

# Cheshire East

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Organisation Name: Macclesfield Conservative Association (Representative of a local organisation)

## Comment text:

Related subject: Macclesfield constituency

Our views are set out in the attached document.

## Attached Documents:

- macclesfield-conservative-association-response-to-consultation.pdf

## **Response to consultation on proposed ward boundary changes for Cheshire East Council**

Macclesfield Conservative Association is a political party covering the Macclesfield constituency, which consists of Bollington, Disley, Macclesfield, Poynton, Prestbury, and a number of surrounding villages and rural communities. There are currently eight Conservative councillors on Cheshire East Council who represent wards in the Macclesfield constituency, and a number of Conservative town and parish councillors, particularly in Disley and Poynton.

We broadly welcome the Commission's proposals with for our constituency, particularly in relation to the proposed ward changes for Disley, Poynton, Prestbury, and Sutton. The proposal to create a three-member ward for Poynton, co-terminus with the Poynton and Worth Town Council boundaries, makes sense and is welcomed. The retention of Disley in a single member ward is also sensible, though we would raise concerns about the inclusion of Kettleshulme in Disley ward. There is no direct road connection between Disley and Kettleshulme, and travelling between these two villages either requires travelling via Whaley Bridge in Derbyshire or via Higher Lane/Mudhurst Lane (a narrow and hilly country lane, often unpassable at several points during the winter months).

The proposal to join Prestbury and Adlington in a single member ward is also welcomed, as too the proposals for Sutton ward – a large, rural ward bordering both Staffordshire and Derbyshire and which partially sits within the Peak District National Park.

The proposal for Gawsworth ward will result in this ward now crossing the boundary between Macclesfield and Congleton constituencies. The proposed ward is geographically very large, covering several villages and hamlets. The Commission's proposals will mean residents will be under-represented, as the ward is some five percent above the target number of voters per councillor. This raises concerns about the workload for Gawsworth's single councillor. We are also concerned that the proposed changes excludes Gawsworth Moss, part of Gawsworth parish, from the Cheshire East Gawsworth ward.

We also need to raise significant concerns about the proposals for Macclesfield town wards, and for the proposed Bollington and Rainow ward and its boundary with Macclesfield Tytherington.

We recognise that the number of councillors for Macclesfield town needs to be reduced from its current twelve to eleven, however we are extremely concerned that the Commission has largely adopted the Labour Party's proposals, particularly as these were rejected several times by all councillors (except Labour councillors) on Cheshire East Council.

The Commission's proposals result in Tytherington becoming a single member ward. This can only be achieved by slicing up Tytherington and warding parts of Tytherington with either Macclesfield Central ward to the south (with respect to Beechwood Mews and Beech Farm Drive) or Bollington and Rainow ward to the north (with respect to Livesley Road and its adjoining roads).

Beech Farm Drive and Beechwood Mews are clearly part of Tytherington. They are separated from the town centre by parkland, a river, a dual carriageway, and significant areas of commercial development. The construction style of these properties is consistent with the rest of Tytherington, and completely out of character with the town centre. Residents in these two roads have Tytherington addresses and clearly believe they live in Tytherington. They should be remain in Tytherington, and shoe-horning them into Macclesfield Central is not consistent with the Commission's cohesive communities criteria.

Livesley Road and the roads surrounding it are very different too, and neither part of, the communities of Pott Shrigley, Bollington, nor Rainow, and should not be included within them. Livesley Road is an urban 2000s' development, consistent with other parts of Tytherington and adjacent to the Tytherington Business Park. It is separated from the more rural and semi-rural Rainow, Bollington and Pott Shrigley by the Silk Road and open countryside. They should remain in Tytherington, and again the proposals are not consistent with the Commission's cohesive communities criteria.

Even having butchered Tytherington in this ill-considered way, the remaining rump of the ward will still be some 20 percent above the Commission's upper tolerance level for voter numbers. The proposals mean that Tytherington residents will be the least represented in the borough, and that the Commission's proposals are at odds with its voter equity criterion.

More importantly, the Commission's proposals necessitate creating a new Macclesfield Town Council ward of Macclesfield Springwood that will have just c220 voters, meaning that residents in, say, Moborn Close, in the proposed Springwood ward, would be more than twenty times more represented than their immediate neighbours in Tewkesbury Drive in the newly adjusted Tytherington ward. This is grossly unfair and iniquitous.

