



New electoral arrangements for Liverpool City Council Draft Recommendations

March 2022

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament¹. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Why Liverpool?

7 We are conducting a review of Liverpool City Council ('the Council') as its last review was completed in 2003 and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council in England 'from time to time'.² Additionally, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. We describe this as 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors per councillor is as even as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Liverpool are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the city.

9 During the preliminary stage of our work, the Council was subject to a Best Value Report which resulted in Directions being given to the Council in June 2021 by the then Secretary of State, including some that were relevant to aspects of the review. Specifically, the Council was directed:

'... to consider and consult upon a new submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as part of the current boundary review.... consistent with elections on the basis of predominantly single member wards, that is single member wards across the whole council area save where the Local Government Boundary Commission consider a multi member ward is essential to balance their statutory duties of delivering electoral equality, reflecting interests and identities of local communities, and of promoting effective and convenient local government'.

10 Commissioners were appointed to support the Council and their role included having specific '*regard to the council's Local Government Boundary Commission for England submission*'.

11 These Directions were to the Council and not to the Commission which, as an independent body, is bound by its own statutory duties and undertakes all electoral views against the criteria set out in legislation. Nevertheless, it is noted that the

² Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

Council itself formally acknowledged the intentions of the then Secretary of State's Direction and, endorsed by the Liverpool Commissioners, has submitted warding proposals for this phase of the review informed by the aspirations set out in the Direction. This included reference to the desirability of single member wards, with the Council setting out that its proposal was:

'... in accordance with... the requirement placed upon the council by the Secretary of State, having produced a revised submission to the LGBCE reducing the council size to 85, to consult and consider... a submission approved by the Commissioners based on a predominantly single member ward pattern with the intention of increasing accountability to the electorate in Liverpool.'

12 As explained above, the Directions do not override the three statutory criteria against which electoral reviews are conducted and all representations submitted will be considered against these criteria. However, we consider that the submission by the Council (and endorsed by the Liverpool Commissioners) for a largely single-member warding pattern is regarded by them as an explicit aspect of the 'effective and convenient' criterion that we use.

13 Producing acceptable uniform patterns whilst balancing the three criteria is inherently difficult, especially in dense urban settings where even small changes can result in significant electoral variations. In a number of specific locations other submissions have argued strongly, on grounds of community identity, that a multi-member ward would be more appropriate in that particular area. We have also started to assemble our own early thoughts following a tour of the city. Accordingly, we have highlighted a number of proposed wards where we would particularly welcome further evidence, either in support of the original wards put forward or by those who propose alternative approaches before we reach our final recommendations. We will incorporate all of this evidence in formulating our final recommendations.

Our proposals for Liverpool

14 Liverpool should be represented by 85 councillors, 5 fewer than there are now.

15 Liverpool should have 71 wards, 41 more than there are now.

16 The boundaries of all wards should change; none will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

17 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, and which other communities are in that ward. Your ward name may also change.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the city or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.

Have your say

19 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 31 March 2022 to 8 June 2022. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

20 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

21 You have until 8 June 2022 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 67 for how to send us your response.

Review timetable

22 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Liverpool. We then held a period of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the city. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

23 The review is being conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
1 October 2021	Number of councillors decided
7 October 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
15 December 2021	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
31 March 2022	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
8 June 2022	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
6 September 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and draft recommendations

24 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

25 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

26 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2019	2027
Electorate of Liverpool	326,570	365,505
Number of councillors	85	85
Average number of electors per councillor	3,842	4,300

27 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. 70 of our proposed wards for Liverpool will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

28 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

29 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2027, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2022. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 12% by 2027.

30 We received one submission during consultation that challenged the electoral figures put forward by the Council. This submission from the Liberal Democrats stated that there are flaws with the baseline data provided by the Council, as well as the forecast figures in the city centre being overly optimistic. Following examination

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

of the baseline figures, we consider that the Council's methodology for producing these figures is sound.

31 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

Number of councillors

32 Liverpool City Council currently has 90 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that decreasing this number by five will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

33 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 85 councillors: for example, 85 single-councillor wards or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

34 We received eight submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. Six submissions argued that the number of councillors in Liverpool should be reduced further while two argued that the number of councillors should not be reduced from the existing council size of 90. None of these alternative proposals or comments provided compelling evidence that outlined how further reductions would be achieved in terms of the decision-making responsibilities of the Council or made reference to our key criteria. Additionally, the submissions in favour of retaining the existing council size did not provide persuasive evidence. We have therefore based our draft recommendations on an 85-councillor council.

Ward boundaries consultation

35 We received 181 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three city-wide proposals: from the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats, and a partial scheme from Garston Conservatives. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for particular areas of the city.

36 The three city-wide schemes proposed mixed patterns of single-, two- and three-councillor wards for Liverpool. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

37 Our draft recommendations also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised

boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

38 We visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Liverpool helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

Draft recommendations

39 Our draft recommendations are for one three-councillor ward, 12 two-councillor wards and 58 single-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

40 The tables and maps on pages 10–62 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Liverpool. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

41 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 73 and on the large map accompanying this report.

42 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North West



Ward number	Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
1	Anfield	2	-4%
2	County	2	-9%
3	Everton North	1	-1%
4	Everton South	1	8%
5	Kirkdale	1	-3%
6	Melrose	1	-6%
7	Orrell Park	1	-8%
8	Scotland Road	2	-9%
9	Stoneycroft	1	-1%

10	Tuebrook Edinburgh Park	1	7%
11	Tuebrook Larkhill	1	4%
12	Vauxhall	1	11%
13	Walton Hall	1	2%
14	Walton Vale	1	-5%
15	Waterfront North	1	-6%

Anfield

43 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Councillors Marrat and Simic, and a local resident.

44 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards named Anfield North and Anfield South. These two wards would be contained by Walton Lane, Walton Breck Road, Oakfield Road, Townsend Lane, and the railway line. The proposed boundary between Anfield North and Anfield South would run along Priory Road. The Council argued that each ward would reflect the local community and that residents of both wards would use facilities at County Road district centre, thereby looking outside of their ward for services.

45 The Labour Group proposed a two-councillor Anfield ward, joining together the Council's proposed Anfield North and Anfield South wards. They argued that Priory Road is a focal point, rather than a dividing boundary, and that residents access facilities here.

46 Councillors Marrat and Simic argued that Anfield is a strong community and shouldn't be arbitrarily split. They stated that, as local councillors, they work closely with the five resident associations present in Anfield ward and that residents are engaged in local issues, such as the impact of match days. The councillors argued that any arbitrary change could negatively impact the work being done by councillors and residents.

47 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt the Labour Group's proposed Anfield ward. We consider that a two-member Anfield ward reflects a strong community, as described to us by Councillors Marrat and Simic, and utilises strong boundaries. We further consider that uniting this area together in a single ward allows for better management of local issues, such as the impact of match days on local residents.

48 Our proposed Anfield ward will have two councillors and is forecast to have a good level of electoral equality by 2027, with an electoral variance of -4%.

County

49 We received four submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and a resident.

50 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed two single-member wards called County and Walton-on-the-Hill. They stated that both proposed wards encompass recognisable communities and that the ward of Walton-on-the-Hill would include the Walton-on-the-Hill Conservation Area. The boundary between these two proposed wards would run along the railway line until County Road, before running up Stuart Road to the city boundary. However, under the Council's proposal, Walton-on-the-Hill ward would have an electoral variance of -16% by 2027. We are not of the view that this level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence provided.

51 To better balance electoral equality between these two wards, we investigated the possibility of running the boundary between County and Walton-on-the-Hill wards along Hale Road to Carisbrooke Road, thereby placing all electors north of Hale Road in Walton-on-the-Hill ward. While this modification would result in an improvement in electoral equality in Walton-on-the-Hill ward to 5% by 2027, the single-councillor County ward would have an electoral variance of -23% by 2027.

52 The Labour Group proposed to combine the suggested wards into a two-councillor County ward. They argued that the Council's proposal created an artificial boundary that divided similar communities along Stuart Road. The Group further stated that their proposed two-councillor ward focused on County Road, a local retail and leisure centre.

53 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have adopted the Labour Group's proposal for a two-councillor County ward as part of our draft recommendations. We note that the single-councillor wards proposed for this area do not provide for good levels of electoral equality and consider that the Labour Group's proposal offers the best balance of our statutory criteria.

54 Our proposed County ward will be represented by two councillors and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of -9%.

Everton North and Everton South

55 We received four submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and the Liverpool Six Community Association.

56 The Council proposed three Everton wards, named Everton North, Everton West and Everton East. Everton North and Everton East wards would be bounded on their western side by St Domingo Road/Heyworth Street and on the eastern side by Oakfield Road/Belmont Road. Everton North would stretch as far northward as Walton Breck Road, with Breck Road providing the boundary between Everton North

and Everton East. The Council argued that these proposed wards would reflect local communities. They also stated that residents in Everton North ward are likely to access facilities at County Road, whereas residents in Everton East may be more likely to use amenities at Breck Road.

57 The Council further proposed an Everton West ward, discussed in paragraph 97, which would be located between Heyworth Street, Brunswick Road, Islington and Scotland Road, up to the intersection with Kingsway. This ward would have an electoral variance of -14% by 2027. We are not convinced that this level of electoral inequality was justified by the evidence provided and have therefore not adopted this suggestion as part of our draft recommendations.

58 The Liberal Democrats proposed identical wards to the Council for Everton North and Everton West wards. However, they proposed an alternative for the southern boundary of Everton East ward, instead suggesting West Derby Road. The Council's proposed Everton East ward extended across West Derby Road to Boaler Street and Sheil Road. While we consider that West Derby Road would provide a strong southern boundary for Everton East ward, placing the area south of West Derby Road into the adjacent Kensington & Fairfield ward would result in an electoral variance of 13% for Kensington & Fairfield by 2027. We do not consider that this level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence provided and are therefore not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

59 The Labour Group argued that Everton should be represented in a two-councillor ward, combining the Council's proposed Everton North and Everton East wards. They stated that Breck Road district centre is the centre of a clear and identifiable community and that to split this area would be arbitrary.

60 The Liverpool Six Community Association did not propose any specific boundaries for this area but argued against the use of single-member wards, stating that deprivation in this area requires Everton to be represented by more councillors.

61 Following careful consideration of the evidence received, we have adopted the Council's boundary proposals for Everton North and Everton East as part of our draft recommendations. We consider these best reflect communities in this area. While we note the comments from the Labour Group, we are of the view that Breck Road is a strong and identifiable boundary, and that the Council's proposal includes evidence that reflects residents' access to local amenities and facilities. We would welcome further comments on this proposal from local people.

62 The Council proposed the names Everton North and Everton East for these two wards. The Liberal Democrats proposed the name St Domingo for the northern ward and Everton East for the southern ward. We consider that Everton is an identifiable name for residents and are therefore persuaded to name the northern ward Everton

North within our draft recommendations. As we have not been persuaded to adopt the Council's suggested Everton West ward, we are proposing to name the southern ward Everton South instead of Everton East. We consider that this better complements Everton North ward and is clear for local residents.

63 Our proposed Everton North and Everton South wards will be represented by one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances -1% and 8% respectively

Kirkdale and Melrose

64 We received six submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and three residents.

65 The Council proposed two single-councillor wards, named Kirkdale and Melrose. They noted that the industrial and residential areas here are split along the railway line. The Council further argued that their proposed Melrose ward would comprise a recognisable community and be well served by amenities. Under this proposed arrangement, Kirkdale and Melrose wards would be divided along Westminster Road, with the boundary deviating west along Rumney Road and north up Langtry Road before heading up Melrose Road to re-join Westminster Road. Having carefully looked at this proposal, we do not consider that this deviation from Westminster Road offers a clear and identifiable boundary.

66 The Labour Group instead proposed to combine the Council's proposed Kirkdale and Melrose wards into a two-councillor Kirkdale ward. They argued that this entire area is a united community and shares many local amenities, such as schools and recreation grounds.

67 The Liberal Democrats also proposed a two-councillor Kirkdale ward, with the same northern, eastern and southern boundaries as the Labour Group's proposal, but argued that the western boundary of Kirkdale ward should be the railway line separating the industrial and residential areas, rather than the ward stretching westwards to the River Mersey. As discussed in paragraph 79, we have been convinced to adopt this suggestion since it unites the Mersey-facing industrial areas in Waterfront North, allowing for more effective governance in our view.

68 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have adopted the Council's proposed Kirkdale and Melrose wards as part of our draft recommendations, subject to a few amendments. We consider that the Council's proposal provides clear and identifiable boundaries for local residents and reflects local communities.

69 As discussed above (and in paragraph 79), we have been persuaded to adopt the railway line as the western boundary of Kirkdale ward, splitting the residential

and industrial areas. Additionally, we are not of the view that the Council's proposed boundary along Rumney Road, Langtry Road and Melrose Road is clear and identifiable for local residents. We are instead proposing to use the entirety of Westminster Road as the boundary between Kirkdale and Melrose wards.

70 Our proposed Kirkdale and Melrose wards will be represented by one councillor each and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of -3% and -6% respectively.

Vauxhall and Waterfront North

71 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Waterloo Quay Tenants Association and a resident.

72 The Council proposed two single-councillor wards in this area, named Vauxhall and Waterfront North. The northern boundary of these wards would be A5054 Boundary Street and the southern boundary would be Leeds Street and Paisley Street. They proposed to divide these two wards along A565 Great Howard Street. The Council stated that Vauxhall ward would be characterised by mainly residential areas, whereas Waterfront North would be comprised mainly of industrial character with much of the area located within Stanley Dock Conservation Area. Additionally, the Council stated that the area covered by the proposed Waterfront North ward will be extensively developed within the Liverpool Waters scheme and that these two wards would therefore be very different in character, with different facilities and local issues.

73 Notably, we received a submission from the Waterloo Quay Tenants Association which stated that residents in the area of Waterloo Quay are isolated in their current large Kirkdale ward and would be better served in a smaller ward. This preference would be accommodated by the Council's proposed Waterfront North ward.

74 The Liberal Democrats proposed the same boundaries as the Council for Vauxhall ward and suggested the name North Docks for Waterfront North. They also proposed to extend this latter suggested ward northwards, using the railway line as the eastern boundary, to the city boundary. This arrangement would unite all of the industrial areas along this part of the River Mersey together in a single ward.

75 The Labour Group proposed to combine the Council's proposed Vauxhall and Waterfront North wards together in a two-councillor Vauxhall & Waterfront North ward. They stated that Athol Village, Lockfields View, Eldonian Village and Pumpfields areas of Vauxhall should be kept together with the newer residential developments of the Waterfront, and that the extensive development taking place along the riverside will create new communities in this area. The Group also stated that there will be extensive redevelopment of the waterfront and Ten Streets area

(which is located between Regent Road and the railway line), arguing that these developments will involve significant place-making, strengthening existing links between Vauxhall and the Waterfront. They further argued that the well-established communities in Vauxhall should be linked with the new emerging communities in Waterfront North.

76 Following careful consideration of the evidence we are adopting a combination of the Council's and Liberal Democrats' proposals in this area as part of our draft recommendations, with some modifications. While we note the comments made by the Labour Group, we are of the view that these two communities are distinctly separate. We consider the high level of development due to take place in Waterfront North ward will differentiate this area further from Vauxhall, and further consider that the Council's argument that these two areas are clearly split along industrial and residential lines, as well as residents accessing different facilities, to be persuasive.

