

Review of Electoral Arrangements

City of Liverpool

Submission of Liverpool Labour Group on New Warding Proposals

12 December 2021

1. General Points

a) The Council Submission

This submission is made on behalf of the Liverpool Labour Group (the Labour Group), consisting of the Mayor of Liverpool and the 67 Labour councillors currently serving on Liverpool City Council. The Liverpool Labour Group forms the political administration of Liverpool City Council.

The Labour Group on the Council has participated fully in drawing up the official Council proposals at the first and second stages on the review, which were agreed with the Commissioners currently appointed to oversee the council, as required in the Government's direction. The Group voted in favour of those proposals forming the Council's own cross-party submission at both stages of the electoral review.

The Labour Group believes that the Council's official submission as agreed with the Commissioners offers an excellent template for the equitable allocation of 85 council seats across the city. We believe in particular that the boundaries as proposed recognise communities and where possible use logical and understandable physical features – major roads, railways, waterways and open spaces. We particularly welcome the emphasis within the Council submission on the importance of wards reflecting real neighbourhoods, building on the Council's vision on 20-minute neighbourhoods, and the meticulous way in which each proposed ward has been built where possible around local facilities and amenities.

b) Single- and Multi-Member Wards

The Labour Group proposal, therefore, does not propose any amendment to the boundaries of the wards as set out in the Council submission. However, it does set out a different balance between multi-member and single-member wards.

The direction from the government upon which the Commissioners and local authority drew up their proposals emphasised a preference for single member wards. It referred to a requirement for:

“...consideration of a proposal to reduce the number of councillors consistent with elections on a predominantly single member ward basis...”

We understand the logic that as the authority switches from using an electoral cycle in which one-third of the council has been elected in each year with one “fallow” year (the cycle prescribed for all metropolitan districts when they were set up in the 1970s) to having whole council elections every four years, there is no longer any practical or legislative requirement that each ward shall elect three members. We understand that where councils elect all their councillors in one election then using uniformly single-member wards has the attraction of simplicity and technical uniformity.

The Labour Group believes however that these are not necessarily compelling factors within the terms of the statutory criteria upon which the Local Government Boundary Commission draw up their own proposals – electoral equality, community cohesion and good governance. We note that there are currently only a handful of single-tier authorities which have a completely uniform structure of single-member wards, none of which is a metropolitan district. Those metropolitan districts which have switched to whole council elections have adopted a mixture of single-, two- and three-member wards.

We believe therefore that the Commission should adopt a flexible approach in Liverpool in which the circumstances of each neighbourhood and community are considered on their merits. In some parts of the city we accept that single-member wards may best reflect local community structures, in others multi-member wards (two- or three-member) may be a better fit.

In making this case we are mindful of a number of considerations, all of which we believe are relevant to the considerations which the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) take into account. We would place them under three headings:

i. Continuity

We accept that with a slight reduction in the number of councillors across Liverpool there will be very few existing wards which could theoretically be retained completely unchanged. However, the

existing pattern of wards is well-established and has been used since 2004, a period in which 13 sets of local elections have taken place. Residents have become used to them and local community groups, churches, schools and other institutions understand them and their names. Where it is possible to have continuity we believe that would strengthen the relationship between the authority, the local elected representatives and the electors and community groups.

ii. Community Patterns

The nature and pattern of communities within Liverpool or any other large city is unlikely to be properly reflected in a uniform structure of wards which are all of roughly the same size. The switch to a whole council election therefore is an opportunity for more flexibility to be introduced and for wards to reflect those patterns better than they have done in the past under a uniform three-member structure.

Furthermore, for the city to have 80 different wards will make engagement with the council's elected representatives more complex for those city-wide organisations which must deal with all councillors. It will be harder for residents, businesses and community groups to become familiar with the geography of the wards and potentially more difficult to know which ward is where. With 30 wards currently most will be able to work out the rough location of each one from its name; where the areas concerned are much smaller and the ward names are those of local neighbourhoods that will be less straightforward.

iii. Councillors as Teams

Having operated for decades under a system whereby there were three councillors elected in every ward that is the norm which both electors and councillors themselves have become used to. We believe that there are intrinsic benefits from have more than one councillor representing an area.

It allows for councillors to work as a team, dividing workloads and allowing specialisation and focus on specific issues within the ward.

It also ensures that it is less likely that any ward will not be properly represented if for any reason a councillor is temporarily indisposed or if a councillor holds a senior position of responsibility on the authority or with a national or international organisation like the Local Government Association,

United Cities and Local Governments or the Commonwealth Local Government Association (Liverpool councillors have served on the executives of all three in recent years). This may limit the time that can be devoted to local representative responsibilities.

