

**Submission to the Local Government Boundary
Commission for England**

Garston Conservatives

We are grateful for this opportunity to engage with the redrawing of Liverpool's local government boundaries.

Prior to putting forward our suggestions for how our community's wards should be structured, we waited to see the proposals from Liverpool City Council.

We have noted:

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's desire for 85 councillors across primarily single-member wards.
2. Liverpool City Council's proposals for 80 wards with 85 councillors, as per the City Council meeting 8/12/2021.
3. The Boundary Commission for England's 2023 review of constituencies.

We believe that Liverpool City Council's proposals for wards within the proposed Liverpool Garston constituency are insufficient for the following reasons:

1. They do not adequately represent local communities and local identities, which are strongly felt in the south of Liverpool.
2. They do not respect the current constituency boundaries of Garston and Halewood, nor the Boundary Commission for England's proposed boundaries Liverpool Garston constituency. As such, as soon as the new constituency boundaries are implemented, the new wards will cross constituency boundaries.

With the above in mind, our proposals for wards within the new Liverpool Garston constituency are based on the following guiding principles:

1. Working within the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's requirement for 85 councillors, and a preference for single-member wards.
2. Proposing wards which represent communities, which must be at the heart of local government.
3. Ensuring all wards align with the proposed Liverpool Garston constituency.
4. Ensuring all wards are of a broadly equal size in terms of electors per councillor.

Together, these guiding principles ensure our proposals meet the three legal factors the Commission uses to draw new boundaries, namely electoral equality,

community identity, and effective and convenient local government (a vital part of which is the coterminosity of wards and constituencies).

Outline of Proposals

We are proposing **15 wards with 16 councillors**. These wards are coterminous with six wards currently used in Liverpool, namely Belle Vale, Woolton, Allerton and Hunts Cross, Speke-Garston, Cressington and Church.

As shown in Appendix 1, 11 of the 15 wards are within $\pm 10\%$ of the average ward size based on the estimated 2027 electorate. Our outliers are based on our prioritisation of the representation of cohesive communities:

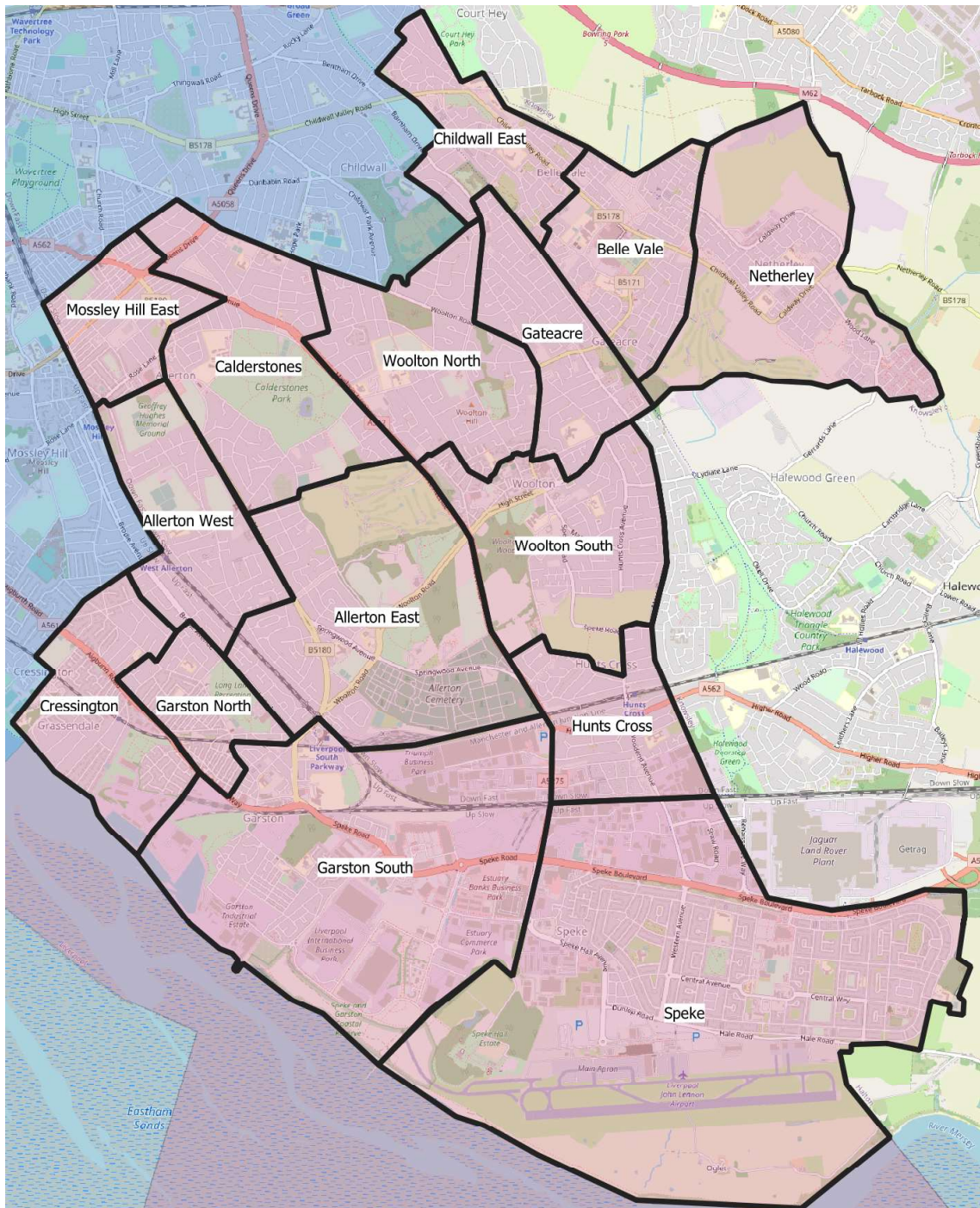
- Our Netherley ward is 84% of the average ward size, due to the local authority boundaries and respecting the communities of Belle Vale and of Netherley itself.
- Our Childwall East ward is 88% of the average ward size, as it is bound in by the current Garston and Halewood boundary and the proposed Liverpool Garston constituency, the local authority boundary, and the community of Belle Vale to the south.
- Our Hunts Cross proposal is 81% of the average ward size, due to representing the community of Hunts Cross and being bounded in by Woolton Golf Club and Camp Hill to the north and Speke to the south.
- Our Woolton South ward is 16% above the ward average, due to natural boundaries to the south (Woolton Golf Course and Camp Hill) and the desire to keep the community centre of Woolton Village within this ward too.

Unlike Liverpool City Council's proposals all of our wards will fall within the proposed Liverpool Garston constituency and all seek to address the shortcomings of the council's suggestions with regard to questions of community representation.

As such, our proposals are twice future-proofed, insofar as they are based on 2027 electorates and upcoming constituency boundary reform.

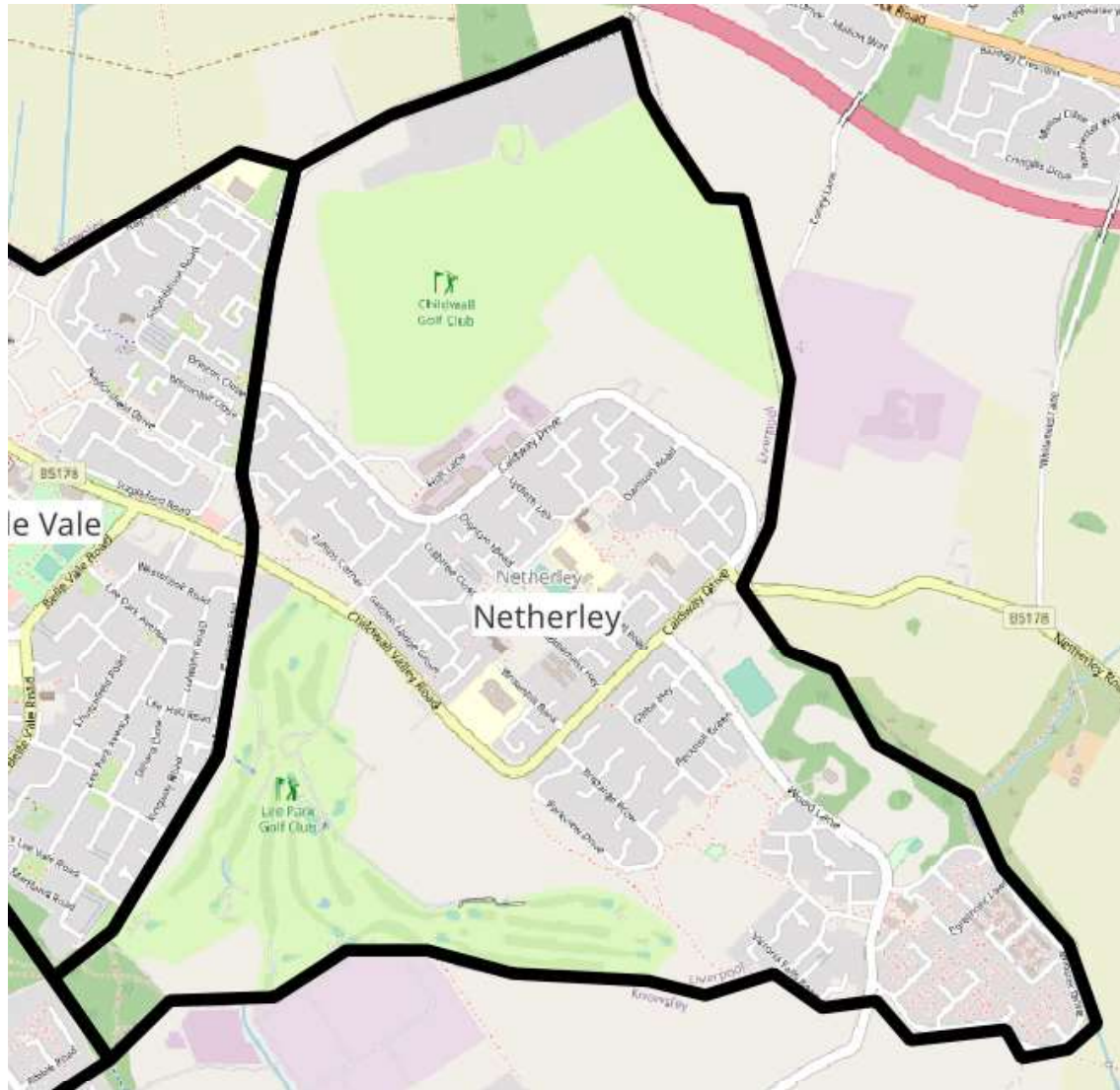
Our proposed wards are presented in Figure 1 (a more detailed version of this is provided as an attachment to this email).