77 We therefore consider that these two communities would be best represented in separate wards. There are few access points between Vauxhall ward and Waterfront North ward and incorporating the extensive new developments solely in Waterfront North ward would allow for effective and convenient local government. We note that the Council's proposed Vauxhall ward would have an electoral variance of 11% by 2027. However, we have been unable to identify an alternative arrangement which improves this variance given our view that this is a very well contained community with strong boundaries on all sides. We consider that any modifications to remove electors from the proposed Vauxhall ward would necessitate splitting a cohesive community and would not use strongly identifiable boundaries. We have therefore been persuaded to propose a Vauxhall ward with an electoral variance of 11% as part of our draft recommendations.

78 We are proposing two modifications to the Council's suggested wards in this area. Firstly, we do not consider that the Council's proposed boundary between Vauxhall and Waterfront North wards of Great Howard Street would be strong or identifiable as it cuts through the middle of the Ten Streets redevelopment area, which extends to the railway line in the east. By moving the boundary to the railway line and Love Lane, the areas of redevelopment can be united in Waterfront North ward. We are therefore making this amendment as part of our draft recommendations.

79 Secondly, we have been persuaded to extend the Council's proposed Waterfront North ward northwards to the city boundary, using the railway line as the eastern boundary of this ward, as suggested by the Liberal Democrats. This arrangement allows for the industrial areas along the River Mersey to be united in a single ward, in our view facilitating effective and convenient local government. However, we are adopting the Council's proposed name for this ward (Waterfront

North) rather than North Docks. We consider that this best compliments Waterfront South ward (paragraph 178) and is clear for residents.

80 Our proposed Vauxhall and Waterfront North wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have, by 2027, electoral variances of 11% and -6% respectively.

Orrell Park, Walton Hall and Walton Vale

81 We received three submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats.

82 The Council proposed three single-councillor wards for this area. However, each of these wards would have a high level of electoral inequality. Their proposed Orrell Park, Walton Hall and Walton Park wards would have electoral variances of -11%, 17% and -17% by 2027 respectively. Additionally, while the proposed Orrell Park ward utilises the railway line as part of its eastern boundary, the ward would also cross the railway line to include the area centred on Caldby Road. This area would have no direct access into the remainder of their proposed Orrell Park ward. Due to the high levels of electoral inequality and unclear boundaries for this area, we have not adopted these proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

83 The Labour Group proposed to group together the Council's proposed three single-councillor wards to form a three-councillor Warbreck ward. They stated that Warbreck would be a compact ward centred on A59 Rice Lane and Warbreck Moor's shops and services. The Group further argued that the Council's proposed boundaries for Orrell Park would be unclear. However, as discussed below, we consider Orrell Park to be an identifiable community at the edge of the city and therefore do not consider that grouping this area into a large three-councillor ward would best reflect this community.

84 The Liberal Democrats proposed three single-councillor wards named Orrell Park, Walton Hall and Walton Vale. Their proposed Orrell Park ward would utilise the strong boundaries of the railway line in the east and the green space south of Kingfield Road in the south. They argued that Orrell Park ward would represent a recognisable area with clear boundaries. Having visited this area, we consider that Orrell Park is an isolated community at the edge of the city. We are of the view that the boundaries proposed by the Liberal Democrats reflect this community and are clear and identifiable. We have therefore adopted this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

85 The Liberal Democrats further proposed the wards of Walton Hall and Walton Vale. These two wards would be bounded by Warbeck Moor, Hall Lane and Long Lane in the east, Walton Park Avenue and Queens Drive in the south, and the city boundary and Orrell Park ward in the west and north. This area would be divided

along A59 Rice Lane until Rice Lane station, before running east along the railway line. The western ward would be named Walton Vale and the eastern ward centred on Walton Hall Park would be named Walton Hall.

86 We visited this area of Liverpool. While Rice Lane is a major road in this area and could be considered an identifiable boundary, we are of the view that this would create a long, thin Walton Vale ward which links disparate communities and may not be clear for residents. We therefore investigated the possibility of combining the proposed Walton Hall and Walton Vale wards together into a two-councillor Walton ward. This would be a viable option, with good levels of electoral equality and strong boundaries although not proposed by any local stakeholders.

87 We consider this decision finely balanced. Having carefully considered the options, we have included the Liberal Democrats' proposal for Walton Hall and Walton Vale wards in our draft recommendations. We note that the arrangement provides for good electoral equality and uses strong boundaries, and while we have reservations about Walton Vale ward note that a two-councillor ward has not been suggested by any local representations. We would welcome further evidence from residents of Walton as to whether this area should be represented by two single-councillor wards or one two-councillor ward.

88 Our proposed Orrell Park, Walton Hall and Walton Vale wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances of -8%, 2% and -5%, respectively

Stoneycroft, Tuebrook Edinburgh Park and Tuebrook Larkhill

89 We received four submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and one resident.

90 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed three single-councillor wards named Stoneycroft, Tuebrook Edinburgh Park and Tuebrook Larkhill. They argued that each ward would reflect a distinct community and contain facilities and amenities for local residents. The Council further stated that their proposed southern boundary for both Tuebrook wards – West Derby Road – is one of the main thoroughfares into the city, therefore providing a strong boundary.

91 The Labour Group proposed a three-councillor ward called Tuebrook & Stoneycroft. This ward would group together the three single-councillor wards proposed by the Council into a single ward, thereby using Townsend Lane, Queens Drive, Derby Lane, West Derby Road and Belmont Road as the external boundaries for the ward. The Group argued that West Derby Road would provide a focal point for this proposed ward and that the existing Tuebrook & Stoneycroft ward reflects communities.

92 A local resident argued that the area south of West Derby Road should be represented in a Stoneycroft ward, stating that this area is a distinct community and should not be part of a Tuebrook or Old Swan ward.

93 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have adopted the Council's proposal for Stoneycroft, Tuebrook Edinburgh Park and Tuebrook Larkhill. We consider that the boundaries separating these three wards are extremely clear and identifiable, with the railway line and West Derby Road being clear local divides. This proposal will also reflect the evidence provided to us by the local resident, who defined Stoneycroft as a separate community.

94 However, the Council's proposal for Tuebrook Edinburgh Park ward results in an electoral variance of 11% by 2027. In order to provide improved electoral equality for Tuebrook Edinburgh Park, we have made a small modification. We are proposing to place the residents north-west of Belmont Grove, in the area centred on Ellencliff Drive, in Everton South ward rather than Tuebrook Edinburgh Park ward. This would result in Tuebrook Edinburgh Park having an electoral variance of 7% by 2027. We consider this to be a good level of electoral equality.

95 Our proposed Stoneycroft, Tuebrook Edinburgh Park and Tuebrook Larkhill wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances of -1%, 7% and 4%, respectively.

Scotland Road

96 We received three submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats.

97 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards named Everton West and Scotland Road. The boundary between these two wards would run north along Great Homer Street, before cutting east through Everton Park to meet Netherfield Road North, running northward on this road for a short distance before deviating east across the green space to the south of John Bagot Close to the external ward boundary of St Domingo Road. The Council stated that each of these wards would reflect local communities and contain facilities used by local residents. As discussed in paragraph 57, however, the proposed Everton West ward would have an electoral variance of -14% by 2027. Additionally, we do not consider that the proposed boundary between these two wards is clear for local residents.

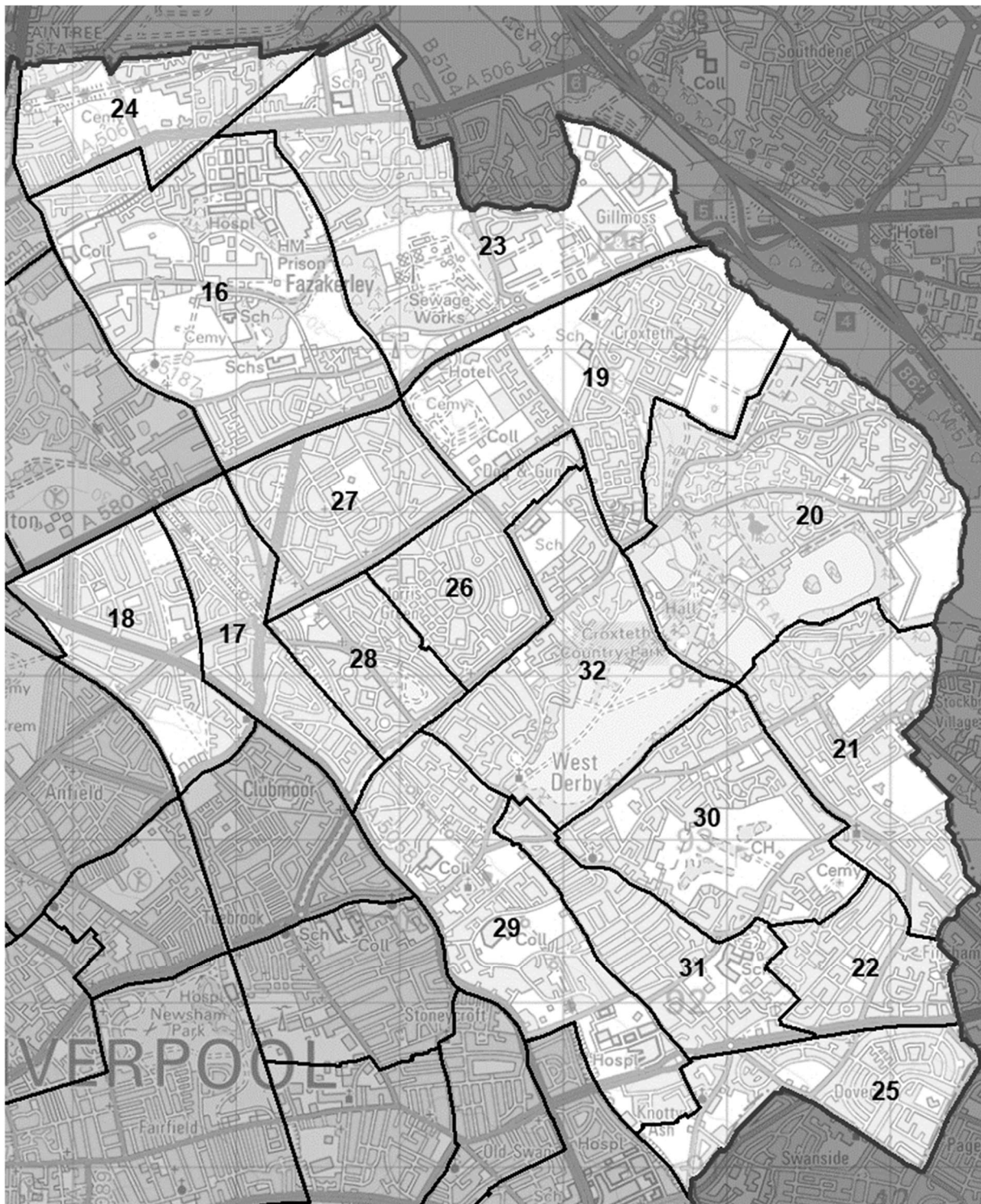
98 We looked at the possibility of moving electors between Scotland Road and Everton West to produce better levels of electoral equality. However, with no clear boundary along which to do this we consider any boundary we proposed would split a coherent community and be unclear.

99 The Labour Group proposed that the Council's proposed Everton West and Scotland Road wards be united in a two-councillor Scotland Road ward. They argued that this area is a single community, with redevelopment along Great Homer Street providing a focal point for this ward. They stated that the residents use facilities along Great Homer Street and that redevelopment has reduced the effect of Scotland Road being a physical barrier in this area. They further stated that the community stretches across Scotland Road, as evidenced by the local paper *Scottie Press*.

100 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt the Labour Group's proposed two-councillor Scotland Road ward. This ward provides the best balance of our statutory criteria, with clear boundaries, strong community evidence and good levels of electoral equality.

101 Our proposed Scotland Road ward will be represented by two councillors and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of -9%.

North East



Ward number	Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
16	Aintree	1	10%
17	Clubmoor East	1	-3%
18	Clubmoor West	1	-7%
19	Croxteth	1	-3%

20	Croxteth Country Park	1	5%
21	Dovecot North	1	2%
22	Dovecot South	1	2%
23	Fazakerley East	1	-6%
24	Fazakerley West	1	-9%
25	Knotty Ash	1	1%
26	Norris Green East	1	1%
27	Norris Green North	1	10%
28	Norris Green West	1	-1%
29	Sandfield Park	1	-3%
30	West Derby Deysbrook	1	1%
31	West Derby Leyfield	1	-2%
32	West Derby Muirhead	1	-5%

Aintree, Fazakerley East and Fazakerley West

102 We received four submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and one resident.

103 The Council proposed three single-councillor wards, named Aintree, Fazakerley East and Fazakerley West. They argued that these wards would contain recognisable communities as well as their facilities and services.

104 The Labour Group instead argued that the area covered by the Council's proposed Aintree, Fazakerley East and Fazakerley West wards is a single community, arbitrarily split by the Council's proposal. They instead argued that this area should be represented in a three-councillor ward named Fazakerley.

105 The Liberal Democrats proposed three single-councillor wards which were broadly similar to the Council's proposed wards. However, they proposed an alternative boundary between Fazakerley West ward and their suggested Pirrie ward (named Aintree by the Council). They proposed to extend the boundary between Fazakerley West and Pirrie along the railway line until Long Lane, thereby using the railway line as the entire boundary between these two wards. While we considered that this would provide a stronger boundary for both wards than that proposed by the Council, this boundary would result in electoral variances of 27% for Fazakerley West and -25% for Pirrie by 2027. We do not consider that this level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence and have therefore not adopted this suggestion as part of our draft recommendations.

106 On balance, we consider that the Council's proposal offers the best balance of our statutory criteria at this stage. While we note the comments made by the Labour Group, we consider that the boundaries between these three proposed single-councillor wards are clear and identifiable and contain recognisable communities.

However, we are proposing one minor change to the boundary between Fazakerley West and Aintree, instead running the boundary down the centre of Higher Lane rather than behind the properties on the western side. This allows residents in properties south of the railway line direct road access into Aintree ward without having to first pass through Fazakerley West ward.

107 Our proposed Aintree, Fazakerley East and Fazakerley West wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances of 10%, -6% and -9%, respectively.

Clubmoor East and Clubmoor West

108 We received three submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats.

109 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards named Clubmoor East and Clubmoor West, using Richard Kelly Drive as the boundary between these two wards. They argued that these wards represent communities and that residents here access facilities at Utting Avenue.

110 The Labour Group instead argued that Clubmoor should be represented in a two-councillor ward, spanning from Parthenon Drive in the north-east to the railway line and Cherry Avenue in the southwest. They argued that Clubmoor is a single community and that a two-member ward would unite the residential estates present in this area. The Liberal Democrats also noted in their submission that there was a strong case for a two-councillor ward for Clubmoor.

111 On balance, we have adopted the Council's Clubmoor West and Clubmoor East wards as part of our draft recommendations. While arguing for a two-councillor ward, the Labour Group acknowledged that the split between these two wards would be well defined by the Council's proposal. We also consider that each ward has clear external boundaries and represents communities present in this area. However, we note that this area can be accommodated in a two-councillor ward and would welcome comments from local residents about their preferred arrangement during this period of consultation.