We note that these points were raised with the Secretary of State during the consultation on the Inspection Report prior to the appointment of Commissioners by the organisations Centenary Action Group and Unlock Democracy.

We agree also with the point which was made by Unlock Democracy that the prospect of being the sole councillor in a ward may put off some potentially effective councillors from standing who may be intimidated by the prospect of having sole responsibility for representing the ward with no support available. This may disproportionately affect potential councillors with certain protected characteristics, such as women, young people and disabled people.

It may be the case that constituents may want to have a choice of which of their councillors to contact with certain sensitive types of casework, for example, around disclosures about violence against women.

Finally, where councillors in single-member wards serve on quasi-judicial regulatory committees like planning, street trading, licensing and gambling, residents may be left without a voice representing them on contentious applications, as councillors serving on those committee have to avoid involving themselves in such casework so as not to predetermine applications. This will potentially affect some areas of the city more than others, for instance, areas with significant projected housing growth, areas where there are large numbers of HMO conversions or areas with large clusters of night-time economy activity.

All of these we believe to be matters of sensitivity to community and governance which the LGBCE should take into account in determining the pattern of wards.

2. Labour Group Scheme

The Labour Group scheme is for 47 wards made up as follows:

- 7 three-member
- 24 two-member
- 16 single-member

Most of the single-member wards are proposed to be in the south and norther-eastern suburbs of the city where the population density is generally lower and we believe the natural communities in general fit better with such a pattern. In contrast, in much of the north of the city, the city's inner-core and large outer-city estates, we believe that the more geographically compact communities including some of the large social housing estates fit better with larger electoral units. However, these distinctions are not uniform and of course the case for some of the two- and three-member wards will be stronger than that for others. The Commission may choose to adopt some of these proposals but not all of them.

In most cases, the Council scheme wards which are amalgamated are largely or wholly within a single current ward, thus allowing for continuity of representation. This is particularly the pattern in the north of the city where the Labour scheme to a great extent reflects those current wards. In the centre of the city, where the electorate is projected to grow significantly, then under any scheme a greater degree of change will be required.

The wards are listed below. Those with a yellow background are identical to those proposed in the Council scheme although their ward numbers may be different:

Ward Number	Ward Name	No. of Councillors	2027 Projected Electorate	% Difference from average councillor-electior ratio
1	Fazakerley	3	12,690	-2%
2	Warbreck	3	12,506	-3%
3	County	2	7,884	-8%
4	Clubmoor	2	8,016	-7%
5	Norris Green	3	13,341	3%
6	Croxteth	2	8,672	1%
7	Anfield	2	8,488	-1%
8	West Derby Muirhead	1	3,989	-7%
9	Kirkdale	2	8,234	-4%
10	Tuebrook and Stoneycroft	3	13,208	2%
11	Sandfield Park	1	4,428	3%
12	West Derby Deysbrook	1	4,166	-3%
13	Dovecot	2	8,885	3%
14	Vauxhall and Waterfront North	2	8,893	3%
15	Scotland Road	2	7,730	-10%
16	Everton	2	8,605	0%
17	Kensington and Fairfield	3	13,072	1%
18	West Derby Leyfield	1	4,000	-7%

Ward Number	Ward Name	No. of Councillors	2027 Projected Electorate	% Difference from average councillor-electors ratio
19	Waterfront South	1	4,466	4%
20	City Centre North	2	7,961	-7%
21	Brownlow Hill	2	9,431	10%
22	Old Swan	2	8,535	-1%
23	Broadgreen	1	4,618	7%
24	Knotty Ash	1	4,398	2%
25	City Centre South	3	12,004	-7%
26	Paddington	2	9,498	10%
27	Picton and Edge Hill	2	8,698	1%
28	Wavertree	2	8,351	-3%
29	Childwall	2	8,636	0%
30	Dingle	2	8,322	-3%
31	Toxteth	2	9,000	5%
32	Smithdown	2	8,589	0%
33	Penny Lane	2	8,881	3%
34	Woolton and Gateacre	3	12,993	1%
35	Belle Vale	2	9,334	9%
36	Sefton Park	1	4,498	5%
37	Greenbank	1	4,627	8%
38	Calderstones	2	8,233	-4%
39	Festival Gardens	1	3,981	-7%
40	St Michaels	1	4,316	0%
41	Aigburth	1	4,504	5%
42	Mossley Hill	1	3,968	-8%
43	Springwood	1	4,299	0%
44	Hunts Cross	1	4,637	8%
45	Grassendale	1	4,244	-1%
46	Garston and Cressington	2	8,529	-1%
47	Speke	2	9,150	6%
Total		85	365,508	

The Labour Group agrees with the proposals contained within the official Council scheme for the following 16 single member wards:

- West Derby Muirhead
- Sandfield Park
- West Derby Deysbrook
- West Derby Leyfield
- Waterfront South
- Broadgreen
- Knotty Ash
- Sefton Park
- Greenbank
- Festival Gardens
- St Michaels

- Aigburth
- Mossley Hill
- Springwood
- Hunts Cross
- Grassendale

The Group also agrees with the proposals for the following two-member wards:

- City Centre North
- Brownlow Hill
- Paddington
- Speke

We therefore adopt all the arguments made in favour of these wards within the official Council submission.

