

Bristol

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Comment text:

Related subject: Ward Boundaries

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find attached the response to the boundary review of Bristol City Council boundaries, from Bristol East CLP.

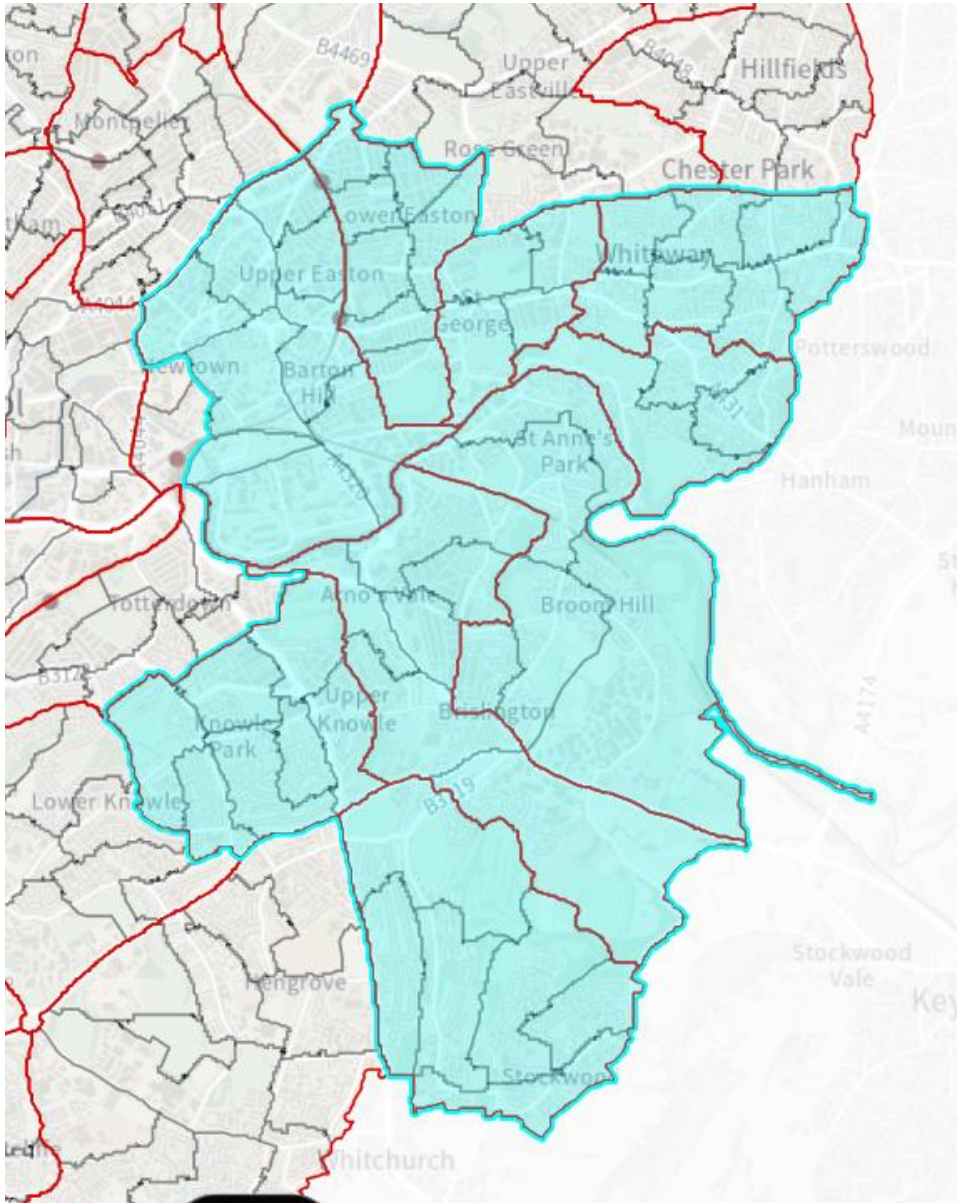
Best Wishes,

James Austin

Attached Documents:

- bristol-east-boundary-proposals.pdf

Bristol East – Boundary Changes



This submission proposes new ward boundaries within Bristol East Constituency. They have been determined on, in order of importance:

- Cultural cohesion; trying to create seats which represent distinct and aligned parts of the city which are culturally similar
- Two member wards: Aiming for each ward to have 2 seats, with roughly 9,602 electors (variance of 10%)
- Not crossing major boundaries; the river, the M32 or key roads.