112 Our proposed Clubmoor East and Clubmoor West wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances of -3% and -7%, respectively.

Croxteth and Croxteth Country Park

113 We received 30 submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and 27 local residents.

114 The Council and Liberal Democrats both proposed two single-councillor wards named Croxteth and Croxteth Country Park. They argue that Croxteth Country Park is physically separated from Croxteth by open space, and that this area of housing is a distinct neighbourhood. The submissions proposed a different boundary between Croxteth and Croxteth Country Park, with the Council placing Abbeyfield Drive in Croxteth Country Park ward and the Liberal Democrats instead placing Abbeyfield Drive in Croxteth ward.

115 The Labour Group instead argued that Croxteth and Croxteth Park should be placed together in a two-councillor ward. They stated that these two areas have strong community ties and share facilities such as Croxteth Country Park, Croxteth Library and Croxteth Sports & Wellbeing Centre. One resident supported placing Croxteth and Croxteth Park together in the same ward.

116 23 residents argued that Croxteth and Croxteth Park should be split into different wards and that Croxteth Park should be represented in its own ward. They stated that Croxteth Park is separate from Croxteth and has its own local issues.

117 Following careful consideration of the evidence received, we have been persuaded to split this area into two single-councillor wards of Croxteth and Croxteth Country Park. We consider that this arrangement best reflects community identity in this area. Our draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposed boundary between these two wards and place Abbeyfield Drive in Croxteth Country Park ward. We visited this area and noted that Abbeyfield Drive is relatively isolated, with access to properties only from the south. We have adopted the Council's suggestion given that the road is geographically closer to properties in Croxteth Country Park ward but would welcome further comment from local residents.

118 Our proposed Croxteth and Croxteth Country Park wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances of -3% and 5% respectively.

West Derby Deysbrook, West Derby Leyfield and West Derby Muirhead

119 We received 12 submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and nine residents.

120 The Council and Labour Group proposed three single-councillor West Derby wards named West Derby Deysbrook, West Derby Leyfield and West Derby Muirhead. They argued that these proposed West Derby wards reflect the local community and use identifiable boundaries.

121 The Liberal Democrats also proposed three single-councillor wards for this area; however, they suggested different boundaries for West Derby Deysbrook ward. They proposed to extend West Derby Deysbrook ward across Croxteth Hall Lane to

include the estate centred on Coachmans Drive. In contrast, the Council and Labour Group linked this estate southwards into Dovecot ward. The Liberal Democrats also suggested that residents off St Andrews Avenue and the eastern end of Yew Tree Lane should be incorporated into a ward named Yew Tree. The Council and Labour Group instead proposed to run the eastern boundary of West Derby Deysbrook ward along Princess Drive, before running it down Finch Lane and the south-eastern edge of Yewtree Cemetery.

122 All nine residents stated that the area of Croxteth Country Park currently in West Derby ward should remain in a West Derby ward and not be combined with Croxteth.

123 Following consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt the Council's proposed wards as part of our draft recommendations, as supported by the Labour Group and partially by the Liberal Democrats. We consider that the Council's proposed boundaries are clear and identifiable, and better reflect community links in this area; most notably in the estate centred on Coachmans Drive which accesses southwards and is isolated across Croxteth Hall Lane from West Derby Deysbrook ward. In addition, our proposed West Derby Muirhead ward will continue to contain part of Croxteth Country Park, as highlighted by residents. This ward will extend slightly to the north to Carr Lane East, as proposed by the Council, in order to provide for a better level of electoral equality. Without this extension, West Derby Muirhead ward would have an electoral variance of -20% by 2027.

124 Our proposed West Derby Deysbrook, West Derby Leyfield and West Derby Muirhead wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances 1%, -2% and -5%, respectively.

Dovecot North and Dovecot South

125 We received three submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats.

126 The Council proposed two single-councillor wards for this area called Dovecot North and Dovecot South. The Liberal Democrats proposed the same boundaries for Dovecot South; however, they proposed to name this ward Dovecot. The Council argued that their wards reflected local communities. They proposed to run the boundary between these two Dovecot wards along Finch Lane to Finch Road before cutting up Fincham Road to the city boundary.

127 As discussed in paragraph 121, the Liberal Democrats proposed different boundaries for their proposed Yew Tree ward. They stated that their proposed Yew Tree ward was centred on St Luke's Church and that residents use the adjacent community centre. While we carefully considered this suggestion, we consider that

the boundaries proposed by the Council between West Derby Deysbrook and Dovecot North wards are clearer and more identifiable. We note that the Council's Dovecot North ward would also be centred on St Luke's Church.

128 The Labour Group proposed a two-councillor Dovecot ward for this area, stretching from the southern border of Croxteth Hall & Country Park in the north to East Prescott Road in the south. They argued that the Council's proposed wards artificially divided Dovecot, which is a strong community and shares many local amenities.

129 We have included the Council's proposal for Dovecot North and Dovecot South wards in our draft recommendations. While we visited the area and note the concerns about the proposed boundary, at this stage we are of the view that our statutory criteria would best be facilitated by single-councillor wards in this area. However, we consider that the Labour proposal for a two-councillor ward that would unite the Dovecot community has some merit but would benefit from further views from residents. We therefore find this decision finely balanced and would welcome further evidence as to whether this area should be represented by two single-councillor wards or one two-councillor ward.

130 Our proposed Dovecot North and Dovecot South wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with both forecast to have an electoral variance of 2%.

Knotty Ash and Sandfield Park

131 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and two residents.

132 The Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats all proposed the same configuration of wards for this area. They proposed two single-councillor wards named Knotty Ash and Sandfield Park. Knotty Ash ward would be bounded on its northern edge by East Prescott Road, with the western boundary running along Thomas Lane and the northern edge of Thomas Lane Playing Fields. The proposed Sandfield Park ward stretched from Thomas Lane Playing Fields to Muirhead Avenue in the north. All three respondents argued that these wards would best reflect communities in this area, while also providing good levels of electoral equality and clear boundaries.

133 One resident stated that Mill Lane up through Sandforth Road and Alder Road to Muirhead Avenue, including the area of Alder Hey Hospital, should be in West Derby ward. As we are proposing to divide the existing West Derby ward into the three wards of West Derby Deysbrook, West Derby Leyfield and West Derby Muirhead (discussed in paragraphs 119-124), we are unable to adopt this proposal.

However, we note that this entire area was united in the Council's proposed Sandfield Park ward.

134 Another resident stated that the north-western boundary of Knotty Ash ward should run along Pilch Lane, Blackmoor Drive and Alder Road to Queens Drive, thereby reducing the size of Knotty Ash ward. This proposal would result in an electoral variance of -30% by 2027. We do not consider that this high level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence and have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

135 Following consideration of the evidence, we have adopted the Knotty Ash and Sandfield Park wards proposed by the Council, supported by the Labour Group and Liberal Democrats, as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that this proposal provides for the best balance of our statutory criteria and allows for the closely linked areas identified by a local resident to be represented in the same ward.

136 Our proposed Knotty Ash and Sandfield Park wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances 1% and -3%, respectively.

Norris Green East, Norris Green North and Norris Green West

137 We received six submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and three residents.

138 The Council proposed three single-councillor wards for Norris Green. They proposed a Norris Green North comprising the area north of Utting Avenue East, with the area to the south of Utting Avenue East being split along Lewisham Road into Norris Green West and Norris Green East wards. The Liberal Democrats also proposed these wards, though suggested to name the northern ward Scargreen. Both the Council and Liberal Democrats argued that these wards would contain a recognisable community and that residents use the parades of shops present in these proposed wards.

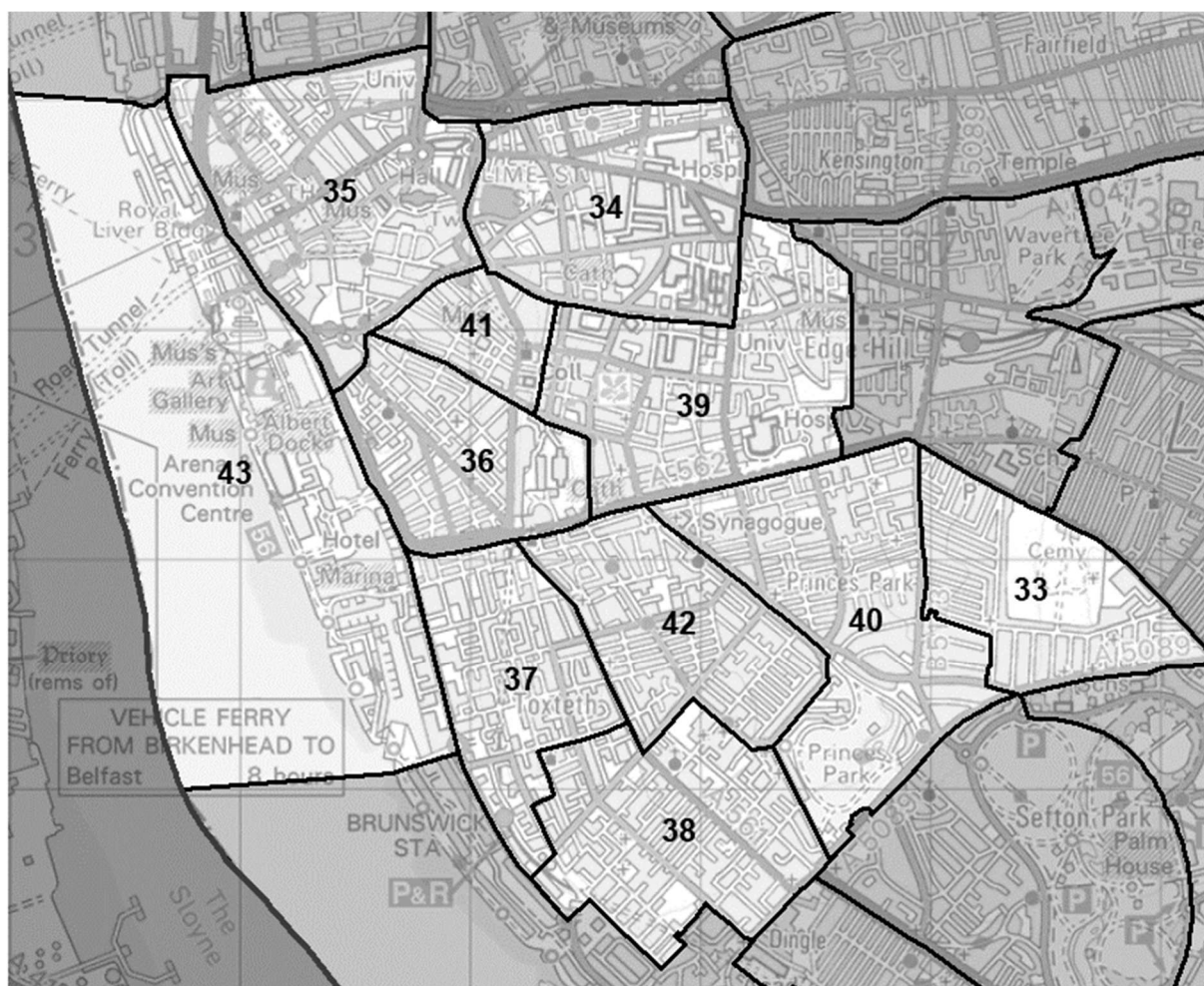
139 The Labour Group proposed a three-councillor ward named Norris Green, stretching from East Lancashire Road in the north to Muirhead Avenue East in the south. They argued that Norris Green is a well-established community with a clear identity and shared amenities.

140 Two residents argued that residents from County and Walton wards should not be added into any Norris Green ward, and that these areas are separate. Such addition was not proposed in any scheme we received.

141 On balance, we have been persuaded to adopt the ward boundaries proposed by the Council and Liberal Democrats for this area as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that the suggested boundaries dividing Norris Green North, Norris Green East and Norris Green West wards are clear and identifiable and that residents use facilities present in each ward. We are keen to hear from residents whether this community is best represented in three single-councillor wards. We have also adopted the names proposed by the Council within our draft recommendations, as we consider these are clear for local residents.

142 Our proposed Norris Green East, Norris Green North and Norris Green West wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances 1%, 10% and -1%, respectively.

Central West



Ward number	Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
33	Arundel	1	5%
34	Brownlow Hill	2	-7%
35	City Centre North	2	-3%
36	City Centre South	2	-2%
37	Dingle North	1	8%
38	Dingle South	1	-8%
39	Paddington	2	-4%
40	Princes Park	1	7%
41	Ropewalks	1	9%
42	Toxteth	1	-4%
43	Waterfront South	1	-1%

City Centre North, City Centre South and Ropewalks

143 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, and two residents.

144 The Council proposed a two-councillor ward in the area bounded by Leeds Street and Hanover Street, named City Centre North. This ward was supported by the Labour Group. The Council argued that this ward would encompass a large area of the city centre, including the Cultural Quarter and main office areas for the city, and reflect city centre communities.

145 The Liberal Democrats proposed to split the Council's proposed City Centre North ward into two single-councillor wards. They proposed a northern ward named Moorfields between Leeds Street and A57 Dale Street, as well as a City Centre ward covering the area between A57 Dale Street and Hanover Street. The Liberal Democrats stated the suggested Moorfields ward would mainly comprise the central business district, while their proposed City Centre ward would encompass the main shopping district, including Liverpool ONE and Church Street. They noted that communities in their proposed City Centre ward would largely be based around individual blocks of apartments. While we considered these arguments, the Liberal Democrats' proposed Moorfields ward and City Centre ward would have electoral variances of 49% and -55% by 2027, respectively. We do not consider that this extremely high level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence and have therefore not adopted this suggestion as part of our draft recommendations.

146 The Council further proposed a single-councillor Ropewalks ward and a two-councillor City Centre South ward. The Liberal Democrats also proposed a single-councillor Ropewalks ward. Both argued that a single-councillor Ropewalks ward would best reflect a growing community in the city centre. We note that the proposed Ropewalks ward would have an electoral variance of 14% by 2027. A local resident also stated that the area of Ropewalks is a growing urban neighbourhood and would be better represented in a smaller ward.

147 The Labour Group proposed a three-councillor City Centre South ward, joining together the Council's proposed City Centre South and Ropewalks wards. They argued that this area shares local amenities and facilities, such as retail and leisure facilities in the Baltic Triangle and Duke Street, and local educational facilities and green spaces.

148 The Liberal Democrats argued that the Council's proposed City Centre South ward should be divided into two single-councillor wards. They split this area along St James Street and Park Lane in order to form a suggested Baltic ward and a St James ward. They stated that the Baltic Triangle is undergoing redevelopment, with the conversion of industrial buildings, and as such would be best represented in its own ward. A local resident also stated that the area of Baltic Triangle is a growing urban neighbourhood and would be better represented in a smaller ward. However, Baltic ward and St James ward would have electoral variances of 12% and -15% by 2027, respectively. We do not consider that this high level of electoral inequality has

been justified by the evidence and have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

149 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt the Council's proposed wards in this area. We consider that all three wards offer good levels of electoral equality and use clear and identifiable boundaries. We also consider that these wards would reflect existing communities in the city centre, as well as reflecting evidence submitted to us by a local resident regarding Ropewalks ward.

