

# Appendix 1

## Boundary Review 2021: Warding proposals

### Oldham Council submission to LGBCE

#### Overview

In all cases in the maps below, purple boundaries represent new proposals, teal boundaries represent current wards.

#### Methodology

The methodology used has been (in line with LGBCE recommendations) to work from an edge of the borough, and design areas in sequence based on our projections of 2026 electorate.

As a result, this document will be presented in the order in which proposed wards were constructed.

- Saddleworth
- Royton, Shaw and Crompton
- Failsworth
- Chadderton
- Inner Oldham

In constructing wards, we have used 2026 population projections as previously supplied. Note that we have however conducted further work to improve property locations when new housing is projected to be built by 2026. This should make no differences to overall totals, but might make a very small improvement to ward totals from the polling district figures previously supplied.

#### District Working

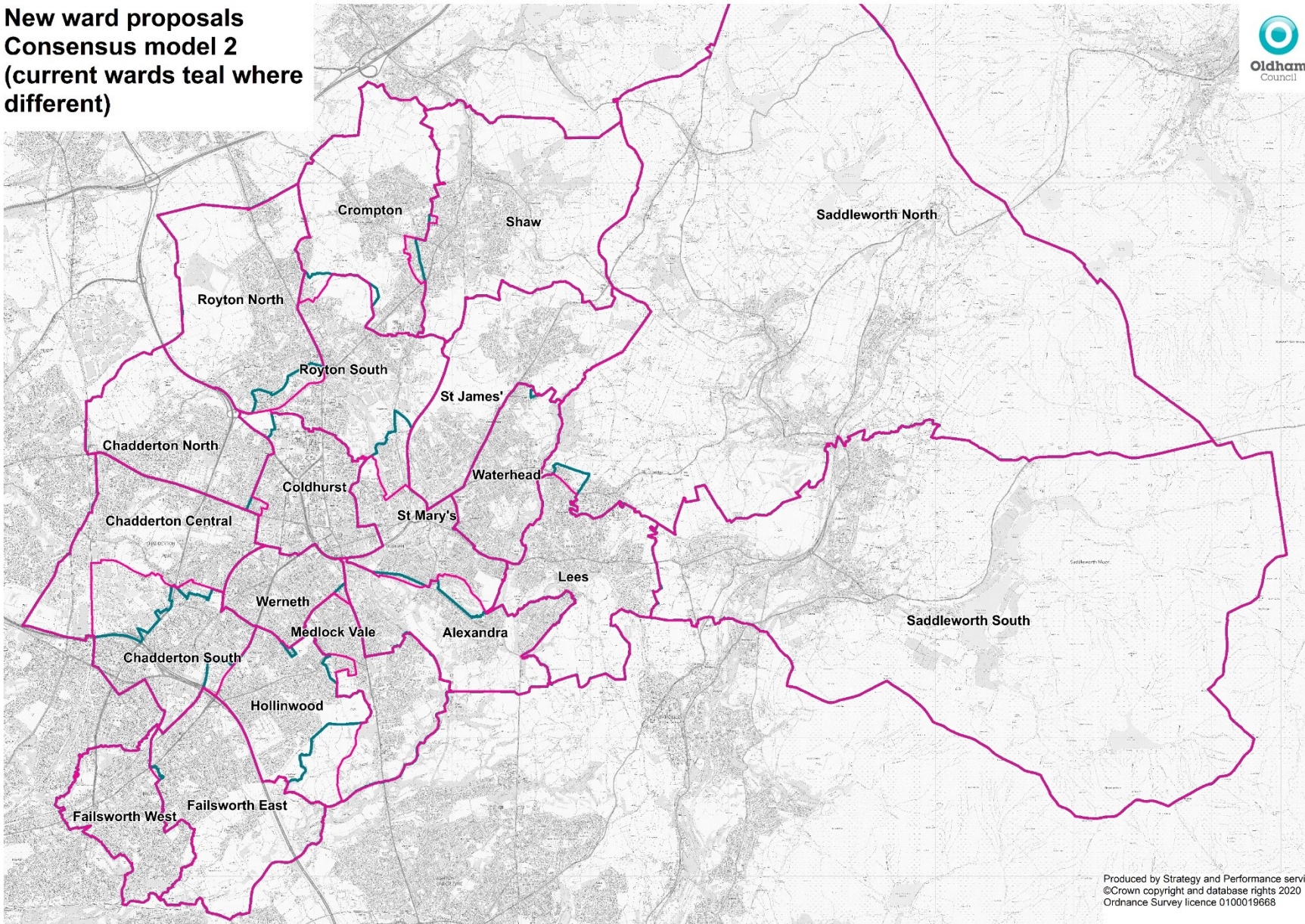
One key project for the borough at present is a reworking of our district working arrangements. Oldham is at the forefront of partnership-based district working, and we have been co-designing for some time a new set of district boundaries which will provide integration across council, police and critically Primary Care Networks.

As this has been a long and complex process, a key objective for us, to provide the best services to residents, was to ensure that the new pattern of wards still works with those PCN configurations. To some extent this has been a constraint on warding proposals, but one which keeps larger communities together and provides the best integrated services for them.

The result of this objective is that the ward pattern shown is relatively “traditional”- we believe this is justified in the circumstances and delivers good quality community-based wards in which we can optimise services and support from elected members.

## Overview proposal map

**New ward proposals  
Consensus model 2  
(current wards teal where  
different)**



## Ward Numbers

As can be seen from the table below, this proposed model moves all wards to within 5% variance of the 2026 average.

### Consensus Model 1

New ward	2026 electors	variance
Alexandra	8319	-2.7%
Chadderton Central	8350	-2.3%
Chadderton North	8827	3.2%
Chadderton South	8213	-3.9%
Coldhurst	8795	2.9%
Crompton	8307	-2.8%
Failsworth East	8228	-3.7%
Failsworth West	8173	-4.4%
Hollinwood	8800	2.9%
Lees	8409	-1.6%
Medlock Vale	8857	3.6%
Royton North	8505	-0.5%
Royton South	8724	2.0%
Saddleworth North	8467	-1.0%
Saddleworth South	8686	1.6%
Shaw	8268	-3.3%
St James'	8553	0.1%
St Mary's	8804	3.0%
Waterhead	8758	2.4%
Werneth	8933	4.5%

## Saddleworth proposals

### Area commentary

Saddleworth comprises a relatively large Uppermill-Greenfield conurbation to the South (which while they have separate identities are residentially continuous), a collection of smaller, more rural, villages to the North, and a larger Lees-Springhead-Austerlands conurbation. The boundaries of the villages are clear, or at least in electoral terms they pass through low population rural areas, so moving the boundary a little will have little impact on electoral make-up.

There is a Parish council. Parish wards cover all of the villages, plus parts of the Lees-Springhead-Austerlands urban area, which is a continuous residential area. As a result, Lees is included in this part of the proposal.

The area currently comprises 3 wards. On current boundaries these are all around average electorate.

There are natural boundaries to this area, which are difficult to change

- Borough boundary to the North, South and East
- Parish boundary to the North-west is adjacent to Shaw Parish boundary
- Eastern boundary is well defined by Lees Brook, the valley separating Lees from the rest of Oldham

### Proposal Outline

The shape of Saddleworth is such that the villages to the North will always be in the same ward. Because of number limitations, this will always be a different ward than the Uppermill-Greenfield area. As such, it is likely that the current Saddleworth wards already form a good quality configuration, uniting areas correctly.

