

DISCUSSION NOTE

A NEW WARD PATTERN

Devising a new ward pattern must have regard to three legal criteria:

- Delivery of electoral equality for voters
- Provision of boundaries that reflect community identity
- Provision of effective and convenient local government

With a new Council size of 33 the starting point is 11x 3 member wards. The Commission will require very strong evidence to justify a departure from this or for electoral inequality greater than +/- 10%.

Electorate figures

Electorate in 2019 -66,626

Electorate in 2025 – 68,841

Ward Sizes

New Council size of 33 therefore 3x11 wards

	2019	2025
-10%	5451	5632
Perfect equality	6057	6258
+10%	6663	6884

Councillor: elector ratio

	2019	2025
-10%	1:1799	1:1877
Perfect equality	1:2019	1:2086
+10%	1:2221	1: 2295

Existing wards, polling districts and parish areas will be used as building blocks as far as possible. These are in large part representative of local communities.

Parishes will as far as possible be wholly contained in a ward. This will however not be possible as regards Nelson, Colne, Barnoldswick and Brierfield

To minimise confusion for electors the smallest possible number of changes to the present pattern is desirable. The Appendix gives a number of examples of combining wards.

A suggested pattern

The following are initial suggestions for discussion.

To retain the present West Craven area it will be necessary to reduce Coates (4207), Craven (4384) and Earby (4950) to two wards. In effect this would mean **enlarging Earby** and creating a **combined Coates/ Craven** ward. This would need a transfer of between 682 and 1934 electors to Earby to bring it within the +/-10% range. However to also bring Coates/ Craven within the range it would be necessary to reduce it by at least 1707 electors. Moving CV1 (1579) and CV2 (204) polling districts would be the simplest way of doing this.

It would mean that Barnoldswick parish would lie within two wards. Earby would continue to be wholly within one ward. The Bracewell and Brogden parish meeting would be wholly within one ward.

A combined Barrowford, Blacko and Higherford and Higham and Pendleside ward would seem to make a lot of sense. However it would be outside the electoral equality range (10.50%). This can be addressed by taking out Higham (HI polling district) so the new ward would be **Barrowford (3944), Blacko and Higherford (1442) and Pendleside (725)**

Reedley and Old Laund Booth would be combined together with Higham (HI).

The parishes of Barrowford, Blacko, Roughlee, Barley, Newchurch, Higham, Old Laund Booth and Reedley would all be wholly within one of the two wards.

A **combined Foulridge and Boulsworth** would keep together the District part of Colne and District.

Foulridge, Laneshaw Bridge and Trawden Forest parishes would all be wholly within the ward.

Horsfield could be split between Waterside and Vivary Bridge.

Waterside to take in polling districts HP (1296) and HO (1318) and Vivary Bridge to take in polling district HQ (1263) is the simplest way of doing this.

Colne parish would lie across the two enlarged wards and polling district FD2 in Foulridge/Boulsworth.

Combining Marsden and Southfield would bring together the eastern and most rural part of Nelson.

Similarly **combining Clover Hill and Walverden** would make sense in the built up south eastern part of Nelson.

Whitefield could be split between Bradley and Brierfield to form two new wards.

Bradley to take in polling district WI (1131) and Brierfield to take in polling district WH (1751) is the simplest way of doing this.

Brierfield Town Council would lie within the enlarged Brierfield ward and part of Reedley/Old Laund Booth/Higham. Nelson would lie across four wards.

The new wards would be:

Enlarged Earby (EA, EB, EC, EE, CV1, CV2) = 6733 (+ 7.59 %)

Coates/Craven (CQ, CR, CS, CW) = 6808 (+ 8.78 %)

Barrowford/Blacko and Higherford/ Pendleside (BA, BB, BC, BD, BE, HJ, HK, HL) = 6191 (-1.07%)

Reedley/Old Laund Booth/Higham (RA1, RA2, RB, RC, OL, HI) = 6456 (+3.6%)

Foulridge/Boulsworth (FD1, FD2, BG, BH, BI, BJ, BK) = 5729 (-8.44 %)

Enlarged Vivary Bridge (VA, VB, HQ) = 5714 (-8.69%)

Enlarged Waterside (WD, WE, WF, HP, HO) = 6601 (+5.48%)

Marsden/Southfield (MA, MB, SA, SB) = 6681 (+ 6.76%)

Clover Hill/Walverden (CA, CB, CC, WA) = 6256 (-0.05%)

Enlarged Bradley (BL, BM, BN, BO, WI) = 5835 (- 6.75%)

Enlarged Brierfield (BQ, BR, BS, BT, WH) = 5837 (- 6.77%)

Only four existing wards have been split and no existing polling districts have been split. By retaining most wards in combinations the above would seem to be strong on community identity.