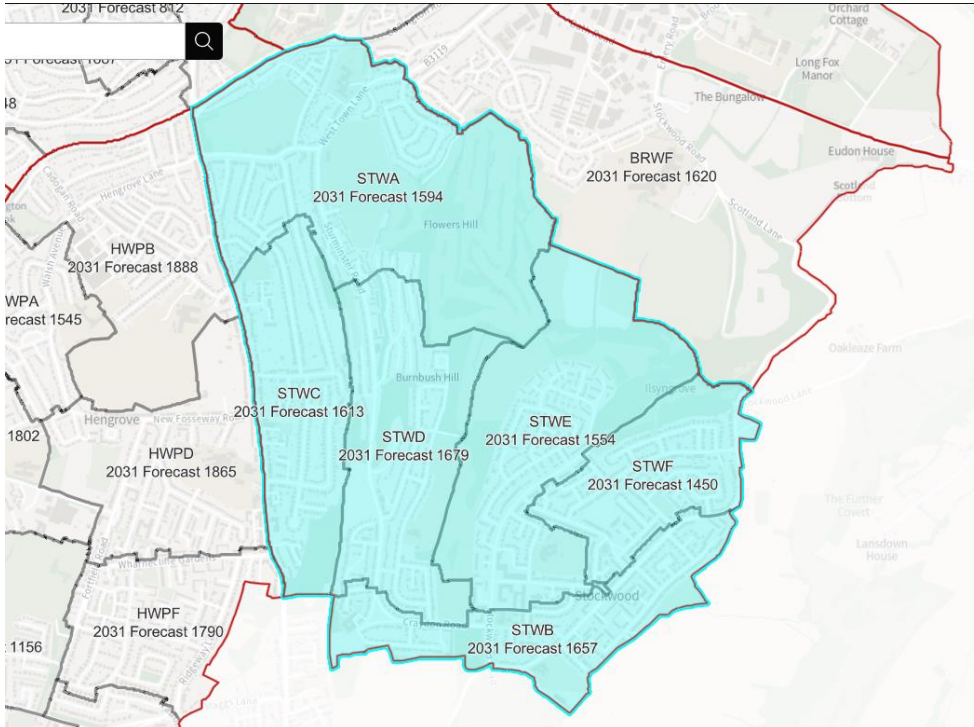
The Proposals:

Name of ward	Constituency	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2031	Variance 2031
Brislington East	East	2	9,465	-1%
Brislington West	East	2	8,787	-8%
Easton	East	2	9,615	0%
Knowle	East	2	10,735	12%
Lawrence Hill and Temple Quarter	East	2	9,012	-6%
Old Market	East	2	9,758	2%
St George East	East	2	9,328	-3%
St George West	East	2	9,994	4%
Stockwood	East	2	9,547	-1%

We largely propose keeping the existing seats south of the river the same as presently, with the only alteration being moving the ‘Paintworks’ development (BRWC) to a new ‘Lawrence Hill and Temple Quarter’ ward. This is because the nature of the Paintworks development, with medium rise flats, young professionals and a mixed-use development has greater similarity to the proposed Temple Quarter development which will be underway when these wards are used than wider Brislington West. Ideally, we would split BRWC in half, to keep the south part of the polling district (south of the cemetery) in Brislington West, while the north part (Paintworks) in Lawrence Hill and Temple Quarter.

To the North of the river, we propose amalgamating the three St George seats into two: St George West and East reflecting the different cultural sides. We would also propose a new ‘Old Market’ seat to reflect the recent population increase in this area and its separate cultural feeling from Lawrence Hill.

Stockwood:

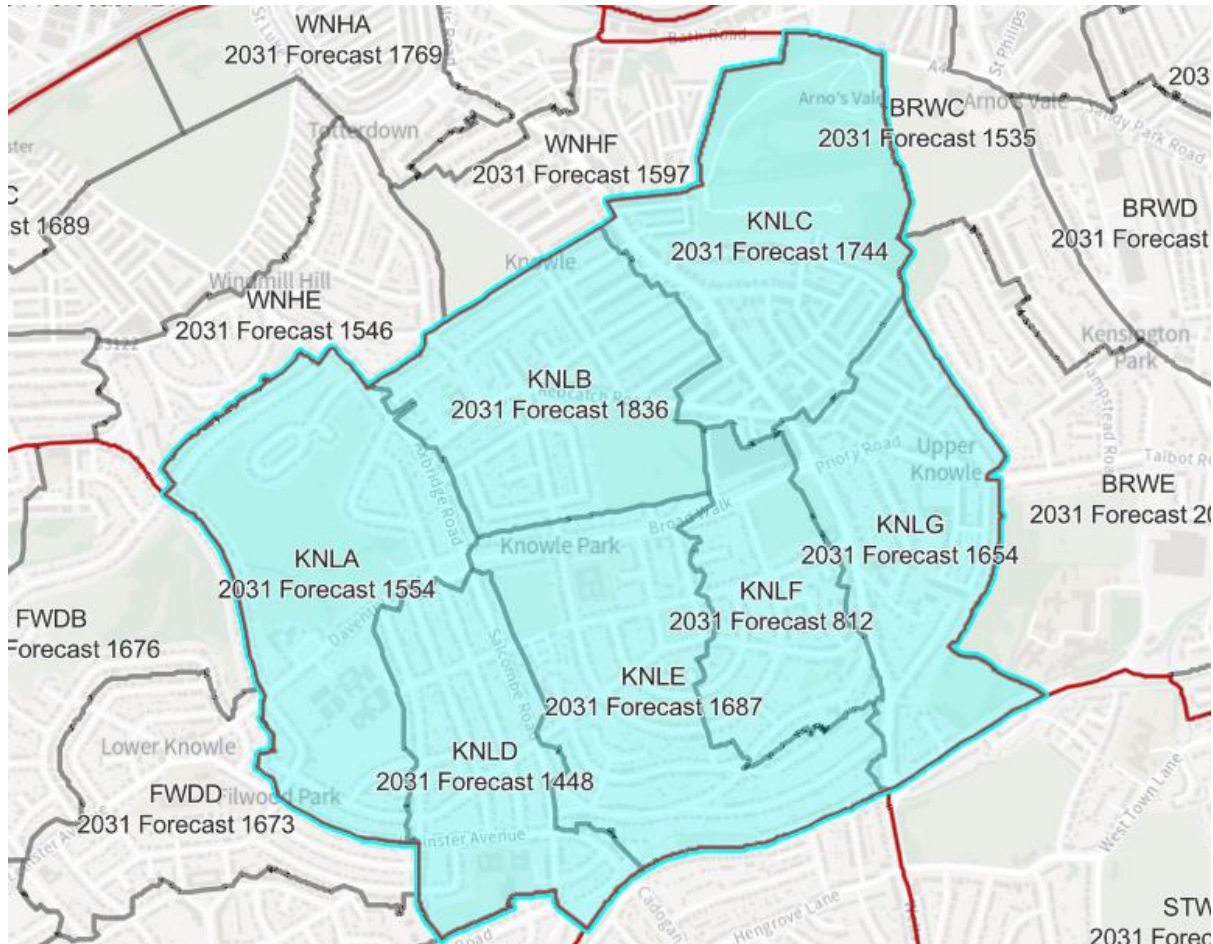


We propose no changes to the existing Stockwood ward. It remains a clearly defined cultural area, but around a mix of Stockwood itself (and the Hollway Road shops) and Sturminster Road.

The area is clearly bordered by the edge of Bristol, the Wells Road and Imperial sports ground/Callington Road, and Stockwood Open Space. It is also culturally coherent across each of its elements.

It falls within -1% of variance

Knowle:

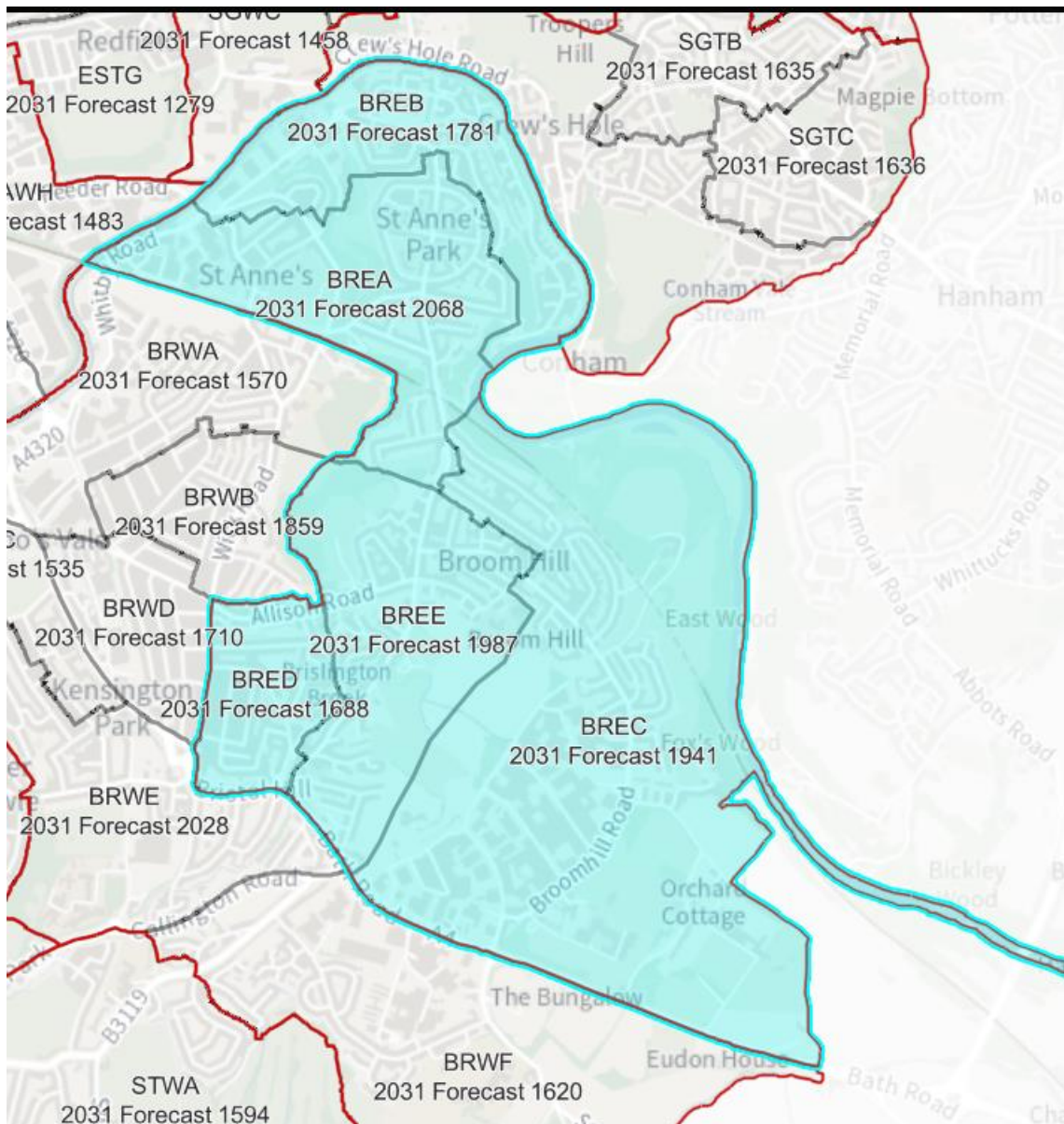


We also propose no changes to Knowle.

While this does fall very slightly out of variance (+12%) we feel that this is justified by the exceptional cultural coherence of Upper Knowle and Knowle Park which are contained within the seat. Removing any element of this would destroy that coherence.

