The Borough Council recommends the merger of these three parishes in the north of Cheshire East, with their scattered dwellings in open countryside, to form a new parish. This would enhance the viability of the combined parish and would extend parish council representation to all the electors of this area.

Agden and Little Bollington vote at Little Bollington CP School; Millington votes at Bucklow Garage. All three parishes are in High Legh borough ward.

The new parish would have a projected electorate of 437 by 2025. Cheshire East Council recommends a total of eight seats for the new parish council and that the council for the new parish should not be warded for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Eight seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This can only partially be shown here, as the electors of two of the existing parishes presently vote together at the same place. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Agden, Little Bollington and Millington*	8	437	54.6

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

### **Alpraham, Calveley and Wardle**

Alpraham, Calveley and Wardle are currently individual parishes.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Alpraham	8	354	44.3

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Calveley	7	214	30.6

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Wardle	7	119	17

The A51 and unclassified roads in this area link the small villages of Alpraham, Calveley and Wardle.

The development of Calveley village has already expanded over the parish boundary into the parish of Alpraham.

The electors of the three parishes presently vote together at Alpraham; all are in Bunbury borough ward.

An individual submission has been received, which supports the combination of the parishes of Alpraham and Calveley to enhance the 'voice' of the community.

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends merging the parishes of Alpraham, Calveley and Wardle into a new parish with a single parish council.

For the three existing parishes, the projected numbers of electors in 2025 are as follows: 477 in Alpraham, 243 in Calveley and 162 in Wardle.

The new parish would therefore have an expected electorate of 882 by 2025. Cheshire East Council recommends an allocation of nine seats and no warding for the council of the new parish. Nine seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the three existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place at Alpraham. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show



that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Alraham, Calveley and Wardle*	9	882	98

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

### Bickerton and Egerton Parish Group

The parish council currently represents a grouping of two parishes, Bickerton and Egerton.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Bickerton	7	186	26.6
Egerton	3	58	19.3
<b>Bickerton and Egerton</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>24.4</b>

Both Bickerton and Egerton are rural parishes. As the previous table shows, they each have a small number of electors and very low ratios of electors to councillors.

All the electors of this current group of parishes vote together at a polling station at Bickerton; both parishes are in Wrenbury borough ward.

Cheshire East Council considers that the grouping arrangement probably serves no practical benefit to the parish council or to the community and electors.

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends that Bickerton and Egerton be merged into a single parish. The new parish would have a projected electorate of 247 by 2025 (186 in Bickerton and 61 in Egerton). Cheshire East Council recommends a total of seven seats and no warding for the council of the new parish. Seven seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place at Bickerton. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Bickerton or Egerton.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Bickerton and Egerton*	7	247	35.3

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

### Brindley and Faddiley

The parish council currently represents a grouping of two rural parishes which are focused on the linear settlement of Faddiley – Brindley and the A453 road.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Brindley	4	132	33
Faddiley	4	137	34.3
<b>Brindley and Faddiley</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>33.6</b>

Each parish has a low total electorate and low ratios of electors to councillors. Cheshire East Council considers that the grouping arrangement probably serves no practical benefit to the parish council or to the community and electors.

All the electors of the current group of parishes vote together at a polling station at Faddiley and both parishes are in Wrenbury borough ward.

The Borough Council therefore proposes that the two parishes be merged under a new parish council.

The Borough Council considers that the eight seats on the present parish council is high for a parish of this size with an electorate of 278 (2025 electorate) and a precept of £3,000. There are no other parishes in the borough with under 400 electors where the proposed number of seats is eight or more. It is, therefore, proposed that the parish council should have seven seats, a number that better reflects the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place at Faddiley. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The existing parish council responded that the current name of Brindley and Faddiley Parish Council was appropriate, although it considered that ideally it should be called Burland and Ravensmoor Parish Council. The existing parish council also considered that the present number of councillors was about right. However, for the reasons that are given above, the Borough Council considers that it would be more appropriate to reduce the number of councillors to seven.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Brindley and Faddiley*	7	278	39.7

\*The Borough Council notes the view of the present parish council that the name of the new parish should be Burland and Ravensmoor, but would wish to hear further views on this matter, in particular, why the name Burland and Ravensmoor is proposed. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

### **Bulkeley and Ridley Parish Group and Peckforton Parish Meeting**

Bulkeley and Ridley parish group consists of the two parishes of Bulkeley and Ridley. The parish of Peckforton currently does not have a parish council and therefore has no councillors, with its representative body being the meeting of electors of the parish. Peckforton's electorate (123 in 2018) is below the legal minimum whereby it would qualify for a parish council in its own right.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Bulkeley	7	214	30.6
Ridley	3	114	38
<b>Bulkeley and Ridley</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>32.8</b>

Parish Meeting	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Peckforton	N/A	123	N/A

Bulkeley and Ridley are two rural parishes with low numbers of electors. Cheshire East Council considers that the grouping arrangement probably no longer serves any practical benefit to the parish council or to the community and electors.

Representations were received for Bulkeley and Ridley, supporting the previous request submitted to Cheshire East Council in 2017 to merge Bulkeley and Ridley under a single parish. No representations were received by Peckforton.

The electors of Bulkeley and Ridley vote together at Bickerton Village Hall and the electors of Peckforton vote at Peckforton Village Hall.

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends that Bulkeley, Peckforton and Ridley be merged into a single parish. The new parish would have a projected electorate of 484 by 2025 (239 in Bulkeley, 127 in Peckforton and 118 in Ridley). Cheshire East Council recommends a total of eight seats and no warding for the new parish. Eight seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be wholly shown here, as the electors of two existing parishes all presently vote together at Bickerton, while the electors of Peckforton vote at Peckforton. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Bulkeley, Peckforton and Ridley*	8	484	60.5

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

### Cholmondeston and Wettenhall

The parish council currently represents a grouping of two rural parishes which are focused on the linear settlement along the Winsford Road. Each parish has a low total electorate: 152 for Cholmondeston and 181 for Wettenhall. The boundary between the two parishes practically partitions the settlement of Cholmondeston. Cheshire East Council considers that the grouping arrangement probably serves no practical benefit to the parish council or to the community and electors.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Cholmondeston	3	152	50.7
Wettenhall	3	181	60.3
<b>Cholmondeston and Wettenhall</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>55.5</b>

All the electors of this current group of parishes vote together at a polling station at Church Minshull Village Hall and both parishes are in Bunbury borough ward.

During the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey, an individual response from Cholmondeston noted the canal and railway line running through the parish and proposed a boundary review to take this into account. However, the area on both sides of the canal and railway line are sparsely populated, with no significant development expected. The Borough Council therefore takes the view that these areas are a single community, rather than two communities with separate identities, and is not minded to change this boundary.

Two individual responses were received from Wettenhall, but these did not relate to any specific governance proposals.

The Borough Council therefore proposes that the two parishes be merged into a single parish.

On balance, the Borough Council considers that a warding arrangement may have merit for the purposes of elections to the parish council of the merged parish.

The Borough Council has considered the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place: Church Minshull Village Hall. However, a warding arrangement should also be considered where it is felt appropriate to provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Council considers that this test is met in this instance, and that a warding arrangement would allow for the separate representation of Cholmondeston and Wettenhall on the merged parish council.

The Borough Council considers that the boundary between the two wards should follow the parish boundary, but adjusted slightly to follow the Minshull Lane and then the existing boundary which is a tributary brook of the Bankside Brook. No residential or commercial properties would be affected by this slight boundary change.

The Borough Council considers that a parish of six councillors is at risk of being unable to conduct its business, and favours the view of the National Association of Local Councils that a preferred minimum number of seats on a parish council is seven. It is therefore proposed that the total number of seats on the new parish council be increased from six to seven. The following table shows the proposed governance arrangement with a warding arrangement in which the seats are equitably allocated to the wards based on each ward's share of the electorate.



Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Cholmondeston	3	164	54.7
Wettenhall	4	184	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>49.7</b>

A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

### **Doddington and District Parish Group (the parishes of Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley cum Wrinehill, Doddington, Hunsterson and Lea)**

The parishes of Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley cum Wrinehill, Doddington, Hunsterson and Lea parishes are currently grouped under a common parish council called Doddington and District Parish Council.

The current governance arrangements for Doddington and District are as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Blakenhall	3	119	39.7
Bridgemere	3	119	39.7
Checkley cum Wrinehill	2	77	38.5
Doddington	1	19	19
Hunsterson	3	134	44.7
Lea	1	36	36
<b>Doddington and District</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>38.8</b>

This extensive grouping of six parishes lies in open countryside in the southern-most part of the borough of Cheshire East with the A51 passing through the centre of the area. While most dwellings are dispersed through the area, there are small settlements at Bridgemere and Blakenhall.

As the previous table shows, each of the Doddington and District grouped parishes is small and the current distribution of seats on the council of the group is inequitable, with a large disparity between the parishes' ratios of electors to councillors (ranging from 19 electors per councillor for Doddington to 44.7 for Hunsterson).

In the 2019 ordinary elections, five out of the thirteen members were co-opted to Doddington and District Parish Council (two co-options in Blakenhall and one each in Bridgemere, Checkley cum Wrinehill and Hunsterson).

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends that these parishes be merged into a single parish. The new parish would have an expected electorate of 505 by 2025 (120 electors in Blakenhall, 120 in Bridgemere, 76 in Checkley cum Wrinehill, 19 in Doddington, 134 in Hunsterson and 36 in Lea). Cheshire East Council recommends a total of eight seats for the new parish. Eight seats would be consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size.

The new parish would cover an extensive rural area as one of the largest geographical parishes in the borough. It would seem to be appropriate and desirable in this instance that areas of the parish should be separately represented on the new parish council. All the electors of Blakenhall, Checkley cum Wrinehill and Lea vote together at the polling station at Blakenhall and District Village Hall; all the electors of Bridgemere, Doddington and Hunsterson vote together at the polling station at Bridgemere Primary School. All six parishes are in Wynbunbury borough ward.

Therefore Cheshire East recommends that the new parish be divided into two wards: one covering Blakenhall, Checkley cum Wrinehill and Lea; and one covering Bridgemere, Doddington and Hunsterson. This division would ensure that the electors in each parish ward voted at the same polling station, and any risk in the conduct of elections would therefore be avoided.

The recommended number of seats for each ward – four each – is one based on their respective shares of the proposed new parish's electorate (using the 2025 electorate forecasts). This approach minimises the disparity between the parish wards' ratios of electors to councillors.

An individual representation for Hunsterson was received during our pre-consultation survey and stated that "Hunsterson seems to get merged a lot with Bridgemere and Doddington", which may support the Council's proposals.

The proposed governance arrangements, following the proposed merger of the parishes and the proposed warding arrangement, would be as follows:

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Blakenhall, Checkley cum Wrinehill and Lea*	4	232	58
Bridgemere, Doddington and Hunsterson*	4	273	68.3
<b>Doddington and District*</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>63.1</b>

\*Names for the new parish and for the new parish wards should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on these points. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

## Great Warford and Little Warford

Great Warford and Little Warford are currently two separate parishes with their own parish councils.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Great Warford	7	633	90.4

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Little Warford	8	65	8.1

The electorate of Little Warford is presently below the legal threshold of 150 electors for a new parish council, though as an existing parish council it could legally continue to exist. With only 65 electors in 2018 (and 67 electors forecasted for 2025), its ratio of 8.1 electors per councillor is the lowest of any parish in Cheshire East. In addition, Little Warford is one of only two parish councils with a Band D charge of £0, which may be taken as a general and comparative indication of the level of expenditure and thus the level of work that the parish council undertakes in its parish.

In 2019, four out of Little Warford's eight members were co-opted, as were two of Great Warford's seven members. The high proportion of co-options suggests that the current community governance arrangements are not viable.

The electors of both parishes currently vote together at Great Warford Church and both are in Mobberley borough ward.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Great Warford or Little Warford.

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends that Great Warford and Little Warford be merged into a new parish and that the council for the new parish should not be warded for the purposes of elections to the parish council. The new parish would

have a projected electorate of 709 by 2025 (642 in Great Warford and 67 in Little Warford). Cheshire East Council recommends a total of eight seats for the council of the new parish. Eight seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place: Great Warford Church. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections. It is considered that a parish ward of less than 70 electors could not meet this final test.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Great Warford and Little Warford*	8	709	88.6

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

### Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley

The separate parishes of Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley have their own parish councils and the following governance arrangements at present:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Kettleshulme	7	275	39.3

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Lyme Handley	5	119	23.8

No representations were received during the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey for Kettleshulme or Lyme Handley.

The parish of Lyme Handley does not have a functioning parish council at this time. There were no nominations for its council of five seats in 2019; it has not raised a precept to support local services and it only had 119 electors in 2018 (forecast to decrease to 117 by 2025). The Borough Council proposes that the parish is merged with a neighbouring parish to enable parish governance to be viable in this area.

The Borough Council favours a merger with Kettleshulme parish. Both Lyme Handley and Kettleshulme are in the same borough ward: Poynton East and Pott Shrigley. Furthermore, 35 electors of the parish of Lyme Handley already vote together with the electors of Kettleshulme at a shared polling station: Kettleshulme Memorial Hall. The remaining electors of the parish – 88 electors - vote at St Martin's Church Hall, Higher Poynton (these elector numbers are as of December 2019).

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends that Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley are merged into a new parish and that the council for the new parish should not be warded for the purposes of elections to the parish council. The new parish would have a projected electorate of 388 by 2025. Cheshire East Council recommends a total of seven seats for the council of the

new parish. Seven seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Kettleshulme and Lyme Handley*	7	388	55.4

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.



### **Marbury and District Parish Group (the parishes of Marbury cum Quoisley, Norbury and Wirswall)**

The three parishes of Marbury cum Quoisley, Norbury and Wirswall are currently grouped under a common parish council.

The current governance arrangements for this group of parishes are as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Marbury cum Quoisley	8	232	29
Norbury	7	169	24.1
Wirswall	4	80	20
<b>Marbury and District</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>25.3</b>

The three parishes are rural, with scattered dwellings in open countryside in the south-west of the Borough and each has a low number of electors. The present grouped parish council has nineteen councillors, and the resulting councillor to elector ratios are among the lowest in Cheshire East. It is therefore difficult to justify such a level of local representation for a rural parish council.

There were a relatively large number of co-options for the Parish Council seats: after the 2019 ordinary elections, eight of the nineteen members were co-opted: five in Marbury, two in Norbury and one in Wirswall.

Comments received during the Council's pre-consultation survey suggested that the present arrangements were not fit for purpose: "number of Councillors is too large for the size of area" and that "the current precept is too low to fund what the council would like to do."

All the electors of the three parishes vote together at a polling station at Marbury Village Hall; all three parishes are in Wrenbury borough ward.

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends that Marbury cum Quoisley, Norbury and Wirswall are merged into a new parish and that the council for the new parish should not be warded for the purposes of elections to the parish council. The new parish would have a projected electorate of 495 by 2025 (238 in Marbury cum Quoisley, 169 in Norbury and 88 in Wirswall). Cheshire East Council recommends a total of eight seats for the council of the new parish. Eight seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the three existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place: Marbury Village Hall. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Marbury and District*	8	495	61.9

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

## Peover Superior and Snelson

Peover Superior and Snelson are currently two separate parishes with their own parish councils.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Peover Superior	8	556	69.5

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Snelson	5	122	24.4

The electorate of Snelson is presently below the legal threshold of 150 electors for a new parish council, though as an existing parish council it could legally continue to exist. With only 122 electors in 2018 (and 124 electors forecasted for 2025), its ratio of 24.4 electors per councillor is one of the lowest of any parish in Cheshire East.

The electors of Peover Superior vote at Over Peover Village Hall and Snelson's electors vote at Chelford Village Hall; both parishes are in Chelford borough ward.

A representation from an individual from Snelson stated that "Snelson is very small and I think could be grouped with an adjacent parish".

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends that Peover Superior and Snelson be merged into a new parish and that the council for the new parish should not be warded for the purposes of elections to the parish council. The new parish would have an expected electorate of 786 by 2025 (662 in Peover Superior and 124 in Snelson). Cheshire East Council recommends a total of nine seats for the new parish council. Nine seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This can be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes presently vote at different polling places: Over Peover Village Hall and Chelford Village Hall. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections. The Borough Council considers that Snelson's electorate of 122 (2018 electorate) is so low that it is near to a point at which a separate ward election would not be viable.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Peover Superior and Snelson*	9	786	87.3

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

## Rostherne and Tatton

Tatton is currently a parish that has no parish council; its representative body is its parish meeting. Rostherne is currently a separate parish with its own parish council.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Rostherne	8	126	15.8

Parish Meeting	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Tatton	N/A	21	N/A

Rostherne and Tatton both vote at St Mary's, Rostherne and both parishes are in Mobberley borough ward.

The Borough Council's pre-consultation survey received an individual representation from Tatton which identified a close historical connection to Rostherne; this stated that Rostherne parish "was the old estate village to Tatton Park."

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends that Rostherne and Tatton be merged. This would enhance the viability of the combined parish.

The new parish would have an expected electorate of 147 by 2025 (126 in Rostherne and 21 in Tatton). This is slightly below the legal minimum (150) for a new parish council. However, the legislation provides that, where the new parish has fewer than 150 electors but part or the whole of the parish is already served by a parish council, it is for the Borough Council to decide whether or not the new parish should continue to have a council. The Borough Council has expressed a view in its Terms of Reference that parish governance should extend where practicable to all the parishes in the Borough.

Even so, given the small number of electors in the proposed new parish (the smallest number for any of the parish councils proposed in this Review), Cheshire East Council recommends a total of five seats and no warding for the purposes of elections to the council of the new parish. Five seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size. The Council notes that this allocation of seats would be below the National Association of Local Councils recommended minimum of seven seats, but it is considered that an exception should be made in this case because – even though the electorate of the new parish is very low – the majority of the electors of the new parish are already served by a parish council.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Rostherne and Tatton*	5	147	29.4

\* A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of ‘parish’ or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: ‘community’, ‘neighbourhood’ or ‘village’.

### Sound and District Parish Group (the parishes of Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate and Sound) and the parish of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith

The Sound and District parish group currently comprises six parishes (Austerson, Baddiley, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate and Sound) that have between 57 and 214 electors and 838 electors overall. The council of the grouped parishes has 15 seats, divided rather unevenly between the six parishes. The following table shows the present governance arrangements (2018 electorate figures).

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Austerson	1	100	100
Baddiley	3	214	71.3
Baddington	2	102	51
Broomhall	3	161	53.7
Coole Pilate	2	57	28.5
Sound	4	204	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>838</b>	<b>55.9</b>

The parish of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith is a separate parish with its own parish council of nine seats and the following governance arrangements:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Wrenbury-Cum-Frith	9	975	108.3

The parishes of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith and Baddiley are both in the Wrenbury borough ward, and the electors of both parishes vote together at St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrenbury-Cum-Frith.

The remaining parishes of the Sound and District parish group are all in the Audlem borough ward, and the electors of all the parishes vote together at Broomhall and Sound Methodist Church.

No representations were received during the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey for any of the six Sound and District parishes. Wrenbury-Cum-Frith Parish Council requested no change.

The Borough Council considers that parish governance in this area of dispersed rural dwellings with only two sizeable settlements at Wrenbury-Cum-Frith and Sound could be enhanced and made more viable. At the same time, it is considered that parish governance should be aligned with the borough ward boundaries.

The Borough Council proposes merging the parishes of Austerson, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate and Sound into a single parish. This parish would have an estimated 667 electors by 2025 (104 in Austerson, 119 in Baddington, 178 in Broomhall, 61 in Coole Pilate and 205 in Sound). It is proposed that there should be a council for the merged parish comprising eight seats and that there should be no separate parish warding.

The proposed total number of seats would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. Furthermore, it is considered that the legal tests for creating a warding arrangement cannot be met in this instance. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the five parishes all presently vote together at the same place: Broomhall and Sound Methodist Church. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council does not consider that this test can be met, as this is predominantly an area of dispersed rural dwellings. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections. It is considered that having separate parish ward elections where the electorate is less than about 100 would be an inappropriate use of the parish's budget.

The Borough Council welcomes proposals for the name of the new parish. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.



The following governance arrangements would follow from the Borough Council's proposal:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Austerson, Baddington, Broomhall, Coole Pilate and Sound	8	667	83.4

The Borough Council also proposes the merger of the parishes of Wrenbury-Cum-Frith and Baddiley.

The Borough Council welcomes proposals for the name of the new parish. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

The Council considers that an allocation of ten seats would be appropriate for the new parish council, reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The Borough Council is anxious to hear from electors and other interested bodies whether it would be appropriate to have a warding arrangement for the purposes of elections to the council of the new parish. Consultees are reminded of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place: St Margaret's Church Hall, Wrenbury-Cum-Frith. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and that the Baddiley area has a separate community of identity to the Wrenbury-Cum-Frith area. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The following table is provided for guidance only.

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Baddiley	2	219	109.5
Wrenbury-Cum-Frith	8	1,087	135.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,306</b>	<b>130.6</b>

### Stoke and Hurleston Parish Group

This group of parishes consists of the two parishes of Stoke and Hurleston which are represented on a common council. The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Hurleston	2	60	30
Stoke	4	201	50.3
<b>Stoke and Hurleston</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>43.5</b>

Stoke and Hurleston are two rural parishes with low numbers of electors. Cheshire East Council considers that the grouping arrangement probably no longer serves any practical benefit to the parish council or to the community and electors.

The electors of both parishes currently vote together at Acton Village Hall and both parishes are in Bunbury borough ward.

The Borough Council considers that a parish of six councillors is at risk of being unable to conduct its business, and favours the view of the National Association of Local Councils that a preferred minimum number of seats on a parish council is seven. Therefore Cheshire East Council recommends an increase to seven seats, which is consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors and in line with NALC's recommendations.

No representations were received during the Borough Council's pre-consultation survey for Stoke or Hurleston.

Given all these factors, Cheshire East Council recommends that Stoke and Hurleston be merged into a new parish, with a parish council of seven seats and that the new parish should not be warded for the purposes of elections to the parish council. The new parish would have a projected electorate of 261 by 2025 (60 electors in Hurleston and 201 in Stoke). Seven seats is consistent with the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2) for a council of this size, as well as being in line with the NALC guidance on the minimum number of seats for a parish council.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place: Acton Village Hall. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed merger would be as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Stoke and Hurleston*	7	261	37.3

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

## Section 4.4: Boundary reviews

### **Alsager, Middlewich and Sandbach areas (Alsager, Barthomley, Church Lawton, Haslington, Middlewich, Moston and Sandbach)**

#### **Sandbach, Haslington and Moston**

The Borough Council has considered the boundary between the parishes of Sandbach and Haslington at Winterley. The northern part of the community of Winterley at Wheelock Heath is currently partitioned by the present parish boundary. It is distant from Wheelock, the part of Sandbach town that lies nearest to it. The Borough Council considers that there is considerable merit to redrawing the parish boundary to follow the A534 Wheelock – Haslington bypass, which will provide a clear and identifiable boundary between Sandbach and Haslington and will not partition existing communities. It is therefore proposed that this area be transferred to Haslington parish. Map 15 (“Haslington”) and Map 32a (“Sandbach”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Sandbach).

Sandbach Town Council requested this boundary change, and it is supported by Haslington Parish Council.

An estimated 101 electors would be transferred from the Town Council’s Ettiley Heath and Wheelock ward and would be added to Haslington parish as a result of this change.

The Borough Council has also considered the impact of a significant development at the southern end of the Moston parish, which includes the major housing developments on former Albion Inorganic Chemicals site along with existing properties along the A533. It is considered that these developments will rely on Sandbach for their local services.

It is therefore proposed that this area should be transferred to the parish of Sandbach and to the parish ward of Elworth, with a boundary following the A533 to the west and the Brenntag site to the North which together will provide readily identifiable boundaries. Map 26 (“Moston”) and Map 32a (“Sandbach”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” at the southern end of the parish of Moston).

By 2025 this development will add an estimated 833 electors to the Elworth ward of Sandbach Town Council.

The council of the parish of Sandbach has historically used the style of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Acts.

The current governance arrangements of Sandbach Town Council are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Elworth	5	4,409	881.8
Ettiley Heath and Wheelock	5	4,337	867.4
Heath and East	5	3,623	724.6
Town	5	4,231	846.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16,600</b>	<b>830</b>

The Borough Council has considered whether it would be appropriate to transfer the Teal Drive area and comprising properties on Kestrel Walk, Redshank Place, Teal Drive, Woodpecker Close and some properties on the southern side of Moss Lane (110-124 Moss Lane) to the Town Council's Ettiley Heath and Wheelock ward to the Elworth ward. Maps 32a ("Sandbach") and 32b ("Sandbach – Teal Drive area") in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred. From detailed, up-to-date Ordnance Survey data it is estimated that this area has 120 existing properties, with no more development expected up to 2025. Assuming 1.742 electors per property (the average forecast for Ettiley Heath and Wheelock borough ward by 2025), that means an estimated 209 electors who would be moved if this boundary were changed. The transfer would also make use of the railway line as an easily identifiable boundary between the Town Council wards. The Borough Council considers that this redrawing of the town council ward boundaries would be appropriate and it is therefore proposed.

The proposed governance arrangements following the proposed parish boundary and ward boundary alterations would be as follows. The Borough Council has noted that Sandbach Town Council requested six councillors per ward (that is a total of 24 councillors). However, such a large council size would not be in keeping with the size of other town councils in Cheshire East, and an allocation of 22 will provide for an equitable allocation of town councillors to electors for each of the four town wards.

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)*	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Elworth	7	5,291 +833 +209 = 6,333	904.7
Ettiley Heath and Wheelock	5	4,377 -101 -209 = 4,067	813.4
Heath and East	5	4,552	910.4
Town	5	4,287	857.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19,239</b>	<b>874.5</b>

\* 833 is the estimated number of electors who would be transferred from Moston to Sandbach's Elworth ward under the proposed boundary change between Sandbach and Moston. 101 is the estimated number of electors would be transferred from Sandbach's Ettiley Heath and Wheelock ward to Haslington under the proposed boundary change between Sandbach and Haslington. 209 is the estimated number of electors would be transferred from Ettiley Heath and Wheelock to Elworth under the proposed transfer of the Teal Drive area.

### Middlewich and Moston

The Borough Council has considered major new housing developments which are partly within Moston, but which are adjacent to the existing urban development in Middlewich and are a consequence of that settlement's expansion (Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 42 and LPS 45). The expansion includes the majority of the housing development planned at Glebe Farm (site LPS 42) and a small section of planned development off Warmingham Lane West (LPS 45). Altering the parish boundary between Middlewich and Moston would ensure that the whole of this expansion area would fall within the parish of Middlewich. It is proposed that this boundary alteration should be made. Map 25 ("Middlewich") and Map 26 ("Moston") in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded "potential expansion area" at the northern end of the parish of Moston).

In turn, this development will add 322 electors to the parish of Middlewich by 2025.

The council of the parish of Middlewich has historically used the style of 'town' in accordance with the Local Government Acts.

It is proposed that Middlewich Town Council should have 15 councillors, a total number of seats which reflects the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. The allocation of the proposed seats between each ward represents an equitable share of councillors according to each ward's share of the electorate.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Cledford	6	6,298	1,049.7
Kinderton	6	5,049	841.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11,347</b>	<b>945.6</b>

The proposed governance arrangements, including the transferred area and new development, are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Cledford	9	6,696 +322 = 7,018	779.8
Kinderton	6	5,029	838.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12,047</b>	<b>803.1</b>

\* 322 is the estimated number of electors who would be transferred to Middlewich under the proposed boundary change between Middlewich and Moston.



Moston

This section considers the altered parish of Moston, following the proposed boundary alterations with the parishes of Middlewich and Sandbach.

The electorate of the parish of Moston, excluding the areas proposed for transfer to Middlewich and Sandbach, is anticipated to be 301 in 2025.

It is proposed that the size of the parish council be reduced. A total of seven councillors would be appropriate and would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
8	433	54.1

The proposed governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)*	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	1,456 -833 -322 = 301	43

\* 833 is the estimated number of electors who would be transferred to Sandbach under the proposed boundary change between Moston and Sandbach. 322 is the estimated number who would be transferred to Middlewich under the proposed boundary change between Moston and Middlewich.

## Alsager, Church Lawton and Haslington

### Alsager

The council of the parish of Alsager has historically used the style of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Acts. The current governance arrangements for Alsager Town Council are as follows:

Ward	Councillor nos.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Central	4	2,740	685
East	6	3,883	647.2
West	4	3,198	799.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>9,821</b>	<b>701.5</b>

The Twyford estate is partitioned by the boundary between the parishes of Alsager and Church Lawton. A major new housing development (Local Plan Strategy site LPS 21) is partly in Church Lawton, but is largely adjacent to the existing urban development in Alsager and is a consequence of the town's expansion. An alteration to the parish boundary at this location, to the identifiable boundaries provided by the B5077 (Crewe Road) and the A5011 (Linley Lane) would reflect this expansion and bring all of site LPS 21 into Alsager. Map 2 (“Alsager”) and Map 7 (“Church Lawton”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Church Lawton). The Borough Council's electoral forecasts for Alsager / Church Lawton had already included all of the Twyford Estate's electors within Alsager's projected electorate forecast, as the site's easting and northing – and most of the site's land - fall within the existing parish boundary of Alsager. There will, therefore, be no electoral impact on the Council's electorate forecasts for the two parishes from this alteration which is now proposed.

Alsager's housing has also expanded significantly into Haslington and the development of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 20 (mainly within Haslington) will add to this. Moving this expansion area into Alsager would reflect this expansion and bring all of LPS 20 and

other housing overflows into the parish of Alsager. This boundary alteration would add 870 electors to the West ward of the parish of Alsager.

This boundary change has been requested by Alsager Town Council.

It is proposed that this area should be transferred to the parish of Alsager and that the M6 motorway should form an easily identifiable boundary between Alsager and Haslington.

The Borough Council proposes that the number of seats on Alsager Town Council be increased to fifteen, which would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The Borough Council considers that the following proposed electoral arrangements for Alsager Town Council would ensure an equitable representation for the increased electorate of the parish, with the number of seats for each ward based on their share of the town's electorate:

Ward	Councillor nos.	Electors (2025)*	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Central	4	3,278	819.5
East	6	4,599	766.5
West	5	3,317 <b>+870</b> <b>= 4,187</b>	837.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12,064</b>	<b>804.3</b>

\* 870 is the estimated number of electors who would be transferred to Alsager under the proposed boundary change between Haslington and Alsager.

Church Lawton

This section also considers the altered parish of Church Lawton, following the proposed boundary alteration with the parish of Alsager. While the transfer of electors from Church Lawton to Alsager has already been taken account of in the Borough Council's electorate forecasts, the electorate of this parish is still anticipated to increase to 1,872 by 2025.

A continued parish council size of 10 would be appropriate and would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
10	1,828	182.8

The proposed governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
10	1,872	187.2

### Haslington

This section considers the altered parish of Haslington, following the proposed boundary alteration with the parish of Sandbach. An estimated 101 electors would be added to Haslington parish as a result of this change.

This section also considers the altered parish of Haslington following the proposed boundary alteration with the parish of Alsager. An estimated 870 electors would be transferred from Haslington parish as a result of this change.

The projected electorate of the parish of Haslington will be 6,153 (2025 electorate).

A proposed parish council size of 12 councillors – a reduction from the current total of 15 - would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. The Borough Council considers that the present parish warding arrangement has very little merit. Of the parish council's three present wards, one (Winterley) received only one nomination for its four seats in 2019, while the other (Oakhanger) will lose the majority of its electors (870 out of 1,052) in the proposed alteration of the boundary with Alsager. It is therefore proposed that Haslington should not be warded for the purposes of its parish council elections.

The electors of Haslington Village ward vote at Yoxhall Village Hall. The electors of Oakhanger vote at Oakhanger Church and Community Centre and the electors of Winterley Ward vote at Winterley Methodist Chapel.

Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This test is met in this parish because the electors presently vote in three different polling places: Yoxall Village Hall, Oakhanger Church and Community Centre and Winterley Methodist Chapel. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities centred on the settlements of Haslington and Winterley should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Haslington Village	10	3,936	393.6
Oakhanger	1	458	458
Winterley	4	1,240	310
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>5,634</b>	<b>375.6</b>

The proposed governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no. (unwarded parish)	Electors (2025)*	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
12	6,922 -870 +101 = 6,153	512.8

\* 870 is the estimated number of electors who would be transferred to Alsager under the proposed boundary change between Haslington and Alsager. 101 is the estimated number who would be transferred from Sandbach under the proposed boundary change between Haslington and Sandbach.

**Barthomley**

The Borough Council considers that a case could be made for transferring that part of the parish of Barthomley that lies to the east of the M6 motorway to the parish of Alsager and merging the remainder of the parish with Haslington. Another alternative might be the merger of the whole of the parish of Barthomley with the parish of Haslington.

Barthomley is a very small parish (189 electors in 2025) and is adjacent to the urban development of Alsager. Although no major housing development is currently planned on the Barthomley side of this boundary, Alsager's housing expansion could eventually spill over and extend as far as the M6.

If no changes are made to the area of this parish, the Borough Council considers that the present governance arrangements will remain appropriate:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	169	24.1	189	27

## Congleton area (Congleton, Eaton, Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths, Marton, North Rode and Somerford)

### Congleton

The current governance arrangements for Congleton Town Council are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
East	10	10,917	1,091.7
West	10	10,846	1,084.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21,763</b>	<b>1,088.2</b>

The parish of Congleton has expanded and is due to expand further to the north, into the present parishes of Eaton, Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths and Somerford, and it is proposed that these areas should be transferred to the parish of Congleton.

The affected areas, taken by order of parish, are as follows:

- Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 29 and 30 contain major new housing developments which are partly within Eaton, but which are adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and are a consequence of that town's expansion. There is also an overspill of existing housing (around Havannah Lane) from Congleton into Eaton. Moving these areas into the parish of Congleton would reflect these expansions and would bring all of LPS 29 and 30 and the Havannah overspill within Congleton. Map 8a ("Congleton") and Map 11 ("Eaton") in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded "potential expansion area" within the parish of Eaton).
- Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 27 and LPS 28 are major new housing developments which are entirely within Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths, as is part of site LPS 29 (another major housing site). These sites are adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and are a consequence of the town's expansion. Moving these areas into the parish of Congleton would reflect these expansions and would bring all of LPS sites 27, 28 and 29 within Congleton. Map 8a ("Congleton") and



Map 21 (“Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths).

- Local Plan Strategy site LPS 26 is a major new housing development which is partly within Somerford, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Congleton and is a consequence of that town’s expansion. There is also a significant existing housing overspill from Congleton into Somerford. Moving these areas into the parish of Congleton would reflect these expansions and would bring all of LPS 26 and the existing housing overspill within Congleton. Map 8a (“Congleton”) and Map 34 (“Somerford”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Somerford).

The proposed northern boundary of the parish of Congleton is shown in Map 8a (“Congleton”) in Appendix 5. Much of this boundary will follow the Congleton Link Road, and attempts have been made to use clearly identifiable physical boundaries (including existing roads and the River Dane) for the remainder.

The boundary proposals made here will add some 2,551 electors to the parish of Congleton by 2025. This is in addition to the anticipated net increase of 2,252 electors to the area currently served by the Town Council. Under the proposals, the Town Council electorate in 2025 would therefore be 4,803 higher than it was in 2018.

The council of the parish of Congleton has historically used the style of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Acts.

Congleton Town Council is already warded for the purposes of town elections, but the two existing wards are very large: to the point where the conduct of a town ward election and count is time-consuming and complex. This review offers an opportunity to create a new town warding arrangement, and the Borough Council considers that there should be 5 smaller town wards, with new ward boundaries as shown in Map 8b (“Congleton – proposed new wards”) in Appendix 5.

The five new wards would consist of the following polling districts (all currently within Congleton Town Council) and relocated areas of Eaton, Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths and Somerford:

- Ward 1 (provisional name North East): polling districts COB1, COB2, CON1, CON2, CON3, and CON4 and the part of Eaton Parish east of the A536 that is recommended for transfer to Congleton.
- Ward 2 (provisional name East): polling districts COS1, COS2, COS3 and COS4.
- Ward 3 (provisional name Central): polling districts COC1, COC2, COC3.

- Ward 4 (provisional name South West): polling districts CNW2 and CNW3, the part of Eaton Parish west of A536 that is recommended for transfer to Congleton and the parts of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths and Somerford parishes that are recommended for transfer to Congleton.
- Ward 5 (provisional name North West): polling districts COW1, COW2, COW3 and COW4.

Likewise the Borough Council is proposing a slightly enlarged town council, to reflect both the increase in the electorate size and to support a warding arrangement of five parish wards with an allocation of councillors to wards that will be fair and equitable to the electors of the different wards.

A town council of 22 seats for the enlarged council would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The proposed governance arrangements for the enlarged parish, with a council of 22 seats, are as follows. The Borough Council has applied, on an interim basis, directional names for the proposed wards, but would welcome proposals for the final parish ward names.

Ward*	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
1 (North East?)	5	6,042	1,208.4
2 (East?)	4	5,404	1,351
3 (Central?)	4	4,464	1,116
4 (South West?)	5	5,791	1,158.2
5 (North West?)	4	4,865	1,216.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26,566</b>	<b>1,207.5</b>

\* The ward names to be decided following consultations.

**Eaton, Marton and North Rode**

The current governance arrangements for these parishes are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Eaton	7	393	56.1

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Marton	7	184	26.3

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
North Rode	7	205	29.3

The transfer of the Congleton expansion area to the parish of Congleton will reduce the electorate of Eaton parish to 192 electors in 2025. At this level, it is questionable if the parish is viable as a separate parish.

The Borough Council is anxious to hear the view of the public and interested bodies on possible mergers of Eaton parish, as follows:

Option 1: Merge remainder of Eaton parish (192 electors left) with Marton (194 electors and currently in the same borough ward), to create a new parish with 386 electors and a council of seven seats (with a ratio of electors to councillors of 55.1).

Option 2: Merge remainder of Eaton parish with North Rode (202 electors and in the same borough ward), to create a new parish with 394 electors and a council of seven seats (with a ratio of electors to councillors of 56.3).

All three parishes are in Gawsworth borough ward. The electors of the parishes of Eaton and North Rode currently vote together at Eaton Village Church Hall. However, the electors of the parish of Marton vote at Marton and District Primary School.

It should also be noted that at the 2019 ordinary elections, two of North Rode's seven members were co-opted, as was one of Marton's members. The parish of Eaton had no co-options to its council.

The proposed number of seats (seven seats under either of the two options) would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

Consultation responses as to the proposed parish council size would be helpful. For example, if a warding arrangement for the merged parish is being proposed, it might be appropriate for consultees to make a proposal for a parish council size of eight seats, as this allocation of seats would divide more readily to four seats per parish ward, with the ratio of electors to councillors then being equitable between the wards.

There may be local proposals for a warding arrangement for the merged parishes. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

### Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths

The parish of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths is currently warded for the purposes of elections to the parish council. The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Hulme Walfield	2	163	81.5
Somerford Booths	3	135	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>59.6</b>

The proposed boundary change with the parish of Congleton will reduce the electorate of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths from 298 electors (2018) to 280 (2025). The area that would be transferred is entirely within the Hulme Walfield parish ward. Of the remaining 280 electors, 88 would be in the residual part of Hulme Walfield parish ward and the other 192 would be in Somerford Booths parish ward.

While the existing parish council requested that no change should be made, the Borough Council considers that its proposal to transfer part of this parish to the parish of Congleton is supported by the guidance given in the legislation and the Borough Council's Terms of Reference that parishes should represent communities of identity and that communities of identity should not normally be partitioned by parish boundaries. The Borough Council considers that the expansion area will form part of the Congleton community of identity.

The Borough Council is anxious to hear the view of the public and interested bodies on the possible merger of the residual part of Somerford parish with the residual part of the parish of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths. (Reference should be made to the following section relating to the residual parish of Somerford.)

The anticipated 2025 electorate of the merged parishes would be 387 (280 from Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths and 107 from Somerford), and a parish council of seven seats would be appropriate, reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. This would mean a ratio of 55.3 electors per councillor.

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**Somerford**

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
7	713	101.9

The proposed boundary change with the parish of Congleton will reduce the electorate of Somerford to 107 electors (2025). At this level, the parish cannot be viable as a separate parish.

The Borough Council is anxious to hear the views of the public and interested bodies on the merger of the remainder of Somerford parish with the parish of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths.

Reference should be made to the section on Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths for the implications of such a merger with that parish. In that section it is suggested that a parish council of seven seats would be appropriate to represent the 387 electors of the merged parish (2025 electorate). This would mean a ratio of 55.3 electors per councillor.



**Crewe area (Church Minshull; Crewe; Crewe Green; Hough and Chorlton Parish Group; Minshull Vernon and District Parish Group – Leighton, Minshull Vernon and Woolstanwood; Rope; Shavington cum Gresty; Weston and Basford Parish Group; Wistaston; Wybunbury)**

The Borough Council has given consideration to the multiple directions of Crewe's expansion into its neighbouring parishes:

- Weston and Basford parish group (any review of which has knock-on implications the Hough and Chorlton parish group and for the parish of Crewe Green)
- Minshull Vernon and District (with a knock-on effect on Church Minshull)
- Rope
- Shavington-cum-Gresty
- Wybunbury

The three parishes of Rope, Shavington-cum-Gresty and Wynbunbury are considered as a single discussion item in this report, as Shavington is expanding into both Rope (to the west) and Wybunbury (to the south); in addition to this, Crewe is expanding into Shavington (to the north).