In terms of electoral equality all the above are within +/- 10%. On the other hand only three are within +/- 5%. The Commission may wish to see some fine tuning to improve electoral equality across the Borough.

New names would need to be suggested for the new wards.

Area Committees

If the new Council wishes to have area committees then the above suggestions would produce the following:

West Craven – the same area as at present with two wards and 6 councillors.

Colne and District – the same area as at present with three wards and 9 councillors.

Nelson – the same area as at present with the addition of Brierfield with four wards and 12 councillors.

Barrowford and Western Parishes – the same area as at present with the addition of Reedley with two wards and 6 councillors.

Brierfield and Reedley –there does not seem to be any workable way of retaining this. Brierfield and Reedley wards together have a forecast electorate of 8586. To get down to the +/- 10% range for a single ward it would be necessary to move at least 1702 electors into the surrounding wards of Higham and Pendleside/ Old Laund Booth/Clover Hill/Walverden/Whitefield which does not seem to be satisfactory from a community identity point of view. And one ward of three councillors would clearly not make for a viable area committee. Conversely to create two enlarged wards within the +/- 10% range would require moving in 2,638 electors from the surrounding wards which again does not seem satisfactory from a community identity point of view.

APPENDIX

ADJOINING WARDS Within +/- 10 % (5632-6884)

Barrowford 3944, Old Laund Booth 1231 and Higham and Pendleside 1530 = 6705 (+7.14%)

Barrowford 3944 and Whitefield 2882 = 6826 (+9.06%)

Earby 4950 and Foulridge 1414 = 6364 (+1.68%)

Boulsworth 4315 and Foulridge 1414 = 5729 (-8.44%)

Vivary Bridge 4451 and Foulridge 1414 = 5865 (-6.28%)

Vivary Bridge 4451 and Blacko and Higherford 1442 = 5893 (-5.80%)

Marsden 2604 and Southfield 4077 = 6681 (+6.76%)

Clover Hill 3596 and Walverden 2660 = 6256 (-0.05%)

Reedley 4500 and Old Laund Booth 1231 = 5731 (-8.44%)

Waterside 3987 and Marsden 2604 = 6591(+5.32%)

Brierfield 4086 and Walverden 2660 = 6746 (+7.81%)

ADJOINING WARDS Outside +/- 10 % (5632- 6884)

Coates 4207 and Craven 4384 = 8591 (+37.30%)

Coates 4207 and Earby 4950 = 9157 (+46.31%)

Earby 4950 and Craven 4384 = 9334 (+49.14%)

Barrowford 3944 and Blacko and Higherford 1442 = 5386 (-13.95%)

Barrowford 3944 and Blacko and Higherford 1442 and Higham and Pendleside 1530 = 6916 (+10.50%)

Barrowford 3944 and Old Laund Booth 1231 = 5175 (-17.31%)

Barrowford 3944 and Old Laund Booth 1231 and Higham and Pendleside 1530 and Blacko and Higherford 1442 = 8147 (+ 30.20%)

Barrowford 3944 and Bradley 4704 = 8648 (+38.21%)

Blacko and Higherford 1442 and Higham and Pendleside 1530 and Old Laund Booth 1231 = 4203 (-33.17%)

Boulsworth 4315 and Horsfield 3877 = 8192 (+30.92%)

Boulsworth 4315 and Waterside 3987 = 8302 (+32.65%)

Boulsworth 4315 and Marsden 2604 = 6919 (+10.55%)

Brierfield 4086 and Whitefield 2882 = 6968 (+11.36%)

Brierfield 4086 and Reedley 4500 = 8586 (+37.20%)

Brierfield 4086 and Clover Hill 3596 = 7682 (+22.77%)

Walverden 2660 and Whitefield 2882 = 5548 (-11.46%)

Bradley 4704 and Marsden 2604 = 7308 (+16.79%)

Bradley 4704 and Southfield 4077 = 8781 (+40.32%)

Bradley 4704 and Whitefield 2882 = 7586 (+21.24%)

Clover Hill 3596 and Southfield 4077 = 7673 (+22.63%)

Horsfield 3877 and Waterside 3987 = 7864 (+22.65%)

Horsfield 3877 and Foulridge 1414 = 5291 (-15.44%)

Reedley 4500 and Old Laund Booth 1231 and Higham and Pendleside 1530 = 7465 (+19.27%)

Reedley 4500 and Old Laund Booth 1231 and Higham and Pendleside 1530 and Blacko and Higherford 1442 = 8703 (39.07%)

Vivary Bridge 4451 and Waterside 3987 = 8438 (34.85%)

Vivary Bridge 4451 and Horsfield 3877 = 8328 (33.08%)