Figure 1 - Proposed Wards for Liverpool Garston Constituency (shaded in pink)



Ward Proposals

1. Netherley



Ward Description

Our Netherley ward is bounded by the Liverpool/Knowsley local authority boundary to the north, east and south.

The western boundary runs south down Naylor's Road/Kings Drive to the Liverpool Loop Line, taking in the bottom square of Nookfield Park.

Rationale

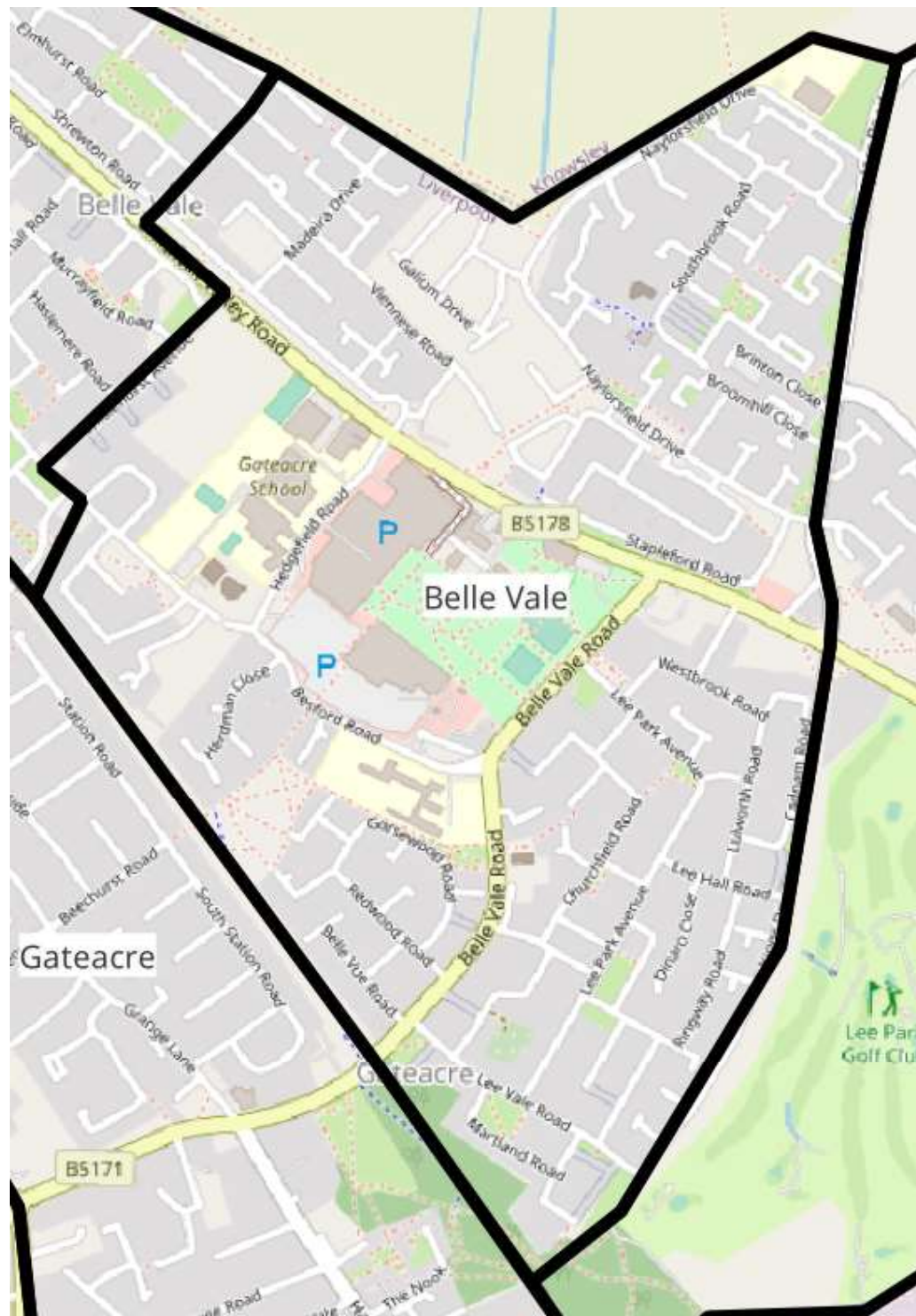
Our proposal for Netherley ward is designed to represent the community of Netherley. Naylor's Road/Kings Drive is a natural boundary, which separates the two communities of Netherley and Belle Vale.

We believe a single councillor for the Netherley community is better than Liverpool City Council's proposals for a Netherley ward, which:

1. Has a variance of 10% above average.
2. Takes in the northern part of Belle Vale, thus breaking up the Belle Vale community.
3. Ultimately results in Liverpool City Council's 'Childwall Rocket' ward crossing constituency boundaries.

As such, we believe that a slightly lower electorate in Netherley is a good compromise vis-a-vis maintaining the integrity of two communities of Netherley and Belle Vale, and their representation within the council chamber.

2. Belle Vale



Ward Description

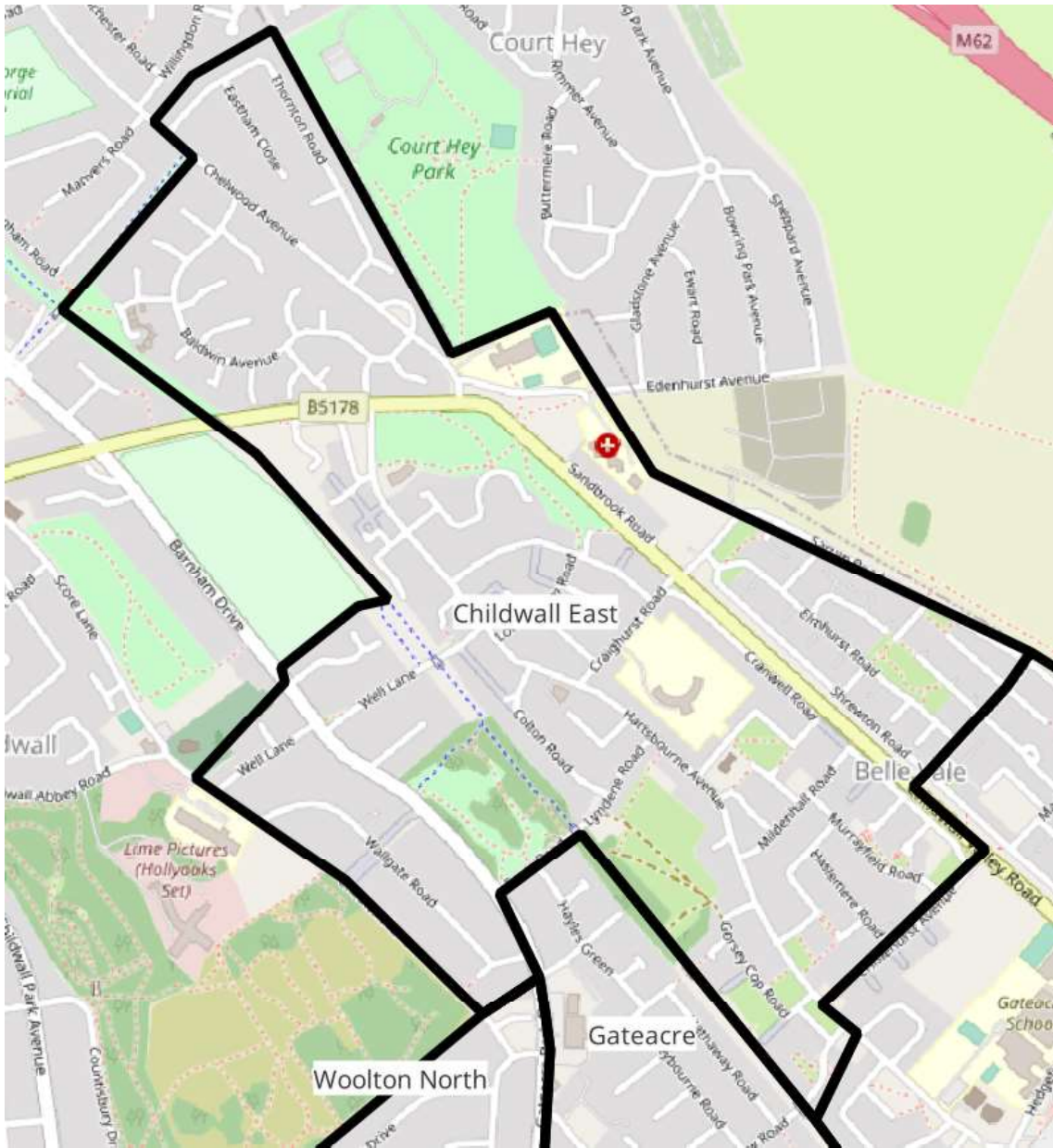
Starting from the north-west of the ward, the boundary follows the Liverpool-Knowsley boundary east to Naylor's Road, and then runs south down Naylor's Road/Kings Drive to the Liverpool Loop Line. The boundary follows the Loop Line northwards, then turns eastwards between Cranleigh Road and Cockshead Road, up Hartsbourne Avenue, east through Chislehurst Avenue to Childwall Valley Road, and then east on Rimmerbrook Road to the authority boundary.

