Sheffield ward boundary review 2026

In this document, I am going to be making several suggestions for alterations to the existing ward boundaries, focusing mostly on the area of Sheffield west of the city centre.

The proposals are structured around the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) three statutory criteria:

1. **Reflecting Community Identity and Interests:** Realigning boundaries where residents share daily facilities, shopping districts, and local infrastructure.
2. **Effective and Convenient Local Government:** Removing arbitrary street-dividing lines and replacing them with strong physical ground features (parks, brooks, major thoroughfares).
3. **Electoral Equality:** Balancing electorate numbers across western Sheffield to ensure fair representation per councillor by 2031.

My focus for this initial consultation was prioritising adjusting the existing boundaries to align with logical physical boundaries and areas, while considering the electoral population change of each ward as a secondary effect. I aim to provide a justified list of suggestions for the review, not to completely redraw the entire map, and as such balancing the electorate of every ward would be impossible at this stage without a holistic review over the entire city.

The proposals are presented roughly in order, from the largest and most impactful to more minor changes, and a final summary section.

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Suggestion 1: Transferring Endcliffe from Fulwood to Broomhill and Sharrow Vale

The **Endcliffe** area of Sheffield can be roughly described as the area bounded by Fulwood Road to the north, Oak Brook to the west, Rustlings Road to the south and Brocco Bank and Westbourne Road to the east. Notable landmarks include Endcliffe Park and Woods, Endcliffe Hall (currently owned by the Army Reserve), and the Endcliffe Student Village (owned by the University of Sheffield).

There are two polling districts that cover the majority of the Endcliffe area: **Endcliffe Edge (code NB)** and **Endcliffe Ridge (NC)**, both in the Fulwood ward. The **Brocco Bank (EC)** polling district in the Broomhill and Sharrow Vale ward also covers several terraced streets including Endcliffe Glen Road, Endcliffe Rise Road and Endcliffe Terrace Road. Finally, there is also the **Endcliffe Park (LH)** polling district in the Ecclesall ward, which covers the park itself as well as the streets to the south which would typically be considered part of Greystones rather than Endcliffe.

The northern half of the Endcliffe area is notably dominated by student residences of the University of Sheffield, generally grouped together as the **Endcliffe Student Village**. As well, just to the north on the other side of Fulwood Road is the **Ranmoor Student Village**, also owned by the University. The existence of these university halls is very notable, as together they form a population of around 4,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students (source: https://sheffield.ac.uk/accommodation/ranmoor-endcliffe, although it is worth noting this will include a number of international students that cannot vote in UK elections and therefore not be included in the electorate numbers). These are students whose attention is undeniably focused east, towards the centre of Sheffield. They will attend classes on the main University campus, buy food from the supermarkets in Broomhill, go shopping and eating on Ecclesall Road, all of which are in the Broomhill and Sharrow Vale ward. As such, it has always felt incongruous that the student accommodation areas are instead mostly in the Fulwood ward, which stretches west as far as the boundary with the Peak District. Rather than voting for councillors in the ward where they spend the vast majority of their time, the students are grouped in with the undeniably suburban middle-class areas of Fulwood.

(Although this review focuses on the local city council wards rather than general election constituencies, it's also worth noting that this separation is also visible there as Fulwood is part of the Sheffield Hallam constituency, while Broomhill and Sharrow Vale is in the Sheffield Central constituency.)

All of this leads to confusion and unnecessary complication for University of Sheffield students, especially as the student villages will predominantly be occupied by first-year undergraduates who may be voting for the first time away from home. Debates and interactions with students during local elections inevitably focuses on the larger student populations of the Broomhill and Sharrow Vale, Crookes and Crosspool, and City wards, while in general elections the same is

true for the Sheffield Central constituency. All of these have to come with caveats that students in the villages west of Oakholme Road are in a different ward/constituency. From the other side, the general population of Fulwood would probably much prefer to be separated from the transient student population and have their councillors focus on their own local issues.

