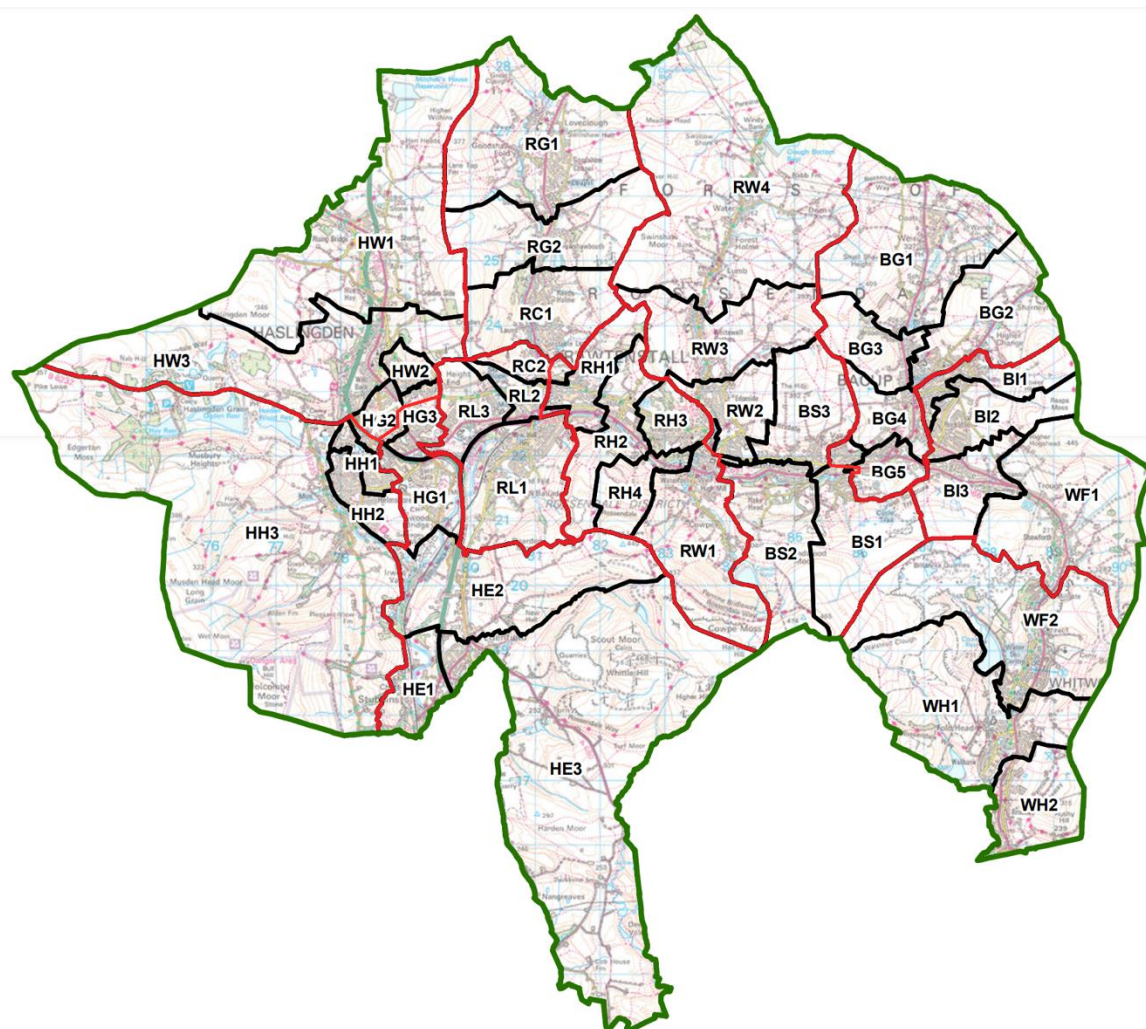


# Rossendale Borough Council Conservative Group

## Submission to the LGBCE call for boundary proposals

In conjunction with Rossendale & Darwen Conservative Association,  
Jake Berry MP, Rossendale & Darwen and Sara Britcliffe MP,  
Haslingden & Hyndburn

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## Introduction & Context

Within this document we will set out our proposals for the future warding arrangements of Rossendale. These proposals have been generated on the basis of 30 Councillors after 2024 and on the basis that the Council will continue in an election cycle of 1/3rds.

Using the 2028 electorate projection the perfect split for Rossendale would see entitlements roughly as follows:

- Edenfield – 2 Councillors
- Haslingden – 7 Councillors
- Rawtenstall & Crawshawbooth – 11 Councillors
- Bacup – 6.5 Councillors
- Whitworth – 3.5 Councillors

As can be evidenced from this there is no perfect split within the Borough and so some of the decisions we have taken will see natural boundaries forced to split in order to deliver elector equality within the guidelines as set out. Whilst we do not naturally agree with these new boundaries we recognise the need to ensure that the wards are split evenly in coherent ways which provide effective and efficient representation. There is no perfect solution but we believe this to be the closest to a sensible and workable proposal which can be achieved and will make sense.