Rationale

Our proposals for a Belle Vale ward are superior to Liverpool City Council's for three reasons:

1. It represents the natural community of Belle Vale, rather than an artificial 'Valley' (as per Liverpool City Council's proposals), and is centered on Belle Vale Shopping Centre, Belle Vale park and Morrisons, as well as Belle Vale health centre and other community services (e.g. fire station, jobcentre, bus stations, children's centre).
2. It also had the advantage of maintaining the integrity of the Netherley community *and* the Gateacre community.
3. The proposal respects a number of natural boundaries, namely the Liverpool Loop Line to the south, the Lee Park Golf Club/Naylor's Road to the east, and the Liverpool/Knowsley boundary to the north.

3. Childwall East



Ward Description

Starting from the top-left corner of Childwall East, the boundary runs between Willingdon Road and Thornton Road, down the Liverpool/Knowsley boundary to Rimmerbrook Road, turning west towards to Childwall Valley Road, then south to Chislehurst Avenue, then running between Cranleigh Road and Cockhead Road. The boundary then runs up the Liverpool Loop Line to Escor Road, down Gareacre Park Drive before going west between the back of Wallgate Way and the north of Tollgate Close, to Childwall Lane, and then taking in Wallgate Road, and then following the Liverpool Garston constituency boundary back to the start of the ward.

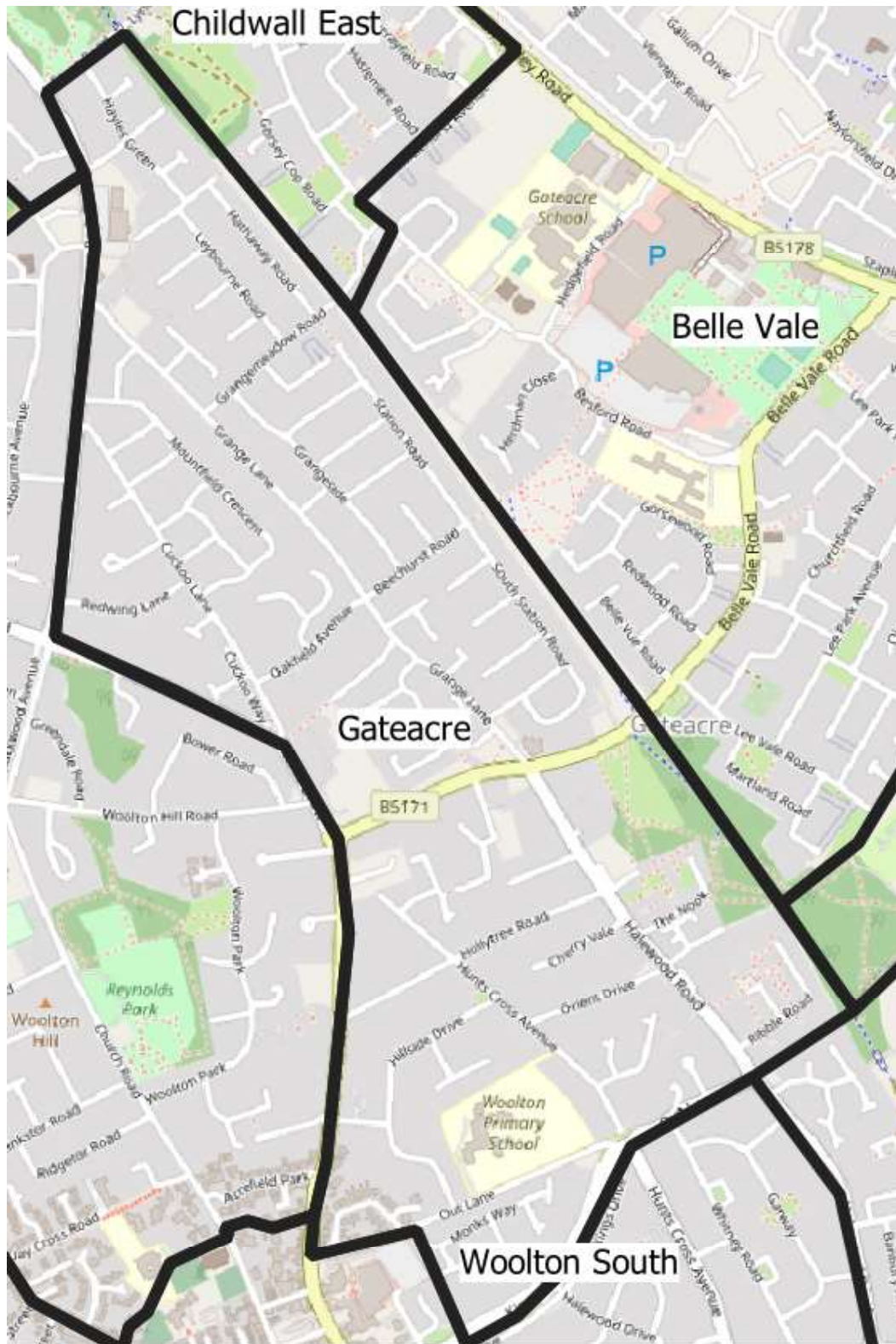
Rationale

Our Childwall East ward has numerous benefits compared to Liverpool City Council's Valley/Childwall Rocket proposal for the area:

1. It reflects the boundary of both the current and future constituency, suggesting it is already an established community boundary.
2. It is centered around Childwall Valley Road.
3. It allows for the maintenance of a Belle Vale **and** a Gateacre community.

NB: Whilst we believe it is better to keep the new ward boundaries within the future Liverpool Garston constituency boundaries, if the Commission decides that this ward is too small, there is a natural extension outside of the proposed Liverpool Garston constituency. This would involve continuing the ward's western boundary north along the Liverpool Loop Line to the M62, then east along the M62 to the Liverpool/Knowsley boundary, then south along the Liverpool/Knowsley boundary to the proposed Childwall East ward. This scenario would keep a natural Childwall East community together, without crossing the natural boundary of the M62.

4. Gateacre



Ward Description

Our Gateacre ward is contained by the Liverpool Loop Line to the east, the boundary between Liverpool and Knowsley and Out Lane/Kings Drive to the south, moving north just before James Court, then west on Out Lane, then north via Woolton Street/Acrefield Road/Rose Brow/Woolton Road/Gateacre Park Drive to the west and Escor Road to the north.