Therefore, I would propose that the boundary in this area should be moved west, so that at a minimum predominantly student areas of Fulwood ward should instead be moved into the Broomhill and Sharrow Vale ward. There is an argument that it would be preferable to keep the entire Endcliffe area unified, which would involve the boundary moving west all the way to the natural landmark of Oak Brook. However, this would be a major transfer of electoral population and make the electorate numbers much harder to balance. It's also possible that the residents south of Endcliffe Vale Road would prefer to stay in Fulwood ward. As such, I would suggest the transferred area would be limited to the Endcliffe Edge (NB) polling area and the predominantly student parts of Endcliffe Ridge (NC). Figure 1 shows the proposed adjustment, with the current boundaries shown in black and the proposed new boundary shown in red shown in red. The areas transferred between wards are coloured.

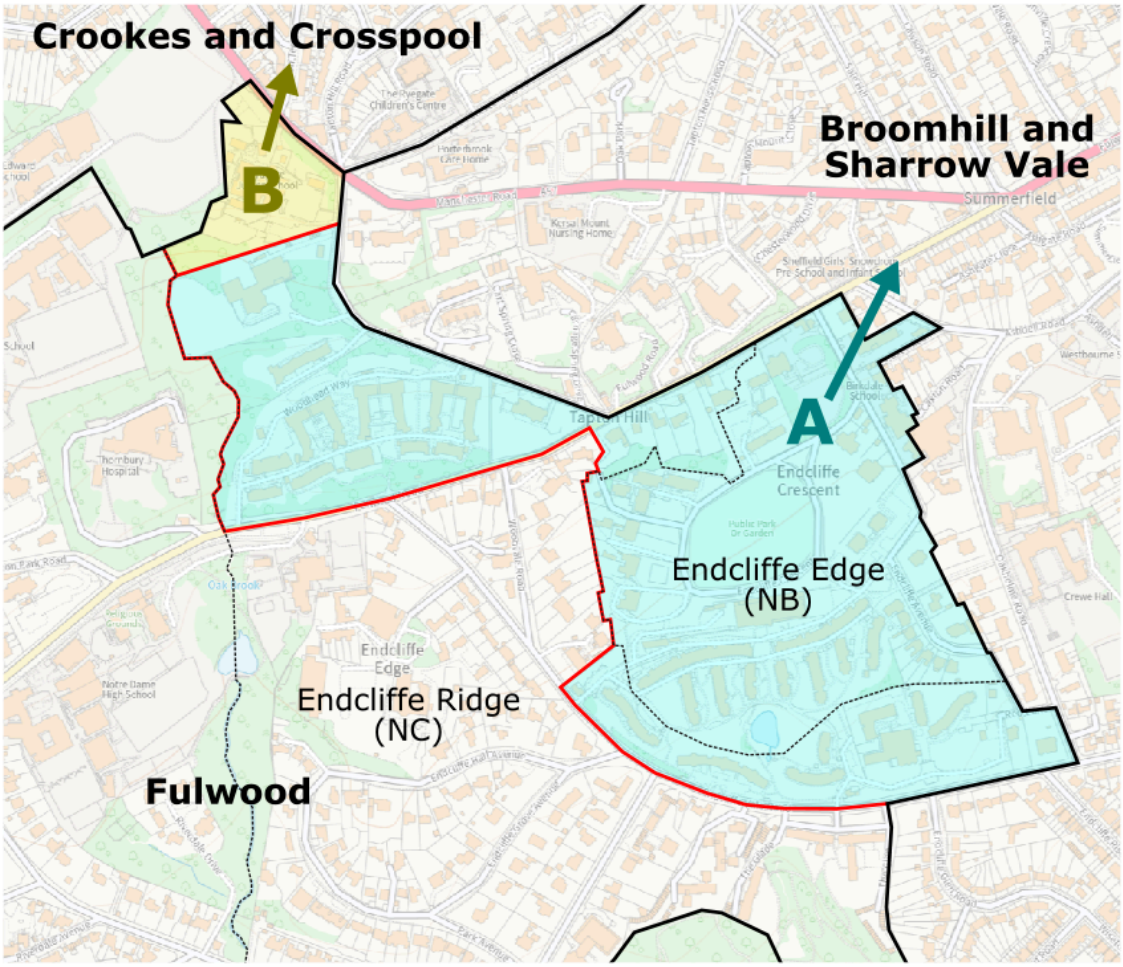


Figure 1: Proposed adjustment in the Endcliffe area. Map from OS Maps, ward boundaries from LGBCE, polling district boundaries from Sheffield City Council.