The knock-on effects of these proposals also disadvantage voters in Macclesfield Central ward. The Commission's proposals result in this ward being under-represented as it is some 6 percent above target. Central Ward covers the town centre, and faces some significant challenges. Firstly, it currently includes two major arterial roads (A537 and A523), with resulting traffic and air pollution. Secondly, Macclesfield train station is in the ward, which, servicing both London and Manchester, sees a considerable volume of rail

travellers arriving by car, taxi, bus and foot/bicycle. It has also been the focus of anti-social behaviour and 'county lines' crime. Finally, the main shopping areas around Mill Street, Market Square, and Chestergate are experiencing problems, including high levels of vacant commercial properties, parking issues, as well as anti-social behaviour. These issues are such that the warding arrangements for the town centre should ensure that councillors can adequately deal with these unique challenges.

We ask the Commission to reconsider its proposals with regards to Macclesfield Tytherington, Macclesfield Central, and Bollington and Rainow ward. As alternative arrangements, we propose that Macclesfield Central become a smaller single member ward, bordered by Park Lane to the south, Hibel Road to the north, Crompton Road to the west and the Silk Road/Cross Street to the east. This would enable the councillor for Macclesfield Central to appropriately focus on the challenges facing the town centre while still representing local residents.

The area between Oxford Road and Crompton Road (polling district 4BBR) should be included with Macclesfield West and Ivy ward, uniting both sides of Oxford Road in a single ward, and recognising the significance of the Flowerpot junction. We also propose that the area south of Park Lane (polling district 4CD1) be included within the proposed Macclesfield South ward, as should the area south of Park Street (polling district 4CE1). The A536 consists of Park Lane and Park Street and these provide an obvious boundary between different parts of the town. It has the advantage of reuniting Western Avenue and High Street in a single ward, Macclesfield South, as opposed to the Commission's proposal to split these two between Central and South wards. Park Lane was previously the boundary between wards prior to the 2011 boundary review.

We also propose that Tytherington be retained as a two-member ward, in line with its current configuration. This ensures that Tytherington properly is covered by just one ward, and not necessitating the creation of a bizarrely minute town council ward and the resulting voter iniquity. We recognise that this does mean including Bollinbrook with Tytherington, and that Bollinbrook is a community in of its own right. Ideally, it would be warded separately, but given that this is simply not feasible, and that it needs to be warded with another larger community, we would argue that it can be equally be included within Broken Cross or Tytherington. Bollinbrook has been warded with Tytherington for the last thirteen years, and thus there is precedent for this arrangement.

These changes necessitate some adjustments to the Commission's proposals for Broken Cross and Upton, and for Macclesfield West and Ivy.

In relation to West and Ivy, as stated earlier, the area between Oxford Road and Crompton Street should be included in this ward. There is historic precedent for this, as the areas both sides of the Oxford Road were warded together before the 2011 boundary review. In addition, we propose that Gawsorth Moss (polling districts 4BFR and 4GDT) be part of West and Ivy, so that Congleton Road becomes the boundary between West and Ivy and South wards - Congleton Road already provides such a boundary from the Flowerpot

Junction to just south of Moss Lane. Our proposal would see Congleton Road as a ward boundary along its entire length with the town. This has the additional advantage of uniting Manley Road in a single ward: the Commission's proposals are to split this very short road between two different Cheshire East and town council wards.

Finally, we propose to split the current 4BC1 polling district (the area between Ivy Road, Chester Road, and Earlsway and both sides of Gawsworth Road) in two, with the area south of the Broken Cross Community School and along Earlsway being a new polling district and included within West and Ivy. Our proposal for the area from Broken Cross Community School north and along Gawsworth Road is that it be included within Broken Cross and Upton rather than the Commission's proposal to place it in West and Ivy. Broken Cross is a major road junction in the town, joining the A537 (Chelford Road/Chester Road) with Gawsworth Road, and is significant for traffic entering/exiting Macclesfield to the west and south west, as well as for school traffic to Fallibroome School. Currently, and under the Commission's proposals, the junction is split between two wards, with the Broken Cross school lying outside of Broken Cross ward. Our proposal places Broken Cross junction in a single ward, and recognises that residents around Cherryfields, Pexhill Drive, and Princess Way face towards Broken Cross.