Finally, this report considers the parish of Wistaston, where there are no proposed area changes, but where the Borough Council is proposing changes to the parish's electoral arrangements.

**Weston and Basford, Hough and Chorlton and Crewe Green**

The first part of this report looks at the present governance arrangements of the parishes in question.

The parishes of Weston and Basford are grouped under a common parish council. The parish of Weston is warded for the purposes of elections to the common council. The two parishes all share part of the southern boundary of the parish of Crewe. The parishes are in the Haslington borough ward.

The current governance arrangements for the Weston and Basford grouped parishes are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Basford	3	199	66.3
Weston (Village Ward)	5	800	160
Weston (Wychwood Ward)	3	870	290
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>169.9</b>

It should be noted that there are wide discrepancies between the ratios of electors to parish councillors within the grouping arrangement which are not equitable.

The parishes of Hough and Chorlton are grouped under a common parish council. The parishes are in the Wybunbury borough ward. The current governance arrangements for the Hough and Chorlton grouped parishes are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Chorlton	2	685	342.5
Hough	7	654	93.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1339</b>	<b>148.8</b>

It should be noted that there are wide discrepancies between the ratios of electors to parish councillors within the grouping arrangement which are not equitable.

The parish of Crewe Green is a parish that has a council of eight members representing its 182 electors. The ratio of electors to parish councillors is very low at 22.8, as shown below. The parish is unwarded for the purposes of parish council elections. It is in the Haslington borough ward.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
8	182	22.8

The following sections of this report consider area and boundary arrangements.

Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 2 (covering Basford and Weston) and part of LPS 3 (which affects Basford only) contain major new housing developments which are adjacent to the existing urban development in Crewe and are a consequence of that settlement's expansion. Transferring the Weston and Basford expansion areas to the parish of Crewe would reflect this expansion and (together with the proposed changes for Shavington and Weston set out later in this section) bring all of LPS 2 and 3 within the parish of Crewe. The Borough Council proposes that the LPS 2 site (Basford East), bounded as it is by the railway line to the north,

by the site field boundary to the east and by the A500 to the south, be transferred from the parishes of Basford and Weston to the parish of Crewe. Map 3 (“Basford”) and Map 9 (“Crewe”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred from Basford to Crewe (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Basford). Map 9 (“Crewe”) and Map 39 (“Weston”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred from Weston to Crewe (this area is shown as the northwestern part of the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Weston and is bounded by a dotted line to distinguish it from the adjacent “potential expansion area” that is proposed for transfer from Weston to Crewe Green).

The South Cheshire Growth Village (site LPS8) is currently split between the parishes of Weston and Crewe Green. The Borough Council considers that this new community should not be split between different parishes and therefore proposes a new boundary between the parish of Weston and the parish of Crewe Green to bring all of the South Cheshire Growth Village within Crewe Green. The new boundary would transfer most of the northern part of the parish of Weston (all land north of the A500 except for the LPS 2 site) to Crewe Green. The A500 and the LPS 2 eastern (field) boundary would form a natural boundary between Crewe Green, Crewe and Weston. Map 10 (“Crewe Green”) and Map 39 (“Weston”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred from Weston to Crewe Green (this area is shown as the northeastern part of the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Weston and is bounded by a dotted line to distinguish it from the adjacent “potential expansion area” that is proposed for transfer from Weston to Crewe).

To the south, the main residential areas of Wychwood are split between the parishes of Chorlton and the parish of Weston (Wychwood parish ward). It is considered that Wychwood Park is a separate community to Wychwood Village. The Borough Council proposes that Wychwood Park, comprising that part of the Wychwood parish ward of the parish of Weston that lies south of the A531, should be merged with that part of the parish of Chorlton that lies to the east of the railway line, to form a new parish. Map 6 (“Chorlton”) and Map 39 (“Weston”) in Appendix 5 show the area of Weston that would be merged with Chorlton under this proposal (this area is the orange shaded “potential expansion area” covering the southwestern part of the Weston Wychwood parish ward).

The Borough Council proposes that the remainder of the parish of Chorlton – the part west of the railway line – should be merged with Hough. Map 6 (“Chorlton”) and Map 20 (“Hough”) in Appendix 5 show the area of Chorlton that would be merged with Hough under this proposal (this area is the orange shaded “potential expansion area” covering the western part of the parish of Chorlton).

The Borough Council also proposes that the residual part of the parish of Weston – that is, Wychwood parish ward north of the A531 (Wychwood Park) and the part of Weston Village parish ward south of the A500 - should be merged with the residual part of the parish of Basford to form a new parish.

### Weston and Basford

The following section of this report considers the electoral arrangements for the merged parishes of Weston and Basford.

The Borough Council would welcome proposals for the name of the new parish. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

The electorate of the new parish is estimated to be 1,843 (2025).

In considering a warding arrangement for the new parish, the Borough Council considers that the residual parish of Basford has too few electors to justify a separate ward. However, the Borough Council also notes that Wychwood Village will require separate warding as it is in Wybunbury borough ward, whereas Weston and Basford are in the Haslington borough ward.

Therefore, the Borough Council is proposing a new ward comprising Wychwood village (that part of the current Wychwood ward of the parish of Weston that lies north of the A531) and a new ward comprising the merged Basford and Weston Village area.

For a parish of this size, 10 seats is the Cheshire East average. However, 11 can be split more evenly between the two wards that are now proposed. The proposed seats for each ward represent a fair allocation of councillors (based on each ward's share of the electorate).

The Borough Council would welcome proposals for the names of the new parish wards.

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Weston Village and Basford	7	1,183	169
Wychwood Village	4	660	165
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>167.5</b>

### Crewe Green

The following section of this report considers the parish of Crewe Green.

With the exception of the southwestern part of the Weston expansion area (the area bounded by the railway line to the north, by the site field boundary to the east and by the A500 to the south, which it is proposed to transfer to the parish of Crewe), the Borough Council proposes that all of the parish of Weston that lies north of the A500 be transferred into the parish of Crewe Green. This change will mean that the South Cheshire Growth Village (Local Plan Strategy site LPS 8), when developed, will fall entirely within the parish of Crewe Green.

Part of the residential area at Stephenson Drive just to the northwest of Crewe Green Roundabout is currently within Crewe Green parish, but it is considered that this is more properly part of the Crewe urban area. The Borough Council is proposing a small boundary change at this location to correct this anomaly and also to bring Aldi drive (currently in Crewe) and store (currently in Crewe Green) within the same (Crewe Green) parish. However, it is noted that this area is currently in the Haslington borough ward, and the Borough Council is concerned that risk may arise in the conduct of elections if this small area was to be transferred to the Crewe East ward of the parish of Crewe as it would remain in the Haslington borough ward. It is therefore proposed that the implementation of this boundary change and its commencement should be held back until immediately in advance of the next review of the electoral arrangements of Cheshire East Borough. At that time, it is proposed that a new boundary be implemented that runs north along Sydney Road as far as the Haslington boundary and south down University Way as far as (and including) the Aldi store.

The Borough Council proposes a reduction in the number of seats on Crewe Green parish council from eight to seven. The proposed number of seats reflects the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size and excludes electors that will occupy dwellings on site LPS 8, as that site is not due to be developed until after 2025, outside the period for which the present review is required to consider electorate projections.

The changes outlined above are summarised in the following table.

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Electors being moved from	Electors being moved to	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	183  + 42  - 45  = 180	Weston  Crewe Green*	Crewe Green  Crewe (East)*	25.7

\* not being implemented until immediately in advance of the next review of the electoral arrangements of Cheshire East Borough.



Hough and Chorlton

The following section of the report considers the grouped parishes of Hough and Chorlton.

The Borough Council has proposed (above) that Wychwood Park, comprising that part of the Wychwood parish ward of the parish of Weston that lies south of the A531, should be merged with that part of the parish of Chorlton that lies to the east of the railway line to form a new parish. It is considered that the railway line forms a clear physical boundary, and that the area of the present parish of Chorlton to west of this line is a separate community from the Wychwood Park area of the parish of Chorlton that lies to the east of the railway. Both parishes of Chorlton and Hough are in Wybunbury borough ward and both currently vote together at Hough Village Hall.

The following governance arrangements would be appropriate. It is considered that nine council seats would be appropriate, reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. It is not considered that a warding arrangement is required for the purposes of elections to the new parish council, as the new parish will largely comprise the single community of Wychwood Park.

Parish*	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
East Chorlton and Wychwood Park	9	836	92.9

\* A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of ‘parish’ or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: ‘community’, ‘neighbourhood’ or ‘village’.

The Borough Council also proposes that that part of the parish of Chorlton that lies to the west of the railway line be merged with the parish of Hough.

The following governance arrangements would be appropriate. It is considered that eight council seats would be appropriate, reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. A warding arrangement is not required, as this parish will largely comprise the present parish of Hough and its single settlement at Hough. Furthermore, the added (west) part of Chorlton has very few electors.

Parish*	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Hough (including west Chorlton)	8	714	89.3

\*A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

### Minshull Vernon and District Parish Group (Leighton, Minshull Vernon and Woolstanwood) and the parish of Church Minshull

The parishes of Leighton, Minshull Vernon and Woolstanwood are grouped under a common parish council. The parish of Leighton is warded for the purposes of elections to the common council. The parish of Leighton is adjacent to the northern boundary of the parish of Crewe, while the parish of Woolstanwood is adjacent to that town's north-western boundary. The parish of Leighton forms its own borough ward. The parish of Minshull Vernon lies in the Bunbury borough ward, and the parish of Woolstanwood lies in the Wistaston borough ward.

The current governance arrangements for the grouped parishes are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Leighton (Rural Ward)	3	388	129.3
Leighton (Urban Ward)	8	3,967	495.9
Minshull Vernon	7	209	29.8
Woolstanwood	4	563	140.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>5,127</b>	<b>233</b>

It should be noted that there are wide discrepancies between the ratios of electors to parish councillors within the grouping arrangement which are not equitable. The number of councillors is also unusually large for a parish council of this size.

It should also be noted that there were only five nominations for Leighton's 11 seats at the 2019 ordinary elections (five for the Urban ward's eight seats and none for the Rural ward's three seats) and only one nomination for Woolstanwood's four seats at those elections. In addition, the outward expansion of Crewe already extends well into Leighton Rural and the Local Plan Strategy developments will continue this trend, so the parish ward boundary no longer reflects the actual rural-urban split in this parish.

The present governance arrangements for Church Minshull are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Church Minshull	7	368	52.6

In considering the expansion of Crewe into two of these three parishes (Leighton and Woolstanwood), the Borough Council has been mindful of its desire to avoid risk in the conduct of elections. Such risk arises where the electors at a single parish election find themselves voting at the same polling station for two different borough ward elections (or vice versa). The Borough Council seeks to mitigate such risk, particularly through the provision of a different polling station (possibly in the same building or polling place). In some instances, however, the size of the affected electorate may be so small that it is not viable to provide a separate polling station.

### Leighton

There is already very substantial existing urban overspill from Crewe in this parish, and the major housing development on Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 4 and LPS 5 may also be regarded as a consequence of Crewe's expansion and will increase that overspill area.

Moving this area of the parish of Leighton to the parish of Crewe would reflect this expansion and (together with the proposals for Woolstanwood outlined below) would bring all of the existing overspill to the north and west of the town, together with the LPS 4 and 5 sites, within the boundary of the parish of Crewe.

Map 9 ("Crewe") and Map 23 ("Leighton") in Appendix 5 show the extent of this area (the orange shaded "potential expansion area" within the parish of Leighton).

However, the residual part of Leighton (the part outside the "potential expansion area") contains only an estimated 20 electors (2025 forecast). Such an electorate is too small for a viable parish. Merging this very rural residual part with one of the neighbouring rural or semi-rural parishes would involve electoral risk and the need for its own polling station, as this residual area is and would remain in Leighton borough ward, whereas Woolstanwood is in Wistaston borough ward and the other adjacent parishes are in Bunbury borough ward. It would be difficult to justify this arrangement for such a small electorate.

Therefore the Borough Council is proposing that the whole of the parish of Leighton be merged into the parish of Crewe.

The existing electorate of Leighton is adequate to allow it to form a new ward on Crewe Town Council, as shall be shown below, in the section on governance arrangements for Crewe Town Council.

### Woolstanwood

There is already very substantial existing urban overspill from Crewe in this parish and the major housing development on Local Plan Strategy site LPS 4 would add further to this.

Map 9 (“Crewe”) and Map 41 (“Woolstanwood”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of this area (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Woolstanwood).

Moving this area of the parish of Woolstanwood to the parish of Crewe would reflect this expansion and (together with the Crewe/Leighton merger which is outlined above) would bring all of the existing overspill to the north and west of the town, together with the LPS 4 and 5 sites, within the boundary of the parish of Crewe.

The Borough Council has noted that the residual part of the parish of Woolstanwood that lies outside the expansion area has only an estimated 58 electors (2025 forecast), and it is therefore proposed that the whole parish should be merged with Crewe.

Woolstanwood would make up too small a proportion of Crewe's electorate (less than 1.5%, under the proposed changes to Crewe's boundaries) to justify separate warding on Crewe Town Council. (The only justification for a separate warding would be risk in the conduct of elections that might arise because Woolstanwood is in the Wistaston borough ward, whereas the adjacent parts of Crewe are not).

### Church Minshull and Minshull Vernon

The removal of two of the three parishes that are presently grouped under a common parish council raises questions concerning the future viability of the parish of Minshull Vernon. The Borough Council considers that there would be considerable merit to merging this parish with the adjoining parish of Church Minshull. Both Church Minshull and Minshull Vernon are in Bunbury borough ward and the electors of both parishes currently vote together at Church Minshull Village Hall, with Church Minshull village being the main settlement in an area of otherwise dispersed rural dwellings.

The Borough Council welcomes proposals for the name of the merged parish. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the two existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place: Church Minshull Village Hall. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

The Borough Council is proposing a parish council of eight seats for the new parish, a number which would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The following table shows possible governance arrangements for the merged parish. In this table the implications of a warding arrangement are shown, but the Borough Council welcomes further comments on a potential warding arrangement for the merged parish.

Parish/ ward*	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Church Minshull	5	396	79.2
Minshull Vernon	3	262	87.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>658</b>	<b>82.3</b>

\* with the Borough Council determining if a warding arrangement is required in this case.



**Shavington cum Gresty, Rope and Wybunbury**

These three parishes which have their own parish councils are affected by development to the south of the Crewe urban area. Furthermore, the parishes of Shavington cum Gresty and Wybunbury are affected by development around their shared boundary.

The parish of Shavington cum Gresty is divided into two parish wards for the purposes of elections to its parish council: the Gresty Brook ward and the Village ward. The Gresty Brook ward is separated from the remainder of the parish by the railway line, and it is already part of the Crewe South borough ward. The following table gives the present governance arrangements for the parish. It can be seen that the current distribution of seats between the two wards is somewhat inequitable, with Gresty Brook having a much lower ratio of electors per councillor than Shavington Village.

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Gresty Brook	2	553	276.5
Shavington Village	10	3,788	378.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4,341</b>	<b>361.8</b>

The parish of Rope is located in the Willaston and Rope borough ward.

The parish of Wybunbury is located in the Wybunbury borough ward.

Current governance arrangements for Rope and Wybunbury are as follows:

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Rope	7	1,756	250.9

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Wybunbury	9	1,258	139.8

The following sections of this report consider the area and boundary arrangements.

Crewe's expansion into the parish of Shavington cum Gresty consists of all of the Gresty Brook parish ward and parts of the Village ward, and includes part of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 3. This site contains a major new housing development which is partly within Shavington, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Crewe and is a consequence of that settlement's expansion. There is also an existing overspill of housing from Crewe into Shavington. However, the A500 acts as a physical barrier to further southward expansion of the Crewe urban area.

Map 9 ("Crewe") and Map 33 ("Shavington cum Gresty") in Appendix 5 show the extent of this area (the orange shaded "potential expansion area" within the northern part of the parish of Shavington cum Gresty).

The Borough Council proposes transferring this area (the whole of the parish of Shavington cum Gresty north of the A500) into the parish of Crewe. Moving this area into the parish of Crewe would reflect this expansion of the Crewe urban area and bring all of LPS 3 and the existing overspill within that parish. An estimated 1,342 electors (2025 electorate) will be affected by this transfer.

There is a small overspill of development from Shavington village into the parish of Rope, lying to the south of the A500 which otherwise acts as a physical barrier to further expansion. The Borough Council proposes that this expansion area be transferred to the parish of Shavington cum Gresty and that the boundary at this location be realigned to the A500. This area change would bring all of Shavington village's western extent within the parish of Shavington cum Gresty, with the A500 providing a clear and easily identifiable physical boundary. An estimated 97 electors (2025) will be affected by this transfer. The Borough Council also proposes that the remainder of Shavington's boundary with Rope be redrawn along the A500; however, this area does not contain any electors (nor is it expected to by 2025).

Map 9 ("Crewe") and Map 31 ("Rope") in Appendix 5 show the extent of the areas that would be transferred under this proposal (the orange shaded "potential expansion area" sections along the boundary between the parishes of Rope Shavington cum Gresty).

To the north of the parish of Wybunbury, the boundary with the parish of Shavington cum Gresty currently partitions the expansion area (covering Local Plan Strategy site LPS 9 and existing housing around it). However, while it may appear at first sight as an overspill of Shavington housing development into Wybunbury, the residents of this entire area identify as being part of the community of Wybunbury rather than Shavington.

Map 33 (“Shavington cum Gresty”) and Map 43 (“Wybunbury”) in Appendix 5 show the LPS 9 and the surrounding area.

The Borough Council considers that a more appropriate boundary between the parishes of Wybunbury and Shavington cum Gresty at this location would be the Newcastle Road (running all the way from where Newcastle Road meets the Willaston parish boundary in the west to where it meets the Hough parish boundary in the east), and therefore proposes this boundary alteration. Map 33 (“Shavington cum Gresty”) and Map 43 (“Wybunbury”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Wybunbury). An estimated 106 electors (2025) will be affected by this transfer.

The following sections of this report consider the proposed electoral arrangements for the three parishes.

Shavington cum Gresty

The previous warding arrangement is no longer relevant in light of the proposal to transfer all the Gresty Brook ward into the parish of Crewe. A parish council of 12 seats is proposed as that number would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. However, the Borough Council notes that for the 2019 local elections only seven nominations were received for the then 12 seats on the parish council (though two of the five co-options that were required as a result were for the Gresty Brook ward, which would transfer to the parish of Crewe under the Borough Council's proposal).

The proposed governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Electors being moved from	Electors being moved to	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
12	<b>5,513</b> <b>-1,342</b> <b>-106</b> <b>+97</b> <b>= 4,162</b>	<b>Shavington cum Gresty</b> <b>Shavington cum Gresty</b> <b>Rope</b>	<b>Crewe</b> <b>Wybunbury</b> <b>Shavington cum Gresty</b>	346.8

Rope

The Borough Council proposes an increase in the number of councillors on the parish council from seven to ten, reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. The proposed governance would therefore be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
10	1,736	173.6

Wybunbury

The Borough Council proposes an increase to ten seats (from the current nine), as this would better reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. The proposed governance would therefore be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
10	1,629 + 106 = 1,735	173.5

**Wistaston**

The parish of Wistaston has the following current governance arrangements:

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Wistaston – St Mary's	7	2,508	358.3
Wistaston – Wells Green	3	1,722	574
Wistaston – Wistaston Green	5	2,425	485
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6,655</b>	<b>443.7</b>

The Borough Council proposes that the total number of seats on Wistaston Parish Council be reduced from fifteen to twelve, which would better reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. This reduction will enable a more equitable share of the seats on the Parish Council between the three parish wards, the Borough Council having noted that the present allocation leaves a wide range in the ratio of electors to parish councillors between the wards.

The Borough Council therefore proposes the following governance arrangements for the parish:

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Wistaston – St Mary's	5	2,959	591.8
Wistaston – Wells Green	3	1,716	572
Wistaston – Wistaston Green	4	2,662	665.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7,337</b>	<b>611.4</b>



**Crewe**

The council of the parish of Crewe has historically used the style of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Acts. The present governance arrangements of Crewe Town Council are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Central	2	4,301	2,150.5
East	6	10,961	1,826.8
Leighton	N/A	N/A	N/A
North	2	3,613	1,806.5
South	4	7,243	1,810.8
St Barnabas	2	3,755	1,877.5
West	4	7,763	1,940.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>37,636</b>	<b>1,881.8</b>

The Borough Council has considered the future governance arrangements for the parish of Crewe.

Although a town council of 20 seats can be split fairly between the wards, it is considered that an increase to 22 seats would better reflect the increased size of the electorate of the parish and would be more in keeping with the proposals for other parishes that have adopted the style of town in the Borough.

The Borough Council has considered whether a separate ward would be viable for the transferred area of Woolstanwood. However, with only 556 electors, it would be difficult to justify more than one seat. In such a situation, Crewe West’s electorate

would be 556 lower, at 7,571 and it would be left with three seats and a ratio of electors to town councillors of 2,523.7. This would detract from an equitable distribution of council seats between the electors of the parish.

The proposed governance arrangements are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Parish(es) from which electors would be transferred	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Central	2	4,488		2,244
East	6	12,432 +45 = 12,477	Crewe Green	2,079.5
Leighton	2	0 +5,194 = 5,194	Leighton	2,597
North	2	3,583		1,791.5
South	4	7,527 +2,035 = 9,562	Basford, Shavington, Weston	2,390.5
St Barnabas	2	3,638		1,819
West	4	7,571 +556 = 8,127	Woolstanwood	2,031.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>47,069</b>		<b>2,139.5</b>

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## Holmes Chapel area (Holmes Chapel and Brereton)

### Holmes Chapel

The Bluebell Green development includes over 200 new residential properties that will be built by 2025. This development is encompassed by open countryside to the south of the parish of Holmes Chapel, and a case could be made for transferring this area from the parish of Brereton to the parish of Holmes Chapel.

Map 5 (“Brereton”) and Map 19 (“Holmes Chapel”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred, making appropriate use of natural boundaries (see the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Brereton).

When developed, the area would have an estimated 420 electors by 2025.

However, the Borough Council received 18 representations at the pre-consultation stage of this review that no change should be made to the parish of Brereton. No representations were received from the parish of Holmes Chapel on this matter. The Borough Council therefore seeks further responses from the public and interested bodies on this matter and is not making a proposal to alter the boundary at this stage until further consultation comments are received and considered.

If the area in question was transferred to the parish of Holmes Chapel, it is still considered that the appropriate size of the parish council should be 12 (that is, no change from the current number), reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The current governance arrangements of the parish of Holmes Chapel are:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
12	5,037	419.8

If the Bluebell Green development was transferred, the governance arrangements would alter insofar as the ratio of electors to councillors is concerned:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
12	5,496 <b>+420</b> <b>= 5,816</b>	493

**Brereton**

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
8	1,052	131.5

Taking account of the additional electors from the Bluebell Green development, the electorate of Brereton is expected to increase to 1,430 by 2025.

With regard to the governance arrangements of Brereton Parish Council, the Borough Council has noted the representations that no change should be made to the parish of Brereton. However, it is proposed that the number of seats on the parish council be increased from eight to nine, to better reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. This would give a ratio of electors to parish councillors of 158.9 (2025).

Future governance arrangements under the proposals would be as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
9	1,430	158.9

## Knutsford area (Knutsford, Mobberley and Tabley)

### Knutsford

The council of the parish of Knutsford has historically used the style of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Acts. The current governance arrangements of Knutsford Town Council are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Bexton	3	2,128	709.3
Nether	3	2,145	715
Norbury	3	2,128	709.3
Over	6	4,136	689.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10,537</b>	<b>702.5</b>

There will be an expansion of 175 homes by 2025 on land to the north of Northwich Road, Knutsford (Local Plan Strategy site LPS36A). Some 60 per cent of the site area lies in the parish of Tabley; the rest is within the current parish of Knutsford. Tabley Parish Council has previously recognised this as a Knutsford development and gave consent for it to be in the Knutsford Neighbourhood Plan. Knutsford Town Council has proposed that this development site be transferred to its parish area of Knutsford.

It is therefore proposed that this area be transferred from the parish of Tabley to the parish of Knutsford. This proposal would add 179 electors to the Nether ward of Knutsford Town Council by 2025. The Borough Council considers that the appropriate western

boundary between Tabley and Knutsford at this location should be the M6 motorway, with the appropriate northern boundary being Tabley Hill Lane and the appropriate southern boundary being the Northwich Road. These would give clear and easily identifiable physical boundaries and the Borough Council considers that these boundaries would be more appropriate than the Town Council's proposed use of field boundaries. However, the Borough Council is anxious to seek public views on the appropriate boundary here.

Map 22a ("Knutsford") and Map 38 ("Tabley") in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded "potential expansion area" within the parish of Tabley).

Knutsford Town Council has also proposed an alteration of the boundary with the parish of Mobberley to bring the whole of Longridge Trading Estate into Knutsford. Map 22b ("Knutsford – Longridge Trading Estate") in Appendix 5 shows the extent of the area that would be transferred. The Borough Council can see considerable merit in this proposal. However, this small area lies in a different borough ward (Mobberley). While it has no electors, there is still a potential for risk in the conduct of elections to arise here with regard to commercial referendums. It is therefore considered that, while the Borough Council favours such a change and is consulting accordingly, the implementation of such a change would be deferred to a commencement date immediately preceding a review of the borough wards by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The Town Council also proposed merging Tatton (21 electors forecast for 2025) with Knutsford. However, the Borough Council continues to favour the option of the merger of Tatton with Rostherne, because they are two entirely rural parishes. Furthermore, as noted in the Borough Council's proposals for Rostherne and Tatton, the pre-consultation survey received an individual representation from Tatton which identified a close historical connection to Rostherne.

Knutsford Town Council also proposed that the current four parish wards be replaced by five new wards, given that the current Over ward has twice as many seats and about twice as many electors as the other wards. The Town Council considers that this is confusing for electors and makes it harder for councillors to coordinate their efforts. It considers that its proposed new boundaries would address this and would better reflect local communities' sense of identity and the location of expected future LPS development. It proposes that the current total of fifteen seats be retained, but with three seats for each of the new wards.

The Borough Council has given consideration to options for the electoral arrangements of the parish. The Borough Council considers that the electoral arrangements proposed by Knutsford Town Council have considerable merit, and these electoral arrangements are therefore proposed. The proposed total number of seats reflects the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size and the proposal for three seats for each ward provides for an equitable distribution of electors to town councillors (based on each ward's share of the electorate).

The proposed future governance arrangements of Knutsford Town Council are as shown in the table below. Map 22c (“Knutsford – proposed new wards”) in Appendix 5 shows the boundaries of the proposed new wards.

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Bexton and Town Centre	3	2,501	833.7
Cross Town	3	2,414	804.7
Nether	3	1,758 +179 = 1,937	645.7
Norbury Booths	3	2,042	680.7
St John's Wood	3	2,100	700
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10,994</b>	<b>732.9</b>



**Tabley**

This section considers the residual parish of Tabley, which will continue following the proposed boundary alteration with the parish of Knutsford.

The review recognises that the parish of Tabley will remain viable following the boundary change that is proposed.

The current governance arrangements of the parish of Tabley are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
10	384	38.4

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Tabley has a relatively high number of seats for a council of its size. A decrease to eight seats is proposed, as this would be consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors. The parish council's current precept for 2020/21 is only £3,275.

The proposed governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
8	439	54.9

**Mobberley**

This section considers the residual parish of Mobberley, which will continue following the proposed very minor boundary alteration with the parish of Knutsford.

Based upon the evidence currently available, Cheshire East Council, on balance, considers that any further community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Mobberley.

Cheshire East Council remains open to considering alternative recommendations and would welcome feedback about the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

The present (and proposed) governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)	Electors (2025)	Ratio (2025)
12	2,475	206.3	2,508	209

### **Macclesfield area (Bollington, Gawsworth, Henbury, Higher Hurdsfield, Macclesfield, Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough, Sutton and Wincle)**

There are multiple directions of Macclesfield's expansion into its neighbouring parishes, and these are considered in turn. In several instances, it is proposed that expansion areas should be transferred from the adjoining parishes into the parish of Macclesfield. However, the Borough Council seeks further views from electors and public bodies on the extent of these transfers with regard to the parishes of Gawsworth and Sutton.

The appropriate future governance of the parish of Macclesfield will be dependent on the extent of the proposed transfers of the expansion area to the parish of Macclesfield.

The council of the parish of Macclesfield has historically used the style of 'town' in accordance with the Local Government Acts. The present governance arrangements of Macclesfield Town Council are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Broken Cross and Upton	2	6,838	3,419
Central	2	7,156	3,578
East	1	3,597	3,597
Hurdsfield	1	3,495	3,495
South	2	6,003	3,001.5
Tytherington	2	7,393	3,696.5
West and Ivy	2	6,364	3,182
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>40,846</b>	<b>3,403.8</b>

The following table gives a possible future governance arrangement for the Town Council. This table is intended for information only, and the final number of seats for each of the town's wards will depend on the combination of boundary changes that are made. The Borough Council considers that about 20 seats are appropriate for a town council with an electorate of this size and a precept of £911,883 (2020-21 financial year). However, the Borough Council will also be required to ensure that representation across the town council wards will be equitable for all the electors of the town, and a slightly larger council size of 21 or 22 may be required to allow for a fairer ratio of electors to councillors.

Ward	Councillor no.*	Electors (2025)	Transfer of electors from
Broken Cross and Upton	3 to 4	7,043 <b>+273</b> <b>= 7,316</b>	<b>Henbury</b>
Central	3 to 4	7,523	
East	2	3,939	
Hurdsfield	2	3,489 <b>+431* or +605*</b> <b>= 3,920 or 4,094</b>	<b>Higher Hurdsfield</b>
South	3 to 4	6,391 <b>+828</b> <b>+821</b> <b>= 8,040</b>	<b>Gawsworth Sutton</b>
Tytherington	3 to 4	7,720 <b>+ 157</b> <b>= 7,877</b>	<b>Bollington</b>
West and Ivy	3	6,709	

\*For the potential transfers from Higher Hurdsfield parish to Macclesfield Town Council Hurdsfield ward, the lower figure (431) relates to the anticipated number of electors who would be affected if only part of Higher Hurdsfield (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” part of the parish shown in Map 18 (“Higher Hurdsfield”) of Appendix 5) were transferred to Macclesfield. The higher figure (605) is the anticipated electorate of the whole Higher Hurdsfield parish.

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### Bollington

The council of the parish of Bollington has historically used the style of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Acts. The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Central	4	2,516	629
East	4	1,933	483.3
West	4	1,887	471.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6,336</b>	<b>528</b>

As the table above shows, the ratios of electors per councillor are quite disparate, varying from 471.8 in Bollington West to 629 in Bollington Central.

The existing parish boundary cuts through the middle of a residential development and, indeed, through the middle of a number of houses in the area of Dumbah Lane, Springwood Way, Webbs Close and Livesley Road. The Borough Council does not consider that this area constitutes part of the Bollington community of identity; indeed, it is separated from it by the A523 (The Silk Road).

The Borough Council therefore proposes extending the boundary of the parish of Macclesfield to the A523 (The Silk Road) to transfer this area from the parish of Bollington to the parish of Macclesfield.

Map 4 (“Bollington”) and Map 24 (“Macclesfield”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Bollington).

The Borough Council has given consideration to the governance arrangements of the parish of Bollington in light of this proposed transfer.

The transfer will cause a deduction of 157 electors (2025) from the West ward of the parish of Bollington. This will not adversely affect the existing ratios of electors to town councillors on the Town Council. The size of the Town Council, at 12 members, would continue to reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. However, the Borough Council proposes a redistribution of seats between the wards – an increase from four to five seats for the Central ward and a decrease from four to three seats for the West ward – to reflect each ward's share of the electorate and make the ratios of electors per councillor less disparate, as shown below.

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Central	5	2,536	507.2
East	4	1,922	480.5
West	3	1,933 <b>-157</b> <b>= 1,776</b>	592
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6,234</b>	<b>519.5</b>

## Henbury

Local Plan Strategy site LPS 18 is a major new housing development within land between Chelford Road and Whirley Road which is partly within Henbury, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Macclesfield and is a consequence of that settlement's expansion. Moving the Henbury expansion area to Macclesfield would reflect this expansion and bring all of LPS 18 within Macclesfield. There are also an estimated 20 existing dwellings along the A537 (Chelford Road) which border site LPS 18, and it is considered that they also form part of this expansion area and more properly form part of the Macclesfield community of identity.

The Borough Council therefore proposes extending the boundary of the parish of Macclesfield to take in the whole of site LPS 18 along with the existing 20 dwellings along Chelford Road.

Map 16 (“Henbury”) and Map 24 (“Macclesfield”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Henbury).

The transfer would result in the loss of 273 electors (2025) from the parish of Henbury, but as the transfer accounts for virtually of the new housing development expected up to 2025, the projected 2025 electorate following the transfer (485 electors) is little different to that in 2018 (499 electors).

The Borough Council has given consideration to the governance arrangements of the parish of Henbury. It is proposed that the parish council be increased to eight members from the present seven. A council of eight parish councillors would better reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
7	499	71.3



The proposed governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
8	485	60.6

## Gawsworth

Local Plan Strategy site LPS 15 is a major new housing development which is within the Moss ward of the parish of Gawsworth, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Macclesfield and is a consequence of that settlement's expansion. There is also existing development at Manley Road, Sussex Avenue, Hillcrest Road, Rising Sun Road, Moss View Road and Surrey Road which forms part of Macclesfield settlement expansion, but which lies in Gawsworth parish. This development forms the Moss ward of the parish. It is considered that this development, along with site LPS 15 when developed, forms part of the community of identity of Macclesfield. Moving this area to Macclesfield would bring all of LPS 15 along with the existing development which adjoins it within the parish of Macclesfield.

Map 13 (“Gawsworth”) and Map 24 (“Macclesfield”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that could be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Gawsworth) if this boundary were to be changed.

However, while this area (as currently defined) makes good use of natural boundaries (Congleton Road, Gawsworth Road and the minor road to Brownhills Farm and Dalehouse Farm), it may be felt that it would take in too much rural hinterland that does not identify with the community of Macclesfield.

In its response to the Borough Council’s pre-consultation survey, Gawsworth Parish Council informed the Council that it undertook a community survey, in which 89 per cent of respondents said they would oppose Gawsworth being integrated into Macclesfield Town Council’s area. Additionally, a 155-signature petition was presented to the parish council giving the same view. The parish council itself is against ceding any of its area to the parish of Macclesfield and opposes any border alterations. It proposed that present warding arrangement whereby the parish was divided into two wards – Village and Moss parish wards – should be removed, giving its view that this would alleviate issues with finding enough local councillors. The parish council also offered an alternative proposal whereby the parish’s Moss ward should be extended to include the LPS15 site and the extent of LPS 19 (South West Macclesfield) which is currently within the parish of Gawsworth or that the community should be given the opportunity to change the name of the Moss ward. The parish council considers that the existing total of nine seats was appropriate and, if the warding arrangement was retained, it proposed five seats for the Village ward and four for the Moss ward.

While the Borough Council considers that housing site LPS 15 and the adjoining existing development comprising the Moss parish ward should be transferred to the parish of Macclesfield, the Council is anxious to hear the further views of electors and interested bodies on how much of the expansion area should be transferred: the expansion area as currently defined with its large rural hinterland extending to Gawsworth Road, or a smaller area that more tightly contains housing site LPS 15 and the existing housing at Manley Road, Sussex Avenue, Hillcrest Road, Rising Sun Road, Moss View Road and Surrey Road, or no transfer at all.

Where no change in the area is being advocated, the Borough Council will want to be assured that this area actually forms part of the Gawsworth community of identity. Views on this matter should be supported by evidence that the residents of the area look to Gawsworth for services and opportunities for social and leisure amenity.

The area comprises undeveloped and existing housing development. The Borough Council estimates that, if the expansion area as currently defined was transferred, this would add 828 electors (by the 2025 electorate) to the parish of Macclesfield.

This report now turns to the question of the governance arrangements for the parish of Gawsworth. That question cannot be fully resolved until the extent of the area to be transferred to Macclesfield parish from the parish of Gawsworth is resolved upon.

The current governance arrangement for Gawsworth is as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Moss	3	474	158
Village	6	943	157.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>157.4</b>

For guidance purposes only, the following tables are provided:

If the expansion area as currently defined was transferred in full, the following governance arrangements would be relevant for the residual parish of Gawsworth:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Remove the warding arrangement as no longer relevant (whole of Moss ward would be moved to Macclesfield)	9	884	98.2

If the expansion area was not transferred in full, the following governance arrangements might continue. However, it should be noted that there may be other consultation responses which propose a different approach and which the Borough Council may be minded to accept.

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)*	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Moss	3	461	153.7
Village	7	1,251	178.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,712</b>	<b>171.2</b>

\*These figures improve on the original Community Governance Review forecasts by taking full account of which parish ward the LPS 15 site is in.

### Higher Hurdsfield

The current governance arrangements for Higher Hurdsfield are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors to councillors (2018)
8	603	75.4

The electorate is projected to increase marginally by 2025, to 605. The area that may be considered as Macclesfield’s expansion into the parish of Higher Hurdsfield is projected to contain 431 of these 605 electors.

Map 18 (“Higher Hurdsfield”) and Map 24 (“Macclesfield”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of this area (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Higher Hurdsfield).

It is noted that the large majority of housing in the expansion area (the estate along Roewood Lane) is adjacent to the Macclesfield Hurdsfield borough ward. Furthermore the electors of Higher Hurdsfield parish currently vote at the same polling station as the electors for Macclesfield Town Council’s Hurdsfield ward. A case might be made for merging the whole or just the expansion area part of the parish of Higher Hurdsfield with the parish of Macclesfield. A case might also be made for merging part of the parish of Higher Hurdsfield, which lies outside the expansion area and has only 174 electors, with the parish of Bollington.

The Borough Council has noted that Higher Hurdsfield Parish Council responded to the pre-consultation survey requesting no change.

The Borough Council is also mindful that any such merger, either of the whole or part of Higher Hurdsfield parish would entail risk in the conduct of elections as the parish is located in a different borough ward (Bollington) to the neighbouring borough wards that cover the parish of Macclesfield (Macclesfield Hurdsfield and Macclesfield East).

However, of greater relevance to the Borough Council is its consideration that Higher Hurdsfield village does not identify as being part of either Bollington or Macclesfield, but has its own community of identity. Furthermore, the parish is viable and it has a record of functioning well to serve its residents. Therefore the Borough Council is proposing that no change be made in the boundary at this location.

The parish council of Higher Hurdsfield currently has eight councillors. A council of eight members would continue to reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size, and no change is therefore proposed to the parish council's governance arrangements, which would be as shown below.

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors to councillors (2025)
8	605	75.6

**Sutton, Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough and Wincle**

Local Plan Strategy sites LPS 13 (which lies partly within the Lyme Green ward of the parish Sutton) and LPS 17 (which lies entirely within the Lyme Green ward of the parish of Sutton) are major new housing developments that are adjacent to the existing urban development in Macclesfield and are a consequence of that settlement's expansion. There will be an estimated 462 properties in Sutton's Lyme Green parish ward by 2025, including all of site LPS 17 and that part of LPS 13 that lies within the parish of Sutton. The Borough Council considers that Macclesfield's outward development and planned LPS sites mean Sutton Lyme Green and Macclesfield are becoming a single urban area with a community of identity that looks to Macclesfield.

Therefore the Borough Council considers that the whole of Sutton's Lyme Green parish ward could potentially be transferred to Macclesfield. Map 24 ("Macclesfield") and Map 37 ("Sutton") in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded "potential expansion area" within the parish of Sutton), if this boundary change were to be made.

Moving this area to Macclesfield would reflect the town's expansion and bring all of sites LPS 13 and 17 within Macclesfield. However, this change would bring the whole of the adjoining Lyme Green village into Macclesfield. Consultees to this review may consider that a smaller expansion area is more appropriate, although there are no obvious alternative natural boundaries that would accommodate both of the LPS sites.

The Borough Council is therefore anxious to hear the views of electors and other interested bodies on how much of this area should be transferred to the parish of Macclesfield: the expansion area as currently defined (that is whole of the Lyme Green parish ward of the parish of Sutton), or a smaller area that more tightly contains housing sites LPS 13 and 17 and the existing Lyme Green village housing.

The rural parish of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough and the rural parish of Wincle do not presently have parish council representation. At present the representative body of the two parishes is their meetings of their electors which by law are required to meet twice annually. However, the Borough Council is not clear if the meetings of electors are ever convened. With 161 and 151 electors as of 2018 and little change anticipated (160 and 150 electors respectively by 2025), the Borough Council considers that the two parishes might be merged with the Rural ward of the residual parish of Sutton, to form a new parish with 672 electors (2025 electorate). The present Rural ward of the parish of Sutton has very few nominations for its seats at ordinary elections (only one for its three seats in the 2019 ordinary elections) and its viability as a separate parish ward is therefore questionable. The ward lies adjacent to both parishes of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough and Wincle. All three areas lie in the Sutton borough ward, and therefore there is no risk to the conduct of elections by having electors of the same parish voting in different borough ward elections.

The electors of the parish of Wincle vote at Wincle Brewery; the electors of the parish of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough vote at Wildboarclough Church Rooms, and the electors of Sutton Rural Parish Ward votes at St James Church Hall in Sutton.

This report now turns to the question of the governance arrangements for the parish of Sutton. That question cannot be fully resolved until the extent of the area to be transferred to Macclesfield parish from the parish of Sutton is resolved upon.