Presently the seat operates well and it's boundaries are largely recognised locally. It is centred around Redcatch Park and Knowle High Street/Wells Road with clear boundaries on the Talbot Road allotments and along to Arnos Court gardens. To the west the boundary is also clear, though we would recommend moving Tavistock Road into Filwood for clarity as this would help bring the seat into variance and have a clearer distinction.

Brislington East

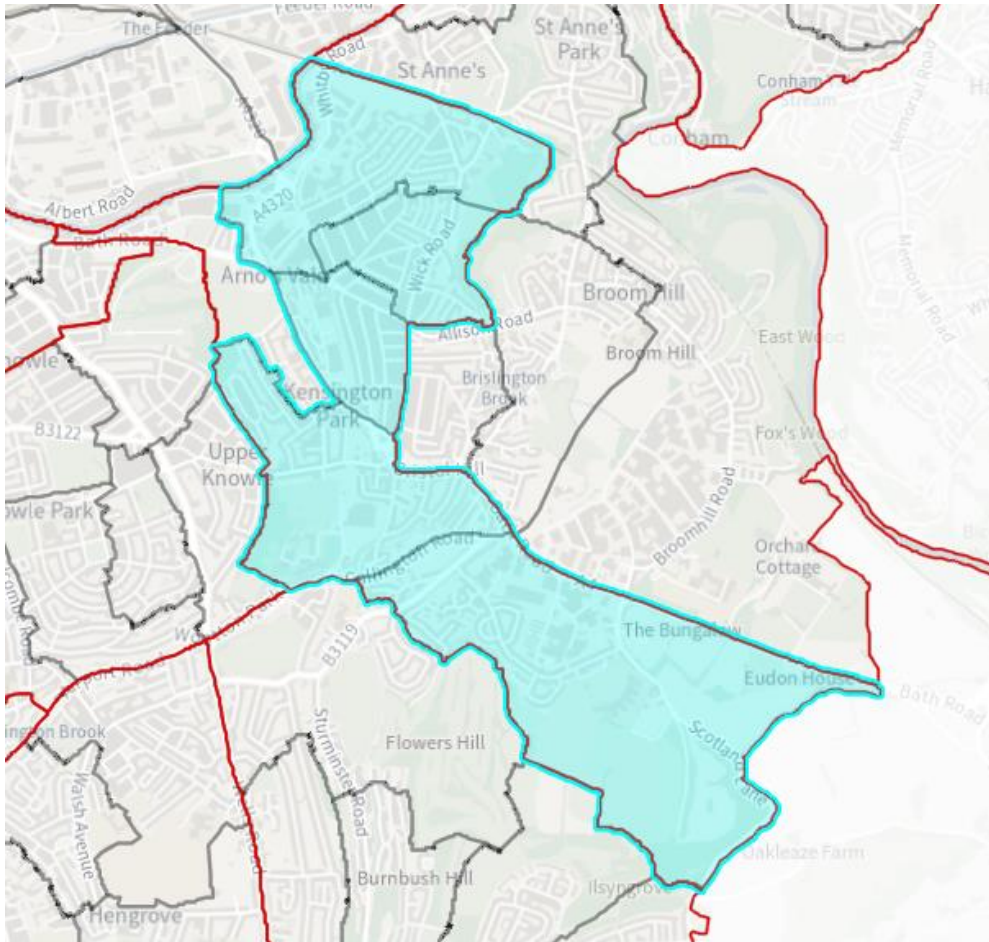


We propose leaving Brislington East within its present boundaries. These are within variance (-1%)

Brislington East is built around two communities, each of which are culturally similar in being largely working class, with a high percentage of social housing. These are St Annes and Broom Hill, each of which are clear areas built around share services and cores; the shops on Broomhill Road, Brislington Meadows, and St Annes House. The ward has a clear boundary on three sides with the river, the Bath Road and the Nightingale Valley.

The feeling of councillors and residents is the present seat works well and, as such, we feel it should be maintained.

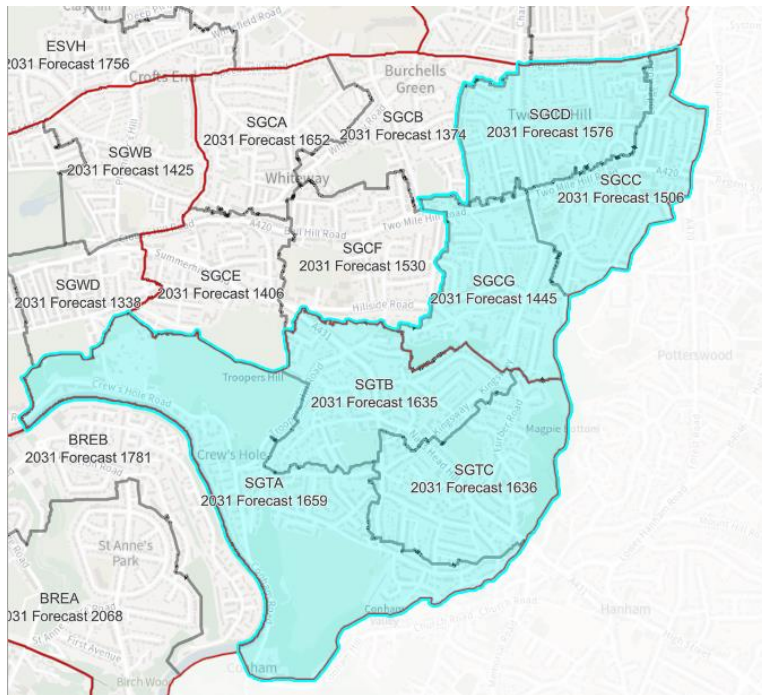
Brislington West



Brislington West is another existing east which largely coheres, being built around Wick Road, Sandy Park Road and Kensington Park. It consists of largely similar homes and people; slightly more middle class than it's neighbouring seats, with homes dating back to the 1890s, rather than the 1960s and more classically urban.

