

Barnsley Council - Draft Proposals for new ward boundaries

January 2024



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of possibilities.



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Introduction

This commentary is designed to accompany the overall and individual ward maps for our draft proposals to submit to the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) as part of their review into the local government ward boundaries of Barnsley Council.

In October 2023, the LGBCE agreed with our proposal that Barnsley Council should remain with 63 councillors representing 21 wards. In co-ordinating with the LGBCE, using their methodology, we have projected that the likely electorate of Barnsley Council in 2029 will be 214,901. In line with this the average ward electorate should be 10,233, all the wards we have proposed will have electorates within 10% of this figure in 2029.

This commentary will detail with justification our proposed changes to the current ward boundaries in alphabetical order. The opinion of the council is that our current ward boundaries represent our communities well and that significant changes are not required to community representation. We propose no changes or minor changes to nine of the current twenty-one wards. The changes proposed are to ensure that electorates will be rebalanced and will remain so moving forward. We do not propose any changes or amendments to the current ward names.

Boundary Proposals

These proposals were approved by the Barnsley Council Cabinet in January 2024. (Phrase to be inserted if Cabinet approval confirmed.)

Central Ward

As the electorate of this ward is within ten percent of the 10,233 target and changes were not required to it for the needs of other wards we propose the boundaries of this ward remain unchanged.

Cudworth Ward

The changes proposed to this ward are as a result of a large housing development that is being built at the North West corner of the ward. Our proposals amend the boundary so that the entirety of this development lies within the Cudworth ward. Consequently we also propose amending the boundary with Monk Bretton ward so that the West Green area and neighbouring streets move to Monk Bretton ward to ensure that the electorates remain balanced.

Darfield Ward

The electorate for this ward is too small on its current boundaries. Our proposal is to include part of the village of Great Houghton in this ward. Unfortunately, we are unable to propose moving the entire village into Darfield Ward as this would make North East ward too small. Therefore, we propose dividing the village down the main road of Thurnscoe Lane, becoming High Street at the junction with the B6273. This is the clearest division of the village so that the residents can have a coherent understanding of the location of the boundary.

Darton East Ward

As the electorate of this ward is within ten percent of the 10,233 target and changes were not required to it for the needs of other wards we propose the boundaries of this ward remain virtually

unchanged. The only change we propose is a small alteration for a new housing development on the edge of the ward to move into Royston ward.

Darton West Ward

The electorate for this ward is too small on its current boundaries. Our proposal is to include the village of High Hoyland and surrounding area into this ward. The main connections of the village of High Hoyland are either to the town of Clayton West in the borough of Kirklees or to the Kexbrough area of Barnsley. Therefore, moving this village into the same ward as Kexbrough represents a better representation of communities than is currently achieved.

Dearne North Ward

As the electorate of this ward is within ten percent of the 10,233 target and changes were not required to it for the needs of other wards we propose the boundaries of this ward remain virtually unchanged. The only change we propose is a small alteration for a new housing development on the edge of the ward to be taken into this ward from Dearne South.

Dearne South Ward

As the electorate of this ward is within ten percent of the 10,233 target and changes were not required to it for the needs of other wards we propose the boundaries of this ward remain virtually unchanged. The only change we propose is a small alteration for a new housing development on the edge of the ward to move into Dearne North ward.

Dodworth Ward

We propose some significant changes to this ward. As the electorates of Penistone West and East wards are both too large it is necessary to move parts of them further East. As the electorate of Kingstone ward is too small it is necessary to add to it. As a result we propose moving most of the current Dodworth ward East of the M1 motorway into Kingstone ward. This rectifies an issue with the present boundaries where Dodworth ward runs almost to Barnsley town centre, the residents of this area identifying little with the town of Dodworth. The area of Higham and a neighbouring new development is retained in the ward as it has better connections to Dodworth than to Barnsley town centre. To balance the electorate of this ward we propose moving the village of Silkstone Common into the Dodworth ward. This village is a single community, distinct from neighbouring Silkstone that relates well to the town of Dodworth and fits well within the ward.