The current governance arrangement for Sutton is as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Langley	3	460	153.3
Lyme Green	3	554	184.7
Lane Ends	3	880	293.3
Rural	3	337	112.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2,231</b>	<b>185.9</b>

Depending on the extent of the transfers of the expansion area, the Borough Council considers that 10 to 12 seats would be appropriate for the council of the new parish of Sutton, comprising Sutton Lane Ends/ Langley/ Lyme Green together with the Rural ward. This allocation will depend on how much of Lyme Green (if any) is transferred to Macclesfield, and the Borough Council will be mindful of the Cheshire East average for a parish of its size in the final allocation of seats to the Parish Council.



For guidance purposes only, the following tables are provided:

If the Lyme Green expansion area was transferred in full, the following governance arrangements would be relevant for the residual parish of Sutton (including its present Rural ward):

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Langley	3	605	201.7
Lane Ends	5	878	175.6
Rural	2	362	181
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,845</b>	<b>184.5</b>

If the Lyme Green expansion area was transferred in full and the Rural ward of Sutton parish was to merge with the parishes of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough and Wincle to form a new parish, the following governance arrangements would be relevant for the residual parish of Sutton.

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Langley	4	605	151.3
Lane Ends	6	878	146.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,483</b>	<b>148.3</b>

The latter scenario is based upon the merger of the Rural Ward of the parish of Sutton with the parishes of Macclesfield Forest and Wildboarclough (160 electors) and Wincle (150 electors) to form a new parish council with 672 electors. If such a new parish was formed it would be relevant for it to have a council of eight seats reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size and with a resulting ratio of 84 electors per councillor. Consultees supporting the creation of such a new parish may also wish to

consider whether the council of the new parish should be warded for the purposes of elections, and the Borough Council is anxious to hear views on this matter. Consultation responses proposing warding arrangements should be mindful of the relevant legislation and of the Borough Council's Terms of Reference document. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient; it should provide representation for the different communities within a parish, and it should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

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## **Mottram St Andrew, Nether Alderley and Over Alderley**

### **Nether Alderley and Over Alderley**

Local Plan Strategy site LPS 61 is a major new housing development at the Alderley Park where 381 houses are planned. The development spans the boundary between the parishes of Nether Alderley and Over Alderley, and 356 homes will fall in the parish of Nether Alderley and 25 will fall within the parish of Over Alderley.

Due to this large new development, the electorate of Nether Alderley is projected to increase substantially, from 520 in 2018 to an estimated 1,033 by 2025. Moving the Over Alderley part of this development into the parish of Nether Alderley would bring all of LPS 61 within the same parish.

Map 28 (“Nether Alderley”) and Map 29 (“Over Alderley”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that could be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Over Alderley), making appropriate use of available natural boundaries.

However, the Borough Council notes reasons for rejecting such a proposal. There is a limited range of natural or physical boundaries available in this area without expanding to a much larger area as shown on Maps 28 and 29. It is considered difficult to justify transferring such a large area from the parish of Over Alderley to the parish of Nether Alderley, particularly as much of the area would remain rural in character. Furthermore, the Borough Council notes that the two parishes are in different borough wards – Nether Alderley in Chelford and Over Alderley in Prestbury borough wards. Over Alderley and Nether Alderley are also in different parliamentary constituencies: Over Alderley is in the Macclesfield constituency, and Nether Alderley is in the Tatton constituency. This would therefore create risk in the conduct of elections if the area was transferred, as its electors would continue to vote in elections for a different borough ward. The number of electors involved would be too small to merit the formation of a separate polling district with a separate polling station to mitigate such a risk.

The electors of Nether Alderley vote at Nether Alderley Parish Hall and the electors of Over Alderley vote at Over Alderley Reading Room.

On balance, therefore, it is the Borough Council’s proposal that no change should be made at this location, but the Borough Council welcomes the views of the public and interested bodies on this matter.

The current governance arrangements of Nether Alderley Parish Council are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
8	520	65

It is proposed that the number of seats on the Parish Council be increased from eight to ten to reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
10	1,033	103.3

**Over Alderley and Mottram St Andrew**

In the previous section of this document, the Borough Council has given consideration to the implications of the development at Alderley Park which spans the boundaries between the parishes of Nether Alderley and Over Alderley. On consideration of this matter, the Council has proposed that no change should be made at this location, but the Borough Council welcomes the views of the public and interested bodies on this matter.

There is a strong case for the merger of the parishes of Over Alderley and Mottram St Andrew in the north of Cheshire East. It is noted that in the 2019 local elections the small parish of Over Alderley (with 258 electors as of 2018) only received four nominations for its seven seats. Mottram St Andrew had 532 electors as of 2018. It is considered that the merger would enhance the viability of the combined parish and the Borough Council is therefore proposing this.

Both parishes are presently within the Prestbury borough ward. The electors of the parish of Over Alderley vote at Over Alderley Reading Room, while the electors of both existing parish wards of the parish of Mottram St Andrew vote at Mottram St Andrew Village Hall.

A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

It is suggested that a parish council size of nine members would be appropriate reflecting the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size; with a forecasted combined electorate of 793, this would lead to a new ratio of electors to councillors of 88.1.

It is proposed that the present warding arrangement within the parish of Mottram St Andrew should be removed; there is presently an imbalance between the electoral ratios of its two parish wards, with the Newton ward's 90 electors having two councillors (a ratio of 45 per councillor) and Mottram St Andrew ward's 442 electors having five councillors (a ratio of 88.4). It is also noted that the two parish wards currently vote together at the same polling station, would tend to support the Borough Council's assessment that the warding arrangement is out of balance and may serve no practical purpose.

However, it may be considered that a warding arrangement for the combined parish might be appropriate and the Borough Council welcomes comments on this point. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities

within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish's limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections.

If a parish warding arrangement was agreed, then it would be appropriate (based on their respective shares of the electorate) to allocate six seats for Mottram St Andrew's projected (2025) 534 electors and three seats for Over Alderley's projected (2025) 259 electors.

The following tables are provided for guidance.

Current governance arrangements – Over Alderley:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
7	258	36.9

Current governance arrangements – Mottram St Andrew:

Parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Newton	2	90	45
Mottram St Andrew	5	442	88.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>76</b>

Governance arrangements for the proposed merged parish with a warding arrangement (2025 electorate)

Parish/ ward*	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Mottram St Andrew	6	534	89
Over Alderley	3	259	86.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>88.1</b>

\*New name for the parish to be considered.

**Nantwich area (Acton, Edleston and Henhull Parish Group; Batherton and Stapeley Parish Group; Burland; Nantwich; and Worleston and District Parish Group – Aston Juxta Mondrum, Poole and Worleston)**

**Acton, Edleston and Henhull Parish Group and Burland**

The parishes of Acton, Edleston and Henhull are grouped under a common parish council. The three parishes all share the western boundary of the parish of Nantwich. The parishes of Acton and Henhull are in the Bunbury borough ward, while the parish of Edleston is in the Wrenbury borough ward and forms a distinctive salient of that ward that is nearly separated from the remainder of the ward.

The current governance arrangements for the grouped parishes is as shown in the table below. This shows that the current distribution of seats is inequitable, with the ratio of electors per councillor ranging from 50.8 in Acton to 478 in Edleston.

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Acton	5	254	50.8
Edleston	1	478	478
Henhull	1	88	88
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>117.1</b>

In considering the expansion of Nantwich into two of these three parishes (Henhull and Edleston), the Borough Council has been mindful of its desire to avoid risk in the conduct of elections. Such risk arises where the electors of a single parish election find themselves voting at the same polling station for two different borough ward elections (or vice versa). The Borough Council seeks to mitigate such risk, particularly through the provision of a different polling station (possibly in the same building or polling place). In some instances, however, the size of the affected electorate may be so small that it is not viable to provide a separate polling station.



### Acton and Henhull

Nantwich has expanded significantly into the parishes of Edleston and Henhull. Local Plan Strategy site LPS 46 is a major new housing development which is in Henhull, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Nantwich and is a consequence of the town's expansion. Transferring this area into the parish of Nantwich would reflect this expansion and (along with the proposed Nantwich-Worleston boundary change set out later in this section) would bring all of LPS 46 within Nantwich.

The Borough Council therefore proposes that the expansion area be transferred to the parish of Nantwich. A total of 545 electors will be transferred to the North and West parish ward of the parish of Nantwich.

Map 17 (“Henhull”) and Map 27 (“Nantwich”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Henhull).

The Borough Council notes that this proposal is aligned with pre-consultation survey responses for Nantwich, in which many residents in Acton, Edleston and Henhull indicated their acceptance of the probability of a boundary change.

This transfer will mean that the residual parish of Henhull is left with 38 electors and will cease to be viable as a separate parish. There is much to be said for merging the residual parish of Henhull with the parish of Acton to form a new parish, not least because they already come under the same grouped parish council. This merger would form a new parish comprising Henhull's 38 electors with Acton's 277 electors (2025 electorate) to form a new parish with 315 electors.

As noted already, both Henhull and Acton are in the Bunbury borough ward, so a merger of the two involves no risk in the conduct of elections. The electorates of both parishes currently vote together Acton Village Hall, a point which further supports the Borough Council's proposal that they be merged.

A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of ‘parish’ or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: ‘community’, ‘neighbourhood’ or ‘village’.

The Borough Council does not consider that a warding arrangement is appropriate for the merged parish. The electorate of the residual area of Henhull is too low to support a warding arrangement, and the properties in its area are all comparatively close to the settlement of Acton.

It is proposed that the council of the merged parish should have seven seats, a council size that would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size, giving a ratio of 45 electors per parish councillor, as shown below.

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
7	315	45

Edleston and Burland

The existing housing of the parish of Edleston is largely an overspill from the adjacent Nantwich urban area. Transferring the Edleston overspill area into the parish of Nantwich would reflect the town's expansion and bring all of the overspill within Nantwich. A total of 651 electors (2025) would be transferred to the North and West parish ward of the parish of Nantwich. The Borough Council is therefore proposing the transfer of this area into the parish of Nantwich.

Map 12 (“Edleston”) and Map 27 (“Nantwich”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Edleston).

This transfer will mean that the residual parish of Edleston is left with 36 electors and will cease to be viable as a separate parish. There is much to be said for merging the residual parish of Edleston with the parish of Burland to form a new parish. This merger would form a new parish comprising Edleston’s 36 electors with Burland’s 501 electors (2025 electorate) to form a new parish with 537 electors.

The current governance arrangements for Burland are as shown below. It should be noted that at the 2019 ordinary elections, five out of nine members were co-opted.

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
9	494	54.9

Both Edleston and Burland are in the Wrenbury borough ward, so a merger of the two involves no risk in the conduct of elections. This is a particularly important consideration in the Borough Council’s proposal for this merger. The electorates of both parishes currently vote together at Acton Village Hall, a point which further supports the Borough Council’s proposal that they be merged.

A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of ‘parish’ or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: ‘community’, ‘neighbourhood’ or ‘village’.

The Borough Council does not consider that a warding arrangement is appropriate for the merged parish, as the electorate of the residual area of Edleston is too low to support a warding arrangement.

It is proposed that the council of the merged parish should have eight seats, a council size that would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size, giving a ratio of 67.1 electors per parish councillor, as shown below.

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
8	537	67.1

### Stapeley and District Parish Group (Batherton and Stapeley)

The parishes of Batherton and Stapeley are grouped under a common parish council. The two parishes lie to the south-east of the parish of Nantwich. Some 88 per cent (that is 1,508 out of 1,711) of Batherton and Stapeley's residential properties are within an area that is adjacent to existing residential areas in the parish of Nantwich and could therefore be perceived, on those grounds, to be part of the same community as Nantwich.

Map 27 ("Nantwich") and Map 35 ("Stapeley") in Appendix 5 show this area of housing development adjacent to Nantwich (the orange shaded "potential expansion area" within the parish of Stapeley). At first sight, as Maps 27 and 35 indicate, there would seem to be a case for transferring much of this area into the parish of Nantwich.

Both Batherton and Stapeley are in the Nantwich South and Stapeley borough ward.

The current governance arrangements for the grouped parishes are as shown in the table below. This shows that the current distribution of seats is inequitable, with the ratio of electors per councillor being 318.9 in Stapeley, but only 37 in Batherton.

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors to councillors (2018)
Batherton	1	37	37
Stapeley	9	2,870	318.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2,907</b>	<b>290.7</b>

However, the Borough Council does not consider that the south-eastern boundary of the parish of Nantwich should be altered to take in this expansion area. Although most of Stapeley's existing housing is adjacent to the Nantwich Town Council urban area and appears on the map as housing overspill from Nantwich town, Stapeley identifies strongly as a distinct community to Nantwich. This was found in the pre-consultation responses, and Stapeley and District Parish Council have stated that they do not wish to be subsumed by Nantwich Town Council.

Consideration is now given to the governance arrangements of Batherton and Stapeley.

The table above shows that the electors of the parish of Batherton hold an unsustainable representation on the grouped parish council, and its electorate will only rise to 44 by 2025. The Borough Council does not consider that a separate election for a parish area of 44 electors represents a viable use of public money.

It is therefore proposed that the parishes of Batherton and Stapeley should be merged to create new parish. The merged parish will have 2,965 electors (2025).

A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of 'parish' or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: 'community', 'neighbourhood' or 'village'.

The Borough Council does not consider that a warding arrangement is appropriate for the merged parish, as – for the same reasons as were given above – the electorate of Batherton is simply too low to support a warding arrangement.

It is proposed that the council of the merged parish should have twelve seats, a council size that would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size, giving a ratio of 247.1 electors per parish councillor, as shown below.

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors to councillors (2025)
12	2,965	247.1

**Worleston and District (Aston Juxta Mondrum, Poole and Worleston)**

The parishes of Aston Juxta Mondrum, Poole and Worleston are currently grouped under the common parish council of Worleston and District.

The current governance arrangements are as shown below. This shows that the current distribution of seats is inequitable, with the ratio of electors per councillor being over 50 in Aston Juxta Mondrum and Poole, but only 29.1 in Worleston.

Parish/ Parish Group	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Aston Juxta Mondrum	3	155	51.7
Poole	2	115	57.5
Worleston	7	204	29.1
<b>Worleston and District</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>474</b>	<b>39.5</b>

All the electors of this current group of parishes vote together at a polling station at Worleston; the parishes are all in the Bunbury borough ward.

A very small part – the southern-most part - of the parish of Worleston is separated from the rest of that parish by the A51 road network at Reaseheath College roundabout. Most of this southern-most area forms part of Local Plan Strategy site LPS 46 and is adjacent to Nantwich and reflects that town's expansion. The Borough Council is therefore proposing a small boundary alteration here, which, taken together with the transfer of the Henhull expansion area into the parish of Nantwich, would mean that the whole of LPS 46 would be within Nantwich. The small part of the parish of Worleston that would be transferred to the parish of Nantwich is allocated for employment land only, so no electors would be transferred.

Map 27 (“Nantwich”) and Map 42 (“Worleston”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded potential “expansion area” within the parish of Worleston).

No representations were received during our pre-consultation survey for Aston Juxta Mondrum, Poole or Worleston.

The Borough Council proposes a merger of the parishes of Aston Juxta Mondrum, Poole and Worleston into a new parish. The small number of electors within each of the Worleston and District Parish Group members is justification for the removal of the present grouping arrangement.

A name for the new parish should be considered, and the Borough Council welcomes proposals on this point. The Council also requests comments on whether the new parish should have the style of ‘parish’ or one of the alternative styles that the Council may recommend where a new parish is being created: ‘community’, ‘neighbourhood’ or ‘village’.

The Borough Council is not proposing that the parish be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council. Consultation responses that support a warding arrangement or that reject it should be mindful of the legal tests that apply for a warding arrangement. Parish warding is appropriate where a single parish election might be impractical or inconvenient. This cannot be shown here, as the electors of the three existing parishes all presently vote together at the same place: Worleston Village Hall. Furthermore, a warding arrangement should provide representation for the different communities within a parish: is this one parish but comprising different communities? The Borough Council would want to be assured that this test applies and evidence to show that the parish comprises separate communities should be provided. Finally, a warding arrangement should be effective and convenient and not wasteful of a parish’s limited resources in the conduct of separate ward elections. As two of the existing parishes have very low electorates, the Borough Council considers that separate parish ward elections would be an unnecessary burden to the budget of the new parish council.

It is suggested that a parish council size of eight members would be appropriate and would reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size. With a forecast combined electorate of 496 by 2025 (162 electors in Aston Juxta Mondrum, 118 in Poole and 216 in Worleston), this would lead to a new ratio of electors to councillors of 62 seats for the merged parish (a reduction from the current 12) and no warding, as shown below.

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
8	496	62



**Nantwich**

Finally, the governance arrangements of the parish of Nantwich are considered.

The council of the parish of Nantwich has historically used the style of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Acts.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
North and West	7	7,105	1,015
South	5	4,375	875
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11,480</b>	<b>956.7</b>

Some 15 seats would be appropriate for a parish of this size with a precept of £673,005 (2020/2021 financial year). An allocation of 15 seats is line with the Cheshire East average for a parish with this number of electors. The Borough Council proposes 10 seats for the North and West town ward and five for the South town ward: a distribution of seats which reflects each ward’s share of the electorate and minimises the disparity between each ward’s ratio of electors per councillor.

The proposed governance arrangements would therefore be as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Transfer of electors from	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
North and West	10	7,030 +651 +545 = 8,226	Edleston Henhull	822.6
South	5	4,332		866.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12,558</b>		<b>837.2</b>

### Poynton area (Poynton and Adlington)

Poynton Town Council has proposed an alignment of the boundary between the parish of Poynton and the parish of Adlington to a new boundary following the Poynton Brook. This alignment would ensure that two houses on Spenlow Close are brought within the same parish (Poynton) as the rest of their street and local community. The change would also serve to bring one of Poynton's polling stations into the parish of Poynton. Both Adlington and the adjacent part of the parish of Poynton are within Poynton West and Adlington borough ward. No comments were received from Adlington Parish Council.

The Borough Council therefore proposes that this small boundary alteration be made.

Map 1 (“Adlington”) and Map 30 (“Poynton”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Adlington).

This report proceeds to consider the governance arrangements of both parishes:

#### Poynton

The council of the parish of Poynton has historically used the style of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Acts. The current governance arrangements of the town council follow:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
East	9	5,729	636.6
West	9	6,008	667.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11,737</b>	<b>652.1</b>

The Borough Council proposes that the number of seats on the town council be reduced from 18 to 14 (with an allocation of seven for each of the Town Council's wards). The proposed total number of seats is close to the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size; it is actually slightly low for Poynton's size, 15 being a more typical allocation. However, Poynton Town Council itself has proposed 14 seats and this number can be allocated more equitably between the two wards.

The following governance arrangements would apply:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
East	7	5,950	850
West	7	6,258 +4 = 6,262	894.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>12,212</b>	<b>872.3</b>

**Adlington**

The parish of Adlington currently has a council of ten seats, as shown below:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
10	913	91.3

The Borough Council proposes reducing this number to nine, to better reflect the Cheshire East average for a parish of this size.

The following governance arrangements would result from this change and the proposed change to the boundary with Poynton:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
9	983 -4 = 979	108.8

## Wilmslow area (Chorley, Handforth, Styal and Wilmslow)

### Wilmslow, Chorley and Handforth

At the boundary between the existing parishes of Handforth and Styal, there will be a housing development of 185 properties between Clay Lane and Sagars Road (Local Plan Strategy Site LPS 34) which will have an estimated 330 electors by 2025. This development would increase the electorate of the parish of Handforth to an estimated 5,814 by 2025. The new development is adjacent to the existing Handforth settlement area and so will form part of the wider community of Wilmslow - Handforth. As this development is not adjacent to Styal village, it is not considered that this will form part of the Styal community. It is therefore proposed that this area should be transferred from the parish of Styal to the proposed enlarged parish of Wilmslow, which the Borough Council also proposes to include the existing parish of Handforth (see below).

Map 14 (“Handforth”) and Map 36 (“Styal”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that would be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Styal).

The electors of the parish of Styal vote at Styal Sports and Social Club. The electors of Handforth Parish Council’s West ward vote at two locations: Meriton Road Pavilion and Handforth Grange Primary School.

It should be noted that this Review has not taken account of the Handforth Garden Village development, as that will be developed outside the period for which the Borough Council is required by legislation to give consideration to changes in electoral numbers: that is, after 2025.

Cheshire East Council considers that there will be merit in merging the existing parish of Handforth with the parish of Wilmslow as, to all intents and purposes, they form a single community. It will be appropriate to consider whether there should be separate representation of the electors of Handforth on the merged parish council. Handforth’s existing parish wards are small (each with less than 2,500 electors even by 2025) compared to Wilmslow’s (each more than 3,500). However, as a whole Handforth Parish, with a projected 5,814 electors by 2025, is similar in size to the average Wilmslow ward. There is therefore a good case for making Handforth (including the area proposed to be transferred from Styal) a single parish ward within the merged parishes.

The Council also considers that there will be merit in merging the existing parish of Chorley with the parish of Wilmslow. The existing parish has an electorate of 386 (rising to a projected 394 by 2025) and a precept of £5,000. Questions have arisen with regard to the viability of the parish of Chorley, and only five nominations were received for the Parish Council’s seven seats at the

ordinary elections in 2019. It is therefore proposed that this area should also be transferred to the proposed enlarged parish of Wilmslow.

The electors of the parish of Chorley vote at Chorley Village Hall. The electors of Wilmslow Town Council's West Ward vote at several locations (depending on which polling district they are in): Lindow Cricket Club; Wilmslow United Reform Church; St Anne's Church Hall; Wilmslow Rugby Club; Wilmslow Guild; and Morley Green Club.

The Council notes that the parish of Chorley already lies in the Wilmslow West and Chorley borough ward, and it is considered that the same warding arrangement should apply for the purposes of elections to the merged parish council and that the same parish ward name should be used.

To all intents and purposes, this will be a new parish, comprising the merged parishes of Wilmslow, Handforth and Chorley. The Borough Council proposes that the name of the new parish should be Wilmslow, but it welcomes proposals on this point.

The Borough Council notes that the council of the parish of Wilmslow has historically used the style of 'town' in accordance with the Local Government Acts. It will lie at the discretion of the council of the new parish as to whether it would wish to adopt the style of 'town' in accordance with Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Borough Council is confident that this will be the case, but notes that any such recommendation lies outside the remit of this review.

Under its present electoral arrangements, the parish of Wilmslow has a comparatively low number of seats on its parish council for a parish with its electorate and precept. Therefore this review is proposing an increase in the council size from 15 to 20, which will address not only this anomaly but also the merger of Wilmslow with two other parishes (Handforth and Chorley) together with the area being transferred from Styal to form the new parish.

The present governance arrangements are as follows:

Wilmslow parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Dean Row	4	5,485	1,371.3
East	4	3,242	810.5
Lacey Green	2	3,564	1,782
West	5	7,607	1,521.4
<b>Wilmslow total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19,898</b>	<b>1,326.5</b>

Handforth parish/ ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
East	2	1,661	830.5
South	2	1,346	673
West	3	2,155	718.3
<b>Handforth total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5,162</b>	<b>737.4</b>

Parish	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Chorley	7	386	55.1



The proposed governance arrangements are therefore as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Dean Row	4	5,774	1,443.5
East	3	3,532	1,177.3
Lacey Green	3	3,852	1,284
West and Chorley	6	7,728 <b>+394</b> <b>= 8,122</b>	1,353.7
Handforth	4	5,484 <b>+330</b> <b>= 5,814</b>	1,453.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27,094</b>	<b>1,354.7</b>

Map 40 (“Wilmslow/ Handforth/ Chorley merger”) in Appendix 5 shows the proposed new parish and parish ward boundaries.

**Styal**

This section considers the residual parish of Styal, which will continue following the proposed boundary alteration with the parish of Wilmslow.

The review recognises that the parish of Styal will remain viable following the boundary change that is proposed.

Compared to the national and Cheshire East averages (shown in Table 3.2 of Section 3.2), Styal has a relatively low number of seats for a council of its size. The Borough Council recommends an increase to eight seats which would be consistent with the Borough average for a council with this number of electors.

The current governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
7	564	80.6

The proposed governance arrangements are as follows:

Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
8	566	70.8

## Appendix 1: Glossary

'Alternative style'	Section 17A of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the council of a parish to adopt one of the 'alternative styles'. The permitted styles are community, neighbourhood or village, whereupon the council of that parish becomes a community council, the councillors become community councillors, etc. In a Community Governance Review, the Borough Council may recommend one of the alternative styles where it is creating a new parish.
Band D charge	The council tax payable by a particular property is based on the valuation band (one of eight valuation bands) of the property. The Band D charge is the middle band, and may be used as a point of comparison between different parishes.
Co-option	The provisions under the Representation of the People Acts for a town or parish council to fill vacancies remaining unfilled at ordinary elections by their selection of any qualified person to act as a town or parish councillor.
Electoral or governance arrangements	Dealt with in detail in Section 2 above, the provision of a council for a parish, the number of councillors on that council, the division of the parish into parish or town wards for the purposes of elections to the council, the names of the wards and the allocation of councillors to those wards.
Ordinary Elections	The four-yearly election of all town and parish councillors across Cheshire East. The last ordinary elections occurred in May 2019 and the next are scheduled for May 2023.
Parish area	The geographical area of the parish as defined by its boundaries. All of Cheshire East is divided into parish areas (see Section 2 above for further information).
Parish or town ward	The division of the parish area into lesser areas or wards for the purposes of elections to the town or parish council (see Section 2 above for further information).
Parish meeting	For every parish the legislation in Section 13 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that "there shall be a parish meeting for the purpose of discussing parish affairs and exercising any functions conferred on such meetings by any enactment". It is a meeting of all the electors of the parish. The meeting must assemble annually between 1 March and 1 June each year, and for parishes that do not have a parish council it must meet on at least one other occasion during the year. The rules for the conduct of such meetings are laid out in Schedule 12 of the Act. For parishes without a parish council, the parish meeting becomes their representative body.

Polling districts, polling places and polling stations	Cheshire East is divided into polling districts and all the electors of a district vote together at the same polling place (which may be a settlement or village) at which a specified building is designated as the polling station for that polling district. There may be more than one polling station within the same building. However, risk arises in the conduct of elections where the electors at a single parish election find themselves voting at the same polling station for two different borough ward elections (or vice versa) (see Section 2 above for further information).
Precept	The funds that a town or parish council requests be raised by the council tax to support its budget for the forthcoming year. The billing authority is the Borough Council, which uses the precept to calculate the banded charges for each property within the parish.
Ratio	The number of electors that each town or parish councillor represents. In a warded parish or town, the government <i>Guidance</i> recommends that the ratio should be equitable or fair between the different wards of the town or parish, to ensure that every elector's vote has equal weight in the election of councillors to the town or parish council.
Town, Town Council	Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the council of a parish to resolve that the parish shall have the status of a town, whereupon the council of that parish becomes a town council and the chairman of the council the town mayor.

## Appendix 2: Calculation of electorate forecasts for parishes and expansion areas

### Section A2.1: Overview

The Community Governance Review (CGR) electorate forecasts technical forecasts of 2019<sup>6</sup> (available [Here](#)) explains how the 2018-25 electorate forecasts that were produced for parishes, borough wards, parish wards and polling districts.

During 2020-21, as part of the review of potential boundary changes (those parishes discussed in Section 4.4), additional forecasts were produced to estimate the number of electors who would be affected (relocated from one parish to another) if these boundary alterations were to be made.

This Appendix refers to the areas of land that would potentially be moved to another parish as “expansion areas”, given that they generally involve areas where housing or other development has expanded (or is expected to expand) from one parish into another. The exact boundaries of these areas are indicated by the “potential expansion areas” shown on the maps in Appendix 5.

The expansion area forecasts rely on the same data sources and the methodological approach as the original (2019) forecasting work. In most cases, the forecasts for these expansion areas were calculated by:

- using Office for National Statistics (ONS) data on housing stocks as at 2010<sup>7</sup>, map data (the Ordnance Survey data available via the Council’s geographic mapping system, plus Google Maps data) and the Cheshire East Strategic Planning Team’s housing database records (for 2010 onwards), to estimate the number of residential properties in the expansion area as of 2018 and adding on the number of expected new homes up to 2025;
- converting the expansion area’s 2025 housing stock into electors. This was generally done by assuming (in the absence of further information) that the affected area’s percentage share of the parish’s electorate is the same as its percentage share of

<sup>6</sup> Community Governance Review 2019: electorate forecasts technical report, Cheshire East Council, August 2019.

<sup>7</sup> Dwelling Stock by Council Tax Band, 2010, Neighbourhood Statistics, ONS. (As noted in the CGR 2019 electorate forecasts technical report, this ONS data set is no longer available in the public domain.)

the parish's homes.<sup>8</sup> So, for example, if an expansion area is expected to contain 10 per cent of the local parish's homes by 2025, it is assumed that it also contains 10 per cent of the parish's electors. This approach assumes, in effect, that the average number of electors per property is the same inside the expansion area as it is outside it.

For a few parishes, however, there is insufficient information on the total housing stock and so a different approach is followed.

In some cases, as set out below, reference was also made to Electoral Register data.

The rest of this Appendix sets out some limitations and other caveats which apply to the forecasts (Section A2.2), an explanation of the terminology used (Section A2.3) and details (in Section A2.4) of how the forecasts for each expansion area were calculated.

## Section A2.2: Forecast limitations and other caveats

There are a number of caveats that need to be issued about the electorate forecasts presented in this Report.

Firstly, although the electorate forecasts reported for whole parishes and their constituent parish wards are generally taken from the CGR forecasts that the Borough Council produced in 2019, there has been an update of the forecasts in those cases where the scale, timing or location of major new developments has changed so much that it has a significant bearing on boundary review decisions. One such example is Knutsford Town Council and the parish of Tabley, where there have been changed expectations (since 2019) about the timing of a new housing development that straddles the Knutsford-Tabley boundary. Other such cases of updated forecasts are clearly identified in this Appendix.

Secondly, as noted in the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts technical report, the forecasts assign all the homes on each development site to whichever administrative area that site's easting and northing are in, even though some sites cover parts of two or more parishes. Hence the forecasts tend to be less precise in cases where housing developments cut across parish boundaries.

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<sup>8</sup> In some cases, where the available data is sufficiently disaggregated to make this feasible (e.g. for Alsager's expansion into Haslington), the expansion area's forecast electorate is derived by taking its share of the local parish ward's homes and assuming its share of the parish ward's electors is the same. Conversely, there is the odd case where the housing stock cannot even be disaggregated to parish level and where the expansion area's forecast electorate is derived by taking its share of the local parish group's homes and assuming its share of the parish group's electors is the same.

Thirdly, whilst the Borough Council has detailed data on homes built from 2010 onwards, statistics on the housing stock as at 2010 (which are necessary for estimating the current and future housing stock) are available only for Output Areas (OAs).<sup>9</sup> In many cases, OAs cover whole parishes, or even multiple parishes – and sometimes OA boundaries do not align with those of parishes or other tiers of electoral geography. This means that, for example, it is particularly difficult to estimate elector numbers for urban areas that include a significant number of older homes but which do not align with OA boundaries. In such instances, judgments about the number of existing residential properties have been based on other evidence, mainly Ordnance Survey data that is on the Council's GIS (geographical mapping) systems, and aerial or street-view analysis using Google Maps.

Finally, it should be emphasised that the estimates set out below (and in the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts technical report) were based on the data and intelligence available at the time that they were produced.

### Section A2.3: Terminology

This Appendix uses the terms “homes”, “houses”, “housing”, “properties” or “residential properties” to mean all residential accommodation, whether these are dwellings in which (usually) only a single household lives, or communal establishments such as care homes.

References to the numbers of homes being built are net figures: that is, new homes (e.g. completions or conversions) net of losses (e.g. demolitions).

Throughout this Appendix (for consistency with the original CGR electorate forecasting work in 2019), references to homes built during “2010-18” means between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018 inclusive and references to those due to be built during “2018-25” means between 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 inclusive.

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<sup>9</sup> OAs are small areas created by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for statistical purposes and are intended to be of similar size (in terms of population). There were originally 1,215 OAs in Cheshire East and ONS' 2010 dwelling stock statistics are broken into these 1,215 areas.

## Section A2.4: Details of the calculations for each expansion area

This Section contains full details of the data and calculations involved in producing electorate forecasts for settlement expansion areas.

In those cases where an electors-per-property ratio is used to convert the numbers of properties into numbers of electors, the ratio for the local borough ward is used. This approach is consistent with that followed for the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts produced for parishes and other administrative areas.

In this Section, the expansion areas are listed under the parish they currently lie within, with each of these parishes being covered in alphabetical order. However, cases where the potential transfer between parishes involves no existing electors and no expected future housing development (by 2025)<sup>10</sup> are not discussed here, given that their transfer would not have any impact on electors.

### Adlington

During the initial consultation stage of the CGR, Poynton Town Council proposed a minor change to its boundary with Adlington. This involves extending the boundary southwards in the area of Poynton Industrial Estate, so that it aligns with Poynton Brook. The Town Council identifies two key benefits of this: firstly, it would bring the two southernmost houses on Spenlow Close (part of the town's urban area) within the same parish as the rest of that street; secondly, it would bring a polling station used by the town's residents (a scout hut) within the Town Council area.

Analysis of Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicates that, besides the two extra houses on Spenlow Close, this boundary change would not affect any residential properties.

Adlington parish as a whole is coterminous with three Output Areas (OAs): E00094205, E00094206 and E00094207. ONS housing stock data indicate that these OAs had a total of 436 homes in 2010. The Council's housing database records show a further 10 homes being completed within the parish during 2010-18 and 43 due to be built during 2018-25, so the parish is expected to have a total of 489 homes (436 + 10 + 43) by 2025.

Hence the proposed expansion area would make up an estimated 0.4 per cent (2/489) of the parish's housing stock by 2025. The parish's total electorate is forecast to be 983 by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the

<sup>10</sup> Mobberley and Worleston.



same as its share of the parish's properties, then by 2025 the expansion area will have an estimated 4 electors (0.4 per cent x 983), with the rest of the Parish containing the other 979 (983 minus 4) electors.

## Basford

Basford is affected by the outward expansion of Crewe. The Basford expansion area is effectively the parts of Local Plan Strategy (LPS) sites LPS 2 (Basford East, Crewe) and LPS 3 (Basford West, Crewe) and the railway lines and infrastructure between these two sites. This area is bounded to the south by the A500. Outside of the LPS sites, there are no housing developments of any size expected elsewhere in the parish, even after 2025 and none near the parish boundary.

LPS 2 includes two large housing developments over (and beyond) the 2018-25 period, but the eastings and northings for these are within Weston parish and hence the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts assigned these new sites' electors to Weston. LPS 3 is similar: it includes one large development that involves the completion of 355 new homes up to 2025 (114 during 2010-18 and 241 thereafter)<sup>11</sup>, but the easting and northing for this site (and hence the forecasted number of electors for these new homes) fall within Shavington parish.

The Council's Ordnance Survey map data indicates that the Basford expansion area does not contain any existing (pre-2018) residential properties; nor are there any existing homes adjacent to this area.

Hence the 2019 CGR forecasts place all of the Basford's expected (2025) electorate (200 electors) outside the Crewe-Basford expansion area. So if the expansion area is assigned to Crewe Town Council, the remaining part of Basford would have an electorate of 200.

## Bollington

Currently there is a part of the boundary between Bollington Town Council – West ward (Bollington borough ward) and Macclesfield Town Council – Tytherington ward (Macclesfield Tytherington borough ward) where the boundary line runs through the middle of a residential estate, with the properties on the northern side of this residential area effectively being an expansion of Macclesfield into Bollington. Hence there is a case for extending the Macclesfield Town Council Tytherington Ward boundary with Bollington further north, so it aligns with the Silk Road (A523) and includes the whole of this residential area.

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<sup>11</sup> Housing database site reference number 3498.

Bollington West ward is coterminous with 8 Output Areas: OAs E00093747 to E00093754 inclusive. ONS dwelling stock data indicate that these OAs had a total of 975 houses as of 2010. The Borough Council's housing database extract used for the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts shows that a further 96 properties were built during 2010-18<sup>12</sup>, with 36 more expected to be completed during 2018-25. Hence it is expected that Bollington West's will have a total of 1,107 houses (975 + 96 + 36) by 2025.

Ordnance Survey map data indicates about 90 properties currently within the expansion area and no expected completions in this area during 2018-25. Hence it is expected that the expansion area would still have an estimated 90 homes by 2025, which equates to 8 per cent (90/1,107) of Bollington West's 2025 housing stock.

Bollington West is forecast to have 1,933 electors by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of Bollington West's properties, the expansion area's estimated electorate (in 2025) is 157 (8 per cent x 1,933), with the rest of Bollington West comprising 1,776 electors (1,933 minus 157).

## Brereton

There are three housing development sites that are near to Holmes Chapel Parish boundary and which make up almost all of that settlement's urban expansion into Brereton.<sup>13</sup> These sites involve a total of 220 new homes over the 2010-25 period; of these, 18 were built during 2010-18 and the remaining 202 are expected between 2018 and 2025. The largest site (190 homes) is the one furthest from the boundary.

Adjacent to the southern edge of the new 190-home site – and also included in the expansion area - is Allum Brook Farm (counted as one residential property). Also near the large housing site, at the southwestern edge of the expansion area, is a relatively recent (but pre-2010) development, of five homes, at Dunkirk Farm. Ordnance Survey data, combined with the information on Google Maps, indicates around five residential properties within the part of the expansion area that lies east of the A50; all but one of these are alongside Mill Lane; the other is on the eastern side of the A50. In total, therefore, it is estimated that the expansion area has 11 properties that predated 2010.

Hence the expansion area as a whole is expected to have 231 (11 + 220) properties by 2025.

<sup>12</sup>This includes the 3 completions (during 2010-18) at housing database site reference 4860, which is only new development expected in the area between the current boundary and the potential alternative (Silk Road) boundary.

<sup>13</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 2365, 4121 and 5709.

Brereton parish is coterminous with three Output Areas (OAs): E00092809, E00092810 and E00092811. ONS housing stock data for these OAs indicates that the whole parish had a total of 499 homes in 2010. The Borough Council's housing database records show there were a further 73 completions during 2010-18, with 214 more homes expected during 2018-25. Hence the parish is forecast to have 786 homes ( $499 + 73 + 214$ ) by 2025, with the expansion area accounting for 29 per cent ( $231/786$ ) of the parish's housing stock.

The parish is forecast to have 1,430 electors by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the expansion area's estimated electorate (in 2025) is 420 (29 per cent x 1,430), with the rest of the Parish comprising 1,010 electors ( $1,430$  minus  $420$ ).

### **Chorlton**

There is a case for redrawing the boundary between Hough and Chorlton along the railway line, as this would form a more natural boundary. This would mean the merger of the part of Chorlton west of the railway line with Hough.

From Ordnance Survey data, it is estimated that there are a total of 22 existing dwellings in this area and the Council's housing database records indicate that no more housing completions are expected by 2025. The local borough ward (Wybunbury) has an average of 1.870 electors per property expected by 2025. Applying this average to the dwellings figure implies that an estimated 41 electors ( $22 \times 1.870$ ) would be affected if the boundary were changed.

### **Church Lawton**

In Alsager, the Twyford Estate (Local Plan Strategy Site LPS 21, Twyford's Bathrooms, Lawton Road, Alsager) crosses the boundary of Alsager Town Council – East Ward and Church Lawton. There is a case for extending the boundary in this area so it runs along Crewe Road (the B5077) and Linley Lane (A5011), thereby including the whole of the Twyford Estate within Alsager Town Council.

The CGR forecasts predict that Church Lawton will have 1,872 electors by 2025. However, these forecast already include all the Estate's electors within Alsager, as the site's easting and northing – and most of the site's land - fall within the existing Town Council boundary.

From Ordnance Survey data of the Twyford Estate area, it is estimated that around 25 of the Estate's individual properties are on the Church Lawton side of the current parish boundary. Assuming the average number of electors per property matches the average for the local borough ward of Odd Rode (estimated at 1.794 for 2025), it is further estimated that this part of the Estate contains around 45 electors ( $25 \times 1.794$ ). Hence a more precise estimate of the impact of the potential boundary change is that Church Lawton would have 1,872 electors if the boundary were adjusted, but 1,917 ( $1,872 + 45$ ) if it were not.

### Crewe Green

Part of the residential area west of Sydney Road (covering some properties on Stanier Close, Sydney Road, Nigel Gresley Close and Stephenson Drive) is currently within Crewe Green parish, but these are part of the Crewe conurbation. Ordnance Survey data indicates that this area currently has 29 houses and the Council's housing database records show that no more development is expected by 2025. Using the average number of electors per property for Crewe East borough ward (forecast at 1.541 by 2025), it is estimated that 45 electors ( $29 \times 1.541$ ) would be affected if this area were moved to Crewe Town Council.<sup>14</sup>

There is also a case for redrawing the part of the Crewe-Crewe Green boundary immediately to the south of Crewe Green Roundabout, so it aligns with University Way and places the Aldi supermarket driveway in Crewe Green (where the supermarket itself is located). This realignment forms part of Cheshire East Council's recommendation. However, this area does not contain any houses and nor is any residential development expected there by 2025.

### Eaton

Eaton is affected by the outward expansion of Congleton.

Its expansion area uses the path of the Congleton Link Road as a natural boundary as far east as the Link Road goes, then runs south down the A536 and then eastwards along Havannah Lane and the River Dane.

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<sup>14</sup> Applying the local borough ward (Haslington) average number of electors per property (1.894 by 2025) implies 55 electors ( $29 \times 1.894$ ), but as this area is part of the Crewe conurbation, use of the average for Crewe East ward (1.541) seems more appropriate.

