

Cumberland

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Comment text:

Related subject: Workington

Workington Labour Party suggests some changes to the Commissions proposals for the Workington area, including the warding pattern for Workington Town Council. We also suggest significant changes to the naming of wards, both Cumberland Council wards and Workington parish wards, to better fit the local pattern of neighbourhoods.

Our proposals are detailed in the attached paper, and illustrated by the attached series of maps

Attached Documents:

- 2025-review-ward-boundary-maps.pdf
- boundary-commission-submission-workington-labour-8th-august-2025.pdf

Review of Ward Boundaries for Cumberland Council and Workington Council

Response by Workington Branch Labour Party

The Local Government Boundary Commission has made proposals for changes to local government ward boundaries which affect Workington. They are open to responses to be made to the Commission by 11 August 2025. They will publish final recommendations, for parliamentary approval, by 2 December 2025. If approved, they will be used for elections from May 2027.

This response uses the Commissions proposed ward names, to avoid confusion when discussing geography. References to polling districts (PD) are as geographic identifiers only, as they will change following boundary changes. Electoral numbers are taken from latest estimates by the Elections Officer.

Alternative ward names are then suggested in the tables at the end of this submission below.

Appended to the response are a series of maps which illustrate our proposals.

Cumberland Council wards

We think the Commission has made some proposals with which we do not agree the rationale for: putting Siddick and Stainburn together; splitting Salterbeck instead of splitting Harrington (which has always been made up of two different places); putting Winscales with Arlecdon; and Clifton with Loweswater, for example. However, we do not have an alternative warding pattern which does not have wider consequences requiring further changes outside of Workington, and which has not already been rejected by the Commission in response to a previous submission. We therefore confine ourselves to dealing with obvious anomalies, and also suggest changes at the margin of ward boundaries where that seems to provide a clearer geography.

Our recommended changes to Cumberland wards are :

a) Move Barepot (PD CX7) from proposed “Seaton” ward to proposed “Workington Central & Stainburn” ward.

Reasoning:

- i) Barepot may appear on a flat street map to be adjacent to Yearl Rise, Calva Park and Princess Ave, but there is a difference of 30 meters in levels, made up of a steep and heavily wooded slope through which there is not so much as a footpath. This forms a natural boundary.
- ii) Barepot residents live in Workington with which they identify for all local services and do not regard Seaton as their local service centre.
- iii) Placing Barepot in “Workington Central & Stainburn” would also help electoral equality for Cumberland wards as this proposed ward is currently under quota by c100 electors while “Seaton” is over quota by c200 electors.
- iv) Including Barepot (currently CX7) in proposed Seaton ward requires that it become an isolated “orphan ward” in the Workington Town Council warding pattern (since parish wards cannot cross Cumberland ward boundaries) with an electorate of only 116 which is well below the notional quota for the Town Council of c768 electors per town councillor; this has the consequence that electoral equality suffers across the rest of Workington wards as another parish ward – St Michaels – must have a ratio of 1 : c1503 to compensate, given 25 councillors.

b) Put all of Grayling Way (CA14 3FB and CA14 3FE) in “Westfield” ward. (It may be that the Commission’s proposals already do this, from one reading of the maps). The ward boundary should allow for planned further extension southwards of the current housing developments at Grayling Way.

Reasoning:

i) the previous (2022 election) boundary dates from this site being a steelworks and predates the development of Grayling Way as a housing site: as a consequence the 2022 ward boundary bisects a number of houses, and puts other houses in Harrington ward, with which this site is not connected.

c) Put all of Peter St, Roper St, south side of Jane St, and west side of Washington St (south of Jane St) into "Workington South" so that the boundary between Workington Central & Stainburn and Workington South in that area becomes Jane St and Washington St (between Jane St and Harrington Road)

Reasoning:

i) The proposed boundary divides part of Peter St and part of Roper St, totalling just a few houses. The 2022 boundary does that too. There seems no rationale for this anomalous boundary line: following Jane St and Washington St would be a much clearer boundary.

d) The boundary between "Westfield" and "Moorclose" wards along Newlands Lane (between Honister Drive and Westfield Drive) should follow the centre line of Newlands Lane.