Given this character we would propose removing the modern 'Paintworks' development in BRWC from the seat and reallocating it to a new 'Lawrence Hill and Temple Quarter Development' as it is more culturally similar as a development to this area. The south part of BRWC is very much in line with the wider Brislington West seat and we would propose splitting the polling district in half to reflect this.

St George East:

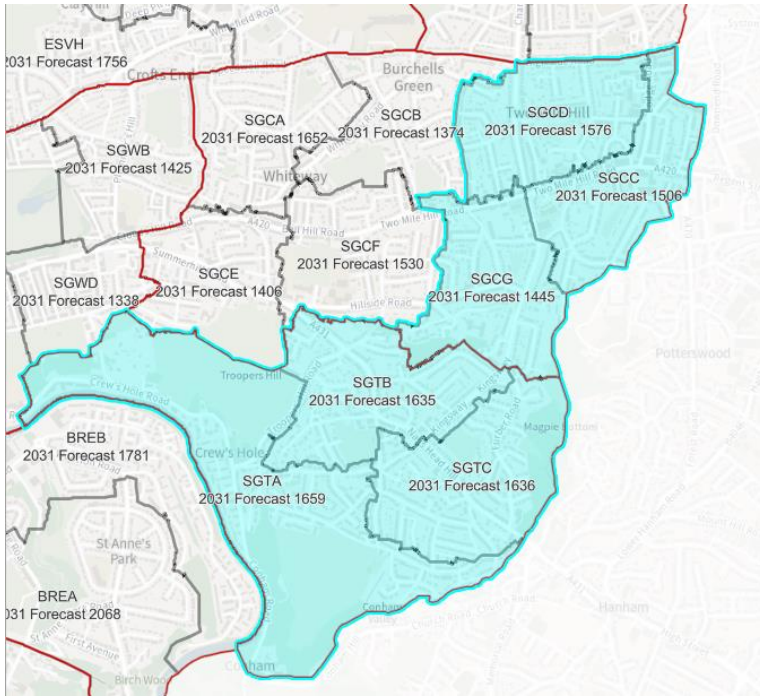


Name of ward	Constituency	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2025	Variance 20	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2031	Variance 20
Brislington East	East	2	8,860	-7%	2	9,465	-1%
Brislington West	East	2	9,054	-5%	2	10,322	8%
Easton	East	2	10,118	6%	2	10,725	12%
Knowle	East	2	10,129	6%	2	10,735	12%
Lawrence Hill	East	2	11,788	24%	2	14,473	51%
Old Market	East	0			2		
St George Central	East	2	9,843	3%	2	10,489	9%
St George Troopers Hill	East	1	4,641	-3%	1	4,930	2%
St George West	East	1	5,250	10%	1	5,555	16%
Stockwood	East	2	8,914	-6%	2	9,547	-1%

As we can see from this we Lawrence Hill is seriously over spec for a 2 member ward and we also have Easton and St George West also over threshold. In addition to this other seats are close to threshold; only Troopers Hill is comfortable.

Our proposals:

A new St George East/Troopers Hill seat:

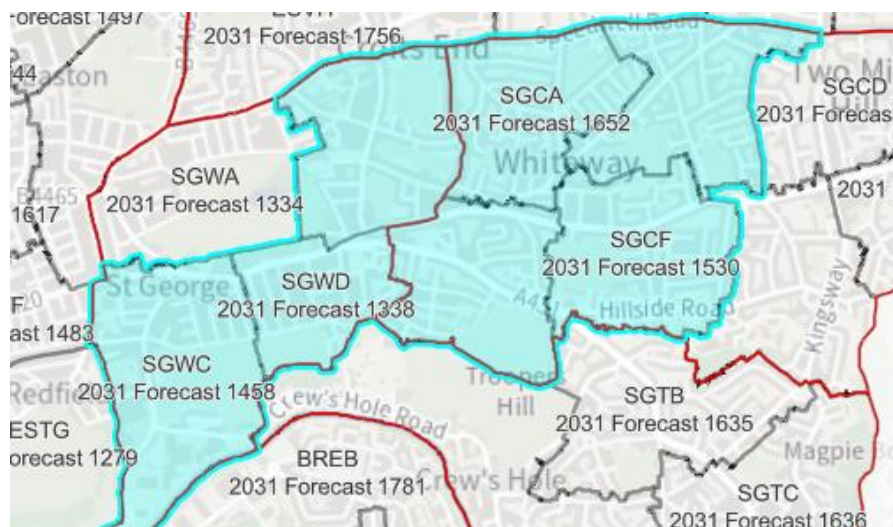


We propose amalgamating the three St George seats into two; St George East and West. This simplifies the map and better reflects the cultural similarities in these areas.

The proposed new St George East seat brings together Crews Hole, Troopers Hill and Two Mile Hill areas. None of these are classically considered St George and we considered the name 'Kingsway' to reflect this as many of these areas rely on the shops and centre around Kingway road.