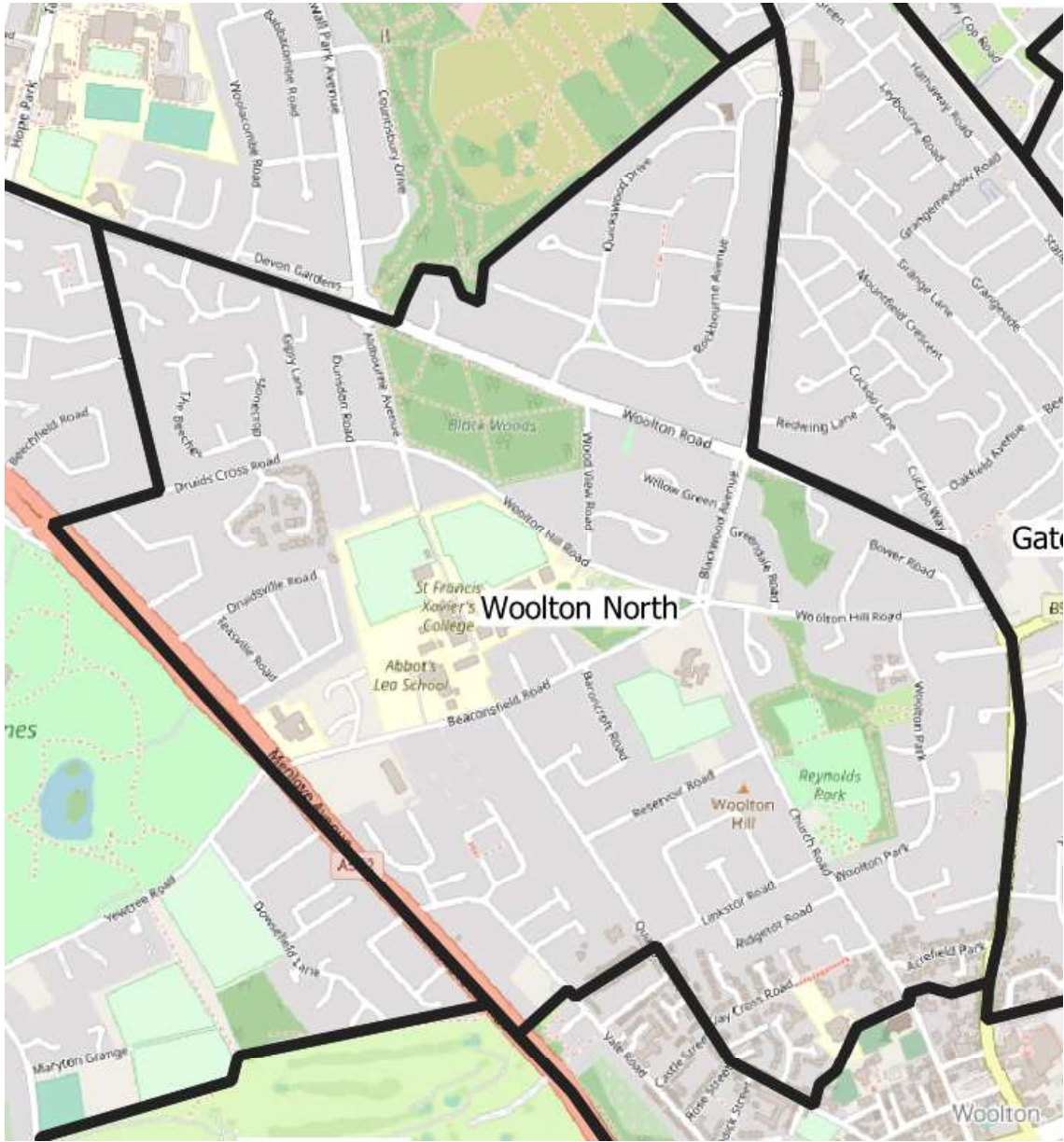
Rationale

Our Gateacre ward is centered on Gateacre Brow and includes Gateacre Village, Gateacre Local Centre, and represents the long-established community of Gateacre.

Whilst respecting natural boundaries such as the Liverpool Loop Line our Gateacre ward also allows us to present a cohesive community-based proposal for Netherley, Belle Vale, and Woolton, as well as Gateacre, whilst meeting the need for a consistent number of electors per councillor.

As such, our proposal respects the Gateacre, Netherley, Belle Vale and Woolton communities, unlike Liverpool City Council's proposals which include parts of Belle Vale to the east and parts of Woolton to the west within a Gateacre ward.

5. Woolton North



Ward Description

Starting from the south-west of the ward, we use the natural boundary of Menlove Avenue. The boundary then turns east to follow Druids Cross Road, then north up Hornby Lane to Woolton Road, south down Woolton Road and then follow the boundary of Childwall Woods. The boundary continues east, keeping Tollgate Close to the south within the ward.

The eastern boundary is Gateacre Park Drive/Woolton Road/Rose Brow/Acrefield Road.

The southern boundary is the northern edge of Woolton Village. The boundary runs west beneath Acrefield Park then across to Saint Mary's Court, keeping Saint Peter's Church to the south. It then runs up Quarry Street to then turn west down Linkstor Road back to Menlove Avenue, with the boundary running south of Linksvie and north of Lymecroft.

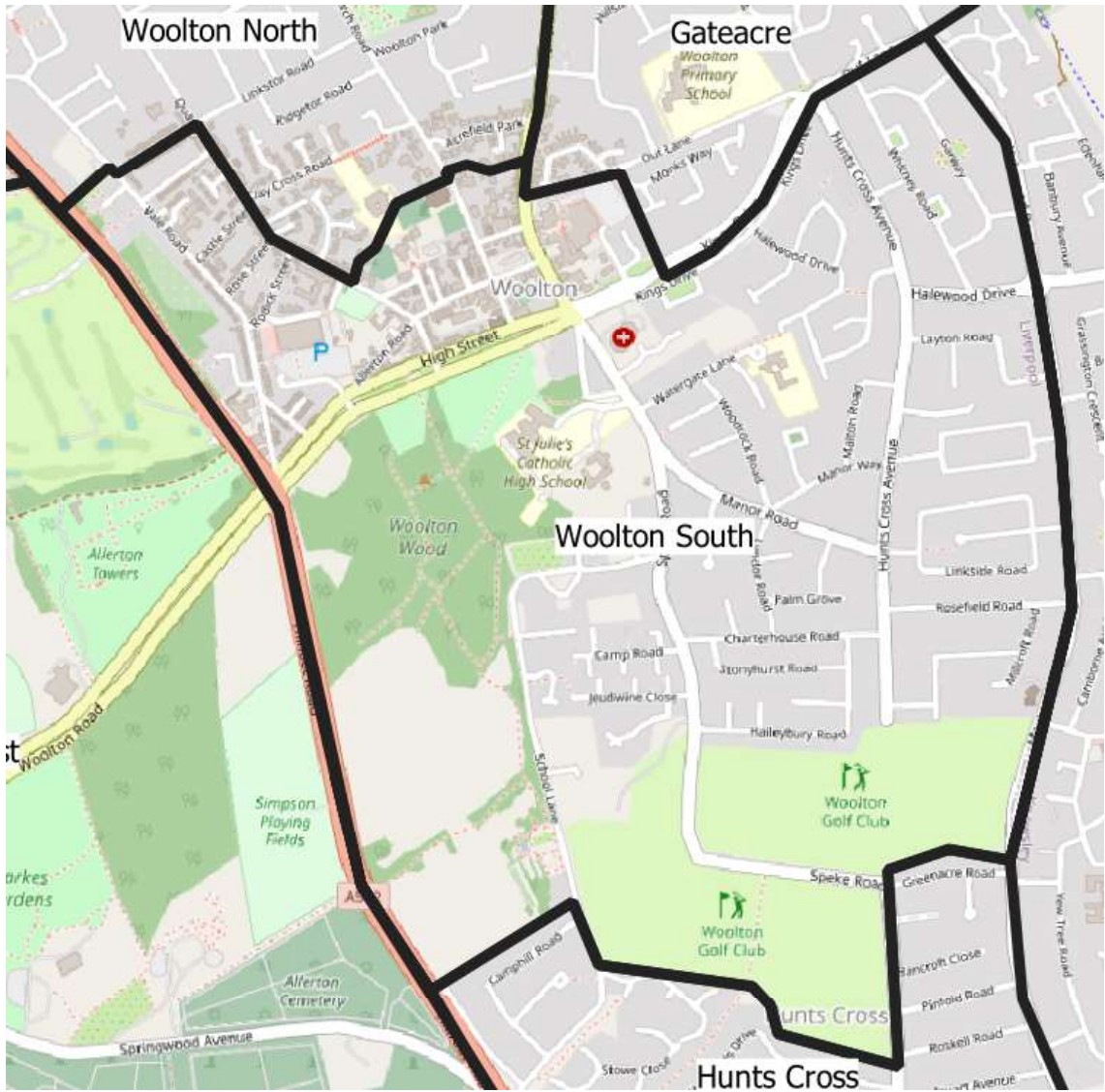
Rationale

In order to best represent the Woolton community, and meet the Boundary Commission requirement for primarily single member wards, we believe it is best to have two wards to cover Woolton: Woolton North and Woolton South.

Our proposal for Woolton North has a number of distinct advantages:

1. It represents current and future constituency boundaries, future-proofing the electoral efficiency of the ward and reflecting existing community boundaries (including the current ward boundary to the north west). Unlike Liverpool City Council's proposals, ours respects the natural boundary of Menlove Avenue and does not break up the community around Calderstones Park.
2. It allows for the whole of the Woolton Village community to be kept in a single ward (Woolton South), as a distinct community with distinct needs
3. Allows for equal representation across Woolton, while respecting the distinctiveness of the communities in the north and the south of Woolton.

6. Woolton South



Ward Description

From the north-west, the ward runs along the upper boundary of Woolton Village, from Menlove Avenue, starting south of Linksvie and north of Lymecroft and then down Linkstor Road to Quarry Street, where it runs south to Saint Mary's Court. The boundary then runs north to Church Road, keeping Saint Peter's Church to the south of the boundary line. The upper boundary then moves east with Acrefield Park to the north to Acrefield Road, then down Out Lane before moving south to Kings Drive, keeping James Court to the west. The boundary then runs along Kings Drive and Out Lane.

The border to the east runs down the Liverpool/Knowsley boundary. The southern boundary follows the southern perimeter of Woolton Golf Club and Camp Hill, to Hillfoot Road, which forms the eastern boundary.