Reasoning:

i) The proposed boundary wavers from one side of Newlands Lane to the other without any apparent reason. This will cause confusion to electors and to those public services which are organised by ward. Newlands Lane is a main thoroughfare; running the boundary along Newlands Lane is clearer and comprehensible. Roughly equal numbers of electors will move wards in each direction as a consequence, so the effect on electoral equality will be minimal if any.

Workington Council wards

The pattern of parish wards in place in Workington (2019 election) very closely reflects the real neighbourhoods of the town. They are not just wards: in most cases they are *places* of long standing and recognised as such by electors. In some cases, the Commission has acknowledged this important local social geography: in others not. There are therefore some changes to parish wards which we recommend to the Commission in addition to those which flow from the recommendations for Cumberland wards above; and there are some anomalies and imbalances we would want to correct.

We also propose different names for some wards (see end of submission)

A. Consequential changes (if the Commission accepts our proposals for Cumberland wards):

A1. Barepot (the Commission's "Seaton" ward) could now be returned to Northside ward where it has belonged for decades, improving electoral equality there as the parish ward as currently proposed by the Commission is under the notional quota (c768) by 138 electors.

A2. Allocate an additional councillor to "St Michaels" ward (released by deletion of "Seaton" parish ward) improving its electoral equality ratio from 1 : c1503 to 1 : c751.5.

A3 The boundaries of Westfield parish ward at Grayling Way and at Newlands Lane South (but see B3 below) should change to follow the Cumberland boundary

A4 Boundaries of Moorclose ward at Newlands Lane South (but see B3 below); and St Josephs with St Michaels at Jane St / Washington St would also follow our proposed Cumberland boundaries

B. Changes to better align neighbourhoods and remove anomalies

B1. Divide "Poole Road" parish ward into two single member wards of "Salterbeck North" (PD CV2 and PD CV8) ; and "Westfield South" (PD CU4) . Consequently the proposed "Salterbeck" ward would become "Salterbeck South" and the proposed "Westfield" ward would become "Westfield North".

Reasoning: This proposed ward of Poole Road is split by a hard border along a former railway line into two distinct parts with no common identity. The southern part identifies as being in Salterbeck neighbourhood, and the northern part identifies as being part of Westfield neighbourhood (which is where they are on 2019 parish ward boundaries). There

is no connection between them, not even a footpath, apart from using the main roads which go around the west and east extremities.

B2 Move the area of Frostoms Road (PD CW4), except Hartside Court, from “St Josephs” parish ward into “Workington South” parish ward, to which it is contiguous.

Reasoning: The Frostoms Road area is separated from the rest of St Josephs proposed ward by a main cemetery; but it is contiguous with “Workington South” parish ward. However, Hartside Court is separated from the Frostoms Road area by level, linked only by an unmaintained footpath; but it is part of the same former hospital site housing development as Infirmary Road, of which it is an extension, so it should stay with St Josephs. This would also result in much-improved electoral equality: the Commission proposal has 3 councillors for Workington South with c2015 electors, but only two councillors for St Josephs c1962 electors. The change we propose would give Workington South c2391 electors for its three councillors (1:770) and St Joseph’s c1736 electors for its two councillors (1:883), with much improved electoral equality.

B3 Create a new parish ward of “Moorclose West” (estimated electorate 764) made up of the area east of the former railway, now cycleway, and west of Newlands Lane, separate from the proposed “Westfield” ward.

Reasoning: This area is identified as being in the Moorclose neighbourhood. To include it in a parish ward named “Westfield” will confuse and alienate electors

B4 Move the boundary between “Stainburn” ward (CY1) and “St Michaels” ward (CY2) to the A66 trunk road (a clear divider) east of Stainburn roundabout as far as its crossing of Scale Beck, then following Scale Beck (the original parish boundary) to the boundary with St Johns Parish ward.

Reasoning: A small number of houses are included in Stainburn parish ward due to previous changes when they are clearly separated from it and are immediately adjacent to houses in St Michaels, which is where they would then be – again.

B5. Retain the existing (2019) boundary between Salterbeck and Harrington parish wards

Reasoning : The Commission has offered no rationale for their proposed change to this boundary, which will adversely affect electoral equality. Leaving the boundary where it is gives superior electoral equality to the Commission’s proposal of Harrington 1:c898 and Salterbeck 1:c692. If the boundary were left as it is today, as we suggest, those figures would be Harrington 1:c832 and Salterbeck 1:c790.