The western part of parish's expansion area (west of the A536) includes Site LPS 30 (Manchester Road to Macclesfield Road, Congleton), which involves the completion of 20 homes during 2010-18 and 116 more between 2018 and 2025.<sup>15</sup> Ordnance Survey map data also show around five existing houses on the north side of Moss Lane, near to the Moss Lane/ A536 junction.<sup>16</sup>

The other (eastern) part of the expansion area includes Havannah, where an existing (old) development south of a bend in the river has expanded significantly into Eaton. This area has seen a number of homes built since 2010: a 40-home site developed during 2010-18 and one other house (built in 2015).<sup>17</sup> Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicate around 80 individual buildings on the Eaton side of the Havannah area<sup>18</sup>, which appear to be largely or entirely residential; it is assumed that this includes the 41 homes completed since 2010.

Between Site LPS 30 and the Havannah overspill is a small group of buildings, on the southern side of Havannah Lane, near to the junction with Moss Lane and the A536. Ordnance Survey data and Google Maps indicate three separate properties here, which appear to be residential (though one is also identified by Google as a business premises).

On this basis, it is estimated that there will be a total of 224 homes in the whole expansion area by 2025: the 136 being built on Site LPS 30, plus the 80 existing houses in Havannah and the 8 existing ones (five on Moss Lane and three on Havannah Lane) between these larger developments.

Eaton parish is coterminous with a single Output Area (OA), E00093853. Office for National Statistics housing stock data for this OA indicate that, in 2010, the area had a total of 137 homes. The Council's housing database records show 70 more homes being built during 2010-18 and an additional 121 expected between 2018 and 2025. Hence the Parish is forecast to have a total of 328 homes (137 + 70 + 121) by 2025. The expansion area will therefore account for an estimated 68 per cent (224/328) of the parish's housing by 2025.

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<sup>15</sup> Housing database site reference number 5721.

<sup>16</sup> This small cluster of properties includes housing database site reference number 5431, which involves the completion of three dwellings: one of them completed by 2018 and the other two due to be built in 2019; it is assumed that these three are among the five currently shown on Ordnance Survey maps.

<sup>17</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 2521 (the 40-home site) and 4644 (the single dwelling).

<sup>18</sup> The number of buildings is estimated (from Google Maps) at between 70 and 80; the higher end of this range (80) is used for the calculations, so as to avoid understating the impact of the expansion area potentially being transferred to Congleton.

The parish as a whole is forecast to have 607 electors by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the electorate is forecast to be 415 (68 per cent x 607) for the expansion area and 192 (607 minus 415) for the rest of the parish.

The Eaton expansion area borders both Congleton Town Council's East Ward and its West Ward. Given the expansion area's extent and shape, it would need to be split between these two wards if it were transferred to Congleton and the existing Town Council wards were retained. A logical dividing line for this split is the A536: in other words, 141 of the expansion area's houses (the 136 properties being built on LPS 30 and the five on Moss Lane) would move to Congleton Town Council West Ward and the other 83 (those in the Havannah area) would move to Congleton East. The 141 houses that would move to the West Ward would make up an estimated 43 per cent (141/328) of Eaton's 2025 housing stock and the 83 that would move to the East Ward would make up 25 per cent (83/328) of the parish's properties. Assuming these two areas' share of the parish's electors match their share of Eaton's housing stock, that would mean 261 electors (43 per cent x 607) were transferred to Congleton West Ward and 154 were transferred to Congleton East.

Under the new Congleton Town Council ward boundaries proposed by the Borough Council, the part of the Eaton expansion area east of the A536 and its 154 electors would be transferred to the new Ward 1 (provisional name Congleton North East) and the rest of the expansion area, with its 261 electors, would be moved to the new Ward 5 (provisional name Congleton North West).

## Edleston

The Borough Council's Ordnance Survey map data suggest that all existing and future development within Edleston Parish is an expansion of Nantwich, apart from around 20 buildings that are (maybe with some exceptions) likely to be residential properties, including two farms and Edleston Hall. Although it provides additional detailed information, it is difficult to gauge the number of likely residential properties using Google Maps, because of the large, sparsely-populated area in question – but the Google data suggest that 20 is a reasonably broad estimate for the current number of properties<sup>19</sup>. Applying the local borough ward's (Wrenbury's) electors per property ratio to this (1.818) implies only 36 (20 x 1.818) electors in this area. With the parish as a whole expected to have 687 electors by 2025, that implies the expansion area will contain an estimated 651 electors (687 minus 36).

Even though the estimate of 36 electors outside the expansion area may be an undercount (with the farms or Hall perhaps containing multiple residential properties), it is reasonable to assume there will be only a very small number of electors in this

<sup>19</sup> The Google Maps data should include two properties built in this area during 2010-18 (housing database site reference numbers 1920 and 5937).



remaining rural area, even in 2025. In contrast, 272 homes were built in the expansion area during 2010-18 and 118 more are expected during 2018-25<sup>20</sup>: in other words, a net increase of 390 homes on top of that area's existing (pre-2010) housing development.<sup>21</sup>

## Gawsworth

The expansion of Macclesfield into Gawsworth parish includes all of Gawsworth Moss parish ward (which is all part of the Macclesfield conurbation) and one major site, LPS 15 (Land at Congleton Road, Macclesfield).<sup>22</sup> LPS 15 had no completions up to 2018, but 185 homes are expected there during 2018-25 and a further 765 thereafter.<sup>23</sup>

To provide a clear indication of the extent of the expansion area, this area also includes some rural land to the west, south and north of LPS 15, so that use can be made, where practical, of natural boundaries like roads and existing parish boundaries. More specifically, the western part of the expansion area boundary runs south along Congleton Road, beyond the edge of LPS 15 and then runs up the minor road leading to Brownhills Farm and Dalehouse Farm (including the two farms) and then follows Gawsworth Road north to the parish boundary with Macclesfield (including houses on both sides of Gawsworth Road).

Ordnance Survey data, supplemented by information available from Google Maps, indicates that this rural part of the expansion area contains around 20 properties: a few on the northern side of Congleton Road; the two farms on the minor road; around ten homes on the western side of Gawsworth Road and two to three homes along Penningtons Lane.

The expansion area contains two Output Areas (E00093818 and E00093821) in their entirety and part of another, E00093817, but Ordnance Survey data show that the 20 existing rural homes identified above are currently the only ones in the expansion area part of E00093817. Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that E00093818 and E00093821 had a combined total of 257 houses in 2010 and the Council's housing database records show that the LPS 15 site, with its 185 homes up to 2025, is the only site in the expansion area where house-building is expected over the 2010-25 period. Hence the expansion area is expected to contain a total of 462 properties (20 + 257 + 185) by 2025.

<sup>20</sup> The housing database reference numbers for these sites are 3428, 5159 and 5379.

<sup>21</sup> A single OA (E00093065) covers both Edleston and the parish of Baddington. Therefore the total number of properties in Edleston as of 2010 is unknown: hence the use of an alternative calculation approach here.

<sup>22</sup> Housing database site reference number 5476.

<sup>23</sup> LPS 15 lies entirely within Gawsworth Village Parish Ward. However, the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts used an easting and northing for the site which map to a point just within Gawsworth Moss parish ward. Therefore those forecasts assigned all the new development's electors to Gawsworth Moss.

Gawsworth parish as a whole is coterminous with six Output Areas: OAs E00093816 to E00093821. Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that these OAs had a total of 759 homes in 2010. The Council's housing database records show a further six homes being completed in the parish during 2010-18 and 190 due to be built during 2018-25, so the Parish is expected to have a total of 955 homes (759 + 6 + 190) by 2025.

The expansion area will therefore account for an estimated 48 per cent (462/955) of the Parish's housing by 2025.

Gawsworth is forecast to have 1,712 electors by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the expansion area is expected to contain 828 (48 per cent) of the Parish's electors by 2025. Hence it is expected that Gawsworth's electorate would fall by 828, to 884, if the expansion area were assigned to Macclesfield.

Gawsworth Moss parish ward is in the same borough ward (Macclesfield South) as the adjoining part of Macclesfield, whereas Gawsworth Village parish ward is within Gawsworth borough ward. Hence the Gawsworth Village part of the expansion area would require a separate polling district if allocated to Macclesfield Town Council. Given this, it is worth noting the number of expansion area properties that are (a) inside and (b) outside Gawsworth Moss parish ward. Apart from the 20 existing rural properties outside LPS 15, all the expansion area's existing properties are inside Gawsworth Moss parish ward, but, as noted earlier, LPS 15 itself is entirely within Gawsworth Village parish ward. Hence Gawsworth Moss is expected to contain 257 properties by 2025<sup>24</sup>, and that the rest of the expansion area is forecast to contain 205 properties by then (185 on LPS 15 plus the 20 existing rural ones).

## Haslington

The expansion of Alsager into Haslington lies entirely within Haslington's Oakhanger parish ward (the Haslington parish ward adjoining Alsager).

<sup>24</sup>On this basis (assuming electorate share matches housing share), Gawsworth Moss parish ward would have an estimated 461 electors (1,712 electors x 257/955) by 2025 and Gawsworth Village parish ward the other 1,251. These figures differ substantially from those in the original (2019) electoral forecasts report because the original forecasting allocated all of the expansion area's LPS site housing to Moss ward instead of Village ward (due to the site's easting and northing being marginally on the Moss side of the parish ward boundary).



Oakhanger parish ward is coterminous with two Output Areas (OAs). One of these, E00093176, contains all the developments that reflect Alsager's expansion into Haslington. These sites<sup>25</sup> involve 112 completions to date (2010-18) and 302 more during 2018-25. The latter figure includes a 185-home development<sup>26</sup>, at Site LPS 20 (White Moss Quarry, Alsager), which lies mainly within OA E00093176 but extends into Oakhanger parish ward's other OA, into Alsager and (slightly) into Barthomley parish.

E00093176 and the White Moss Quarry site make up the vast majority of the part of Oakhanger parish ward that lies east of the M6. The rest of the parish ward's land on this side of the M6 is rural, with very few electors. Hence there is a case for treating the M6 as a natural limit for any revised parish boundary.

Hence the expansion area includes:

- OA E00093176 in its entirety;
- the part of the White Moss Quarry site that extends outside E00093176 and into Oakhanger's other OA (E00093177);
- all other Oakhanger parish ward land that lies east of the M6.

ONS housing stock data indicate that OA E00093176 had 51 homes in 2010, so by 2025 it and the White Moss Quarry site are expected to have a total of 465 homes (51 + 112 + 302). Although this figure includes those White Moss Quarry homes (a minority of the site's total) in Alsager and Barthomley, it is the best available estimate of the expansion area's housing stock by 2025.

Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicate the rest of the expansion area – the rest of the Oakhanger Parish Ward land that lies east of the M6 – has about three residential properties.

Hence the whole expansion area is forecast to have a total of 468 homes (465 + 3) by 2025.

The other OA in Oakhanger Parish Ward (E00093177) had 87 homes in 2010 (including the three within the expansion area), three completions during 2010-18 and eleven more completions expected during 2018-25, so by 2025 it is forecast to have 101 homes (87 + 3 + 11). Therefore the total number of houses in the parish ward is expected to be 566 (465 + 101) by 2025, with the

<sup>25</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 4072, 4154, 4556, 5535, 5906, 5940 and 6481.

<sup>26</sup> Housing database site reference number 4154.

expansion area accounting for 83 per cent (468/566) of these. Oakhanger parish ward is forecast to have 1,052 electors by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish ward's properties, that implies 870 electors ( $1,052 \times 83$  per cent) in the expansion area, with the other 182 ( $1,052 - 870$ ) in the rest of the parish ward.

Under current boundaries, Haslington as a whole is predicted to have 6,922 electors by 2025. Hence it is expected that this would fall by 870, to 6,052, if the expansion area were assigned to Alsager.

## Henbury

Henbury is affected by the outward expansion of Macclesfield. The expansion area includes housing development within Site LPS 18 (Land between Chelford Road and Whirley Road, Macclesfield) and a small number of existing properties adjacent to this southern edge of this LPS site. The expansion area boundary is based on existing field and property boundaries, except for its southernmost part, which is aligned with a local waterway.

Site LPS 18 is adjacent to the Macclesfield Town Council boundary and Macclesfield's existing urban area already extends as far as the parish boundary. LPS 18 had no housing as of 2018, but 135 homes are due to be built there during 2018-25<sup>27</sup> (though no others are being completed thereafter).

Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicate around 20 residential properties that are adjacent to the southern edge of this development site. These will become joined to the Macclesfield conurbation when LPS 18 is developed. Hence the Macclesfield-Henbury expansion area consists of these existing properties and LPS 18: in other words, an estimated total of 155 homes ( $135 + 20$ ) by 2025.

Henbury parish as a whole is coterminous with three Output Areas (OAs): OAs E00093854 to E00093856. Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that these OAs had a total of 264 homes in 2010. The Borough Council's housing database records show a further 20 homes being completed in the parish during 2010-18 and 147 due to be built during 2018-25, so the parish is expected to have a total of 431 homes ( $264 + 20 + 147$ ) by 2025.

Hence the expansion area would make up an estimated 36 per cent ( $155/431$ ) of the parish's housing stock by 2025. The parish's total electorate is forecast to be 758 by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its

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<sup>27</sup> Housing database site reference number 3994.

share of the parish's properties, then by 2025 the expansion area will have an estimated 273 electors (36 per cent x 758), with the rest of the parish containing the other 485 (758 minus 273) electors.

## Henhull

Henhull is affected by the outward expansion of Nantwich.

Two housing sites<sup>28</sup> are being developed in the Henhull expansion area immediately north of Nantwich. On one of these, on Site LPS 46 (Kingsley Fields, Nantwich), 20 homes were built during 2010-18 and 259 more are expected between 2018 and 2025. However, the site's total capacity is much greater still and a total of 1,003 homes are expected by the time site construction eventually ends (well after 2025). The other site, which is between Welshmen's Lane and the B5341, involves the completion of 18 houses between 2018 and 2025.

The Council's Ordnance Survey map data suggest there is little housing development currently in this part of Henhull Parish (east of Welshmen's Lane). More specifically, this map data shows only two farms (Kingsleyfield Farm and Holly Farm), Henhull Hall and a pair of buildings (just southwest of Nantwich Town Football Club) that are in a residential part of the Nantwich conurbation but on the Henhull side of the parish boundary. Google Maps indicate that the latter pair of buildings consists of five separate properties.

There were only 88 Henhull parish electors on the Electoral Register as of the end of November 2018 and it is assumed these will include occupants of the 20 homes completed on LPS 46 up to that date, as well as the residents of the two farms, the Hall and the small cluster of around five properties near the Football Club: that is, around 28 residential properties. Assuming the average number of electors per property is the same as for Bunbury, the local borough ward (1.789 in 2018), it is estimated that the expansion area contained 50 electors (28 x 1.789) as of 2018 and that the other 38 lived outside this area. As no development is expected outside the expansion area during 2018-25, it is estimated that the number of electors outside this expansion area will still be 38 by 2025.<sup>29</sup> As the parish as a whole is forecast to have 583 electors by 2025, this implies 545 of them (583 minus 38) will be living in the expansion area.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 2926 (Site LPS 46) and 5215.

<sup>29</sup> This allows (as the CGR electorate forecasting methodology does) for a 1.1% fall in the average number of electors per property during 2018-25, but a 1.1% reduction from 38 still (after rounding off to the nearest whole number) means 38 electors.

<sup>30</sup> A single Output Area (E00093063) covers both Henhull and Acton. Therefore the total number of properties in Henhull as of 2010 is unknown: hence the use of an alternative calculation approach here.

## Higher Hurdsfield

Higher Hurdsfield is affected by the outward expansion of Macclesfield. Higher Hurdsfield consists of three Output Areas (OAs): E00094223, E00094224 and E00094225. Their geographical location and extent and their housing stock (based on Office for National Statistics housing stock data for 2010 and the Borough Council's housing database records for 2010 onwards) are summarised in the table below.

As this table indicates, the southernmost OA, E00094225, accounts for an estimated 138 of the parish's 2025 housing stock, the central one, E00094224, for 110 and the northernmost one, E00094223, for another 100, giving a total of 348 houses in the parish by 2025.

OA	Location and geographical extent	Homes in 2010	2010-18 housing completions	2018-25 housing completions	Homes in 2025 (sum of previous 3 columns)
E00094225	Southernmost part of the parish. Contains the vast majority of the housing overspill from Macclesfield.	137	0	1	138
E00094224	In between the other two OAs. Contains the remainder of the Macclesfield overspill, a small part (the southernmost part) of Higher Hursfield village and the houses in between.	109	0	1	110
E00094223	Northernmost part of the parish. Contains most of Higher Hurdsfield village.	93	5	2	100
Total		339	5	4	348

Making use of available natural boundaries, the northern extent of the expansion area runs north along the B5470 (Rainow Road), including properties on both sides of the road and those on the side road leading to Higher Hurdsfield Playground/ Rainow Road Play Area. However, it excludes the playground/ play area itself. Beyond this side road, the expansion area boundary continues for a short distance up the B5470, including properties on the east side of the road only and then runs along Cliff Lane to the parish boundary with Rainow. Elsewhere (to the east, south and west) the expansion area follows existing parish boundaries.

Thus defined, the expansion area covers all current and expected future residential properties in the parish's central and southernmost OAs, but excludes all homes that are (or will be) in the parish's other OA. It is therefore expected to contain 248 houses (138 + 110) by 2025.

Hence the expansion area would make up an estimated 71 per cent (248/348) of the parish's housing stock by 2025. The parish's total electorate is forecast to be 605 by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, then by 2025 the expansion area will have an estimated 431 electors (71 per cent x 605), with the rest of the parish containing the other 174 (605 minus 431) electors.

### **Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths**

Hulme Walfield Parish Ward is the only one of this Parish's wards affected by Congleton's expansion. Its expansion area uses the new Congleton Link Road as a natural boundary.

There are two major housing development sites<sup>31</sup> within this expansion area:

- Site LPS 28 (Giantswood Lane South, Congleton), where 39 homes were built during 2010-18 and a further 88 are expected during 2018-25;
- Site LPS 29 (Giantswood Lane to Manchester Road, Congleton), where no homes were built prior to 2018, but 148 are expected during 2018-25.

This means a total of 275 new homes (39 + 88 + 148) are due to be developed on these sites by 2025.

Adjacent to these LPS sites – and at the southern end of the expansion area - is a small area of existing development: the Borough Council's Ordnance Survey data and Google Maps information indicates around 20 separate properties in this location, all of which appear to be residential.

The expansion area also includes Site LPS 27 (Congleton Business Park Extension). No new homes are expected to be built on LPS 27 until after 2025, but this site at present has a small number of existing properties on it (estimated to number 13 in total).

<sup>31</sup> Sites LPS 28 and LPS 29 (housing database site reference numbers 2409 and 2533 respectively).

Hence the whole Congleton-Hulme Walfield expansion area is expected to contain an estimated 303 homes (275 + 20 + 13) by 2025.

Hulme Walfield parish Ward is coterminous with Output Area E00092798. According to Office for National Statistics housing stock data, this area had 65 homes in 2010. The Borough Council's housing database records indicate that 40 more homes were built during 2010-18, with a further 249 expected during 2018-25. Hence Hulme Walfield parish ward is expected to have 354 homes (65 + 40 + 249) by 2025.

Hence the expansion area will make up an expected 86 per cent (303/354) of the parish ward's housing stock by 2025. Hulme Walfield parish ward's electorate is forecast to be 612 by 2025, while Somerford Booth parish ward's electorate is forecast to be 192.

Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of Hulme Walfield's electors is the same as its share of the parish ward's properties, then by 2025 the expansion area will have 524 electors (86 per cent x 612). Hence if this expansion area is assigned to Congleton, the remaining part of the parish ward will have 88 (612 minus 524) electors and the remaining part of the whole parish would have a total of 280 (88 + 192) electors.

Under the new Congleton Town Council ward boundaries proposed by the Borough Council, the Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths expansion area would be transferred to the new Ward 5 (provisional name Congleton North West).

## Leighton

A large area of Leighton is affected by the expansion of Crewe. There are several sites in the parish where housing development is expected during 2018-25, including some very large-scale individual developments. One of these is on Site LPS 5 (Leighton, Crewe), where there were no completions as of 2018, but 185 homes are expected during 2018-25, with 400 homes on the site eventually (after 2025).<sup>32</sup> Another of these sites had 192 homes built during 2010-18 and a further 198 are expected there during 2018-25.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> Housing database site reference 3639.

<sup>33</sup> Housing database site reference 3376.

The expansion of Crewe into Leighton consists of the Leighton's existing urban overspill from Crewe and its other recent and forthcoming development sites, including most of the area covered by Site LPS 4 (Leighton West, Crewe) and all of Site LPS 5, along with Leighton Hall Farm, which is adjacent to LPS 4 and also a development site.<sup>34</sup>

This expansion area also includes the rural land in the northeast corner of Leighton Parish (so that the existing parish boundary can be used as a clear and easily-defined border) and the rural areas of land between the LPS sites and the A530 (as the A530 provides a natural boundary on the western side).

Office for National Statistics (ONS) data are not available on the exact number of properties in the parish prior to the start of the Local Plan period (2010-30), but there were around 2,000 homes in Leighton as of 2010<sup>35</sup>, with 634 more due to be built in the expansion area between 2010 and 2025 (205 completed during 2010-18 and 429 more expected during 2018-25).

Given the absence of ONS housing stock data for the whole of Leighton, the approach used to calculate the Parish's expansion area electorate is different to that employed for most other parishes.

This alternative approach starts with an estimate of the number of properties outside the expansion area. Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicates around 10 residential properties along the western side of the A530 (with Red Hall being mainly non-residential<sup>36</sup> and Leighton Grange entirely non-residential). No further house-building is expected in this part of the parish up to 2025, so it is estimated there will still be around 10 properties in the area by that date. Applying the local borough ward's (Leighton's) electors per property ratio (2.006) to this property estimate implies only 20 electors outside the expansion area by 2025. With the Parish as a whole expected to have 5,194 electors by 2025, that implies the expansion area will contain 5,174 electors.

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<sup>34</sup> Housing database site reference 5092.

<sup>35</sup>Of the fifteen OAs covering Leighton, fourteen are entirely within the expansion area and these had a total of 1,955 homes as of 2010, but the other one (E00093258, with 204 houses in 2010) includes not just the rest of the expansion area, but the rest of Leighton and the whole of Minshull Vernon parish. Therefore the exact number of properties in Leighton as of 2010 is unknown (though the available ONS data indicate it would have been around 2,000): hence the use of an alternative calculation approach here.

<sup>36</sup> Red Hall had a single new completion during 2010-18 and the estimate of 10 homes takes account of this.



## Moston

Moston is affected by the outward expansion of Middlewich (to Moston's north) and Sandbach (to its south).

There was no house-building around the Middlewich-Moston boundary during 2010-18, but there are two large developments in this area where new homes are due to be built. One of these is on Site LPS 45 (Land off Warmingham Lane West (Phase II), Middlewich)<sup>37</sup>, where 185 homes are expected during 2018-25 (and 235 eventually). The vast majority (roughly 90 per cent) of this site's land area (and its easting and northing) is on the Middlewich side of the boundary and so the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts assigned all this site's housing and electors to Middlewich.

The other is on Site LPS 42 (Glebe Farm, Middlewich)<sup>38</sup>, where 185 houses are expected during 2018-25 (and 450 eventually). The vast majority (roughly 75 per cent) of this site's land area is within Moston, as is its easting and northing, so the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts assigned all this site's housing and electors to Moston.

Assuming that the homes on sites LPS 42 and 45 are evenly distributed across the sites' land areas, the number of new homes expected on Site LPS 42 (185) is probably a reasonable approximation to the total number of LPS 42 and LPS 45 homes that will be on the Moston side of the current boundary.

The Sandbach-Moston expansion area includes the major housing developments on the former Albion Inorganic Chemicals site and a small number of existing properties along the A533. There are two developments at this location, one involving 120 new homes and one involving 371 new homes.<sup>39</sup> A total of 95 homes were built on these sites during 2010-18 and 379 more are expected by 2025.

Besides the new build homes already completed on the Albion Chemicals land, Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data shows around five residential buildings in existence elsewhere in the expansion area, all of them alongside the A533.

Hence it is expected that the Sandbach-Moston expansion area will contain a total of 479 houses (5 + 95 + 379) by 2025.

Moston parish as a whole is coterminous with a single Output Area (E00092812). Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that this area had 164 residential properties in 2010. The Borough Council's housing database records show that 105 more

<sup>37</sup> Housing database site reference number 2658.

<sup>38</sup> Housing database site reference number 4958.

<sup>39</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 2360 and 6434.



were built during 2010-18 and a further 568 homes are expected during 2018-25. This gives an expected total of 837 homes (164 + 105 + 568) by 2025.

Hence the Middlewich-Moston expansion area is estimated to contain around 22 per cent (185 /837) of Moston's final (2025) housing stock and the Sandbach-Moston expansion area is forecast to contain 57 per cent (479/837) of the parish's 2025 housing stock.

Moston is forecast to have 1,456 electors by 2025.

Assuming the two expansion areas' percentage shares of these electors are the same as their shares of the parish's properties, the Middlewich-Moston expansion area is expected to contain 322 (22 per cent) of the Parish's electors by 2025 and the Sandbach-Moston expansion area is expected to contain 833 (57 per cent) of the Parish's electors.

Hence the forecasts indicate that Moston's electorate would:

- fall by 322, to 1,134, if the Middlewich-Moston expansion area were assigned to Middlewich, but the boundary with Sandbach were left unchanged.
- fall by 833, to 623, if the Sandbach-Moston expansion area were assigned to Sandbach, but the boundary with Middlewich were left unchanged.

fall by 1,155, to 301, if the Middlewich-Moston expansion area were assigned to Middlewich and the Sandbach-Moston expansion area were assigned to Sandbach.

### **Over Alderley**

Local Plan Strategy Site LPS 61 involves the redevelopment of the Alderley Park site, partly for housing. This site lies largely within Nether Alderley Parish, but also extends into Over Alderley.

381 houses are due to be built on LPS 61, 356 on the Nether Alderley side and the other 25 within Over Alderley. The CGR forecasts for the two parishes, which were produced in 2019, reflect expectations about the Alderley Park site at that time: namely that only 316 of these dwellings (all of them on the Nether Alderley side) would be completed by 2025, with the remaining 40

dwellings being completed between 2026 and 2030; the 25 houses due for completion on the Over Alderley side have yet to gain planning permission.

Hence the extent of the completed development may not cut across the existing parish boundary until after the end of the CGR forecast period. Even so, it is not ideal to have parish boundaries that will, in time, split estates or other communities into two. Therefore there is a case for amending the parish boundary so that LPS 61 falls entirely within Nether Alderley. The expansion area that could potentially be moved from Over Alderley to Nether Alderley makes use of available natural boundaries: specifically, its eastern extent runs east along Hocker Lane, then turns south down the lane (to Higher Park Farm) that links Slade Lane to Birtles Lane, then follows Birtles Lane southwest and turns slightly into the track to The Wall House, where it converges with the Henbury Parish boundary.

Ordnance Survey and Electoral Register data indicate that the expansion area currently contains an estimated 53 properties (28 on Hocker Lane, 11 on Birtles Lane and 14 at Birtles Hall).

By 2025, Over Alderley Parish is forecast to contain 148 residential properties, with 53 (36 per cent) of these in the expansion area. According to the Council's housing database extract that was used for the 2019 CGR forecasts, there is only one additional house in this area due for completion during the 2018-25<sup>40</sup>, but this dwelling was completed in early 2019 and so it is assumed that this property is already included among the 53 existing properties.

Over Alderley Parish is coterminous with a single Output Area: E00093860. According to ONS dwelling stock data, this OA had 143 houses as of 2010, with three more completions during 2010-18 and two expected during 2018-25. Hence the parish is expected to have 148 properties by 2025.

By 2025, the expansion area's houses will therefore equate to an estimated 36 per cent (53/148) of the parish's housing stock.

Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the expansion area is expected to contain 93 (36 per cent) of the parish's electors by 2025. Hence it is expected that Over Alderley's electorate would fall by 93, to 166, if the expansion area were assigned to Nether Alderley.

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<sup>40</sup> Housing database site reference number 4701.

## Rope

There is a small area of recent housing development in Rope that is effectively an overspill from Shavington village. This expansion area covers the area between the parish boundary (to the south) and the A500 dual carriageway to the north, with the A road acting as a barrier to further expansion. Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicate around 50 properties in this location. The (limited) address information on Google Maps tallies with some of the addresses for the 47 properties built on a single site<sup>41</sup> in this area during 2010-18. On this basis (and in the absence of further information), it seems reasonable to assume that the buildings shown on Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data equate to the 47 homes in the Council's own housing database records.

Rope parish is coterminous with six Output Areas: OAs E00093380 to E00093385 inclusive. Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that these areas collectively had 828 homes in 2010. The Council's housing database records show a further 62 homes being built during 2010-18 (and no others expected between 2018 and 2025). Hence the parish is estimated to have 890 (828 + 62) properties at present, with no further homes expected by 2025.

Hence the expansion area accounts for an estimated 5 per cent (47/890) of Rope's 2025 housing stock. Rope is forecast to have 1,833 electors by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of the parish's electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the expansion area will have an estimated 97 electors (1,833 x 5 per cent) in 2025. If this area is transferred to Shavington parish, the rest of Rope will therefore have an estimated 1,736 electors (1,833 minus 97).

There is also a case for redrawing the rest of the Shavington-Rope boundary (further south), so it aligns with A500 and this forms part of Cheshire East Council's recommendation. However, this area does not contain any houses and nor is any residential development expected there by 2025.

## Sandbach

The southern edge of Sandbach is affected by the outward expansion of the Wheelock Heath/ Winterley area, which is part of Haslington parish. The expansion area includes the overspill of Wheelock Heath into Sandbach and uses the natural boundary of the A534 (Wheelock-Haslington bypass) as its northern limit.

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<sup>41</sup> Housing database reference number 3379.

Based on Google Maps and Ordnance Survey data, this expansion area includes 59 existing houses (27 of them mobile homes): of these, 52 are in Wheelock Heath and the other seven are alongside or north of Mill Lane. Only one additional home (in Wheelock Heath) is expected to be built by 2025.<sup>42</sup>

Sandbach Town Council is coterminous with 59 OAs (E00093004 to 62 inclusive). According to ONS housing stock data, these OAs had a total of 8,050 as of 2010 and the Borough Council's housing database indicates 1,699 completions with the Town Council boundary during 2010-18 and a further 1,265 expected during 2018-25. Hence Sandbach is predicted to have 11,014 houses by 2025.

Hence the whole expansion area is estimated to contain only 0.5 per cent (60/11,014) of Sandbach's 2025 total housing stock. Sandbach is forecast to have 18,507 electors by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of the Town Council's electors is the same as its share of the Council's properties, the expansion area will have an estimated 101 electors ( $18,507 \times 0.5$  per cent). This expansion area is entirely within Sandbach Ettiley Heath and Wheelock ward and this ward would therefore have 101 fewer electors in 2025 (4,276 rather than 4,377) if this boundary were changed. Sandbach as a whole would have 18,406 electors (18,507 minus 101) if this boundary were changed.

## Shavington

### Shavington boundary with Crewe

Shavington's Gresty Brook parish ward consists entirely of part of the Crewe conurbation. The housing in Gresty Brook is well established and there has been no new development there since pre-2010 and no more is expected up to 2025.

However, Crewe is also expanding into the northern part of Shavington Village parish ward. There is a significant housing stock in this part of the parish already and major new developments are expected up to 2025. One housing site within LPS 3 (Basford West, Crewe) saw 114 homes completed during 2010-18, with a further 241 expected between 2018 and 2025.<sup>43</sup> Other sites in this part of

<sup>42</sup>Housing database reference number 2822. This site involves the completion of four properties, which were (at the time the CGR forecasts were produced) due to be finished by 2019. However, at the time that the forecasts for this expansion area were being calculated, Ordnance Survey maps showed only three completed houses at this location.

<sup>43</sup> Housing database site reference number 3498.

Shavington involved the completion of 91 homes during 2010-18, with nine more expected between 2018 and 2025.<sup>44</sup> In total, therefore, 455 new homes are expected in the northeastern part of Shavington parish between 2010 and 2025.

This existing and expected future development covers all parts of the parish that lie north of the A500, apart from the rural area that is south of Gresty Lane and west of Crewe Road. The latter area contains only one residential property, Brook Farm. However, it is logical to regard this rural land as part of the same expansion area, as the A500 forms a natural southern boundary. Hence the total expansion area is taken as all the land area in Shavington parish that lies north of the A500, i.e. including the whole of the Gresty Brook Parish Ward but also a large part of Shavington Village parish ward.

This expansion area equates to virtually all the current and expected housing in three Output Areas (OAs): E00093088 (part of Gresty Brook Parish Ward), E00093089 (the rest of Gresty Brook Parish Ward) and E00093327. However, Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data shows around 25 properties in E00093327 that are south of the A500 (on the edge of Shavington village urban area).

According to Office for National Statistics (ONS) housing stock data, the three OAs containing the expansion area had a total of 364 homes in 2010. Adding on to this the Borough Council's housing database records on the number of expected new homes (455 during 2010-25) gives a total of 819 houses by 2025. If the estimated number of E00093327 properties outside the expansion area (25) is deducted from this, that leaves a total of 794 properties within the expansion area.

Shavington Parish as a whole is coterminous with 16 OAs: E00093088, E00093089 and E00093323 to E00093336. ONS housing stock data and the Borough Council's housing database indicate that this area had 2,048 homes in 2010, with 489 additional properties built between 2010 and 2018 and 725 more due for completion during 2018-25.<sup>45</sup> Hence the parish's housing stock is forecast to increase to 3,262 (2,048 + 489 + 725) by 2025.

Hence the expansion area accounts for an estimated 24 per cent (794/3,262) of the parish's 2025 housing stock. Shavington is forecast to have 5,513 electors by 2025, with 4,972 of these electors being in the Village parish ward. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of the parish's electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the expansion area will have an estimated 1,342 electors (5,513 x 24 per cent) in 2025 and the rest of the parish will have the remaining 4,171 (5,513 minus 1,342).

<sup>44</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 2901, 2921, 5981 and 6348.

<sup>45</sup> These figures include a site where four homes are due to be built during 2018-25 (housing database reference number 4997). This site falls within Wybunbury if Output Area boundaries are used, but (due to slight mismatches in boundaries) is within Shavington if (as for the 2019 CGR forecasts) borough ward boundaries are used. For consistency, the site has been allocated to the same parish here as in the original forecasting work.

### Shavington boundary with Wybunbury

Residents of the part of Shavington parish that is south of Newcastle Road (including houses on the southern side of that road) identify as being part of Wybunbury. Hence there is a case for redrawing the boundary along Newcastle Road. Ordnance Survey data indicate that there are an estimated 58 existing houses in this area and the Borough Council's housing database records indicate a further five housing completions (all at one site)<sup>46</sup> are expected by 2025, giving an estimated total of 63 properties by 2025.

As noted earlier, Shavington parish is expected to have 3,262 homes and 5,513 electors by 2025, so the 63 houses south of Newcastle Road account for 2 per cent of the Parish's housing stock. Assuming the average number of electors per property is same in this area as elsewhere in the parish, that means 106 electors ( $5,513 \times 2$  per cent) would be affected if the boundary were changed.

### Somerford

Somerford is affected by the outward expansion of Congleton. The new Congleton Link Road (up to the point where it bends sharply eastwards) and the northern part of Chelford Road (including all farms and residential properties on the western side of this stretch of road) is taken as a natural boundary for the expansion area.

Somerford is coterminous with two Output Areas (OAs): E00092804 and E00092805. The outward expansion of Congleton into Somerford covers the whole of E00092804 and several sites within E00092805.

Office for National Statistics housing stock data and the Borough Council's housing database records show that E00092804 had 58 homes in 2010, with seven more built during 2010-18 and a further 188 expected between 2018 and 2025. The latter figure consists entirely of homes being built on part of Site LPS 26 (Back Lane/ Radnor Park, Congleton).<sup>47</sup> Hence this OA is expected to have 253 houses ( $58 + 7 + 188$ ) by 2025.

The expansion area sites within E00092805<sup>48</sup> involve the completion of 250 homes during 2010-18 and a further 371 between 2018 and 2025, giving a total of 621 built since 2010. The expansion area part of E00092805 also includes:

<sup>46</sup> Housing database site reference number 5491.

<sup>47</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 5908 (185 homes during 2018-25) and 5611 (three homes).

<sup>48</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 347, 2194, 2541, 3429, 4369, 4691, 4736, 4957, 5224, 5556, 5909 and 6039. Note: For site reference 4691, the 2019 electorate forecasting work mapped 2010-18 completions (42 homes) to Somerford Parish, but mapped 2018-25 completions (28 homes) to Congleton.



- the westernmost part of Site LPS 26;
- the residential properties (including farms) on either side of Chelford Road and the eastern side of Sandy Lane;
- all residential properties (including farms) east of Chelford Road that are bounded by LPS 26 and Back Lane to the south and the parish boundary (with Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths) to the north;
- a small area of additional land along the A54 that is west of Chelford Road, but on the inner (Congleton town) side of the Congleton Link Road route. There is one property (a farm) in this area.

From Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data, it is estimated that there are a total of 23 existing residential properties on the western side of Chelford Road and 13 others on the eastern side (six of these near the junction with the A54 and the other seven north of Back Lane), plus (as noted earlier) the farm further west on the A54. These locations include six properties built during 2010-18. Hence it is estimated that the expansion area part of E00092805 contains around 31 homes ( $23 + 13 + 1 - 6$ ) that existed prior to 2010.

Adding these to the total of 621 post-2010 housing completions gives a total of 652 homes expected in the expansion area part of E00092805 by 2025.

Hence the whole expansion area is expected to have 905 homes ( $253 + 652$ ) by 2025.

Output Area E00092805 as a whole had 69 homes in 2010, with another 271 built during 2010-18 and 372 more expected during 2018-25, so a total of 712 homes ( $69 + 271 + 372$ ) are forecast for this OA by 2025. Adding this to the forecast number of homes for E00092804 gives a total for the whole parish of 965 homes ( $712 + 253$ ) by 2025.

Therefore the expansion area accounts for an estimated 94 per cent ( $905/965$ ) of the parish's 2025 housing stock. Somerford is forecast to have 1,719 electors by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of the parish's electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the expansion area will have an estimated 1,612 electors ( $1,719 \times 94$  per cent) in 2025 and the rest of the parish will have the remaining 107 (1,719 minus 1,612).

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This may be due to the fact that the site's easting and northing place it virtually dead on the boundary between the two parishes. For consistency with modelling to date, this report treats the site's earlier completions as being in Somerford and its later ones as being in Congleton.

Under the new Congleton Town Council ward boundaries proposed by Cheshire East Council, the Somerford expansion area would be transferred to the new Ward 5 (provisional name Congleton North West).

## **Stapeley**

Nantwich has expanded significantly into Stapeley and is expected to continue doing so.

This area includes a 189-home development which is outside the Local Plan Strategy development area, but for which the developer won an appeal in July 2020. Therefore this housing site was not factored into the CGR electorate forecasts produced in 2019. However, the expansion area forecasts set out below do take account of this additional development. Following the appeal verdict, the Borough Council estimates that 92 homes will be completed on this site by the end of 2025.<sup>49</sup> This housing site is located along the western side of the expansion area and is bounded by the A530 to the north, the A529 to the west and south and by the Stapeley Water Gardens housing development to the east.

Stapeley on its own is not coterminous with any group of Output Areas (OAs), as there are some OAs which each cover parts of both Batherton parish and Stapeley. However, the Batherton and Stapeley group of parishes covers exactly the same area as four OAs: E00093434, E00093435, E00093436 and E00093437. The past, current and expected future number of homes in these OAs (based on Office for National Statistics housing stock data and the Borough Council's housing database records) are summarised in the table below. All the figures in this table relate to housing within Stapeley parish, except where specified otherwise.

<sup>49</sup> The planning application references for this development are 12/3747N and 12/3746N.



OA	Homes in 2010	Housing completions, 2010-18	Housing completions, 2018-25	Homes in 2025 (sum of previous 3 columns)
E00093434	329	269	74	672
E00093435	773	6	96*	875
E00093436	84	0	3**	87
E00093437	77	0	0	77
Total	1,263	275	173	1,711

\*Includes expected completions (92 up to 2025) on the 189-home development site outside the Local Plan Strategy development area and three completions at a site in Batherton parish.

\*\*Includes two completions at a site in Batherton parish.

All of the 77 homes in E00093437 and the vast majority (roughly 90%) of the 672 homes in E00093434 are part of the expansion area. So too are the vast majority (roughly 95 per cent) of all the 773 homes in E00093435 that were built up to 2010; the 189-home site won on appeal in 2020 (with its expected 92 completions by 2025) is also within this OA, but none of the other post-2010 housing completions in this OA fall within the expansion area. Hence the estimated total number of homes in the expansion area (by 2025) is  $77 + (0.9 \times 672) + (0.95 \times 773) + 92 = 77 + 605 + 734 + 92 = 1,508$ .

For the Batherton and Stapeley group of parishes as a whole, the estimated number of homes by 2025 is 1,711, as shown in the table above. Hence the number of homes outside the expansion area is 203 (1,711 minus 1,508).

Therefore an estimated 88 per cent ( $1,508/1,711$ ) of Batherton and Stapeley's 2025 housing stock is inside the expansion area.