The key issue within the area created by the split of Councillors is the impact on the Parish of Whitworth. We have explored options to ensure Whitworth is able to be maintained as a single ward combining all areas. This however would create an overly large ward (12% over quota) and have a knock on impact throughout the rest of the proposal creating wards which didn't necessarily make geographical sense and had significant fluctuations in quotas. This would mean significant disparity in representation and upon review we didn't feel that the strength of the argument for maintaining Whitworth as a whole ward justified this. Equally, within Whitworth residents travel to either Bacup, Rawtenstall or Rochdale to access local amenities and other residents from other parts of Rossendale access some services within Whitworth. We consider the aforementioned factors do not justify submitting a proposal that exceeds the quota. Instead we have tried to protect individual identities of areas and retain their names.

Within ward names we have used the word 'with' rather than 'and' to try and reflect a more harmonious linking. This boundary review will see areas join together which may not have identified together previously. We felt that describing them as being 'with' each other would provide better clarity and protect the areas individual identities.

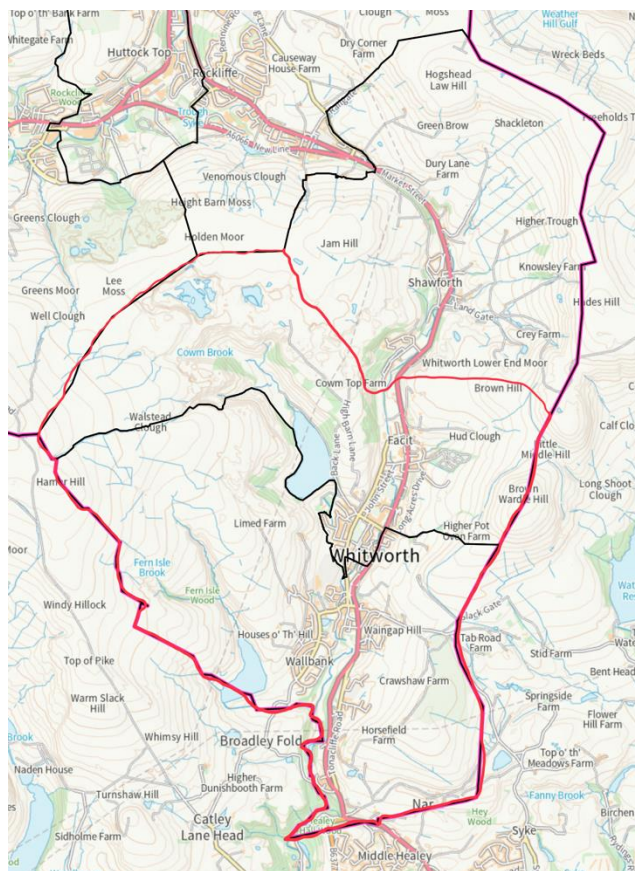
The format of the report will see each proposed new ward set out, the quota of the projected electorate, a description of the ward and the rationale behind the proposed boundary line alongside a clear image marking out the new boundary lines.

## Whitworth

Allowance – 2.8 Councillors, 6.67% under quota

Elector total – 5205.17

- This proposed ward will incorporate all of the existing Healey and Whitworth ward along with the majority of the WF1 part of the Facit & Shawforth ward.
- The new boundary line splits down Market Street and fully separates Facit & Shawforth. Facit will move into the Whitworth whilst Shawforth will split into a new Bacup East and Shawforth ward.
- We are proposing adjusting the boundary because the current boundary line between WF1 and WF2 is based at Oak Street off Market Street whilst the Shawforth/Facit boundary is actually located slightly further to the East. There is a marker stone on Market Street which highlights the border and is where we propose the boundary line being located. The house numbering on Market Street also splits at this point as well.
- Shawforth residents would naturally see themselves within the Whitworth boundary however due to the projected growth of WH1 by 2028 it isn't possible to combine all the wards of Whitworth into one new ward and be within the 10% tolerance for over/under quota.
- As such we want to ensure that any new split doesn't further break up the Shawforth area and that the local identity of this area is protected
- The remaining ward boundary lines are as the existing wards set out.
- This would see a split on the area represented by Whitworth Town Council which covers the whole Shawforth area.