Names

Names are important.

Workington, in particular, is made up of a number of neighbourhoods with which people identify. Current (2019) parish wards are not just aggregations of electors: they are real places and people know where they live. Dissonance between names of wards and the real places of the same name can cause confusion disaffection and alienation, and we know that trust in government is at an all time low. Messing with peoples local identities doesnt help.

Where wards don’t map on to real places it may be better to use different names entirely, such as compass points. This is the case with Cumberland wards which are much bigger than our recognised neighbourhoods, and where using the name of just one neighbourhood when the ward is much bigger than that alienates and confuses. The Commission has used compass naming for eg (Cumberland) Workington South – but that particular ward would not be recognised by any elector anywhere as being South Workington or anywhere near it: these Cumberland wards names all need changed.

It is easier to make parish wards fit recognised neighbourhoods as they are smaller; and we have suggested some changes above which help to do that. In some cases it is necessary to split a multi-member parish ward where a Commission proposal crosses real place neighbourhood boundaries.

In a couple of cases it is simply not possible to align a proposed parish ward with any real current neighbourhood: so we have looked to history.

Counter-Proposal for Cumberland Council ward names:

Commission Proposal	Counter-Proposal
Maryport South & Flimby	Maryport South*
Seaton	Seaton
Workington Central & Stainburn	Workington North
Workington South	Workington Central
Moorclose	Workington East
Westfield	Workington West
Harrington	Workington South

* Flimby is in south Maryport and currently in Maryport South ward. There is no need to add "& Flimby" to the ward name: Maryport South includes Flimby now.

Counter proposal for Workington Parish Ward Names:

Commission Proposal	Counter Proposal	Polling Districts (for finding on the map only)	Cllrs
Seaton	Deleted: part of Northside		0
Northside	Northside	CX6; CX7; CX8	1
Harrington	Harrington	CT1; CT2; CT3	3
Westfield	Moorclose West (1)	CU3; part CV6	1
	Westfield North	CV5; CV6(part); CV7; CV9	2
Moorclose	Moorclose East	CU1; CU2; CW6	3
Poole Road	Westfield South (1)	CU4	1
	Salterbeck North (1)	CV2; CV8	1
Salterbeck	Salterbeck South	CV1; CV3; CV4	2
St Johns	Newlands (2)	CW1	2
St Josephs	St Johns (2)	CW2; CW3; CW7	2
St Michaels	Old Town (3)	CX1; CX4; CW5; CY2;	2
		part of CY1 west of bypass	
Stainburn	Stainburn	CY1 (except west of bypass)	2
Workington South	St Michaels (4)	CX2; CX3; CX5; CW4	3

Reference:

(1) In local neighbourhood identity terms, this is where they are.

(2) The core of the historic "St Johns ward" (dates from 1888) is the streets which the Commission has called St Josephs. A previous Commission Report (2011) also invented a St Josephs ward in the same approximate area, but a Community Governance Review soon deleted it and it became St Johns again. "St Josephs" had no resonance with the people of the area. It should be called "St Johns"

The ward that the Commission proposes to call St Johns is currently part of a bigger Town Council ward. It must now be separate, because of the rule about crossing Cumberland ward boundaries. "St Johns East" is possible, but the area is locally known, traditionally, as "Newlands"

(3) The main part of the ward the Commission calls St Michaels is actually in St Johns neighbourhood, in historic and in 2019 electoral terms: people simply will not recognise that area as "St Michaels". Before there were wards, and before the town expanded in 19th century, this was Workington, around its main street stretching from the Manorial Hall to the Parish church. In absence of any other identifier, "Old Town" ward is suggested.

(4) The Parish ward proposed as “Workington South” (which is not south Workington, as a map will show) falls wholly within the current parish ward and neighbourhood of St Michaels, although it doesn't include all of it. “St Michaels” will resonate better with that electorate.