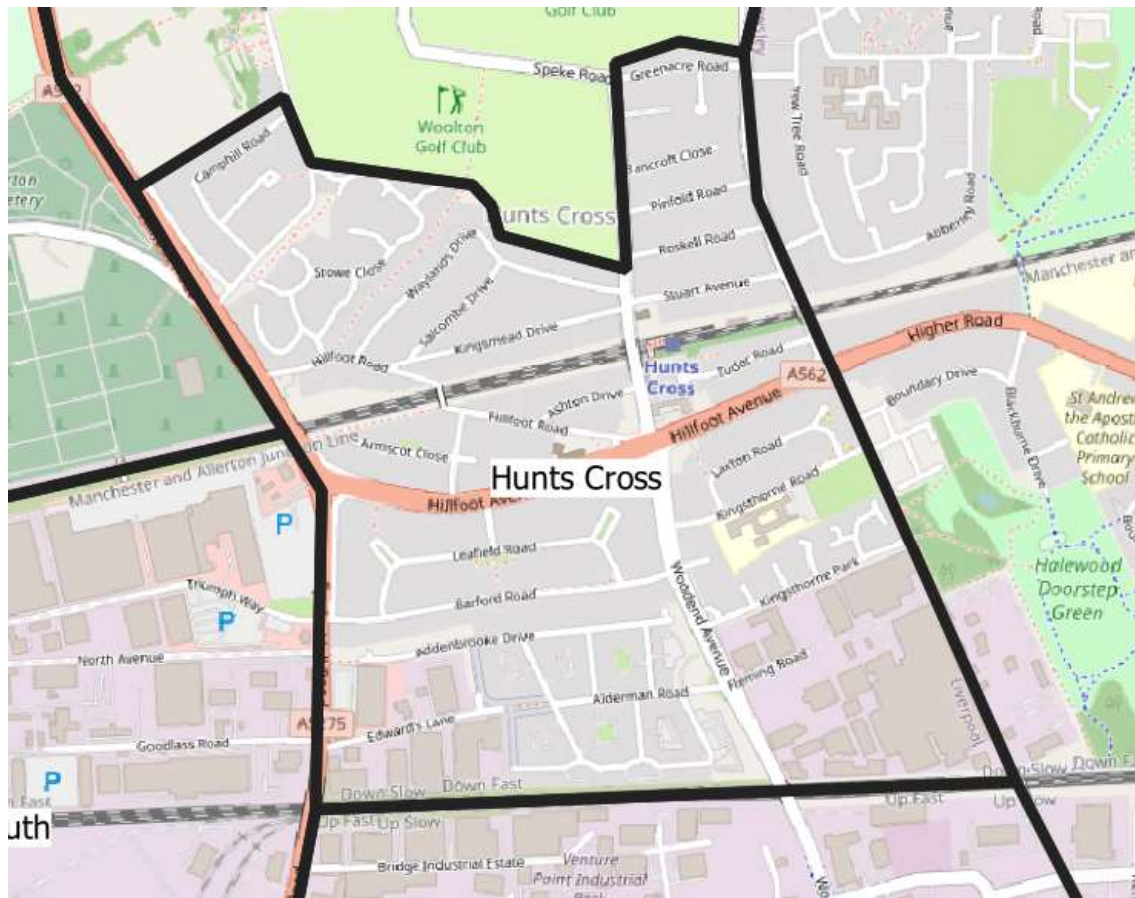
Rationale

Our Woolton South proposals allow for the representation of the whole of the Woolton Village and south Woolton communities, and the south of Woolton, centred on Speke Road and Hunts Cross Avenue.

The ward is bounded by natural boundaries, namely Hillfoot Road/Menlove Avenue, the north of Woolton Village, the Liverpool/Knowsley boundary, Woolton Golf Club and Woolton Woods/Camp Hill. As a result, this ward is the largest we propose but we place a greater value on the representation of distinct communities rather than strict numeric equality.

NB: We respect the fact that the Commission faces a legal requirement to strive to represent roughly the same number of voters per councillor, and if the imbalance between Woolton South (116%) and Hunts Cross (81%) is too great we would recommend a rebalancing of these two wards with a southern portion of Woolton South moved into Hunts Cross.

7. Hunts Cross



Ward Description

Our Hunts Cross ward shares the same eastern, southern, and western boundaries as Liverpool City Council's Hunts Cross ward. However the northern boundary for our proposal circles the southern perimeter of Camp Hill and Woolton Golf Club.

Rationale

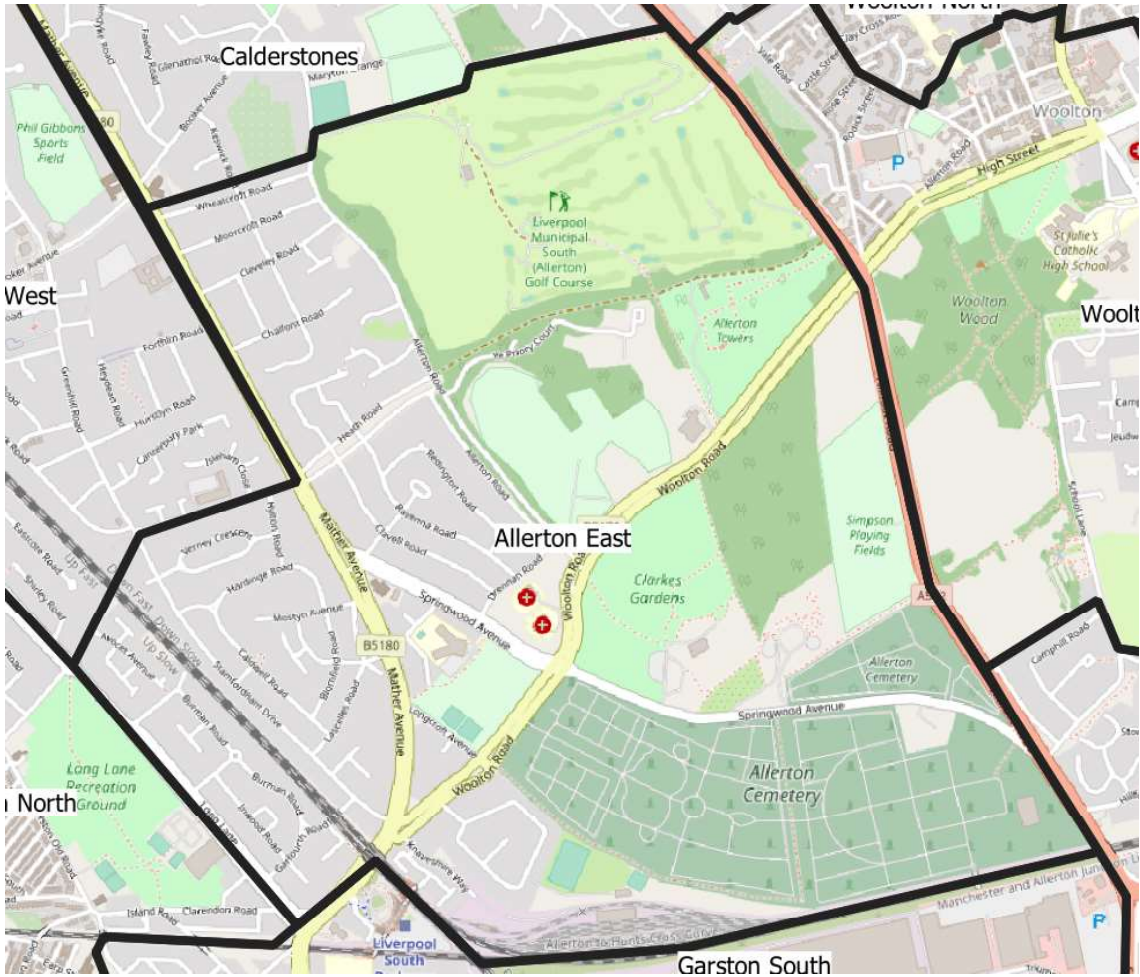
Our Hunts Cross ward is centered on the Hunts Cross community around Hunts Cross train station, the local community shopping centre, and Hillfoot Avenue. Its boundaries are largely natural: to the east it is bounded in by Knowsley, to the south by the railway line, to the west by Speke Hall Road/Hillfoot Road and to the north by Woolton Woods/Camp Hill and follows the outline of Woolton Golf Club.

Our Hunts Cross proposal represents a naturally-bounded community, and this stands in contrast to Liverpool City Council's proposal for a Hunts Cross ward, which (as shown in their own Appendix 3) contains a large proportion of the community of Woolton and still does not reach numeric equality - it has a variance of over 8%.

We believe that representing the community of Hunts Cross with a single councillor is preferable to creating an artificial hybrid of Hunts Cross and parts of south Woolton. Camp Hill and Woolton Golf Club represent a distinct boundary between the two areas which we believe should be respected.

NB: We did not include Hunts Cross Retail Park in the Hunts Cross ward, combining it with the rest of the industrial area in Garston South, but we would be happy for it to be included in this ward. As there is no residential property here it would not change the variance, but it is a key element of the Hunts Cross community.

8. Allerton East



Ward Description

Running anti-clockwise from the north east, the northern boundary of Allerton East runs along the top of Allerton Golf Course, turning down Allerton Road slightly, then runs straight to Mather Avenue keeping Wheatcroft Road to the south.

The boundary then follows Mather Avenue, turning down Heath Road/Greenhill Road, stopping at Long Lane and running south to Woolton Road. The boundary then runs north slightly to the railway and then follows this via the Allerton to Hunts Cross curve to Hillfoot Avenue, then running north to the top of Allerton Golf Course.

Rationale

Our Allerton East ward comprises part of the community of Allerton (see also Allerton West) but we are mindful of the Commission's recommendations for single-member wards.

Our eastern and western boundary of Hillfoot Road and Mather Avenue/Long Lane respectively represents a natural boundary which is meaningful (Long Lane separates Garston from Allerton, for instance), and it is notable that the southernmost edge of the ward held the old Allerton train station.

The ward is also very close to the required average ward size, being 3% of the average ward size based on projected 2027 figures.

We have drawn the southern boundary south of Allerton Cemetery, at the Manchester and Allerton Junction Line, while Liverpool City Council have chosen the railway line to the south - although locals would never call this part of the city 'Allerton' (as we mentioned above, we have put it in with Garston South but it could equally go to Hunts Cross). We believe the boundary should be the northern railway line.

Ward Description

Our Allerton West ward is bounded by Mather Avenue to the east, Heath Road and Greenhill Road to the south, Brodie Avenue, Ravenstone Road and South Mossley Hill Road and then the railway to the west, and Rose Lane and the north perimeter of Geoffrey Hughes Memorial Ground (the current boundary between polling districts CHA and CHD).