150 We are proposing one minor amendment to the boundary between Ropewalks ward and Paddington ward in order to improve electoral equality for Ropewalks ward. Under the Council's proposal, Ropewalks ward would have an electoral variance of 14% by 2027. We are proposing to move the boundary from Rodney Street to Roscoe Street, to run behind the properties on the western side of Rodney Street. This amendment would result in an electoral variance of 9% for Ropewalks ward. In addition, we consider that this boundary would be clear for local residents and unite the properties across Rodney Street.

151 Our proposed City Centre North and City Centre South wards would each be represented by two-councillors and Ropewalks ward will be represented by one councillor. All three wards are forecast to have a good level of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances of -3%, -2% and 9%, respectively.

Dingle North and Dingle South

152 We received three submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats.

153 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards named Dingle North and Dingle South. These two wards would encompass the area bounded by Parliament Street in the north, Sefton Street in the west, South Hill Road, Dingle Lane and Ullet Road in the south, and Belvidere Road, Admiral Street and Park Place in the east. They proposed to split this area into Dingle North and Dingle South along Park Street up until Beaufort Street before heading south around the disused gasholder site, taking in part of Grafton Street before again turning west to meet the A5036 Sefton Street. The Council argued that these two wards would reflect local communities in this area, and that retail provision for both wards would be mainly located in Park Road in Dingle South ward.

154 The Labour Group instead proposed a two-councillor Dingle ward, arguing that this area is a single unified community, and that the Council's proposed split is arbitrary. They further stated that residents in Dingle share many amenities, including local schools, Lifestyles centre and Park Road shops.

155 We have included the Council's proposal for Dingle North and Dingle South wards in our draft recommendations. We visited this area and while noting the concerns raised by the Labour Group about the proposed split within Dingle, at this stage we are of the view that our statutory criteria would best be facilitated by single-councillor wards in this area. However, we consider that the Labour proposal for a two-councillor ward that would unite the Dingle community has some merit. We therefore find this decision finely balanced and would welcome further evidence from residents of Dingle as to whether this area should be represented by two single-councillor wards or one two-councillor ward.

156 As discussed in paragraph 228, we are proposing an amendment to run the boundary between Dingle South and Festival Gardens behind the properties on the north-western side of South Hill Road, instead of along the centre of the road, in order to improve electoral equality for Festival Gardens ward. This means that all residents on this section of South Hill Road would be located within Festival Gardens ward.

157 Our proposed Dingle North and Dingle South wards will be represented by one councillor each and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of 8% and -8%, respectively.

Arundel

158 We received four submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and the Green Party.

159 The Council, supported by the Labour Group, proposed a single-councillor Arundel ward bounded by Smithdown Road, Lodge Lane, Fern Grove, Hartington Road and Ullet Road. They stated that this area is characterised by high-density housing and contains the Toxteth Park & Avenues Conservation Area, arguing that this ward contains a clear and recognisable community.

160 The Liberal Democrats also proposed a single-councillor Arundel ward centred on Toxteth Park Cemetery; however, they proposed different external boundaries. Instead of running the northern boundary along the entirety of Smithdown Road, they proposed to deviate along Longfellow Street and Holmes Street, as well as along Arundel Avenue and Halkyn Avenue in the east. They further proposed to cross Ullet Road to include the five large blocks of flats immediately south of Ullet Road within their proposed Arundel ward. This was also proposed by the Green Party, who argued that these flats have a strong historical affinity with Arundel, being named after the five avenues off Arundel Avenue.

161 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt the Council's proposal for Arundel. We do not consider the boundaries proposed by the Liberal Democrats to be clear or identifiable. Furthermore, a

warding arrangement which includes the five apartment blocks located between Ullet Road and Croxteth Drive in Arundel ward would result in Greenbank ward having an electoral variance of -18% by 2027. We do not consider this high level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence and have therefore not adopted this suggestion as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that the Council's proposal provides the best balance for our statutory criteria.

162 Our proposed Arundel ward will be represented by one councillor and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of 5%.

Princes Park and Toxteth

163 We received five submissions regarding this area from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and two residents.

164 The Council proposed two single-councillor wards named Princes Park and Toxteth. They argued that both wards would reflect recognisable communities and be residential in nature, incorporating a number of conservation areas. They proposed to use Princes Avenue as the boundary between the wards. The Liberal Democrats also proposed these two wards, but with a slight modification to the southern boundary of Princes Park ward. They suggested an arrangement which included Glade Park Court at Ullet Road in Sefton Park ward, as this area faces southwards and would be isolated from the rest of Princes Park ward.

165 The Labour Group argued that this area is a single community that should be united in a two-councillor Toxteth ward, and that Princes Avenue is a uniting feature rather than a dividing boundary. We visited Princes Avenue and noted that few pedestrian crossings exist across this four-lane road, and that many roads to the north do not have vehicular access onto Princes Avenue. While there are some community amenities at the north-western end of this road near the junction with Upper Parliament Street, we noted a lack of facilities along much of this road. We therefore concluded that Princes Avenue is a strong boundary in this area and would be recognisable for residents. At this stage we have not been persuaded to adopt the Labour Group's proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

166 A local resident proposed an alternative arrangement in this area, separating the Park Road area in the west from the Lodge Lane area in the east. They proposed a north-south split of the current Princes Park ward, using Windsor Street, Upper Warwick Street, Princes Avenue and Bentley Road as boundaries. They proposed to name the northern ward Granby and the southern ward High Park. These wards would have electoral variances of 11% and 15% by 2027, respectively.

167 As well as high levels of electoral inequality forecast, we were not convinced that all of the boundaries proposed to us by this resident were clear and identifiable. We consider Upper Parliament Street to be a very clear northern boundary for both

the proposed Toxteth and Princes Park wards and have therefore not been persuaded to maintain the external boundaries of the existing Princes Park ward, which crosses this road and extends to Myrtle Street. Additionally, as discussed in paragraph 165, we consider Princes Avenue to be a strong and identifiable boundary in this area and have not been persuaded to cross this road.

168 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt the Council's proposed Princes Park and Toxteth wards as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that this arrangement provides strong boundaries for both wards and further reflects evidence we have heard from a local resident who proposed to extend Princes Park ward west to Park Road and south to Ullet Road, which was an amendment incorporated into the Council's scheme. We are also adopting the Liberal Democrats' proposed amendment to include Glade Park Court in Sefton Park ward to reflect the south-facing access.

169 Our proposed Princes Park and Toxteth wards will be represented by one councillor each and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of 7% and -4%, respectively.

Brownlow Hill and Paddington

170 We received three submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats.

171 The Council and Labour Group proposed the same two wards in this area, suggesting two two-councillor wards named Brownlow Hill and Paddington. They argued that these wards would reflect recognisable communities in this area and utilise clear and identifiable boundaries. They stated that Brownlow Hill ward would include a significant proportion of the Knowledge Quarter, as well as Lime Street Station and the main campuses for both the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University, as well as the Royal Liverpool University Hospital. Paddington ward would also encompass large areas of the Knowledge Quarter, with the southern area of the ward being centred around the Georgian Quarter.

172 The Liberal Democrats proposed to split these proposed two wards into four single-councillor wards. Brownlow Hill would be split along the A5047 Pembroke Place into a northern Low Hill ward and southern Brownlow Hill ward, with Paddington ward split along Myrtle Street into a northern Abercromby ward and a southern Canning ward. They argued that all four of these wards would reflect recognisable communities. However, we note that each of these four wards would have high levels of electoral inequality. Low Hill, Brownlow Hill, Abercromby and Canning wards would have electoral variances of 22%, -35%, -51% and 39% by 2027, respectively. We do not consider that this high level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence and have therefore not adopted this suggestion as part of our draft recommendations.

173 Having carefully considered the evidence, we have adopted the Council's Brownlow Hill and Paddington wards, as supported by the Labour Group, as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that these wards best reflect our statutory criteria. As discussed in paragraph 150, we are amending the western boundary of Paddington ward to run along Roscoe Street in order to provide a good level of electoral equality for Ropewalks ward.

174 Our proposed Brownlow Hill and Paddington wards will be represented by one councillor each and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of -7% and -4%, respectively.

Waterfront South

175 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and two residents.

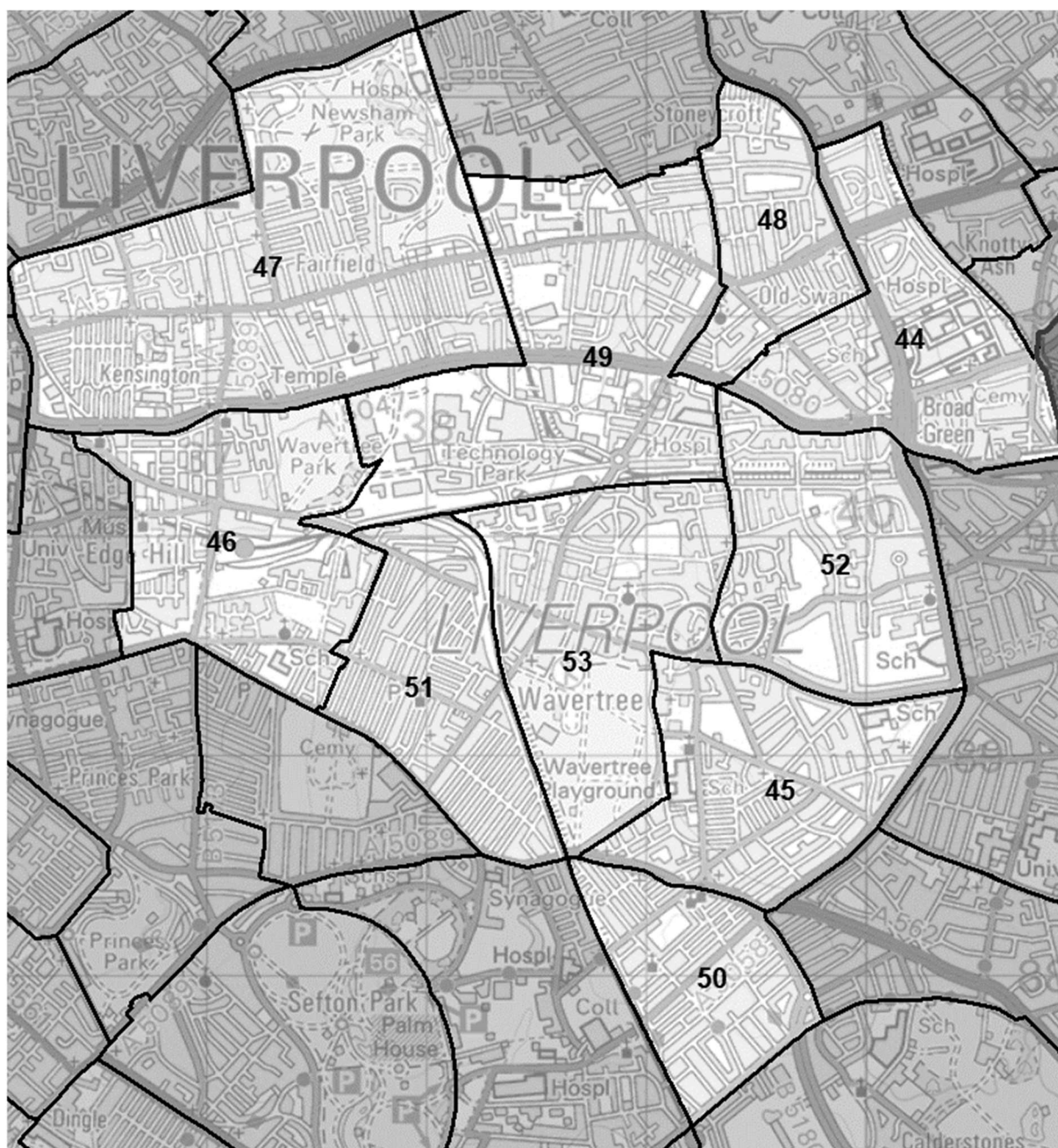
176 The Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats all proposed the same ward for this area. This proposed Waterfront South ward would unite the historic docks and would include the Albert Dock Conservation Area. A local resident stated that residents living along the River Mersey have different interests and local issues than the surrounding areas, such as environmental concerns and developments.

177 A resident stated that the waterfront, from Brunswick Dock up to and including Princes Dock and Alexandra Tower, should be placed together in a single ward. We note that the scheme provided by the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats encompasses this area in Waterfront South ward.

178 We are including Waterfront South ward as part of our draft recommendations. The Council and Labour Group proposed to name this ward Waterfront South, whereas the Liberal Democrats proposed the name Pierhead. We consider that the Council's and Labour Group's proposal is clear and identifiable for residents and as such are adopting this proposal. However, we would be interested to hear from residents about which name best reflects their local community.

179 Our proposed Waterfront South will be represented by one councillor and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of -1%.

Central East



Ward number	Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
44	Broadgreen	1	-9%
45	Church	1	3%
46	Edge Hill	1	-6%
47	Kensington & Fairfield	3	8%
48	Old Swan East	1	-7%
49	Old Swan West	1	-1%
50	Penny Lane	1	3%
51	Smithdown	2	4%

52	Wavertree Garden Suburb	1	-9%
53	Wavertree Village	1	3%

Broadgreen

180 We received 10 submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and seven residents.

181 The Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats all proposed the same boundaries for Broadgreen ward. This ward would stretch from the southern boundary of Rocky Lane across the M62 and railway line to Alder Road in the north. On the eastern boundary, this ward would be contained by the city boundary and disused railway line. It would be bounded by Edge Lane Drive, Cunningham Road, Oakhill Road and Queens Drive in the west. All three argued that this ward represents a unified and recognisable community.

182 One resident supported the creation of a Broadgreen ward, stating that areas that are currently part of Knotty Ash, Childwall and Old Swan wards are considered part of Broadgreen.

183 Six residents argued strongly against the area south of the M62 and Bowring Park Road being placed in Broadgreen ward. They argued that this area is physically separated from Broadgreen by the motorway and trainline, with only one road, Thomas Lane, joining these two areas. The residents further stated that the area south of Bowring Road is part of the Childwall suburbs, whereas much of Broadgreen ward is comprised of HMOs and flats.

184 We have been persuaded to adopt the Council's proposed Broadgreen ward, as supported by the Labour Group and Liberal Democrats, as part of our draft recommendations. However, we are proposing that the southern boundary runs along Bowring Park Road, rather than extending over this road to Rocky Lane. We have been persuaded by local residents that the area between Bowring Park Road and Rocky Lane would be better represented in Childwall ward, and further note the distinct lack of access between the areas south and north of the M62.

185 Our proposed Broadgreen ward will be represented by one councillor and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of -9%.

Edge Hill and Smithdown

186 We received four submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and one resident.

187 The Council proposed three single-councillor wards named Edge Hill, Picton and Smithdown Dales. Edge Hill ward would run from Edge Lane, Irvine Street and Overton Street in the north and west, to Smithdown Road in the south and finally

behind the properties on the eastern side of Cranborne Road in the east. Picton ward would encompass the area between Cranbourne Road, Smithdown Road, Bagot Street, Lawrence Road, Wellington Road and the railway line. Smithdown ward would be located southeast of Picton ward and be bounded by the railway in the east, Smithdown Road and Ullet Road in the south, with the boundary then running north up Halkyn Avenue and Arundel Avenue back to Smithdown Road. We visited this area of Liverpool and do not consider that the boundary between Edge Hill ward and Picton ward is clear and identifiable. This boundary further splits the uniform terraces that begin on Cranborne Road and continue eastwards to the railway line. We investigated whether an alternative boundary could be found behind the properties on the western side of Cranborne Road; however, this would result in an electoral variance of 13% for Picton ward by 2027.