Maps

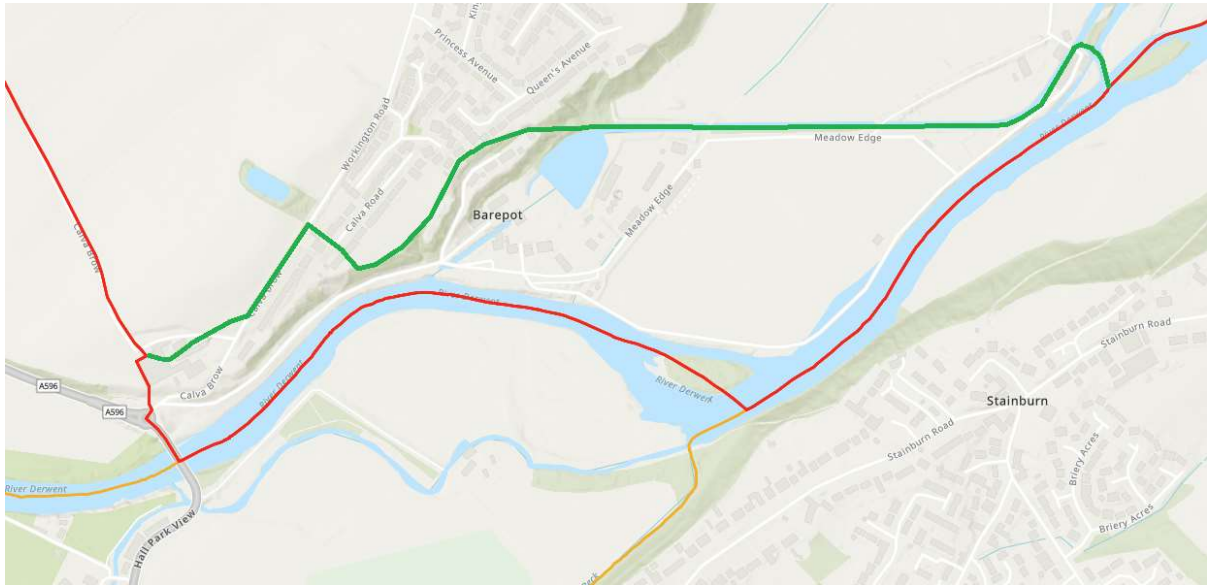
Maps which illustrate this response are appended.

We add our proposed names to the maps only where we are proposing a completely new ward; otherwise we use the Commission names for clarity.