Area A corresponds to the student-dominated areas of Endcliffe. The new boundary starts in the south on Endcliffe Vale Road at the point the current boundary meets it, but turns west instead of east. It continues west along the road until the junction with Endcliffe Crescent, at which point it passes east of the residential houses on Woodvale Road. It then continues north to Fulwood Road, and then west following Fulwood Road until reaching the Oak Brook. It then follows the Brook north along the western edge of the Ranmoor student village, before meeting the current Crookes and Crosspool boundary north of Tapton Hall. This area corresponds to the entirety of the Endcliffe Edge (NB) polling district, as well as northern and eastern parts of the Endcliffe Ridge (NC) polling district. It is limited almost entirely to the student villages of the University of Sheffield, with the only exceptions being some properties on Fulwood Road that are in Endcliffe Ridge, Birkdale School north of Endcliffe Crescent, and Tapton Hall north of Ranmoor Village, all to keep the boundary more logical.

Area B is a small section of the Endcliffe Ridge (NC) polling district, consisting only of Lydgate Junior School. To make the boundary in this area more sensible, it is envisioned this part of the Fulwood ward would move to Crookes and Crosspool.

The Endcliffe Edge (NB) district has an electorate of 1,106 in the 2025 estimate and 1,278 in the 2031 estimate. Endcliffe Ridge (NB) has an electorate of 1,551 in 2025, dropping to 1,306 in 2031. As a rough estimate, the entirety of Endcliffe Edge and 1/3rd of Endcliffe Ridge would give a total transfer of approximately 1,600 in 2025, or 1,700 in 2031, from Fulwood to Broomhill and Sharrow Vale. Area B has zero resident population.

Suggestion 2: Transferring Crookesmoor from Broomhill and Sharrow Vale to Crookes and Crosspool

The **Crookesmoor** area covers much of the northern half of the Harcourt (EE) polling district in the Broomhill and Sharrow Vale ward, as well as properties south of Crookesmoor Road that are in the Whitham (EI) polling district. Crookesmoor forms a clearly continuous built-up area between Crookes to the northwest and Walkley to the northeast. It is geographically separated from the remainder of the Broomhill and Sharrow Vale ward by Crookes Valley Park, Weston Park, the Goodwin Sports Centre, and several University of Sheffield buildings with little to no residential population. The suggestion for this area is therefore simple: that Crookesmoor naturally belongs in the Crookes and Crosspool ward, and therefore the boundary in this area should be moved south to achieve this.

A proposed adjustment is shown as **Area C** in **Figure 2**. The boundary passes between the southern properties on Harcourt Road and the northern edge of Crookes Valley Park and the Goodwin Sports Centre. It also includes the large empty lot on the corner of Harcourt Road and Northumberland Road, which has been vacant for decades but has had several stalled plans for residential developments. From there it continues following Narrow Walk south of the University of Sheffield Modular Teaching Village, the Arthur Willis Environment Centre, and properties on Crookesmoor Road, until it reaches the junction with Highnam Crescent Road.

