

City of Westminster
Majority Party Ward Boundary Submission
30th May 2019

This submission sets out proposals for warding arrangements based on the Boundary Commission's proposed council size of 54 elected members.

INTRODUCTION

The City of Westminster is situated at the heart of the capital, covering approximately 2,158 hectares, and by 2024 is projected to have a population of 259,800 (2017 based Central Trend GLA population projection). It comprises many historic buildings and Royal Parks and is also a centre for tourism, transport, shopping, nightlife and culture. Residentially it is characterised by a very wide range of properties and communities, including historic estates in Belgravia, Mayfair, Marylebone and Regent's Park; mansion blocks and flats in areas such as St John's Wood, Maida Vale and Bayswater; and significant areas of social housing.

The present borough was established as part of the London Local Government re-organisation in 1965 from the former boroughs of Marylebone, Paddington and Westminster. The cosmopolitan nature of the population is shown both by the large number of European Union citizens registered, and the significant number of households where no-one is registered to vote because they are citizens of countries not eligible to be included on the electoral register.

BOROUGH PROFILE

As detailed in Section 3 of the Council's Submission on Council size, 27th February 2019:

Stretching just over eight square miles, Westminster is one of London's largest central boroughs and one of only two to have city status. We are home to many of the landmarks synonymous with 'tourist London'. We have some of the most affluent residential areas in the country, but a diverse demographic means also some of the most deprived. Ours is also very densely populated borough, almost double the London average. To compound that density, Westminster has the largest amount of jobs of any local authority in the country, and with visitors included, this swells the day time population to over 1 million people – around 4 times the permanent population.

Westminster's resident population live complex lives. Over half the residents in the City were born overseas, and between 25% and 30% of the population arrive or leave the City each year. Both internal and international migration in and out of the Borough is sizeable, and many people move to the City for under a year, and form part of a group known as "short-term migrants" who are not even counted in population figures. The use of housing stock is unusual, with many occupants owning a second property with their main home elsewhere, whilst others use Westminster as their primary but not sole home. There are many communities from nationalities who are unable to vote, and the overall effect is a complicated housing to elector ratio that differs across the City, in a way that would not be found in many other boroughs. These factors have been taken in account when considering future elector numbers.

COUNCIL SIZE

As confirmed by the Local Government Boundary Commission, the Council believes that it is appropriate for the number of councillors to be reduced from the present 60 to 54. As detailed in Section 2.2 of the Council's Submission on Council Size, 27th February 2019:

This is primarily because of the switch from a Committee to a Strong Leader model. In 2022, the current model will have existed for twenty years during which time the way in which the council operates has changed substantially. This trend will continue in the future and will enable a smaller number of councillors to cover what remains a substantial but increasingly differently managed and delivered current and future workload.

ELECTORATE AND COUNCIL SIZE

The Council has projected the electorate will increase from 136,270 in December 2018 to 149,771 in 2024. A Council size of 54 equates to an electoral ratio of electors for each councillor in 2024 of 2,774 or a three-member ward of 8,321 electors.

The Commission's main criteria are:

- *The aim of the electoral review is to recommend ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters;*
- *we also aim to ensure that the ward boundaries reflect the interests and identities of local communities, as well as promoting effective local government.*

Our submission respects these principles and ensures the first criteria is particularly adhered to.

We strongly support that the number of councillors should be 54 and equally strongly believe that this should be served by 18 three member wards.

THREE MEMBER WARDS

The Council has experience of a significant number of two member wards prior to 2002 and this leads to a strong preference for Westminster to retain three member wards following these boundary changes. In a Cabinet system, a two-member ward can lead to significant pressure on the second member, if their colleague holds a senior Council post especially in the Council Cabinet, is ill, or has a major time commitment from their professional employment. With three members, the ward work can be more balanced and one member is not disadvantaged by the commitments of only one colleague.

It is possible, as demonstrated in these proposals, to produce 18 three member wards which are all very close to the required target electoral quota. The nature of most of Westminster's areas is that they are composed of streets that have different characteristics but that in itself does not justify separating out a smaller part to form a one or two member ward.

Another feature of Westminster is that the Council introduced a Ward Budget programme more than 10 years ago. This allocates a budget to be used by ward members to spent on their local priorities. It is possible that the ward members might not agree on priorities and with two-member wards this would lead to some significant difficulties as a majority decision on a ward project might not be reached. If a Council officer or another councillor had to intervene between the two councillors, this would negate the local democratic purpose of the programme.

WARD BOUNDARIES

As detailed in the Report "Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) Review of Electoral Wards within the Westminster City Council boundary" to the General Purposes Committee 30th May 2019, paragraph 4. i. "Background to electorate inequality" explains:

- *Westminster's current ward arrangements no longer provide for equitable voting across the City. Differential population growth rates, occupation of property spaces and migration patterns of non-eligible adults have all contributed to variances in the number of electors in each ward.*
- *The electorate figures for December 2018 with deviations from the Westminster mean are shown below.*

Existing Wards

Ward	Actual Elector Numbers in 2018	Electors Variation from Ward Average in 2018
Abbey Road	6,457	-5%
Bayswater	6,609	-3%
Bryanston and Dorset Square	6,722	-1%
Church Street	7,395	9%
Churchill	6,522	-4%
Harrow Road	8,038	18%
Hyde Park	6,941	2%
Knightsbridge and Belgravia	4,407	-35%
Lancaster Gate	7,126	5%
Little Venice	6,827	0%
Maida Vale	6,924	2%
Marylebone High Street	5,833	-14%
Queen's Park	8,370	23%
Regent's Park	6,947	2%
St James's	7,220	6%
Tachbrook	5,801	-15%
Vincent Square	7,363	8%
Warwick	6,391	-6%
West End	6,087	-11%
Westbourne	8,290	22%
TOTAL	136,270	

Our general approach has been to leave wards unchanged or make only small changes where this is possible. Our proposals have enabled eight wards out of the proposed 18 to be in this category. Of the remaining ten proposed wards, these have been formed by looking at seven groups of adjoining wards. The primary factor in developing the wards is to achieve electoral equality. These proposals mean no ward is more than or less than 5.5% of the target electoral quota in 2024. Indeed 11 of the 18 wards proposed are within 2% of the electoral target quota. The grouping of wards has ensured that the established community boundaries are not broken. Most major roads, railway lines and other established boundaries are respected in the proposals. These proposals have avoided making changes that whilst solving one problem create a knock-on effect to several adjoining wards.

The projected electorate figures for 2024 is used as the basis for calculating the new ward boundaries and the electorate for those areas. The methodology for calculating electorate numbers has proved to be robust when using approved planning applications as the main basis for electorate growth. When calculating the projected electorate for the last review in 1999 the Council assumed a significant growth for Hyde Park ward that was primarily due to the Paddington Basin developments; over the following years these assumptions have proved true.

Proposed Wards

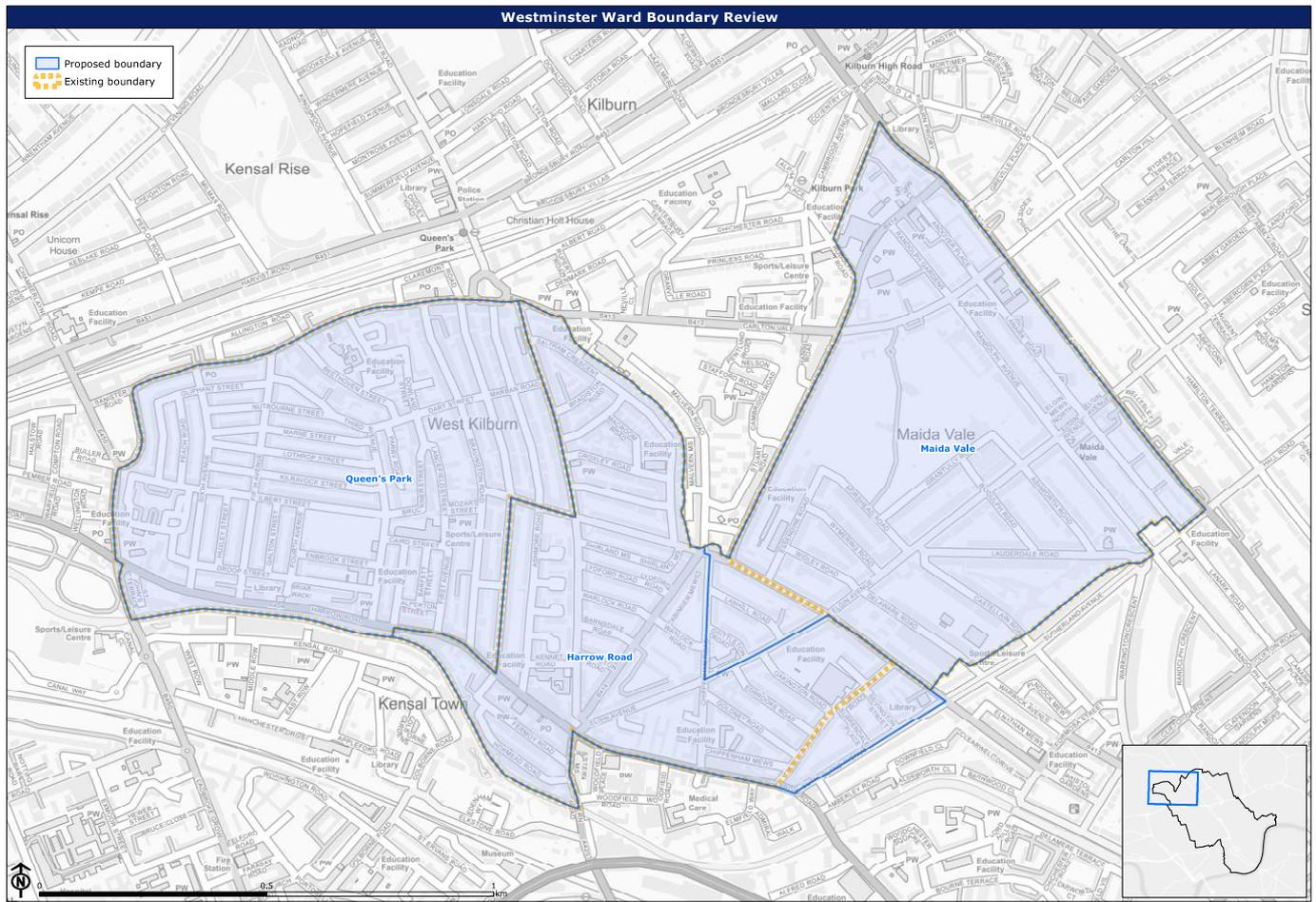
Ward	Projected Elector Numbers in 2024	Electors Variation from Ward Average in 2024
Abbey Road	8,221	-1.2%
Bayswater	8,557	2.8%
Church Street	8,406	1.0%
Harrow Road	8,210	-1.3%
Hyde Park	8,223	-1.2%
Knightsbridge and Belgravia	8,779	5.5%
Lancaster Gate	7,930	-4.7%
Little Venice	8,007	-3.8%
Maida Vale	8,116	-2.5%
Marylebone	8,612	3.5%
Pimlico	8,382	0.7%
Queen's Park	8,673	4.2%
Regent's Park	8,283	-0.5%
Riverside	8,172	-1.8%
St. James's	8,374	0.6%
Vincent Square	8,311	-0.1%
West End	8,314	-0.1%
Westbourne	8,200	-1.4%
Total	149,771	

These 18 proposed wards, their names and proposed electorates are set out below starting the north west of Westminster and ending in the south west:

- Queen's Park, Harrow Road and Maida Vale
- Westbourne and Little Venice
- Abbey Road, Church Street and Regent's Park
- Bayswater, Lancaster Gate and Hyde Park
- Marylebone and West End
- St James's and Vincent Square
- Knightsbridge & Belgravia, Pimlico and Riverside

Queen's Park, Harrow Road and Maida Vale

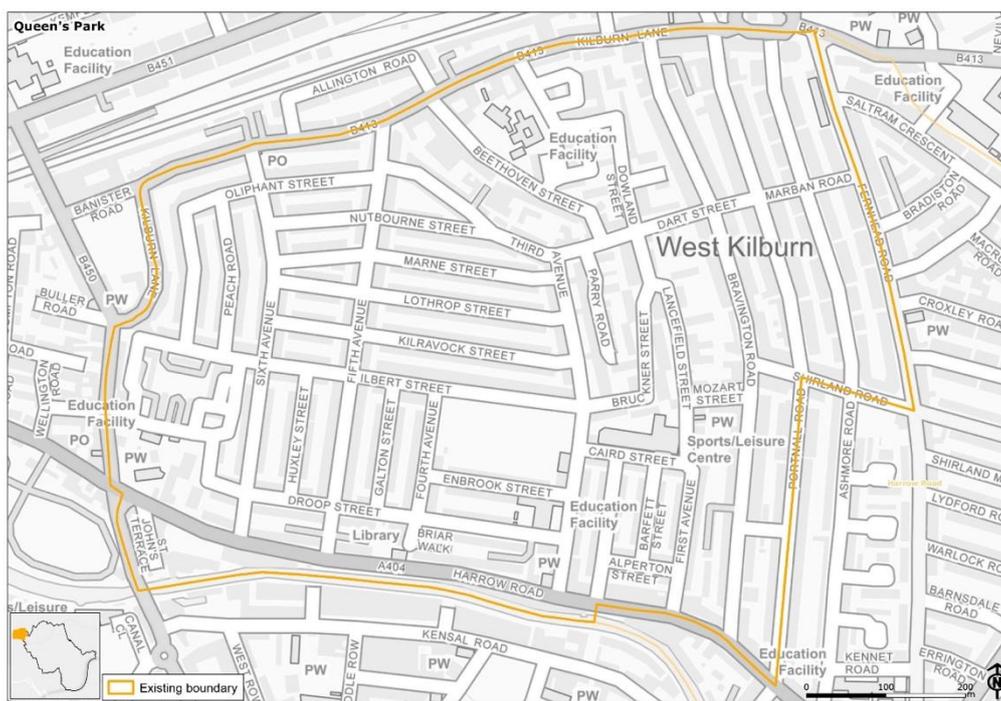
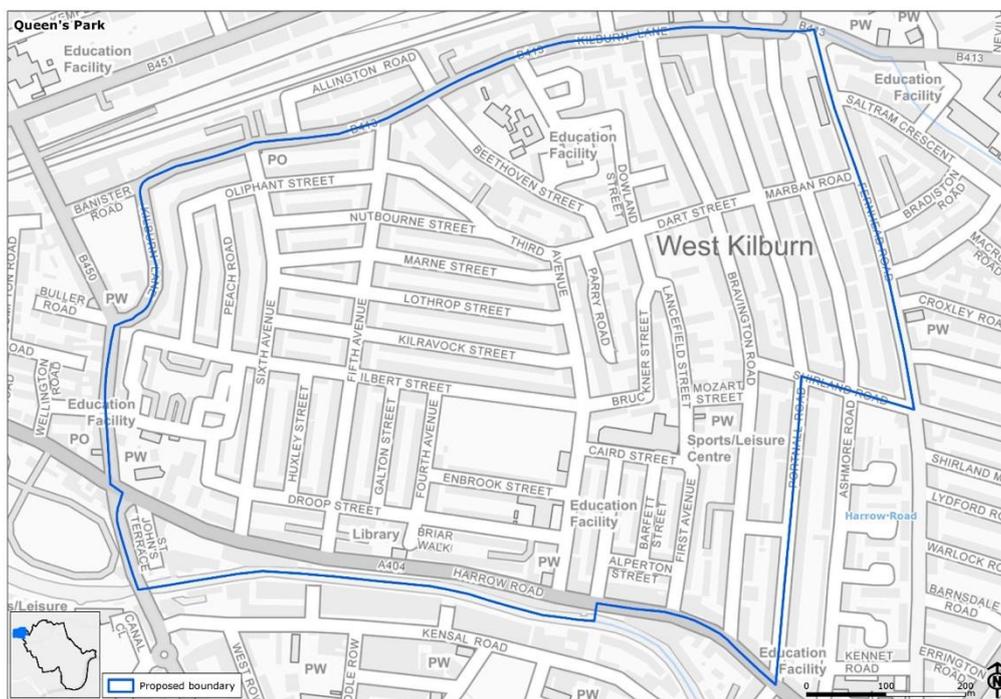
With Queen's Park ward at the north-west corner of the borough, these three wards are substantially contained within their existing area which is bordered by the Brent Council boundary to the north, the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea boundary to the west, the existing Harrow Road ward boundary is moved slightly to the south, this boundary is maintained to the north of Little Venice ward and then to the Maida Vale road to the east.