Changes to Proposed Cumberland Ward Boundaries - Maps

1. Seaton / Workington Central & Stainburn

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



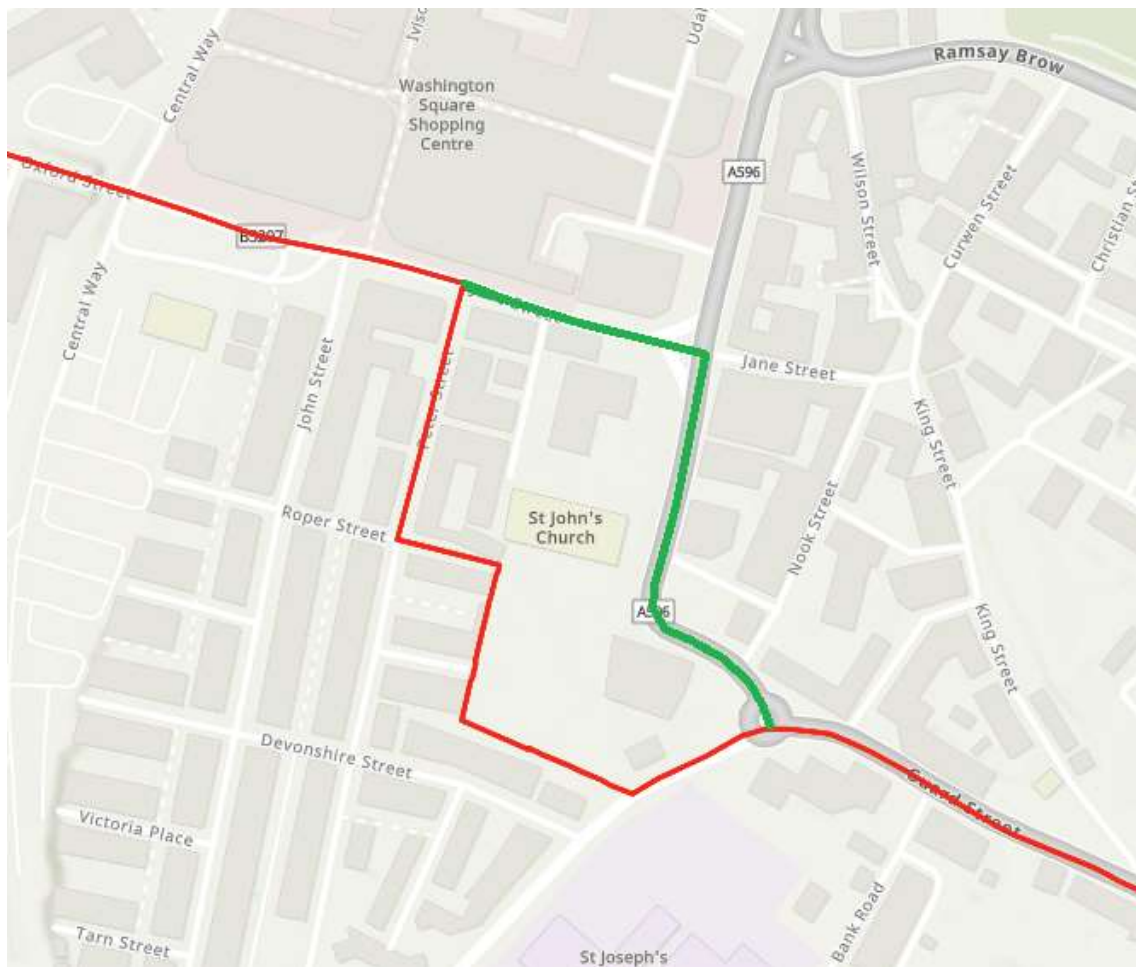
2. Westfield / Harrington