The 2019 CGR forecasts put the 2025 electorate at 2,921 in Stapeley and 44 in Batherton, giving a total of 2,965. However, as noted above, this excludes the houses that will be built on the additional 189-home site won on appeal. Assuming these homes have (on average) 1.637 electors per property – the same as the average for the local borough ward (Nantwich South and Stapeley), that implies an extra 151 electors ( $1.637 \times 92$ ) living on this site by 2025. Hence the updated forecast is 3,072 ( $2,921 + 151$ ) electors for Stapeley and 3,116 ( $3,072 + 44$ ) electors for the Batherton and Stapeley group of parishes as a whole.

Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of the parish group's electors is the same as its share of the parish group's properties, there would be an estimated 2,746 electors ( $3,116 \times 88$  per cent) in the expansion area and 370 electors ( $3,116$  minus  $2,746$ ) outside it. As the 370 electors outside the expansion area include the whole of Batherton (44 electors), it follows that an estimated 326 ( $370$  minus  $44$ ) of Stapeley's electors would be outside the expansion area.

## Styal

Styal is affected by the outward expansion of Handforth.

Local Plan Strategy site LPS 34 (Land Between Clay Lane and Sagars Road, Handforth), which is just on the Styal side of boundary with Handforth, involves a 249-home development<sup>50</sup>. No houses were built on this site prior to 2018, but 185 are expected during 2018-25. However, no other homes, either existing or expected, are within this boundary area. LPS 34 therefore constitutes the Handforth-Styal expansion area.

Estimating the numbers of homes outside this expansion area – something that is necessary in order to estimate the numbers of electors inside and outside this area – is complicated by the fact that the Styal parish boundary is not coterminous with Output Area (OA) boundaries.

However, two OAs, E00094140 and E00094150, are completely within Styal. Office for National Statistics housing stock data and the Borough Council's housing database records indicate that these areas had a total of 297 homes in 2010, with eight more houses completed during 2010-18 and a further 189 expected during 2018-25. This makes a total of 494 residential properties ( $297 + 8 + 189$ ) by 2025.

A third OA, E00094139, includes the rest of Styal Parish, but also a significant part of Wilmslow. The area covered by this OA had only two homes built on its Styal side during 2010-18 and only two more expected on this side during 2018-25.<sup>51</sup> Ordnance Survey data indicates only four existing residential properties (all farms) on this side of the parish boundary. It is therefore assumed that the Styal part of this OA will have only eight homes ( $4 + 2 + 2$ ) by 2025, making a total of 502 ( $494 + 8$ ) for Styal as a whole.

Hence the expansion area will account for an expected 37 per cent ( $185/502$ ) of the Parish's homes by 2025.

<sup>50</sup> Housing database site reference number 3527.

<sup>51</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 3979, 5071, 5757 and 5898.

Styal's electorate is forecast to be 896 by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of the parish's electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, it is estimated that the expansion area will have 330 electors (896 x 37 per cent), with the rest of Styal containing the other 566 (896 minus 330).

Under the Borough Council's proposal for Handforth, Wilmslow and Chorley to be merged, the Styal expansion area would become part of the new Handforth ward on the new council.

## Sutton

Sutton Lyme Green is the only one of Sutton's parish wards that is affected by the outward expansion of Macclesfield. Even allowing for all expected development up to 2025, there will still be undeveloped land separating Macclesfield from Sutton's other wards.

Sutton Lyme Green ward includes development on Site LPS 17 (Gaw End Lane, Macclesfield)<sup>52</sup> and a single-home site due for completion during 2018-25.<sup>53</sup> There were no homes built on LPS 17 up to 2018, but 148 houses are expected during 2018-25 and 310 eventually. The parish ward also includes part of Site LPS 13 (South Macclesfield Development Area), but no completions are expected on this part of LPS 13 before 2025. Hence the parish ward is expected to see its stock of homes increase by 149 during 2010-25.

These residential developments collectively, along with existing commercial development on the edge of Macclesfield, will anchor Sutton Lyme Green Parish Ward's residential areas firmly to the Macclesfield urban area.

The only residential part of Lyme Green that would not be adjoined to the Macclesfield conurbation is a cluster of buildings in the northeast of the parish ward. In this location, Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data indicate six separate properties that appear to be residential. However, the parish ward boundary provides a more natural and clearly defined limit to the expansion area than any dividing line between this handful of properties and the rest of Sutton Lyme Green. Consideration also has to be given to the relatively limited benefits of making alternative electoral arrangements for such a small area of land involving so few of the parish ward's electors.

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<sup>52</sup> Housing database site reference number 3512.

<sup>53</sup> Housing database site reference number 6285.

The expansion area therefore covers all land within Lyme Green Parish Ward.

Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that the two Output Areas (OAs) that make up Lyme Green ward (E00094078 and E00094079) had a total 313 homes as of 2010. Adding on the Council's housing database records of the expected number of housing completions (149 new homes up to 2025) gives a forecast of 462 homes in Lyme Green by 2025.

According to the CGR electorate forecasts produced in 2019, the parish ward is forecast to have a total of 821 electors by 2025.

Sutton Parish as a whole is expected to have 2,666 electors by 2025 under current boundaries, so this would fall by 821, to 1,845, if the expansion area were transferred to Macclesfield.

## Tabley

Tabley is affected by the outward expansion of Knutsford. More specifically, Local Plan Strategy Site LPS 36A (Land North of Northwich Road, Knutsford) extends both sides of the Knutsford-Tabley parish boundary. This site was not included in the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts, as no development was expected over the 2018-25 period at the time those forecasts were produced. However, more recent information indicates that 175 houses (the total number that the site allows for) will be built there by 2025. Roughly 60 per cent of the site area is on the Tabley side of the current boundary and 40 per cent on the Knutsford side.

The extent of the expansion area is based on natural boundaries: it is bounded by Northwich Road to the south, the M6 to the west and Tabley Hill Lane to the north. It excludes the non-residential development (adjacent to the motorway service station) that is on the southern side of Northwich Road.

As such, the expansion area includes a swathe of rural land to the west of LPS3 6A. Analysis of Ordnance Survey data, along with the information available on Google Maps, indicates that this rural land currently includes only two farms and no other residential properties.

The original CGR forecasts indicated that Tabley would have 442 electors by 2025. Assuming that, for the new development at LPS 36A, the average number of electors per property is the same as for Knutsford borough ward (1.679), the expected number of electors living in the new homes is 294 (175 x 1.679). Furthermore, assuming that this housing is evenly distributed across the site area (i.e. around 60 per cent of the site's properties are on the Tabley side of the current boundary) and assuming the same

electors-per-property ratio on both sides of the boundary, it is expected that Tabley will contain 176 (294 x 60 per cent) of these electors and the other 118 will be in Knutsford.

Assuming (for simplicity) that the expansion area's existing properties (the two farms) also have the same number of electors per property as Knutsford borough ward average, that implies a further three electors ( $2 \times 1.679$ ) in this area.

Hence an updated (2020) forecast is that the area covered by Tabley will have 618 electors by 2025, 179 ( $176 + 3$ ) of them in the expansion area (the part of site LPS 36A currently within Tabley) and 439 (618 minus 179) elsewhere in the Parish.

Under the Cheshire East Council's proposal for new (redrawn) Knutsford Town Council wards, the Tabley expansion area would become part of the redrawn Nether ward on the Town Council.

## **Weston**

### **Weston boundary with Chorlton**

There is a case for redrawing the boundary between Chorlton and Weston, so that the whole of Wychwood Park is brought within a single parish. Moving the boundary between Chorlton and Weston to the A531 would achieve this. The part of Weston that would be merged with Chorlton under this potential boundary change is entirely within Weston Wychwood parish ward.

Weston Wychwood is expected to have 860 electors by 2025. From Ordnance Survey data, it is estimated that the total number of existing dwellings in Wychwood Park area (all those in the parish ward south of A531) is 107 and the Borough Council's housing database records indicate that no more housing completions are expected by 2025. The local borough ward (Wybunbury) has an average of 1.870 electors per property expected by 2025. Applying this average to Wychwood Park implies that an estimated 200 electors ( $107 \times 1.870$ ) would be affected if the boundary were changed; Weston Wychwood's other 660 electors would remain in Weston.

### **Weston boundary with Crewe**

Only one of Weston's two parish wards, Weston Village, is affected by the outward expansion of Crewe.

Weston Village parish ward includes part of Site LPS 2 (Basford East, Crewe). Two major housing developments are due to be built within LPS 2 from 2018 onwards: one of these involves the completion of 185 homes during 2018-25 and a total of 490 eventually;

the other involves 185 homes over the 2018-25 period and a total of 325 eventually.<sup>54</sup> In other words, a total of 370 new homes are expected by 2025. However, whilst the eastings and northings for these two developments are within Weston Village parish ward, LPS 2 also extends into Crewe Town Council and Basford parish.

Weston Village parish ward also includes part of Site LPS 8 (South Cheshire Growth Village, South East Cheshire) – as does Crewe Green parish - although no housing is expected on this site by 2025.

The part of LPS 2 that falls within Weston Village parish ward can therefore be seen as the Crewe-Weston expansion area. This area is bounded to the north by the railway line and to the east by the field boundary for LPS 2. Besides the new (post-2018) housing developments, this area contains no residential properties apart from Crotia Mill Farm. Assuming that the farm remains on the site, there will be an expected 371 (370 + 1) homes in this expansion area by 2025.

Weston parish as a whole is coterminous with four Output Areas: E00093178, E00093179, E00093180 and E00093181. Office for National Statistics housing stock data and the Borough Council's housing database records indicate that the parish had 765 homes in 2010, with another 131 built during 2010-18 and 484 more expected during 2018-25. Therefore a total of 1,380 homes (765 + 131 + 484) are forecast for the parish by 2025.

Hence the expansion area accounts for an estimated 27 per cent (371/1,380) of the parish's 2025 housing stock. Weston parish is forecast to have 2,578 electors by 2025, with 1,718 of these electors being in the Weston Village parish ward. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of the parish's electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the expansion area will have an estimated 693 electors (2,578 x 27 per cent) in 2025 and the rest of the parish will have the remaining 1,885 (2,578 minus 693), with the latter figure consisting of all 860 Weston Wychwood parish ward electors and 1,025 (1,885 minus 860) Weston Village parish ward electors.

### **Weston boundary with Crewe Green**

There is a case for redrawing the boundary between Weston and Crewe Green, so that Site LPS 8 (South Cheshire Growth Village, South East Cheshire) falls entirely within Crewe Green parish, rather than being split between parishes. This could be achieved by moving the boundary between the two parishes southwards, to the A500 (but excluding Site LPS 2, which is an expansion of Crewe, as discussed above).

<sup>54</sup> Housing database site reference numbers 5255 and 5477 respectively.



From Ordnance Survey and Google Maps data, it is estimated there are 22 houses in this area (namely everything in Weston north of the A500, except Site LPS 2). These are all existing properties and the Borough Council's housing database records show no further housing completions are expected up to 2025. The local borough ward (Haslington) has an expected average ratio of 1.894 electors per property by 2025 and applying that ratio to the 22 houses gives a total of 42 electors ( $22 \times 1.894$ ). Hence an estimated 42 electors would be transferred from Weston to Crewe Green if this boundary change were made.

## Woolstanwood

Woolstanwood is affected by the outward expansion of Crewe. Virtually all of Woolstanwood's existing housing is already part of the same urban conurbation as Crewe and this is a consequence of the town's expansion. The expansion area includes a small part of Site LPS 4 (Leighton West, Crewe), although no house-building has occurred or is expected here until after 2025. Similarly, for the parish as a whole, all the housing stock dates from pre-2010 and no new homes are anticipated until after 2025.

Office for National Statistics housing stock data are not available for the expansion area itself, nor for any close approximation to it. However, the part of the parish outside the expansion area is rural and very sparsely populated, with Ordnance Survey data showing only a handful of farms and other residential properties, most of them facing the western side of the A530. It is therefore simpler to estimate the number of properties and electors in the expansion area by aggregating the number of homes in the residual rural area and deducting that from the parish total.

Google Maps and Ordnance Survey data suggest that this rural area – the part of the parish west of the A530 - contains around 30 residential properties.

Woolstanwood parish consists of two Output Areas, E00093289 and E00093290. Office for National Statistics housing stock data indicate that these OAs had a total of 287 houses in 2010. With the Borough Council's housing database records showing no new homes being built during the 2010-25 period, the expected number of properties in the Parish in 2025 is also 287.

Hence the number of residential properties in the expansion area is estimated to be 257 ( $287 - 30$ ), or 90 per cent of the parish's total housing stock.

Woolstanwood is forecast to have 556 electors by 2025. Assuming the expansion area's percentage share of these electors is the same as its share of the parish's properties, the expansion area is expected to contain 498 (90 per cent) of the parish's electors by 2025. Hence it is expected that Woolstanwood's electorate would fall by 498, to 58, if the expansion area were assigned to Crewe.

## Appendix 3: Calculation of electorate forecasts for proposed new Congleton and Knutsford wards

### Congleton

As set out in Section 4.4, the proposed new Congleton wards would consist of the following polling districts (all currently within Congleton Town Council) and relocated areas of Eaton, Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths and Somerford:

- Ward 1 (provisional name North East): polling districts COB1, COB2, CON1, CON2, CON3, and CON4 and the part of Eaton Parish east of the A536 that is recommended for transfer to Congleton.
- Ward 2 (provisional name East): polling districts COS1, COS2, COS3 and COS4.
- Ward 3 (provisional name Central): polling districts COC1, COC2, COC3.
- Ward 4 (provisional name South West): polling districts CNW2 and CNW3, the part of Eaton Parish west of A536 that is recommended for transfer to Congleton and the parts of Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths and Somerford parishes that are recommended for transfer to Congleton.
- Ward 5 (provisional name North West): polling districts COW1, COW2, COW3 and COW4.

The 2025 elector forecasts for each of the proposed new Congleton wards were calculated by summing the original (2019) Community Governance Review forecasts for their respective polling districts (taken from the CGR Electorate forecasts technical report produced in 2019) and then constraining the resulting totals, so that the new wards covering the current Congleton Town Council East ward (Wards 1 and 2) summed to the electorate forecast for the current Congleton Town Council East ward (11,292 electors) plus the part of Eaton expansion area east of the A536 (154 electors) and those covering the current Congleton Town Council West ward (Wards 3, 4 and 5) summed to the electorate forecast for Congleton Town Council West ward (12,723 electors) plus the rest of the Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths, Somerford and Eaton expansion areas (2,397 electors).

### Knutsford

The elector forecasts for each of the proposed new Knutsford wards were calculated by taking 2010 dwelling stock figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) at Output Area (OA) level and assigning the ONS dwelling figures for each of Knutsford's 46 OAs to the new ward that they fell within. The Borough Council's housing database was then used to add on the number of net housing completions in each OA for the period 2010-20. In cases where an OA was split between two or more of the proposed new wards, Ordnance Survey data was used to estimate the number and percentage of properties in the affected OA that



fell with each ward and 2020 housing numbers were apportioned between wards on the basis of these percentages. The expected number of 2021-25 housing completions in each ward was calculated by mapping the site locations for these future developments, to see which wards they fell within. 2025 housing stock estimates for each ward were calculated by adding the 2021-25 completions figures to the 2020 housing stock estimates. The housing stock figure for the new Nether ward included both the existing (2020) housing stock in the Tabley expansion area (derived from Ordnance Survey data) and the expected future completions on site LPS 36A (as all of this site lies within the proposed new Nether ward). Elector forecasts for the new wards for 2025 were then estimated by taking each ward's share of the enlarged Town Council's 2025 housing stock and multiplying this by the total 2025 electorate forecast for the expanded Town Council.

## Appendix 4: Calculation of electorate forecasts for Lower Peover Parish Group

This Appendix explains the calculation of the forecast for Lower Peover group of parishes (the only Parish Council that is split between Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester), as the original (2019) forecasts did not include the Cheshire West and Chester part of this Parish Council.

The Cheshire East part of Lower Peover, Peover Inferior parish, currently has three seats and is forecast to have an electorate of only 94 by 2025.

The Cheshire West and Chester part, Nether Peover parish, currently has four seats.

Given that it lies outside Cheshire East, the Community Governance Review (CGR) electorate forecasts produced in 2019 did not include a forecast for Nether Peover. However, Nether Peover had 342 electors as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020<sup>55</sup>. Using the same approach as for the 2019 CGR electorate forecasts, Cheshire East estimates that Nether Peover will have an electorate of 414 by 2025. This forecast of 414 electors is based on the following data and assumptions:

- An expected 1.1% decline – for all parishes covered by the CGR - in the average number of electors per property over the CGR review period. The 1.1% figure is based on Local Plan Strategy population and housing forecasts<sup>56</sup> which indicate a 1.1% fall in the average number of residents aged 17 and above per property, over the 2018-25 period. This would mean that the electorate in the existing (2020) housing stock falls to 338 ( $342 \times 0.989$ ) by 2025.
- Cheshire West and Chester's Planning Policy Team information indicating that (as of April 2020) 41 new homes are due to be completed in Nether Peover between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and the end of 2025.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>55</sup> Figure provided by Democratic Services, Cheshire West and Chester, April 2020.

<sup>56</sup> Population and housing forecasts produced by Opinion Research Services (ORS) for the Cheshire East Housing Development Study 2015, ORS, June 2015.

<sup>57</sup> This may be an overestimate: at the time the data were provided, Cheshire West and Chester had not yet monitored actual completions over the year to end March 2020 and so it may be that some of the 41 homes had already been built by that time.

- The 2019 electorate forecasts putting the average number of electors per property in Chelford borough ward (the ward containing Peover Inferior) at 1.846 for 2025. Using this ratio as a proxy and applying it to the 41 extra properties leads to an estimate of 76 extra electors ( $41 \times 1.846$ ) during 2020-25.

When the estimated number of electors in the new homes (76) is added to the expected total electorate in existing properties (338 by 2025), this gives a total for the Nether Peover Parish of 414 electors. When the 2025 electorate forecast for the Peover Inferior (Cheshire East) Parish (94) is added to this, this results in an estimated overall total of 508 electors for the whole Lower Peover Parish Council by 2025.

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# **Cheshire East Council Community Governance Review Draft Recommendations**

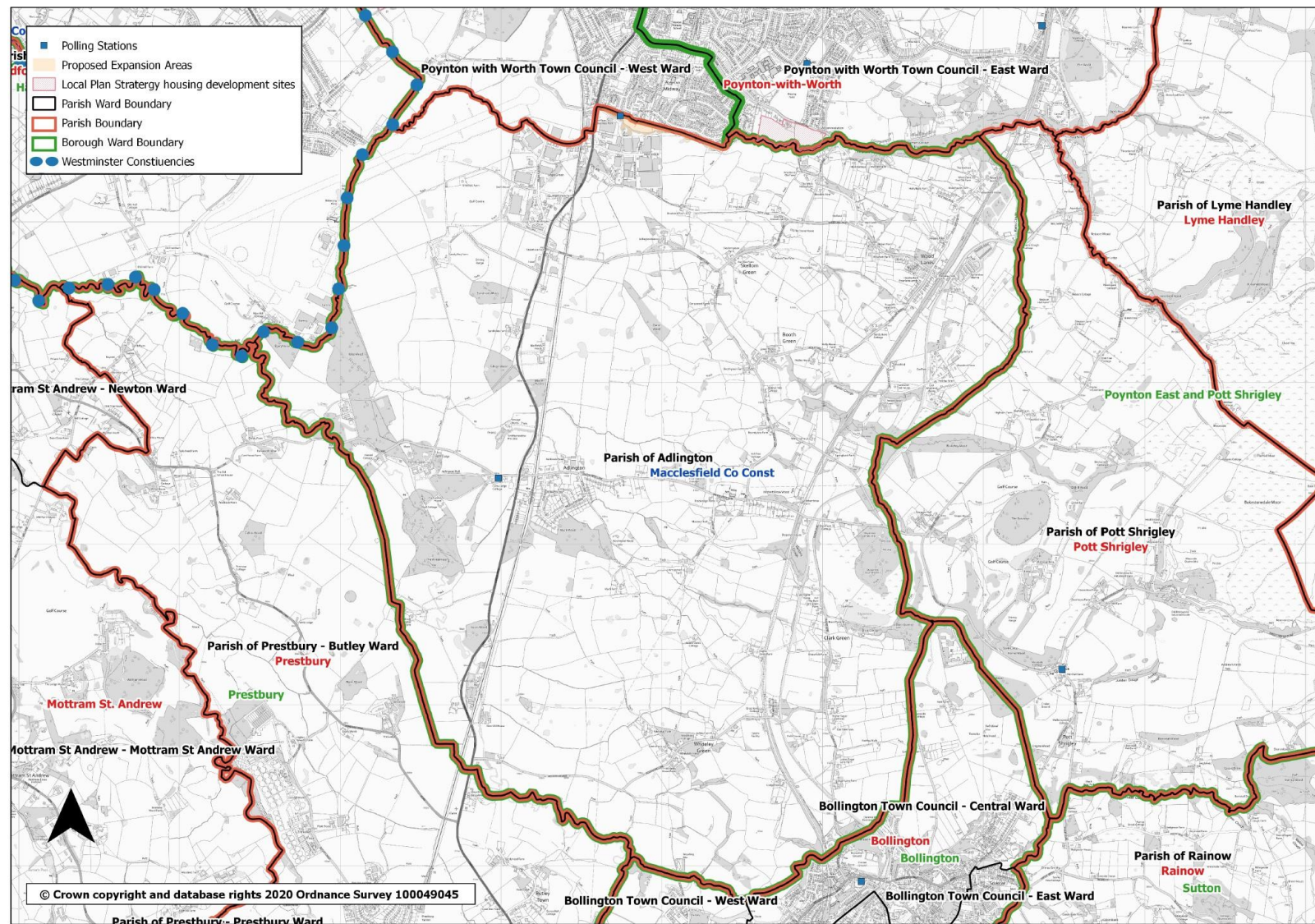
**Production date: 18/02/21**

**Report produced by:**  
**[CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:CommunityGovernance@cheshireeast.gov.uk)**