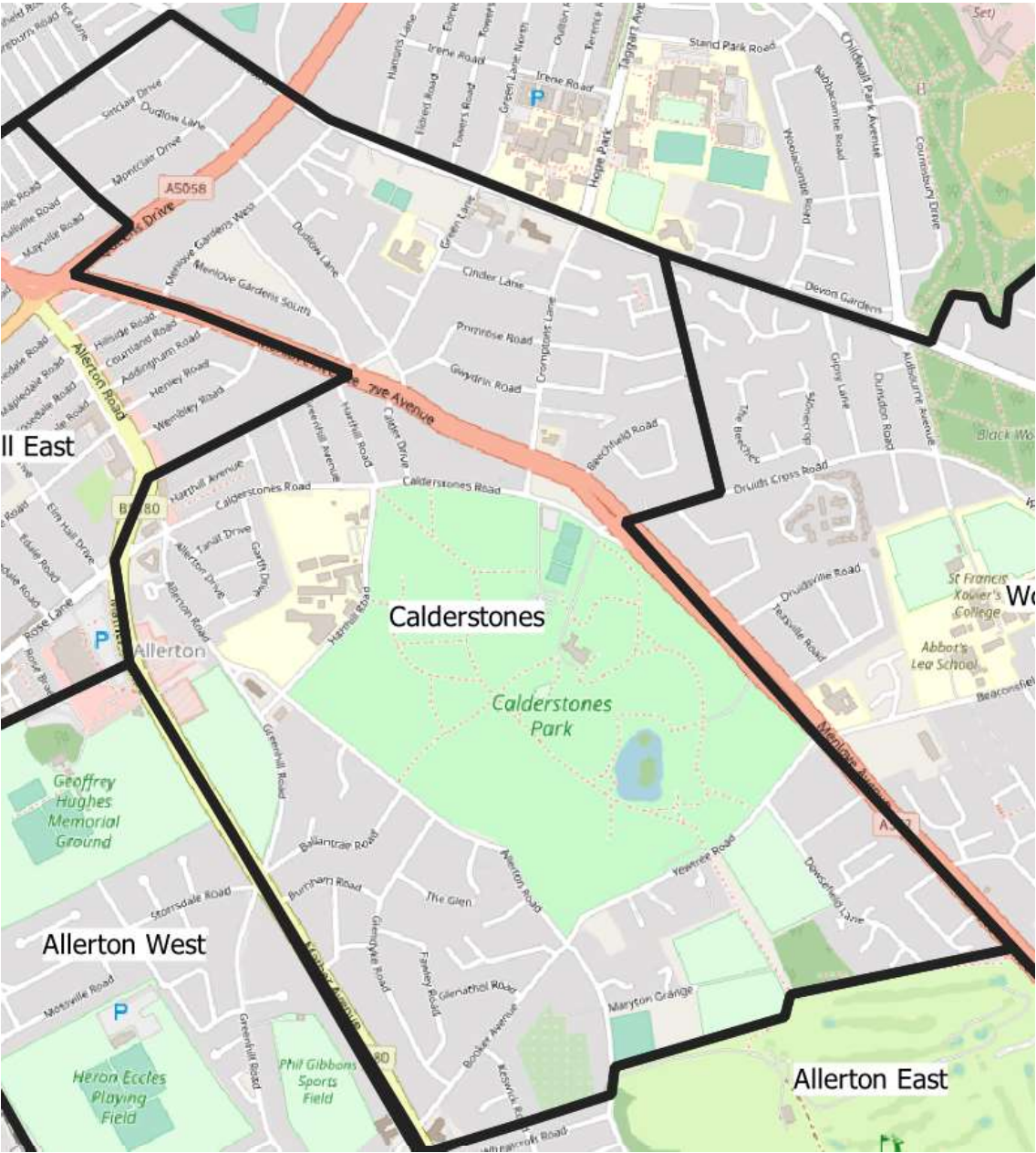
Rationale

Our Allerton West ward comprises part of the community of Allerton (see also Allerton East) but we are mindful of the Commission's recommendations for single-member wards.

The ward follows natural boundaries as well as the proposed Liverpool Garston boundary, future-proofing the ward vis-a-vis tidy electoral geography.

The structure and boundaries of Allerton West also allow us to represent a cohesive Cressington and Garston community in single-member wards too.

10. Calderstones



Ward Description

Starting from the north-west of the ward, our boundary follows the current Church ward boundary and proposed Liverpool Garston constituency to the north (up Heathfield Road and down Woolton Road), and then follows the current Church ward boundary down Hornby Lane, Druids Cross Road and then down Menlove Avenue.

The southern boundary is the northern perimeter of Allerton Golf Course, which separates the Calderstones community from the Allerton community. The southern boundary then runs west down the public footpath to Keswick Road and directly to Mather Avenue.

The western boundary runs up Mather Avenue, across Green Lane, and then up Menlove Avenue, turning east at Queens Drive, and then running down Rutherford Road.

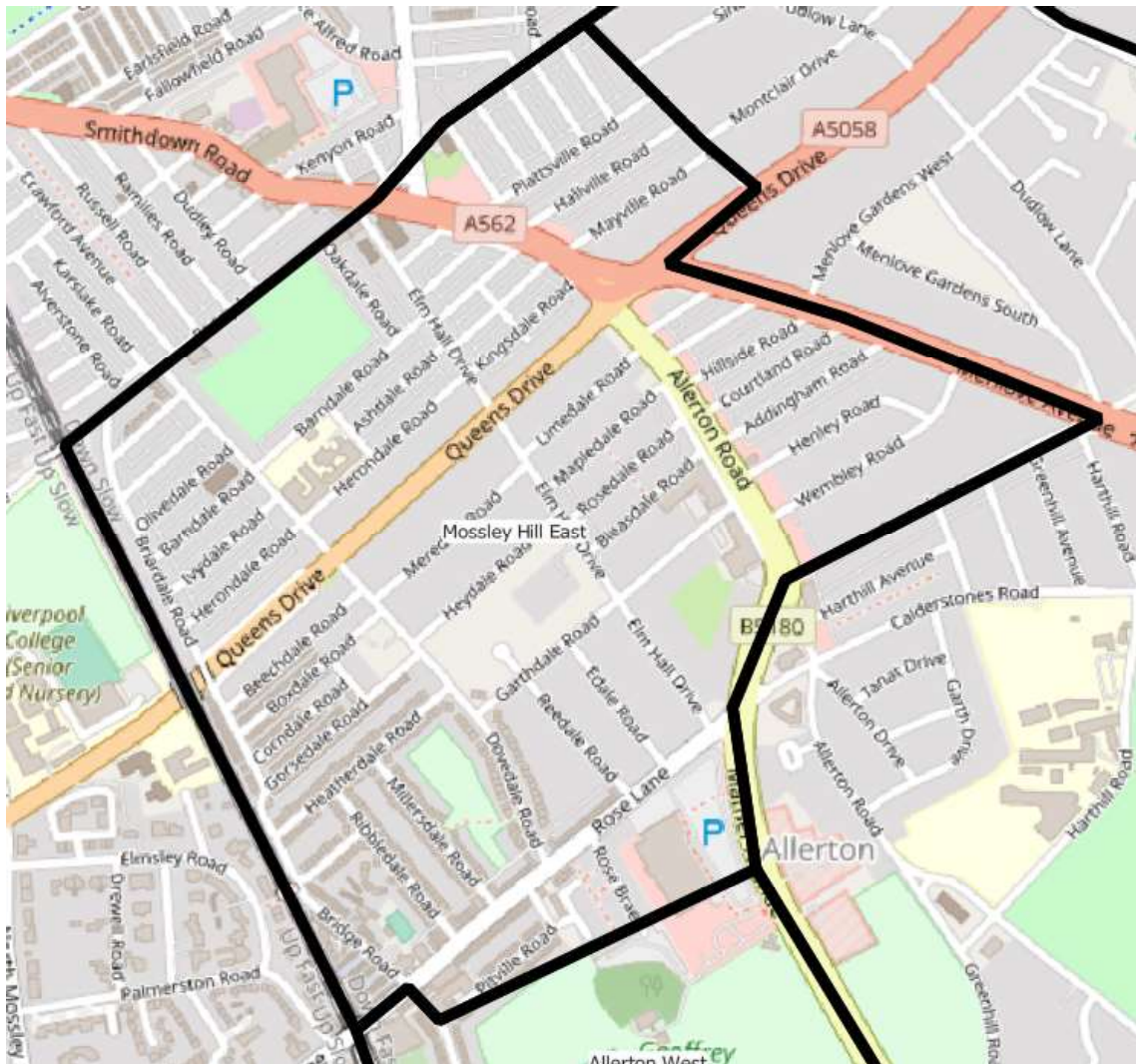
Rationale

Our proposals for a Calderstones Ward are based on a shared identity of residents around Calderstones Park and to the east of Mather Avenue, which acts as a natural boundary to the ward.

We have included the areas to the north of Menlove Avenue too, which align to the boundary of the proposed Liverpool Garston constituency. Also importantly, this upper section is fully coterminous with the current Church Ward boundary and so represents an already-existing sense of community.

This stands in contrast to Liverpool City Council's boundaries, which not only ignore the proposed boundaries of Liverpool Garston but also fail to represent a pre-existing community.

11. Mossley Hill East



Ward Description

The ward is bounded by Penny Lane/Heathfield Road to the north, Rutherford Road/Queens Drive/Menlove Avenue to the east, Green Lane, Mather Avenue and the top of the Geoffrey Hughes Memorial Field to the south, and the railway line to the west.