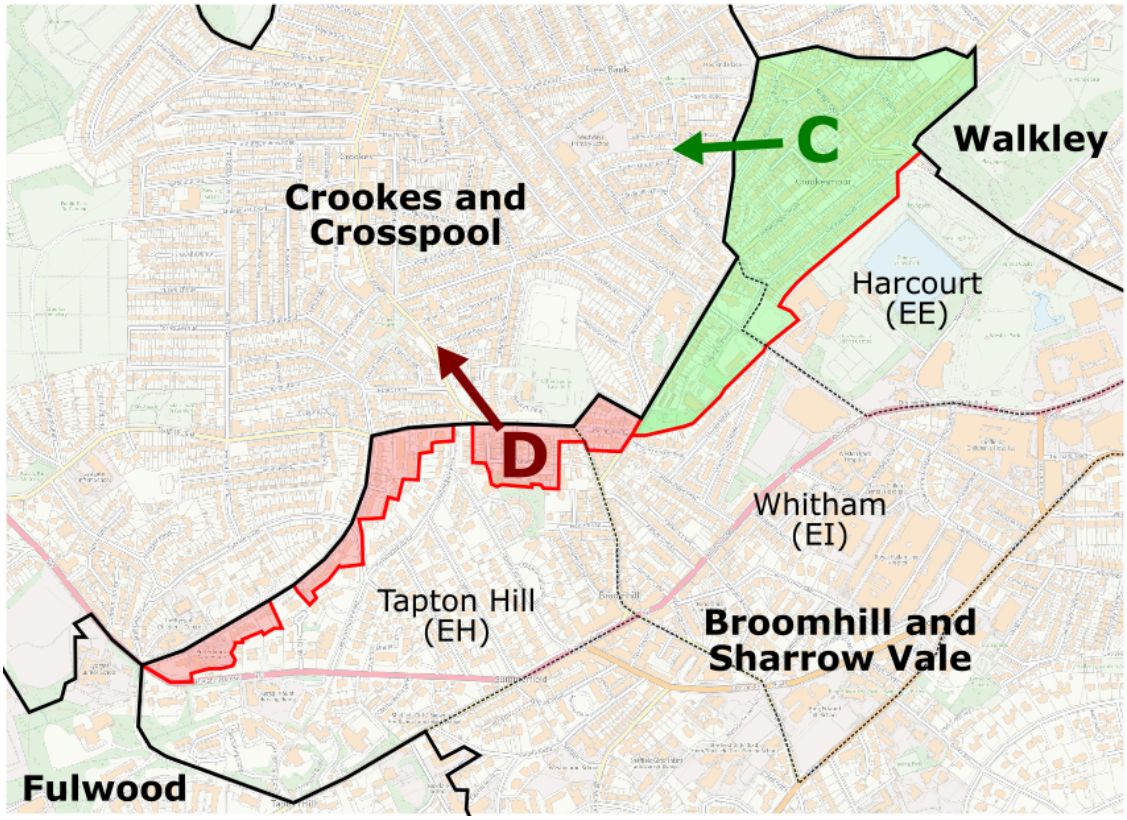


Figure 2: Proposed adjustments in the Crookesmoor and Crookes area.

Further south, the boundary between the two wards follows predominantly the centre of roads: Crookes Road, Lydgate Lane and Tapton Crescent Road. This divides communities artificially, especially as most of these properties are much closer to Crookes High Street as a local centre than Broomhill at the bottom of the hill. As such, the boundary should also be moved south to include properties on both sides of these roads.

This is further shown as **Area D** in **Figure 2**. Continuing east this includes both sides of Roslyn Road, the Hawthorne Mews development south of Crookes Road, the Mary Tozer House retirement complex and other properties south of Lydgate Lane, and properties on the southern side of Tapton Crescent Road including Tapton Mews and the Porterbrook Care Home before reaching the existing boundary at Manchester Road.

Given the entire southern half of the Harcourt (EE) polling district is occupied by parkland, museums and university buildings, for estimating electorate transfer the entire electorate of the district is assumed: 1,064 in 2025 and 1,938 in 2031. It is notable that such a large increase in electorate is included in the 2031 estimate, the addition of almost 900 people close to doubling the district's electorate and the third largest in the entire city. This may be assuming a large development on the Northumberland Road plot, which would be included in the transfer, or else development in the southern part of the district which would not be included in the adjusted area. More accurate analysis could take this into account. For the remainder of the areas along the northern edge of the Tapton Hill (EH) and Whitham (EI) polling districts, a rough estimation is taken as 1/5th of the electorate of both districts, corresponding to 490 in 2025 and 613 in 2031. This would give a total transfer of approximately 1,600 in 2025, increasing to 2,500 by 2031.

Suggestion 3: Transferring Sandygate from Crookes and Crosspool to Fulwood

Sandygate is the westernmost part of the Crookes and Crosspool ward, centred around Sandygate Road and Sandygate Park and including Sandygate stadium, home of Hallam FC. The area is mostly covered by the **Sandygate (HH)** and **Sandygate Park (HI)** polling districts.