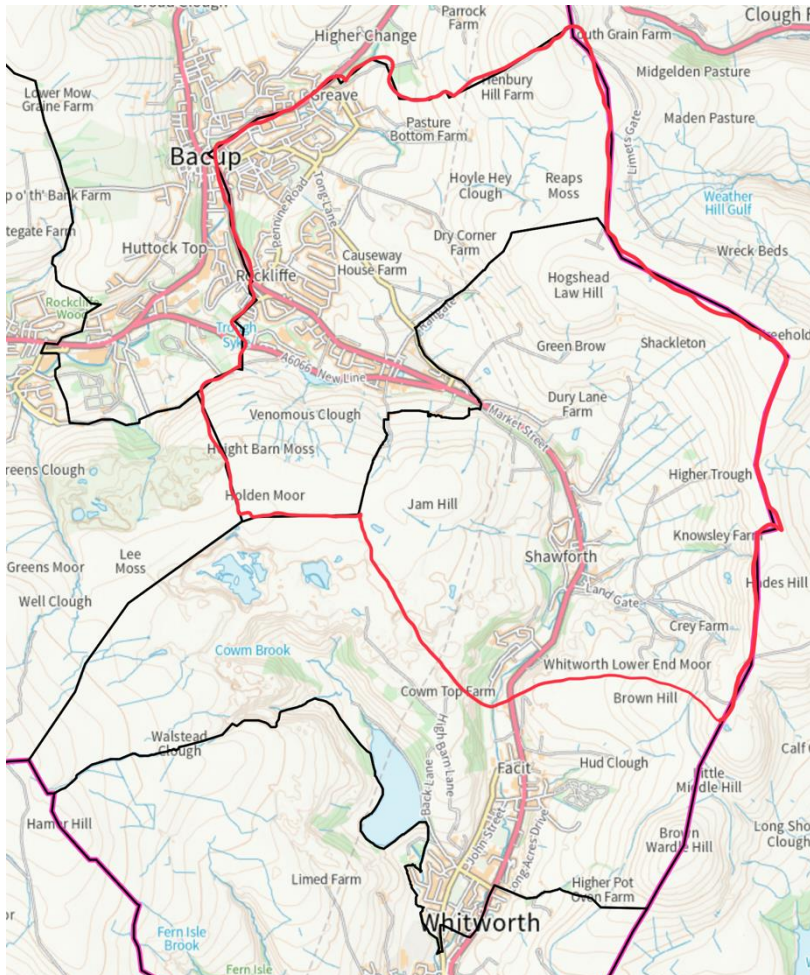


## Bacup East with Shawforth

Allowance – 3.11 Councillors, 3.67% over quota

Elector total – 5757.83

- This ward is made up of the existing Irwell ward combining with WF2 from the existing Facit & Shawforth ward as well as a small part of WF1 to ensure the boundary of Shawforth can be protected (see rationale for Whitworth)
- All parts of Irwell ward are projected to see growth in electors by 2028 and as such will meet the quota
- In order to protect the natural boundary of Shawforth we feel it is acceptable that this ward runs over quota in order to protect this local identity.
- The remaining boundaries of Irwell are maintained within the new ward. These are fully understood by local residents and so we propose them remaining as they currently are to reduce confusion and simplify the transition to the new boundaries across the Borough.
- Irwell is currently represented by three councillors, so the inclusion of Shawforth and the projected electorate growth brings this up to quota