## **Appendix 5: Maps**



# Map 1: Adlington

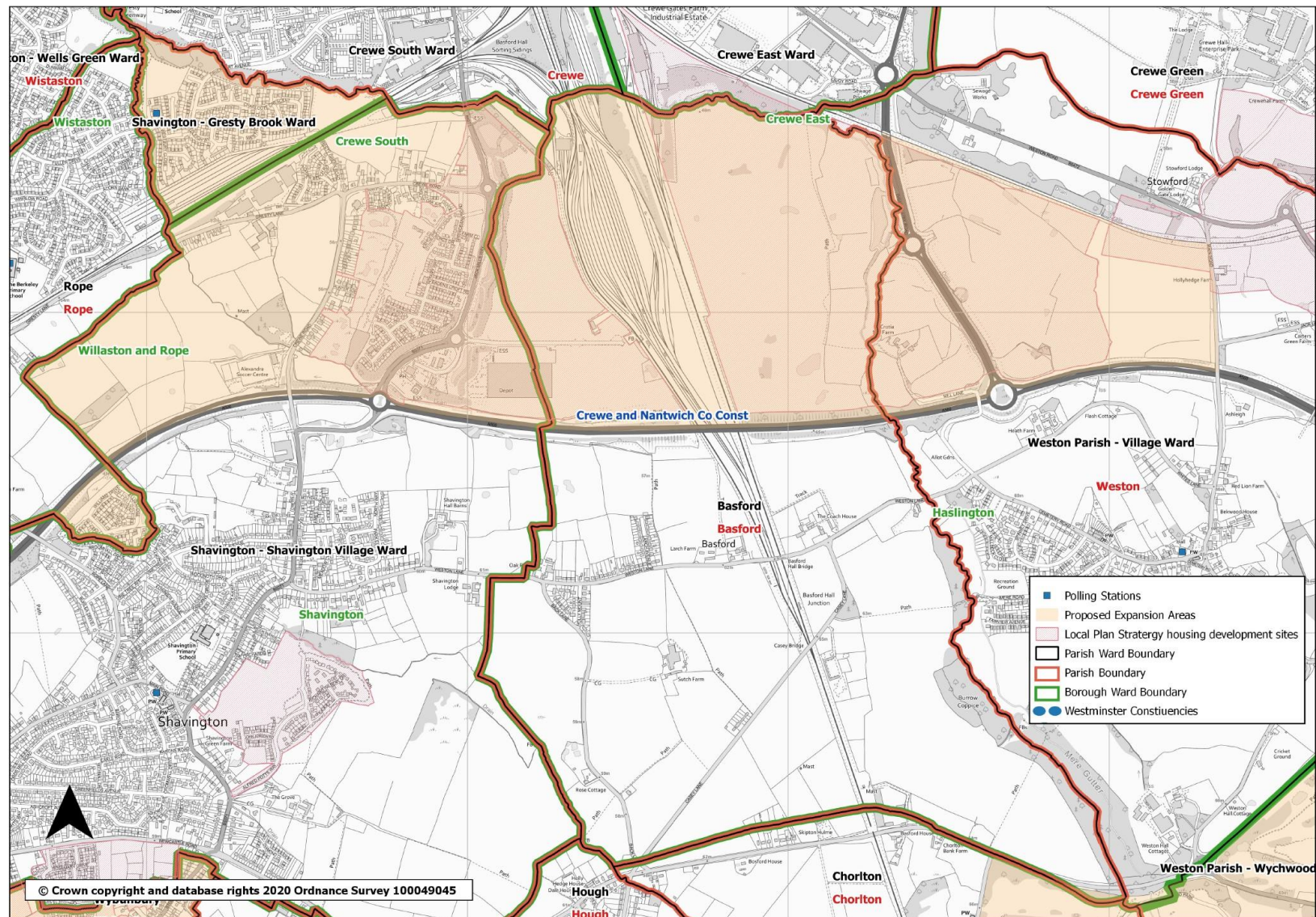






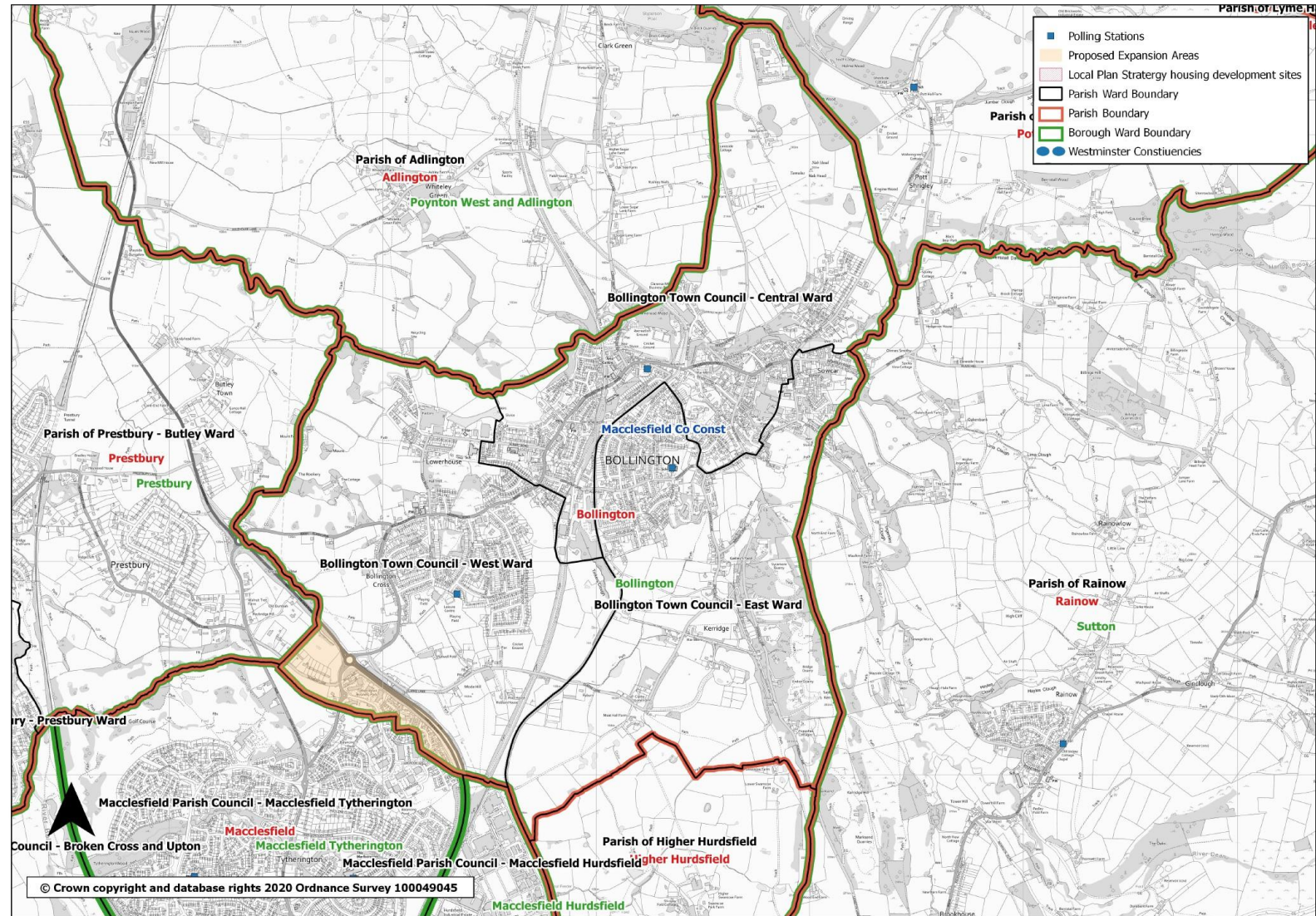


# Map 3: Basford



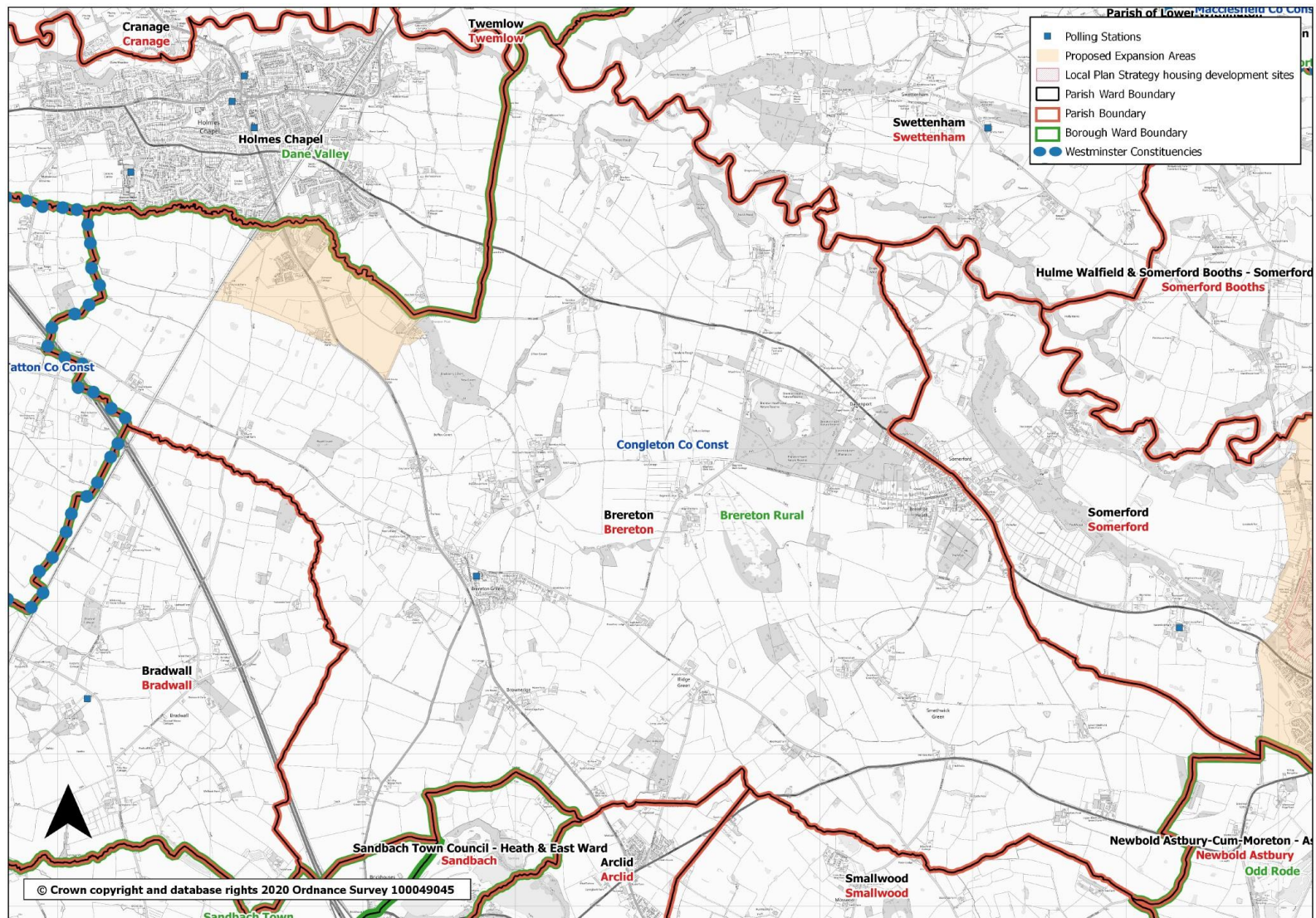


# Map 4: Bollington





## Map 5: Brereton

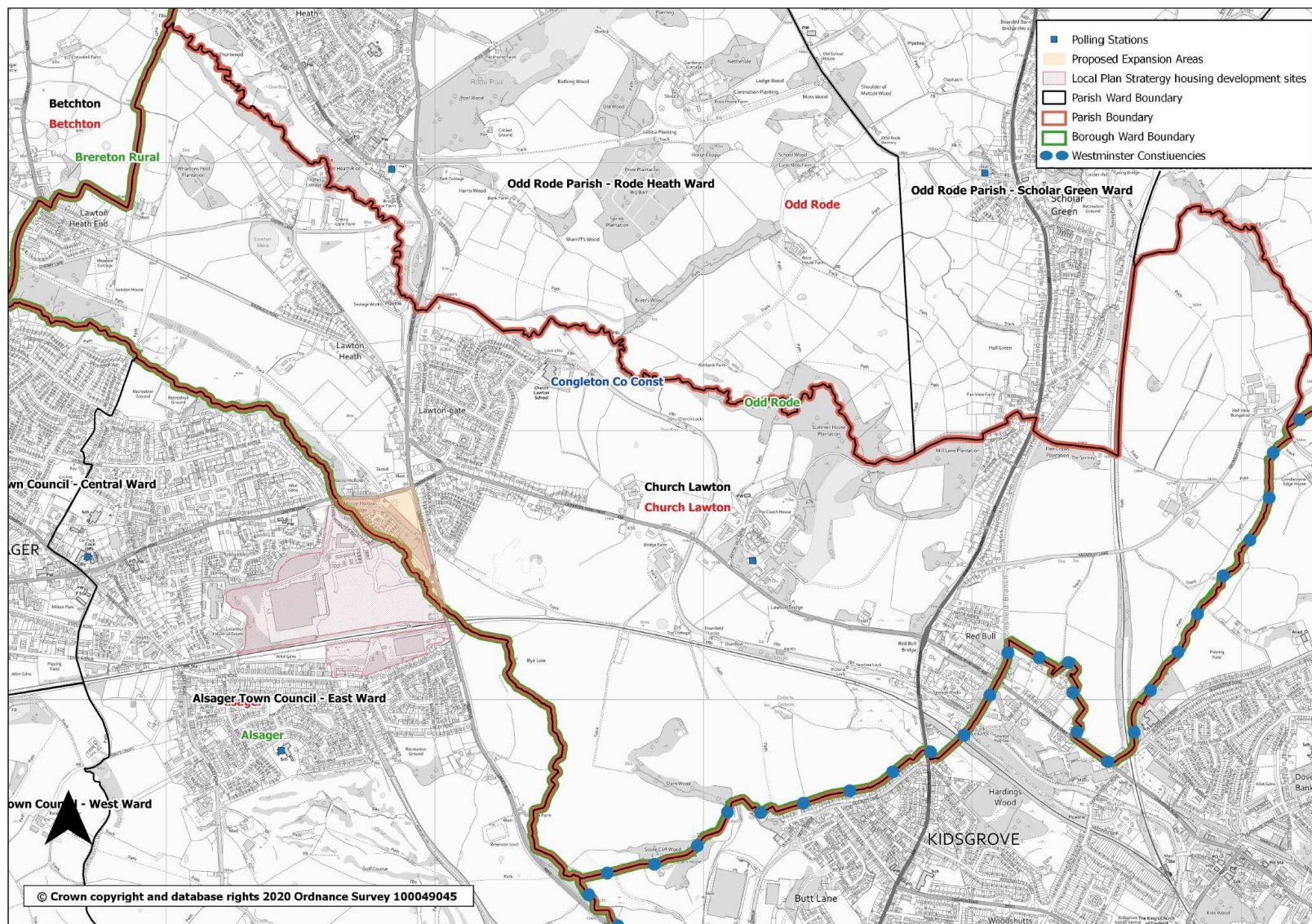






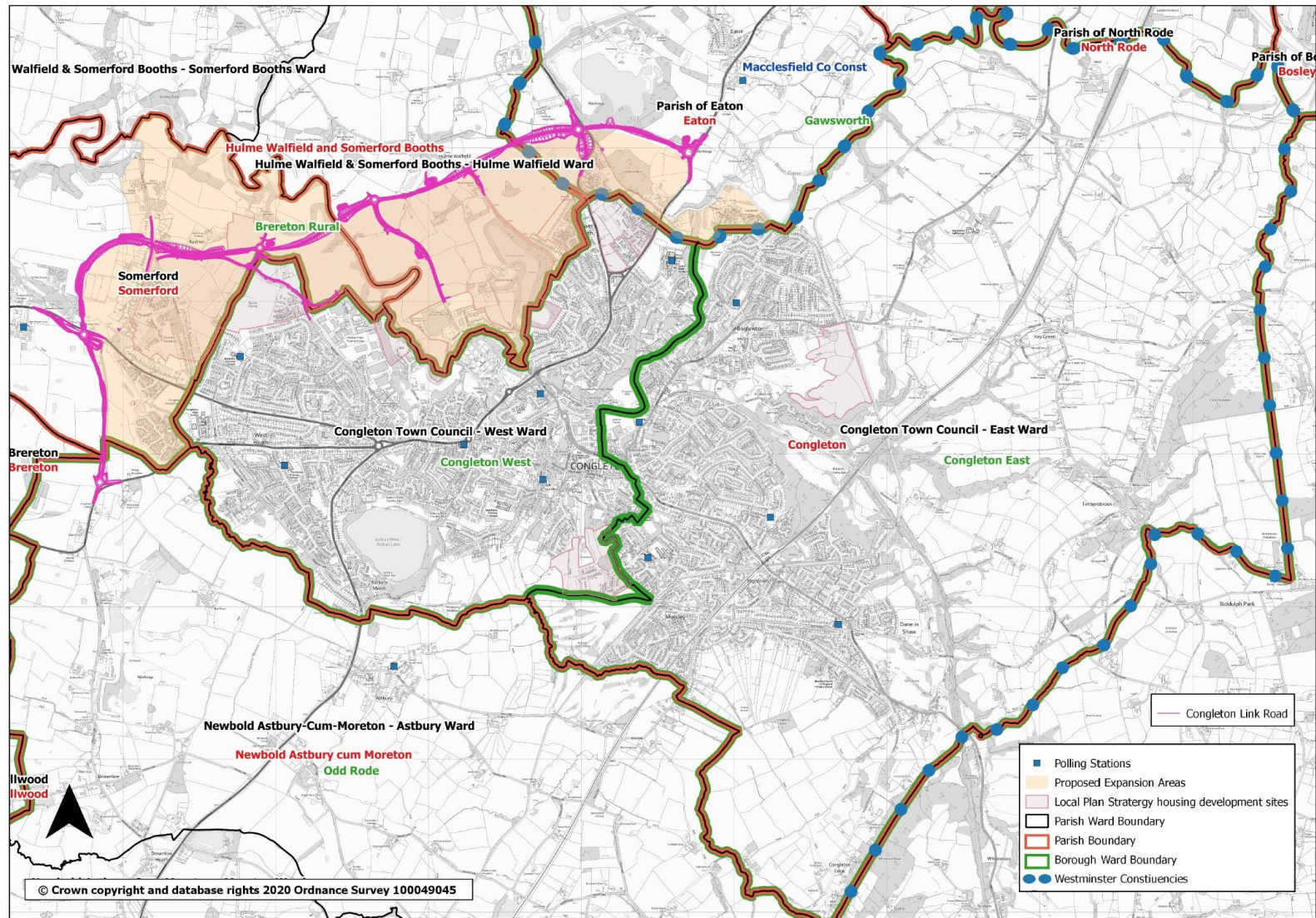


# Map 7: Church Lawton



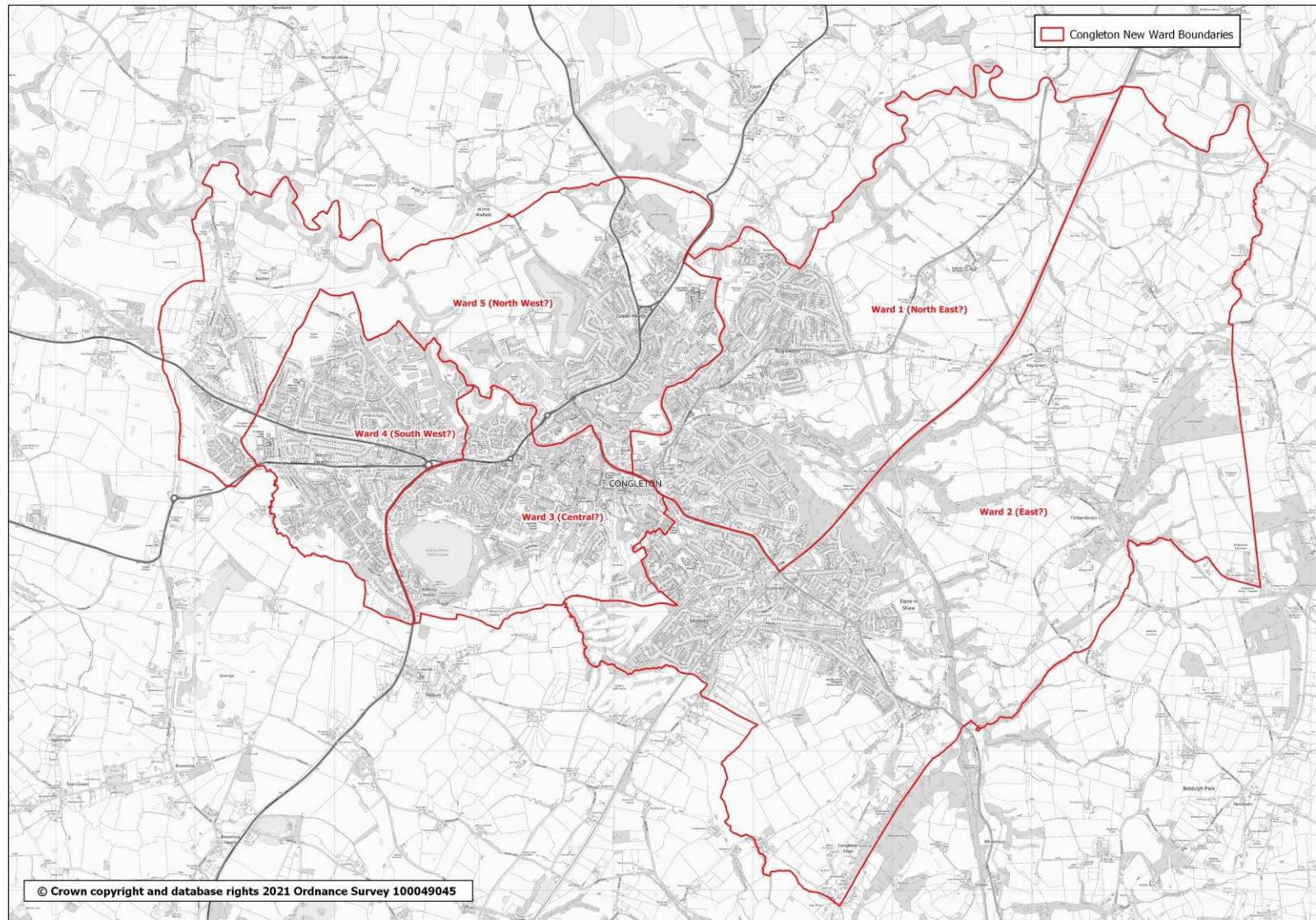


# Map 8a: Congleton





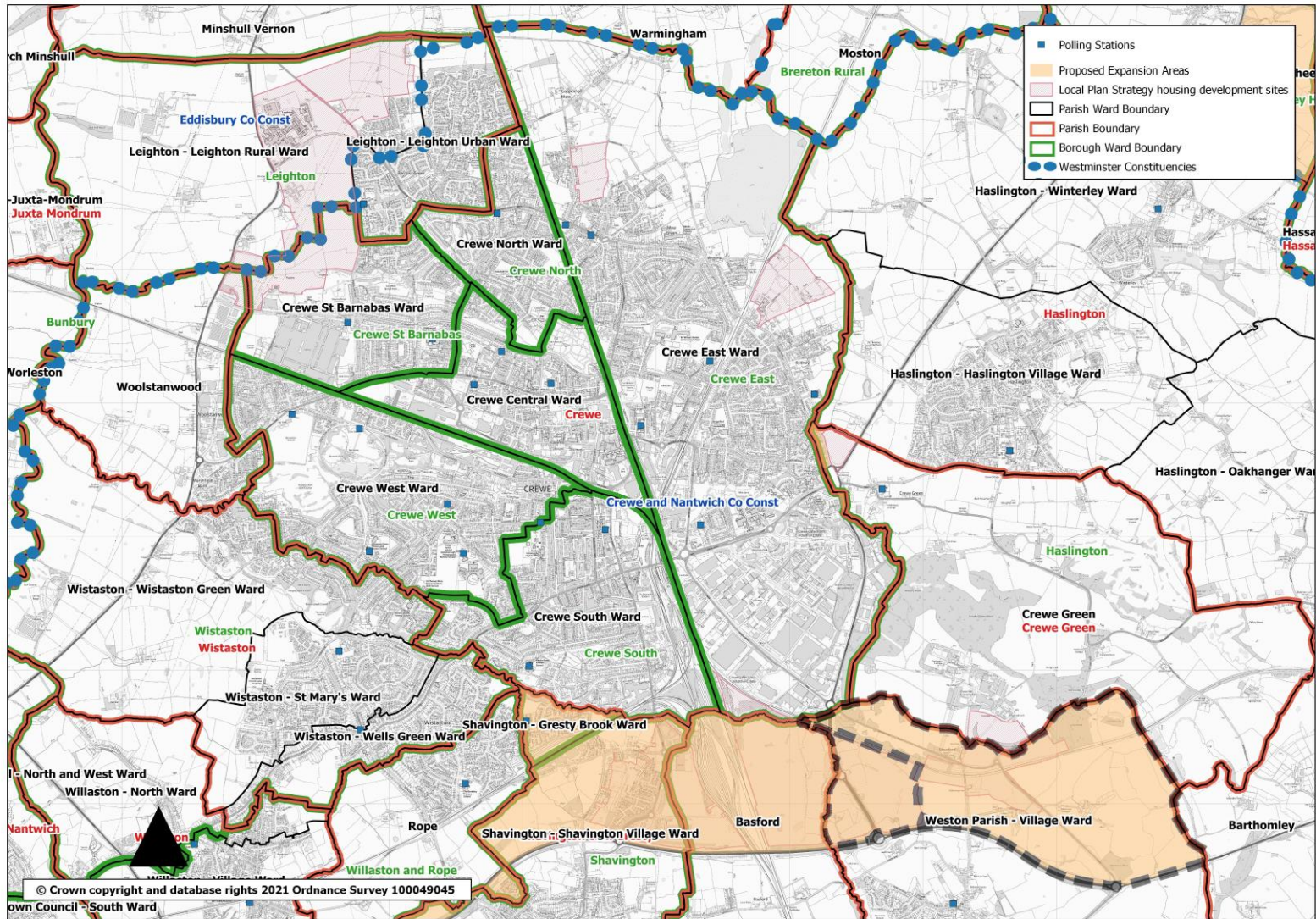
# Map 8b: Congleton – proposed new wards





# Map 9: Crewe

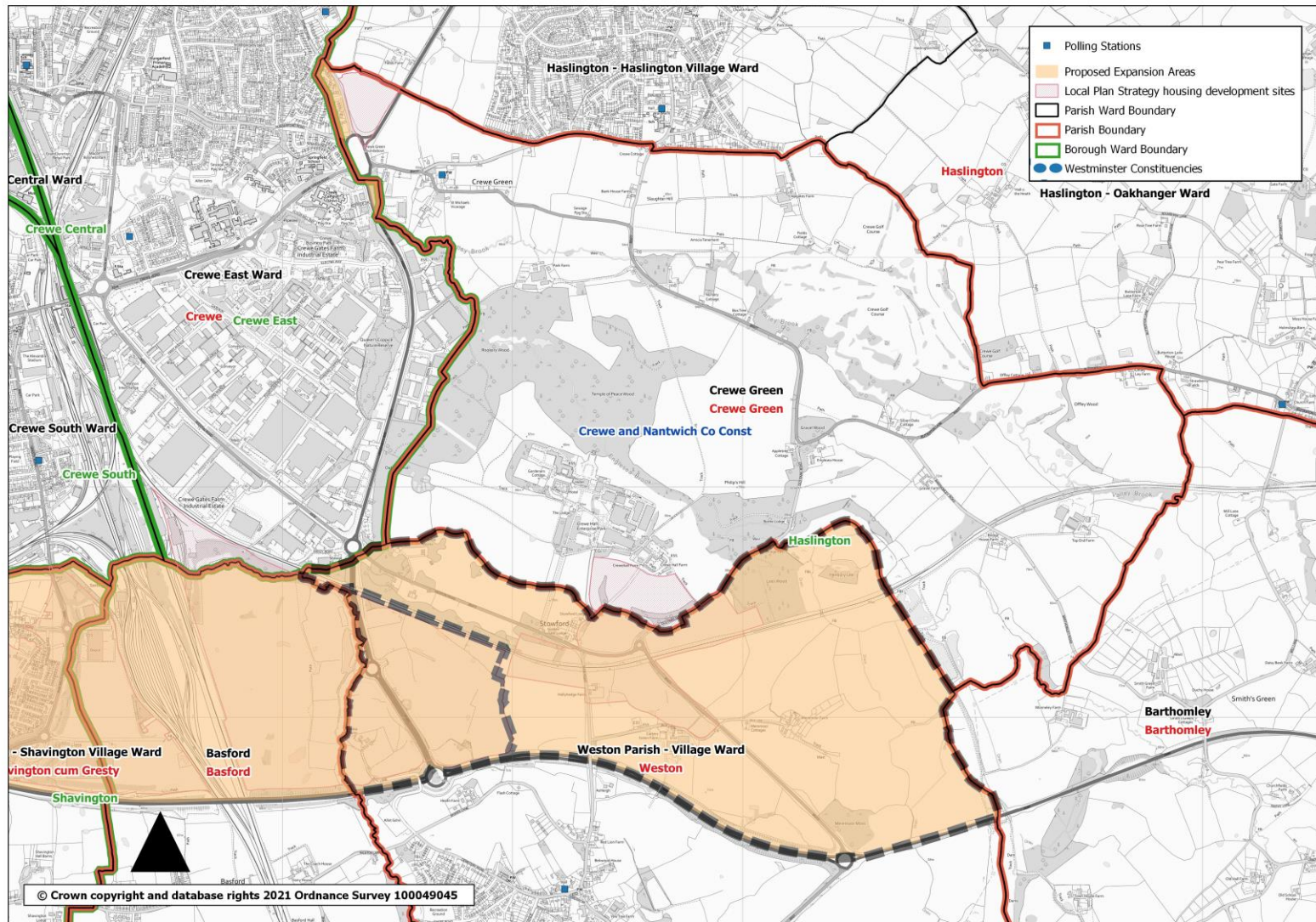
Dotted line indicates which parts of Weston would transfer to Crewe and which parts to Crewe Green.





# Map 10: Crewe Green

Dotted line indicates which parts of Weston would transfer to Crewe and which parts to Crewe Green.

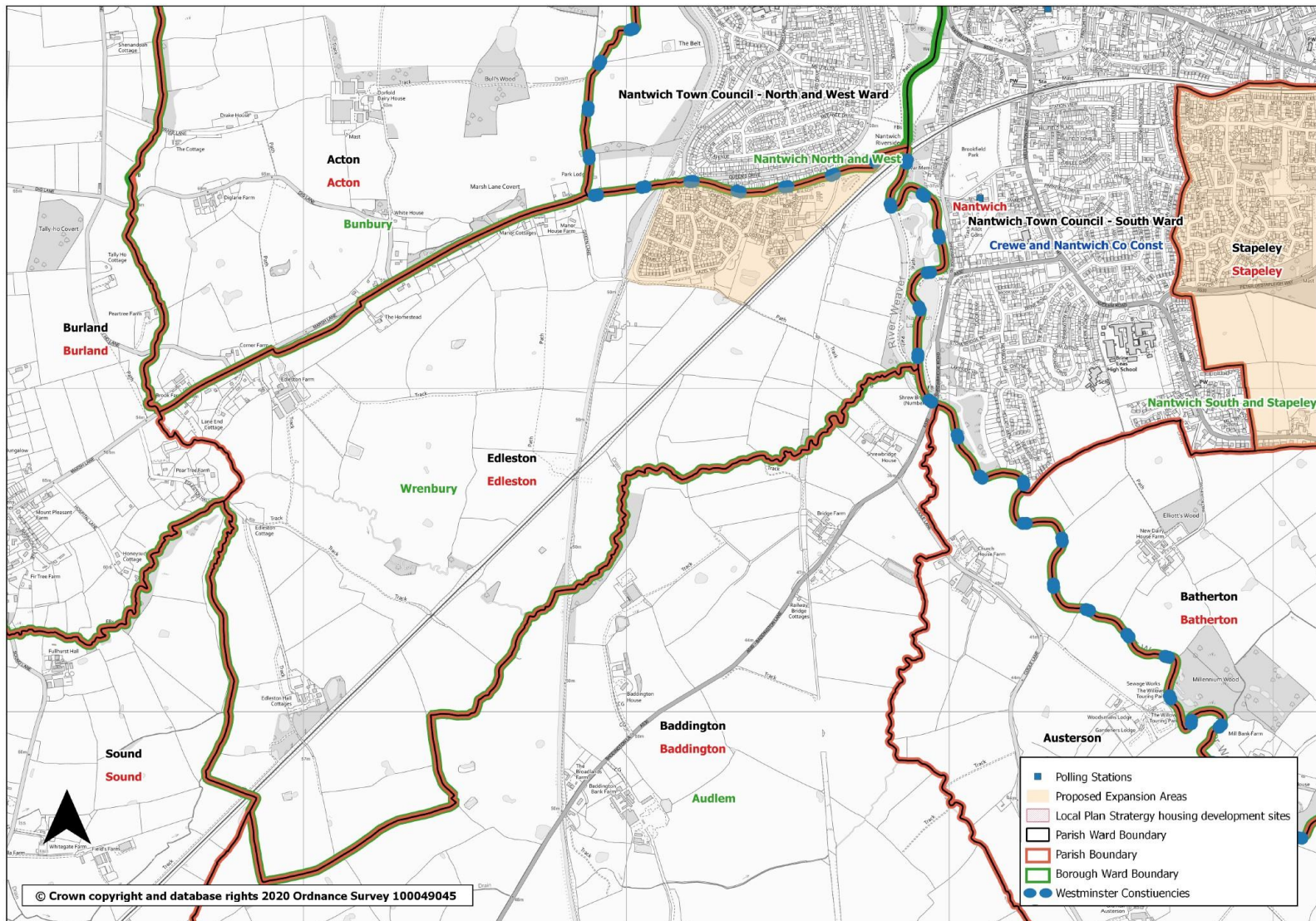






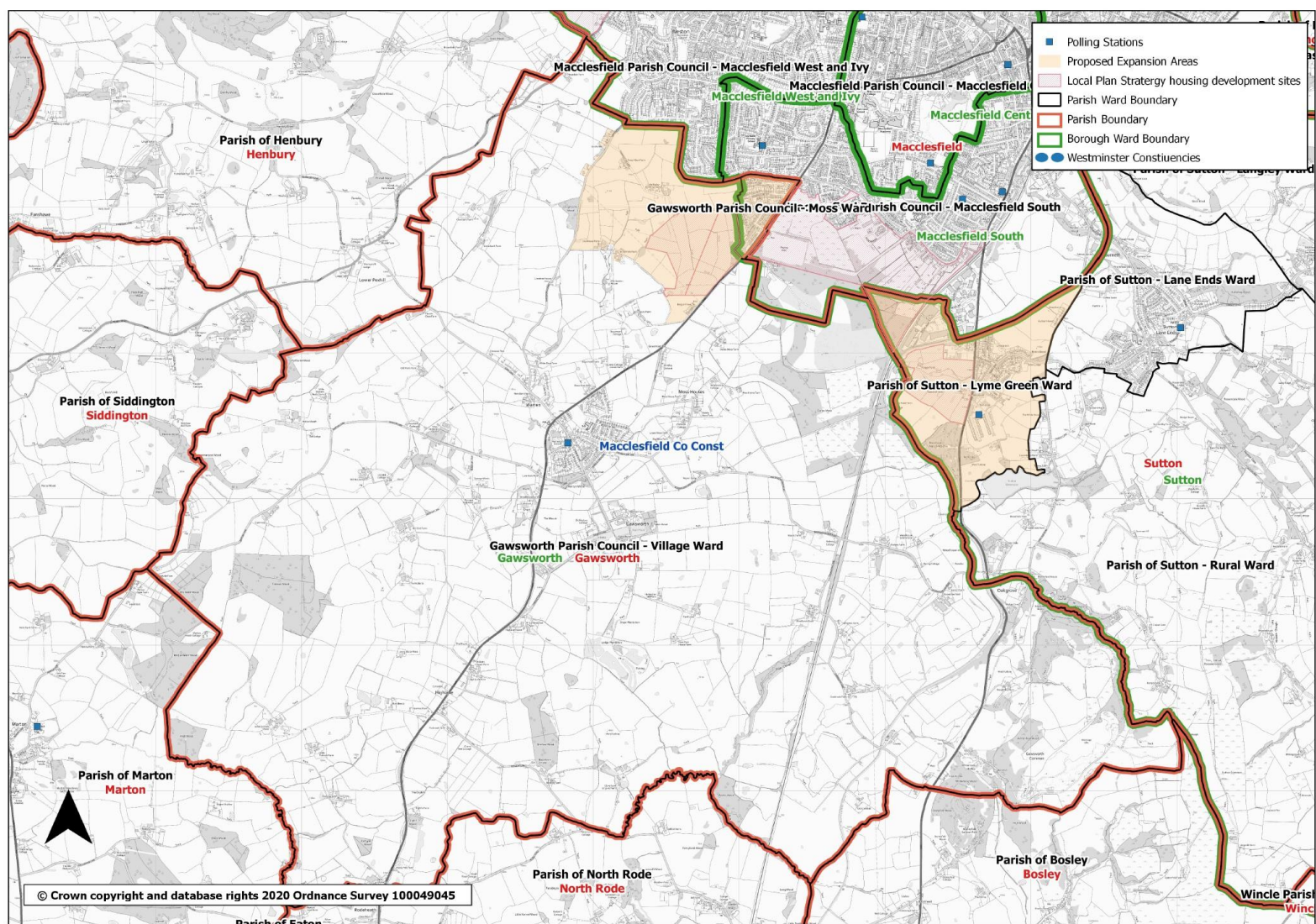


# Map 12: Edleston



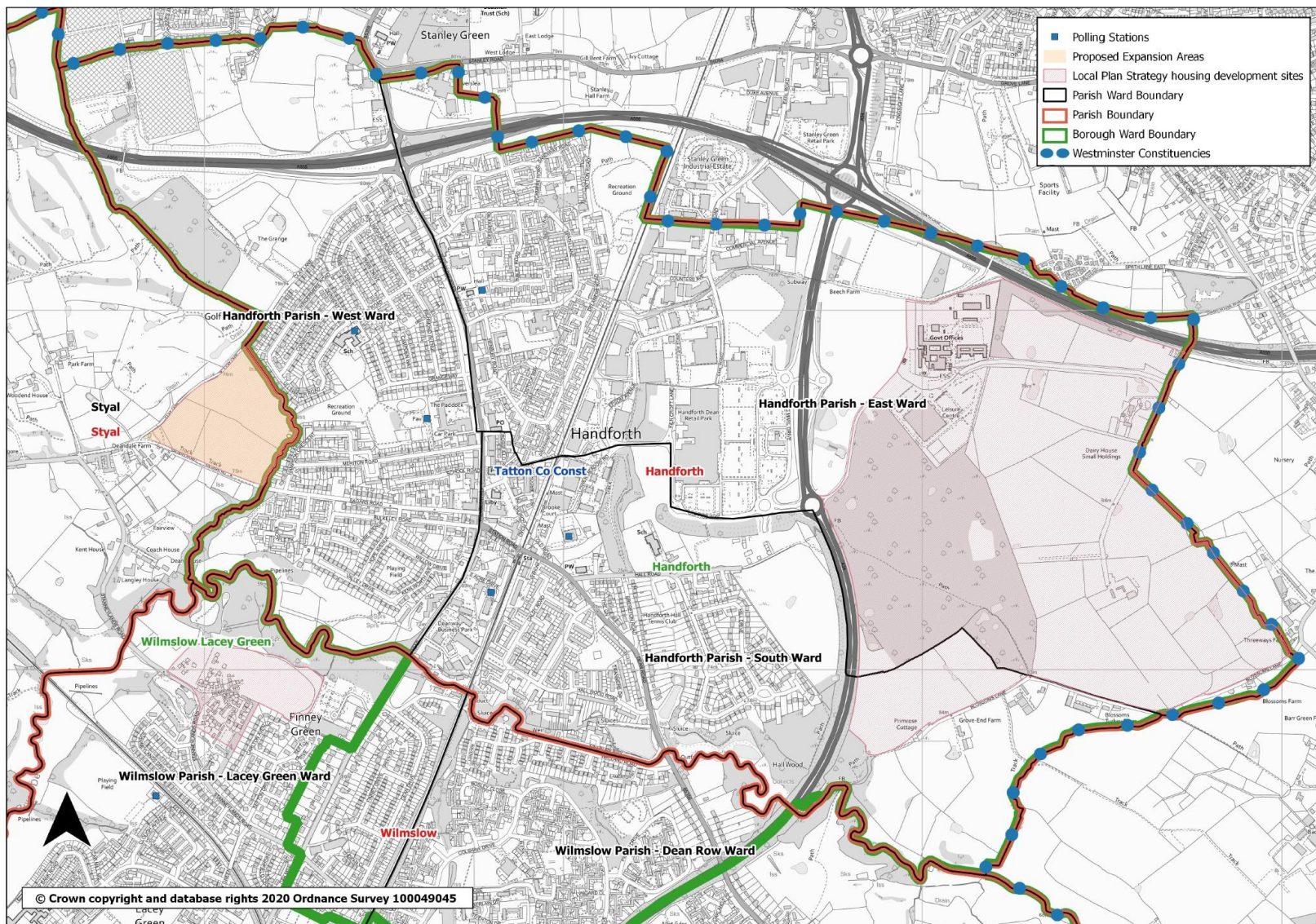


## Map 13: Gawsworth





# Map 14: Handforth



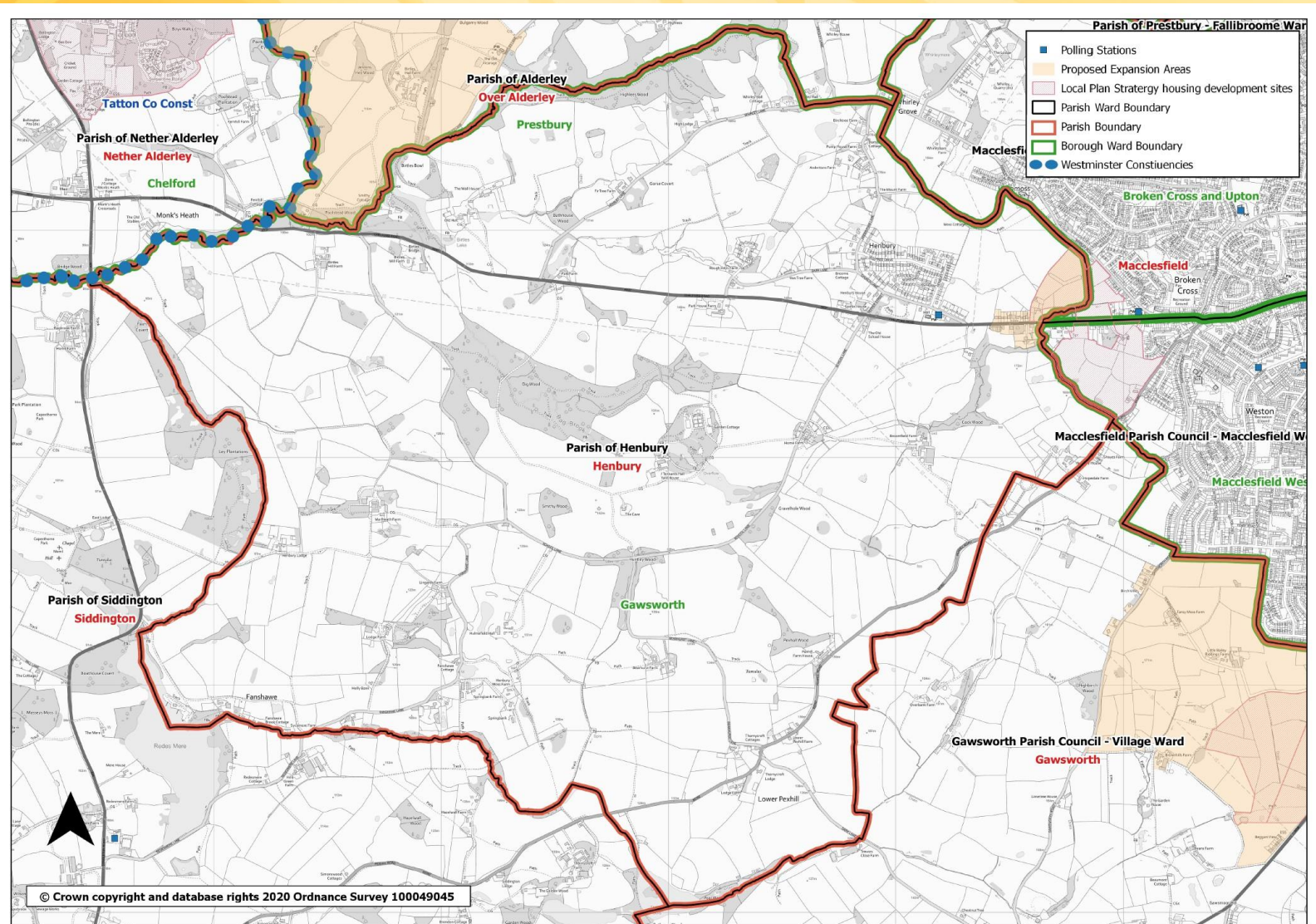


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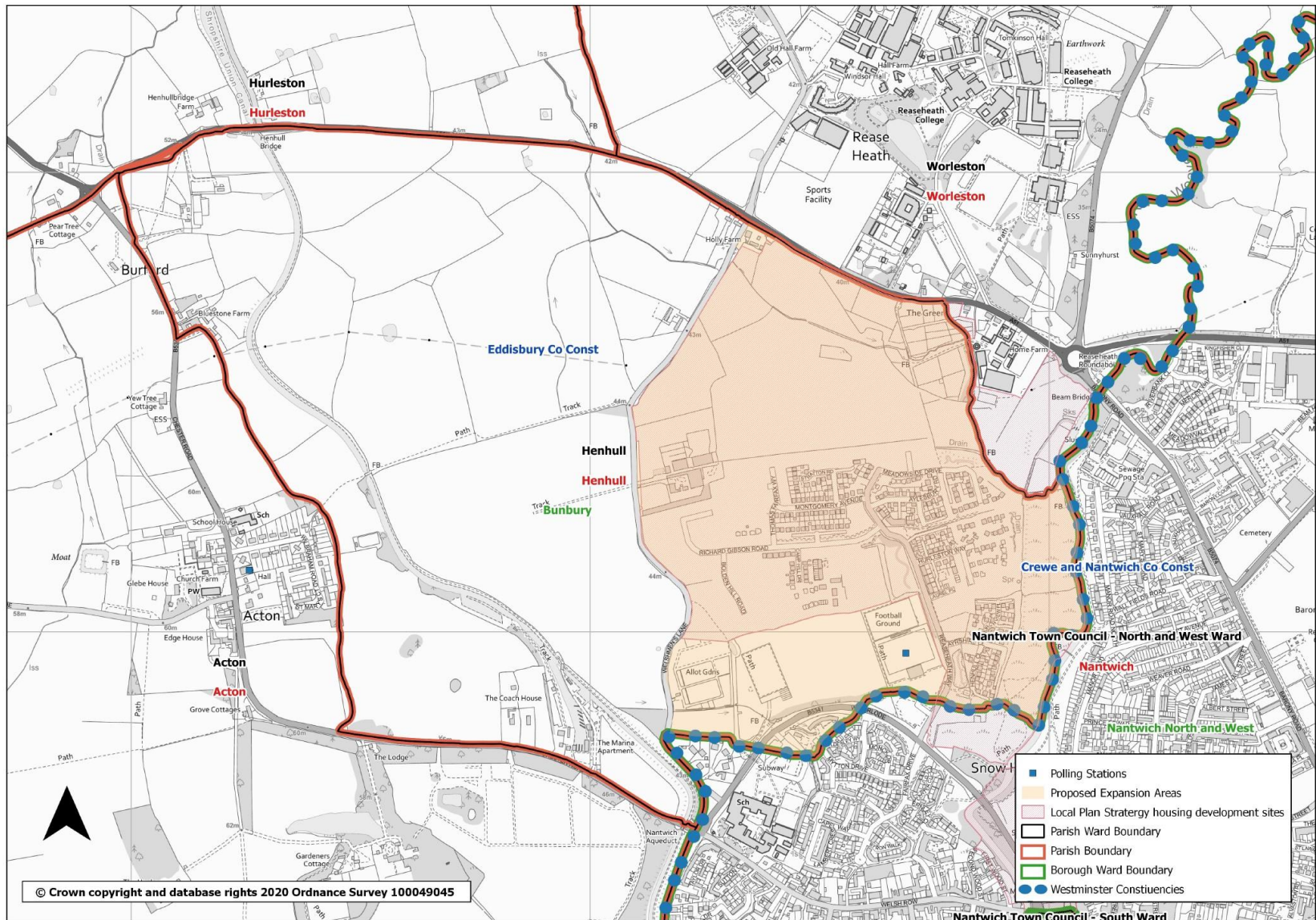