188 The Labour Group proposed a two-councillor Picton & Edge Hill ward which would combine the Council's proposed Picton and Edge Hill wards. They argued that the prevalence of HMOs in the area means that this area would be better represented in a two-councillor ward. While this proposal does not utilise the poor boundary between Cranborne Road and Salisbury Road, it does suggest the same boundary as the Council between Picton & Edge Hill and Smithdown wards along Bagot Street, Lawrence Road and Wellington Road. We visited this area of Liverpool and do not consider this boundary to be clear and identifiable for local residents, as it again splits uniform terraced housing and splits Lawrence Road, which has a number of shops and services.

189 The Liberal Democrats offered an alternative scheme for this area. They also proposed a single-councillor Edge Hill ward, but with the eastern boundary running behind the properties on the western side of Cranborne Road, as well as a two-councillor Smithdown ward. In our view, informed by our visit to the area, these boundaries proposed for Edge Hill are clearer than the ones proposed by the Council and Labour Group. The Liberal Democrats also argued that their proposed Smithdown ward used strong boundaries and that the ward's community would be centred on Lawrence Road, with residents also accessing facilities and bus services at Smithdown Road. The Liberal Democrats included the supermarket and GP surgery south of Smithdown Road in their proposed Smithdown ward.

190 A local resident argued in favour of the Liberal Democrats' proposed Smithdown ward, stating that the area bounded by the railway, Cranborne Road, Picton Road and Smithdown Road should be united in a single ward. They stated that this is a diverse area with a large student population and would therefore benefit from being represented in a single ward.

191 Following careful consideration of the proposals made for this area, we have been persuaded by the evidence presented to us by the Liberal Democrats and are therefore adopting their proposed Edge Hill ward and Smithdown ward as part of our

draft recommendations. However, we are proposing a minor amendment to the south to run the boundary solely along Smithdown Road, rather than behind the supermarket, GP surgery and along Halkyn Avenue. While we acknowledge that residents within our proposed Smithdown ward are likely to access amenities on the southern side of Smithdown Road, we consider that Smithdown Road itself provides for a clear and identifiable boundary for local residents, and further reduces the electoral variance of Smithdown ward from 11% to 4%. We consider that this arrangement better reflects our statutory criteria.

192 We are further proposing one minor amendment to the boundary between Old Swan West and Edge Hill wards. In order to contain the entirety of Wavertree Technology Park in a single ward, we are moving the eastern Edge Hill boundary from Innovation Boulevard to the eastern edge of Wavertree Park.

193 Our proposed one-councillor Edge Hill and two-councillor Smithdown wards will be forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with electoral variances of -6% and 4%, respectively.

Kensington & Fairfield

194 We received four submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and a resident.

195 The Council proposed three single-councillor wards named Kensington North, Kensington South and Fairfield. Kensington North would be bounded by Boaler Street, Low Hill, A57 Kensington and Sheil Road. Kensington South would be contained by A57 Kensington, Low Hill and Edge Lane, before the boundary would run north up the railway line, west along Cheviot Road and Edge Grove and north again up Laurel Road. The proposed Fairfield ward would be north of Cheviot Road and Edge Grove, and be bounded by Shiel Road, Rocky Lane and the railway line. The Council argued that these wards would reflect recognisable communities in this area; additionally, a local resident argued that the communities of Kensington and Fairfield are different and therefore should be separated. However, the Council's proposed Kensington South ward would have an electoral variance of 25%. We consider this variance too high to accept and are therefore unable to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

196 We considered combining the Council's proposed Kensington North and Kensington South wards into a two-councillor Kensington ward. This would result in a variance of 10% for Kensington ward, which we consider a good level of electoral equality. However, this ward would be reliant on adopting a poor boundary between Fairfield and Kensington along Cheviot Road and Edge Grove. This boundary would place residents on Lindale Road and Middleton Road in Fairfield ward, cutting them off from the remainder of Fairfield by a lack of vehicular access between Edge Grove and Cheviot Road. While an alternative arrangement could be found which would run

the boundary around Lindale Road and Middleton Road to place these areas in Kensington ward, this stronger boundary would create an electoral variance in Kensington ward of 12%. We do not consider this level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence. We further note that residents on South Bank Road and Gresham Street access northwards into Fairfield ward yet would be included in Kensington ward. On balance, we are therefore not proposing a two-councillor Kensington ward and a single-councillor Fairfield ward. We consider that these wards would not provide for a good balance in our statutory criteria.

197 The Labour Group argued for a three-councillor Kensington & Fairfield ward in this area. They stated that extending the existing Kensington & Fairfield ward west of Jubilee Drive and north of Gardner's Drive unites the entirety of Kensington and Fairfield in a single ward. They added that residents in this area share many facilities and amenities, including green spaces, shops and Kensington Library, and that Kensington and Prescott Road is a uniting feature in this ward.

198 The Liberal Democrats also proposed three single-councillor wards, with Kensington South and Fairfield wards being identical to the Council's proposal. However, for Kensington North ward they proposed to extend the northern boundary to West Derby Road. We consider this a strong boundary, and this would result in an electoral variance of 9% for Kensington North ward. However, as discussed in paragraph 195, we have not been convinced to adopt three single-member wards for this area due to the high level of electoral inequality for Kensington South ward. We investigated using West Derby Road as the northern boundary for the Labour Group's proposed three-councillor Kensington & Fairfield ward. However, this would result in an electoral variance of 13% for Kensington & Fairfield ward. We are not convinced that the evidence provided justifies this high level of electoral inequality and are therefore not proposing to adopt this boundary.

199 Following careful consideration of the evidence and the differing options for this area, we have been persuaded to adopt the Labour Group's proposed Kensington & Fairfield ward as we consider that this provides the best balance of our statutory criteria at this stage.

200 Our proposed Kensington & Fairfield ward will be represented by three councillors and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of 8%.

Old Swan East and Old Swan West

201 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and two residents.

202 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards, named Old Swan East and Old Swan West. Old Swan East would be contained

within Queens Drive, Derby Lane, St Oswalds Street, Cunningham Road and Oakhill Road. Old Swan West would stretch from Sandstone Road West and Sandstone Road East in the north to the railway line south of Wavertree Technology Park in the south. The Council argued that both of these wards would contain recognisable communities and that residents access facilities within each ward respectively. We consider the boundary between Old Swan East and Old Swan West wards along Derby Lane and St Oswalds Street to be clear and identifiable.

203 The Labour Group argued that Old Swan should be contained within a two-councillor ward. They argued that Old Swan is a recognised community, with residents sharing schools and parks, and that residents in this area consider themselves part of the Old Swan community.

204 Following consideration of the evidence, we are adopting the Council's suggested Old Swan East and Old Swan West as part of our draft recommendations. While the Labour Group stated that residents in this area consider themselves part of the Old Swan community, we are of the view that the Council provided compelling community evidence about both wards and that the boundary between them is clearly identifiable.

205 We are proposing one minor amendment to the boundary between Old Swan West and Edge Hill wards. In order to contain the entirety of Wavertree Technology Park in a single ward, we are moving the western Old Swan West boundary from Innovation Boulevard to the eastern edge of Wavertree Park.

206 Our proposed Old Swan East and Old Swan West wards will be represented by one councillor each and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of -7% and -1%, respectively.

Church and Penny Lane

207 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Garston Conservatives and a resident.

208 The Council, supported by the Liberal Democrats, proposed two single-councillor wards named Church and Penny Lane. Penny Lane ward would be bounded by Allerton Road, the Mossley Hill-Edge Hill railway line, and Rose Lane. The boundaries of Church ward would run along Allerton Road, the A5058 Queens Drive, Childwall Road, Prince Alfred Road and Grant Avenue. They argued that these wards would reflect local communities and use strong and identifiable boundaries.

209 The Labour Group proposed to combine the Council's single-councillor Church and Penny Lane wards into a two-councillor Penny Lane ward, thereby removing the boundary along Allerton Road. They argued that the boundary along Allerton Road is

arbitrary, and that residents in both Church and Penny Lane wards access facilities along Allerton Road. A local resident stated that the current Church ward should be retained; however, they also stated that they use facilities along Allerton Road.

210 The Garston Conservatives proposed a single-councillor Mossley Hill East ward, centred on Rose Lane where they argued that residents access shops and community services. They stated that this ward would represent the part of Mossley Hill which falls within the Liverpool Garston constituency, with this ward extending to Penny Lane in the north, Rutherford Road/Queens Drive/Menlove Avenue in the east, Green Lane and northern edge of Geoffrey Hughes Memorial Ground in the south and the railway line in the west.

211 Following consideration of the evidence, we were not convinced that the proposal from the Garston Conservatives offered clear and identifiable boundaries for this area and consider that the Council and Labour Group proposals utilise more recognisable boundaries for local residents. Additionally, we do not consider constituency boundaries when drawing up our draft recommendations, with constituencies being built from wards, rather than the other way around.

212 We have included the Council's proposal for Church and Penny Lane wards in our draft recommendations. We visited this area and while we acknowledge the arguments made by the Labour Group about Allerton Road, we are of the view that this busy road provides for a clearly identifiable boundary for residents in this area. However, we would welcome further evidence from residents of Church and Penny Lane as to whether this area should be represented by two single-councillor wards or one two-councillor ward.

213 Our proposed Church and Penny Lane wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with both forecast to have an electoral variance of 3%.

Wavertree Garden Suburb and Wavertree Village

214 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Green Party and a local resident.

215 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards named Wavertree Garden Suburb and Wavertree Village. They stated that the conservation areas of Wavertree Village and Wavertree Garden Suburb are contained within each ward respectively and that each ward would reflect local communities in the area. We consider that these two wards both utilise strong boundaries, including the railway line in the west and north of Wavertree Village, and Edge Lane Drive and Queens Drive in the north and east of Wavertree Garden Suburb. We also consider the divide between Wavertree Village ward and Wavertree Garden Suburb ward, along Mill Lane, to be identifiable for local residents.

216 The Labour Group proposed to combine these two proposed wards together to create a two-councillor Wavertree ward. They stated that Wavertree High Street would be the focus of this ward and that Wavertree Village and Wavertree Garden Suburb share many links and form a natural community, with civic groups such as Wavertree Society and Love Wavertree active in this area.

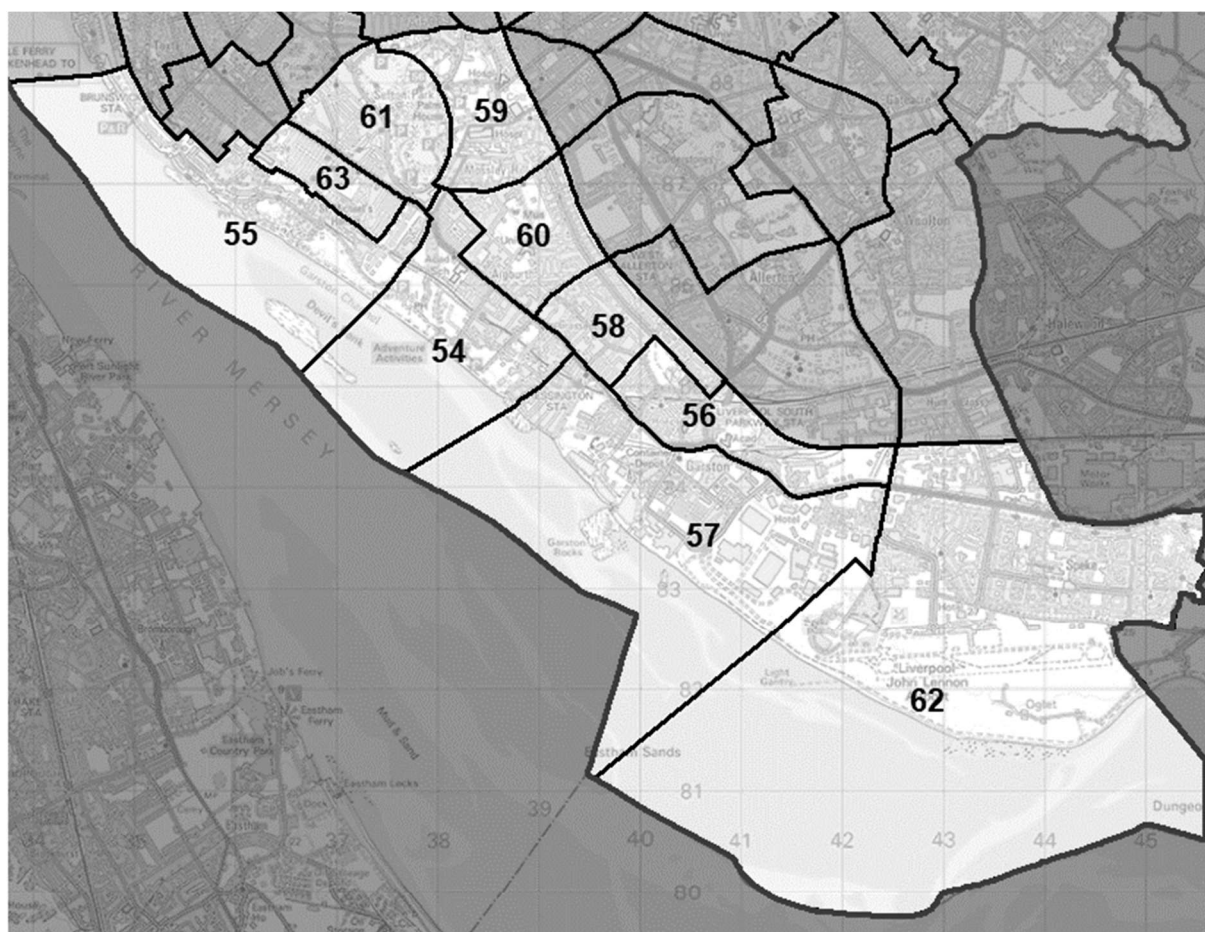
217 The Green Party argued that the properties centred on Crawford Drive and Birch Grove should be moved from the Council's proposed Wavertree Village ward into Wavertree Garden Suburb ward to improve the electoral variance of Wavertree Garden Suburb. However, we note that both of the Council's proposed Wavertree wards offer good levels of electoral equality and consider Mill Lane to be a clearer boundary than the one proposed by the Green Party. We have therefore not adopted this proposal within our draft recommendations.

218 A local resident argued that all of Wavertree should be included in a single ward and defined Wavertree as addresses within the L15 postcode area, including some properties in the existing Childwall ward. Combining this entire area into a ward would result in an electoral variance of 51% for a three-councillor Wavertree ward. We do not consider that the high level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence and are therefore not proposing this ward as part of our draft recommendations. Additionally, the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats all use Queens Drive as the boundary between Wavertree and Childwall. We consider this a very strong boundary in this area and therefore have not been persuaded to cross this road.

219 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to include the Council's proposal for Wavertree Garden Suburb and Wavertree Village wards in our draft recommendations. We consider that these two wards accurately reflect a natural community divide in Wavertree and provide for strong and identifiable boundaries. However, we would welcome further evidence from residents of Wavertree as to whether this area should be represented by two single-councillor wards or one two-councillor ward.

220 Our proposed Wavertree Garden Suburb and Wavertree Village wards will have one councillor each and are forecast to have good levels of electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of -9% and 3%, respectively.