Two issues are apparent

- Austerlands- the Austerlands area, while it was once a physically separate village, is now part of the Lees-Springhead-Austerlands residential area, and should be considered one larger community. However, it currently sits in Saddleworth North ward.
- Birks- a small area North of Huddersfield Rd, which clearly has warding issues.

We would propose that current boundaries be retained, with the exception of the Birks proposal outline below.

### ***Austerlands***

We considered the option of moving Austerlands into Saddleworth West and Lees ward, which would be better from a community perspective. However, this would make Saddleworth North too small to be viable. This would then need to be corrected by moving Uppermill (or part of) to Saddleworth North, and probably then moving Grotton to Saddleworth South. While this would be a better outcome for Austerlands, it would electorally divide Uppermill and Greenfield, which are closely linked in location, facilities and issues. It is felt that in solving one issue, this creates a worse issue, and on balance this is not recommended in our proposal.

## **Birks**

Current ward boundaries divide this area (shown in red below): some individual houses and one street are in Saddleworth North, while the rest of the area is in Saddleworth West and Lees. Feedback from councillors is that this causes confusion and difficulties in meeting the needs of residents.



Moving the boundary to Huddersfield Rd (i.e. moving this area within Saddleworth North) unites this community and creates a more logical and understandable boundary pattern. We would thus propose that the new ward boundary reflect this.

## Royton, Shaw and Crompton proposals

### Area commentary

Royton, Shaw and Crompton comprises the urban area of Royton, and the urban area of Shaw and Crompton. Each has a town centre which will often act as a community focus, and the two areas have very separate identities (although they unite in feeling more distant from inner Oldham). While they are predominantly urban in nature, there are more rural areas around the fringes.

There is a Parish council covering Shaw and Crompton, but not Royton.

The area currently comprises 4 wards, which are currently low-electorate wards. However the electorate is too large to be covered by 3 wards.

There are natural boundaries to this area, which are difficult to change

- Borough boundary to the North and North-West
- Parish council boundary with Saddleworth Parish to the North-East
- A627(M) forms a very definite boundary with Chadderton to the South-West
- Countryside and few roads between Shaw and Sholver/Stoneleigh to the East

These boundaries limit the potential to expand the electorate in this area

### Proposal Outline

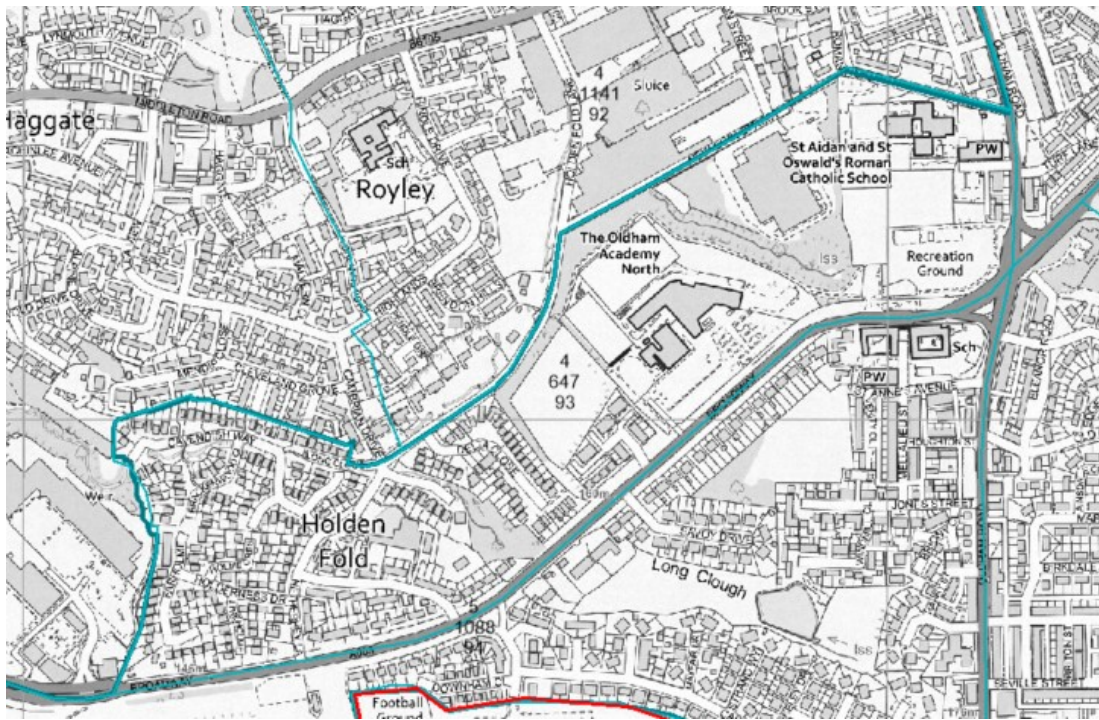
We propose

- That Royton should continue with two wards in a North-South arrangement, due to boundary constraints to the North making other arrangements impractical
- That Shaw and Crompton should continue to consist of a Crompton Ward and Shaw Ward, in a West-East arrangement, as the area is most defined by the geographic split along valleys and railway line. This is somewhat more natural than a North-South arrangement.
- While ward names are retained, there are substantial differences in the proposed boundaries, reflecting more natural community boundaries where possible.

### *Royton North*

The current Royton North ward is well-formed, focused on Rochdale Rd which is the obvious focal point of the area, drawing residents towards the community focus of Royton town centre.

We propose adding the Holden Fold neighbourhood area to Royton North. This area is bounded to the South by Broadway, a busy main road, but is connected internally to Haggate and Royley to the North, so would be manageable as one ward with them, and bring connected communities with similar demography together. The East of this area is not residential, but would logically be included.



This would create a new Royton North ward with an equitable electorate of 8505.

## ***Shaw and Crompton***

In order for wards in this community to have an equitable electorate, some spatial expansion is required.

We considered and rejected the possibility of including part of Heyside within these wards, moving from Royton South at present. This would have split a close-knit area, and particularly separated recreation areas into a different ward from some users.