Sandygate is undoubtedly closely connected to Crosspool, meaning separating it from this ward is not as immediate as the previous two suggestions. However, there are some good reasons for adjusting the boundary in this area, if only to better allocate electorate between the local wards.

First, the southern portion of the Sandygate (HH) polling district around Ivy Park Road and Whitworth Road stands out as being far more connected to the south than the north, with similar-sized detached properties compared to the denser, semi-detached properties on Dransfield Road to the north. This is marked as **Area E** on **Figure 3**, and would be an easy adjustment to move some electorate into the under-target Fulwood ward.

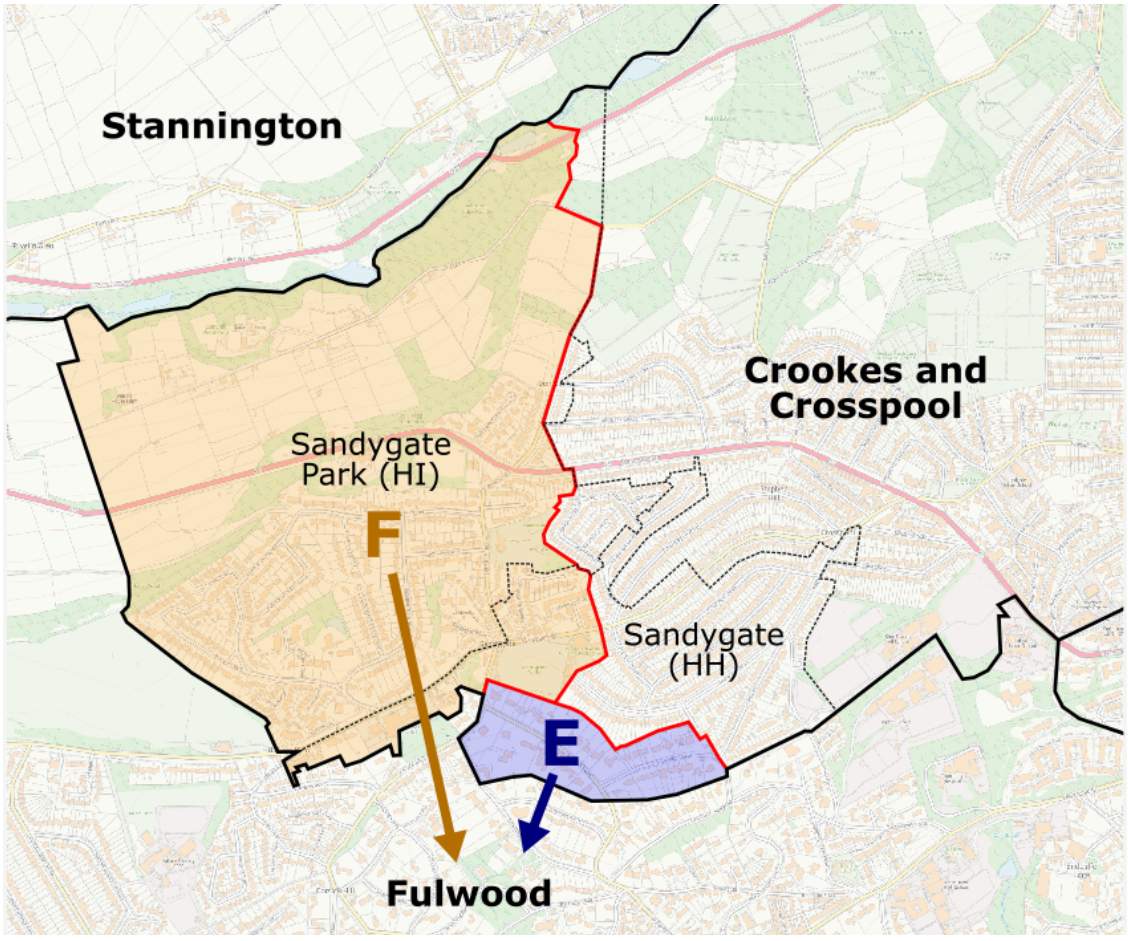


Figure 3: Proposed adjustments in the Sandygate area.