These areas share a clear cultural coherence, largely having been built in the 1950s and 1960s, being relatively car centric and far more classically suburban than wider St George. They also tend to be less diverse and share similar challenges with public transport and a lack of community spaces, which doesn't apply to 'St George' proper. We feel they make more sense as a separate ward of their own and this would work within variance.

St George West

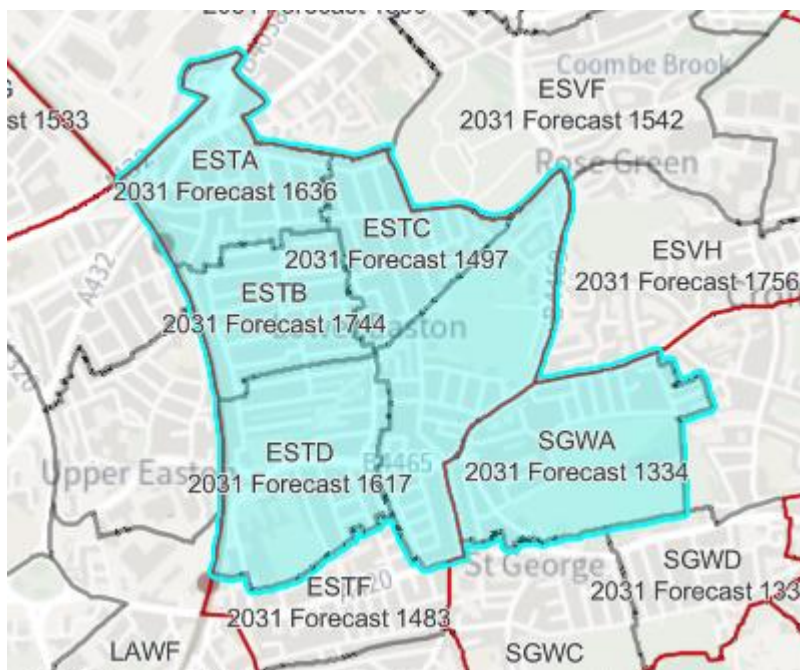


This proposed 'St George West' seat contains all the parts of what would, traditionally, be considered by 1880s-1910s housing, tighter street layouts and greater density compared to St George East. It has a clear core of shops and community centres around Church Road/Summerhill Road and shares schools and catchments.

We feel it thus makes sense for this to operate as a single seat, rather than being split as presently. It does have a slightly different community to the north east based around Meadow Vale which we've taken care to include in full.

Presently this seat does not include the SGWA polling district – this is because the homes here look towards Easton and are closer to the amenities and, in particular, the school catchments there than the rest of St George. To rectify this we'd recommend splitting up this polling district so that the park is included in SGWD ward.

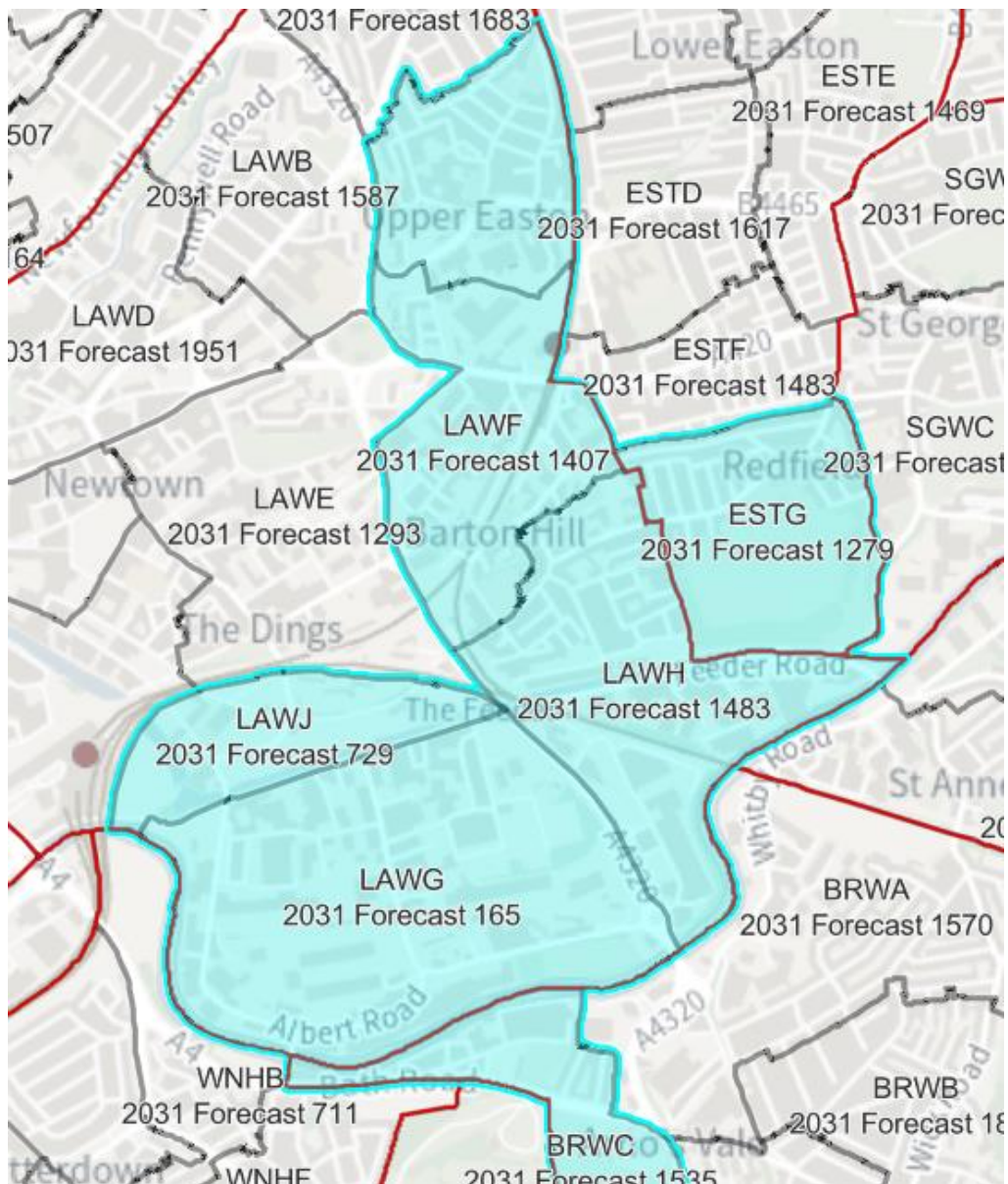
Easton:



This is a relatively altered Eason Ward which loses its 'Redland' section to a new Lawrence Hill and Temple Quarter seat while gaining SGWA from St George.

This creates a far more coherent and focused Easton seat based around Easton itself, which is an extremely distinct cultural area. To the west it is bounded by the railway line, to the North by the M32 and south by Cooksley Road. Each of the areas of the seat share schools, high streets and institutions and we feel this produces a very coherent seat that hits the target population perfectly.

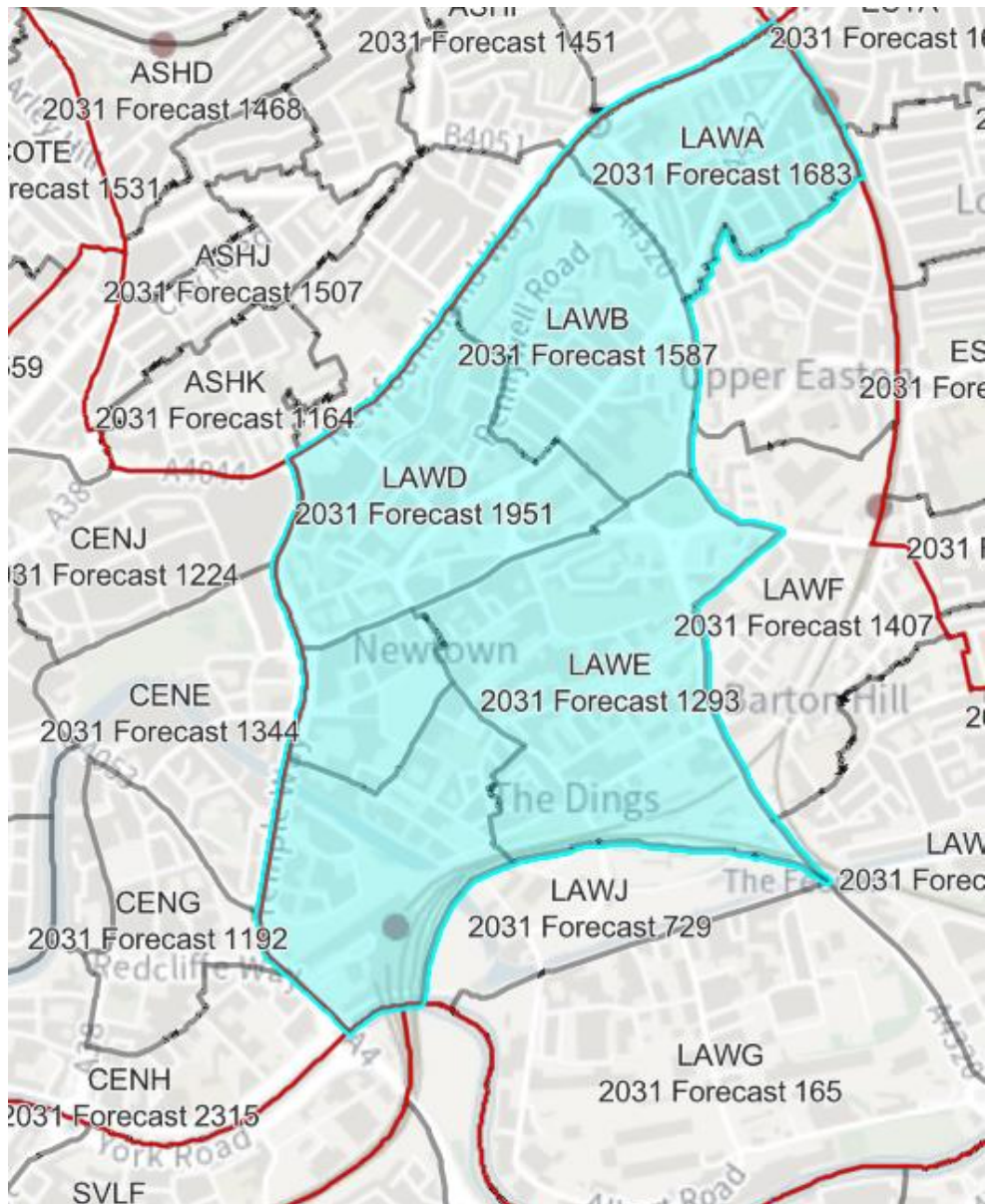
Lawrence Hill and Temple Quarter:



We propose creating a new Lawrence Hill and Temple Quarter seat, centred around Lawrence/Barton Hill/Redfield which is a very distinct community that shares a core centre, the Wellspring Settlement, schools and recreational areas.