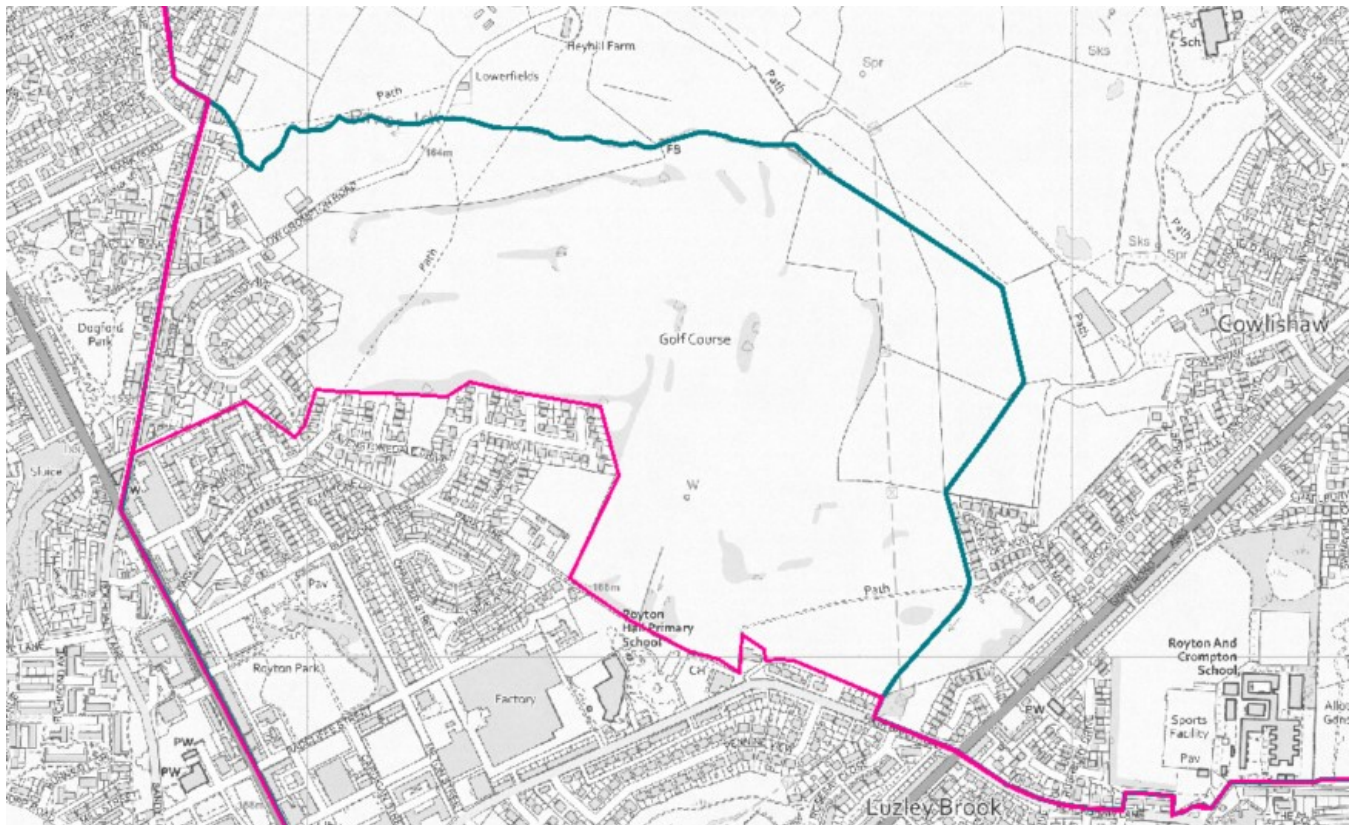
We instead propose two linked changes, forming a new Crompton-Royton South border.

First, in the Cowlshaw area, an area of new build is projected to cross the existing Crompton-Royton South boundary. As there will be no road link from this area to Royton South, we propose this area sit within a new Crompton Ward.

Second, we propose moving the Linkside Ave area to Crompton, from the existing Royton South.

At present, the Fir Lane area is split between three wards, which is unhelpful. Moving this area to Crompton reunites it with some other housing along Fir Lane, to which it is demographically similar, and the area does have links to the centre of Crompton along Low Crompton Road.

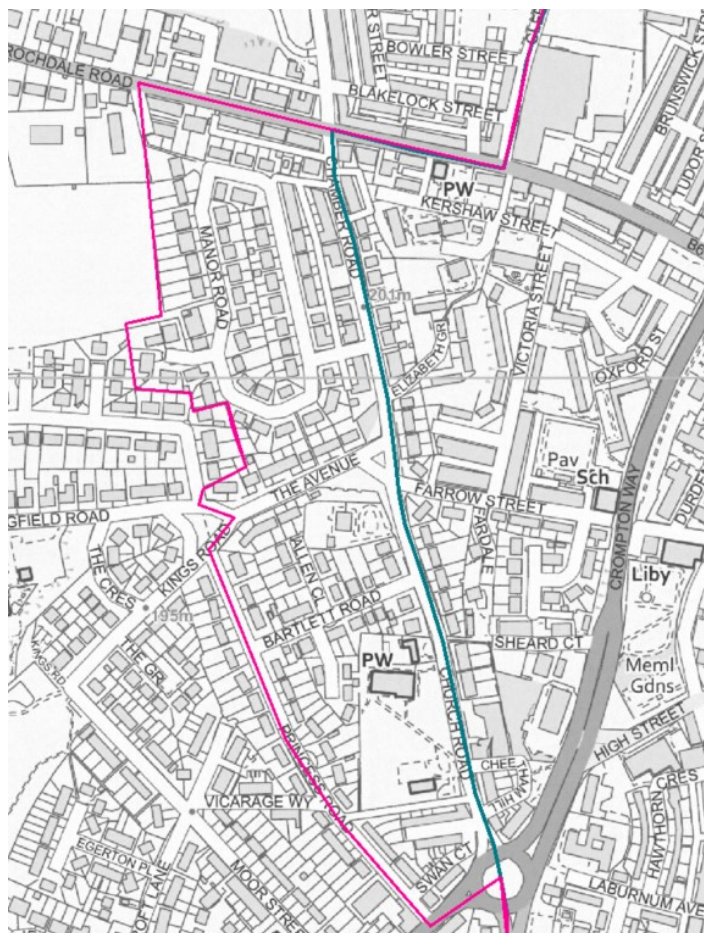
It is proposed also to move the golf course (Crompton and Royton golf course). This would create a new boundary as follows;



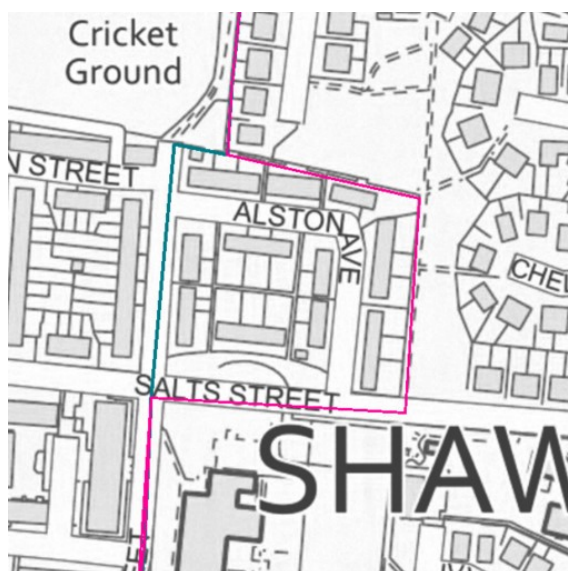


A revised boundary between Shaw and Crompton is also proposed, with two significant changes from the present line (which also forms a parish ward boundary).

The area west of Chamber Rd/Church Rd is proposed to be within Shaw. It is not dissimilar to neighbouring streets already in Shaw, and the model reunites residents on Chamber Rd and Church Rd in one ward.