Queen's Park – UNCHANGED

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,673 (104.2% of target electorate)

Queen's Park ward is 58.4 ha and located at the north-western corner of Westminster. The proposed ward remains unchanged, with most of its boundary following Westminster's border with Kensington and Chelsea and Brent. The eastern edge, separating it from the Harrow Road ward boundary, follows Fernhead Road, Shirland Road, Portnall Road and Harrow Road.

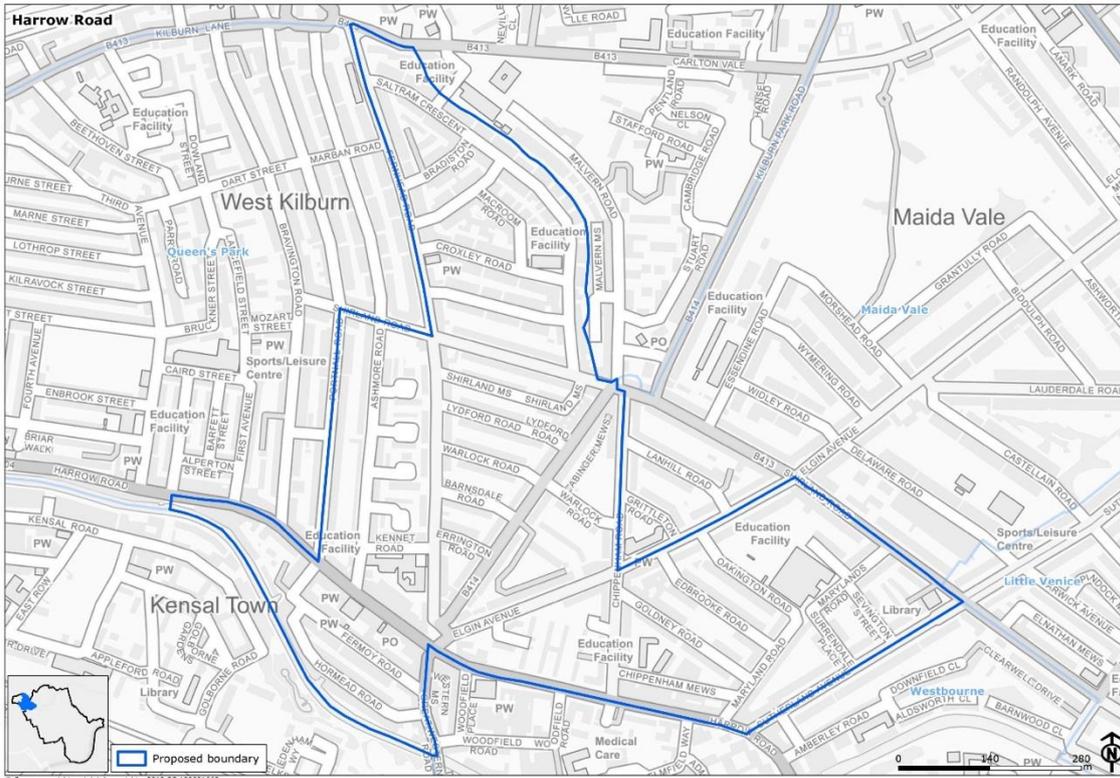


In order to protect the existing boundaries of the Queen's Park Community Council (QPCC), it is helpful to keep these boundaries coterminous with the existing ward boundary. The proposed electorate is just over 4% of the new target electorate and so is well within the tolerance allowed. Due to the Brent boundary, there would be very limited options to change any boundaries in this ward and also changes would not be justified as they would mean that the area was not coterminous with the boundaries of the QPCC whose first elections were in May 2014.

Harrow Road - LARGELY UNCHANGED

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,210 (98.7% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Harrow Road is 49.4 ha and located at the north west of Westminster. The western border of the proposed ward with Queen’s Park remains the same as before, following Fernhead Road, Portnall Road and Harrow Road. In the north it follows Westminster’s boundary and then continues to Chippenham Road, Elgin Avenue and Shirland Road. Harrow Road’s proposed southern boundary with Westbourne follows Sutherland Avenue and Harrow Road up to the junction with Great Western Road where it heads south to meet the canal, so forming a natural boundary.



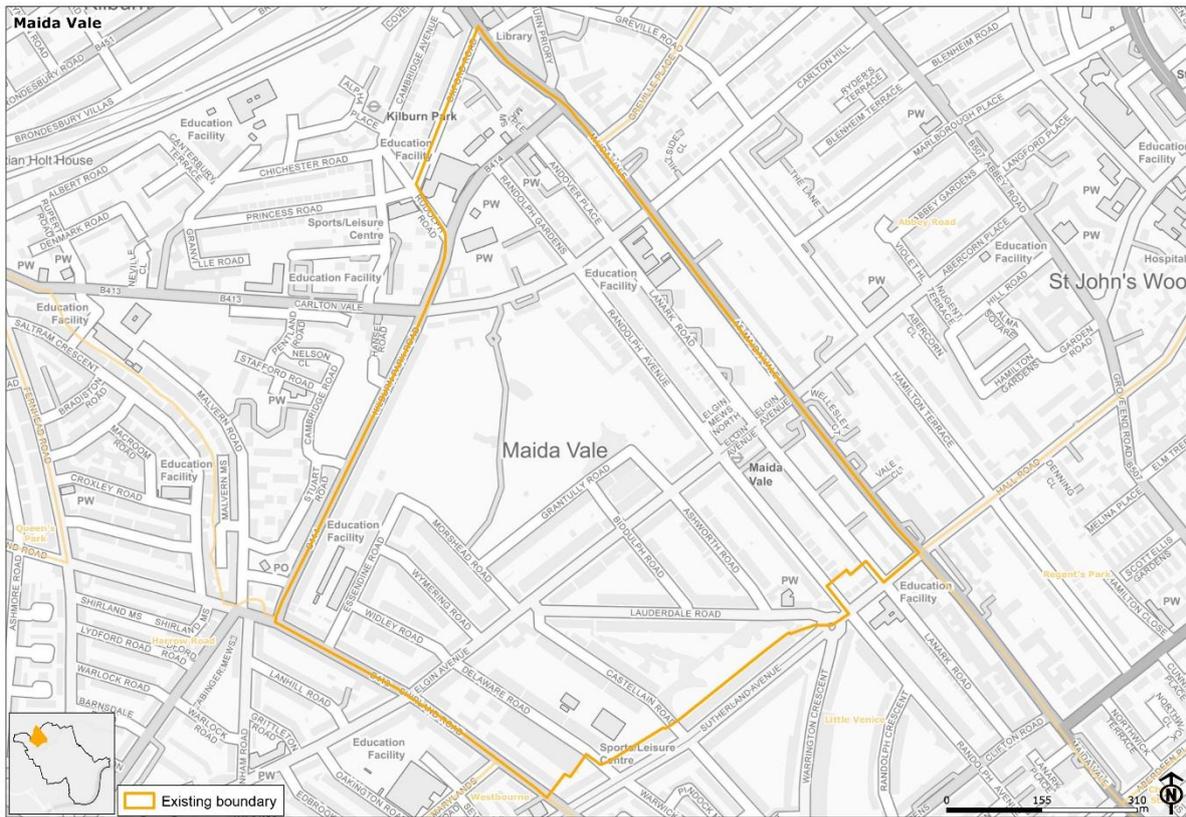
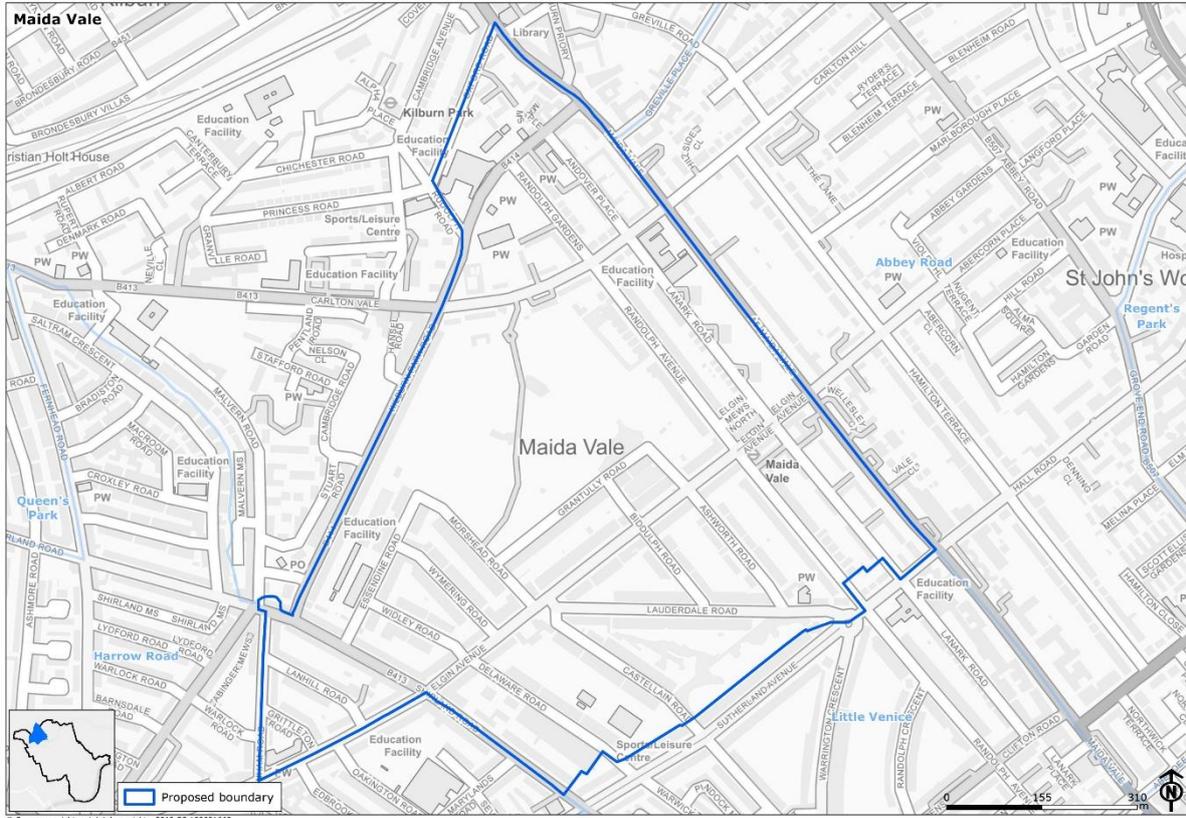
The current Harrow Road ward is bounded by Fernhead Road, Portnall Road, Harrow Road, Marylands Road and Shirland Road. Whilst it is not necessary to change the existing Harrow Road ward in terms of electoral equality as it is at 100% of the target electorate, two small changes are proposed to enable electoral equality in the neighbouring wards of Maida Vale and Westbourne.

It is proposed to transfer an area which takes in the west part of Sutherland Avenue up to Marylands Road which includes Sevington Street and Surrendale Street to Harrow Road Ward from Westbourne ward. This is a set of properties that were previously in Harrow Road ward and creates an appropriate continuous boundary for the new ward. The projected number of electors involved is 693. It is also proposed to transfer an area from the now expanded Harrow Road ward, that is bounded by Shirland Road, Elgin Avenue and Chippenham Road. It is a triangular shape and contains a projected electorate of 798. This is the best option of those available for Maida Vale Ward and achieves a Harrow Road ward within 1% of the electoral quota and for Maida Vale ward within 2% of electoral quota.

Maida Vale - LARGELY UNCHANGED

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,116 (97.5% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Maida Vale is 68.6 ha and located at the northern edge of Westminster. It follows the border between Westminster and Brent in the north and Southerland Avenue in the south. The proposed eastern edge is on Maida Vale and separates it to Abbey Road ward. In the west, the boundary follows Shirland Road, Elgin Avenue and Chippenham Street.

