

Calderdale

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See attached for an outline proposal for a new ward map for Calderdale.

Attached Documents:

- calderdale.pdf

Suggestions for new wards in Calderdale

June 17, 2023

1 Introduction

In this document I will suggest an outline plan for new wards in Calderdale. The proposal to increase the number of councillors to 54 means that there should be 18 new wards, replacing the current 17.

Electoral equality I have tried to get all wards within 10%, using the forecast 2029 electorate. Using these figures the ideal electorate for a three member ward is 8890, giving a minimum of 8001 and a maximum of 9778.

Polling districts I have based my suggestions (and in particular my electorate figures) on existing polling districts, as these are the areas the forecast electorate data is available for. However, there are some cases where using existing polling districts does not make for good boundaries, and I have commented on some of these and suggested some adjustments. In addition the general scheme I've followed requires one polling district in Elland to be split between new wards to ensure electoral equality.

An outline map of my suggestions appears in Figure 1.

The forecast 2029 electorate in some groupings of current wards breaks down as follows:

- The three wards covering the west of the borough, Todmorden, Calder and Luddendenfoot, have a collective entitlement to 2.98 new wards.
- The four wards covering the area around Sowerby Bridge, Ripponden and Elland, in the south of the borough, have a collective entitlement to 4.26 new wards.
- The four wards covering the areas around Northowram, Shelf and Brighouse, in the east of the borough, have a collective entitlement to 4.23 new wards.
- The remaining wards, which are all largely within the Halifax urban area, have a collective entitlement to 6.53 new wards.



Figure 1: Outline map of suggestions. This map uses Ordnance Survey data from their Boundary Line product for current polling districts.

This suggests that a broad approach is to have 7 wards in the area covered by the “Halifax” group here, but to add small areas from the “eastern” and “southern” groups to get it closer to an entitlement to 7 wards. In the east, my suggestion is that the Clarendon area in the current Northowram & Shelf ward is a natural area to include in a Halifax ward, as it is part of the main Halifax urban area. In the south, the eastern end of the current Sowerby Bridge ward, around Pye Nest, is in fact traditionally more associated with Halifax than with Sowerby Bridge, and the urban areas are contiguous, so this would also be a natural area to include in a Halifax ward. That then allows the areas of Sowerby and Triangle, closely associated with Sowerby Bridge, to be included in Sowerby Bridge ward.

2 Proposed wards

Ward 1: Illingworth & Mixenden

This is based on the current ward, but I propose removing the Holmfild area (current polling district FF), which is somewhat separated from Illingworth. This reduces the electorate to within the target range.

Current polling districts: FA, FB, FC, FD, FE.

2029 electorate: 9037 (+2%)

Ward 2: Ovenden

This is based on the current Ovenden ward, but the Holmfild area removed from the previous ward needs to be included here, which leaves the ward oversized. Based on current polling districts, the natural one to remove would be JE (The Hebble). The electorate figure below is based on this, but that polling district is not a very natural unit and I suggest some adjustments in the section on Halifax Town ward, below.

Current polling districts: FF, JA, JB, JC, JD.

2029 electorate based on whole polling districts: 8788 (−1%)

Ward 3: Halifax Town

This ward would cover Halifax town centre, and some adjoining areas, mostly inner urban areas. It would include the two Town polling districts and Boothtown from the current Town ward and eastern parts of the current Park ward. In addition I suggest including the Clarendon area in the current Northowram & Shelf ward, which adjoins Boothtown, and the area at the southern end of the current Ovenden ward which needs to be removed from that to ensure electoral equality. The electorate below is based on this

ward including polling districts JE (The Hebble) and HC (Claremount), but in both cases the polling district boundaries are not ideal, so I suggest some adjustments below.

Current polling districts: HC, JE, KE, KF, RA, RB, RC.

2029 electorate based on whole polling districts: 8958 (+1%)

Suggested adjustment 1: The current Claremount polling district includes an area north of Shibden Park which is more associated with Northowram than with Claremount. I suggest retaining this area in Northowram & Shelf ward.