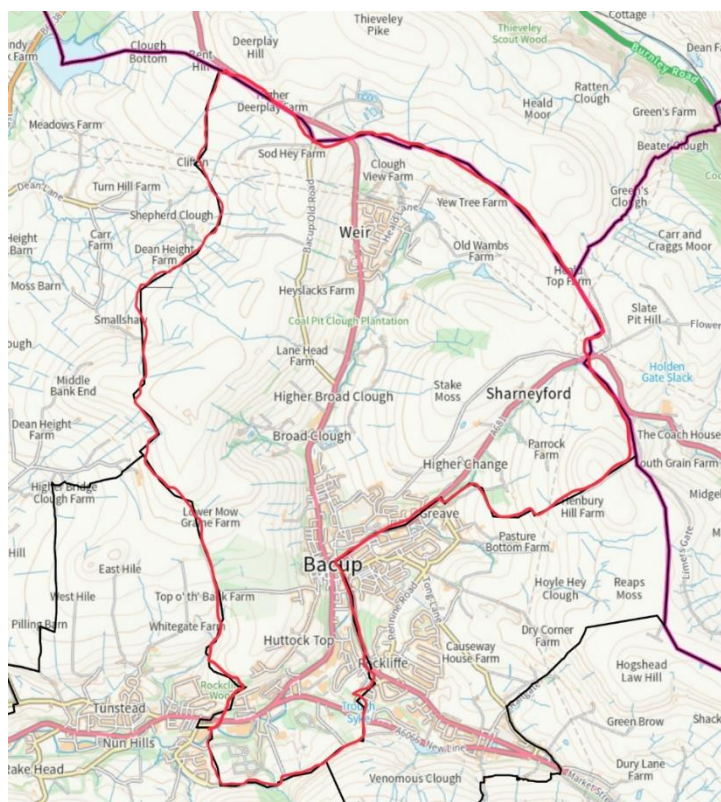


## Bacup West with Weir

Allowance – 2.95 Councillors, 1.6% under quota

Elector total – 5479.38

- This ward is the existing Greensclough ward with a small change on the current BS1/BG5 boundary line in Stacksteads to better reflect the split and flow of the communities. This sees just over 32 projected 2028 electors move from the existing BG5 boundary line to sit within the new Stacksteads & Whitewell Valley ward, with 618 projected 2028 electors move from BS1 to be located in the new Bacup West & Weir ward.
- The reason for these tweaks is to better reflect the splits on the ground between the towns of Bacup and Stacksteads.
- The ward currently has three Councillors and all areas of the ward are projected to grow in line with the Local Plan development
- Given the clear understanding of the existing splits, and how this links to the County Council boundary line, we are proposing retaining the existing dividing points largely as this makes sense to the community and provides the clear natural splits between the two sides of Bacup
- This would mean that this ward is slightly under quota and Bacup East & Shawforth will be slightly over quota but we feel that this is acceptable to ensure residents continue to understand how the area splits. This would also be reflective of how the County boundary lies.
- It is also worth noting that Bacup issues are usually addressed by the collective Councillors for the area and it is expected that this would continue to happen for the betterment of Bacup.
- The incorporation of Weir into the ward name represents the individual identity of this area being separate to Bacup.

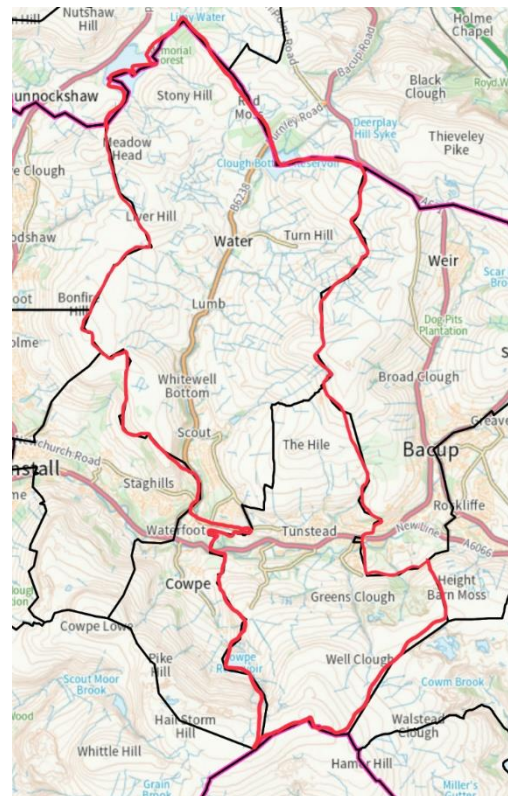


## Whitewell with Stacksteads

Allowance – 2.94 Councillors, 2% under quota

Elector total – 5439.16

- This is by far the largest geographical ward in our proposal. It extends from the Southern Boundary with Rochdale up to the Northern Boundary with Burnley.
- Whilst there are other potentials for the ward which covers the largest area we feel this is the best possible proposal given the natural connections which join these areas together. Each of the towns and villages within the ward have an individual identity however the majority already sit together in a warding arrangement so this proposal is the one which would provide the least disruption.
- The ward is made up of existing Whitewell wards RW2, RW3 and RW4 alongside the Stacksteads wards of BS2 and BS3 and half of BS1.
- Across Rossendale there is a need to split a large area given that the Councillor allowance will not evenly split in any town. Our proposal is that this split is the most sensible due to the connecting geography of the area.
- Given the geographic spread we have decided to keep this ward under quota to ensure Councillors can be effective to ensure the residents have clear representation
- The halving of BS1 is explained in the rationale of the Bacup West & Weir proposal
- This area is naturally connected from the main road in Stacksteads (Bacup Road) across to the main road of the Whitewell ward (Burnley Road East) by Booth Road and Edgeside Lane
- Within the naming we propose retaining the clear identities of both wards in the name of the new ward. Given its disparate spread and the individual communities it would represent this is the clearest way to identify the area