Hoyland Milton Ward

The only change we propose to this ward is a minor change to counterbalance the electorates between Hoyland Milton and Wombwell wards. This involves moving the area around Wombwell Wood and its residents from Wombwell to Hoyland Milton wards.

Kingstone Ward

We propose some significant changes to this ward. In its current form the electorate was too small and the boundary crossed over different communities. Our proposal moves the Worsbrough Common area from Kingstone ward into Worsbrough ward which is a more natural home for this community. This allows us to extend the ward West taking on areas as described above. This will ensure that this ward covers an area where the residents and communities relate to each other and have greater common interests. Sadly we were not able to devise a solution where the Pogmoor community was not split between wards so have opted to maintain the current arrangements.

Monk Bretton Ward

The changes in this ward serve to correct some issues present in the current ward boundaries. There is a minor change where the current boundary splits the street of Bretton Way, we propose to include the entire street in Monk Bretton Ward. We propose to move the Carlton area from Monk Bretton to the St. Helen's ward. This is in part to increase the electorate of the St. Helen's ward which is too small on its current boundary but also as the Carlton area relates better to Athersley, which makes up the bulk of St. Helen's ward, than it does to Monk Bretton. Including these communities in the same ward will ensure better local representation than the current arrangements. To counterbalance this change we also propose moving the West Green area from Cudworth to Monk Bretton ward. This area is distinct from the town of Cudworth with a clear geographical separation between the two areas. We also propose an alteration of the boundary so the large housing development between Carlton and Cudworth falls largely in the Cudworth ward.

North East Ward

The main change we propose to this ward is regarding the boundary with Darfield ward described above. This change is required to reduce the overall electorate of this ward. We also propose a minor change with the boundary with Cudworth ward so it follows the main A628 road between Cudworth and Shafton rather than the present route which passes through some residential gardens.

Old Town Ward

As the electorate of this ward is 9% below the 10,233 target and changes were not required to it for the needs of other wards we propose the boundaries of this ward remain unchanged.

Penistone East Ward

The electorate of this ward is too large on its current boundaries and this ward must take on some areas from Penistone West ward as explained below. Therefore it is necessary to move some areas of this ward to neighbours Eastwards. We propose to move the villages of High Hoyland, Silkstone Common and Tankersley (including Upper Tankersley) into Darton West, Dodworth and Rockingham wards respectively. Our aim in this regard has been to keep communities together by moving entire villages. This ward is also geographically very large containing both the borough's most northerly point near High Hoyland and its most southern point near Wortley. The removal of High Hoyland remedies this issue slightly to ease the representation of these communities.

Penistone West Ward

The electorate of this ward is too large on its current boundaries and as the only ward that it borders, due to the geography of the borough, is Penistone East some areas must move from Penistone West to East.

Rockingham Ward

The change we propose to this ward as described above is to move the villages of Tankersley and Upper Tankersley into this ward. These villages relate well to the other communities in the ward this will increase the electorate of this ward.

Royston Ward

We propose that this ward remains unchanged aside from a minor alteration to move a new development from Darton East into this ward. This is to ensure that the electorates of these wards remain in balance.

St. Helen's Ward

The electorate of this ward is too small on its current boundaries. We propose to move the Carlton area into this ward from Monk Bretton as described above. These communities relate well to each other and are well suited to being in the same ward.

Stairfoot Ward

As the electorate of this ward is within ten percent of the 10,233 target and changes were not required to it for the needs of other wards we propose the boundaries of this ward remain unchanged.

Wombwell Ward

The electorate of this ward is too large on its current boundaries. We propose to move the Wombwell Wood area into the Hoyland Milton ward as described above. This will maintain balance in the electorates whilst ensuring that the town of Wombwell remains in its entirety within the Wombwell ward.

Worsbrough Ward

The electorate of this ward is too small on its current boundaries. Our proposal offer the opportunity to correct an issue with our current boundaries where Worsbrough Village area is in a different ward to the rest of the town of Worsbrough. Worsbrough Village is part of the town of Worsbrough, not a separate community so it is entirely fitting for them both to be included in the same ward.