To conclude our proposals provide much better electoral equity across the town than either the Commission's or the Labour Party's. They recognise the unique challenges facing the town centre, as well as the natural boundaries provided by the town's major arterial roads. They ensure that Tytherington residents all remain in just one ward, and not split across three different council representations. We attach an appendix which provides greater detail of our proposed alternative arrangements for Macclesfield town.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Jon Weston.

**Jon Weston**  
**Chair – Macclesfield Conservative Association**

## APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

Our proposals result in the following voter equity between wards:

Proposed ward	Conservative proposals	
	Number of councillors	Variance 2030 %
Broken Cross and Upton	2	-1
Macclesfield Central	1	5
Macclesfield East	1	0
Macclesfield Hurdsfield	1	-2
Macclesfield South	2	-4
Macclesfield Tytherington	2	-3
Macclesfield West and Ivy	2	2

Table 1: Proposed warding arrangements

### Broken Cross and Upton ward – two members

Covering the area south of the Prestbury Road, Chester Road (between Ivy Road and Cumberland Street, and area north and west of Earlsway). As per current ward, to include polling districts 4AD1, 4AD2, 4AD3, 4AF1, 4AF2, 4AF3 and to add part of current polling district 4BC1 (currently in West and Ivy ward).

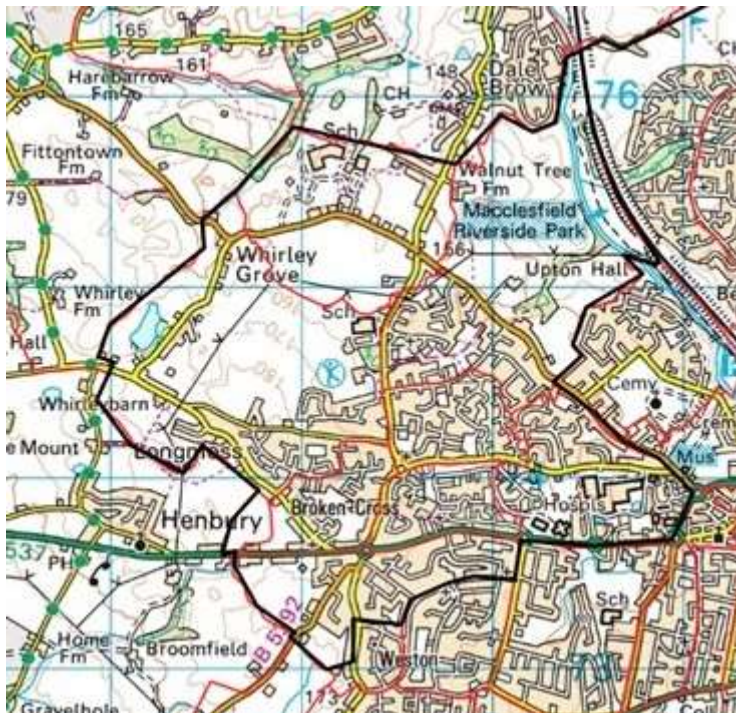


Figure 1: Broken Cross and Upton ward





**Figure 2: Broken Cross and Upton, boundary with West and Ivy ward**

### **Macclesfield Central ward – one member**

The town centre, covering the area between Park Lane, Hibel Road, Crompton Road and the Silk Road/Cross Street.

To cover polling districts 4BA1, 4BA2, 4BB1, 4BB2.



**Figure 3: Macclesfield Central ward**

### **Macclesfield East ward**

As per the Commission's proposals.

### **Macclesfield Hurdsfield ward**

As per the Commission's proposals.



