

Wirral

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Related subject: Entire council area

Please see attached word document submission sent on behalf of the Conservative Group, Wirral Council.

Attached Documents:

- boundary-review-submission-final-18.11.24.docx

Wirral Conservative Group - Local Government Boundary Review Submission

This submission is supplied on behalf of the 17 Conservative Councillors that make up the Conservative Group on Wirral Council.

We agree with the Wirral Council submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission in June 2024 that residents would be best served by the existing council size of 66 members.

We believe the current arrangements of three councillors per ward for 22 wards could deliver close to equality of representation with minor changes of some ward boundaries. These minor changes would ensure minimal disruption to well established community identities but does present the opportunity to unite some divided communities.

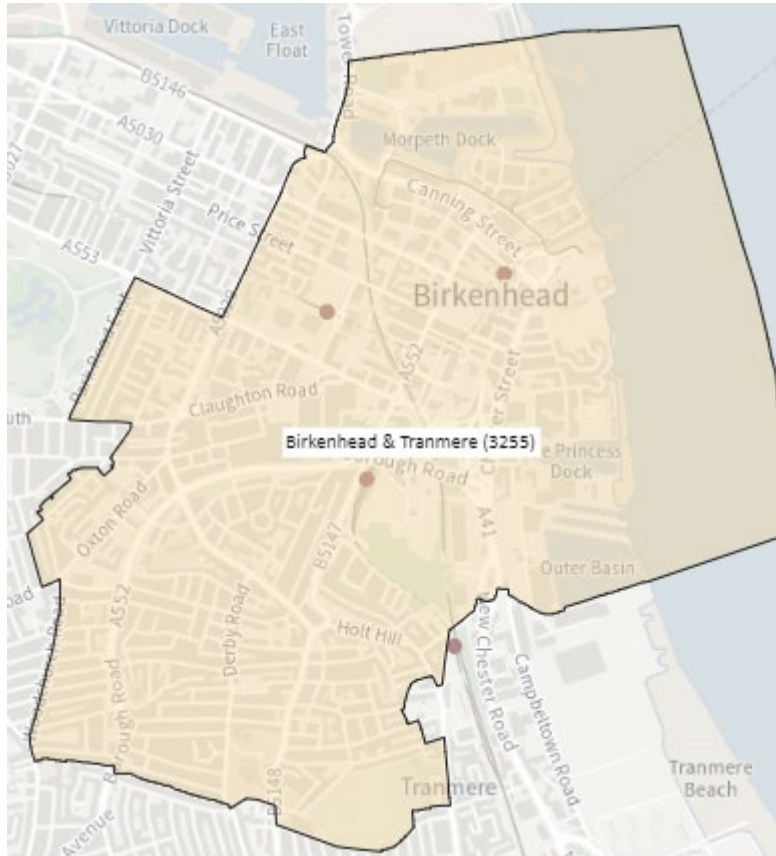
We also welcome the opportunity to suggest alternative ward names to some wards which would better enable communities to connect with their elected representatives and is a fairer reflection of how communities view their own identities.

For ease of reference our proposals are set out on a current ward by ward basis as follows:

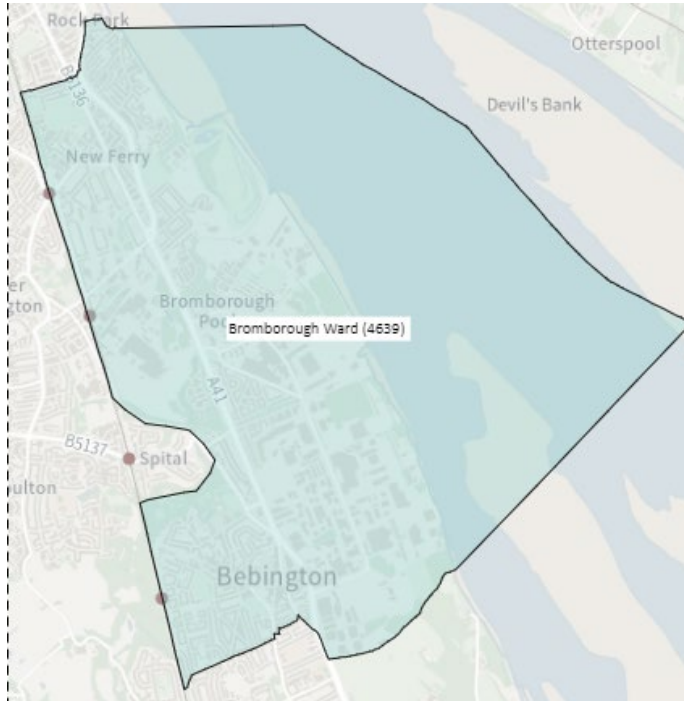
Bebington ward – there is a degree of flexibility in electoral numbers in this ward to absorb the above quota forecasted for the neighbouring ward of Bromborough.