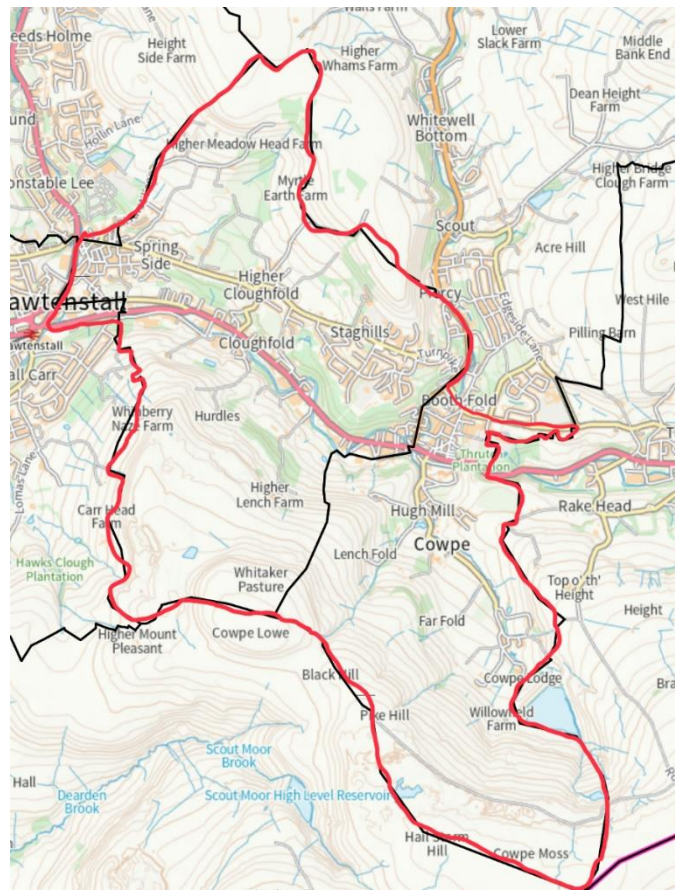


## Rawtenstall East with Waterfoot

Allowance – 3.07 Councillors, 2.33% over quota

Elector total – 5711.53

- This ward incorporates the existing Hareholme wards, RW1 from the Whitewell area, and then aspects of RC2 and RL2 to correct historic errors within communities.
- We have added RW1 because this covers the other key area of Waterfoot – the town is currently split across two ward however should be combined along with the incorporation of Cowpe into the ward.
- On the other end we incorporate the elements of RC2 which sit directly across the road from Hareholme, taking the ward down the full length of Newchurch Road. This previously was within Cribden ward but the community identified more closely to Hareholme.
- At the opposite side we bring in small elements of Longholme which geographically fit better to the Rawtenstall East area. This area links better than in the existing Longholme split.
- This ward is over however we believe this is acceptable because it brings together a sensible division with Rawtenstall and combines the majority of the Waterfoot area, as well as aligning closely to the county boundary