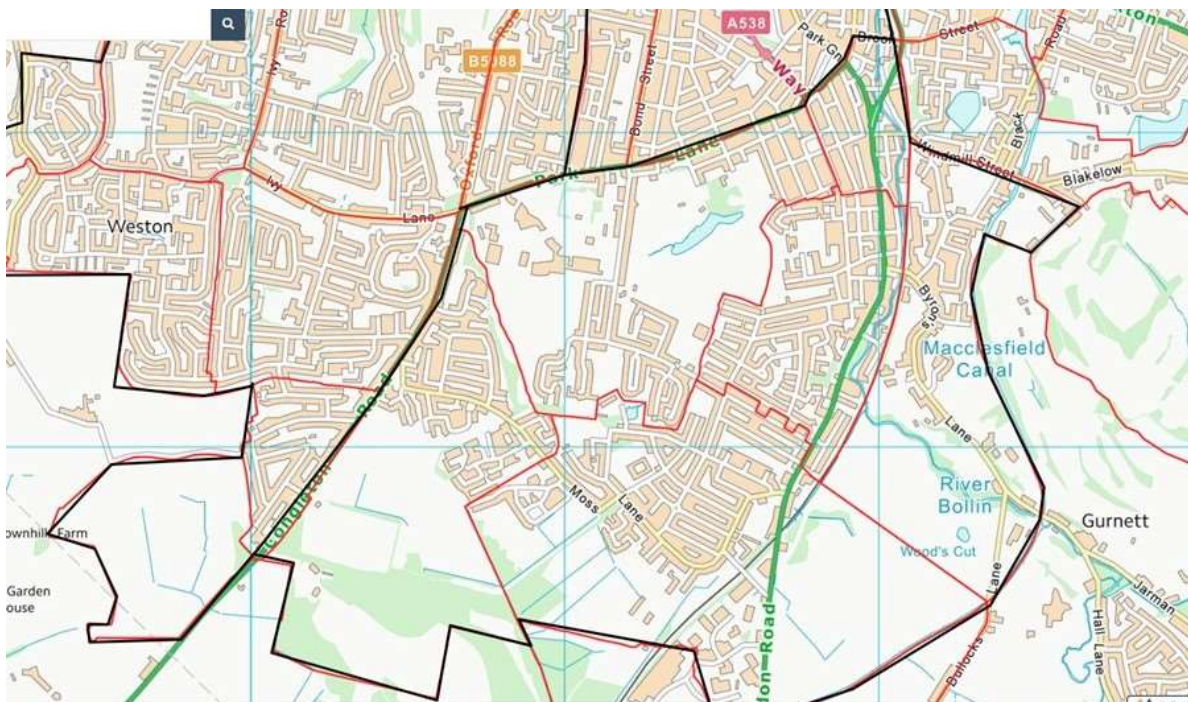
## Macclesfield South

East of the Congleton Road and south of Park Lane.

To cover polling districts 4AC1, 4CAR, 4CB1, 4CBR (as current ward), 4CD1 and 4CE1.



**Figure 4: Macclesfield South ward**



**Figure 5: Macclesfield South ward, boundaries with West and Ivy, Central, and East wards**

## Macclesfield Tytherington

As currently warded.

## Macclesfield West and Ivy

West of Congleton Road. Between Park Lane, Crompton Street, Chester Street, Earlsway.

To cover polling districts 4BD1, 4BE1, 4BF1 (as current ward), part of 4BC1, 4BF2, 4BFR, 4GDT and 4BBR.