We set out below the proposals for the 27 two- and three-member wards which the Labour Group would wish the LGBCE to consider, each of which is an amalgamation of whole wards contained within the official Council scheme. We must therefore again stress that the Labour Group does not propose any alternative boundary to those within the Council scheme. The arguments below are solely concerned with the merits of creating multi-member as opposed to single-member wards in certain parts of the city. Therefore, we refer to the general points made above specifically in respect of continuity and the reflection of community ties. We would argue that those proposals are designed to minimise the number of artificial boundaries which divide communities for the sole purpose of creating a largely single-member structure.

The 2027 projected electorates for these wards are derived from the figures within the Council scheme. All 47 wards are within 10 per cent of the average councillor: elector ratio and the average deviation is 4 per cent, compared with 8 per cent in the Council's submission.

We recognise that with a reduced number of councillors, the electorate of three-member wards will be larger than currently, but we believe that the standard electorate of 12,900 is manageable and acceptable.

Any reference to “Council ward(s)” below refers to wards proposed within the Council’s official submission.

Ward Number	1
Ward Name	Fazakerley
Number of Councillors	3
Projected 2027 Electorate	12,690
Comprised of Council Wards of	1.Fazakerley West
	5.Aintree
	6.Fazakerley East

This ward is on the northern edge of the city and is very similar to the existing Fazakerley ward. It has strong boundaries on all sides including the East Lancashire Road and the B5187 Long Lane. It incorporates the whole of the community of Fazakerley which would be divided between all three of the wards in the Council proposal. Part of the existing Norris Green ward (Sparrow Hall) would be included but we believe this is large enough to be an important component of the ward in its own right and is in any case cut off from the rest of Norris Green by the East Lancashire Road. Sparrow Hall was historically in the Fazakerley ward that existed before 2004. A three-member Fazakerley ward has a variance of -2 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the three single-member wards in the Council scheme of Fazakerley West, Aintree and Fazakerley East have respective variances of -6 per cent, 8 per cent and -7 per cent.

Ward Number	2
Ward Name	Warbreck
Number of Councillors	3
Projected 2027 Electorate	12,506
Comprised of Council Wards of	2.Orrell Park
	3.Walton Park
	4.Walton Hall

This ward would be almost identical to the existing Warbreck ward, the main change being the addition of the roads to the north of Breeze Hill and the addition of Walton Hall Park and the ship roads within the park north of Queens Drive, which leaves that road as a very strong ward boundary. This would be a compact ward centred on the A59 Rice Lane/Walton Vale/Warbreck Moor, a retail and leisure centre and clearly forms an identifiable community, with the Council proposal being for a very artificial and unsatisfactory boundary, for example in the Chatsworth Avenue area between Orrell Park and Walton Park wards. A three-member Warbreck ward has a variance of -3 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the three single-member wards in the Council scheme of Orrell Park, Walton Park and Walton Hall have respective variances of -9 per cent, -10 per cent and 10 per cent.

Ward Number	3
Ward Name	County
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	7,884
Comprised of Council Wards of	7.Walton-on-the-Hill
	12.County

This ward comprises the large majority of the current County ward, with small areas to the north of Breeze Hill, the ship roads and to the west of Stanley Park Avenue North transferred to the Warbreck and Clubmoor wards respectively, in each case the new boundary being formed by a major road. Integrating the two Council wards dispenses with the need for an artificial boundary between them such as that along Stuart Road which we believe divides similar communities. The ward would have as a focus County Road, a major retail and leisure centre.

Ward Number	4
Ward Name	Clubmoor
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,016
Comprised of Council Wards of	8.Clubmoor West
	9.Clubmoor East

Although the boundary between the Clubmoor West and Clubmoor East wards under the Council scheme would be well defined, we believe it divides the single community of Clubmoor, which would be better served by one two-member ward, bringing the Florence Melly, Daneville, Scarisbrick and the Ferguson/Sandyville estates together. These estates have a clear shared identity, consist of similar housing stock and share local amenities, like recreational grounds and local schools. A small area to the west of Stanley Park Road North is added to the existing Clubmoor ward while the area between Lorenzo Drive and Morningside Road is transferred to the Norris Green ward and the area to the south west of Queen's Drive (the Larkhill estate) to the Tuebrook & Stoneycroft ward. The boundary with Norris Green thus becomes the former railway line, now a major walkway which is a clear physical divide with no continuous development across it.