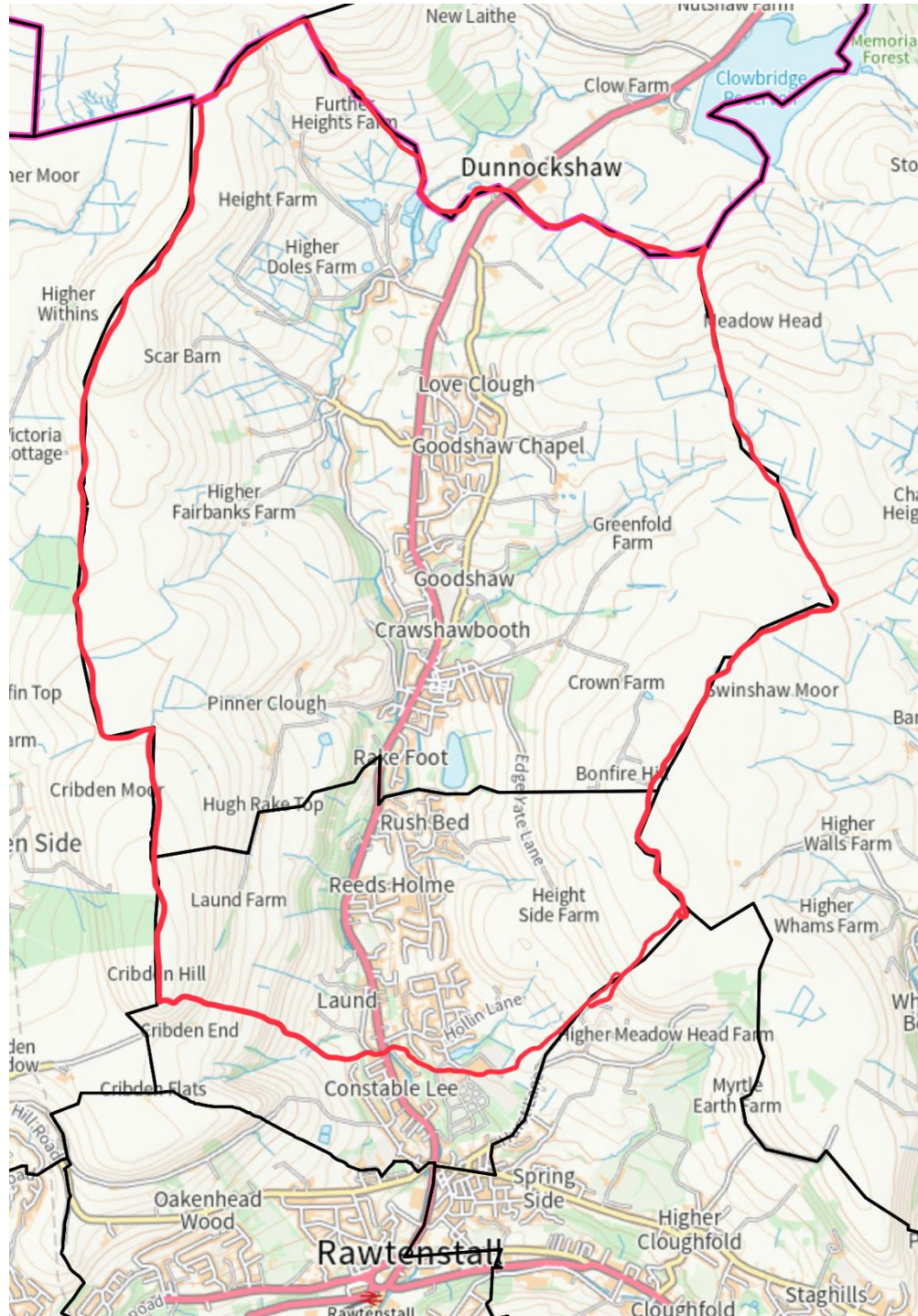


## Rawtenstall North with Crawshawbooth

Allowance – 2.96 Councillors, 1.5% under quota

Elector total – 5483.54

- This ward incorporates the existing Goodshaw ward with RC1 from the Cribden ward
- Due to projected electorate growth this meets the quota
- The housing types and boundary lines are closely aligned here. Within RC2 the houses are closer to Rawtenstall and house type/resident are more closely matched to other areas of Longholme and as such we feel the needs of these residents are more closely linked