South West



Ward number	Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
54	Aigburth	1	3%
55	Festival Gardens	1	-10%
56	Garston North	1	-5%
57	Garston South & Cressington	1	0%
58	Grassendale	1	9%
59	Greenbank	1	-6%
60	Mossley Hill	1	-3%
61	Sefton Park	1	4%
62	Speke	2	6%
63	St Michaels	1	6%

Aigburth

221 We received four submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and a resident.

222 The Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats all proposed an identical single-councillor Aigburth ward. They argued that this ward would unite a

recognisable community, with Aigburth Road as the principal artery through the ward. Additionally, they stated that there are frequent bus services along this road used by residents, along with Aigburth station.

223 A local resident proposed combining the current wards of Mossley Hill and St Michaels to form an Aigburth ward. They stated that Aigburth is a meaningful and identifiable name for this area. Combining these two current wards would give the proposed Aigburth ward an electoral variance of 59% for a three-councillor ward. We consider this an unacceptably high level of electoral inequality and have therefore not adopted this suggestion as part of our draft recommendations.

224 We are proposing a single-councillor Aigburth ward, as proposed by the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats, as part of our draft recommendations. As discussed in paragraph 255, we are making a minor amendment to the boundary between Aigburth and Sefton Park wards to include Windermere House, Grasmere House, Bridgemere House, Hazelmere House, Coniston House, Ullswater House, Gorseland Court and all other buildings in this area in Sefton Park ward. We consider that this will better reflect access points within this area.

225 Our proposed Aigburth ward will be represented by one councillor and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of 3%.

Festival Gardens

226 We received three submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, and Liberal Democrats.

227 The Council, supported by the Labour Group, proposed a single-councillor Festival Gardens ward. The Liberal Democrats also proposed a single-councillor ward for this area, but with slightly different boundaries between Festival Gardens and Dingle wards. The Council proposed to extend a Festival Gardens ward along South Hill Road to Dingle Mount and Dingle Lane. The Liberal Democrats instead proposed to run the boundary along Dingle Road. Both submissions argued that their proposed Festival Gardens ward would reflect the local community, with frequent public transport links and extensive development planned. The Council's proposed Festival Gardens ward would have an electoral variance of -11% by 2027. The Liberal Democrats' proposed ward would have an electoral variance of -14% by 2027.

228 We have adopted a single-councillor Festival Gardens ward as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that the boundaries proposed by the Council are clear and identifiable but, in order to improve the electoral variance of this ward, we are proposing a minor amendment. Instead of running the boundary between Dingle South ward and Festival Gardens ward along the centre of South Hill Road to the

junction with Dingle Mount, we are proposing to shift the boundary behind the properties on the north-western side of this road. This means that all residents on this section of South Hill Road will be located within Festival Gardens ward. This would result in Festival Gardens having an electoral variance of -10%, which we consider to be a good level of electoral equality.

229 Our proposed Festival Gardens ward will be represented by one councillor and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of -10%.

Garston North and Garston South & Cressington

230 We received 26 submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Garston Conservatives and 22 residents.

231 19 residents argued that the current ward of Speke-Garston should be split. Six residents further proposed linking together Garston and Cressington, stating that these two areas are closely linked. A resident specified further, arguing that Garston 'under the bridge' should be linked with Cressington, and that this is one continuous community.

232 The Council proposed to split Garston between two single-councillor wards using A561 Garston Way as the boundary between the two wards. North of Garston Way, the area bounded by Whitehedge Road, Long Lane, Woolton Road, the mainline railway and Speke Hall Road would be in Garston North ward. To the south, the Council proposed to unite part of Garston with Cressington, creating a Garston South & Cressington ward which would be bounded by Speke Hall Avenue, A561 Garston Way/Speke Road, Grassendale Road and the River Mersey. They stated that both wards would reflect established communities in the area and that both would contain community facilities used by local residents.

233 The Labour Group proposed to unite the Council's two wards of Garston North and Garston South & Cressington into a two-councillor ward named Garston & Cressington. They argued that this is a unified and identifiable community, with residents north and south of the A561 using the same facilities and being part of the wider Garston community. A local resident also argued that Garston 'under the bridge' and Garston Village are a continuous community and should be in the same ward.

234 The Liberal Democrats proposed a different configuration in this area, dividing Garston and Cressington between two wards. Garston ward would extend northwest to Church Road and Woolton Road, crossing the railway line to include the housing centred on Broadmead and cutting through the Hunts Cross Retail Park before running south along Speke Hall Road to the River Mersey. This proposed Garston ward would stretch further north-east than the proposals from the Council and Labour Group, who define Garston as stretching to the railway line immediately north

of New Mersey Shopping Park. The Liberal Democrats' proposed Cressington ward would be bounded by Church Road in the south-east and Grassendale Road in the north-west, before crossing the A561 Garston Way to include the area bounded by Whitehedge Road, Garston Park and Woolton Road in Cressington ward. They argued that their Garston and Cressington wards best reflect communities in this area, with each ward being served well by public transport and containing plenty of amenities for local residents.

235 The Garston Conservatives proposed three single-councillor wards for Cressington, Garston North and Garston South. Garston South ward would encompass the area between Speke Hall Road and Dock Road, crossing the A561 Garston Way to Wellington Street, and then running along Chapel Road and Palmerston Road to meet the Merseyrail railway line. Garston North ward would be located northwest of Wellington Street and the Merseyrail railway line, and would be bounded by the A561 Garston Way, Riverbank Road, Ryegate Road, Ravenstone Road and Brodie Avenue/Long Lane. Cressington ward would run from Dock Road to Riverdale Road and would cross the A561 Garston Way to include the area bounded by Aigburth Hall Avenue, South Mossley Hill Road, Ryegate Road and Riverbank Road. The Garston Conservatives argued that their proposed Cressington ward would unite the Cressington community around Cressington Park, train station and Aigburth Road. They stated that the Council's proposed boundary between Aigburth ward and Garston South & Cressington ward would split the Cressington community between two wards. Additionally, they argued that their proposed Garston South ward reflected the community of Garston 'under the bridge' and that their Garston North was representative of the community of Garston around Garston Park. They further stated that all three of their proposed wards respect the constituency boundaries in this area.

236 Following careful consideration of the evidence and having visited this area, we are adopting the Council's scheme in this area as part of our draft recommendations. The Council's proposed Garston South & Cressington ward reflects the evidence we have heard from local residents who supported joining Garston with Cressington. While the Labour Group's Garston & Cressington ward also reflects this evidence, we consider the A561 Garston Way/Speke Road is a strong boundary in this area, noting minimal crossings on our visit, and have therefore not been persuaded to adopt a ward in this area that spans across this major arterial road.

237 The Liberal Democrat proposal appears to place an area identified to us by the Council, Labour Group and Garston Conservatives as part of Garston into their proposed Cressington ward, namely the area north of the A561 Garston Way centred around Garston Park. We therefore do not consider that their proposed Garston and Cressington wards accurately reflect communities in this area.

238 The Garston Conservatives' proposal also crosses the A561 Garston Way and they do not extend their proposed Cressington and Garston North wards to the mainline railway line. We consider that the mainline railway line is a strong and identifiable boundary in this area. Additionally, a significant part of supporting evidence for their proposed wards centres on constituency boundaries, which we do not consider when drawing up our draft recommendations. Due to the weaker boundaries proposed, and stronger evidence from other schemes, we have not adopted these wards as part of our draft recommendations.

239 Our proposed Garston North and Garston South & Cressington wards will be represented by one councillor each and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of -5% and 0%, respectively.

Grassendale and Mossley Hill

240 We received six submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Garston Conservatives and one resident.

241 The Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats proposed the same wards for this area. They proposed two single-councillor wards named Grassendale and Mossley Hill. The eastern boundary of both of these wards would be the railway line, with Aigburth Road utilised as the western boundary. The proposed boundary between these two wards would be Aigburth Hall Avenue, before running up Aigburth Hall Road and cutting back to Aigburth Hall Avenue behind the properties fronting onto South Mossley Hill Road. The Council argued that both of these wards would represent unified communities, with the Mossley Hill Conservation Area being located within Mossley Hill ward. Additionally, the Liberal Democrats stated that both of these wards would be served well by local bus routes and local train stations. However, they also stated that Mossley Hill ward would benefit from being linked across Aigburth Road as both of these wards share facilities along this road.

242 The Garston Conservatives proposed a different configuration of wards in this area. They proposed to split the area placed in the proposed Grassendale ward between four different wards. As discussed in paragraph 235, the Garston Conservatives proposed a Cressington ward which stretched across the A561 Aigburth Road, encompassing the area bounded by Aigburth Hall Avenue, South Mossley Hill Road, Ryegate Road and Riverbank Road in Cressington ward. They further included the properties between South Mossley Hill Road and the railway line in their proposed Allerton West ward, and the properties southeast of Ryegate Road and Riverbank Road in Garston North ward. The area between Long Lane and the railway line would be in their proposed Allerton East ward.

243 We considered the evidence provided to us and are not of the view that the boundaries provided to us by the Garston Conservatives are clear and identifiable.

Specifically, we consider the mainline railway to be a strong boundary in this area and have not been convinced to place residents on the western side in wards centred on the eastern side of the railway line, as discussed in paragraph 272. Additionally, as discussed in paragraph 236, we consider the A561 Aigburth Road to be a strong and identifiable boundary in this area and have not been persuaded to cross this road. We consider that the Council's proposal to group the residential area southeast of Aigburth Hall Avenue, north-east of Aigburth Road and southwest of the railway line in Grassendale ward would unite a community within clear and identifiable boundaries. We have therefore adopted the wards proposed to us by the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats for Mossley Hill and Grassendale.

244 We are proposing a minor amendment to the boundary between Mossley Hill and Grassendale wards. Instead of the boundary deviating off Aigburth Hall Avenue along Aigburth Hall Road and South Mossley Hill Road, we are instead proposing to run the boundary along the entirety of Aigburth Hall Avenue. We consider that this provides for a clearer boundary in this area.

245 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed differing ward names, with the Council proposing to name the southern ward Grassendale and the Liberal Democrats proposing the name West Allerton. The Labour Group supported the Council's proposal for the name Grassendale. We consider that the Council's proposed name would be recognisable for local residents and as such have adopted this ward name as part of our draft recommendations. However, we would be interested to hear from residents about these two options.

246 Our proposed Grassendale and Mossley Hill wards will be represented by one councillor each and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of 9% and -3%, respectively.

Greenbank

247 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Green Party and one resident.

248 The Council, supported by the Labour Group, proposed a single-councillor Greenbank ward, encompassing the area bounded by Elmswood Road, the Mossley Hill-Edge Hill railway line, Smithdown Road, Ullet Road and Mossley Hill Drive. They argued that this ward would reflect local communities and utilise strong boundaries. Additionally, a local resident described areas that are considered part of the Greenbank community, including Greenbank Student Village, Greenbank GP surgery, and the streets known as 'the Banks'. They stated that the areas north of Ullet Road and Smithdown Road are separate from Greenbank and would be better placed in different wards. We note that the Council's proposed Greenbank ward places its northern boundary at Ullet Road and Smithdown Road, incorporating all

the areas highlighted by a local resident as belonging to the Greenbank community in a Greenbank ward.

249 The Liberal Democrats also proposed a single-councillor Greenbank ward, however, they proposed different boundaries between Greenbank and Arundel ward. As discussed in paragraph 161, we were not convinced by the Liberal Democrat or Green Party suggestion to place the five large apartment blocks south of Ullet Road in Arundel ward, as this would result in Greenbank ward having an electoral variance of -18% by 2027.

250 Following consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt the Council's proposed Greenbank ward as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that this ward has strong and identifiable boundaries for local residents and reflects the Greenbank community, as described to us by a local resident.

251 Our proposed Greenbank ward will be represented by one councillor and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of -6%.

Sefton Park

252 We received three submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group and Liberal Democrats.

253 The Council, supported by the Labour Group, proposed a single-councillor Sefton Park ward, arguing that this ward would reflect communities in Sefton Park. The boundaries of this proposed ward would be Ullet Road, Mossley Hill Drive and Aigburth Road. The Liberal Democrats proposed a near-identical ward for Sefton Park, however proposed to extend the north-western boundary across Ullet Road to include the residents in Glade Park Court in Sefton Park ward.

254 We have been persuaded to adopt the Liberal Democrats' proposal in this area. We consider that including Glade Park Court in Sefton Park ward would best reflect its access and relative isolation from the rest of Princes Park ward.

255 We are also proposing a minor amendment in the south of Sefton Park ward. We note that a number of apartment buildings located on Mossley Hill Drive in the area between Mossley Hill Drive and Aigburth Vale access northwards into Sefton Park ward. However, under all of the proposals we received these properties would be placed in Aigburth ward. We are proposing to move the boundary from Mossley Hill Drive to Aigburth Vale and west along Elmswood Road before re-joining Mossley Hill Drive, thereby including Windermere House, Grasmere House, Bridgemere House, Hazelmere House, Coniston House, Ullswater House, Gorseland Court and all other buildings in this area in Sefton Park ward. We consider that this will better reflect access points within this area.

256 Our proposed Sefton Park ward will be represented by one councillor and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of 4%.

Speke

257 We received 23 submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Garston Conservatives and 19 residents.

258 All 19 residents argued that the current ward of Speke-Garston should be split. They argued that these two areas are physically separated by retail parks and industrial estates, with different local issues and community interests.

259 The Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and Garston Conservatives all proposed a two-councillor Speke ward. This ward would be contained by the city boundary in the south and east, Speke Hall Avenue in the west and the railway line in the north. All argued that Speke is a distinct community which is physically separated from other areas in the southern area of the city.

260 Following consideration of the evidence, we are adopting a two-councillor Speke ward as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that this ward would utilise strong boundaries and reflect a strong community.

261 Our proposed Speke ward will be represented by two councillors and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of 6%.

St Michaels

262 We received four submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Green Party and a local resident.

263 The Council, supported by the Labour Group, proposed a single-councillor St Michaels ward. The boundaries for this ward would be the Merseyrail railway line, Dingle Lane, Aigburth Road and Ampthill Road. They argued that this ward would best reflect communities, with St Michaels Conservation Area located within this ward.

264 The Liberal Democrats proposed a near-identical St Michaels ward; however, they proposed different boundaries between St Michaels ward and Dingle South ward. Their proposed boundary would leave Dingle Vale along Hindlip Street, before running behind the properties on Turner Close and cutting across the green space south of The Turner Home to Colebrooke Road to join Aigburth Road.

265 We received a submission from a local resident who argued that Sandhurst Street should remain in St Michaels ward. We note that this street would remain in St Michaels ward under all of the schemes received.

266 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have adopted the Council's proposed St Michaels ward as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that their proposed boundary between St Michaels ward and Dingle South ward is clearer and more identifiable than the boundary proposed by the Liberal Democrats. We further consider that St Michaels ward will best reflect the community in this relatively isolated area, with limited access from this ward south and east.

267 Our proposed St Michaels ward will be represented by one councillor and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of 6%.

South East



Ward number	Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
64	Belle Vale	2	10%
65	Calderstones	1	-3%
66	Childwall	2	10%
67	Gateacre	1	5%
68	Menlove	1	-3%
69	Much Woolton & Hunts Cross	2	3%
70	Springwood	1	0%
71	Woolton Park	1	-6%

Belle Vale

268 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Garston Conservatives and a local resident.