The larger area of **Sandygate Park** is marked as **Area F** on Firgure 3. This area is defined as the western portion of the Sandygate (HH) district including Sandygate Road stadium and the Church of St Francis of Assisi, the properties on St Francis Close, the eastern edge of Coldwell Park & Playing Field and then properties on Hagg Lane continuing north until reaching the River Rivelin. The boundary as drawn excludes the properties around Barnfield Drive from the Sandygate Park district as well as those on Hagg Lane north of Den Bank Crescent, as they feel more logically connected with the remaining Crookes and Crosspool ward.

Transferring these two areas would comprise an estimated 1/3rd of the Sandygate (HH) polling district (which has a total electorate of 1,284 in 2025 and 1,352 in 2031) and 4/5ths of the Sandygate Park (HI) district (1,141 in 2025, 1,201 in 2031), giving a total electoral approximation of 1,300 in 2025 (1,400 in 2031).

Suggestion 4: Minor adjustments between Fulwood and Ecclesall

This is a much more minor logical and aesthetic adjustment than the previous three suggestions. The boundary between Fulwood and Ecclesall wards follows a fairly strange route, skirting close to the western edge of Highcliffe Road and separating the Highcliffe Allotments from the rest of the Highcliffe area (**Area H** on **Figure 4**), then heading due west to enclose several properties on Common Lane and Cottage Lane (**Area G**).

Figure 4 proposes a more logical boundary in this area, mostly following following the course of the Bluebell Wood Brook. This includes a small section of the Porter Brook from the current boundary at Hangingwater Road, then following the Bluebell Wood Brook all the way to meet the boundary on the south end of Common Lane. As Area H is almost entirely composed of the allotments and Bluebell Wood it is assumed to have zero population, while Area G would transfer only a handful of properties and less than 100 electoral population from Ecclesall to Fulwood.