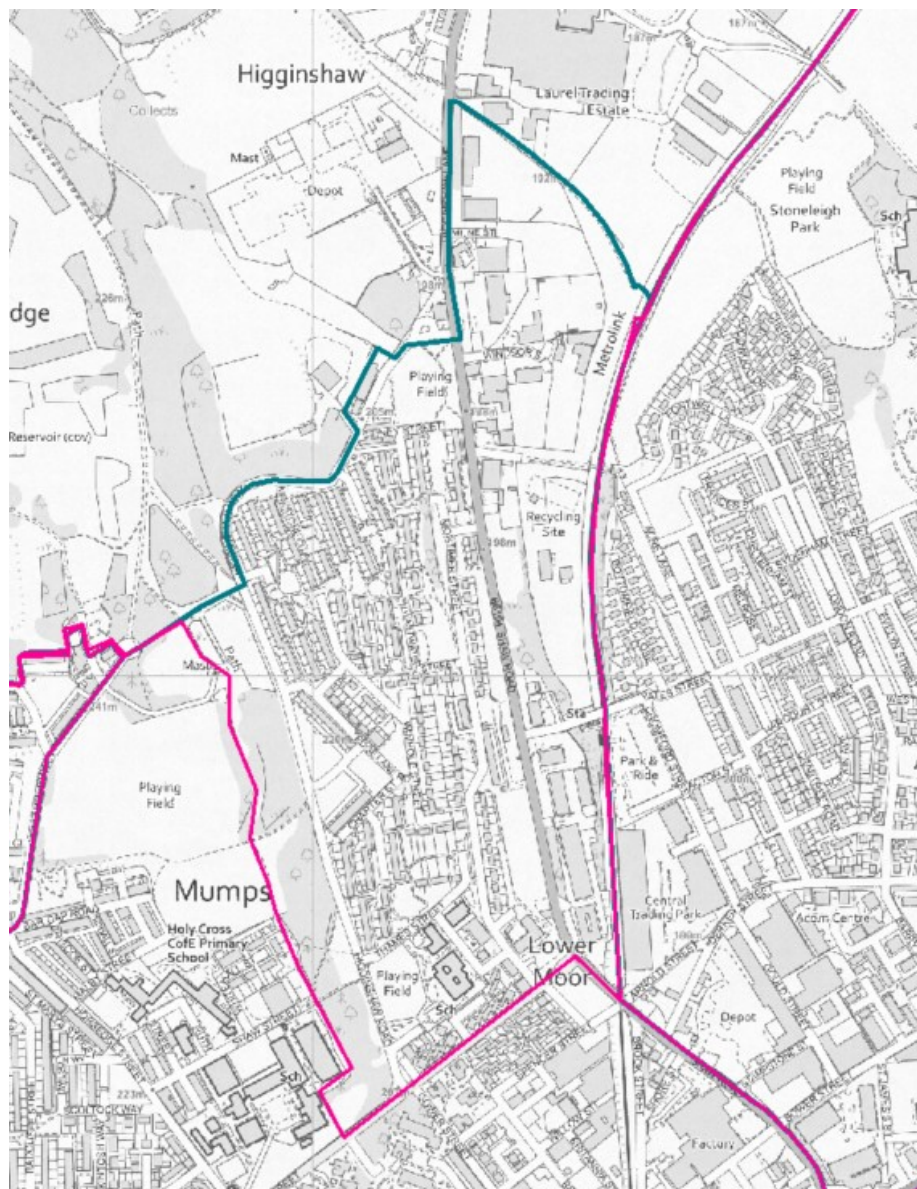
The area of Alston Ave was previously in Shaw ward, but is proposed to sit in a new Crompton ward- it forms one estate with housing around Alison St to the West, and has small green boundaries East and North so this is a more natural community dividing line.



## Royton South

The boundary of Royton South is largely defined by the changes described above. However, some expansion is required to move the electorate to a sensible level.

Our proposal is that this be achieved by moving Higginshaw to Royton South. Higginshaw is adjacent to the South of Royton, and despite its relatively central location is relatively isolated by Oldham Edge to the West and an industrial valley and tram line to the East.



## Failsworth proposals

### Area commentary

Failsworth comprises one community with a strong Failsworth identity. The whole community focuses for facilities on Manchester Rd, and particularly the supermarket area, the town hall/library and the area known as Failsworth Pole, an important identity point. This area, and particularly the West of the area, tends to identify more with Manchester as a focus rather than Oldham centre.

The area is predominantly urban, but with the village of Woodhouses to the South adjacent to the Medlock valley.

The area currently comprises 2 wards, with relatively low electorate numbers but within 5% variance.

There are natural boundaries to this area

- Borough boundary to the West, South and (parts) North
- M60 motorway forms a strong division to the East, with the exception of links across connecting Woodhouses to connected rural areas to the East (Woodhouse Green/Crime Bridge, Daisy Nook) which are reflected in current ward boundaries
- There is a natural division between Failsworth and Chadderton, both areas with strong identities. This is further concreted by the barrier of Meadowbank Business Park

### Proposal Outline

We propose that this area remain as two wards with boundaries similar to those presently in place.

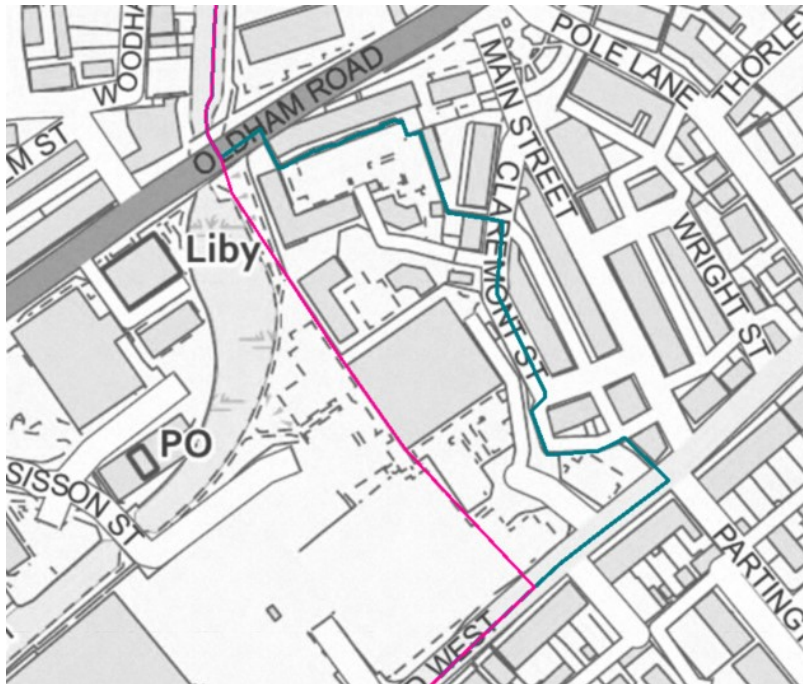
While this does present challenges in terms of electorate numbers, this is not critical and there is little scope for sensible change: any expansion would mean an awkward fit across the motorway, probably along Roman Rd. This then creates further issues in uniting areas along Hollins Rd (current Hollinwood ward), so we would actively deprecate this, and keep the motorway boundary as at present.

The current boundaries meet the core objectives: they reflect the identity of Failsworth as a whole, and the West-East split in terms of Manchester focus.