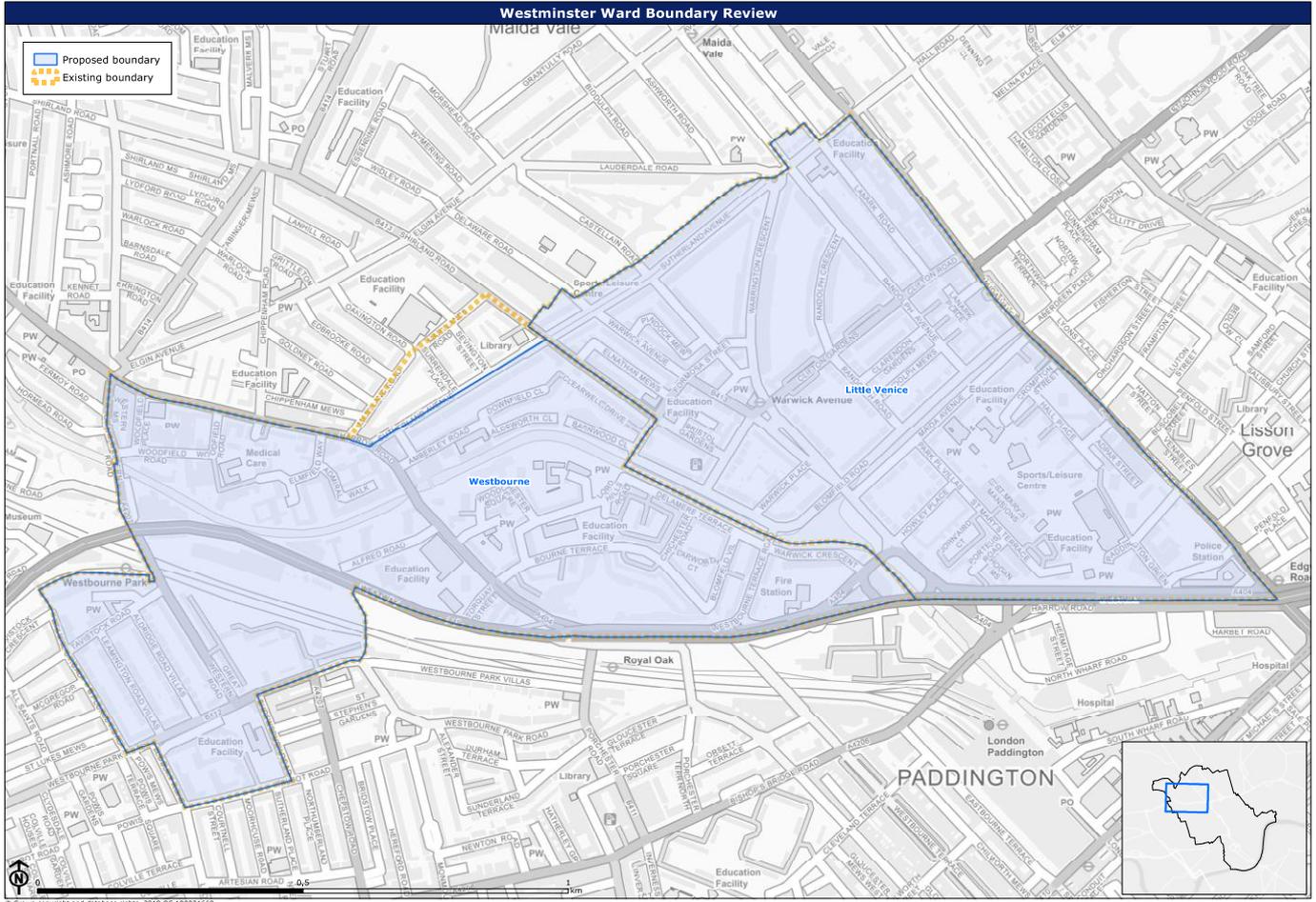


Maida Vale ward is currently bounded by Maida Vale, Kiburn Park Road, Shirland Road and just to the north of Sutherland Avenue. It is significantly below its target electoral quota with over a 1,000 elector gap. Therefore, it needs to have an increase in its electorate to remove that shortfall. Various options were examined but the Brent boundary that sits between Maida Vale and Harrow Road wards makes a move of electors around that location very problematic and not an acceptable option. Equally a direct transfer between the existing Westbourne ward, which is over electoral quota, and Maida Vale does not create a sufficiently close geographic link between the current boundaries of Maida Vale ward and those electors.

Therefore, it is proposed to transfer an area from Harrow Road ward, that is bounded by Shirland Road, Elgin Avenue and Chippenham Road. It is a triangular shape. This is the best option of those available and achieves a Harrow Road ward within 1.3% of the electoral quota and for Maida Vale ward within 2.5% of electoral quota. The projected number of electors involved is 798. The proposed group of electors to be transferred are geographically linked and use the same shopping facilities and transport links as the rest of the ward.

Westbourne and Little Venice

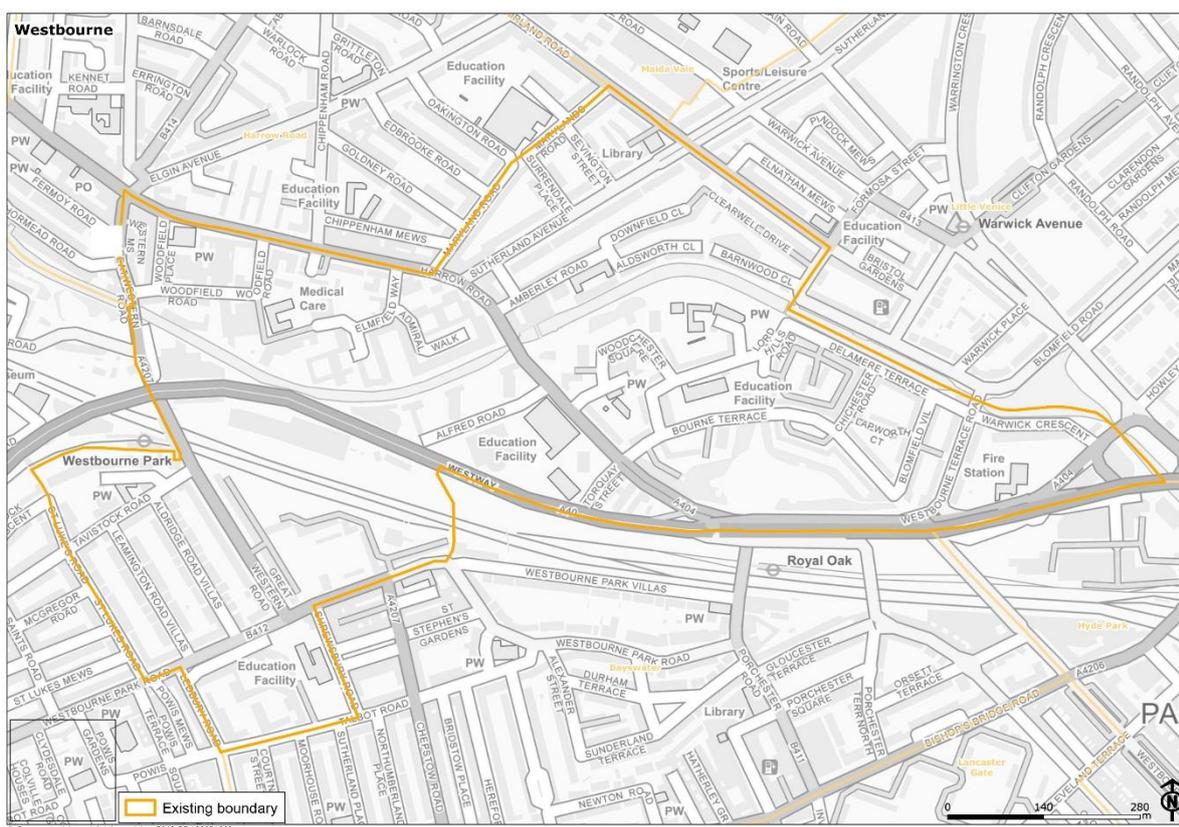
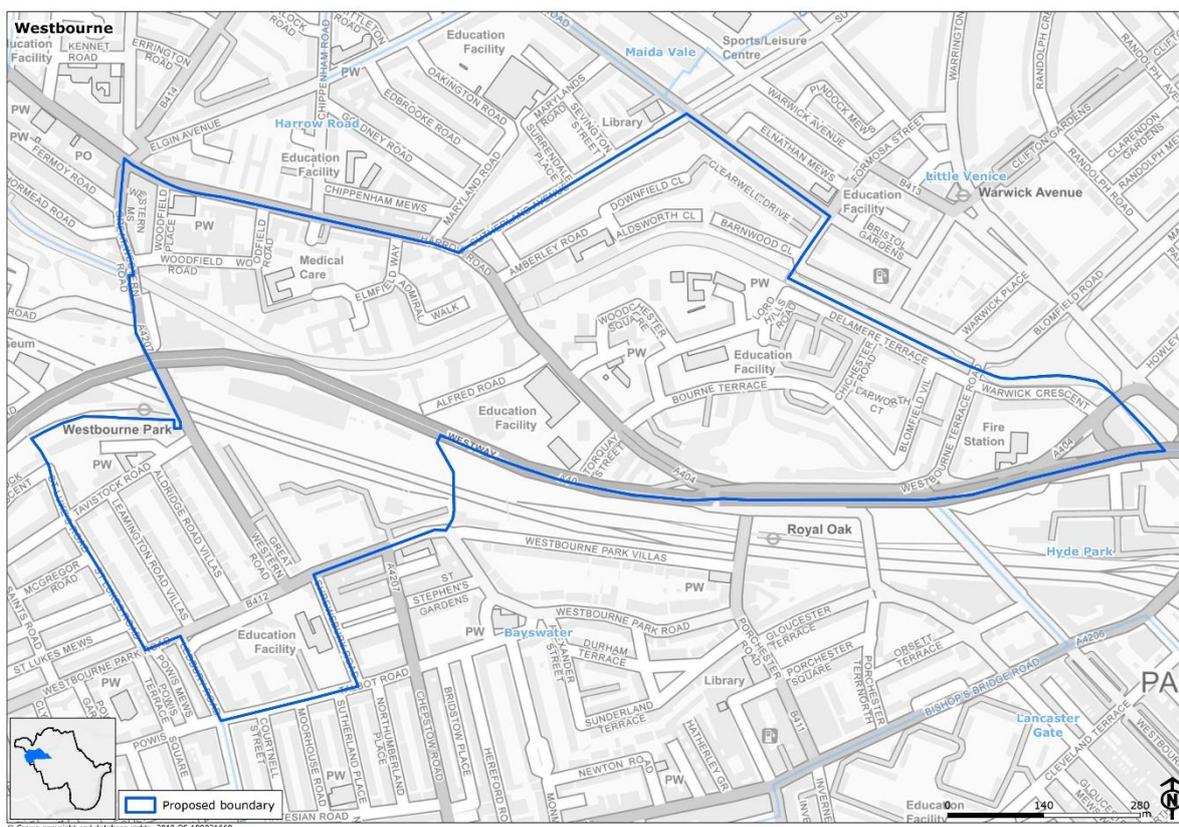
With the exception of the section between Marylands Road and Sutherland Avenue transferred to the proposed Harrow Road ward, these two wards remain the same starting with the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea boundary to the west, northwards from Westbourne Park Underground station, south down Harrow Road, then eastwards along Sutherland Avenue, to the Maida Vale road to the east, to back westwards along the Grand Union Canal and finally follows Westbourne Park Road, Shrewsbury Road and Talbot Road to the boundary with Kensington and Chelsea.



Westbourne - LARGELY UNCHANGED

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,200 (98.6% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Westbourne is 63.8 ha and located at the west of Westminster. The western edge of the ward follows Westminster's border with Kensington and Chelsea. In the north, Westbourne's boundary follows Harrow Road, Sutherland Avenue, Shirland Road and the canal where it meets Westway. The southern edge, lies mainly on Westway, and also follows Westbourne Park Road, Shrewsbury Road and Talbot Road.