Suggested adjustment 2: The western part of The Hebble polling district, in the Wheatley area, would be out on a limb in this ward. I suggest only including the eastern part, in the Lee Mount area, here, retaining Wheatley in Ovenden ward. I then suggest partially making up for this by including adjoining areas in polling district JB, also part of the Lee Mount area, around Wheatley Lane, here; these areas are dominated by Victorian terraced housing which is unlike most of the rest of Ovenden ward. (The area of JB around Ovenden Way, however, should remain in Ovenden ward.)

These adjustments will reduce the electorate of this ward and increase those of Ovenden and Northowram & Shelf. If these adjustments leave the electorate of this ward too low, it would be reasonable to adjust the boundary with my proposed Wainhouse Tower ward southwards a little, in the Savile Road area, or to move a little more territory from Ovenden, where the Victorian terraced housing extends further up Ovenden Road.

Ward 4: Salterhebble

This ward would include the south-eastern parts of the main Halifax urban area, on either side of the lower Hebble, Siddal from the current Town ward and the Salterhebble, Copley and Skircoat Green areas from Skircoat. There are several crossings of the Hebble in this area. I have also included Southowram, which shares a current ward with Siddal and is well connected to it.

Current polling districts: NC, ND, RD, RE, RF.

2029 electorate based on whole polling districts: 8669 (−2%)

Suggested adjustment: I suggest including the area of polling district NB east of Huddersfield Road, and also the Calderdale Royal Hospital, here instead of in Wainhouse Tower ward; this would allow areas in the west of polling district NC (Skircoat Green), in particular Broomfield Avenue and Grange Park, to be included in Wainhouse Tower, where they would probably fit better. The same is true of the part of polling district ND (Copley) west of Copley proper. This will cause a net shift of electors from Wainhouse Tower to Salterhebble, which if anything should improve electoral equality.

Ward 5: People's Park

This ward is based on the current Park ward, but that ward is slightly oversized, so I suggest transferring areas in its east to Halifax Town ward. I have adjusted the name to make it clear which Park it refers to.

Current polling districts: KA, KB, KC, KD, KG.

2029 electorate: 8128 (−9%)

Ward 6: Wainhouse Tower

This is based on the current Skircoat ward, but it also includes the Pye Nest area (current polling districts PB and PF) from the current Sowerby Bridge ward. As mentioned in the introduction, Pye Nest is traditionally more associated with Halifax than with Sowerby Bridge. Because the Skircoat Green area is not included, I suggest a new name, and the name I've used here refers to the very prominent landmark of Wainhouse Tower, which is roughly in the centre of the proposed ward.

Current polling districts: PB, PF, NA, NB, NE, NF.

2029 electorate based on whole polling districts: 9630 (+8%)

Ward 7: Sowerby Bridge

This is based on the current Sowerby Bridge ward, but is further west. It includes the Sowerby and Triangle areas, both of which are historically associated with Sowerby Bridge, and in the case of Sowerby contiguous with the town.

Current polling districts: MA, MB, MC, PA, PC, PD, PE.

2029 electorate based on whole polling districts: 9263 (+4%)

Suggested adjustment: the current polling district PB includes a largely industrial area of the Calder valley floor close to Sowerby Bridge town centre, around Wakefield Road. I suggest that this area should be included in this ward rather than Wainhouse Tower ward; this would cause a small shift of electorate from Wainhouse Tower to Sowerby Bridge.

Ward 8: Ripponden & Stainland

The current Ryburn ward contains two main areas; one is the town of Ripponden and its surroundings, including Barkisland, and the other is areas which are closely associated with Sowerby Bridge, in particular

Sowerby, Triangle and the White Windows (MC) polling district. I suggest moving those to the Sowerby Bridge ward, and replacing them here with the parish of Stainland and District, which adjoins Ripponden to the east. Note that the boundary I suggest between this ward and Sowerby Bridge ward has been proposed as a constituency boundary by the Boundary Commission for England.

Current polling districts: DC, DD, DE, MA, ME, MF, MG, MH, MJ, MK.