Bidston & St. James – there is a degree of flexibility in electoral numbers in this ward to absorb the above quota forecasted for the neighbouring ward of Birkenhead & Tranmere if necessary, following the movement of the southern boundary referred to below.

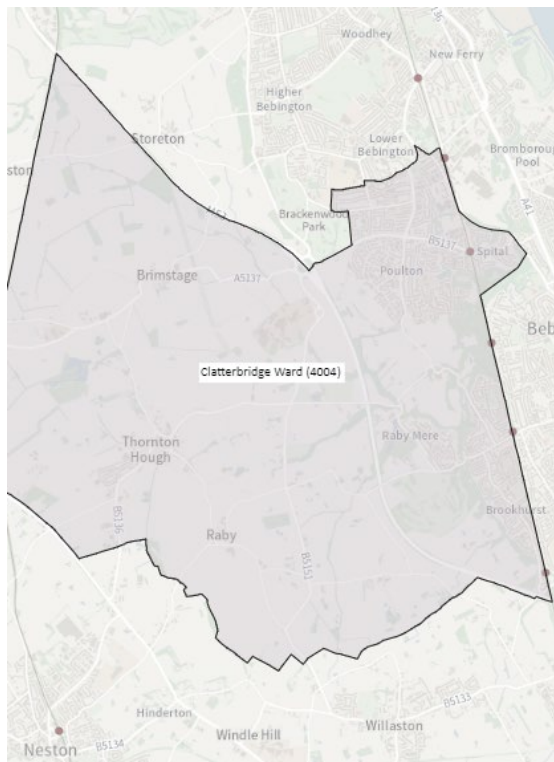
Birkenhead & Tranmere – the forecast of this ward being above quota can be addressed by moving the southern boundary with Rock Ferry ward from Well Lane to Downham Road and Elm Road. We do not propose changes to the northern boundary of this ward, as the dock area (West Float and East Float) is one of the most clearly delineated boundaries in the Borough (along with the M53 motorway) and there is no shared community of interest between this ward and Seacombe Ward.



Bromborough – we note that neighbouring wards have a degree of tolerance in electoral numbers to help achieve electoral equality in this ward. We make no specific comment regarding the ward boundaries with Eastham, Bebington or Rock Ferry but we do believe uniting the community of Spital (part of current polling district HD) within an altered Clatterbridge ward boundary would help address the forecasted electoral inequality in the ward and unites the artificially divided community of Spital.



Clatterbridge – we believe the current boundaries of Clatterbridge provide a fair reflection of the communities contained within however, we would recommend the inclusion of Kinglass Road, The Glen, Tanar Close, Arkwood Close, Oakridge Road, Oakridge Close, Orchard Place, Pineridge Close, Vanderbyl Avenue, Meadway and part of Spital Road from polling district HD in Bromborough ward as this would unite the Spital community around the central point of Spital Station using the Dibbinsdale as the natural line of the ward boundary. While this increases the number of electors in the ward this will be well within accepted tolerances and helps address the electoral inequality in neighbouring Bromborough ward.



Claughton – as the forecast is for this ward and its neighbouring wards is to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed. However, to recognise the Noctorum community in the ward (polling districts CA and CB) we propose renaming the ward to Claughton and Noctorum Ward.

Eastham - there is a degree of flexibility in electoral numbers in this ward to absorb the above quota forecasted for the neighbouring ward of Bromborough.