Ward Number	5
Ward Name	Norris Green
Number of Councillors	3
Electorate	13,341
Comprised of Council Wards of	10.Norris Green North
	14.Norris Green West
	15.Norris Green East

This ward would comprise the single community of Norris Green with, compared to the existing ward, the area north of the East Lancashire Road (Sparrow Hall) transferred to the Fazakerley ward but the area between Lorenzo Drive and Morningside Road (around Norris Green Park) transferred from Clubmoor as well as a small part of the current Croxteth ward. We believe the case for this well-defined and discrete community to form a single ward is very strong. Norris Green is a well-established community with its own clear identity, shared local amenities, such as shops, local schools, parks and recreational grounds, and similar housing stock. A three-member Norris Green ward has a variance of 3 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the three single-member wards in the Council scheme of Norris Green North, Norris Green West and Norris Green East have respective variances of 10 per cent, -1 per cent and 2 per cent.

Ward Number	6
Ward Name	Croxteth
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,672
Comprised of Council Wards of	10.Croxteth
	17.Croxteth Country Park

While the two wards in the Council scheme are distinct, we believe that there are strong community ties between them which justify their remaining in a single Croxteth ward, sharing local schools, Croxteth Country Park and other local amenities, like shops, leisure facilities (Croxteth Library, Croxteth Leisure Centre and Stonedale Retail Park). A two-member Croxteth ward has a variance of 1 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Croxteth and Croxteth Country Park have respective variances of -3 per cent and 5 per cent.

Ward Number	7
Ward Name	Anfield
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,488
Comprised of Council Wards of	13.Anfield North
	20.Anfield South

The two wards as proposed in the Council scheme broadly comprise the distinct community of Anfield, with the boundary between them, Priory Road, as much a focal point as a dividing line within it, being a local retail centre. This ward as proposed would be entirely within the current Anfield ward with the exception of that part of Tuebrook & Stoneycroft ward to the north west of Townsend Lane, which would thus become the ward boundary. Stanley Park and Anfield Stadium are focal points for the whole community and this is reflected in a two-member ward. A two-member Anfield ward has a variance of -1 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Anfield North and Anfield South have respective variances of 0 per cent and -3 per cent.

Ward Number	9
Ward Name	Kirkdale
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,234
Comprised of Council Wards of	18. Kirkdale
	19. Melrose

The ward would broadly comprise the northern part of the current Kirkdale ward, reflecting the long-established and well-defined community of Kirkdale. The two wards in the council scheme divide a community with a strong identity along Westminster Road, which would form part of the boundary between them. Westminster Road is a mainly residential street with some small retail clusters, which form a focal point for both sides. The two-member Kirkdale ward would reconnect a single, divided community, which shares many local amenities, such as local schools, recreational grounds and retail and leisure centres. A two-member Kirkdale ward has a variance of 4 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the three single-member wards in the Council scheme of Kirkdale and Melrose have respective variances of 8 per cent and 0 per cent.

Ward Number	10
Ward Name	Tuebrook and Stoneycroft
Number of Councillors	3
Electorate	13,208
Comprised of Council Wards of	21.Tuebrook Larkhill
	30.Tuebrook Edinburgh Park
	33.Stoneycroft

This ward would be similar to the existing Tuebrook and Stoneycroft with the addition of voters from Edinburgh Park and Breckside Park from Anfield and the Larkhill estate from Clubmoor. Both of these areas have strong ties with Tuebrook and Stoneycroft. We believe the existing Tuebrook and Stoneycroft is well understood by its electors and a strong sense of community identity, shares West Derby Road, a major retail centre, as its focal point and would not benefit from being divided into three new wards. A three-member Tuebrook and Stoneycroft ward has a variance of 2 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the three single-member wards in the Council scheme of Tuebrook Larkhill, Tuebrook Edinburgh Park and Stoneycroft have respective variances of 1 per cent, 7 per cent and -1 per cent.

Ward Number	13
Ward Name	Dovecot
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,885
Comprised of Council Wards of	24.Dovecot North
	35.Dovecot South

This ward unites areas on the eastern edge of the city, which lie within the current Yew Tree ward. The Council's Dovecot North ward brings together newer housing on the Coachmans Drive and Brookside estates, with the part of the Cantril Farm estate that is in Liverpool and the Snowberry Road estate. Dovecot South brings together broadly the area south of Princess Drive and north of East Prescott Road. The Council's scheme artificially divides Dovecot, an area with a strong local identity, sharing many community amenities like shops, local schools and recreational grounds.