# Map 16: Henbury



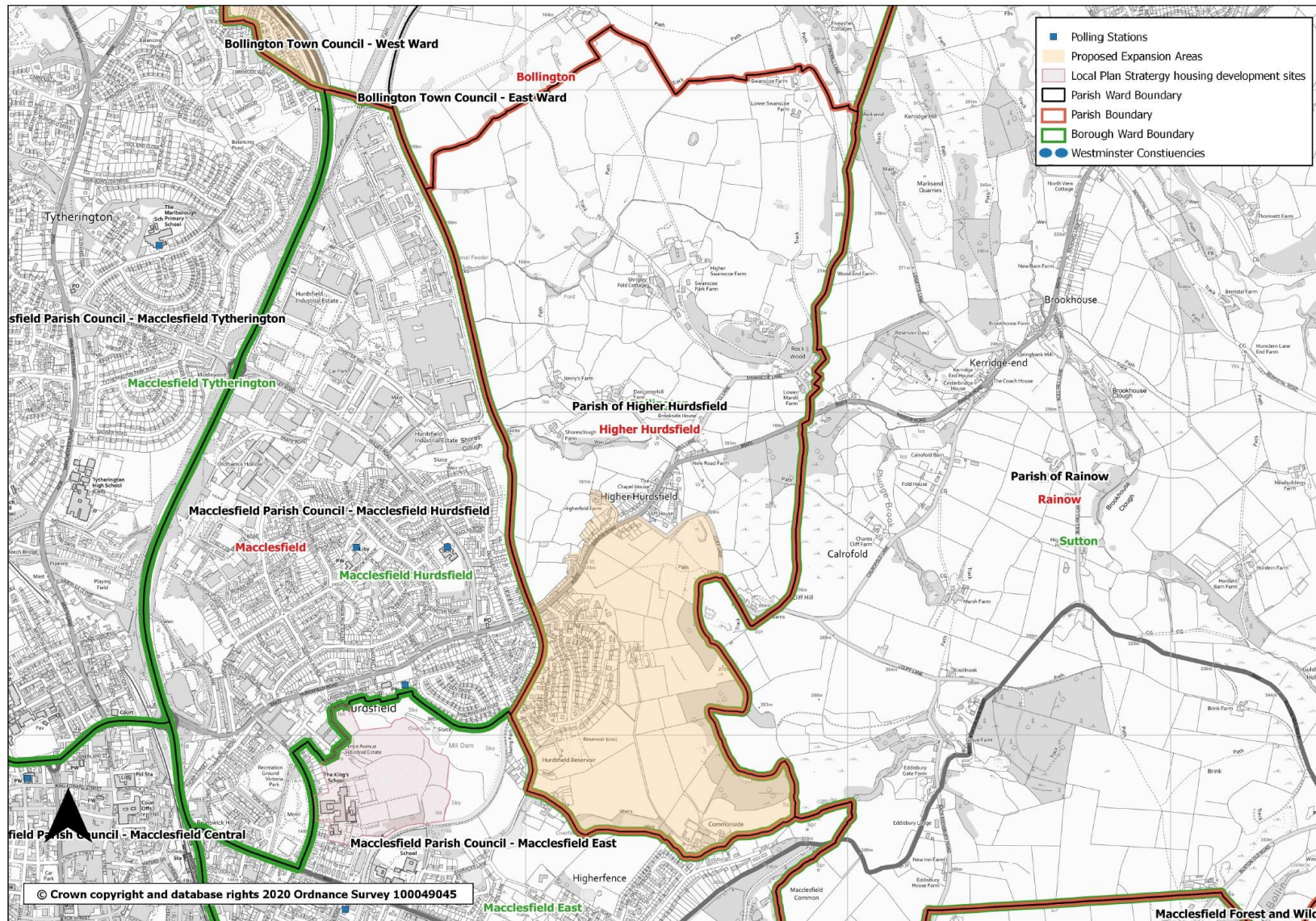


# Map 17: Henhull



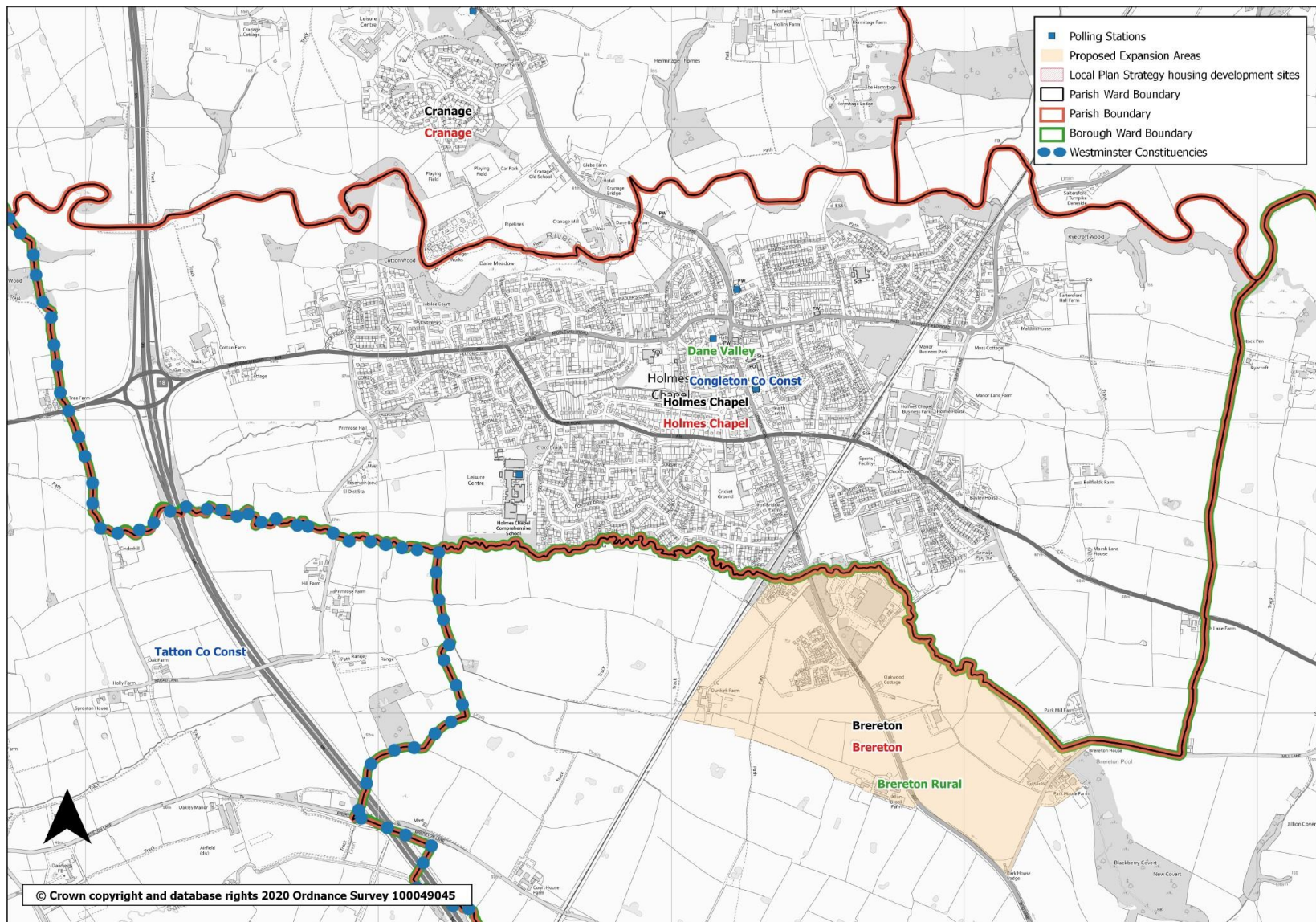


# Map 18: Higher Hurdshire



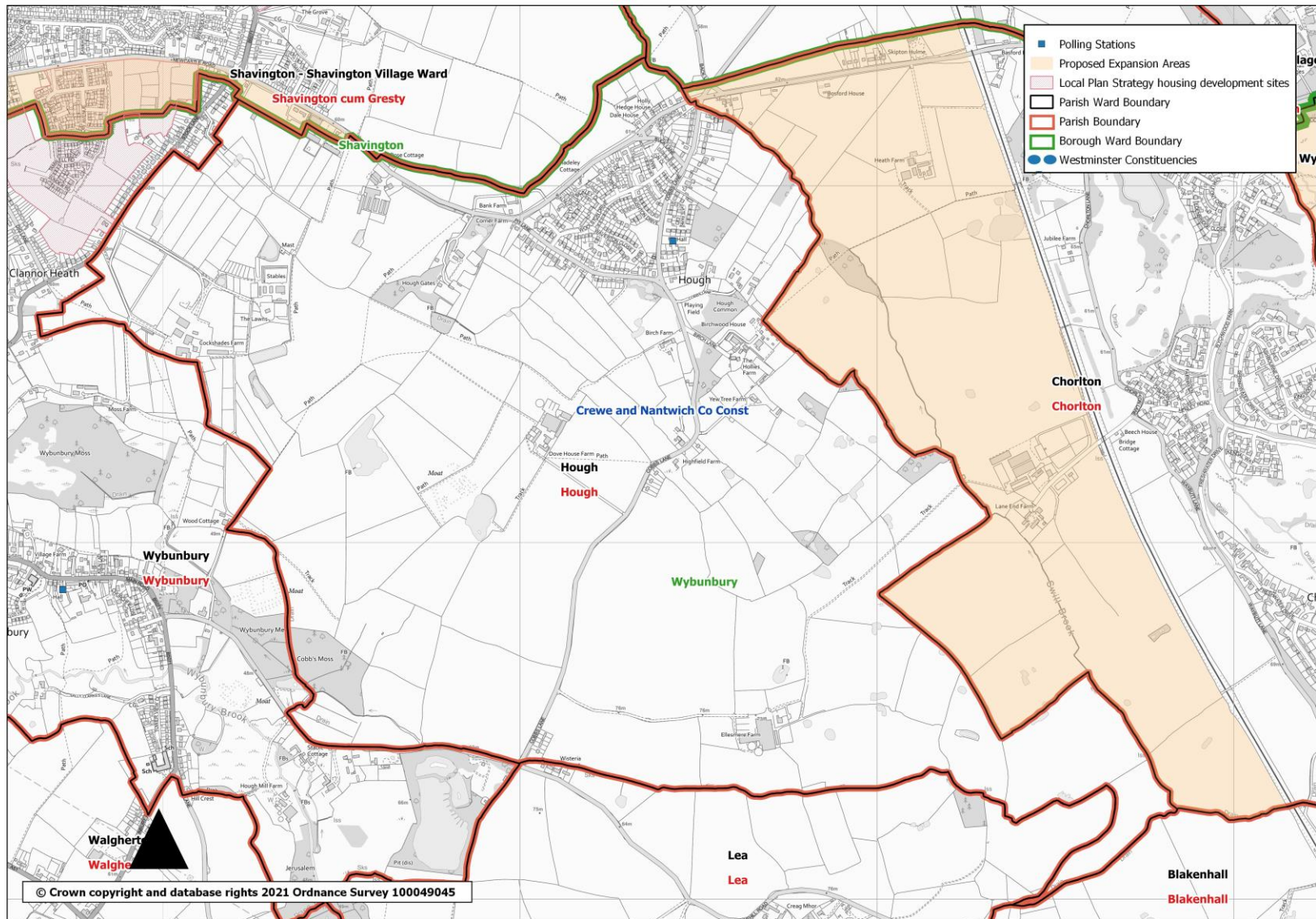


# Map 19: Holmes Chapel



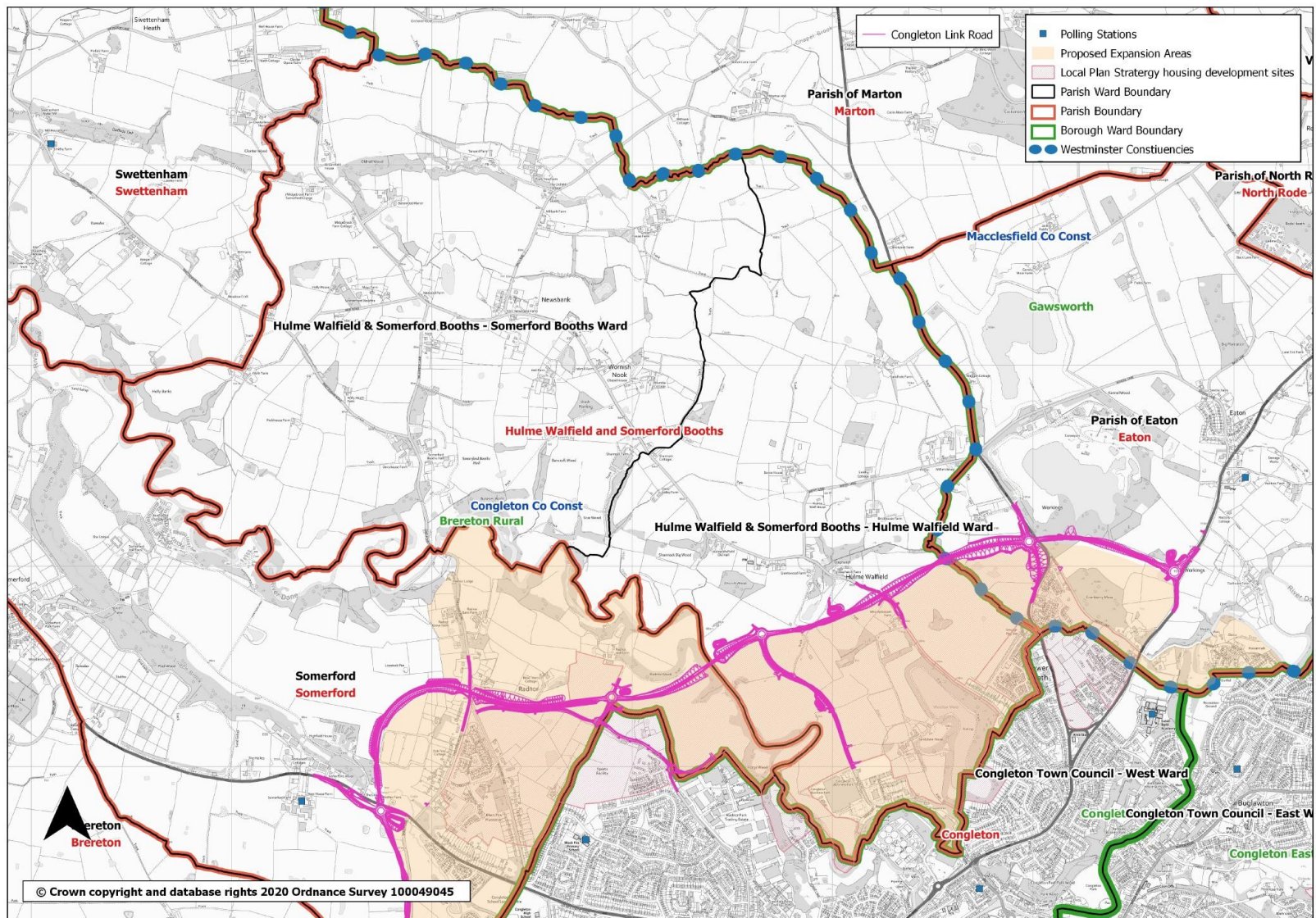


# Map 20: Hough



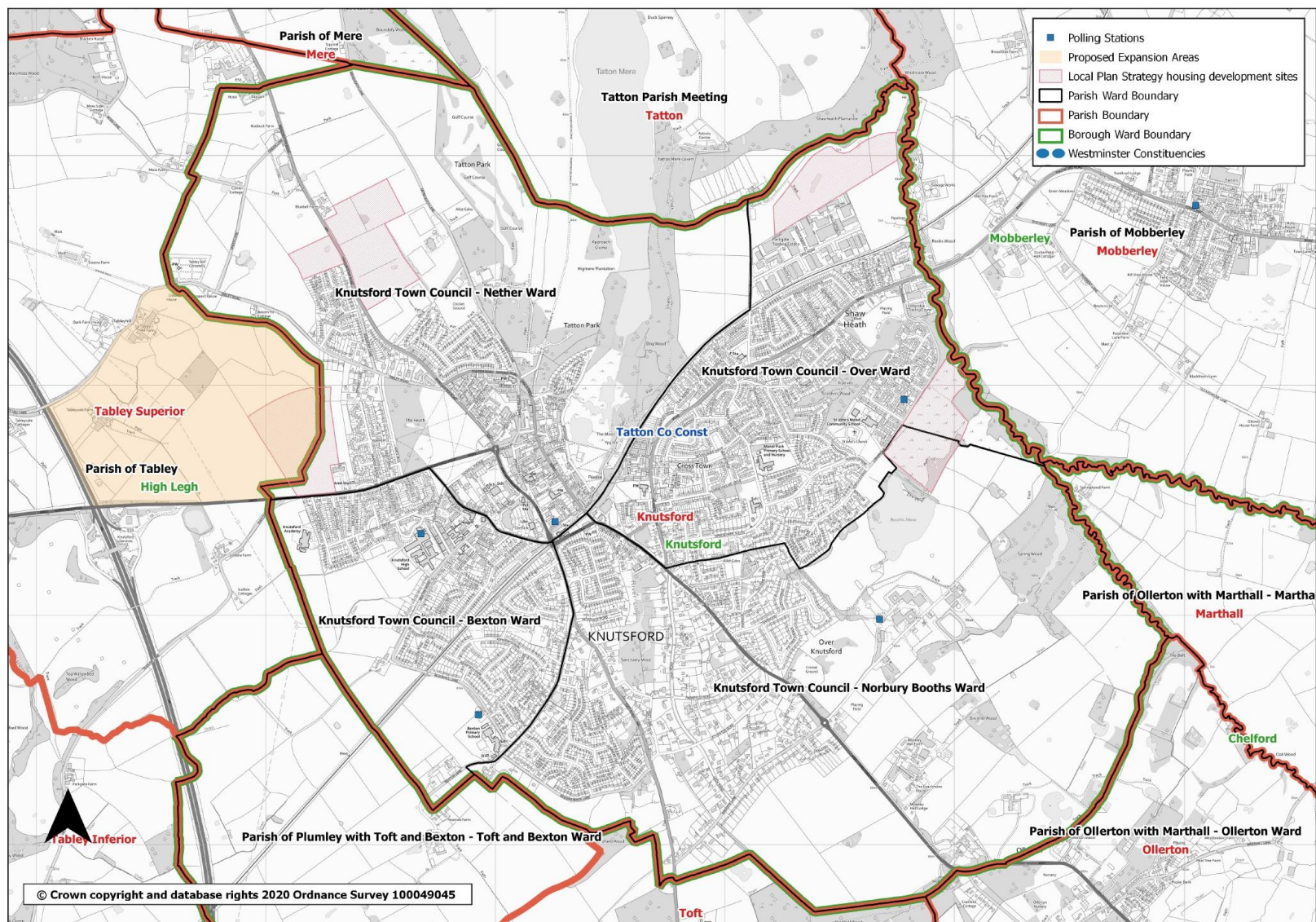


# Map 21: Hulme Walfield and Somerford Booths





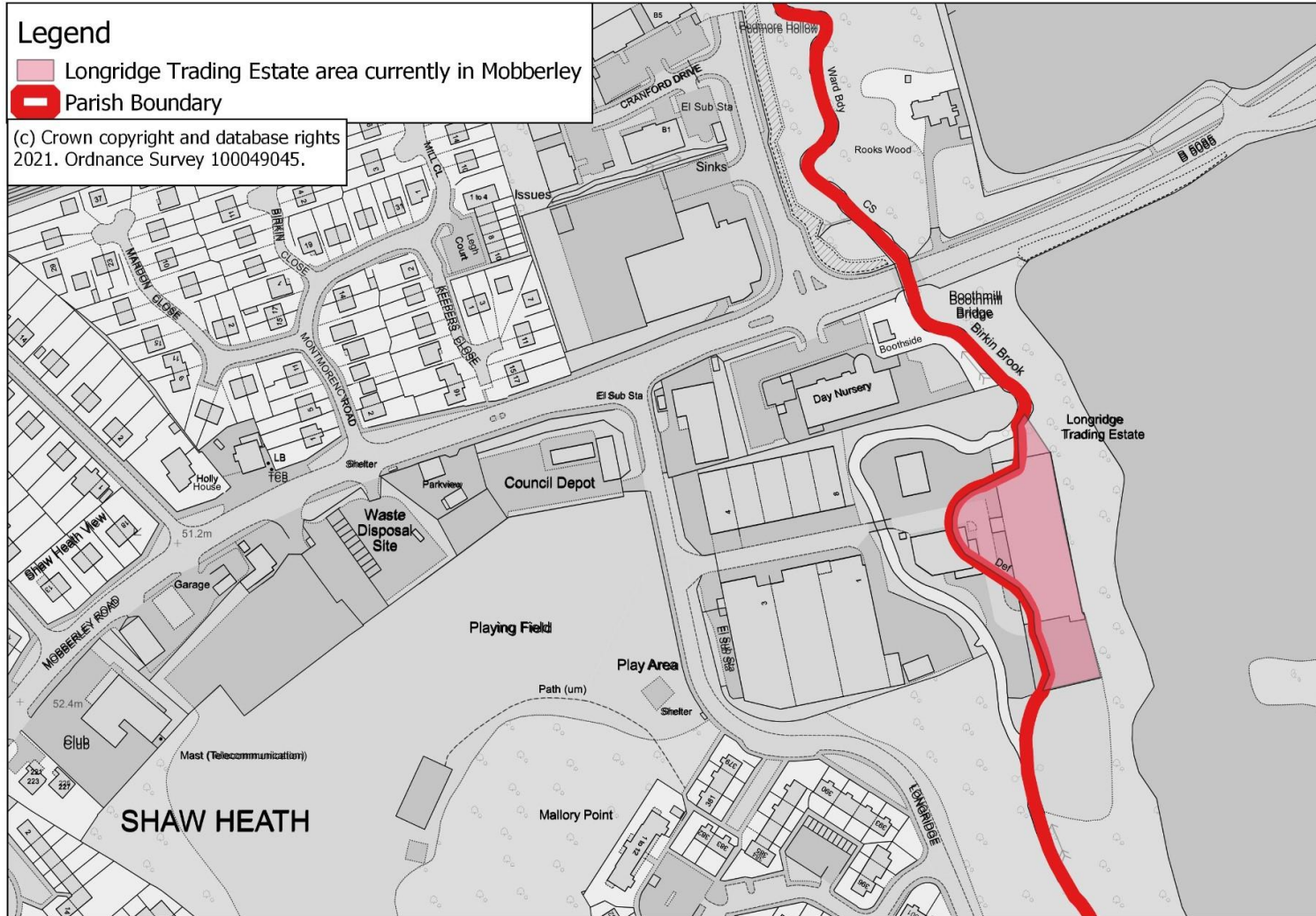
# Map 22a: Knutsford



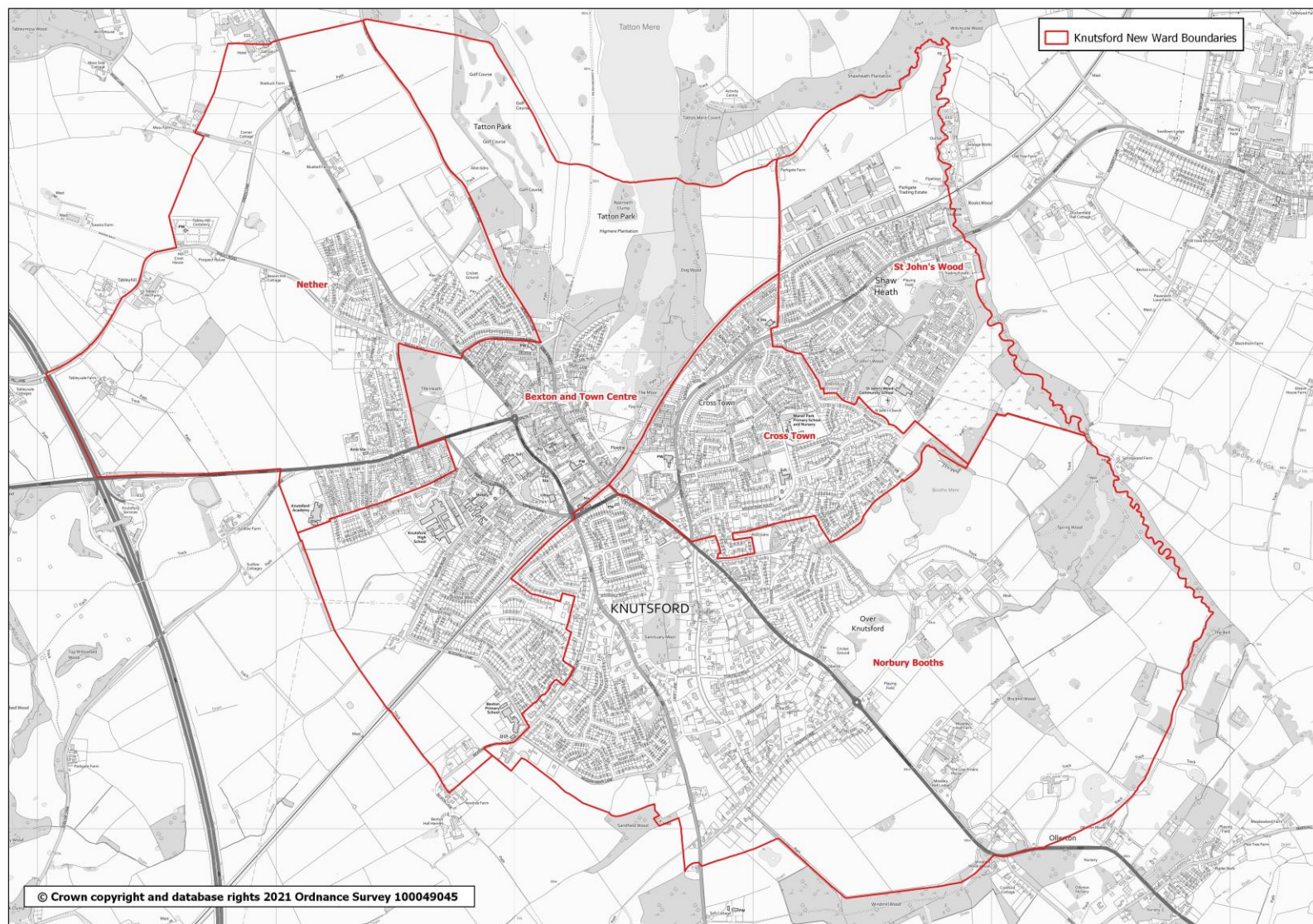


# Map 22b: Knutsford – Longridge Trading Estate

## Knutsford-Mobberley boundary around Longridge Trading Estate



# Map 22c: Knutsford – proposed new wards

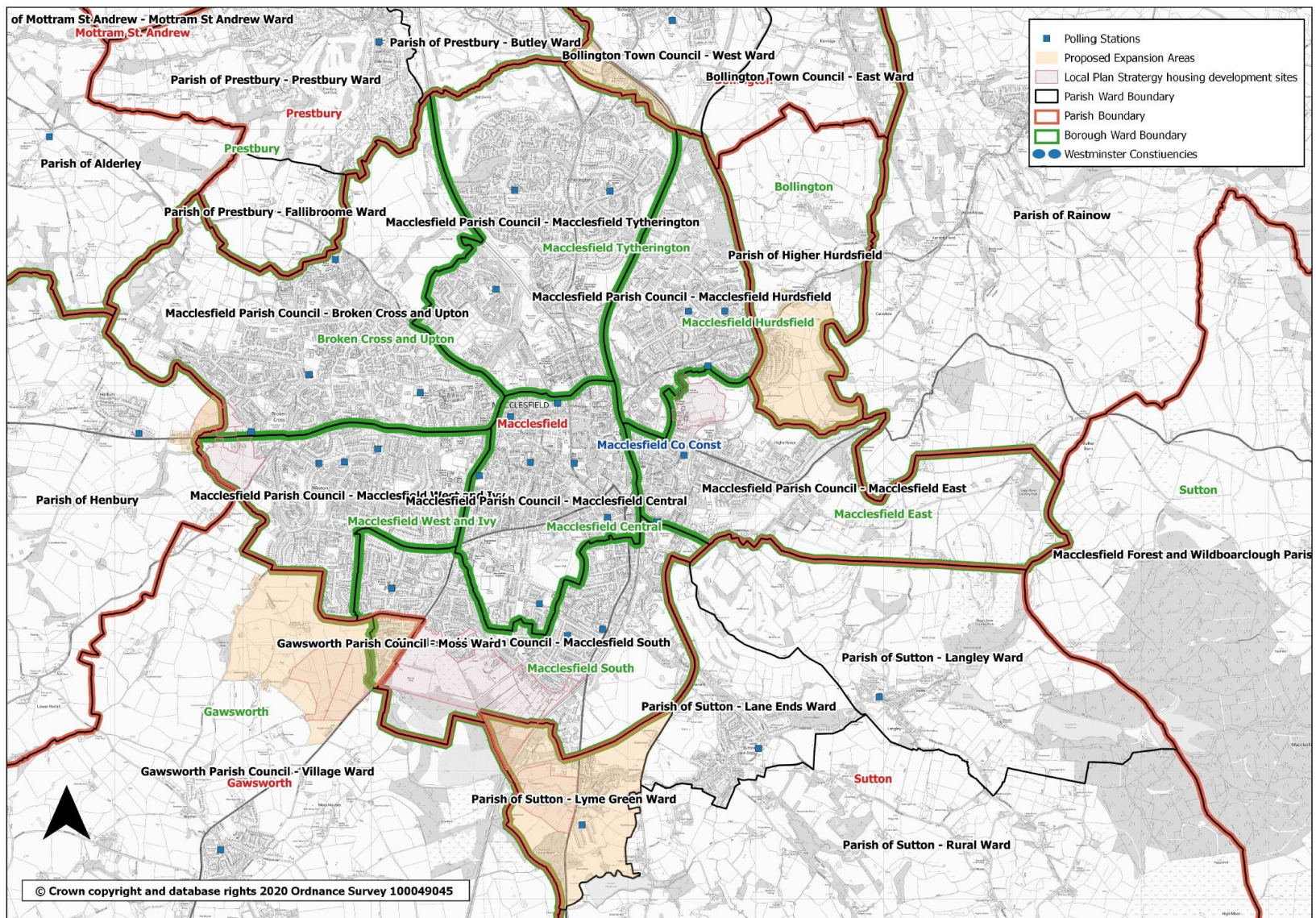






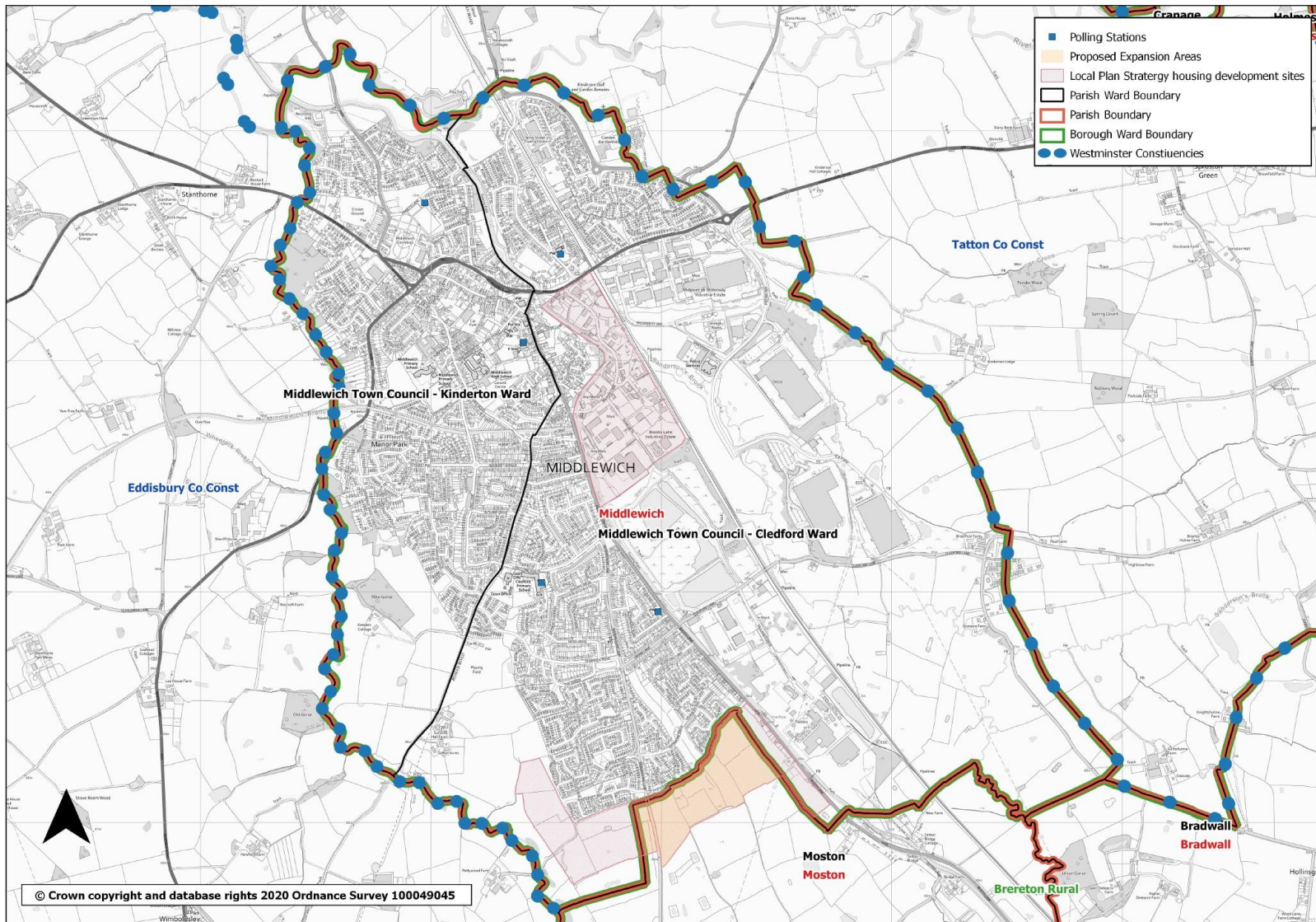


# Map 24: Macclesfield



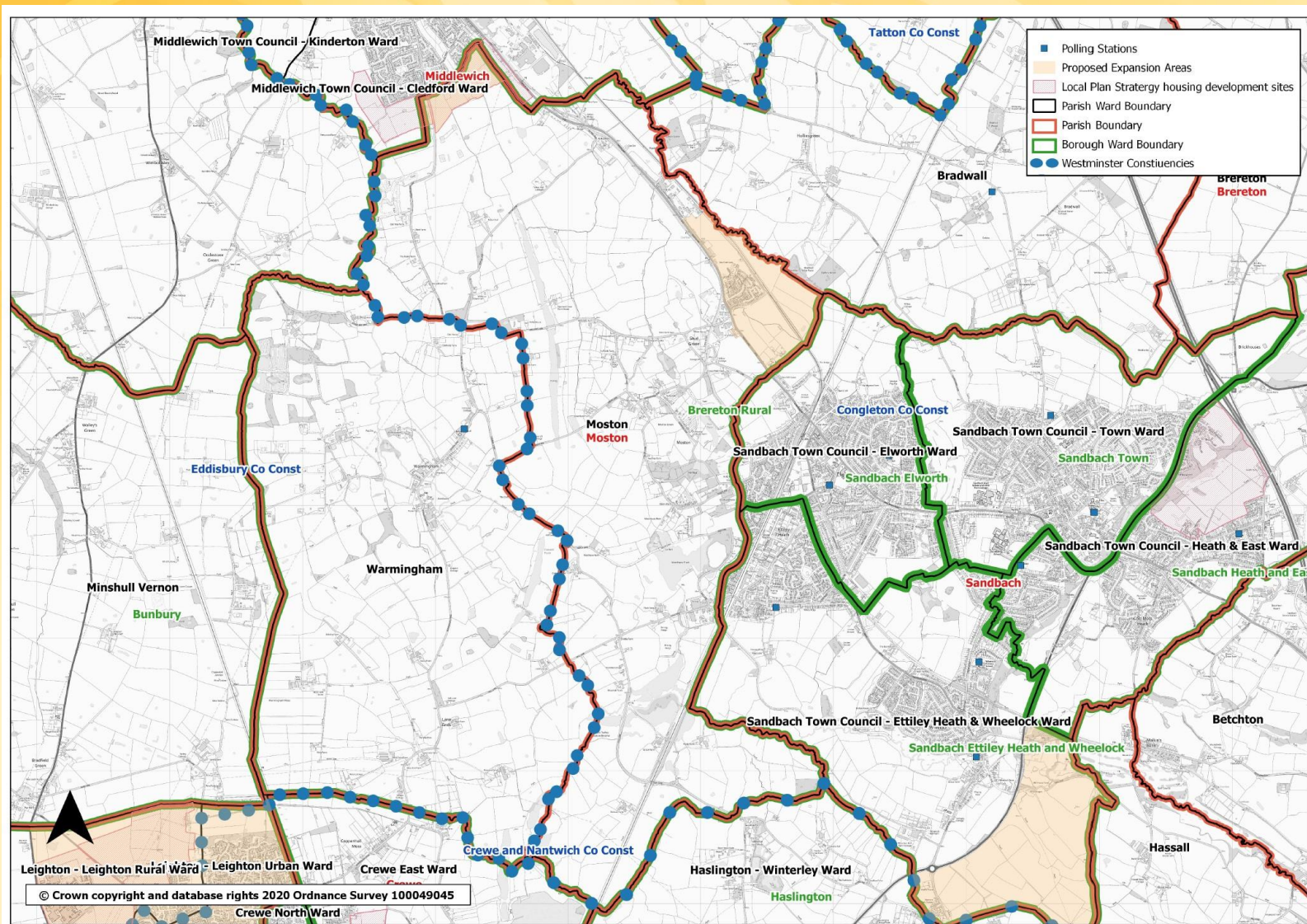


# Map 25: Middlewich



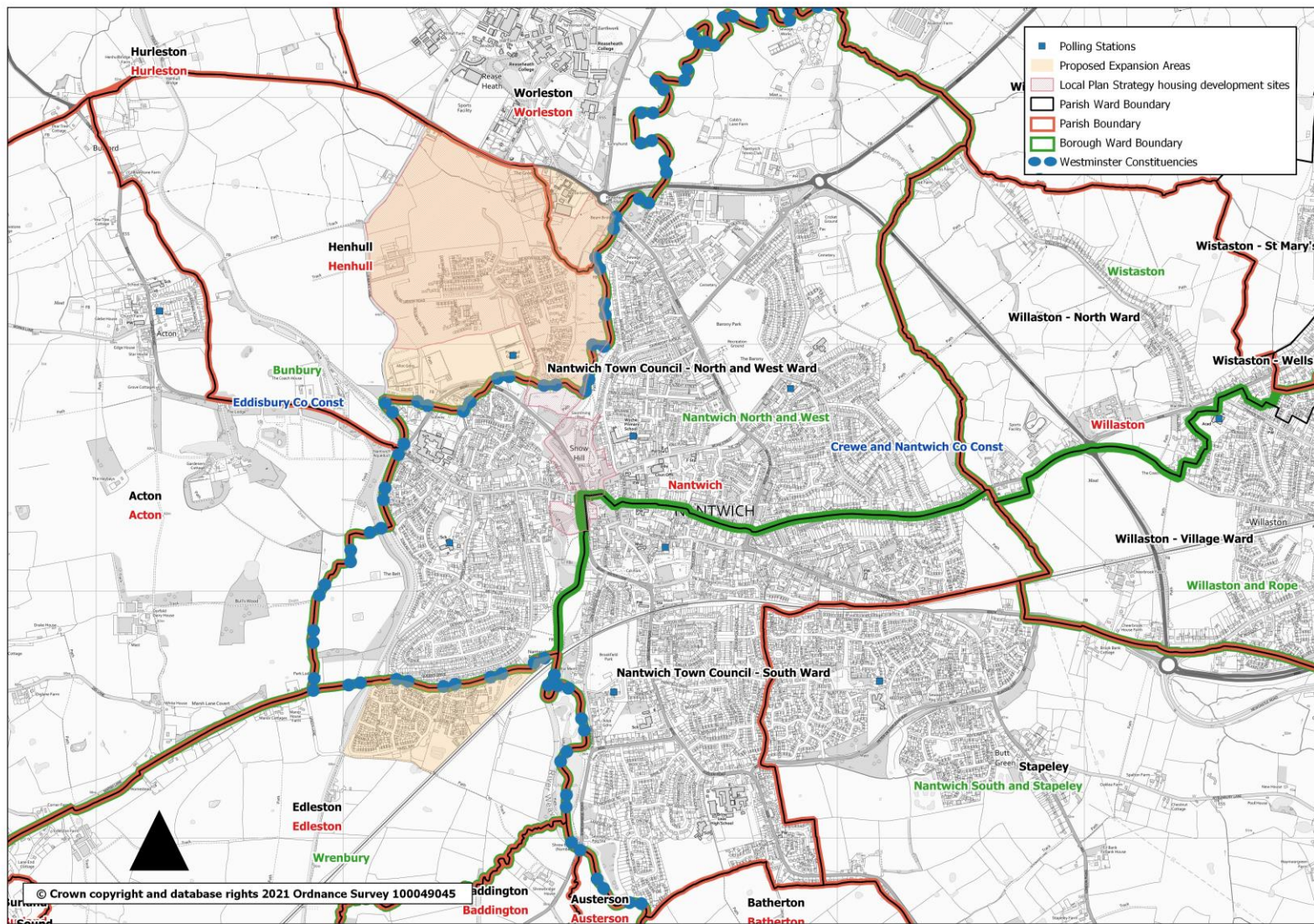


# Map 26: Moston



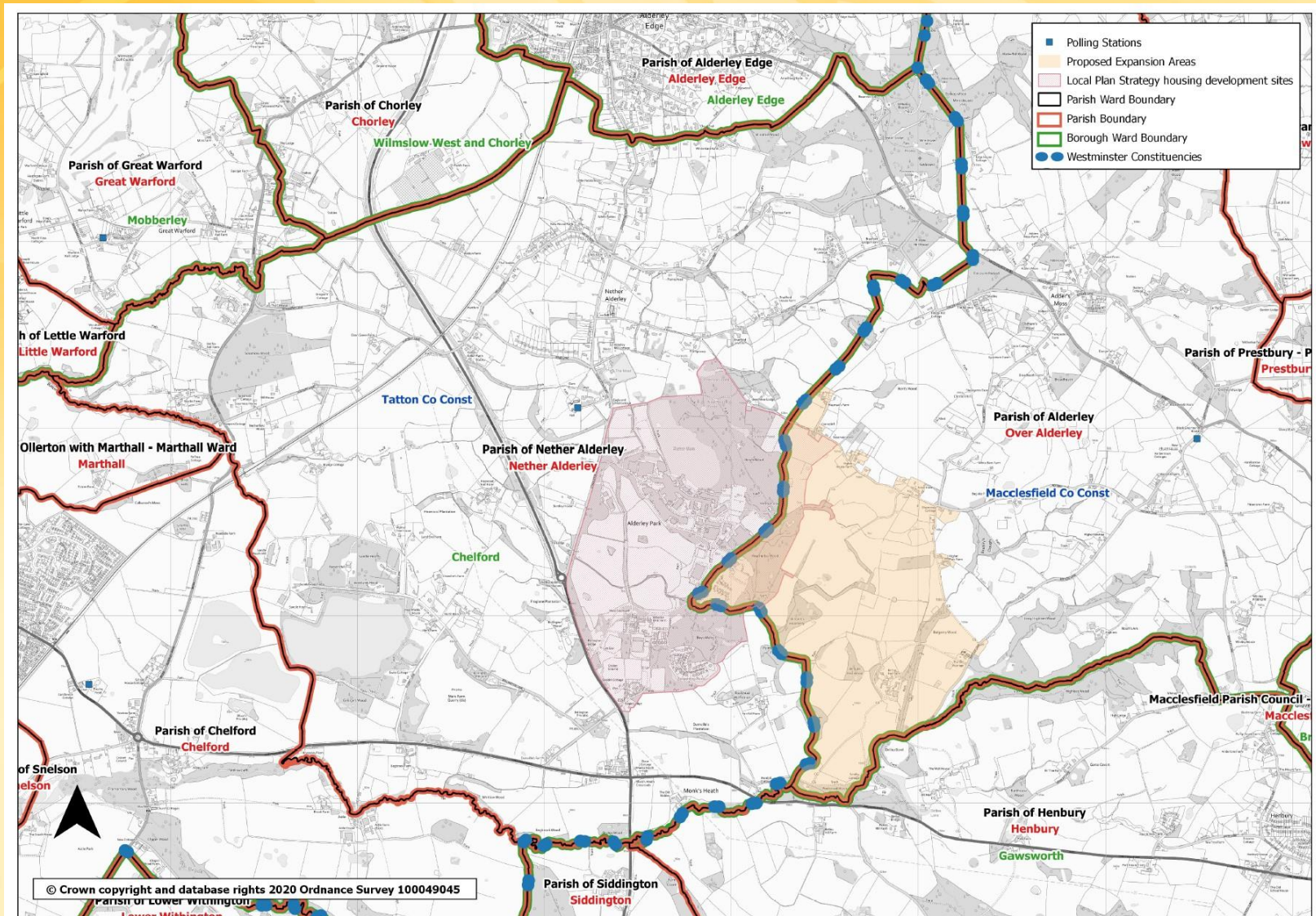


# Map 27: Nantwich



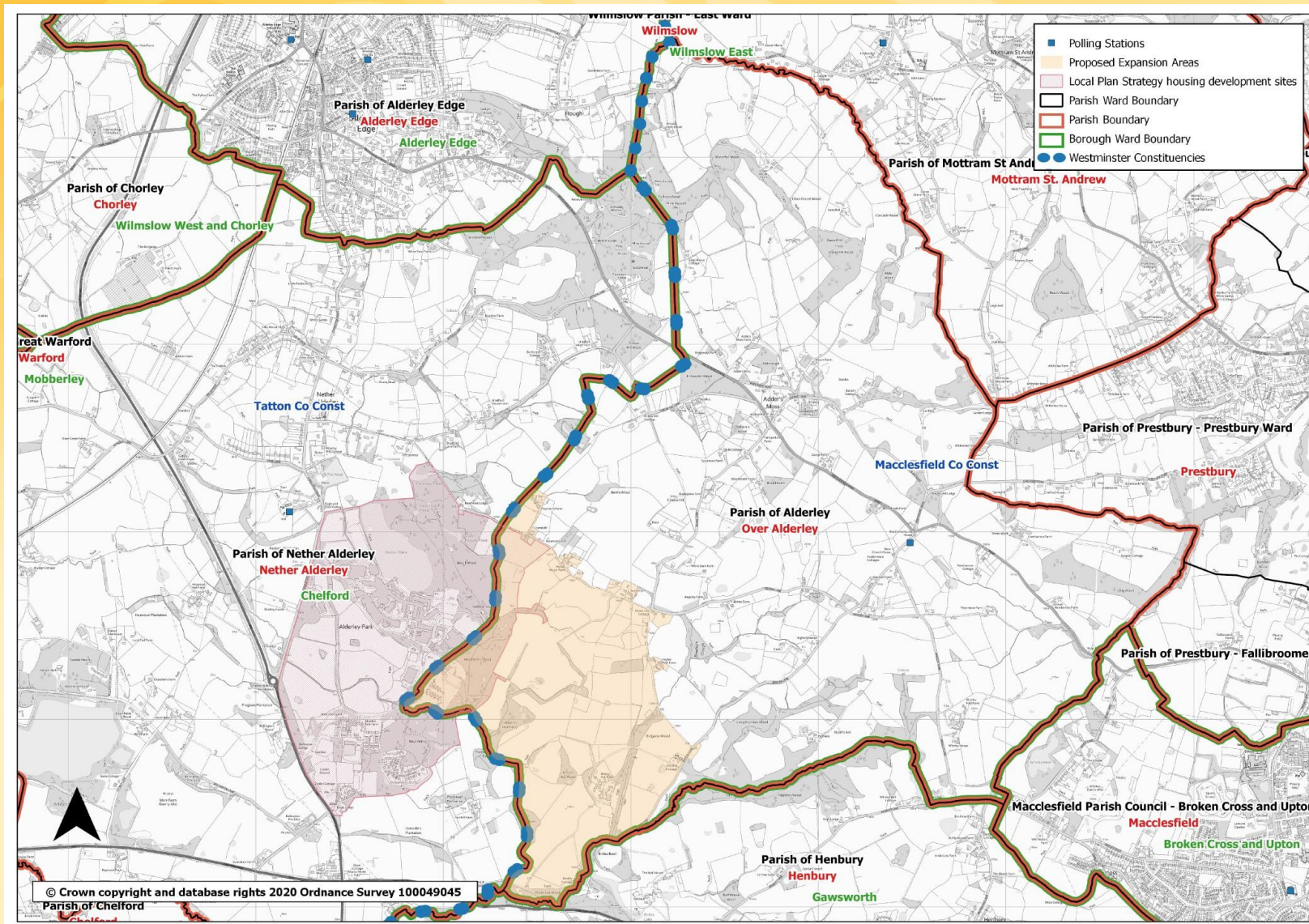