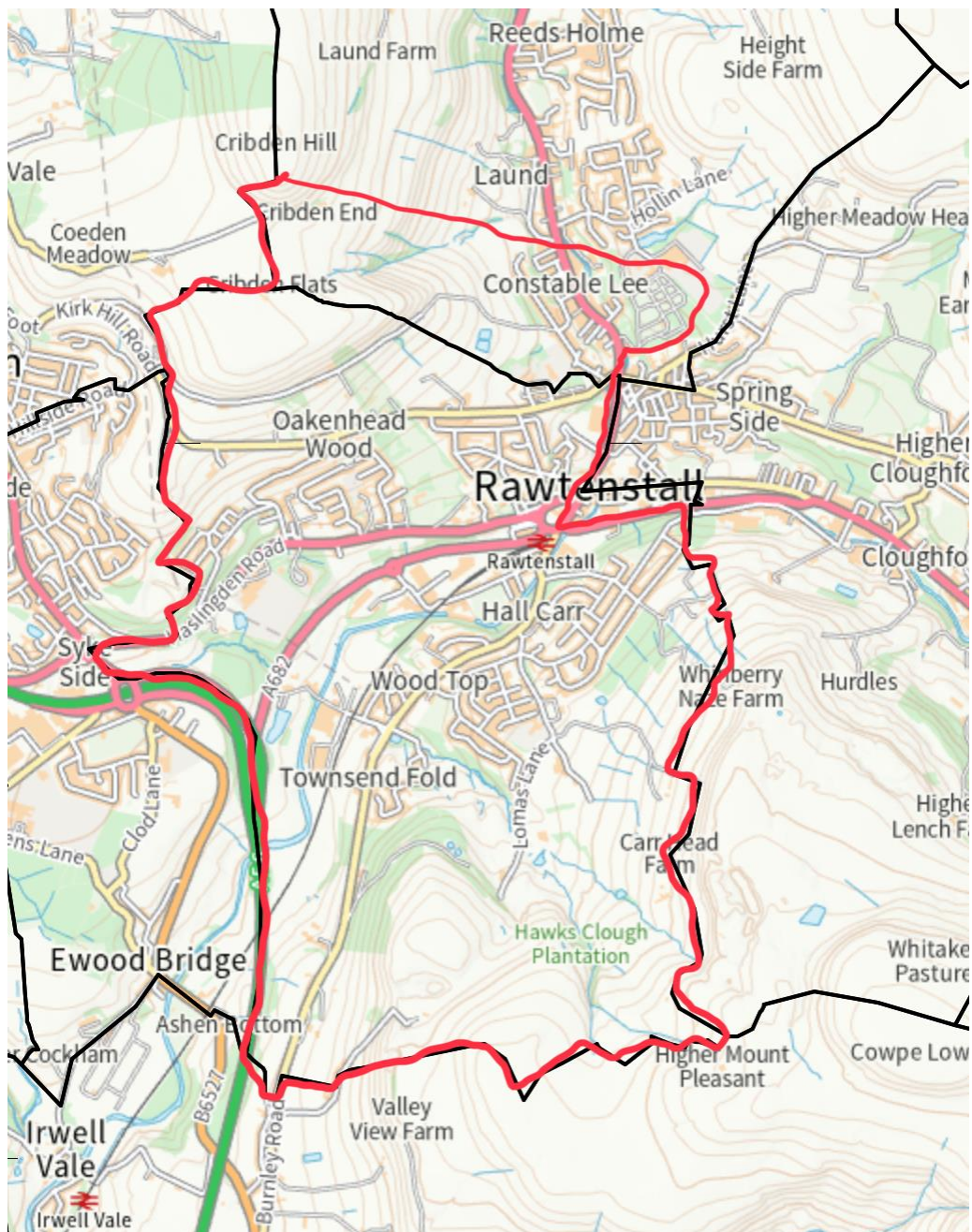


## Rawtenstall West

Allowance – 2.99 Councillors, 0.2% under quota

Elector total – 5553.53

- This ward is made up of the existing Longholme ward, combined with the majority of RC2 from the existing Cribden ward.
- There is limited change however there is a clearer line drawn around the areas of Rawtenstall using the main roads as natural boundary lines.
- All houses on Newchurch Road would move into the new Rawtenstall East ward.
- We also propose aligning Fall Barn Road in full to this ward and taking Bacup Road further up to the new boundary. This aligns the main shopping areas of Rawtenstall in to one ward whereas they are currently broken up.
- We feel this better reflects the town and the identity of its parts

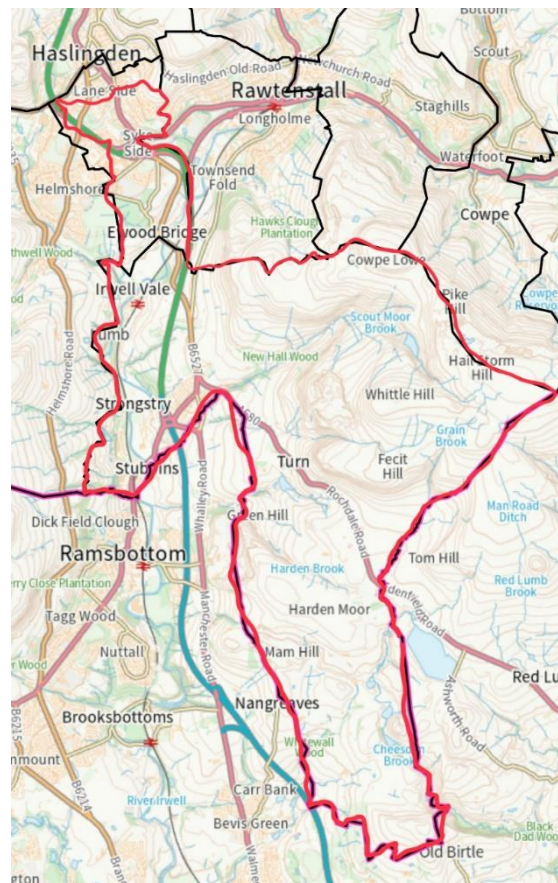


## Haslingden South with Edenfield

Allowance – 3.12 Councillors, 4% over quota

Elector total – 5788.32

- This ward combines the existing Eden ward with HG1 from the existing Greenfield ward and parts of HG2 and HG3
- No ward boundaries incorporating Haslingden will be perfect due to the Councillor allowance being higher for Haslingden than the actual allowed.
- In proposing the split of Greenfield as we have here we are trying to align closely to the County boundaries, similar to Rawtenstall West with Waterfoot.
- The idea for this is to reduce confusion for residents and to make it simple to know who they should turn to resolve issues
- We have proposed using the natural boundary of the A56 to the North Western tip of the ward with Helmshore.
- For the next part of the Northern border we have proposed a split around Helmcroft and Victoria Park based on the roads used to access the differing residential areas within HG2.
- Within HG3 for the remaining Northern boundary of the ward we are proposing a split based upon the two largest residential areas. The boundary line we are proposing takes the natural split within these two areas and breaks them down.
- These splits are required because both this ward and the Haslingden North proposed ward will be over quota. These are the most natural borders within the town.
- It makes sense to try and retain the residential area of Haslingden and not break the boundary to Rawtenstall as the residents of both clearly identify with their areas. Given the close nature of the area residents will be better served this way.