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



3. Workington South / Workington Central & Stainburn

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



4. Westfield / Moorclose

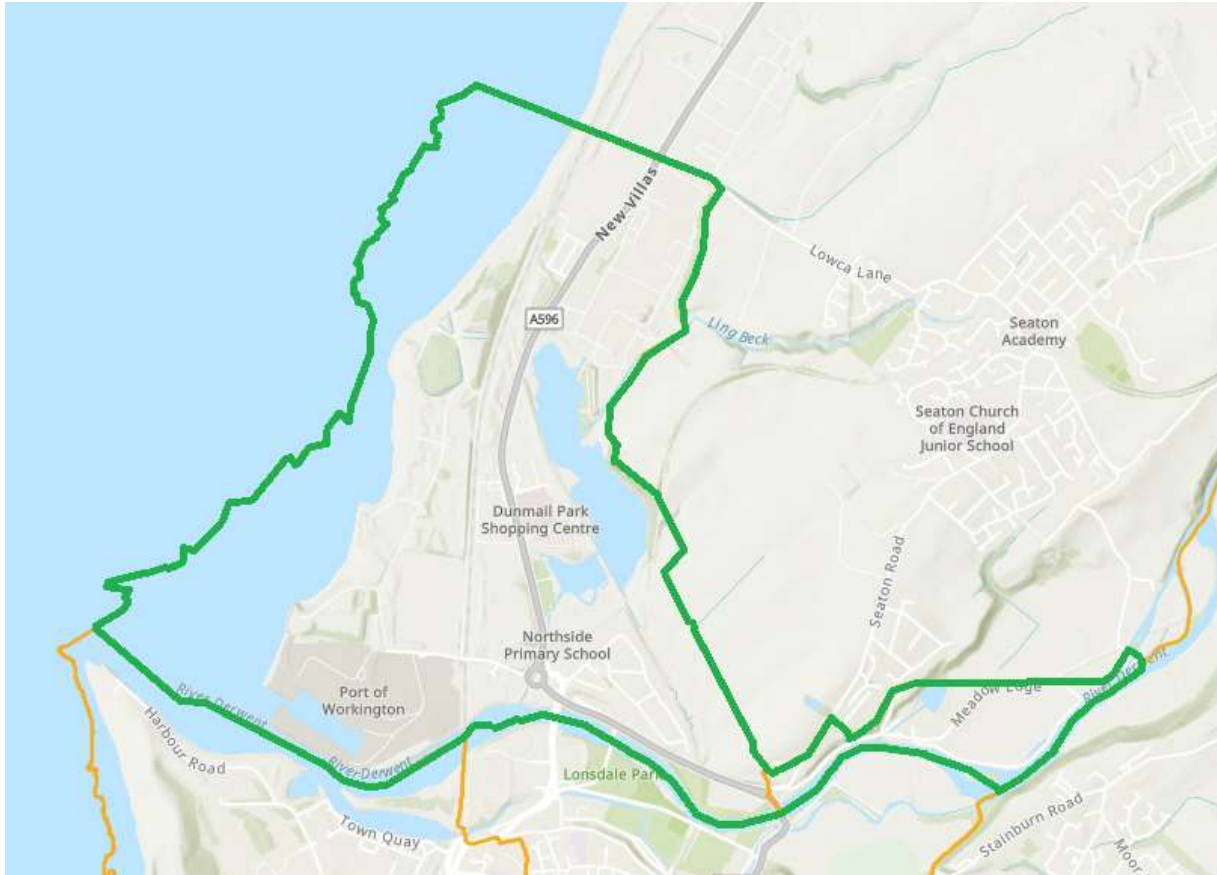
[amended ward boundary shown green below]