Ward Number	14
Ward Name	Vauxhall and Waterfront North
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,893
Comprised of Council Wards of	25. Waterfront North
	26. Vauxhall

We believe on balance that there is advantage in maintaining the links between the communities of the Athol Village, Lockfields View, Eldonian Village and Pumpfields of Vauxhall and the newer residential developments of the Waterfront within the Liverpool Waters and Ten Streets regeneration areas. These are both currently within the Kirkdale ward and linking these communities together recognises the long affinity, which Vauxhall has had with the Central Docks and the Leeds-Liverpool Canal. Indeed in a two-member Vauxhall and Waterfront North ward, the Leeds-Liverpool Canal, with its canal-side paths, bridges like the Boundary Bridge, Leigh Bridge, Lightbody Street Bridge and Vauxhall Bridge, the Eldonian Basin and the Stanley Dock Branch, will be a real focal point for all communities with the ward, a shared leisure facilities, bringing all residents together. Liverpool Waters, Ten Streets and Pumpfields are areas, which will see significant new developments in the next five years, which, as well as creating new jobs and economic growth, will involve significant place making, strengthening existing links between Vauxhall and the Waterfront further. The North Shore Vision, launched by the City Council in 2020 and backed by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and civic partners, such as Merseyside Civic Society and the 2030 Hub Liverpool, outlines the area as an international exemplar of heritage-led regeneration that will deliver sensitive development alongside urban renaissance and economic prosperity. Integral to this is the notion of utilising Waterfront development to fix the embedded structural challenges in North Liverpool, such as high levels of entrenched multiple deprivation, worklessness and child poverty and low life expectancy, house prices and skills levels. We believe that having a two-member wards linking these growth areas with the more established Athol Village, Lockfields View and Eldonian Village areas will reflect that new emerging wider community and will help the delivery of the North Shore Vision.

Ward Number	15
Ward Name	Scotland Road
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	7,730
Comprised of Council Wards of	27.Scotland Road
	28.Everton West

We believe there is a natural affinity between these two wards in the Council's submission with that part of the Council's Scotland Road ward to the east of the A59 forming part of the same community as Everton West with Everton Road and Heyworth Street along with Everton Park, forming a logical boundary with the rest of Everton further up the hill. Scotland Road, widely known locally as Scottie Road, is a historic community with a strong identity. This sense of community identity encompassing both sides of Scotland Road is illustrated by the long-running community newspaper serving the area, the Scottie Press, (now mainly online) and school catchment areas. Though the Scotland Road area experienced massive post-ward depopulation, the area has seen new housing built more recently and repopulation, through people returning to the area and new residents moving in. Scotland Road never lost in strong community identity and its shared identity has been strengthened by recent developments in the area, including the refurbishment of Great Homer Street Market, the new Great Homer Street District Centre with a large Sainsbury's Supermarket as an anchor, Notre Dame Catholic College and the new Merseyside Police Headquarters on Rose Hill. The effect of these developments and improved connectivity has been to reduce Scotland Road as a physical barrier, reenergising Great Homer Street, running parallel to Scotland Road, as a focal point for the wider area.

Ward Number	16
Ward Name	Everton
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,605
Comprised of Council Wards of	29.Everton North
	31.Everton East

These two Council wards comprise the Breckfield and Queens Road areas, which would both be described as part of Everton. These areas are on the top of Everton Brow, overlooking Everton Park, Scotland Road, Central Docks and Liverpool City Centre. The Breckfield and Queens Road areas are all currently in the Everton ward. The area south of West Derby Road has good links into these areas. This is a clear, identifiable community centred around Breck Road District Centre with shared amenities like local schools, GP surgeries, shops and recreational grounds. A two-member Everton ward is only 5 voters over the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Everton North and Everton East have respective variances of -2 per cent and 3 per cent.

Ward Number	17
Ward Name	Kensington and Fairfield
Number of Councillors	3
Electorate	13,072
Comprised of Council Wards of	32.Fairfield
	39.Kensington North
	40.Kensington South

This ward is very similar to the existing ward of this name, but by including the area to the west of Jubilee Drive (Kensington Fields) it would unite the whole of Kensington and the inclusion of Newsham Park would unite the whole of Fairfield. The latter would leave Rocky Lane as a very well defined boundary to the north of Fairfield. Kensington and Prescott Road is an established District Centre, which unites both sides of the road. There is a strong community identity in Kensington and Fairfield and many shared amenities and well-established links, including local schools, parks and recreational grounds, shops, leisure facilities and Kensington Library. Housing is similar throughout the area, with a preponderance of pre-1919 terraced housing, many of which have been converted into HMOs. The area has a very transient population, making it more difficult to deliver effective and convenient delivery of local government in this area through three single-member wards than through one three-member ward. A three-member Kensington and Fairfield ward has a variance of 1 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the three single-member wards in the Council scheme of Fairfield, Kensington North and Kensington South have respective variances of 3 per cent, -3 per cent and 1 per cent.