To this we'd added the proposed Temple Quarter development. This area presently doesn't have a high population but will, over the course of the next 15 years, be the site of large scale new build housing. We have added the 'Paintworks' development to this (as discussed in Brislington West' which will be very similar to the proposed new area with a mixed-use, high rise housing and form a coherent area.

'Old market'

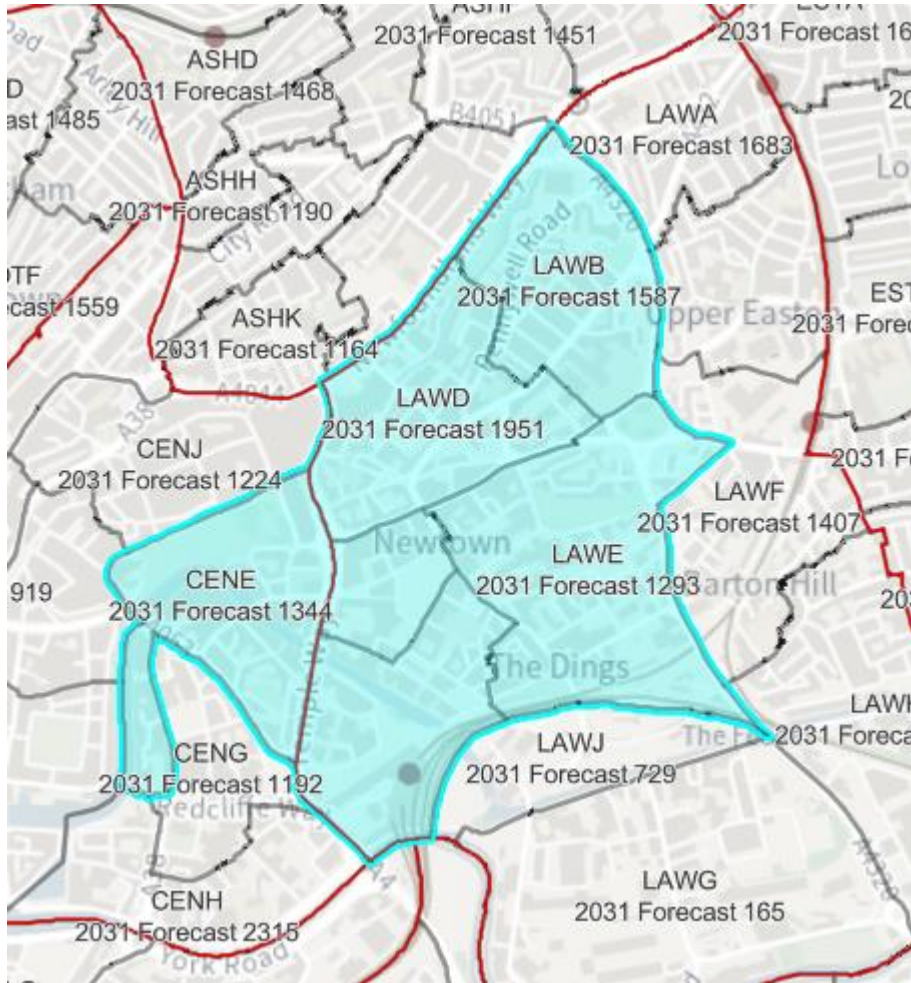


We propose the creation of a new seat; Old Market to reflect the population growth in the area.

This seat brings together three distinct historic areas of Bristol: the Dings, Old Market and St Judes. While each of these small areas has their own identity, they are linked by both their location on the city centre and through large scale, local development plans. They have gentrified in recent years bringing cultural coherence.

The Dings is Bristol's historic warehouse district and has been revitalised in recent years through regeneration with many young professionals moving to it. This has partly been driven by its closeness to Old Market which has emerged as the city's LGBT centre and a key location for many hospitality businesses. They share an interwoven history.

To the North-East of these you have the historic area of St Judes. This is a poorer area with a large Somali heritage population but has seen substantial change in recent years and will see more with the Frome Gateway proposals. It shares many similarities in this aspect with the other areas. We have focused on trying to keep these clear areas together in each of our proposals and this applies to St Judes.



New Seat – likely Green. Brings together the Dings, Newtown, St Judes and Old Market. To hit variance requires some of central – comes in -2% under in that case. Broadly makes sense in terms of area – bounded by St Phillips causeway and town.

Scroll left to see the first table

Name of ward	Constituency	Number of cllrs per	Electorate 2025	Variance 2025	Number of cllrs per	Electorate 2031	Variance 2031
Easton	East	2	10,118	6%	2	9,297	-3%
Lawrence Hill	East	2	11,788	24%	2	9,160	-5%
Old Market	East	0			2	9,419	-2%
St George Central	East	2	9,843	3%	2		
St George Troopers Hill	East	1	4,641	-3%	2	9,457	-2%
St George West	East	1	5,250	10%	2	10,183	6%

Our projection is you'd go from 7 Green/1 Lab to

7 Green, 1 Lab, 2 marginal