269 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards named Netherley and Valley. The boundary between Netherley and Valley wards would be Kings Drive until the junction with Childwall Valley Road. The boundary would travel up Childwall Valley Road for a short distance before using the footpath to Viennese Road and up to Galium Drive. Valley ward would stretch northwards to the junction between Childwall Valley Road and Chelwood Avenue before heading back down the Liverpool Loop Line. A local resident argued that the Liverpool Loop Line should continue to be used as the boundary between the existing Belle Vale ward and Woolton and Childwall. Valley ward does not utilise the Liverpool Loop Line for the full extent of its western boundary. To do this would result in an electoral variance of 20% for Valley ward by 2027, which we consider a poor level of electoral equality. Under the Council's proposal, Netherley ward would have an electoral variance of 11% by 2027.

270 The Council and Liberal Democrats argued that these two wards represented unified communities in this area. They argued that Netherley is an isolated community at the edge of the city, and that a Netherley ward would represent a cohesive community with local amenities and community groups, such as the Netherley Youth & Community Initiative.

271 The Labour Group instead proposed to group together the Council's proposed Netherley and Village wards into a two-councillor Belle Vale ward. They argued that the Council's split between Netherley and Valley wards was unclear and that their proposed ward would have strong boundaries. They further argued that the Council's proposal split a unified community, and that Belle Vale Shopping Centre provides amenities for the entire area.

272 The Garston Conservatives offered an alternative proposal for this area. They proposed a smaller Netherley ward, which would use Naylor's Road as the boundary between their proposed Netherley and Belle Vale ward. They argued that Naylor's Road and Kings Drive provide a natural boundary separating the Netherley and Belle Vale communities. However, this arrangement would result in Netherley ward having an electoral variance of -16% by 2027. We do not consider that this level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence and are therefore not proposing to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

273 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have included the Labour Group's proposal for Belle Vale ward in our draft recommendations. We consider that this ward reflects local communities in this area, and where residents go to access facilities. We further consider that this ward would utilise clear boundaries,

and that the Council's proposed boundary between Netherley and Valley is unclear and would result in an electoral variance of 11% for Netherley ward.

274 However, we note the evidence provided to us by the Council and Garston Conservatives, who stated that Netherley is an isolated community at the edge of the city. We would welcome further evidence from residents of this area as to whether this area should be represented by two single-councillor wards or one two-councillor ward.

275 We are proposing a minor amendment in order to extend the western boundary of Belle Vale ward along the Liverpool Loop Line further to include the properties centred on Cockshead Road in Belle Vale ward. We consider that this better reflects communities in this area and further facilitates utilisation of the Liverpool Loop Line as a boundary.

276 Our proposed Belle Vale ward will be represented by two councillors and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of 10%.

Calderstones, Menlove and Springwood

277 We received four submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats and Garston Conservatives.

278 The Council proposed three single-councillor wards named Calderstones, Menlove and Springwood. In the south, Springwood would be bounded by the mainline railway line in the south and west and the A562 Hillfoot Road in the east. The northern boundary of this ward, and the divide between Springwood and Calderstones wards, would run east along Booker Avenue, south along Mather Avenue and east on Heath Road. Calderstones ward would be located north of this boundary and would encompass the area up to Rose Lane and Calderstones Road. Calderstones Park would be located in this ward. Finally, the Council's proposed Menlove ward would be north-east of Calderstones ward, and would be bounded by Allerton Road, the A5058 Queens Drive, Woolton Road, Black Wood and Abbot's Lea School. The Council argued that all three of these wards would contain united and recognisable communities, with residents using amenities and facilities within each respective ward.

279 The Labour Group supported the Council's proposed Springwood ward, however, they proposed to combine Calderstones and Menlove wards into a two-councillor Calderstones ward. They argued that Calderstones Park would be the focal point of this ward, with Calderstones being a distinct suburb with shared local facilities.

280 The Liberal Democrats proposed a two-councillor Allerton ward, encompassing the area placed in the Council's proposed Springwood and Calderstones wards;

however, this ward would not include Calderstones Park. They stated that their suggested Allerton ward would unite a community, with Mather Avenue providing a spine for this ward. They argued that residents in this proposed ward use the facilities centred along Mather Avenue, such as GPs and shopping areas, and that a regular bus service runs the length of Mather Avenue connecting residents to local district centres. They argued that it is not possible to divide this area into two recognisable communities and that this is a single unified community. To the north-east of Allerton ward, they proposed a Calderstones ward. This would encompass much of the Council's proposed Menlove ward and Calderstones Park. They argued that this area is a micro-community with the city and the main focal point for this ward would be Calderstones Park.

281 The Garston Conservatives proposed three single-councillor wards named Allerton West, Allerton East and Calderstones. Allerton East would be bounded by the railway, the A562 Hillfoot Road, the northern edge of Allerton Golf Course, Wheatcroft Road, Mather Avenue, Heath Road and Long Lane. Allerton West ward would be located north-west of Allerton East, and would encompass the area bounded by Mather Avenue, Rose Lane and the railway line until West Allerton Station, before crossing the mainline railway line to run along South Mossley Hill Road and Brodie Avenue. Both wards would be centred on areas east of the railway line but would cross the railway to include streets on the opposite side. Their proposed Calderstones ward would include properties on both sides of Calderstones Park and would extend from Woolton Road in the northeast to Mather Avenue in the south-west. The Garston Conservatives argued that their Allerton West and Allerton East wards best represented the community of Allerton, with strong and identifiable boundaries and a sensible split between west and east. For their proposed Calderstones ward, they argued that the ward was based on a shared identity of residents around Calderstones Park. They argued that the Council's proposed boundaries did not represent a pre-existing community in this area.

282 Following consideration of the evidence, we are not of the view that the Garston Conservatives' scheme uses clear and identifiable boundaries in the west of both Allerton West and Allerton East wards. We consider that the mainline railway provides a strong boundary in this area and as such have not been persuaded to cross the railway. We have received alternative proposals that deliver good levels of electoral equality and reflect evidence of community links while still using the mainline railway as the western boundary. If the Garston Conservatives' Allerton West ward was to use the mainline railway as the western boundary, this ward would have an electoral variance of -29% by 2027.

283 For the other three schemes we received for this area, we consider the evidence to be very finely balanced. We consider that all three schemes provided strong community evidence, along with good electoral equality. However, we are of the view that the split between Calderstones ward and Springwood ward, as

proposed by the Council and Labour Group, could be considered unclear as it cuts through an area that the Liberal Democrats argued was a unified community. Similarly, we could not ascertain if the Liberal Democrats' Calderstones ward would accurately reflect the Calderstones community, which the Labour Group identifies as both sides of Calderstones Park.

284 On balance, we have included the Council's proposal for Calderstones, Menlove and Springwood wards in our draft recommendations. However, we would welcome further evidence from residents as to whether this area should be represented by three single-councillor wards or a two-councillor ward and one-councillor ward.

285 Our proposed Calderstones, Menlove and Springwood wards will be represented by one councillor each and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of -3%, -3% and 0%, respectively.

Childwall

286 We received 12 submissions: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Garston Conservatives and eight residents.

287 The Council and Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards named Childwall Hope Park and Childwall Rocket, with the boundary between the two wards running along Childwall Valley Road. They both argued that each of these wards contain amenities for local residents and reflect the Childwall community.

288 The Labour Group proposed a two-councillor Childwall ward, grouping together the two proposed single-councillor wards. They argued that Childwall is a unified community and long-standing suburb, and that residents across this area share facilities and amenities. While the Liberal Democrats proposed two single-councillor wards, they did state in their submission that there is a case for uniting Childwall into a single ward.

289 The Garston Conservatives proposed a Childwall East ward. This ward would encompass the northern area of the current Belle Vale ward, with the southern boundary running along Rimmerbrook Road and Chislehurst Avenue. They stated that this ward would be centred on Childwall Valley Road and reflects the Garston constituency boundary. However, we have been persuaded to place most of the area encompassed in the Garston Conservatives' Childwall East ward in our Belle Vale ward. We consider this best reflects community links in this area.

290 Two local residents argued that the area of Chelwood Avenue and Thornton Road should be located in a Childwall ward, rather than Belle Vale ward, as they consider their local community to be Childwall. We note that all the schemes proposed to us place this area in a Childwall ward.

291 We received six submissions from residents arguing against the north-western boundary of Rocky Lane in the Council's proposed Childwall Rocket ward and the Labour Group's proposed Childwall ward. As discussed in paragraph 183, they argued that residents located northwest of Rocky Lane should be placed in a Childwall ward rather than Broadgreen ward. They stated that this area is physically separated from Broadgreen and is part of the Childwall community.

292 We have been persuaded by local residents that the area between Bowring Park Road and Rocky Lane would be best represented in a Childwall ward. Placing this area in the Council's proposed single-councillor Childwall Rocket ward would result in this ward having an electoral variance of 23% by 2027. We consider this level of electoral inequality too high to accept. However, placing the area between Bowring Park Road and Rocky Lane in the Labour Group's proposed two-councillor Childwall ward would result in an electoral variance of 10%. We consider this a good level of electoral equality, and that this arrangement would best reflect community identity in this area. We have therefore adopted the amended Childwall ward, as proposed by the Labour Group, as part of our draft recommendations.

293 Our proposed Childwall ward will be represented by two councillors and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of 10%.

Gateacre

294 We received five submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Garston Conservatives and Woolton Councillors (Councillor Brown, Councillor Kelly and Councillor Mace).

295 The Council proposed a single-councillor Gateacre ward bounded by Hollytree Road, Acrefield Road, Rose Brow, Woolton Road, Childwall Woods and Childwall Lane, before cutting across Barnham Drive at All Saints' Church to join the Liverpool Loop Line. The boundary would then run down the Liverpool Loop Line to Cranleigh Road before crossing to the eastern side of the Liverpool Loop Line and including the properties west of Hartsbourne Avenue and Besford Road and north of Belle Vale Road in Gateacre ward. As discussed in paragraph 269, placing all the properties east of the Liverpool Loop Line in the Council's proposed Village ward would result in an electoral variance of 20%. We consider this variance too high to accept. The Council argued that their proposed Gateacre ward would represent a unified community and would use clear boundaries.

296 As discussed in paragraph 303, the Labour Group proposed to group Gateacre with Woolton in a three-councillor Woolton & Gateacre ward. They argued that these two communities are closely linked and share local amenities.

297 As discussed in paragraph 308, the Liberal Democrats also proposed to link together the communities of Woolton and Gateacre in a two-councillor Woolton & Gateacre ward, combining the Council's proposed Woolton West and Gateacre wards. They argued that these two communities are historically linked and share facilities.

298 The Garston Conservatives proposed a single-councillor Gateacre ward that stretched further south than the Council's proposed Gateacre ward. Under this proposal, Gateacre ward would encompass the area to Out Lane and Kings Drive. Due to our decision to adopt the Liberal Democrats' proposed Much Woolton & Hunts Cross ward (paragraph 309), we are unable to adopt this proposal as a large number of properties in the south of this proposed Gateacre ward would be included in Much Woolton & Hunts Cross ward.

299 While the Woolton Councillors did not make any specific proposals for a Gateacre ward, they did argue that the Woolton and Gateacre communities are separate and should therefore be represented in different wards.

300 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we are proposing to adopt the Council's scheme for Gateacre as part of our draft recommendations. We consider that this reflects the evidence we have heard from the Woolton Councillors, who stated that the Woolton and Gateacre communities should be represented in different wards. We are of the view that this ward would accurately reflect the community in this area and utilises strong and identifiable boundaries. We are making a minor amendment to the eastern boundary of this ward to utilise more of the Liverpool Loop Line. As discussed in paragraph 275, we consider that including the properties centred on Cockshead Road in Belle Vale ward better reflects community links in this area and further facilitates utilisation of the Liverpool Loop Line as a boundary.

301 Our proposed Gateacre ward will be represented by one councillor and is forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with a forecast variance of 5%.

Much Woolton & Hunts Cross and Woolton Park

302 We received 11 submissions regarding this area: from the Council, Labour Group, Liberal Democrats, Garston Conservatives, Woolton Councillors (Councillor Brown, Councillor Kelly and Councillor Mace) and six residents.

303 The Council proposed three single-councillor wards in this area named Hunts Cross, Woolton West and Woolton East. Woolton West and Woolton East wards would be separated by Acrefield Road. Woolton West ward would encompass the area bounded by Woolton Road, Black Wood, Abbot's Lea School, Menlove Avenue, and High Street. Woolton East ward would stretch from Manor Road in the south to Hollytree Road in the north. Their proposed Hunts Cross ward would have strong

boundaries, utilising the A562 Hillfoot Road, mainline railway and the city boundary. However, the boundary between this ward and Woolton East ward would run along the High Street, Speke Road, Manor Road, and Hunts Cross Avenue before cutting east to join the city boundary.

304 We received two submissions from residents who argued that the area north of Woolton Golf Course is part of Woolton, not Allerton and Hunts Cross, and that the current boundary in this area is unclear. Under the Council's scheme, a large proportion of this area would be included in Hunts Cross ward. We do not consider that the Council's proposed Hunts Cross ward provides clear and identifiable boundaries in this area, and further consider that this scheme includes part of the Woolton community in Hunts Cross ward. We have therefore not adopted their proposed Hunts Cross or Woolton East wards as part of our draft recommendations.

305 The Labour Group proposed to group the Council's proposed Woolton West, Woolton East and Gateacre wards together to form a three-councillor Woolton & Gateacre ward. They argued that the Woolton and Gateacre communities are very well linked, with shared civic associations, amenities, green spaces and schools. However, we note that the southern boundary of this proposed ward would be the same as the Council's proposed boundary between Woolton East ward and Hunts Cross ward. As discussed above, we do not consider this to be a clear and identifiable boundary for residents, and further consider that this splits the community of Woolton as identified to us by local residents. We have therefore not adopted this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

306 The Woolton Councillors proposed a two-councillor Woolton ward, which they argued best reflected the community of Woolton. Under their proposal, Woolton ward would be centred on Reynolds Park, with the external boundaries running along the A562 Menlove Avenue, the northern edge of Woolton Golf Course, Hunts Cross Avenue, Rose Brow, around the properties centred on Quickswood Drive north of Woolton Road, and south along Hornby Lane. The Councillors argued that their proposed Woolton ward would contain a strong and close-knit community, with many community events and facilities. They further stated that while Woolton and Gateacre have historically been linked, the Woolton community should be separated. However, we note that with the proposed eastern boundary running along Hunts Cross Avenue, the properties east of this road and west of the city boundary would be isolated from any potential ward. These properties would either have to be added northwards into Gateacre ward or southwards into a Hunts Cross ward, both of which would produce very unclear boundaries for local residents. Due to this assessment, we have not adopted this ward as part of our draft recommendations.

307 The Garston Conservatives proposed three single-councillor wards for Woolton and Hunts Cross, named Woolton North, Woolton South and Hunts Cross. Their proposed Woolton North ward would utilise the same northern boundary as the

Woolton Councillors' proposed ward, but the southern boundary would be Linkstor Road and Quarry Street, before running between Bishop Martin Primary School and St Peter's Church and cutting across properties to join Acrefield Road. Woolton South ward would be south of this boundary and Kings Drive and extend southwards to the southern edge of Woolton Golf Course. Finally, their proposed Hunts Cross ward would run from the southern edge of Woolton Golf Course to the mainline railway. While we consider that this proposed Hunts Cross ward uses the strongest boundaries of the schemes provided, and may best represent the Hunts Cross community, this ward would have an electoral variance of -22% by 2027. We further note that their proposed Woolton South ward would have an electoral variance of 26% by 2027. We do not consider that this high level of electoral inequality has been justified by the evidence and have therefore not adopted these wards as part of our draft recommendations.