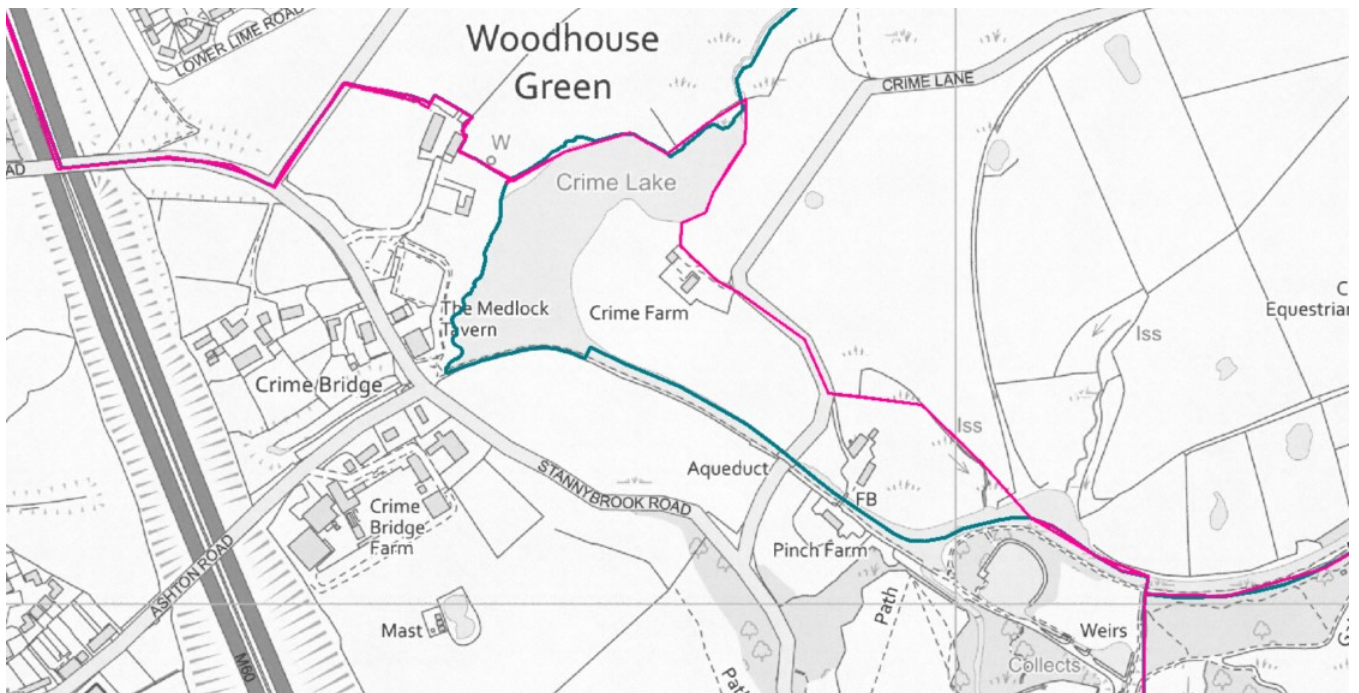
Two small changes are proposed

- Minor alignment change around Failsworth Pole/Town Hall
- Minor change around Crime Lake/Crime Farm

One issue is apparent. New developments in the centre of Failsworth, Ben Brierley Wharf (residential accommodation) and the Keppel Building (medical centre) both connect strongly towards Failsworth Pole in the East of Failsworth, but sit in Failsworth West at present. Our proposal moves them to Failsworth East.



As part of the proposed new border between Hollinwood and Medlock Vale, it is proposed to move Crime Farm and Crime Lake into Failsworth East, as these share a commonality and identity with Crime Bridge, and are best accessed from that settlement.



## Chadderton proposals

### Area commentary

Chadderton is a predominantly urban but geographically widespread area. There is certainly an identity as Chaddertonians, often rather than Oldhamers. The central service focus is Chadderton town centre, with shopping and leisure facilities widely used. The reach of the area is also defined by Middleton Rd, and Broadway, which cross Chadderton West-East and North-South respectively. New build is taking place in the Foxdenton area which will further urbanise the area.

The area currently comprises 3 wards. On current boundaries these are broadly below average electorate, though not dramatically so.

There are natural boundaries to this area, which are difficult to change

- Borough boundary to the North and West
- Southern boundary is defined by the community separation from Failsworth
- While there is no continuous Eastern boundary, the Metrolink line tends to act as a practical boundary in the Freehold area, and Manchester Rd further South.

### Proposal Outline

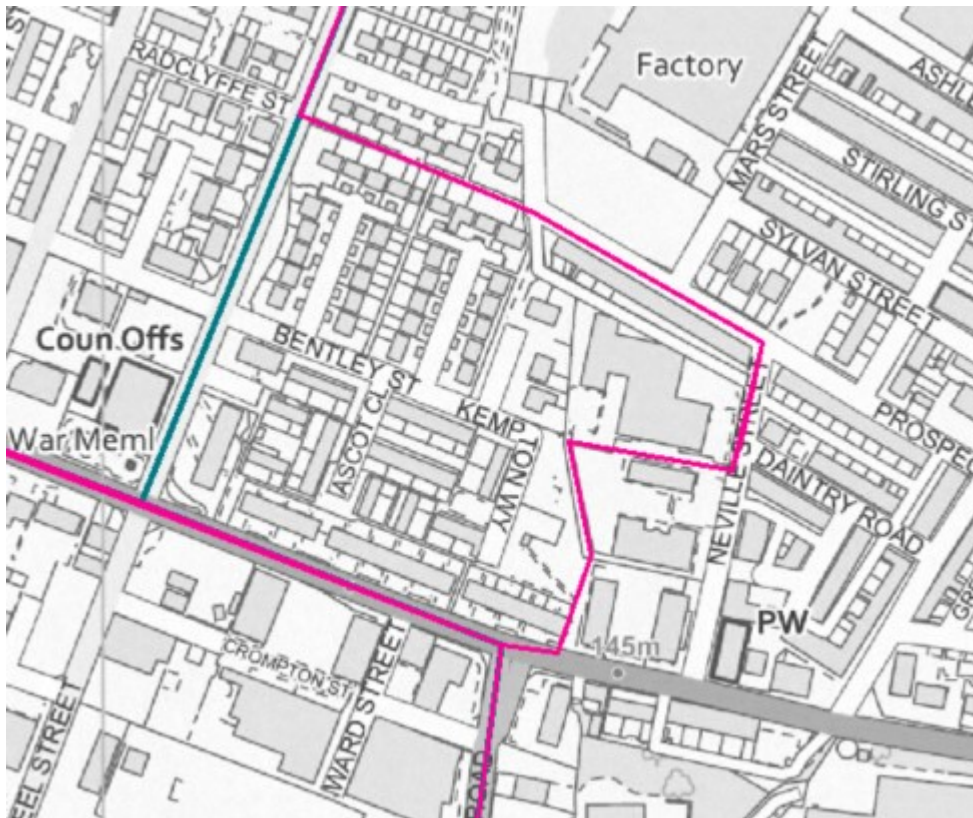
Our proposal is that Chadderton remain as three wards focused on that community, and remain with a North-South-Central split as the best practical layout

- Chadderton North is well-defined as the whole area North of Middleton Road, and remains similar to the present boundary, but with some expansion along the Eastern boundary into Busk
- Chadderton Central and South retain the same outer boundaries, but are proposed to have a completely new boundary between the two. This reflects new development since the last boundary review, and changing electorate numbers.

#### *Chadderton North*

The boundary to the East changes as follows.

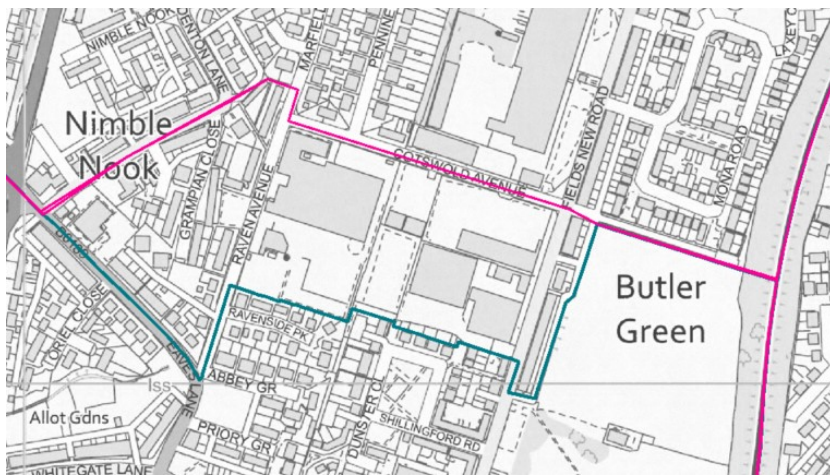
This area is adjacent to Chadderton Town Hall, so fits well in terms of electors feeling linked to the rest of Chadderton North.