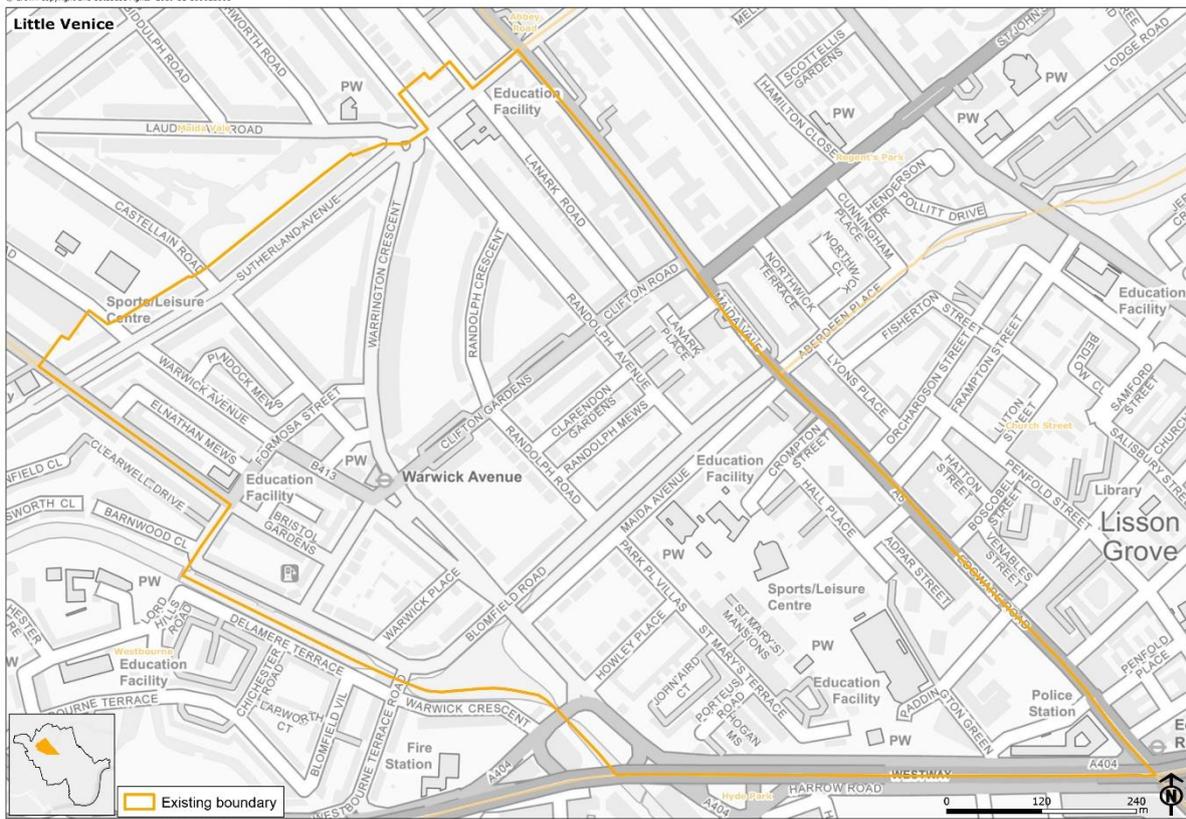
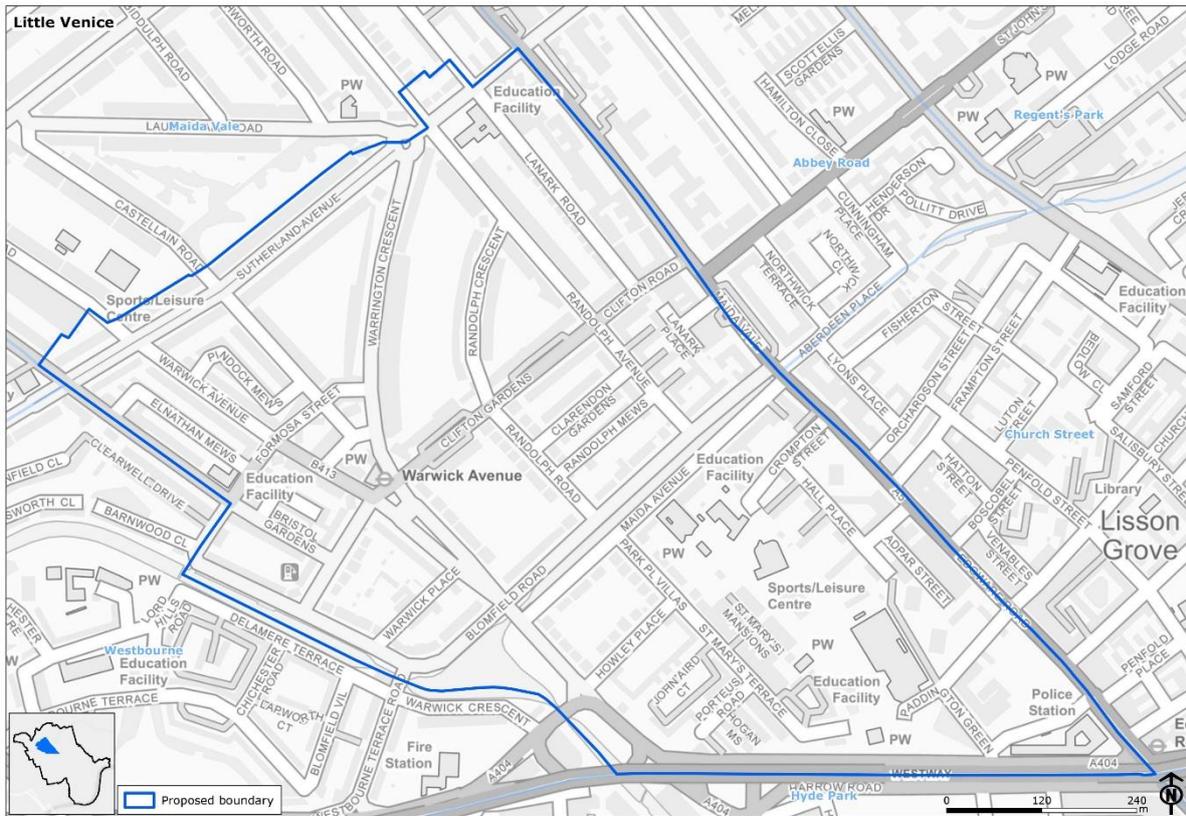
This current ward of Westbourne ward is composed of the 1960s Warwick estates and bounded by Grand Union Canal and the Westway with the Westbourne Green park at its centre.

The current electorate of Westbourne ward is over its target electorate. However, by transferring the area of the west part of Sutherland Avenue up to Marylands Road which includes Sevington Street and Surrendale Street to Harrow Road ward (as also described above), the ward would be within 1.4% of its electoral quota. As described above it also succeeds in achieving the desired electoral equality for Harrow Road and Maida Vale wards. The electors transferred were previously in Harrow Road ward, so it is a natural group to transfer whilst protecting community identities in the area. It is not necessary or desirable to propose any other changes to the ward as to do so would lead to other changes having to be made to other wards to bring back the ward to electoral equality.

Little Venice - UNCHANGED

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,007 (96.2% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Little Venice is approximately 63.7 ha and located at the north of Westminster. It follows Sutherland Avenue in the north and Westway in the south. The ward's western edge is mainly on Maida Vale and Edgware Road, and in the east, it follows the canal, Formosa Street and Shirland Road.

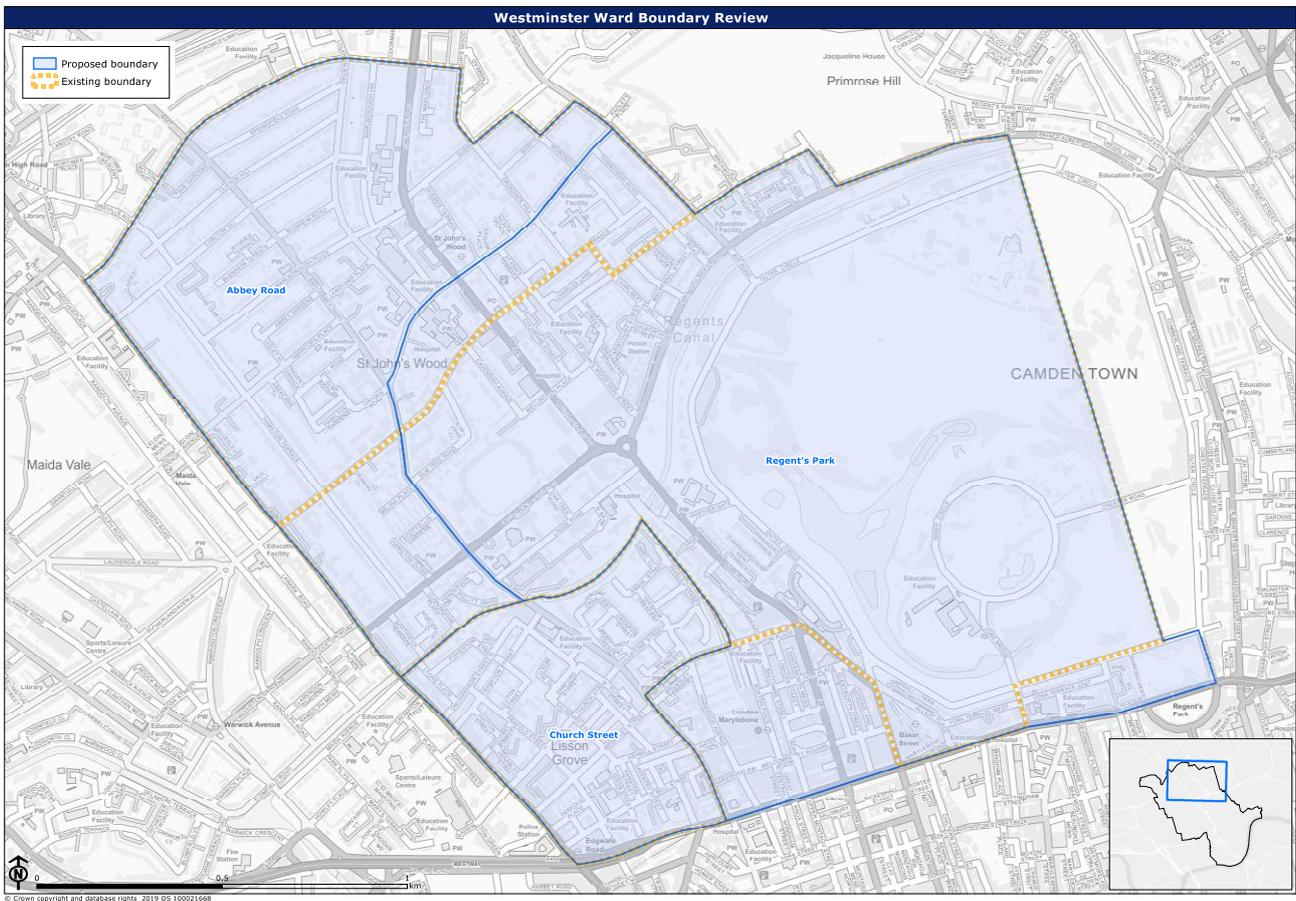


Whilst Little Venice ward is 4% below the electoral quota, it is a ward that benefits from unchanged boundaries since 1978. The ward is bounded by Maida Vale/Edgware Road, Sutherland Avenue, Shirland Road, the Grand Union canal and Harrow Road.

There are also additional housing developments outside the timeframe of this electoral review that will increase the population of the ward over the coming years by many hundreds of residents. There is no obvious transfer of electors from neighbouring wards due to geographical limitations such as the Edgware Road and the canal that form the natural boundaries in this part of Westminster. The neighbouring wards of Maida Vale and Westbourne are already marginally below the target electoral quota. It is therefore proposed to leave the ward boundaries unchanged.

Church Street, Abbey Road and Regent's Park

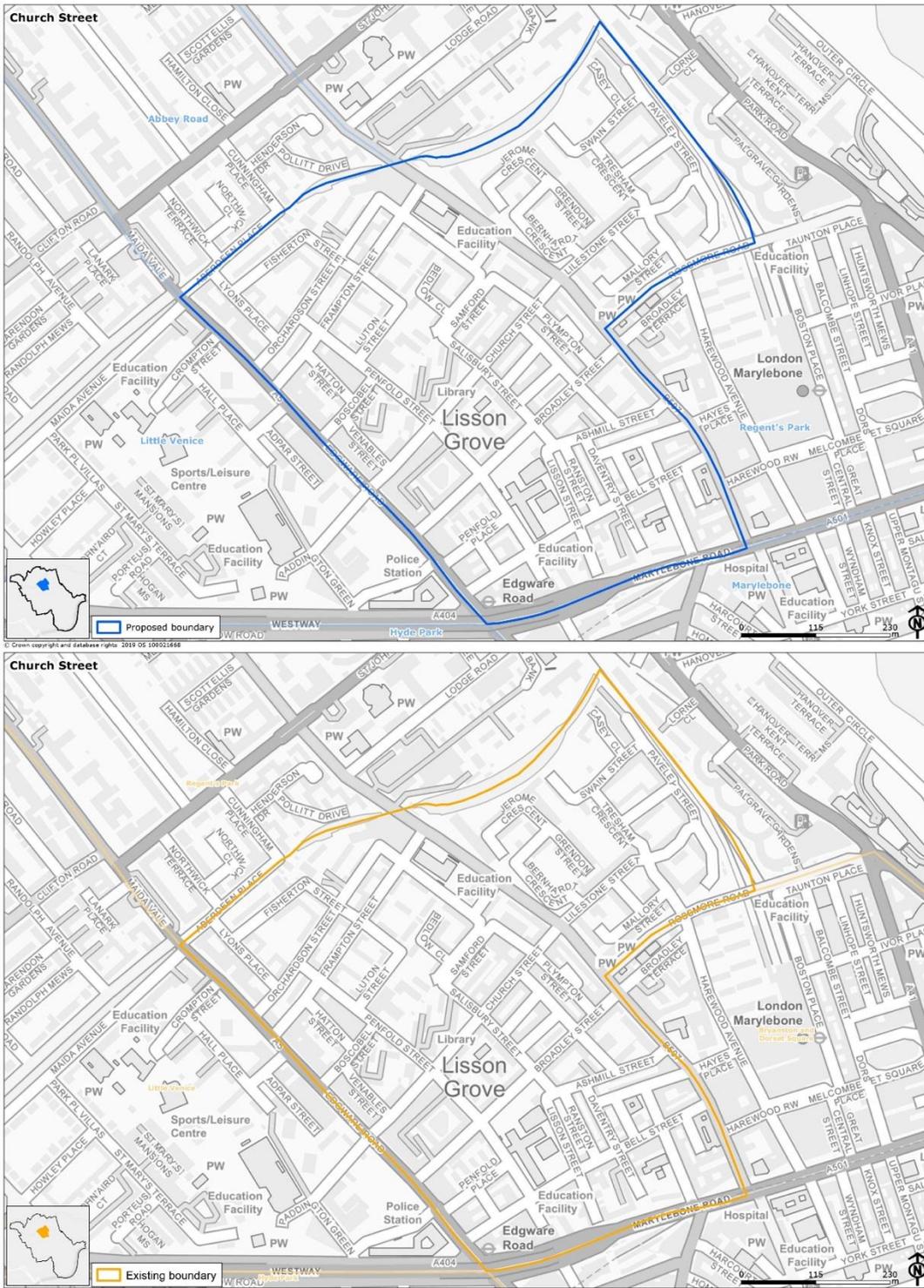
The area covered by these three wards remains substantially the same. Starting with Edgware Road and Maida Vale to the west, at the northern end it turns eastwards along the borough boundary with Camden Council, turns southwards through Regent's Park then goes westwards along Marylebone Road back to Edgware Road. This reintroduces the heavily trafficked A501 Marylebone Road as a ward boundary.



Church Street ward - UNCHANGED

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,406 (101.0% of target electorate)

Church Street ward is 44.2 ha and located at the north of Westminster. The ward boundary remains unchanged, with Regent's Canal in the north, Edgware Road in the west, Marylebone Road in the south and Lisson Grove, Rossmore Road and the rail tracks forming the ward's east border with Regent's Park ward.