Ward Number	22
Ward Name	Old Swan
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,535
Comprised of Council Wards of	41. Old Swan West
	42. Old Swan East

This ward would be largely contained within the existing Old Swan ward with the addition of much of the Wavertree Technology Park, in which there are very few, if any, electors, and the area to the north of Sandstone Road East transferred to Tuebrook and Stonecroft. This is a recognised community and the people throughout the ward would describe themselves as living in Old Swan. Old Swan is a very well established, sharing many links and amenities, including local schools, the Old Swan District Centre, Joseph Lapin Centre, Doric Park and other recreational grounds and Old Swan Library. The housing stock is similar in nature with many terraced houses. A two-member Old Swan ward has a variance of -1 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Old Swan West and Old Swan East have respective variances of 2 per cent and -3 per cent.

Ward Number	25
Ward Name	City Centre South
Number of Councillors	3
Electorate	12,004
Comprised of Council Wards of	45.Ropewalks
	52.City Centre South

This comprises the northernmost segment of the current Riverside ward and we believe forms a natural community with Duke Street functioning as a focal point rather than a boundary within it. The area covered by the Council's Ropewalks ward does not cover the Ropewalks Partnership Area established originally in the 1990s, which crossed Duke Street as far as Lydia Ann Street and included much of Chinatown. We believe that areas covered by our three-member City Centre South ward better reflect community identities than the Council's proposed two-member City Centre South ward and single-member Ropewalks ward. There is a strong and growing common community identity here, with many shared amenities, including retail and leisure (Bold Street, Duke Street, Concert Square and the Baltic Triangle), local educational facilities (City of Liverpool College, St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, Dukes and Duchesses Day Nursery and LIPA Primary School) and green spaces (Great George Square, Roscoe Gardens and St James Cemetery). The Council's Ropewalks ward is geographically very small, with a very transient population. The Council's Ropewalks ward has a very vibrant night-time economy centred around Concert Square and, to a lesser extent, Duke Street. Issues around noise nuisance and licensing would dominate its councillor's casework. We therefore believe that including Ropewalks within a wider three-member City Centre South ward would enable more effective and convenient delivery of local government.

Ward Number	27
Ward Name	Picton and Edge Hill
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,698
Comprised of Council Wards of	47.Edge Hill
	48.Picton

These two Council wards we believe belong together as they largely comprise the existing Picton ward, the main amendment being the use of the Smithdown Road as the southern boundary. The proposed boundary between the Edge Hill and Picton wards in the Council scheme is Cecil Road and Cranborne Road, which divides a natural community. Edge Hill and Picton are areas with shared local amenities, including Earle Road and Lawrence Road as a local retail centre, Picton Children's Centre and local schools, including the recently newly built Archbishop Blanch School. The areas covered by the two-member Picton and Edge Hill ward have a very transient population and a large number of HMOs, making it more difficult to deliver effective and convenient delivery of local government in this area through two single-member wards than through one two-member ward.

Ward Number	28
Ward Name	Wavertree
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,351
Comprised of Council Wards of	49.Wavertree Village
	50.Wavertree Garden Suburb

These two Council wards comprise the majority of the existing Wavertree ward and Wavertree community, with the addition of the area to the west of Queen's Drive making for a much more clearly defined boundary in that area. The Wavertree Village ward includes Wavertree Playground, also known as the Mystery, a large Victorian Park. The Mystery is home to Wavertree Sports Park, a large sporting and leisure complex, in which Liverpool Aquatics Centre, Liverpool Tennis Centre and Wavertree Athletics Ground are located. The area is covered by two Conservation Areas, Wavertree Village and Wavertree Garden Suburb, reflecting the historic development in these areas. Wavertree is a long-established, very recognisable community. The proposed two-member Wavertree ward would bring together the Wavertree Village and Wavertree Garden Suburb areas, which share many links and form a natural community. Wavertree High Street is its focal point, where residents from the wider community come together to shop, eat and drink. The area shares links with the Mystery, other green spaces, local schools, shops, bars and restaurants on the High Street, Wavertree Sports Park, Wavertree Children's Centre and Wavertree Library. Civic organisations like the Wavertree Society and Love Wavertree have a perspective that covers the whole Wavertree area. A two-member Wavertree ward has a variance of -3 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Wavertree and Wavertree Garden Suburb have respective variances of 4 per cent and -10 per cent.