308 The Liberal Democrats proposed to combine the Council's proposed Hunts Cross and Woolton East wards into a two-councillor Much Woolton ward. They argued that this ward would accurately reflect communities in Woolton and Hunts Cross, while also providing a clearer boundary for residents than the Council's proposed Woolton East and Hunts Cross boundary, as well as a better level of electoral equality than a single-councillor Hunts Cross ward, as proposed by the Garston Conservatives. Additionally, they proposed to join together the Council's proposed Woolton West and Gateacre wards to form a two-councillor Woolton & Gateacre ward. They argued that these two communities are historically linked and share amenities on Gateacre Park Drive and in Gateacre village.

309 Following careful consideration of the evidence, we have been persuaded to adopt the Liberal Democrats' proposal for a two-councillor Much Woolton ward. We consider that the Liberal Democrats' proposal for Much Woolton offers the best balance of our statutory criteria, respecting community links in the Woolton community and providing a good level of electoral equality. Following evidence provided to us by local residents about the area north of Woolton Golf Course being part of the Woolton community, we do not consider that the split of this area along Manor Drive, as proposed by both the Council and Labour Group, is clear and identifiable or reflects community identity. While we note the strong community evidence provided to us by the Woolton Councillors, we also consider that the boundary along Hunts Cross Avenue would split the community in this area. We are, however, proposing a slight amendment to the proposed name of Much Woolton in order to better reflect communities within this ward. We are proposing to name this ward Much Woolton & Hunts Cross.

310 For the rest of Woolton, we have been persuaded by the evidence provided to us by the Council and Woolton Councillors to separate the Woolton and Gateacre communities. We consider that the Council's proposed Woolton West ward provides the best balance of our statutory criteria and have therefore adopted this as part of

our draft recommendations. Due to the decision to adopt the name Much Woolton & Hunts Cross to the south, we are not proposing to name this ward Woolton West, as we would expect ward names that utilise the cardinal directions to be complemented by ward names containing the other cardinal points. We are therefore proposing to name this ward Woolton Park. Alternatively, we note that this ward could be named Woolton West if Much Woolton & Hunts Cross was named Woolton East & Hunts Cross. We would be interested to hear from local residents about which name they think best reflects communities within these wards.

311 Our proposed Much Woolton & Hunts Cross and Woolton Park wards would be represented by two- and one-councillors respectively and are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2027, with forecast variances of 3% and -6%, respectively.

Conclusions

312 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality in Liverpool, referencing the 2019 and 2027 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2019	2027
Number of councillors	85	85
Number of electoral wards	71	71
Average number of electors per councillor	3,842	4,300
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	47	1
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	27	0

Draft recommendations

Liverpool City Council should be made up of 85 councillors serving 71 wards representing 58 single-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and one three-councillor ward. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Liverpool City Council. You can also view our draft recommendations for Liverpool on our interactive maps at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/merseyside/liverpool

Have your say

313 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole city or just a part of it.

314 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Liverpool, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

315 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps. You can find it at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

316 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Liverpool)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

317 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Liverpool which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

318 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

319 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Liverpool?

320 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

321 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

322 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

323 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

324 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

325 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft

Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Liverpool City Council in 2023.

Equalities

326 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Draft recommendations for Liverpool City Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Aigburth	1	4,572	4,572	19%	4,430	4,430	3%
2	Aintree	1	4,295	4,295	12%	4,740	4,740	10%
3	Anfield	2	8,132	4,066	6%	8,294	4,147	-4%
4	Arundel	1	3,446	3,446	-10%	4,511	4,511	5%
5	Belle Vale	2	9,967	4,984	30%	9,462	4,731	10%
6	Broadgreen	1	4,734	4,734	23%	3,916	3,916	-9%
7	Brownlow Hill	2	2,026	1,013	-74%	8,034	4,017	-7%
8	Calderstones	1	4,285	4,285	12%	4,164	4,164	-3%
9	Childwall	2	10,101	5,051	31%	9,465	4,732	10%
10	Church	1	4,696	4,696	22%	4,447	4,447	3%
11	City Centre North	2	3,998	1,999	-48%	8,368	4184	-3%
12	City Centre South	2	3,542	1,771	-54%	8,457	4229	-2%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Clubmoor East	1	4,549	4,549	18%	4,156	4156	-3%
14 Clubmoor West	1	4,471	4,471	16%	4,007	4007	-7%
15 County	2	7,939	3,970	3%	7,854	3927	-9%
16 Croxteth	1	4,109	4,109	7%	4,172	4172	-3%
17 Croxteth Country Park	1	5,164	5,164	34%	4,496	4496	5%
18 Dingle North	1	2,875	2,875	-25%	4,642	4642	8%
19 Dingle South	1	4,713	4,713	23%	3,975	3975	-8%
20 Dovecot North	1	4,681	4,681	22%	4,368	4368	2%
21 Dovecot South	1	4,112	4,112	7%	4,382	4382	2%
22 Edge Hill	1	3,303	3,303	-14%	4,021	4021	-6%
23 Everton North	1	4,093	4,093	7%	4,265	4265	-1%
24 Everton South	1	4,147	4,147	8%	4,641	4641	8%
25 Fazakerley East	1	4,119	4,119	7%	4,049	4049	-6%
26 Fazakerley West	1	4,050	4,050	5%	3,925	3925	-9%
27 Festival Gardens	1	2,569	2,569	-33%	3,879	3879	-10%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28	Garston North	1	3,569	3,569	-7%	4,088	4088	-5%
29	Garston South & Cressington	1	4,073	4,073	6%	4,286	4286	0%
30	Gateacre	1	4,686	4,686	22%	4,516	4516	5%
31	Grassendale	1	4,816	4,816	25%	4,706	4706	9%
32	Greenbank	1	3,851	3,851	0%	4,037	4037	-6%
33	Kensington & Fairfield	3	11,457	3,819	-1%	13,951	4650	8%
34	Kirkdale	1	4,006	4,006	4%	4,190	4190	-3%
35	Knotty Ash	1	4,383	4,383	14%	4,344	4344	1%
36	Melrose	1	2,730	2,730	-29%	4,045	4045	-6%
37	Menlove	1	5,204	5,204	35%	4,155	4155	-3%
38	Mossley Hill	1	3,974	3,974	3%	4,182	4182	-3%
39	Much Woolton & Hunts Cross	2	9,826	4,913	28%	8,838	4419	3%
40	Norris Green East	1	4,371	4,371	14%	4,335	4335	1%
41	Norris Green North	1	5,050	5,050	31%	4,714	4714	10%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
42	Norris Green West	1	2,491	2,491	-35%	4,245	4245	-1%
43	Old Swan East	1	4,296	4,296	12%	4,009	4009	-7%
44	Old Swan West	1	4,019	4,019	5%	4,268	4268	-1%
45	Orrell Park	1	4,443	4,443	16%	3,974	3974	-8%
46	Paddington	2	4,097	2,049	-47%	8,265	4133	-4%
47	Penny Lane	1	4,001	4,001	4%	4,440	4440	3%
48	Princes Park	1	4,577	4,577	19%	4,620	4620	7%
49	Ropewalks	1	1,484	1,484	-61%	4,707	4707	9%
50	Sandfield Park	1	4,523	4,523	18%	4,166	4166	-3%
51	Scotland Road	2	5,921	2,961	-23%	7,837	3918	-9%
52	Sefton Park	1	4,179	4,179	9%	4,456	4456	4%
53	Smithdown	2	7,367	3,684	-4%	8,987	4493	4%
54	Speke	2	9,108	4,554	19%	9,150	4575	6%
55	Springwood	1	4,937	4,937	29%	4,299	4299	0%
56	St Michaels	1	4,564	4,564	19%	4,548	4548	6%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
57 Stoneycroft	1	4,548	4,548	18%	4,262	4262	-1%
58 Toxteth	1	4,230	4,230	10%	4,124	4124	-4%
59 Tuebrook Edinburgh Park	1	3,517	3,517	-8%	4,591	4591	7%
60 Tuebrook Larkhill	1	4,932	4,932	28%	4,455	4455	4%
61 Vauxhall	1	1,679	1,679	-56%	4,791	4791	11%
62 Walton Hall	1	4,374	4,374	14%	4,372	4372	2%
63 Walton Vale	1	4,628	4,628	20%	4,093	4093	-5%
64 Waterfront North	1	567	567	-85%	4,035	4035	-6%
65 Waterfront South	1	1,586	1,586	-59%	4,241	4241	-1%
66 Wavertree Garden Suburb	1	4,111	4,111	7%	3,929	3929	-9%
67 Wavertree Village	1	4,287	4,287	12%	4,430	4430	3%
68 West Derby Deysbrook	1	4,554	4,554	19%	4,350	4350	1%
69 West Derby Leyfield	1	4,432	4,432	15%	4,221	4221	-2%
70 West Derby Muirhead	1	4,194	4,194	9%	4,083	4083	-5%

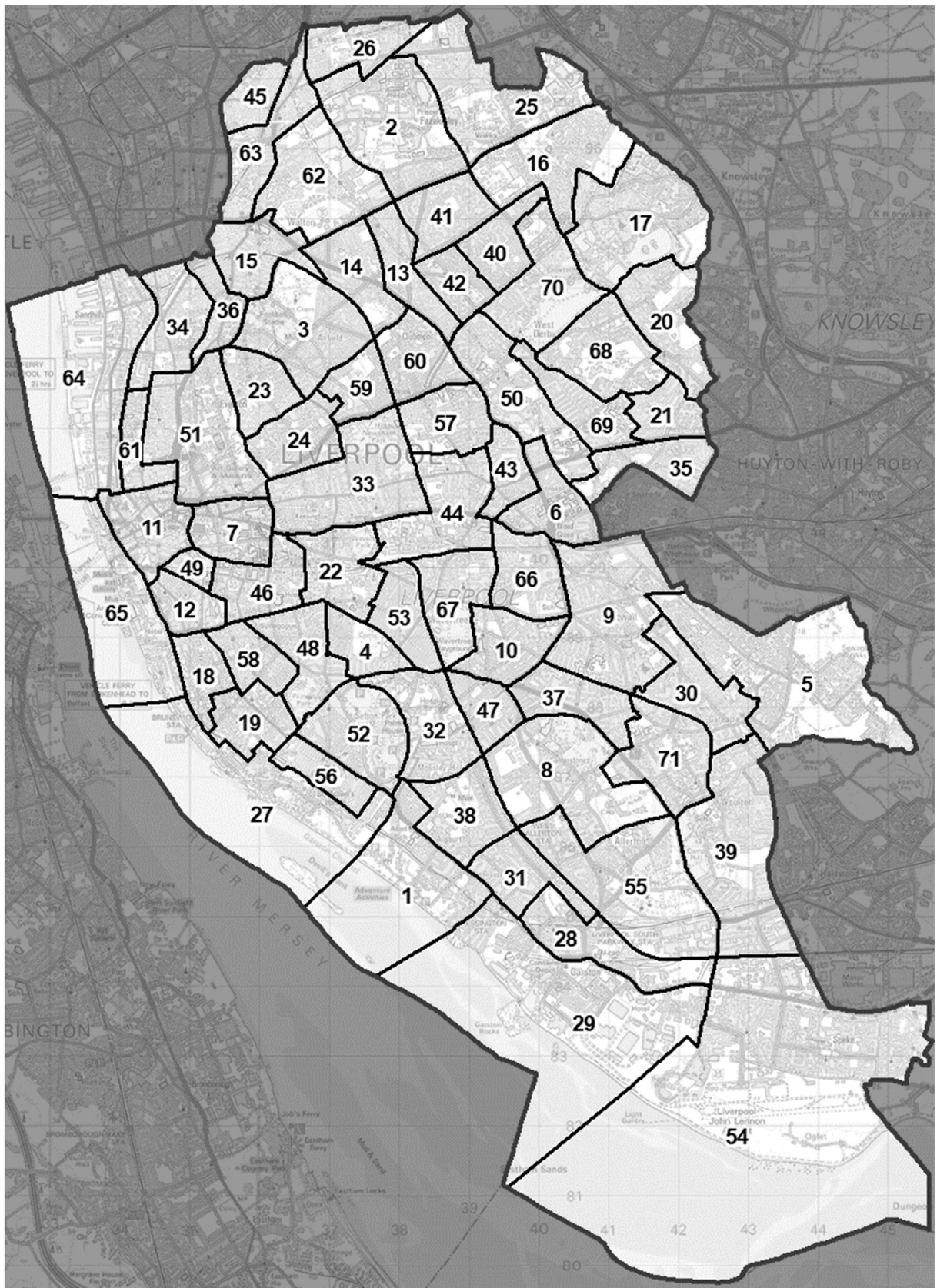
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2019)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
71 Woolton Park	1	4,241	4,241	10%	4,050	4050	-6%
Totals	85	326,570	-	-	365,505	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,842	-	-	4,300	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Liverpool City Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the city. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name	Number	Ward name
1	Aigburth	37	Menlove
2	Aintree	38	Mossley Hill
3	Anfield	39	Much Woolton & Hunts Cross
4	Arundel	40	Norris Green East
5	Belle Vale	41	Norris Green North
6	Broadgreen	42	Norris Green West
7	Brownlow Hill	43	Old Swan East
8	Calderstones	44	Old Swan West
9	Childwall	45	Orrell Park
10	Church	46	Paddington
11	City Centre North	47	Penny Lane
12	City Centre South	48	Princes Park
13	Clubmoor East	49	Ropewalks
14	Clubmoor West	50	Sandfield Park
15	County	51	Scotland Road
16	Croxteth	52	Sefton Park
17	Croxteth Country Park	53	Smithdown
18	Dingle North	54	Speke
19	Dingle South	55	Springwood
20	Dovecot North	56	St Michaels
21	Dovecot South	57	Stoneycroft
22	Edge Hill	58	Toxteth
23	Everton North	59	Tuebrook Edinburgh Park
24	Everton South	60	Tuebrook Larkhill
25	Fazakerley East	61	Vauxhall
26	Fazakerley West	62	Walton Hall
27	Festival Gardens	63	Walton Vale
28	Garston North	64	Waterfront North
29	Garston South & Cressington	65	Waterfront South
30	Gateacre	66	Wavertree Garden Suburb
31	Grassendale	67	Wavertree Village
32	Greenbank	68	West Derby Deysbrook
33	Kensington & Fairfield	69	West Derby Leyfield
34	Kirkdale	70	West Derby Muirhead
35	Knotty Ash	71	Woolton Park
36	Melrose		

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/merseyside/liverpool

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:
www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/merseyside/liverpool

Local Authority

- Liverpool City Council

Political Groups

- Garston Conservatives
- Liverpool Green Party
- Liverpool Labour Group
- Liverpool Liberal Democrats

Councillors

- Councillor K. Brown, M. Kelly and B. Mace (Liverpool City Council)
- Councillors B. Marrat and L. Simic (Liverpool City Council)

Local Organisations

- Liverpool Six Community Association
- Waterloo Quay Tenants Association

Local Residents

- 172 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
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www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

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