Greasby, Frankby, Irby – we consider that the community links between the three settlements of Greasby, Frankby and Irby are good and well understood. The forecast for this ward and its neighbouring wards to remain within quota, therefore no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed.

Heswall – we believe the current ward boundaries are a good reflection of the community of Heswall and, as the forecast is for this ward and its neighbouring wards is to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed.

Hoylake and Meols – we consider that the community links between the settlements of Hoylake and Meols are good and well understood, with natural features such as the coast and established road (A540) and rail lines connecting these communities. We believe the current ward boundaries are a good reflection of the community of Hoylake and Meols and, as the forecast is for this ward and its neighbouring wards to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed.

Leasowe and Moreton East - the ward has clear boundaries with its neighbouring three wards: Upton Road/Pasture Road with Moreton West & Saughall Massie; the Moreton ‘spur’ of the M53 with the current Upton Ward and the North Wallasey Approach Road with Wallasey Ward. As all four wards are within the quota, no changes to ward boundaries are proposed.

Liscard – as the forecast is for this ward and its neighbouring wards is to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed. However, as the polling district WE forms the majority of the Egremont township, it is proposed to rename the ward to ‘Liscard and Egremont Ward’.

Moreton West and Saughall Massie - the ward has clear boundaries with its neighbouring four wards: green space and Green Belt between this and Hoylake and Meols; the Arrowe Brook with Greasby, Frankby, Irby Ward; Upton Road/Pasture Road with Leasowe and Moreton East and the Upton bypass with the current Upton Ward. As all five wards are within the quota, no changes to ward boundaries are proposed.

New Brighton – as the forecast is for this ward and its neighbouring wards is to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed.

Oxton - as the forecast is for this ward and its neighbouring wards is to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed.

Pensby and Thingwall - as the forecast is for this ward and its neighbouring wards to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed.

Prenton - as the forecast is for this ward and its neighbouring wards is to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed.

Rock Ferry - the forecast of this ward being below quota can be addressed by moving the northern boundary with Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward from Well Lane to Downham Road and Elm Road.



Seacombe - the southern boundary of this ward, the docks (West Float and East Float) and is one of the most clearly delineated boundaries in the Borough (along with the M53 motorway) and there is no shared community of interest between this ward and Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward. No changes to ward boundaries are proposed.

Upton – this Ward has clear boundaries with its neighbours – the M53 motorway and Saughall Massie by-pass. The Ward is, however, two clear communities – Upton (polling districts MA and MB), divided by the A5027, with the Woodchurch community (polling districts MC, MD and ME). As the majority of this ward identifies as ‘Woodchurch’, our proposal is to rename the ward to reflect both communities to ‘Upton and Woodchurch Ward’

Wallasey - as the forecast is for this ward and its neighbouring wards is to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed.

West Kirby and Thurstaston - we consider that the community links between the settlements of West Kirby and Thurstaston are good and well understood, with natural features such as the Dee coastline and established road links through the Thurstaston cutting (A540) connecting these communities. As the forecast for this ward and its

neighbouring wards is to remain within quota, no changes to the ward boundaries are proposed.

Summary of changes proposed:

Ward	Electorate on LGBCE website	Amended figures proposal
Bidston & St James	11912	11912
Birkenhead & Tranmere**	13153	11739
Claughton & Noctorum*	11638	11638
Oxton	11042	11042
Rock Ferry**	10757	12171
Pensby & Thingwall	10562	10562
Bebington	12034	12034
Bromborough**	14401	13917
Eastham	11355	11355
Clatterbridge**	11531	12012
Prenton	10995	10995
Upton & Woodchurch *	12415	12415
Hoylake & Meols	10714	10714
Greasby, Frankby & Irby	11744	11744
West Kirby & Thurstaston	10489	10489
Heswall	11050	11050
Seacombe	12035	12035
Leasowe & Moreton East	11753	11753
New Brighton	11575	11575
Wallasey	11670	11670
Liscard & Egremont *	11980	11980
Moreton West & Saughall Massie	10874	10874
TOTAL	255679	255676

* denotes proposed name change

** denotes change in electorate