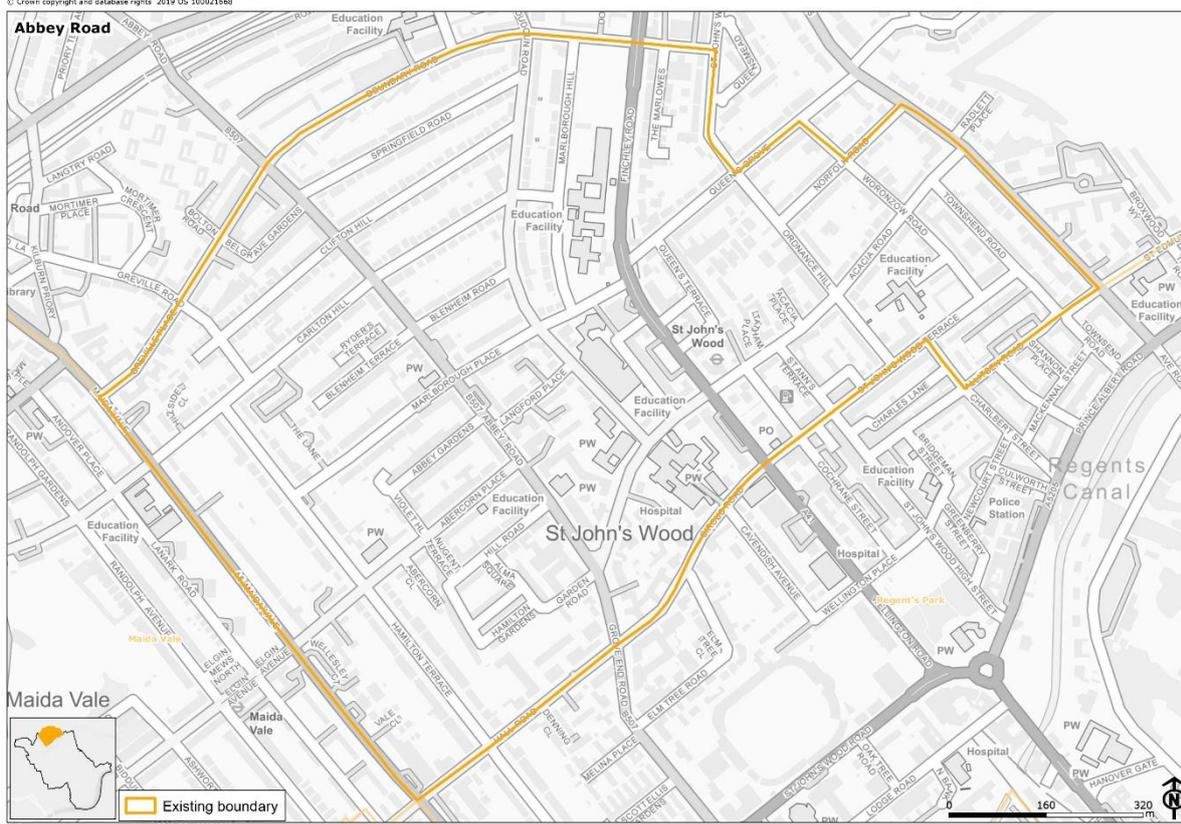
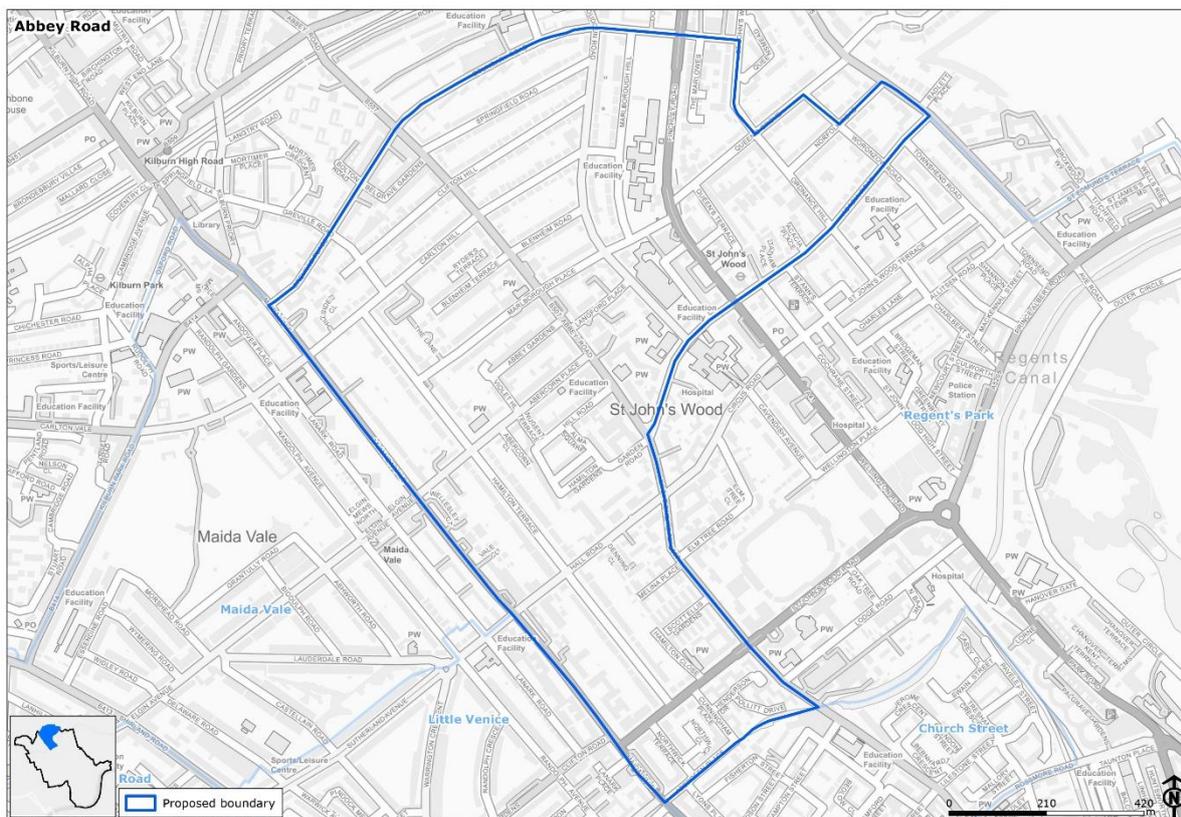


It is proposed to leave the boundaries of Church Street ward unchanged. The only change that could be considered is reinstating electors around Harewood Avenue that moved from the ward in the last boundary change. However, Church Street ward is proposed to be only 1% above the electoral quota and so there is no need to look for any changes to this ward that would increase that variance.

Abbey Road Ward

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,221 (98.8% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Abbey Road is approximately 110.50 ha and located at the north-eastern corner of Westminster. The proposed northern edge of the boundary follows the Westminster borough boundary with Camden along Greville Place and Boundary Road. It then follows Acacia Road and Grove End Road towards the south, where it meets the canal, forming a natural boundary. To the west, the boundary follows Maida Vale, which forms the border between Abbey Road ward to Maida Vale and Little Venice wards.

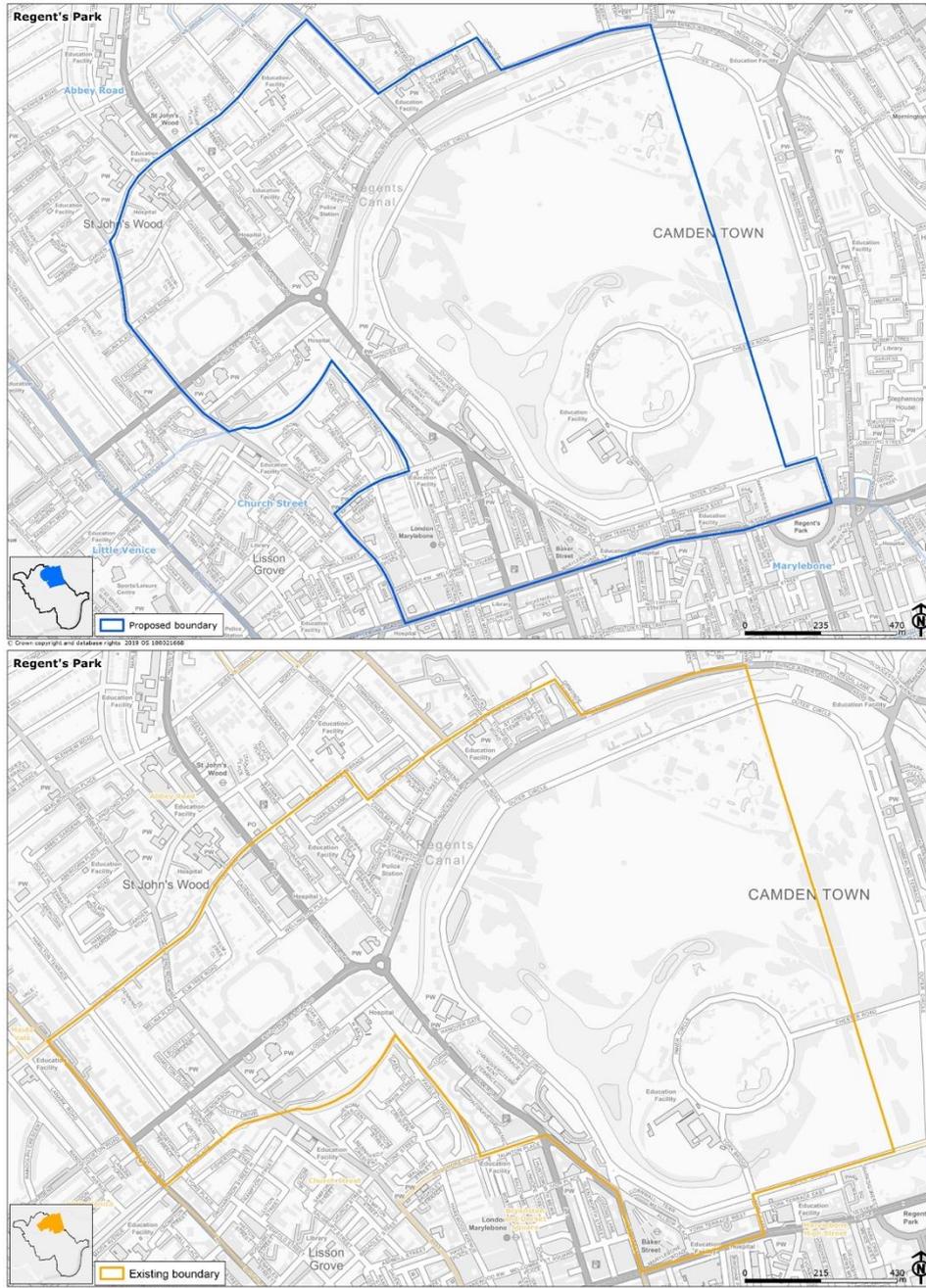


This proposed ward creates a ward that largely covers the wards previously known as Lords and Hamilton Terrace. Without crossing the main road of Maida Vale, this ward can only reach the target electorate by moving properties from the current Regent's Park ward. Both wards are part of St John's Wood area which means that all electors would identify with that locality. This new ward is formed by taking the existing Abbey Road ward and moving south along Maida Vale going down to the boundary with the canal. The new boundary to the north of Maida Vale would be Grove End Road which is mostly within the existing Abbey Road ward. The whole of Hamilton Terrace would now be in Abbey Road ward. By adding this group of properties, the proposed Abbey Road ward would be within 1% of the electoral quota.

Regent's Park Ward

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,283 (99.5% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Regent's Park is the second largest in area, at 254.2 ha, and located at the north-eastern edge of Westminster. It follows Westminster's border with Camden in the west and north. In the south, it lies mainly on Marylebone Road. The western edge of the proposed boundary follows Lisson Grove, Rossmore Road, Regent's Canal, Grove End Road and Acacia Road.

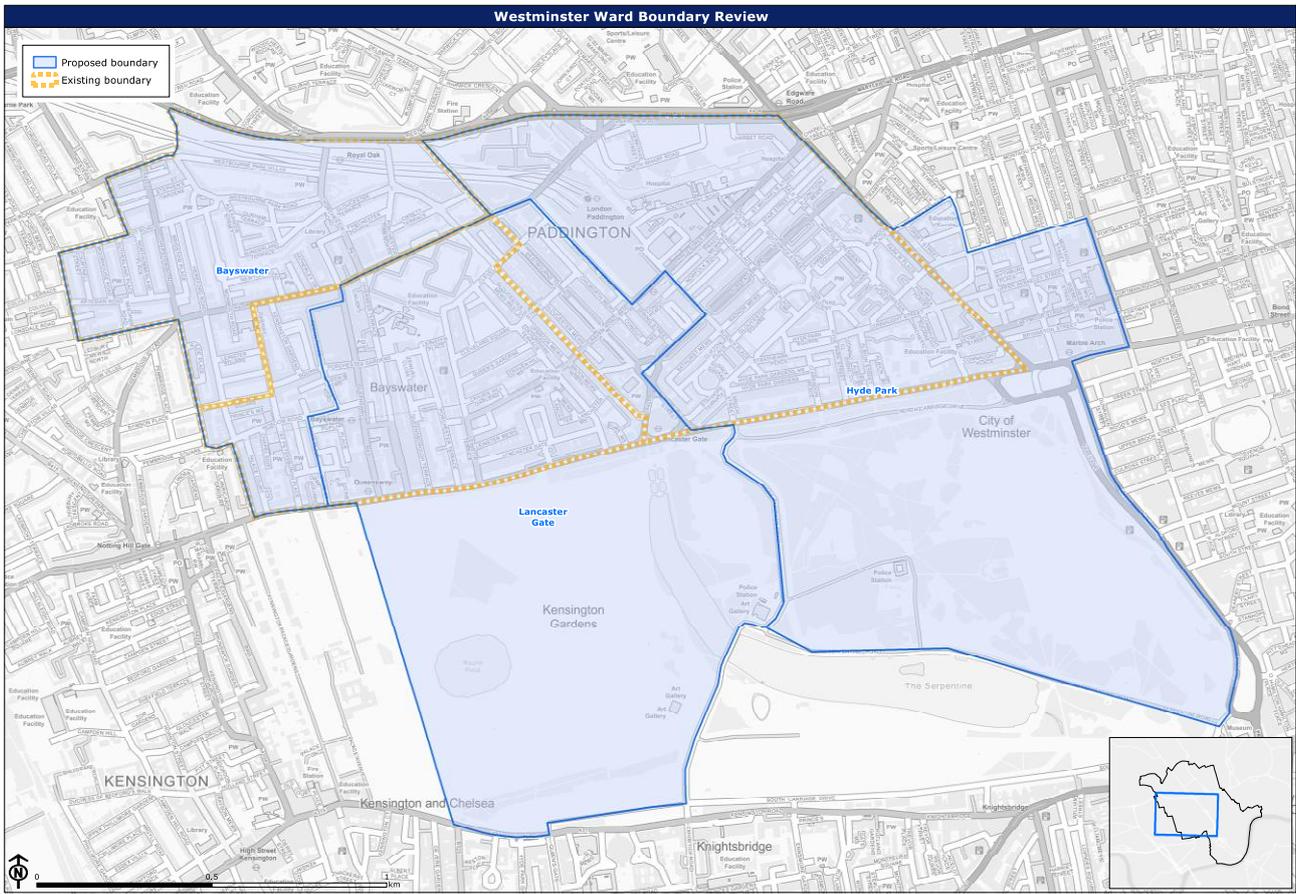


This ward and Abbey Road ward largely cover the St John's Wood area are also part of the original borough of Marylebone.