Ward Number	29
Ward Name	Childwall
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,636
Comprised of Council Wards of	51.Childwall Rocket
	59.Childwall Hope Park

This ward would comprise the community of Childwall, with the main changes from the existing ward being the transfer of the area to the north west of Rocky Lane to the Broadgreen and Wavertree wards and the addition of that part of the existing Belle Vale ward north of Childwall Valley Road around Chelwood Avenue. Childwall is a long-established residential suburb with a strong local identity. It shares many links and amenities with local schools, green spaces (including Childwall Woods, the Loop Line and Score Lane Gardens) and shops. Liverpool Hope University has its main campus at Hope Park. A two-member Childwall ward is only 36 voters over the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Childwall Rocket and Childwall Hope have respective variances of 3 per cent and -2 per cent.

Ward Number	30
Ward Name	Dingle
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,322
Comprised of Council Wards of	53.Dingle North
	63.Dingle South

Dingle is a community within the broader Toxteth area, which currently lies mainly within the Riverside ward. Dingle is a long-established and widely recognised community with very identifiable boundaries of, broadly, Parliament Street in the north, Park Road in the east, Dingle Lane in the south and Sefton Street in the south. The area south of Admiral Street looks across Park Road to Dingle, rather than north into L8. This proposal would abolish what would be an artificial boundary as proposed in the Council scheme in the Park Street and Grafton Street area. Dingle shares many amenities including local schools, Park Road Leisure Centre and Park Road District Centre and Mill Street local retail centre. A two-member Dingle ward has a variance of -3 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Dingle North and Dingle South have respective variances of 3 per cent and -9 per cent.

Ward Number	31
Ward Name	Toxteth
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	9,000
Comprised of Council Wards of	54.Toxteth
	55.Princes Park

This ward would be similar to the existing Princes Park ward, excluding the Admiral Street area, which would be transferred to Dingle South and the Canning/Georgian Quarter area, which would be transferred to Paddington. The area remaining, Liverpool 8, is centred around Princes Road/Princes Avenue, which is a coherent unified community. This area shares many local amenities including Granby Market, Princes Park, Princes Park Health Centre, local schools and local shops. Princes Road/Princes Avenue has recently been renovated into a new cycling and walking route and linear park showcasing the history of Liverpool 8. Both sides of the road were previously one community, but this renovation work has made Princes Road/Princes Avenue even less of a barrier. A two-member Toxteth ward has a variance of 5 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Toxteth and Princes Park have respective variances of 1 per cent and 8 per cent.

Ward Number	32
Ward Name	Smithdown
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,589
Comprised of Council Wards of	56.Arundel
	57.Smithdown Dales

This ward is mainly within the current Greenbank ward and is centred on Smithdown Road, the major community focus for the area. Putting the Arundel and Smithdown Dales ward from the Council submission together unites the key retail and leisure corridors of Smithdown Road and Lodge Lane. The streets off Lodge Lane transferred from the current Picton ward were all in the old pre-2004 Arundel ward. These areas have strong ties with each other around Smithdown Road and Lodge Lane and share many other local amenities such as schools and green spaces, such as Toxteth Park Cemetery. In all these areas, there is a preponderance of pre-1919 terraced housing and high numbers of HMOs. The L17 streets off Smithdown Road (Hawarden, Rossett and Gresford Avenues) in the Council's Smithdown Dales ward are in the same Conservation Area as the avenues adjoining them in the Council's Arundel ward (Halkyn through to Brompton Avenues). Both these two sets of streets have been in the same residents' group for 25 years (The Avenues Neighbourhood Network - TANN). The areas covered by the two-member Smithdown ward have a very transient population and a large number of HMOs, making it more difficult to deliver effective and convenient delivery of local government in this area through two single-member wards than through one two-member ward. A two-member Smithdown ward is only 11 voters over the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Arundel and Smithdown Dales have respective variances of - 5 per cent and 4 per cent.

Ward Number	33
Ward Name	Penny Lane
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,881
Comprised of Council Wards of	58.Church
	66.Penny Lane

This ward comprises the western part of the existing Church ward with part of the existing Wavertree ward. The focal point is the Allerton Road District Centre, the westernmost point is known as the world-famous Penny Lane, which is the area's major retail and leisure centre. The Councils scheme places the boundary between Church and Penny Lane wards along Allerton Road, which is an artificial boundary that separates a natural community. We believe that the residents in these areas share a common identity and many local amenities, including shops, bars and restaurants in Allerton Road and a secondary centre along Woolton Road, local schools and green spaces. The area consists of similar housing types, mainly owner-occupied terraced and semi-detached housing.