Changes to Proposed Parish Ward Boundaries - Maps

1. Seaton

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



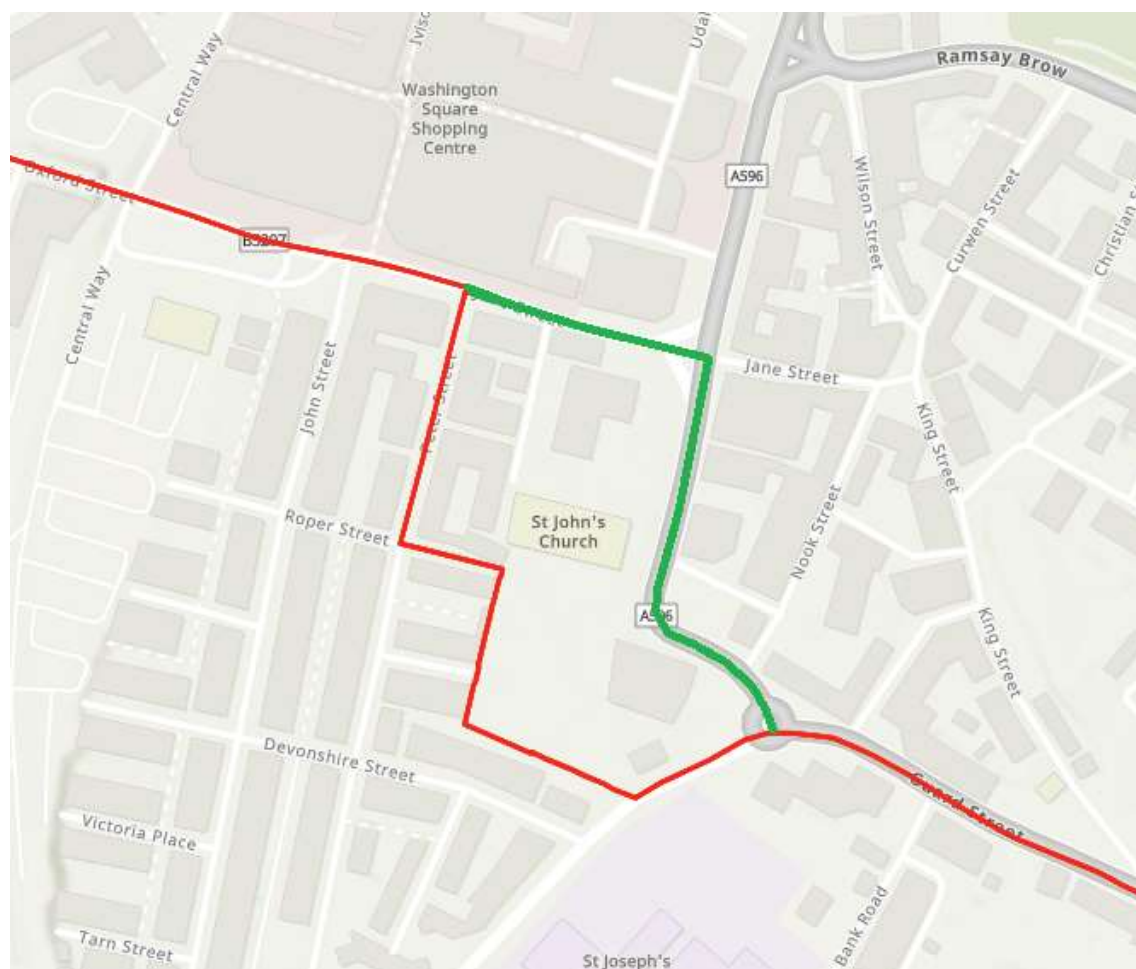
2. Westfield / Salterbeck

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



3. St Michael's / St Josephs

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



4. Poole Road

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



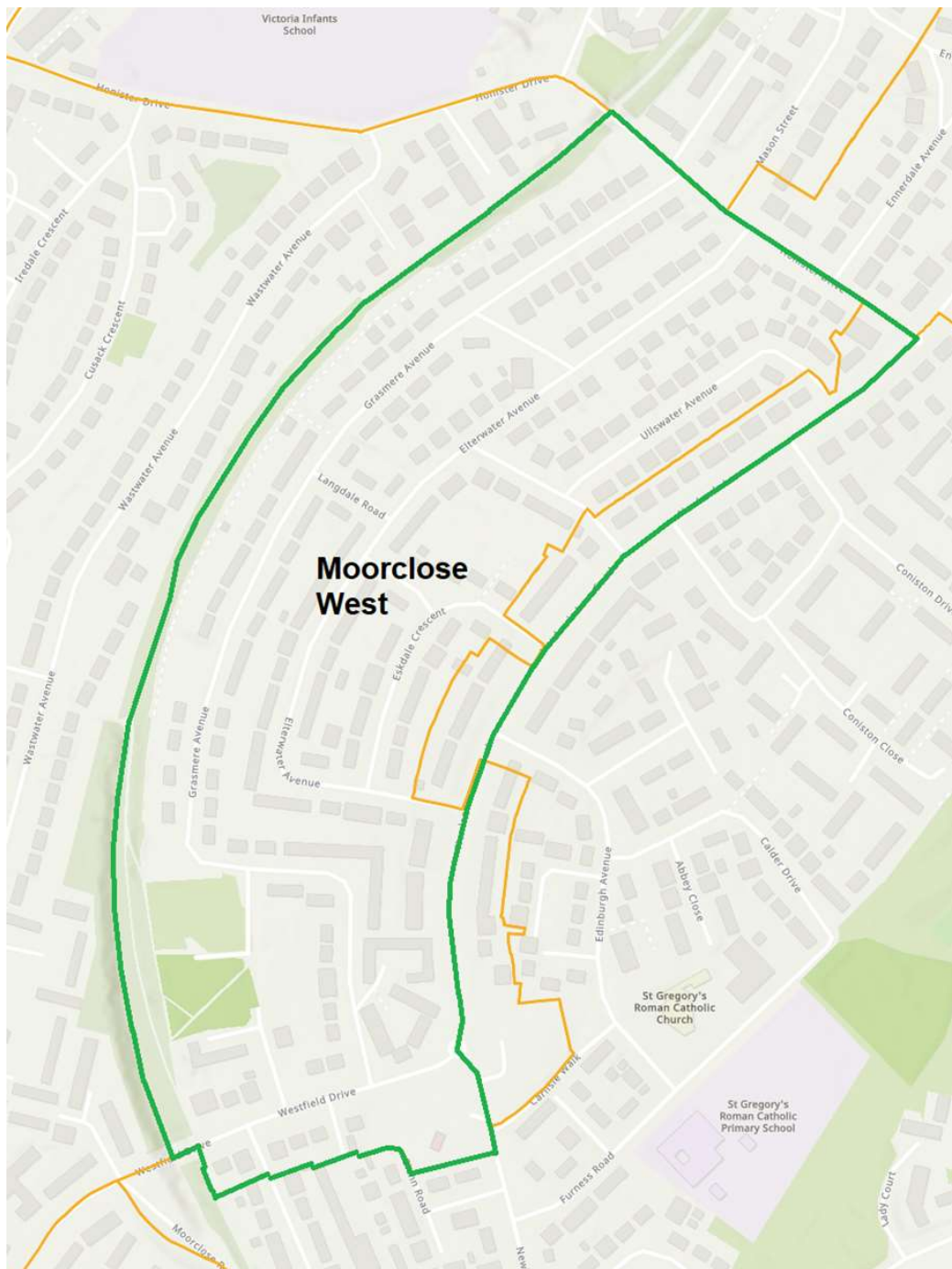