It is proposed to restore electors from the area to the south of the ward that were originally part of this ward prior to 2002. This is required to compensate for the electors that will move from this ward to Abbey Road ward. It is also proposed to include in this ward an area around Harewood Avenue that was pre-2002 in Church Street ward. This enables the electoral quota for Regent's Park ward to be achieved and not to take Church Street ward any further over the electoral ward target.

Bayswater, Lancaster Gate and Hyde Park

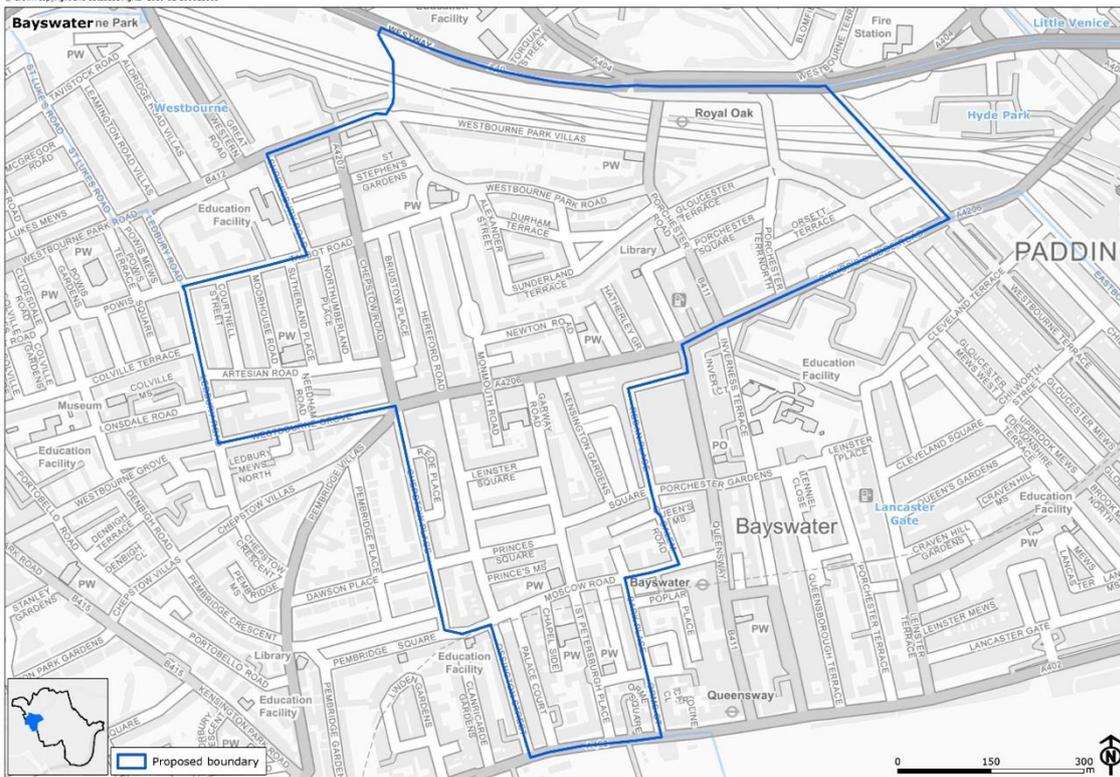
These Paddington based wards had their boundaries changed with each other during the last boundary review and due to population shifts it is necessary to do so again to achieve electoral equality. There are some community boundaries between these wards that need to be respected and these are preserved within the proposals. To respect electoral equality, the proposed Hyde Park ward includes the Marble Arch area either side of Edgware Road.



Bayswater

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,557 (102.8% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Bayswater is approximately 65.7 ha and located at the north west of Westminster. It is bounded by Westway, Westbourne Park Road, Shrewsbury Road and Talbot Road in the north, separating it from Westbourne ward. The proposed ward's eastern edge follows Westbourne Bridge Road and continues to Bishop's Bridge Road, Redan Place, Salem Road, Moscow Road and Bark Place where it meets Bayswater Road, which is Westminster's border to Kensington and Chelsea. The west edge follows Westminster's boundary.

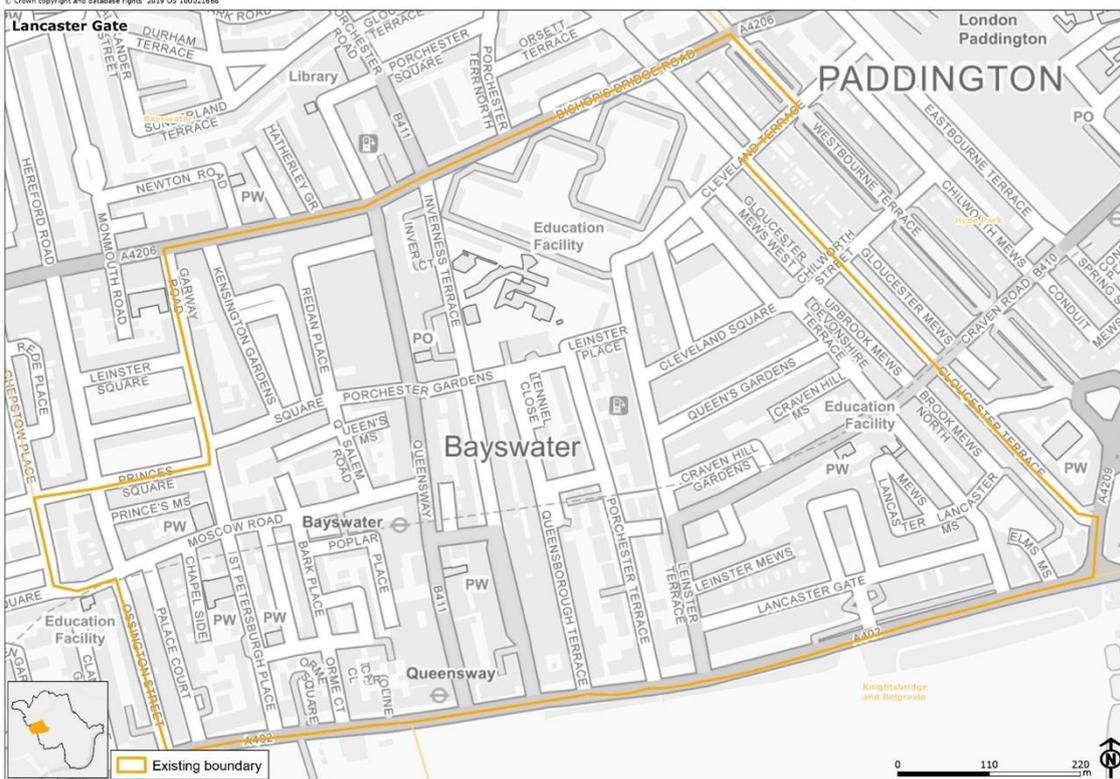
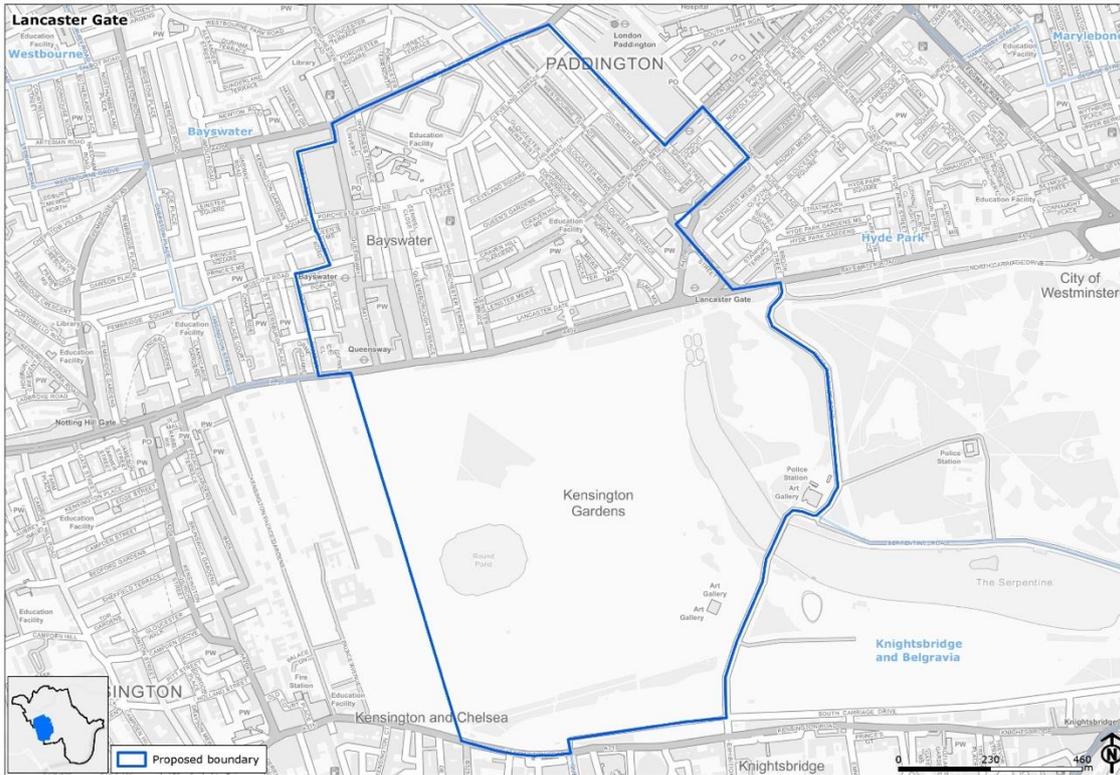


The new Bayswater ward is formed by adding the area south of Princes Square and taking the ward to the Bayswater Road and moving the boundary to the east towards Queensway. The areas added have the same housing characteristics as much of the existing Bayswater ward and use the same shopping and transport facilities. The area formed is one that would be termed as Bayswater by all those that live there. All of Kensington Gardens Square is kept in Bayswater ward to respect the geography of that square. The boundary of the ward has not been moved as far west as Queensway in order to preserve electoral equality for both this ward and Lancaster Gate ward, which is already proposed to be 5% under the target electoral quota. As described below, it is not appropriate to take parts of the Hyde Park Estate from the ward of that name.

Lancaster Gate

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 7,930 (95.3% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Lancaster Gate is 163.2 ha and located at the west of Westminster. It forms part of the western border between Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea, following Kensington Road and cutting across Kensington Gardens. The rest of the western boundary follows Orne Court, Bark Place, Moscow Road, Salem Road and Redan Place where it meets Bishop's Bridge Road. In the east, it follows Eastbourne Terrace, Craven Road, London Street, Sussex Gardens and Westbourne Street. The proposed ward also includes the north western area of Hyde Park, defined by West Carriage Drive and Albert Memorial Road.

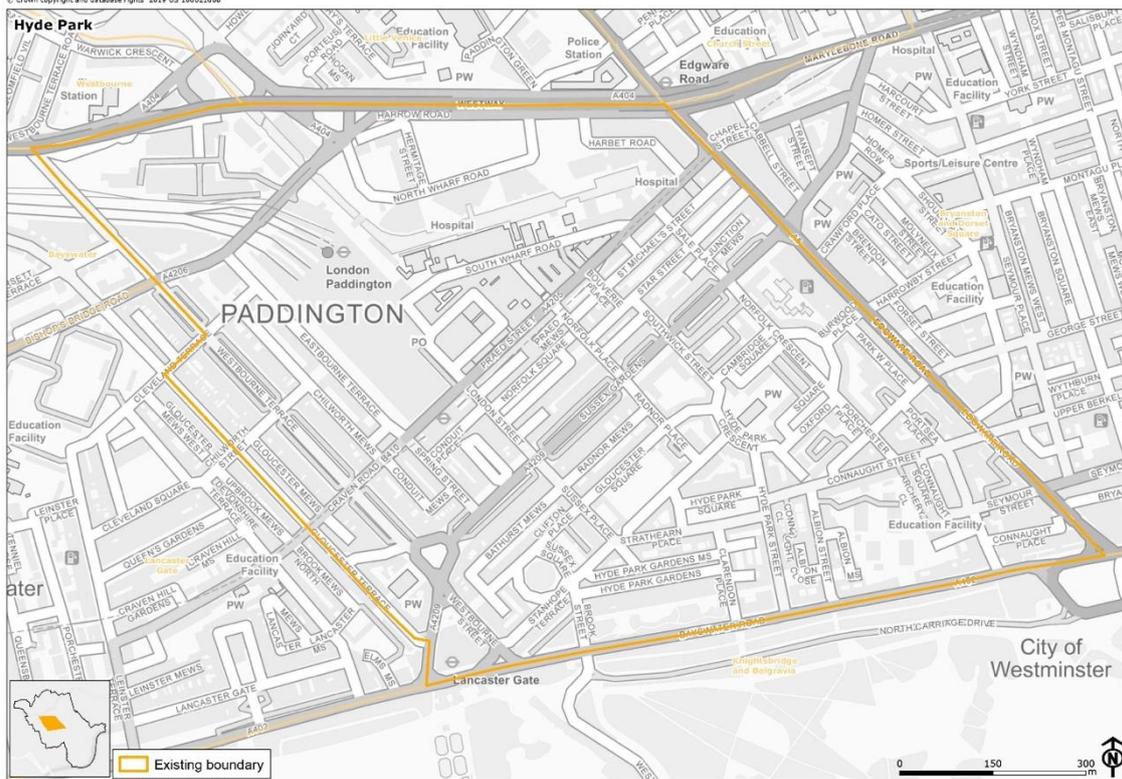
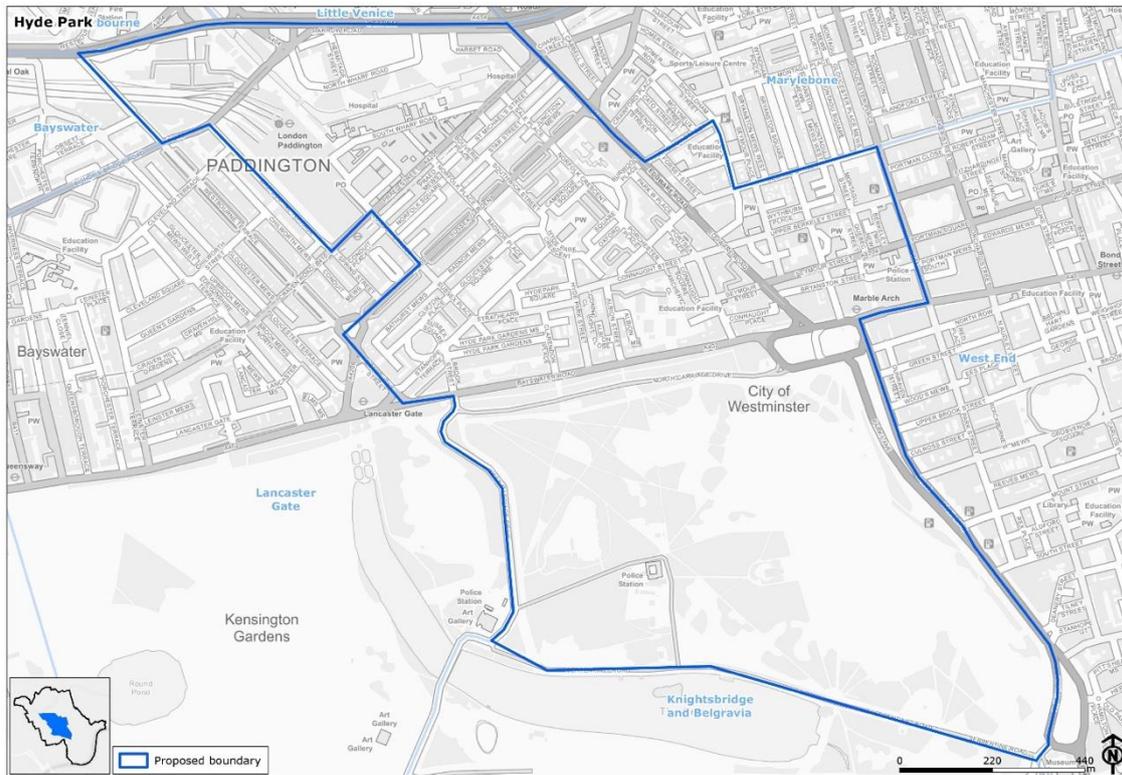