# Map 28: Nether Alderley



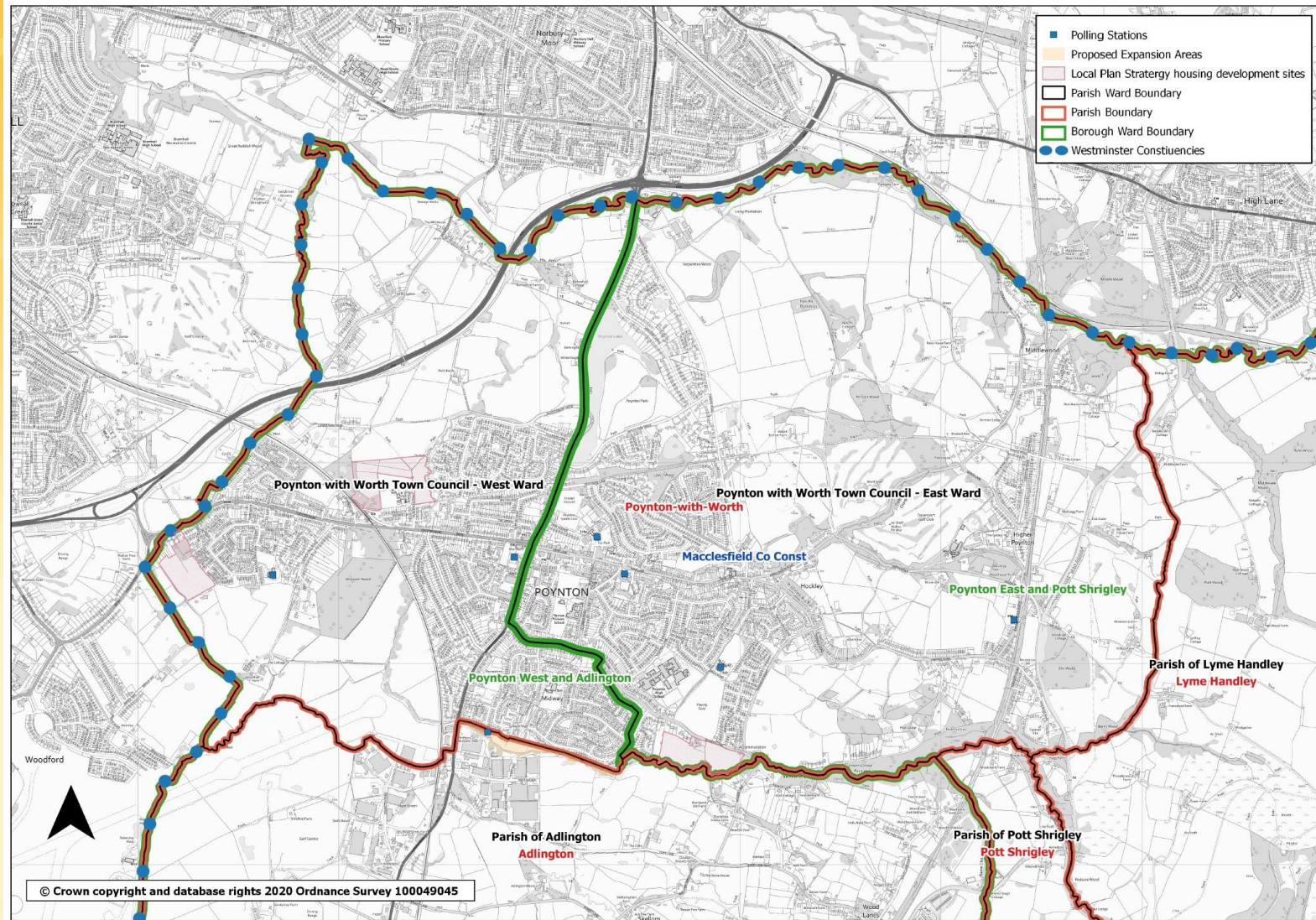


# Map 29: Over Alderley



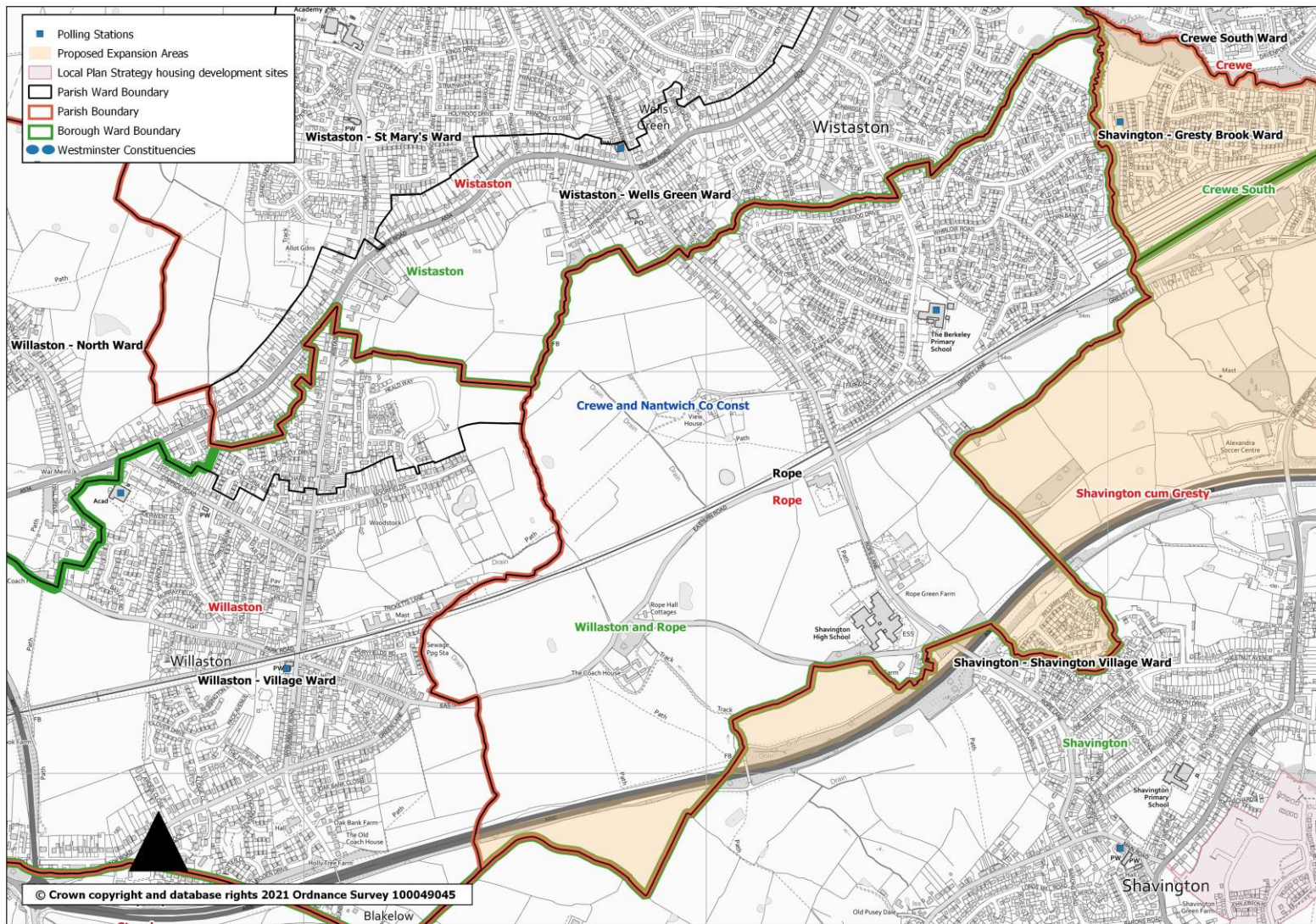


# Map 30: Poynton



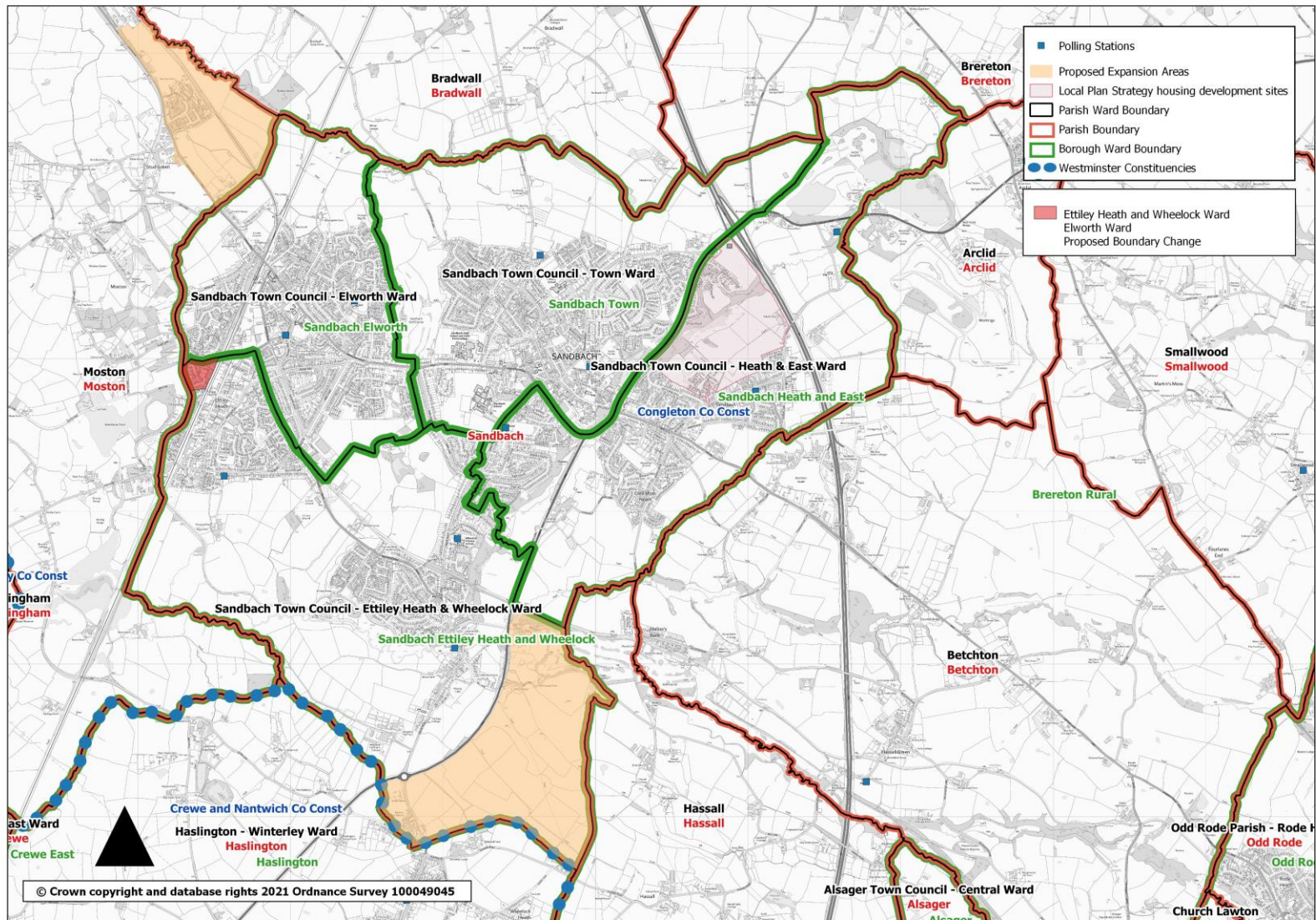


## Map 31: Rope



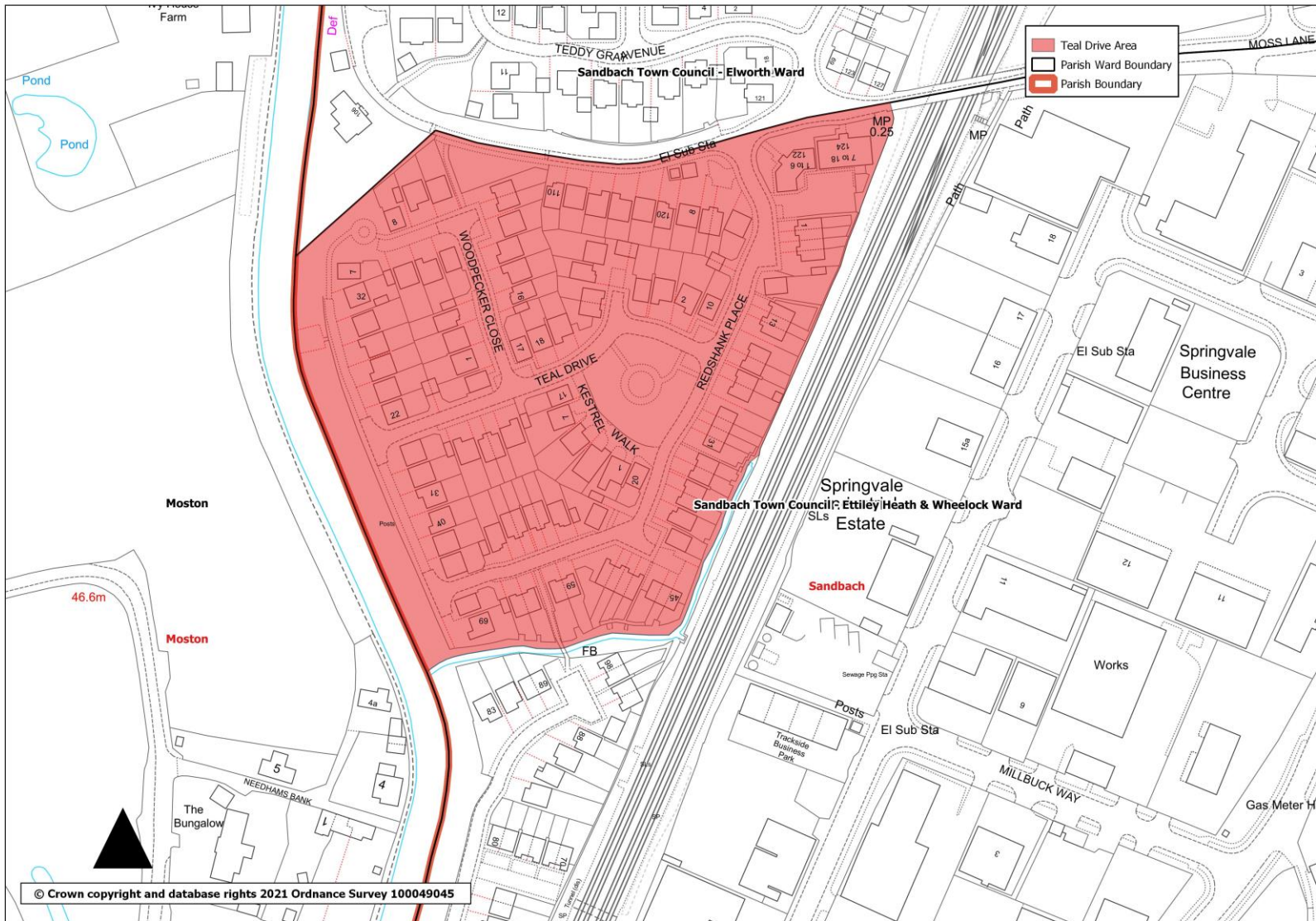


# Map 32a: Sandbach



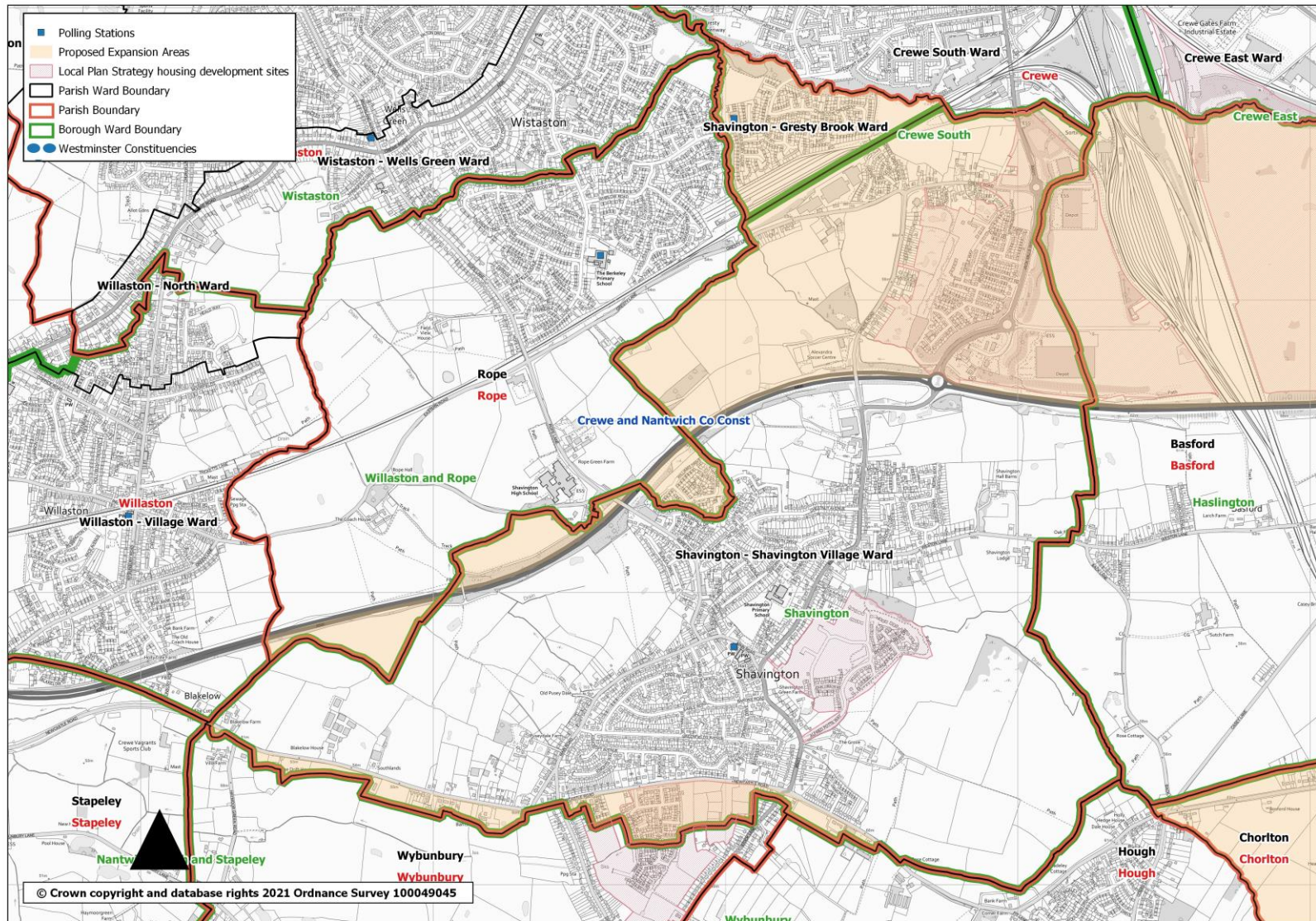


# Map 32b: Sandbach – Teal Drive area



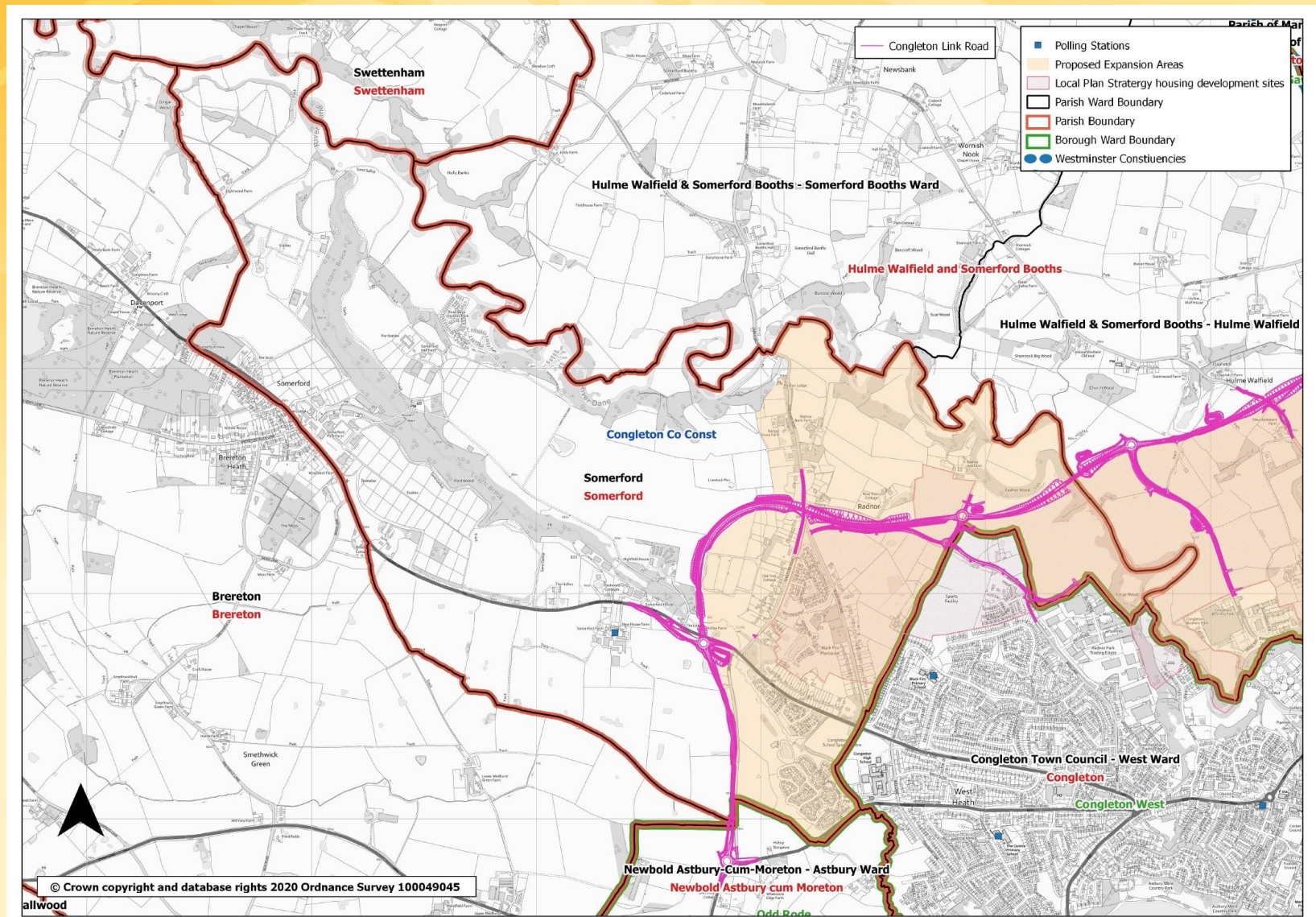


# Map 33: Shavington cum Gresty



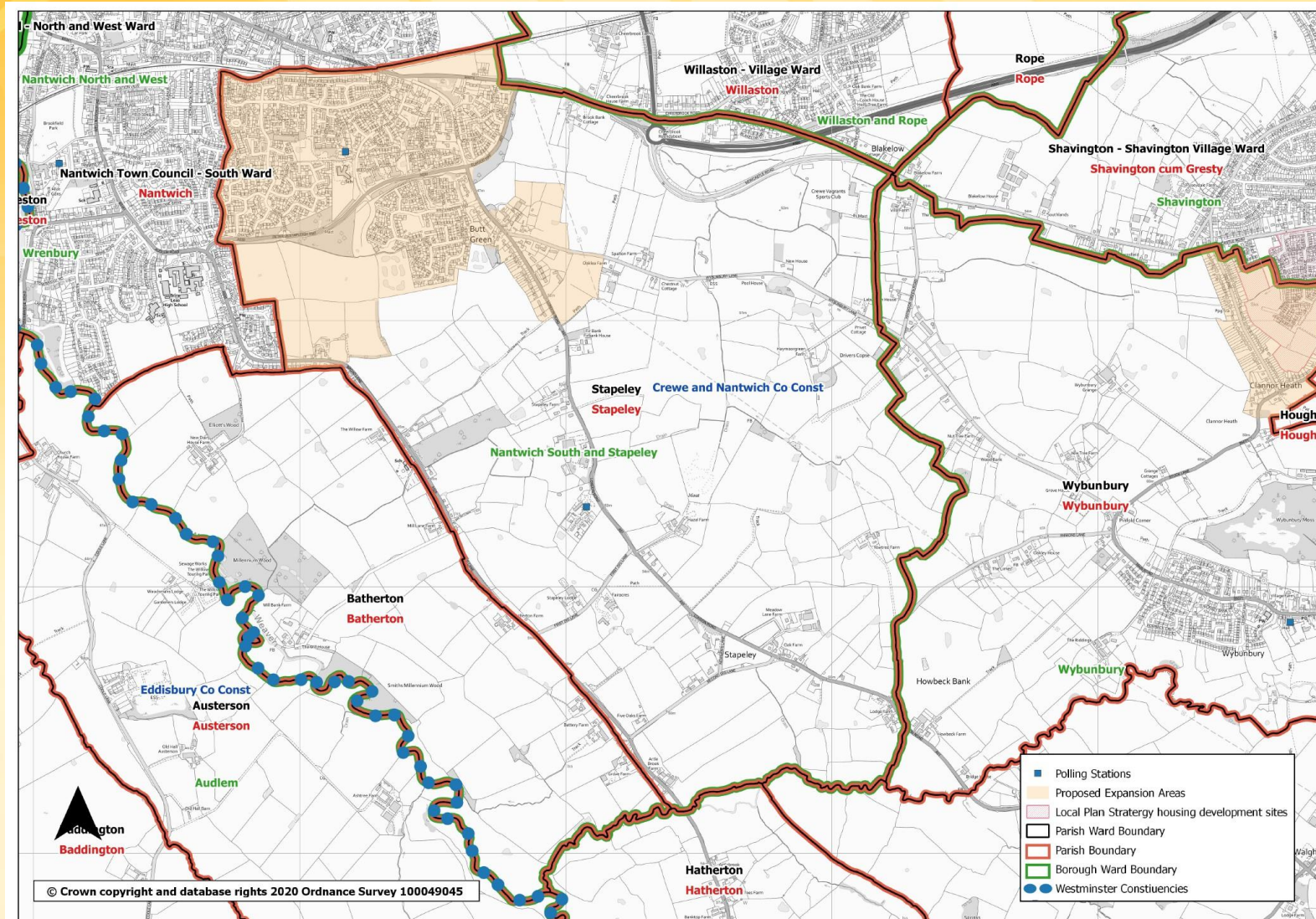


# Map 34: Somerford



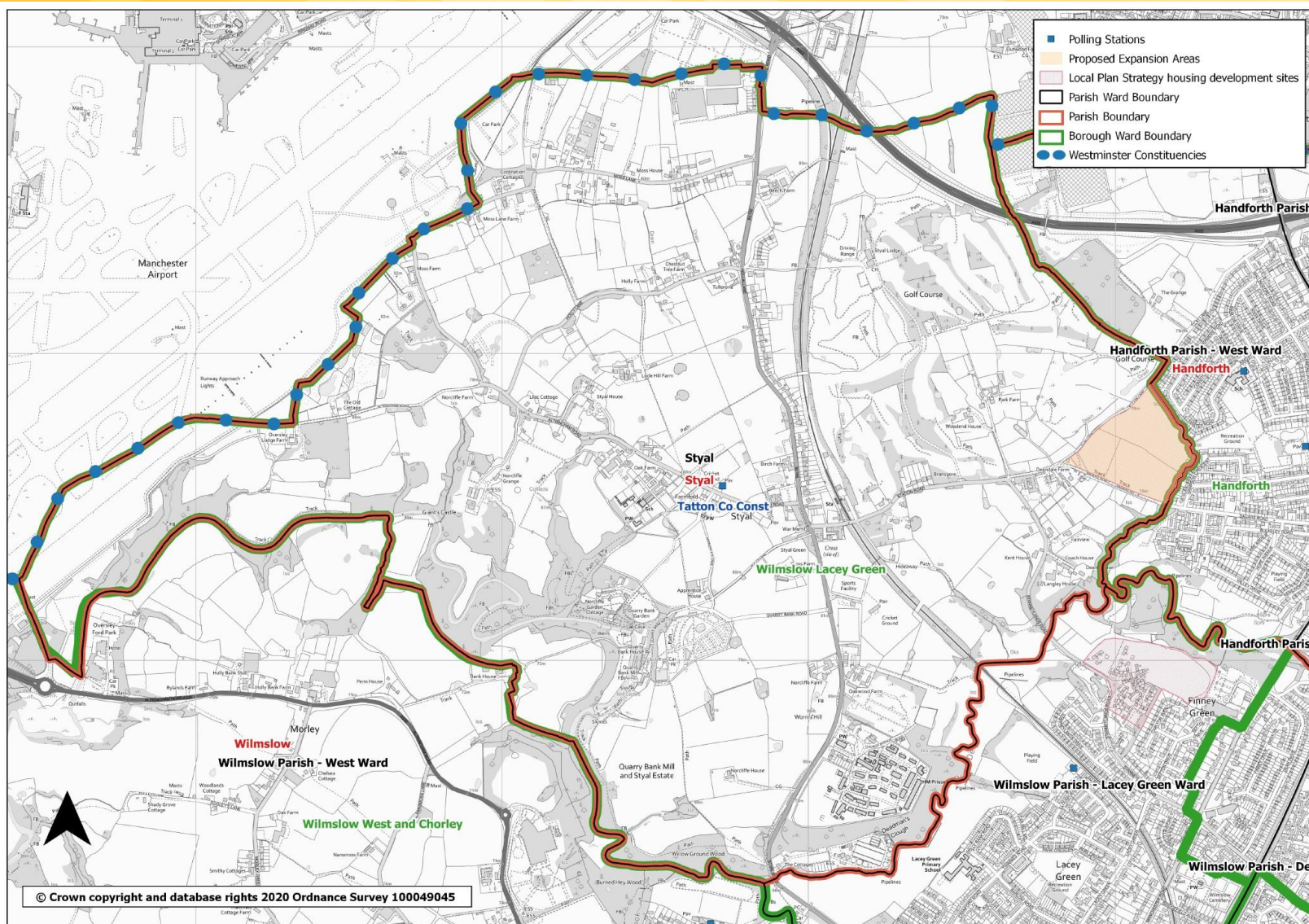


# Map 35: Stapeley





# Map 36: Styal

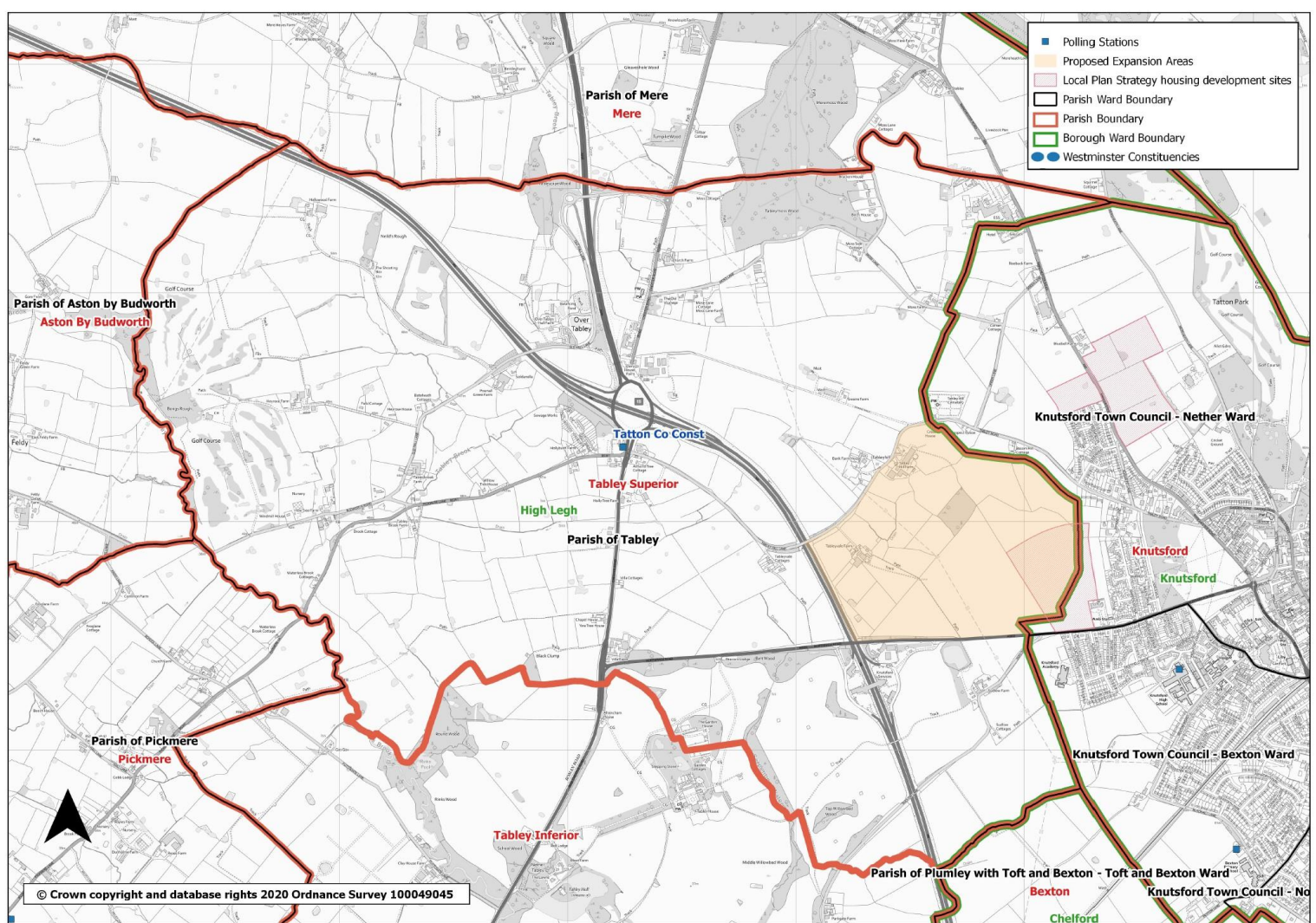








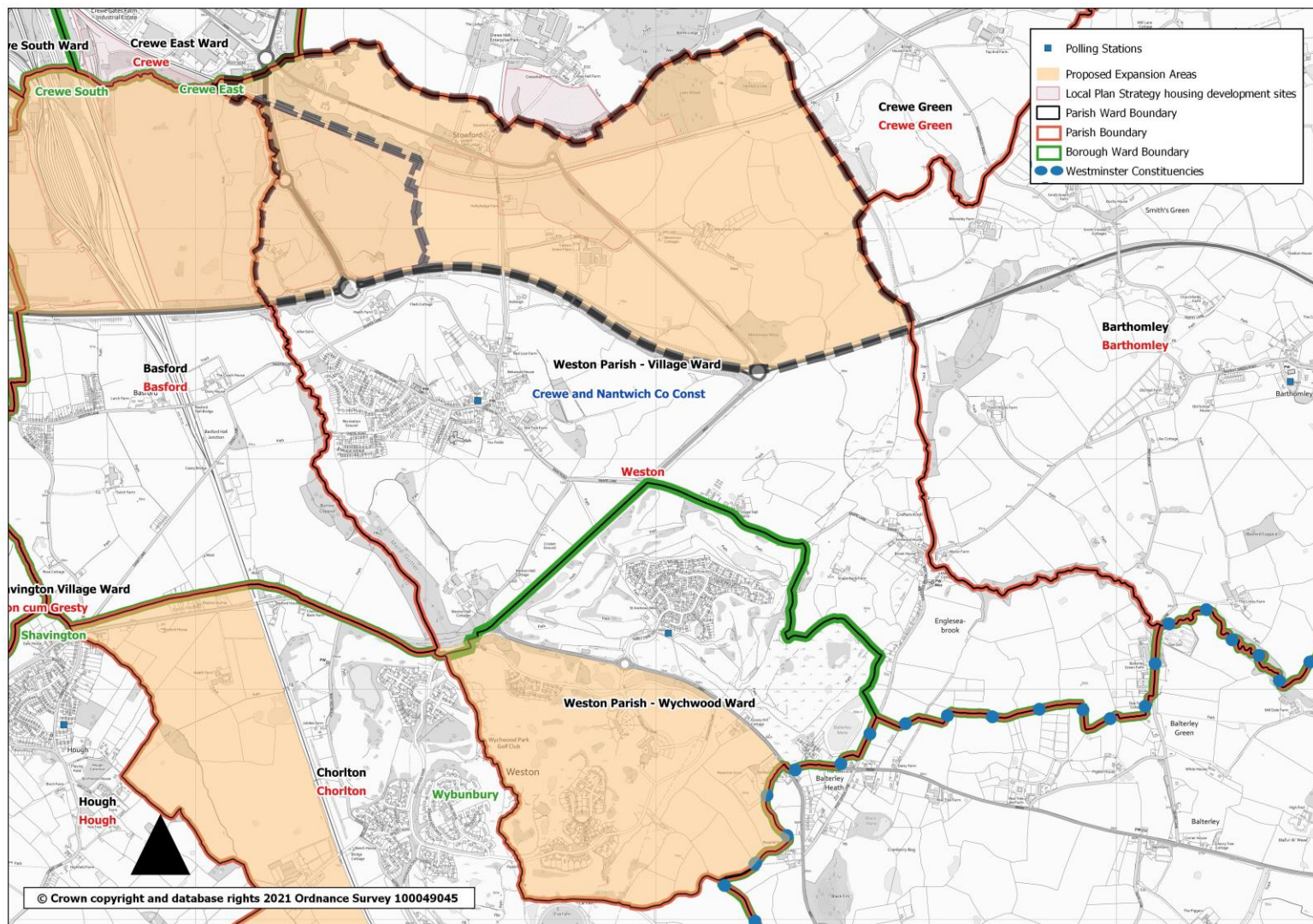
# Map 38: Tabley





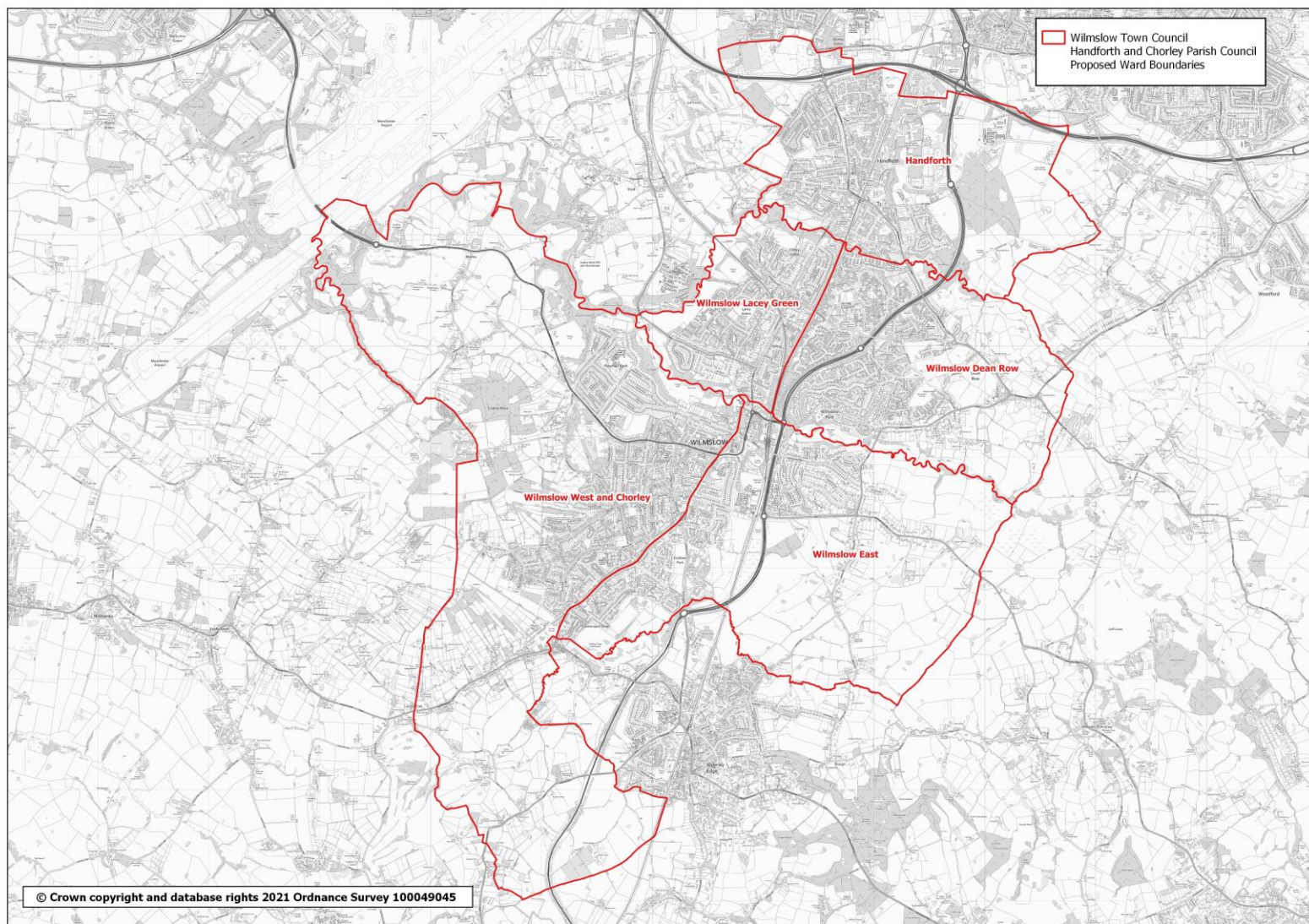
# Map 39: Weston

Dotted line indicates which parts of Weston would transfer to Crewe and which parts to Crewe Green.



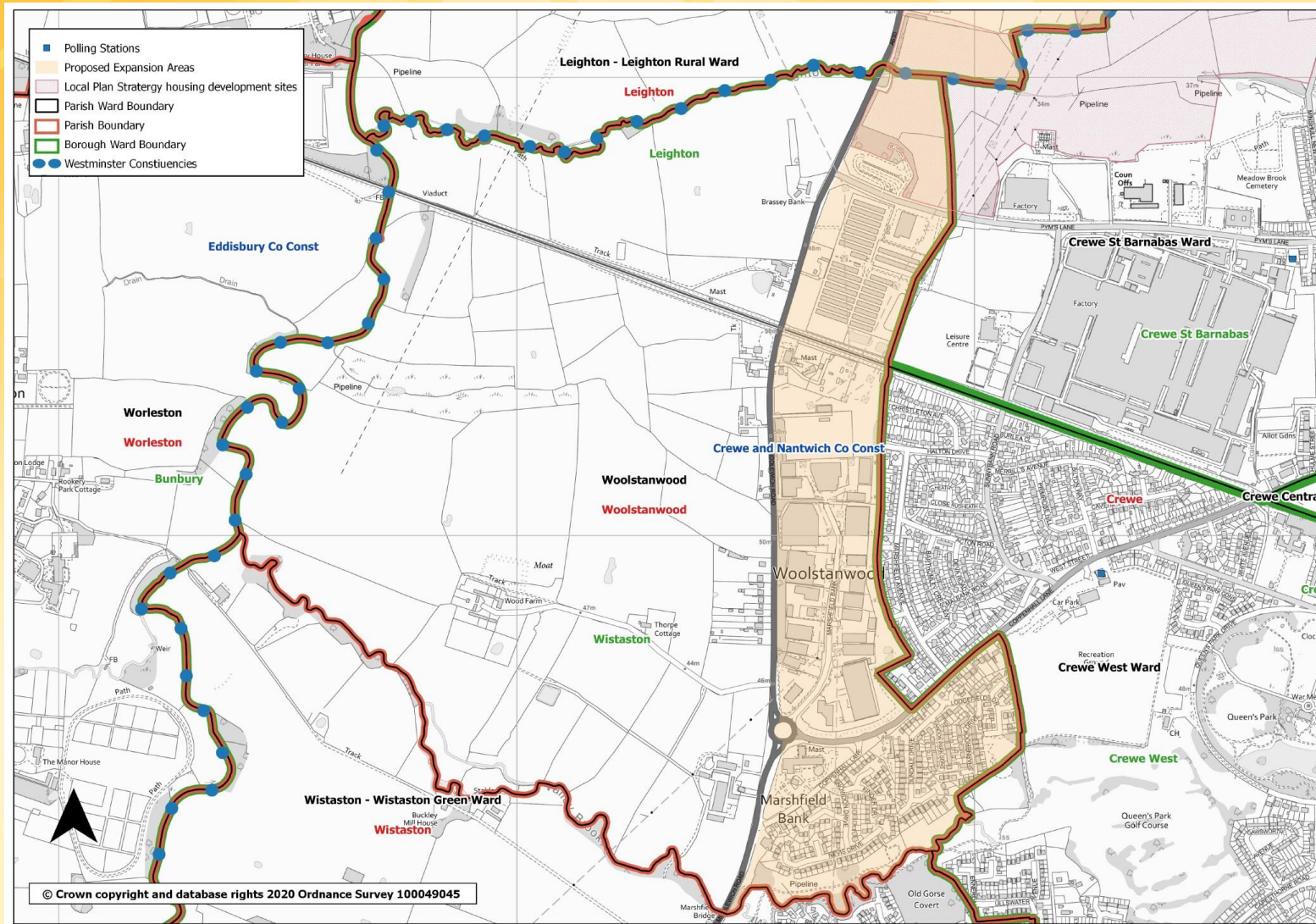


# Map 40: Wilmslow/ Handforth/ Chorley merger





# Map 41: Woolstanwood





# Map 42: Worlestone