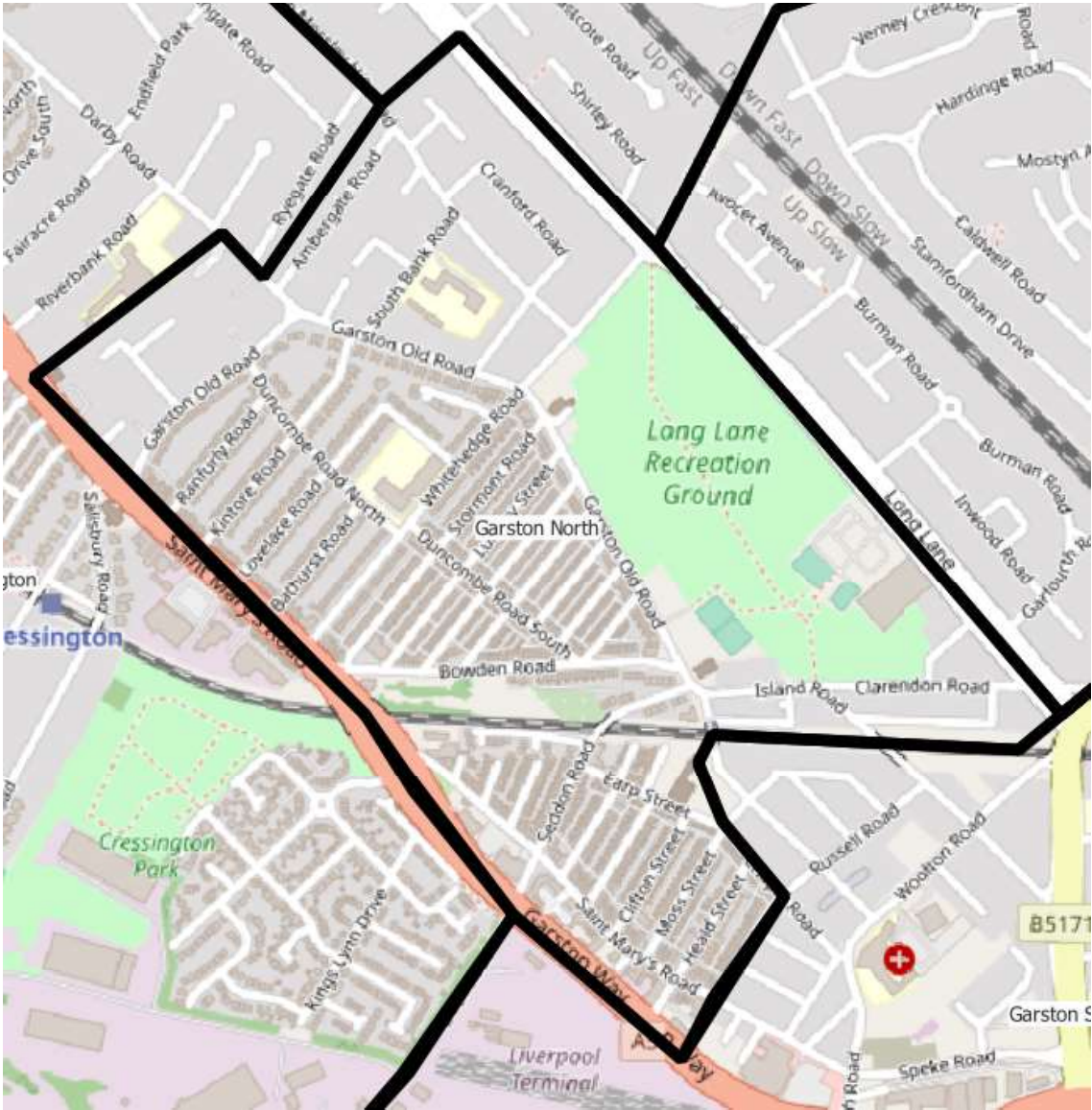
Rationale

Our proposed Mossley Hill East ward represents the part of the Mossley Hill community that falls within the proposed Liverpool Garston constituency.

It is bounded in by natural boundaries: to the west is the railway serving Mossley Hill station, to the north is Penny Lane, which serves as the proposed Liverpool Garston constituency boundary and the current Church ward. To the east is Menlove Avenue and Mather Avenue, and to the South is the current boundary between the CHA and CHB polling districts.

Mossley Hill East is centered around Rose Lane, with its shops and community services and its main thoroughfares of Queens Drive Mossley Hill and Allerton Road, as well as Smithdown Road at the northern edge of the Liverpool Garston parliamentary constituency.

12. Garston North



Ward Description

The northern boundary runs east from St Austin's church to Darby Road, keeping Sunrise Close to the south, then runs east between Ryegate Road and Ambergate Road and down Ravenstone Road. The boundary then runs south down Brodie Avenue/Long Lane, to Woolton Road.

The boundary then follows the railway line to the west, before running down to the east of St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church to meet Chapel Road, and then south down Wellington Street to meet Garston Way (A561), which forms the western boundary of the ward.

Rationale

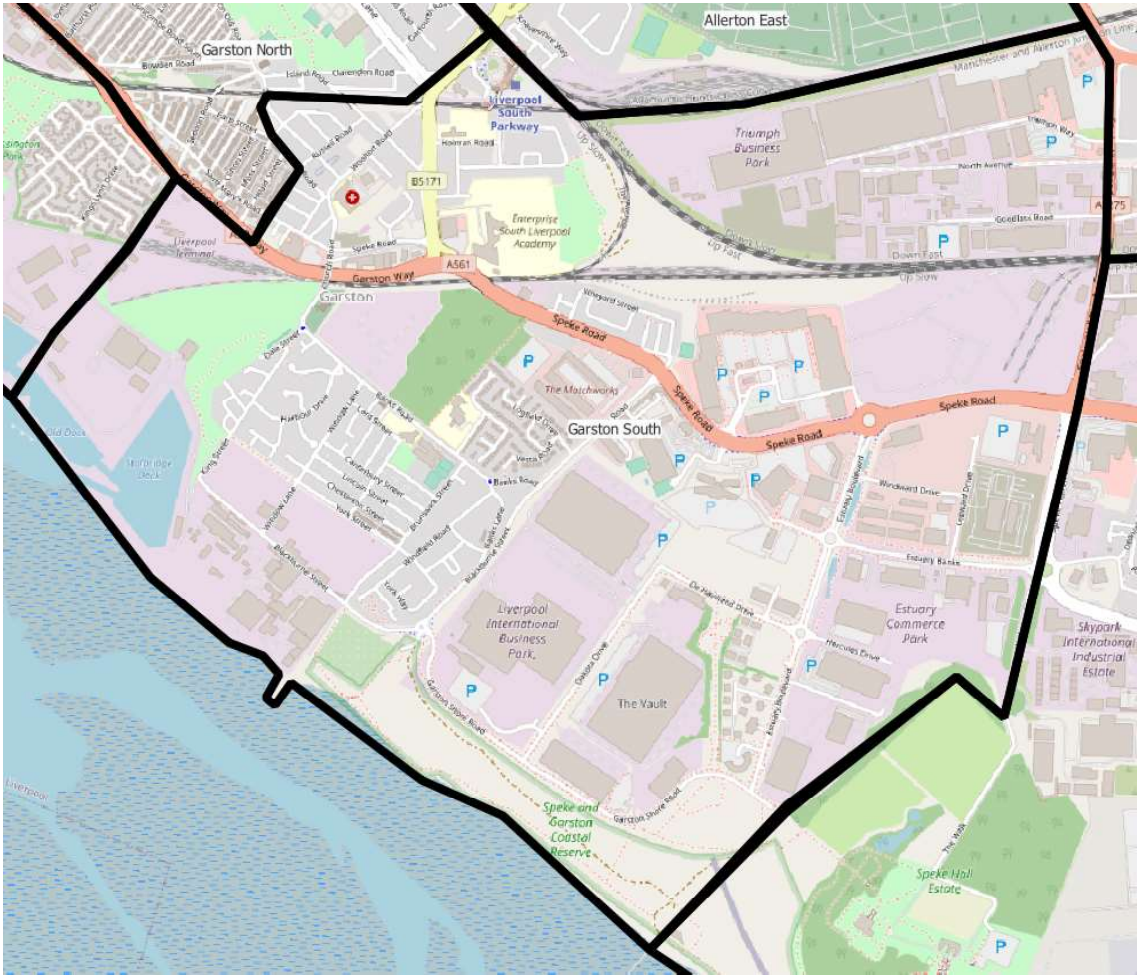
Our Garston North ward represents the community of Garston around Long Lane/Garston Park ("Long Lane Recreation Ground") and the community 'under the bridge'. These communities have similar issues and would be well represented by the same councillor.

Garston North contains the Saint Mary's Road high street with numerous local amenities and Garston Old Road with local convenience stores.

This ward has numerous advantages over Liverpool City Council's suggestions, namely:

1. It respects the boundaries of the future Liverpool Garston constituency.
2. It allows for appropriate representation of the communities of Allerton and Cressington, whilst minimising ward-size variance.
3. It respects numerous natural boundaries.

13. Garston South



Ward Description

The south of our ward is bounded by the River Mersey, moving east between the North Dock and the Old Dock, then south to Garston Way to Wellington Street. The boundary then runs north to Chapel Road, keeping to the east of St Francis of Assisi Church before reaching the railway.

The boundary follows the railway east, then north up Woolton Road to take in Liverpool South Parkway, and then south down the railway line, following the Manchester and Allerton junction Line east to Hillfoot Road. The boundary then follows Hillfoot Road/Speke Hall Road/Speke Hall Avenue south before following the perimeter of Speke Hall (the boundary of the polling districts SGA/SGB).