5. Westfield / Moorclose

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



6. Westfield

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



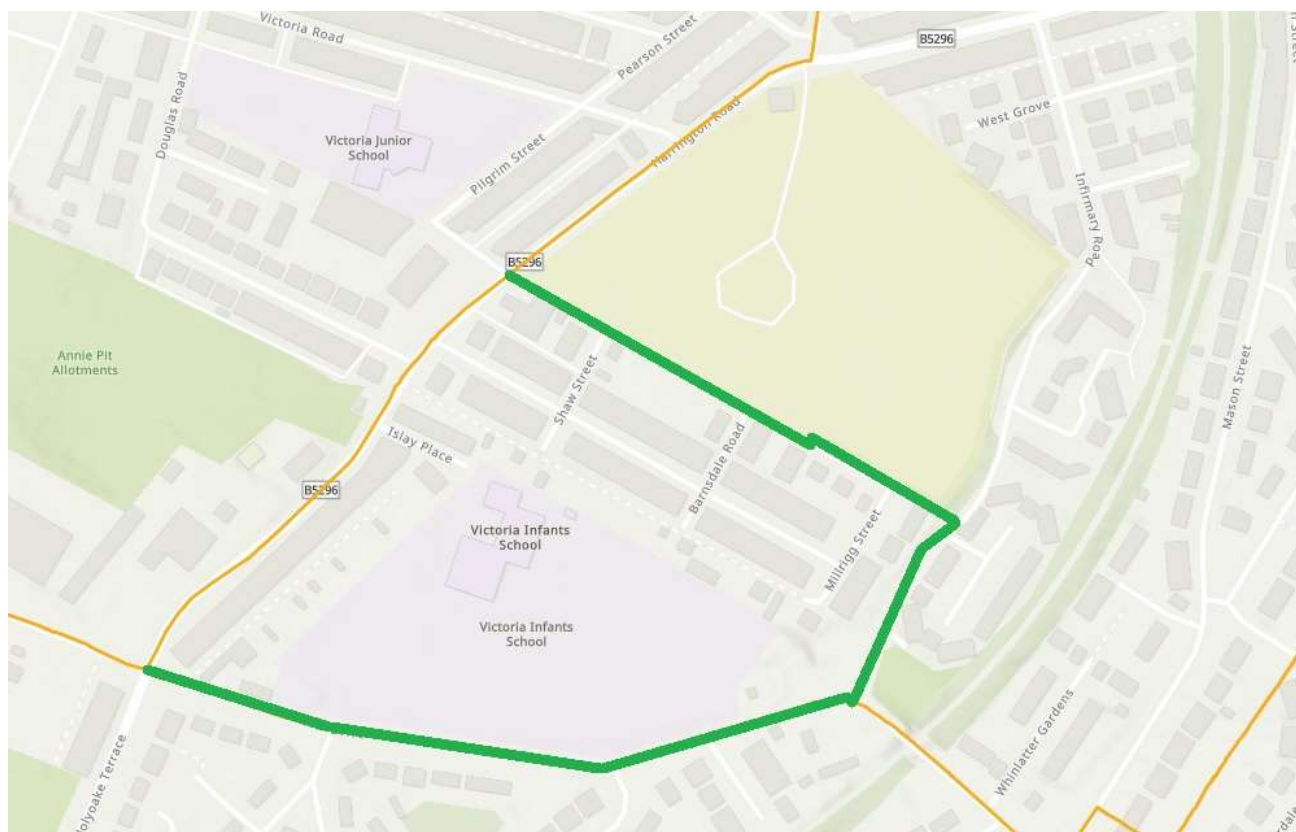
7. Stainburn / St Michaels

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



8. St. Josephs / Workington South

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



9. Salterbeck / Harrington

[amended ward boundary shown green below]