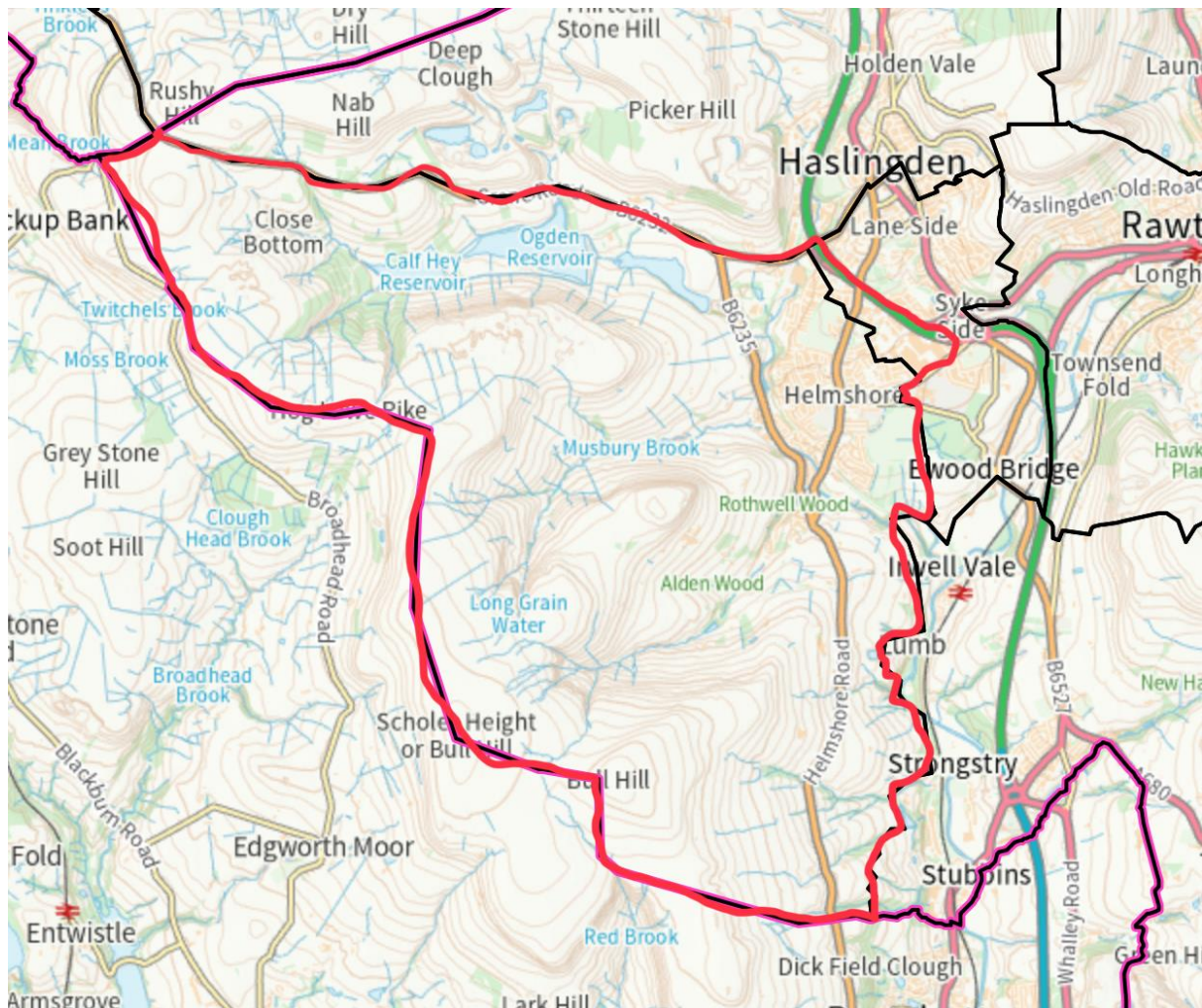


## Helmshore

Allowance – 2.84 Councillors, 5.5% under quota

Elector total – 5260.39

- This ward is made up largely of the existing Helmshore ward.
- The small addition is to incorporate a small element of HG2 and utilising the A56 as a natural boundary for the ward
- This ward is the smallest of the wards proposed. The reason for this is that over recent years additional development outside of the plan has taken place within the area. Indeed there is a site within this ward currently highlighted for employment which is potentially going to become a residential development of almost 100 properties. As such whilst the ward may be smaller vs the projected electorate we anticipate the electorate in 5 years time to be greater than the projection due to the desirability of this location.
- We are also proposing that this ward retains its existing ward name. This is because it is the natural identity of the area. Residents here clearly class themselves as within Helmshore, clearly distinguished from other Haslingden areas.





## Haslingden North

Allowance – 3.22 Councillors, 7.5% over quota

Elector total – 5981.99

- This ward combines the existing Worsley ward with the remainder of the Greenfield wards.
- This is the largest ward within the proposal however, as previously stated, with Haslingden's allowance having more Councillors than we would be able to fit within the proposal we feel this best represents the split of the area using clear residential areas to create the new boundary lines
- Due to this area covering some other key villages to the North of Haslingden such as Rising Bridge and Acre we did consider adding them to the ward name however we felt this may ultimately create unnecessary confusion by creating an overly large ward name.