2029 electorate: 9419 (+6%)

Ward 9: Mount Tabor

This is based on the current Warley ward, which includes areas in the west of Halifax town and on the hills to the immediate west. To deal with electoral equality in the neighbouring ward, I suggest removing Warley Town polling district (SD), which is the most separate from the built up area of Halifax, and propose a new name as a result.

Current polling districts: SA, SB, SC, SE, SF, SG, SH.

2029 electorate: 8817 (−1%)

Ward 10: Luddendenfoot

The current Luddendenfoot ward contains the town of Mytholmroyd and communities around the Luddenden valley immediately west of Halifax. It is slightly undersized, and I propose adding Warley Town, which adjoins the Luddenden valley communities.

Current polling districts: all in Luddendenfoot ward plus SD

2029 electorate: 8556 (−4%).

Ward 11: Hebden & Stoodley

This is identical to the existing Calder ward, and contains the town of Hebden Bridge, the surrounding parishes of Heptonstall, Wadsworth, Blackshaw and Erringden, and the eastern end of the town of Todmorden. The name “Calder” is in my view unsatisfactory, as it merely repeats the name of the river the entire borough is named after and so gives little idea of where it is within the borough. I suggest “Hebden & Stoodley” as an alternative, with “Hebden” referring to Hebden Bridge and the valley of Hebden Water to the north, and “Stoodley” to the prominent landmark of Stoodley Pike and to the eastern end of Todmorden; the ward of Todmorden Town Council in the area is called Stoodley.

Current polling districts: all in Calder ward

2029 electorate: 9348 (+5%)

Ward 12: Todmorden

This is unchanged from the existing Todmorden ward. The town of Todmorden is too large for a single ward and too small for two. There are other parts of the Town Council area which could be removed, but they are all worse connected to other parts of Calderdale than the current choice, so I suggest no change here.

Current polling districts: all in Todmorden ward

2029 electorate: 9128 (+3%)

Ward 13: Greetland & Elland West

This ward would contain areas in the existing Greetland & Stainland ward other than Stainland. This would leave it too small, so I suggest adding the western parts of the existing Elland ward, the Elland and Greetland urban areas being contiguous. I suggest including polling district CG (Brooksbank) and about 900 voters from polling district CD (Savile Road), with the boundary roughly following Savile Road itself but with adjustments to ensure electoral equality. With so much of Elland included I think this should be mentioned in the name.

Current polling districts: CD (part), CG, DA, DB, DF, DG.

2029 electorate: approx 8048 (−9%)

Ward 14: Elland

This would contain all of the current Elland ward except those included in Greetland & Elland West.

Current polling districts: CA, CB, CC, CD (part), CE, CF.

2029 electorate: approx 8125 (−9%)

Ward 15: Rastrick

I propose leaving the existing Rastrick ward unchanged.

Current polling districts: all in Rastrick ward

2029 electorate: 8789 (−1%)

Ward 16: Brighouse

I propose leaving the existing Brighouse ward unchanged.

Current polling districts: all in Brighouse ward

2029 electorate: 8840 (−1%)

Ward 17: Hipperholme & Lightcliffe

This would be very similar to the current ward of this name, but it is very slightly above the target electorate range. I suggest removing more rural areas in the north of the current ward. For the figures below I have removed Norwood Green polling district (EC), but see also the suggested adjustment under Northowram & Shelf.

Current polling districts: EA, EB, ED, EE, EF.

2029 electorate based on whole polling districts: 9360 (+5%)

Ward 18: Northowram & Shelf

This would be based on the current ward of this name, but with the Claremount area, which is more urban Halifax, removed and the Norwood Green area added.

Current polling districts: EC, HA, HB, HD, HE.

2029 electorate based on whole polling districts: 9113 (+3%)

Suggested adjustment: As mentioned above under Halifax Town ward I suggest retaining some of Claremount polling district here. In addition I suggest that the rural area in the east of Hipperholme polling district (EB) around Coley should be included here, which would make the ward better connected. This will produce a small shift of electorate from Hipperholme & Lightcliffe here.