*Chadderton Central/South boundary*

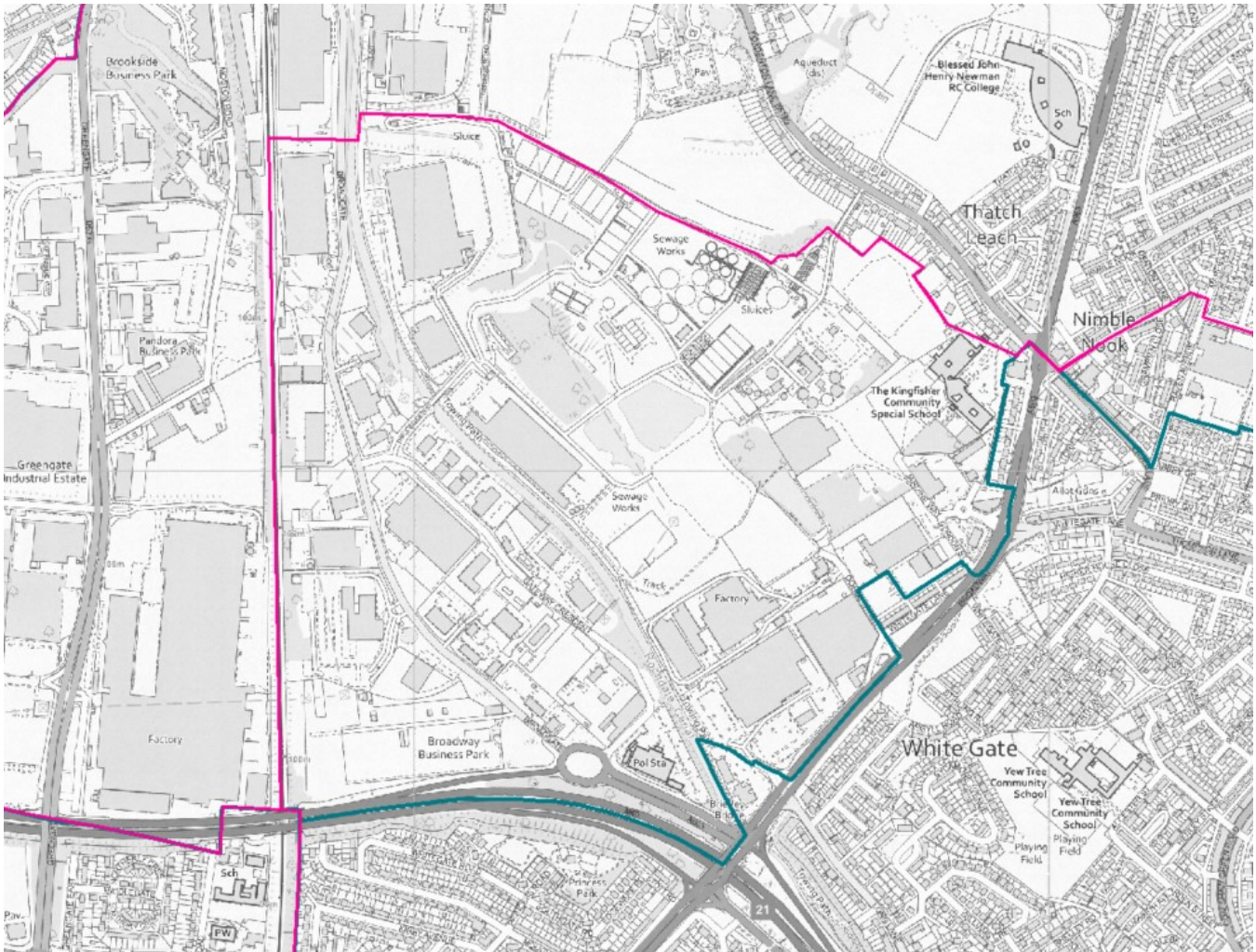
This is essentially a new boundary.

To the west of Broadway, a change expands Chadderton South at the expense of Chadderton Central.



The area to the East of Broadway will all tend to act as one community in this vicinity. The line along Cotswold Avenue has the least housing in the immediate vicinity so we propose forms the most sensible place for the boundary.

To the East of Broadway, the proposed boundary again follows a new line.