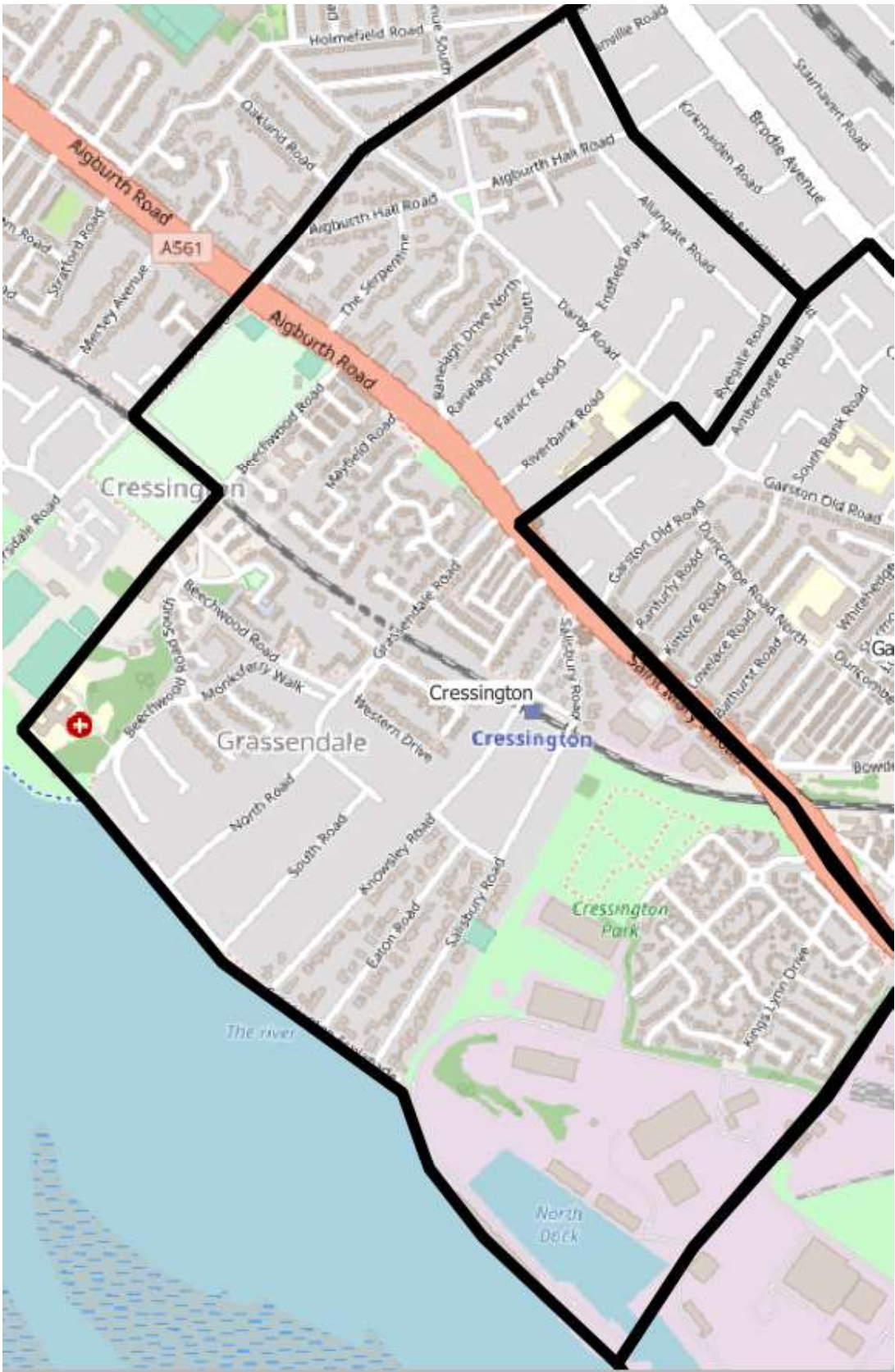
Rationale

Our Garston South ward primarily reflects the Garston community 'under the bridge', and (excluding Liverpool South Parkway, which we would see in Garston North) the western and northern boundaries are coterminous with the current Speke-Garston ward. The eastern boundary is Speke Hall Road, down to Speke Road and then south down Estuary Boulevard to the River Mersey.

Unlike Liverpool City Council's proposals, Garston South allows for the representation of local communities but, importantly, it does not require a Cressington or Grassendale ward to run across current or proposed constituency boundaries.

This ward comprises a lot of industrial and office space - as noted above it would be possible for this part of the ward to go to Hunts Cross or Speke if deemed necessary.

14. Cressington



Ward Description

Our Cressington ward is bounded by the River Mersey to the south, with the boundary then running north of Beechwood and Hunter's Way Nursing Home to the railway line, following the line north before turning east down Riversdale Road/Aigburth Hall Avenue.

The boundary then runs south down South Mossley Hill Road, before turning west between Ryegate Road and Ambergate Road to meet Darby Road, running north of Sunrise Close before running west to Aigburth Road, north of St Austin's Church. The boundary then runs south before turning west at Dock Road to meet the River Mersey.

Rationale

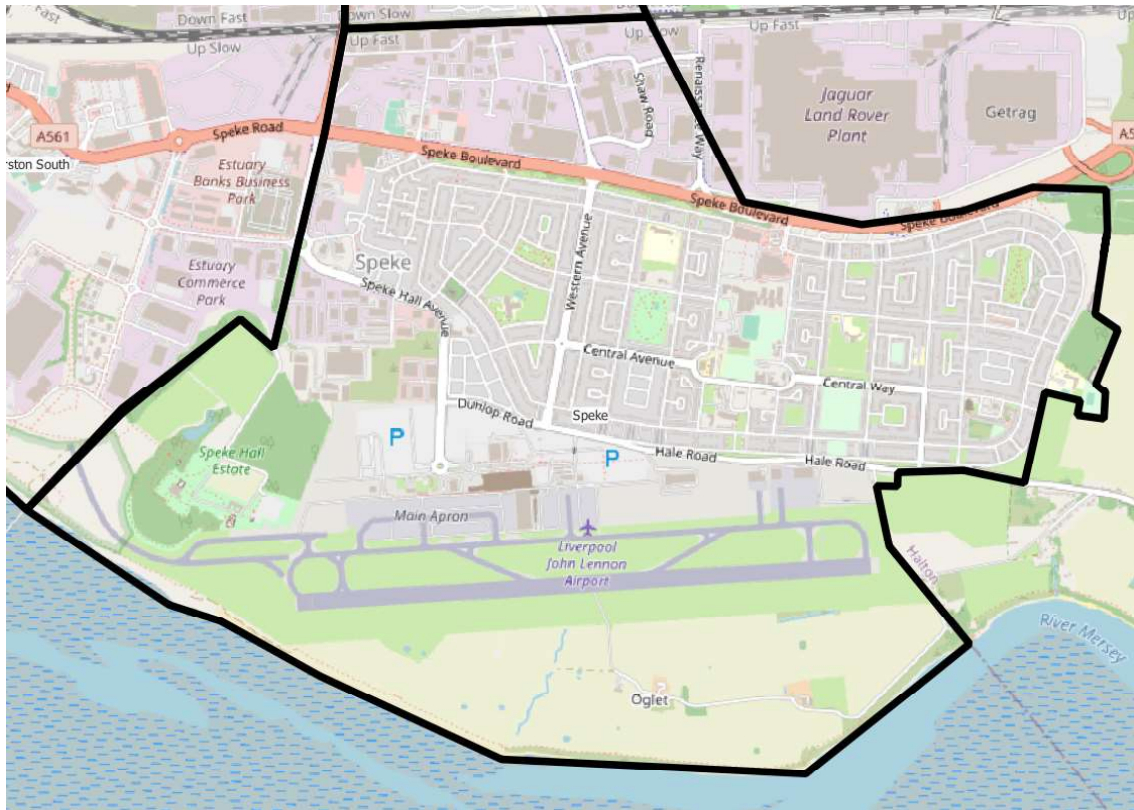
Our proposal for Cressington ward reflects a sense of community based around Cressington Park, Cressington train station and Aigburth Road.

The northern and southern boundaries reflect the existing Cressington ward boundary, while the northern boundary is also shared by the current Garston and Halewood and proposed Liverpool Garston constituency.

This boundary allows us to respect the communities of Garston, represented in Garston North and Garston South, as well as reflecting electoral geography (current and future).

On the other hand, Liverpool City Council's plan for an Aigburth ward not only cuts across current and proposed constituency boundaries, but it breaks down the community of Cressington to merge it with Garston to the south and Aigburth to the north.

15. Speke



Ward Description

We are in agreement with Liverpool City Council's proposals for a 2-member ward for Speke, and are in agreement with their boundaries. These boundaries represent the community of Speke and fall within the natural boundaries of the River Mersey and the Liverpool/Knowsley boundary.

Appendix 1 - Ward Information

	Councillors	2027 Electorate*	Size as % of average
Netherley	1	3601	84%
Belle Vale	1	4018	93%
Childwall East	1	3767	88%
Gateacre	1	4274	99%
Woolton North	1	4517	105%
Woolton South	1	4985	116%
Hunts Cross	1	3485	81%
Calderstones	1	4427	103%
Mossley Hill East	1	4467	104%
Garston North	1	4007	93%
Garston South	1	4404	102%
Allerton East	1	4424	103%
Allerton West	1	4242	99%
Cressington	1	4123	96%
Speke	2	9150	106%
Liverpool total		365505	
Liverpool average		4300	

*These figures are estimates based on a combination of Liverpool City Council's estimated 2027 ward electorates and geospatial data analysis. These figures would need to be verified by the Commission independently as we do not have full access to Liverpool City Council's data.