Ward Number	34
Ward Name	Woolton and Gateacre
Number of Councillors	3
Electorate	12,993
Comprised of Council Wards of	60.Gateacre
	68.Woolton West
	69.Woolton East

This ward is mainly derived from the existing Woolton ward but also includes those parts of the community of Woolton, which are within the existing Allerton and Hunts Cross. Woolton and Gateacre have a very strong shared community identity as former separate villages outside the City of Liverpool. Though Woolton Village and Gateacre Village have retained their own identities within the City of Liverpool, both are now firmly part of the wider Woolton suburb. This is reflected in the work of the Woolton Society and Gateacre Society, two civic organisations dedicated to the promotion of the heritage of each village and the award-winning Woolton and Gateacre in Bloom. Woolton and Gateacre share local amenities, like green spaces (Reynolds Park, and Black Woods), local schools and Woolton Village as a District Centre. The area has similar housing stock, outside of the historic villages, mainly suburban semi-detached and detached houses. A three-member Woolton and Gateacre ward has a variance of 1 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the three single-member wards in the Council scheme of Gateacre, Woolton West and Woolton East have respective variances of 4 per cent, -4 per cent and 3 per cent.

Ward Number	35
Ward Name	Belle Vale
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	9,334
Comprised of Council Wards of	61.Valley
	62.Netherley

The area covered by the Council's Valley and Netherley wards covers the post-war housing estates of Hartsbourne, Belle Vale, Lee Park, Naylorsfield, Netherley and Woodlands. The major changes from the existing ward would be the transfer of the area north of Childwall Valley Road around Chelwood Avenue to the Childwall ward and of a small section of part of Gateacre to the Council's Gateacre ward. Both are these areas lie outside these post-war estates. We believe that the separation of these into two wards in the Council scheme is anomalous and that this should be retained as one ward. The area is on the edge of Liverpool surrounded on three side by Knowsley. The area shares a strong shared sense of identity and shares many local amenities, including Belle Vale Shopping Centre, as a focal point for the whole area, local schools, including the relatively recently rebuilt and relocated Gateacre School, a large secondary school that serves the area, youth projects (such as Gateacre Youth Centre, Netherley Youth and Community Initiative, St Cyril's Children and Youth Project, Valley Community Theatre and Woodlands Community Centre), recreational grounds and many local civil society organisations, including local sporting clubs, which are especially strong here. A two-member Belle Vale ward would have strong, very clear and identifiable borders, in the main the Loop Line and the border between Liverpool and Knowsley.

Ward Number	38
Ward Name	Calderstones
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,233
Comprised of Council Wards of	67.Menlove
	74.Calderstones

This proposal would combine much of the eastern side of the current Church ward with parts of Allerton and Hunts Cross. We believe that a two-member ward made up of the Council's Menlove and Calderstones wards would better reflect existing community ties. The focal point for these areas is Calderstones Park and they have a strong sense of shared identity as Calderstones, a distinct suburb. These areas share local amenities, like Calderstones Park, local schools like Our Lady's Bishop Eton and Calderstones Schools, popular and many times oversubscribed schools with catchment areas covered by both of the single-member wards in the Council's scheme. The housing in both of the Council's ward is very similar, consisting primarily of semi-detached and detached suburban housing. A two-member Calderstones ward has a variance of -4 per cent from the electoral quota, whereas the two single-member wards in the Council scheme of Menlove and Calderstones have respective variances of -8 per cent and -1 per cent.

Ward Number	46
Ward Name	Garston and Cressington
Number of Councillors	2
Electorate	8,529
Comprised of Council Wards of	78.Garston North
	79.Garston South and Cressington

The two wards proposed in the Council scheme here comprise a number of disparate neighbourhoods. Garston North is made up of Garston Village, home to the overwhelming majority of electors and New Mersey Retail Park and adjoining industrial land to the north of the A561. Garston South and Cressington is made up of Garston Under The Bridge, a long-established residential and industrial area around Garston Docks, Cressington Heath, a newer residential development build on brownfield land around Garston Docks and the area around Cressington Station. The majority of voters in Garston South and Cressington live in Garston Under The Bridge and Cressington Heath, areas which are very clearly part of the wider Garston community. These areas share local schools and shops, especially St Mary's Road where there is a large Aldi supermarket and Garston Village itself, they are served by Garston Library and Garston One Stop Shop and use Long Lane Recreational Ground and Lifestyles Garston as their local leisure centre. The local station for Garston Village, Garston Under The Bridge and Cressington Heath is Liverpool South Parkway and both communities are served by the same bus routes. Although people living in the area around Cressington Station would not consider themselves living in Garston to the same extent, we believe that the ties between those living in Garston North and the majority of those living in Garston South and Cressington are so strong, reflecting a shared Garston identity that the residents of these wards would be better served in one two-member ward, Garston and Cressington.