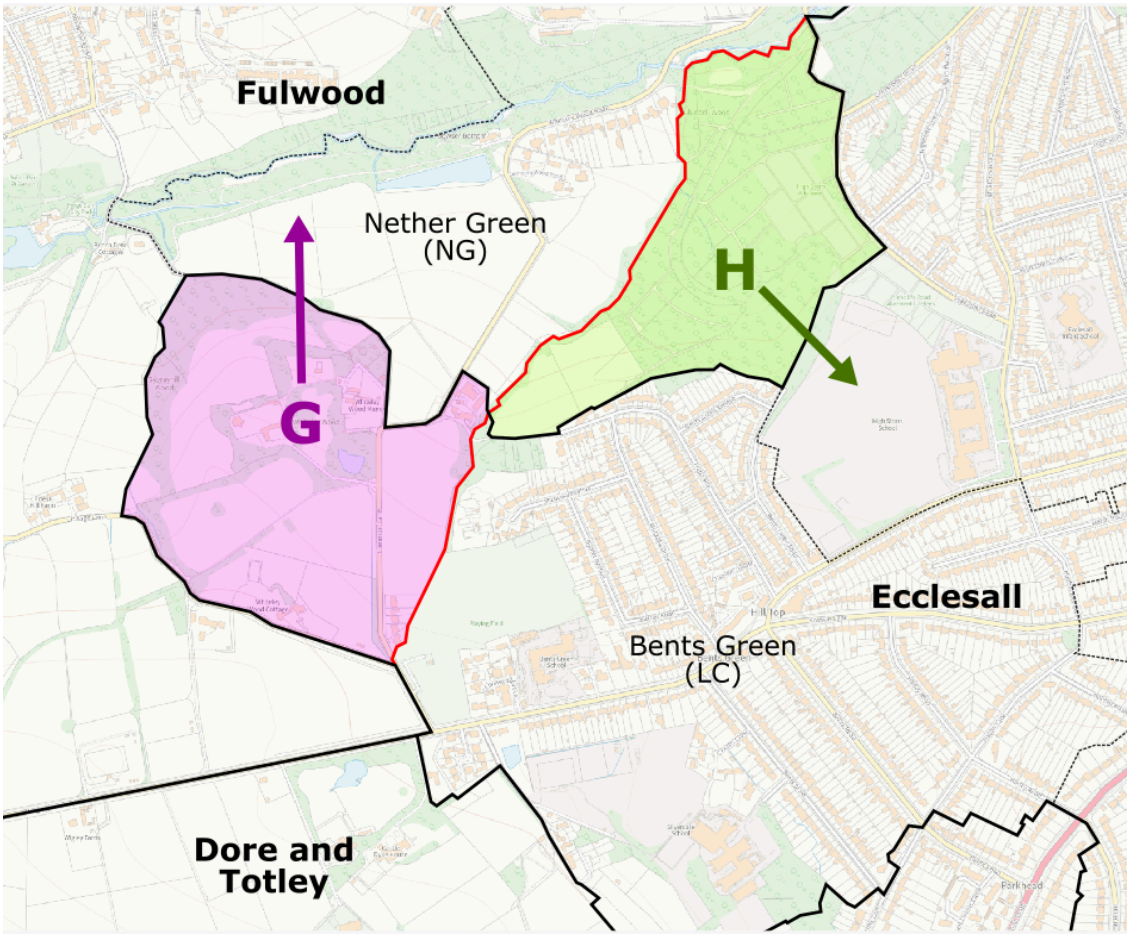


Figure 4: Proposed adjustments in the Bents Green area.

Summary

The overall changes to boundaries in this area are shown in **Figure 5**, and are summarised below:

- **Broomhill and Sharrow Vale** gains the student-dominated areas of Endcliffe from Fulwood (Area A) while losing Crookesmoor and the southern edge of Crookes to Crookes and Crosspool (Areas C and D)
- **Crookes and Crosspool** gains Areas C and D from Broomhill and Sharrow Vale, along with the minor Area B from Fulwood, but loses the southern fringe of Sandygate and Sandygate Park to Fulwood (Areas E and F).
- **Fulwood** gains Areas E and F from Crookes and Crosspool and Area G from Ecclesall while losing Area A to Broomhill and Sharrow Vale and minor Area H to Ecclesall.
- **Ecclesall** loses Area G to Fulwood in exchange for the unpopulated Area H.