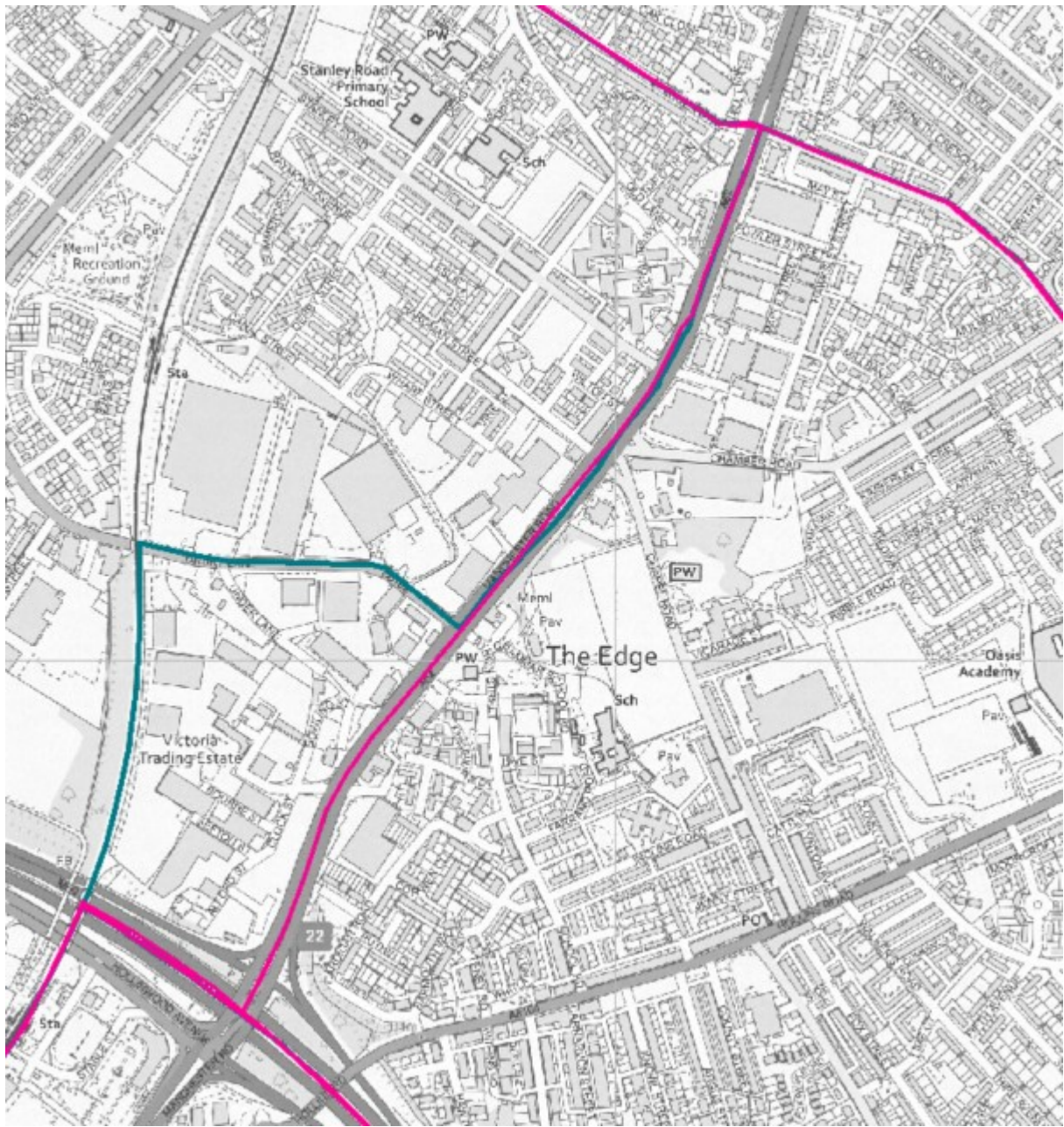


There are several reasons why we believe this line forms a good boundary

- This area contains very little housing, being mainly industrial. The main Road through that industrial area goes to the M60 junction in Chadderton South, so that is the main point of focus.
- The area now contains several facilities built since the last boundary review which will provide services most closely to South Chadderton residents
  - Police station
  - Costco
  - Lidl
- The line drawn follows the railway line South. To the West of that line, residents (small in number) have no access route to South Chadderton, but instead connect to Middleton Junction (West Central Chadderton)
- The line is carefully drawn as to leave Foxdenton Lane and environs in central Chadderton, a more logical arrangement, especially given the new build expected in the Foxdenton area, which would not have any commonality with South Chadderton.

#### *Chadderton South/Hollinwood boundary*

Manchester Rd, moving NE from the M60 junction, is a dual carriageway, often with adjacent industrial land. Communities do not interact across the road which acts as a barrier, and this is reflected in our proposed boundary.





## Inner Oldham proposals: Hollinwood

### Area commentary

Hollinwood is a mixed area of social housing to the South, with more private renting and owner occupation to the North and East. The areas all use Hollins Rd as the main bus and transport route, and it also has significant shops etc.

### Bounding features

- Borough boundary (South)
- Manchester Rd (Northwest)

### Proposal

The existing Hollinwood ward is below average electorate.

We propose the following additions

- Area of Wood Park, South of Coal Pit Lane. New housing is planned for Wood Park Clough, by 2026. This would connect to Coal Pit Lane and thus potentially to Hollinwood.
- Howgill Cres and adjacent housing, adjacent to Copster Park. This is relatively new housing, which has more in common with Garden Suburbs within Hollinwood ward than it does with other adjacent areas. It sensibly sits within a Hollinwood ward.
- Small adjustment to include more of Heron St, plus Wolverton Ave and Sandys Ave, to make a more logical boundary with Werneth.

The resulting new Hollinwood ward is somewhat above average size, but within tolerance. Any further expansion would have to take in parts of Werneth which is a very different community without the same Hollins Rd focus.

## Inner Oldham proposals: Werneth

### Area commentary

Werneth is a broad area, loosely focused on Werneth Park. It consists of Freehold to the West of Manchester Rd and areas North and South of the park, stretching East as far as Coppice, where the boundary is less concrete.

### Bounding features

- Metrolink line divides from Chadderton

### Proposal

The existing Werneth ward is well-formed, with sensible boundaries that define this community well.

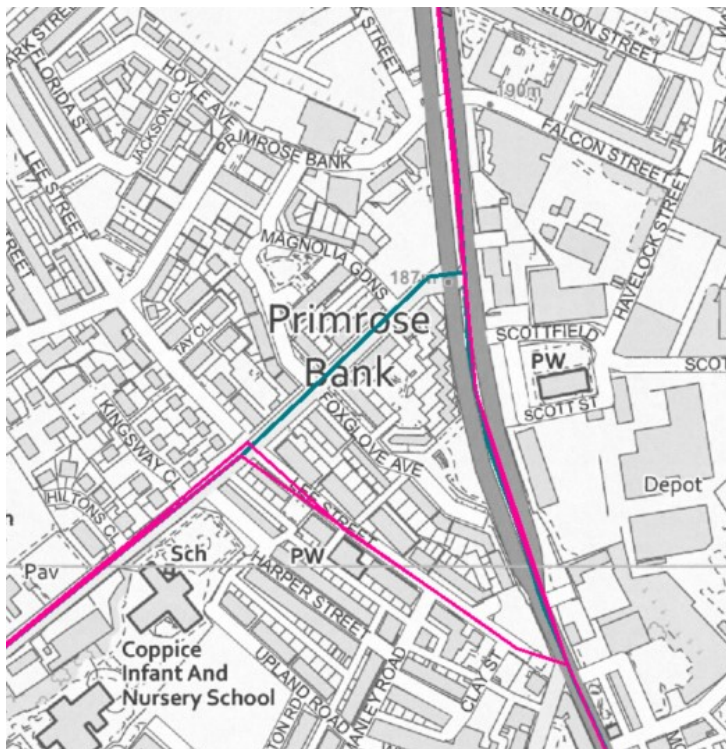
Only two changes are proposed

- Slight modification around Heron St. as previously described
- Inclusion of the entire Primrose Bank area

While this ward is 4% over average electorate, we consider this is justified in order to unite the Primrose Bank area in particular.

### *Primrose Bank*

The Primrose Bank estate stretches from Primrose Bank itself down to the junction of Lee St and Ashton Rd. The area has recently been rebuilt, and it is served by a community centre/group (The Primrose Centre). It makes sense that this area should sit in one ward rather than be split.



## Inner Oldham proposals: Coldhurst

### Area commentary

Coldhurst is a compact and densely populated area, consisting of social housing East of Rochdale Rd, as well as by Manchester Rd, and often owner-occupied terraced housing in the remainder.

There is a strong sense of Coldhurst identity in much of the area, as well as in the sub-area of Westwood. There are a lifelong learning centre and library which can act as focuses, but the shops and facilities along Featherstall Rd are probably a key focus for many, along with the town centre which is within easy reach.

### Bounding features

- The area of Boundary Park forms a natural boundary to the North
- Oldham Edge forms a partial boundary to the East
- There is a natural population break around Oldham town centre

### Proposal

The existing Coldhurst ward is well-formed, with sensible boundaries that define this community well.

Two changes are proposed

- Section of Busk moved to Chadderton N as previously described- this creates a more viable electorate size
- Inclusion of Clayton Playing Fields, adjacent to Boundary Park. This has no impact on electorate size, but is a consequence of moving the Royton North boundary to Broadway, cutting off Clayton from Royton South

The proposed Coldhurst ward is 3% over average electorate, which we consider close enough given the advantages of the new layout.

## Inner Oldham proposals: St James' and Waterhead

### Area commentary

This is an area of currently two wards. It is united by Huddersfield Rd and Ripponden Rd as key routes, with multiple services particularly along Huddersfield Rd and at the junction with Ripponden Rd ("Hill Stores"), where Tesco is situated.