As a consequence of the proposed changes to Bayswater ward, it is proposed that Lancaster Gate ward moves its boundaries to Eastbourne Terrace, Spring Street and Sussex Gardens. There are natural dividing lines between the proposed Lancaster Gate ward and the boundaries of the adjoining Hyde Park ward. The areas to the south of Sussex Gardens are part of the Hyde Park Estate and this dictates where the boundary should be formed for the area. Electoral equality dictates that a small area to the west of Queensway is kept in the Lancaster Gate ward.

Hyde Park

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,223 (98.8% of target electorate)

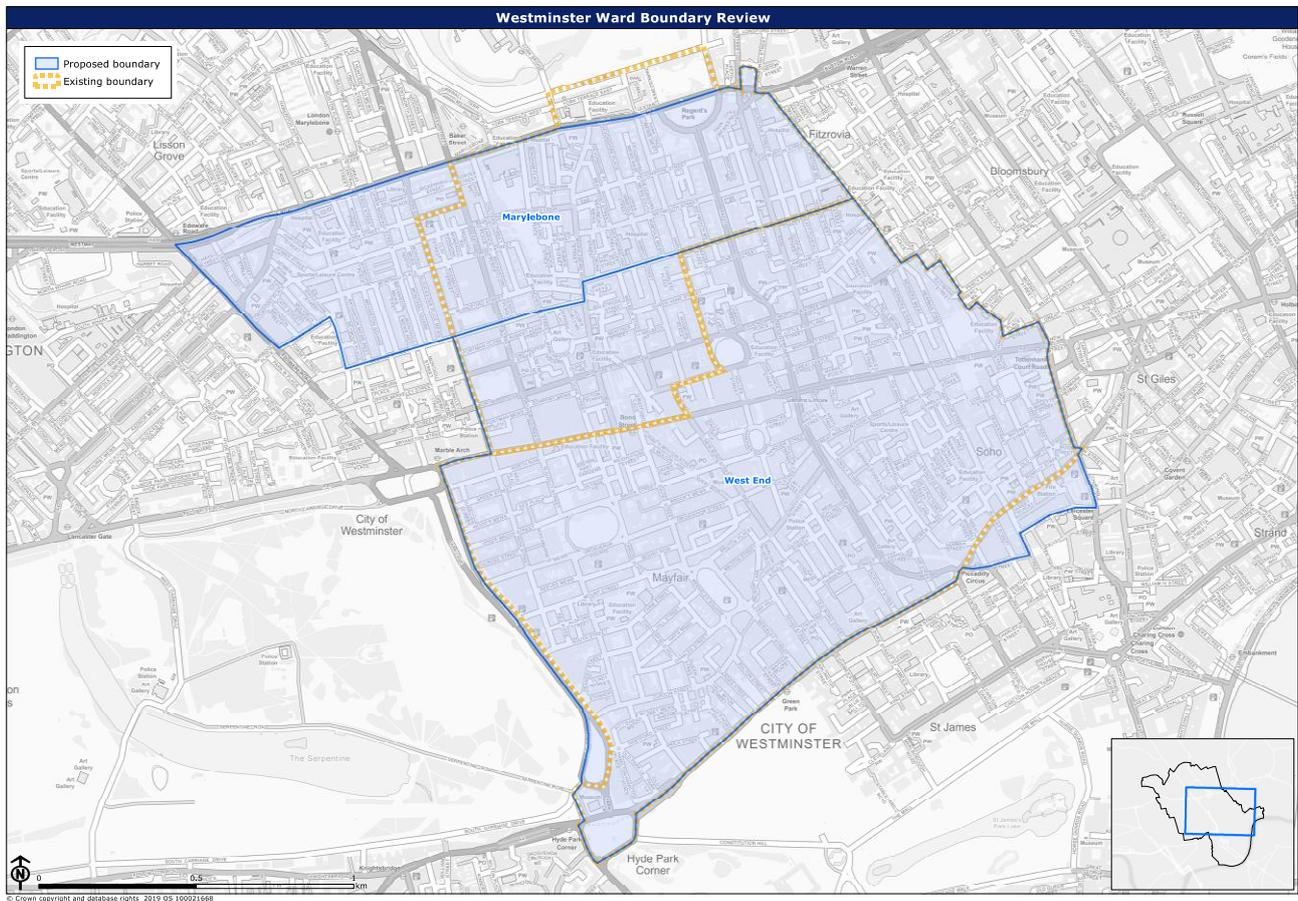
The proposed ward for Hyde Park is approximately 188.8 ha and is one of the central wards of Westminster. In the north, it's bounded by Westway, which separates it from Little Venice and Westbourne proposed wards. The western edge is formed by Edgware Road, Harrowby Street, George Street, Portman Street, Oxford Street and Park Lane. It includes most of the western half area of Hyde Park, following Serpentine Road and West Carriage Drive. In the east, it follows Sussex Gardens, Eastbourne Terrace and Westbourne Street.



Without further reducing the numbers in Lancaster Gate ward and moving it further away from the target electoral quota it is not possible to achieve the target electoral quota in Hyde Park ward. In order to achieve that electoral target quota, it is necessary for Hyde Park ward to cross the Edgware Road. The area that has been chosen to do this is at the Marble Arch end of Edgware Road. In this area there is the Marble Arch Partnership Business Improvement District and an area that is covered on both sides of the road by the Council's Edgware Road Action Plan. The housing on both sides of the Edgware Road are similar and the shopping facilities are common to both areas. The area proposed to transfer to Hyde Park ward includes the area to the east of Edgware Road to Gloucester Place and north to George Street. An additional set of electors around Harcourt Street are also added to this ward to achieve better electoral equality between the wards. This enables Hyde Park ward to be within 1.2% of the target electorate.

Marylebone and West End

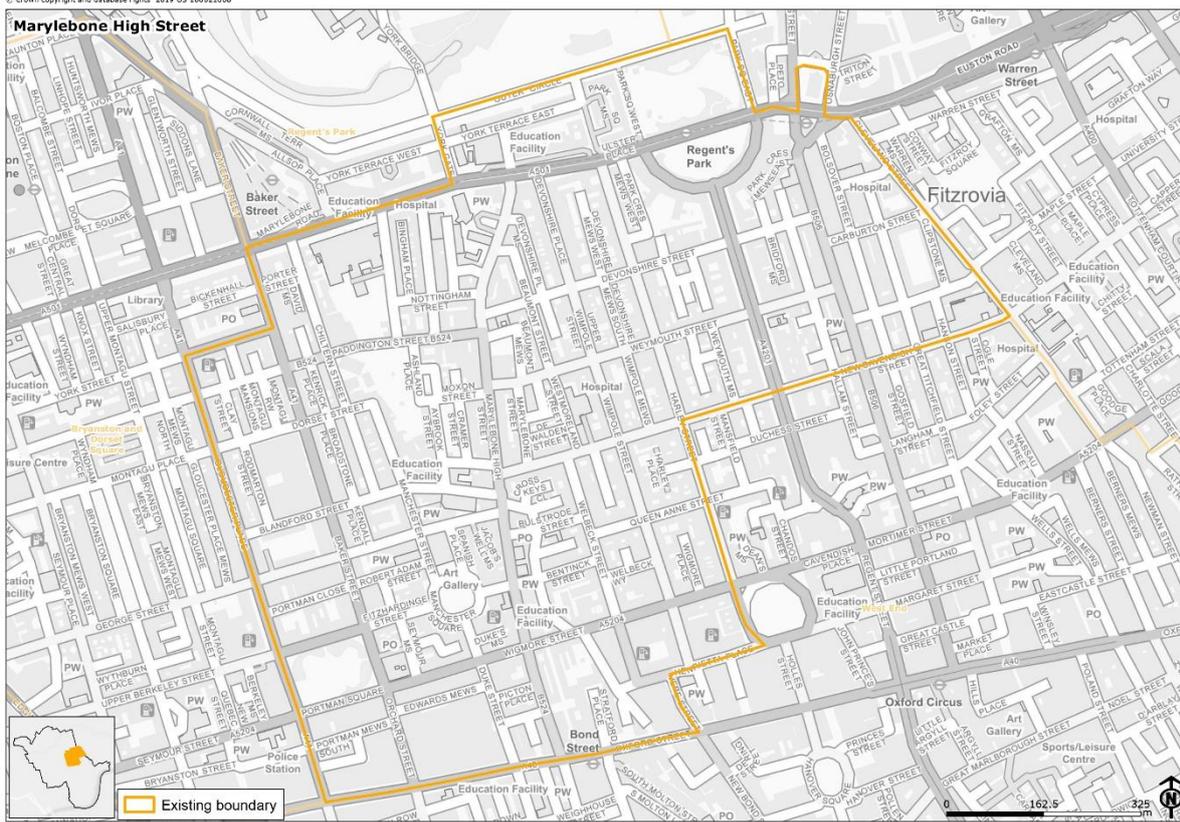
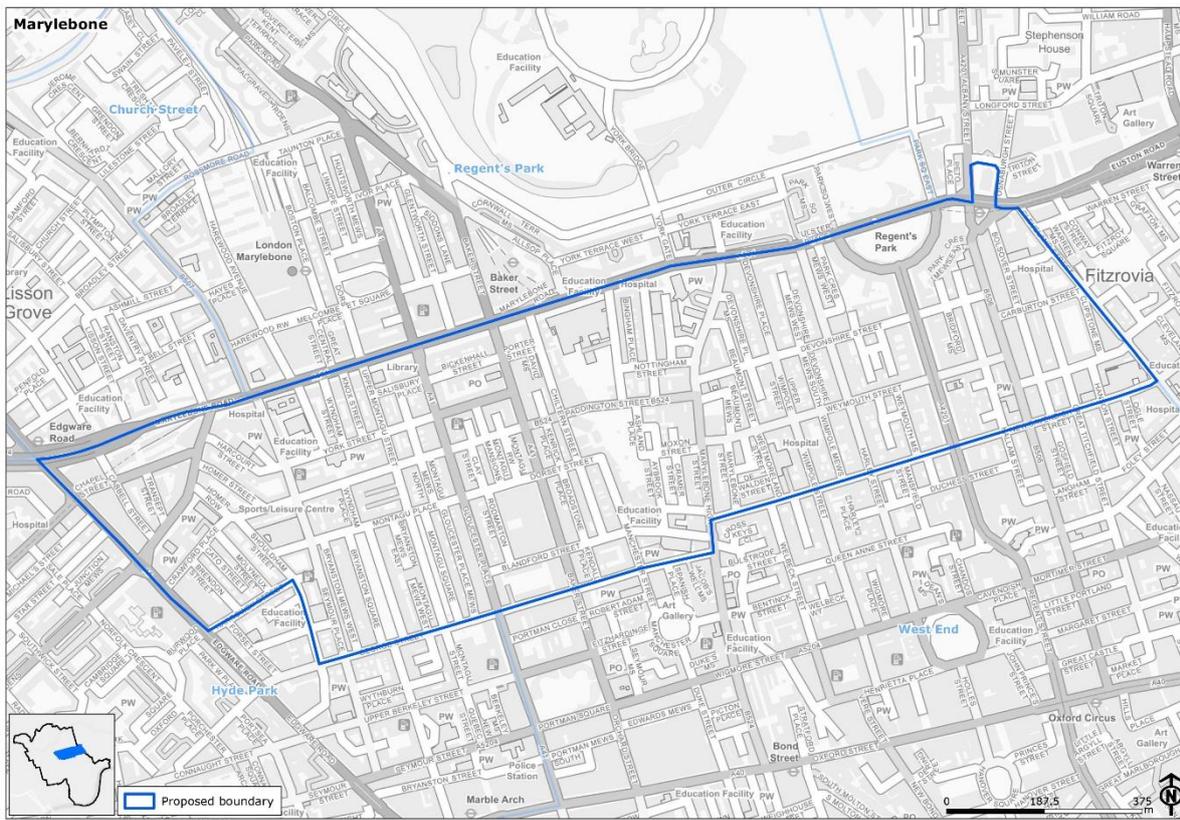
These wards are primarily formed from the previous wards that made up Bryanston and Dorset Square, Marylebone High Street and West End wards. As already highlighted above, the area that is north of Marylebone Road that is presently in Bryanston and Dorset Square returns to Regent's Park ward where it largely came from in the last boundary changes 20 years ago.



Marylebone

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,612 (103.5% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Marylebone is approximately 92.5 ha and located at the north east of Westminster. The northern edge of the proposed ward is entirely on Marylebone Road, and separates the ward from Regent's Park and Church Street wards. The western edge is on Edgware Road, Harrowby Street and George Street, which forms a large part of the southern edge up to the junction with Thayer Street. The remaining part of the south ceases at New Cavendish Street.