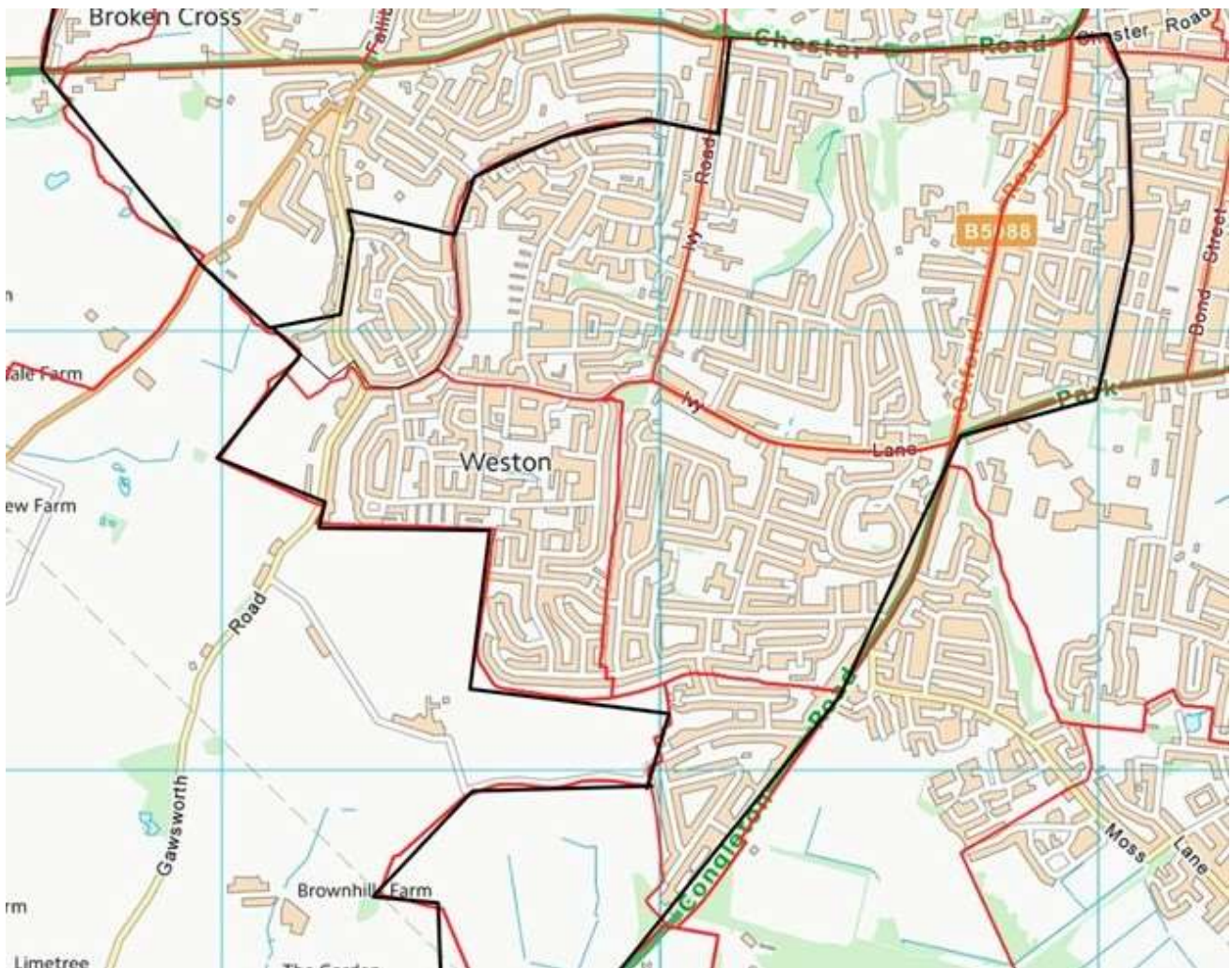


Figure 6: Macclesfield West and Ivy ward

	Conservative proposals		LGBCE proposals	
Proposed ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2030 %	Number of councillors	Variance 2030 %
Broken Cross and Upton	2	-1	2	1
Macclesfield Central	1	5	2	6
Macclesfield East	1	0	1	0
Macclesfield Hurdsfield	1	-2	1	-2
Macclesfield South	2	-4	2	-10
Macclesfield Tytherington	2	-3	1	12
Macclesfield West and Ivy	2	2	2	-5

**Table 2: Comparison of Conservative proposals and LGBCE proposals**

## APPENDIX 2 – DETAILED PROPOSALS

Proposed ward	Electors Jan 2030	No. of cllrs	Electors per councillor	Variance from target	Polling Districts	Electors Jan 2030
Broken Cross and Upton	8,150	2	4075	-1	4AD1 4AD2 4AD3 4AF1 4AF2 4AF3 4BC1 (part) 4GET	1,009 1,084 1,056 997 1,357 1,298 1,158 191
Macclesfield Central	4,289	1	4289	5	4BA1 4BA2 4BB1 4BB2	641 719 964 1,965
Macclesfield East	4,106	1	4106	0	4CF1 4CG1 4CH1	1,166 1,489 1,451
Macclesfield Hurdsfield	4,024	1	4024	-2	4AB1 4AB2 4AB3 4FC1	1,274 1,263 876 611
Macclesfield South	7,883	2	3942	-4	4CA1 4CAR 4CB1 4CBR 4CD1 4CE1	2,058 1,361 1,699 613 1,425 727
Macclesfield Tytherinton	7,947	2	3974	-3	4AA1 4AA2 4AA3 4AA4 4AAR 4AC1 4AE1	1,470 1,581 684 95 1,252 1,591 1,274
Macclesfield West and Ivy	8,332	2	4166	2	4BC2 (part) 4BBR 4BD1 4BE1 4BF1 4BF2 4BFR	660 1,199 1,510 1,347 1,821 1,333 462

**Table 3: Detailed breakdown of our proposals**