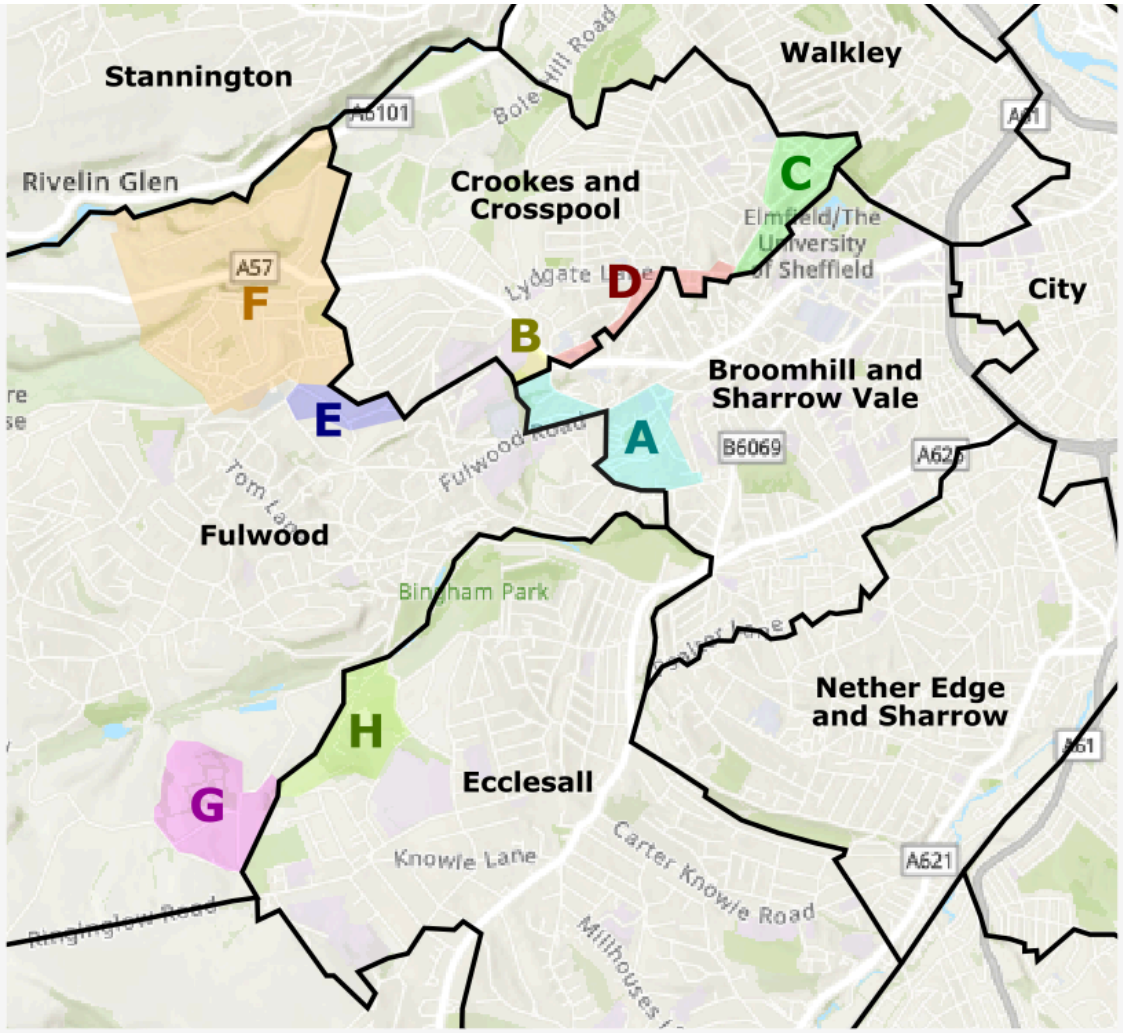


Figure 5: All proposed changes.

Although population changes were not the driving force of these suggestions, **Table A** below summarises the estimated changes to the four wards. The percentages in brackets show the variance from the target electorates (13,809 in 2025, 14,838 in 2031).

Overall, the triple-swap of Endcliffe transferring from Fulwood to Broomhill and Sharrow Vale, Crookesmoor transferring from Broomhill and Sharrow Vale to Crookes and Crosspool, and Sandygate transferring from Crookes and Crosspool to Fulwood is not unreasonable in terms of electorate. Broomhill and Sharrow Vale and Crookes and Crosspool are both far closer to the 2031 target than before, while Fulwood is moved slightly further away and Ecclesall is still over the target. However, more accurate population estimates and adjustments to the exact boundary lines could see a more balanced distribution here too.

Ward	Current Electorate 2025	Current Electorate 2031	Estimate 2025	Estimate 2031
Broomhill and Sharrow Vale	**13,330** (-3.5%)	**15,720** (+5.9%)	**13,330** (-3.5%) *Area A: +1,600* *Areas C & D: -1,600*	**14,920** (+0.6%) *Area A: +1,700* *Areas C & D: -2,500*
Crookes and Crosspool	**12,478** (-9.6%)	**13,452** (-9.3%)	**12,778** (-7.5%) *Area B: +0* *Areas C & D: +1,600* *Areas E & F: -1,300*	**14,552** (-1.9%) *Area B: +0* *Areas C & D: +2,500* *Areas E & F: -1,400*
Fulwood	**13,387** (-3.1%)	**13,888** (-6.4%)	**13,187** (-4.5%) *Area A: -1,600* *Area B: -0* *Areas E & F: +1,300* *Area G: +100* *Area H: -0*	**13,688** (-7.8%) *Area A: -1,700* *Area B: -0* *Areas E & F: +1,400* *Area G: +100* *Area H: -0*
Ecclesall	**15,765** (+14.2%)	**16,466** (+11.0%)	**15,665** (+13.4%) *Area G: -100* *Area H: +0*	**16,366** (+10.3%) *Area G: -100* *Area H: +0*

Table A: Changes to electoral values for each ward