The area consists of many sub areas such as Derker, Stoneleigh, Sholver, Moorside, Watersheddings, Littlemoor, Waterhead and Greenacres, united by the facilities and road structure.

### Bounding features

- Saddleworth parish to the East, and also the Saddleworth hills
- Shaw and Crompton parish to the North-West
- Metrolink line and valley to the West (also countryside and few road links, although this may change with new build areas in the valley, eventually)
- Industrial area West of Derker

### Proposal

This area is of a good size for two wards, and the current ward arrangement meets the requirements almost "as is", as far as possible dividing the community into sections along Ripponden Rd and Huddersfield Rd. While other solutions could be proposed it is likely that all layouts would to some extent replicate this, so we propose no change.

The only exception, is that we propose Lea Green Close be moved from St James' to Waterhead ward. This was a small new development post- the last boundary review. There is no road access to St James' ward.

This leaves St James' ward exactly on an average figure, and Waterhead only 2% over.

## Inner Oldham proposals: St Mary's

### Area commentary

St Mary's comprises three key residential areas

- St Mary's estate with social rented stock continuing down Egerton St
- Glodwick- a high density area of predominantly terraced housing
- A further continuous area of terraced and semi-detached housing stretching from Moorhey through New Earth to Salem (South of Lees Rd), with Lees Rd being a focus

All these areas probably use the town centre as a focus, but have very separate identities (although there is much community overlap and family links between Glodwick and Moorhey etc., making them sensible to be placed in the same ward). St Mary's is physically separated from the remainder by industrial and town centre areas.

### Bounding features

- Alexandra Park forms a Western boundary
- Lees Brook is a boundary to the East
- Glodwick Lows forms a natural Southern boundary
- As per the "working inwards" methodology, we have already proposed Royton South including Higginshaw as a boundary to the North

### Proposal

The proposal here is somewhat pragmatic, and broadly in line with the previous iteration of St Mary's, but with reductions in size to ensure a realistic electorate.

The following changes are proposed to the existing boundary pattern

- Move Higginshaw to Royton South
- Move Queens Rd from Alexandra to St Mary's
- Move an area centred on Lowside Ave to Alexandra

### **Queens Rd**

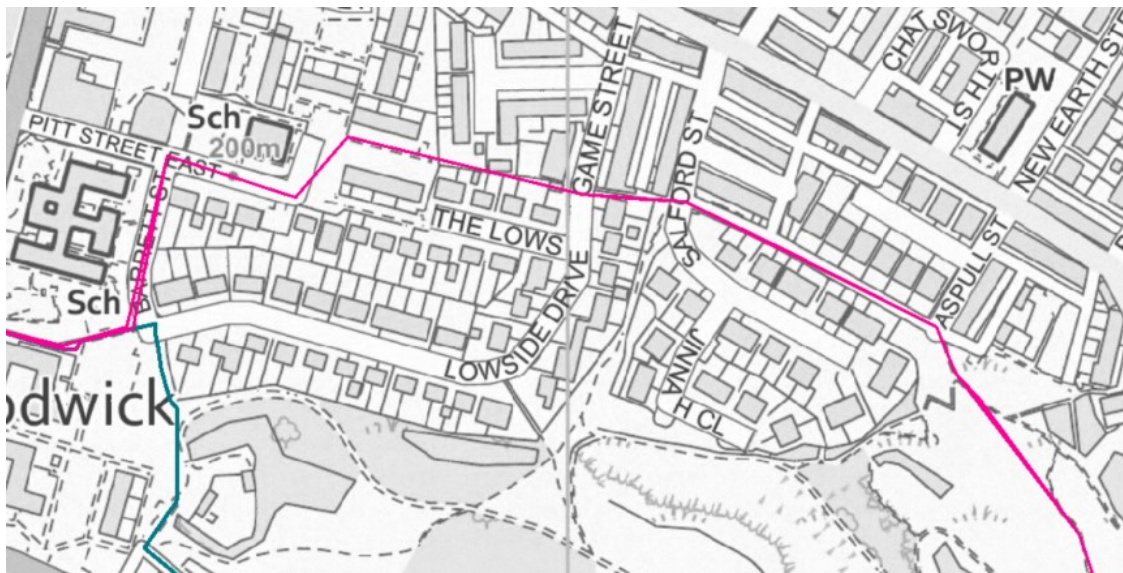
This road is adjacent to Glodwick, but of different character, in that it has extremely large Victorian housing, with a number of nursing homes. Probably because of this different character, it was previously placed in Alexandra ward. However, it is a long way from any other housing within Alexandra, and it makes more sense for it to be in the same ward as Glodwick.



### **Lowside Ave**

Ideally, Glodwick Lows would form a ward boundary. However, it is clear that this would leave electorates unbalanced, so we propose that a small area alongside the Lows be included in Alexandra ward, not St. Mary's.

As the name suggests, this housing is built on the side of the Lows, and is of a different character to the housing below, with perhaps a somewhat less deprived population. It will in this regard likely be very similar in terms of outlook to much of the electorate south of Abbey Hills Rd in Alexandra, making this a good if pragmatic boundary.



## Inner Oldham proposals: Alexandra

### Area commentary

Alexandra comprises three key residential areas

- Holts estate- a socially and physically isolated estate that should be electorally kept together
- Abbey Hills and Alt- an area of mixed housing adjacent to Glodwick Lows and Snipe Clough
- Lower Hathershaw- an area opposite Alexandra Park, of primarily terraced and sometimes private rented accommodation

While historically it is probably true to say that Alexandra ward has been a pragmatic construct, as it is difficult to divide electorates well without a ward crossing Snipe Clough, this situation is now changing, with the creation of Northern Roots.

The Northern Roots project (<https://northern-roots.uk/>), which is attracting significant investment, is a new eco-park, taking in all the green space South of Alexandra Park. Northern Roots should provide real focus to bring together the communities of Alexandra Ward and at the same time improve the walking and cycling routes between different parts of the ward.

### Bounding features

- Borough boundary to S.
- Glodwick Lows to East

### Proposal

We propose a slightly reshaped Alexandra ward, with the two boundary changes already mentioned under St Mary's above.

This is slightly under average size: it would be possible to even up the size with other wards, but this would be at the price of splitting coherent communities such as Holts or Fitton Hill, which would not be desirable.

## Inner Oldham proposals: Medlock Vale

### Area commentary

Medlock Vale comprises Fitton Hill (an extensive estate of largely social or ex-social housing), Bardsley (a smaller area to the South spanning Ashton Rd), and to the North, Upper Hathershaw and Coppice, two diverse areas of mixed owner-occupied and private rented housing.

The prime feature bringing these areas together is Ashton Rd, a local shopping area with a community centre (the Honeywell Centre) and a key bus route.

### Bounding features

- Borough boundary to South.
- Currently open land to South West (some new build projected)
- Snipe Clough to South East

### Proposal

The proposed ward is similar to the previous Medlock Vale, but reduced in size to even out electorate numbers.

Again, the arrangement is somewhat pragmatic, but the layout does have Ashton Rd as a clear community focus, keeps Fitton Hill together which is essential, and likewise Bardsley.



## Notes

- Estimates of 2026 electorate numbers have been modelled down to household level, allowing us to provide accurate estimations of electorates for any boundary shape. For future new build where house numbers are known but precise locations are not, a randomised methodology has been used to allocate the new electorate within the known site boundary.
- Where there are differences of only a few metres between existing and proposed boundaries, this will be an approximation in the drawing process rather than a proposal for change.
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