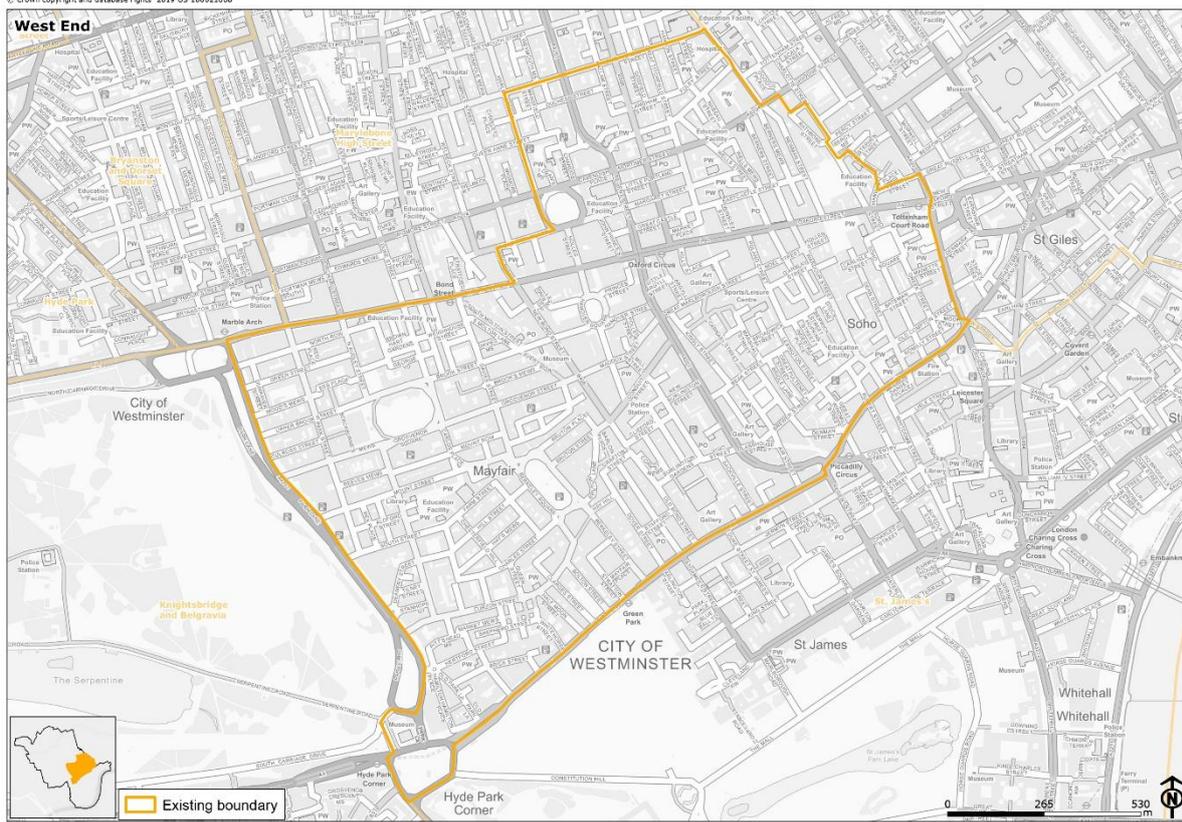
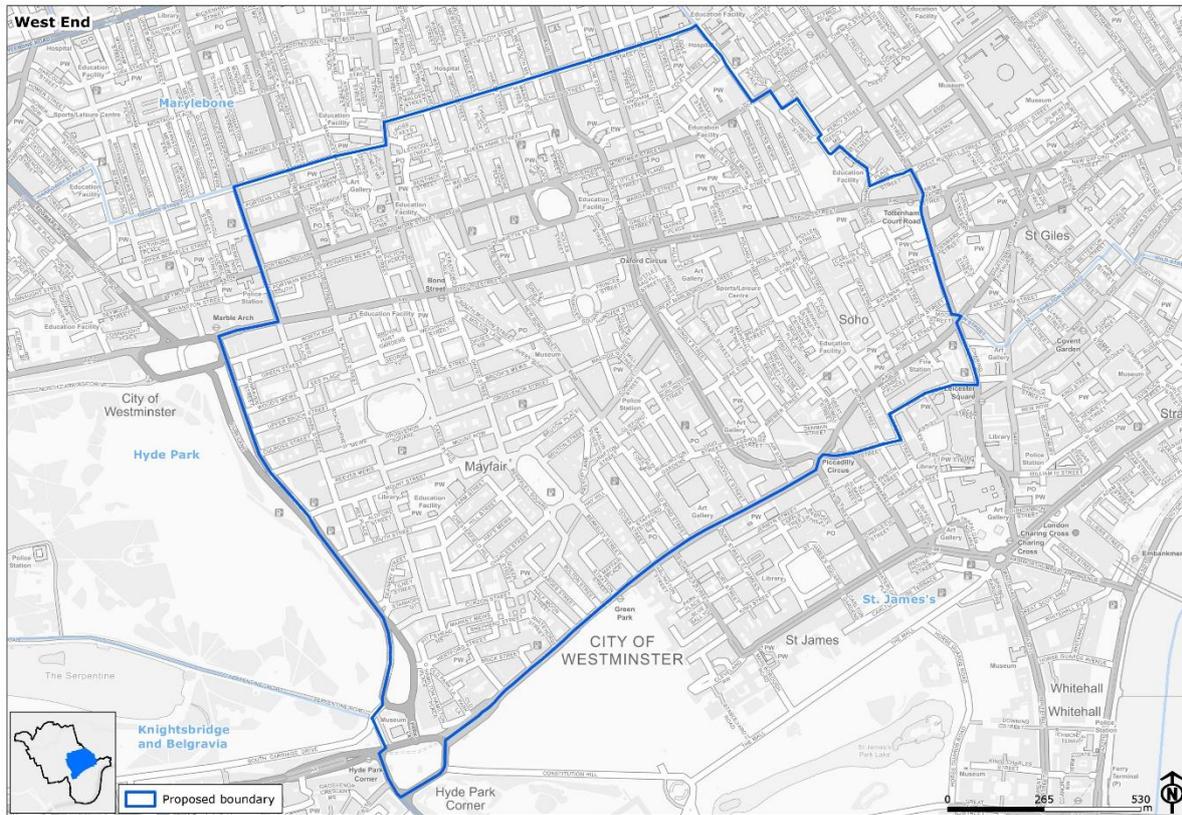


The new Marylebone ward would move west to take in area that was previously Bryanston and Dorset Square ward up to the Edgware Road. It would lose part of the south of the ward to West End ward and not take in the area that has been moved to Hyde Park ward as outlined above. The area south of the Marylebone road is very distinctly identified as the Marylebone district centred around the high street, but the areas to the west have very similar characteristics and share the same shopping and transport links. A ward that is to the south of the Marylebone road which forms a natural boundary holds together and whilst other streets could also form part of the ward, it is projected to be 2% above the electoral target quota and as such these are the appropriate boundaries for the ward.

West End

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,314 (99.9% of target electorate)

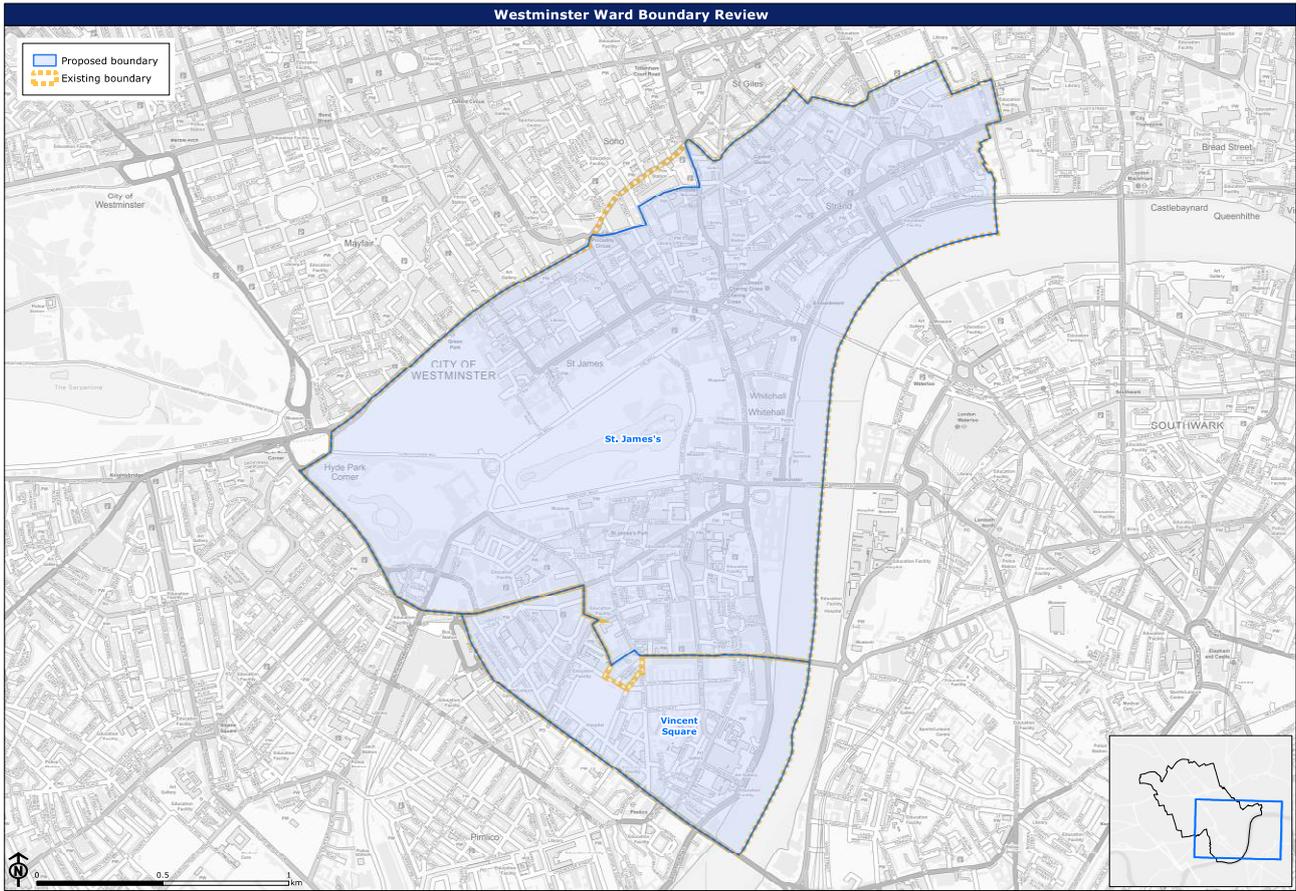
The proposed ward for West End is 240.6 ha and located at the east of Westminster. It forms part of Westminster's eastern border to Camden and it is separated to St. James's ward in the south by Piccadilly, Coventry Street, Wardour Street, Lisle Street and Charing Cross Road. In the north, the proposed West End ward meets Marylebone ward on George Street, Thayer Street and New Cavendish Road. The western edge follows Park Lane, Oxford Street and Portman Street.



West End Ward takes back Chinatown from St James's ward and also moves further north to take in part of the existing Marylebone High Street ward. The areas that have been added are both logically areas that are considered to be part of the 'West End' of London. The new northern boundary would be Blandford Street and New Cavendish Street with a new boundary of Gloucester Place to the east. Whilst it is a fairly large area this reflects the lack of electoral density that exists in the centre of the City. There are several distinct areas that make up the ward, in Soho, Covent garden, Mayfair and Chinatown, they all share the same 'West End' flavour and surround the west end shopping districts of Oxford Street and Bond Street.

St James's and Vincent Square

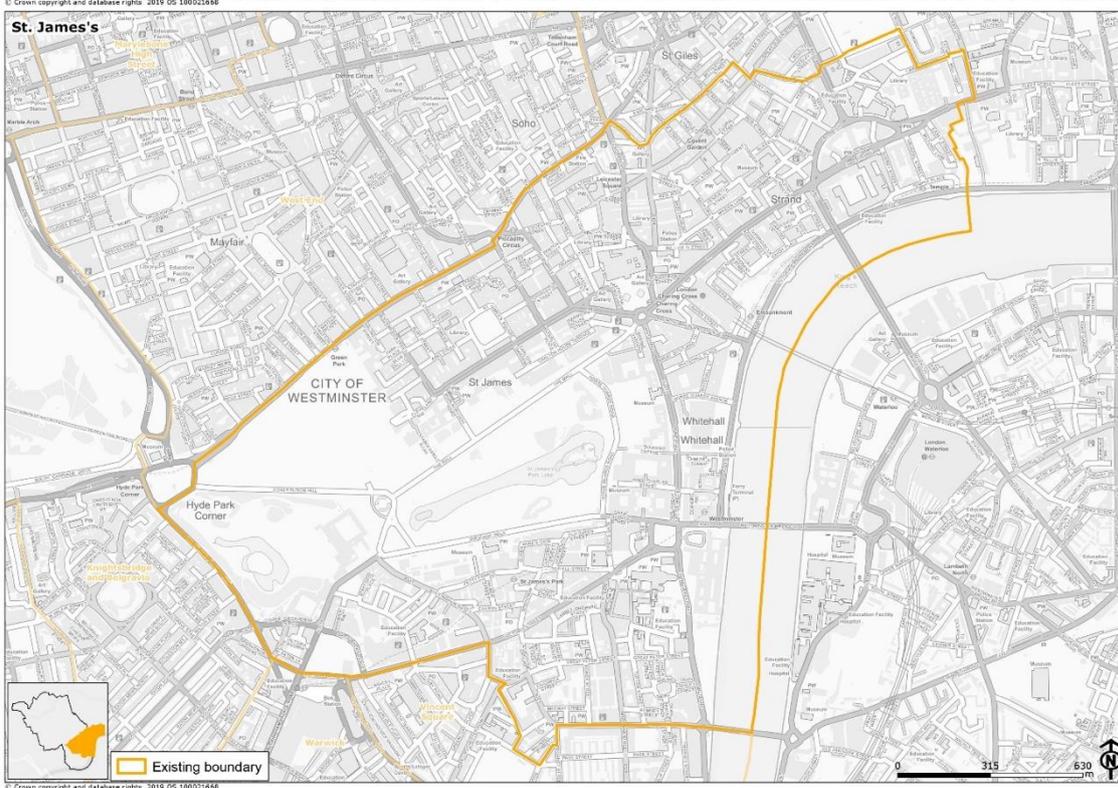
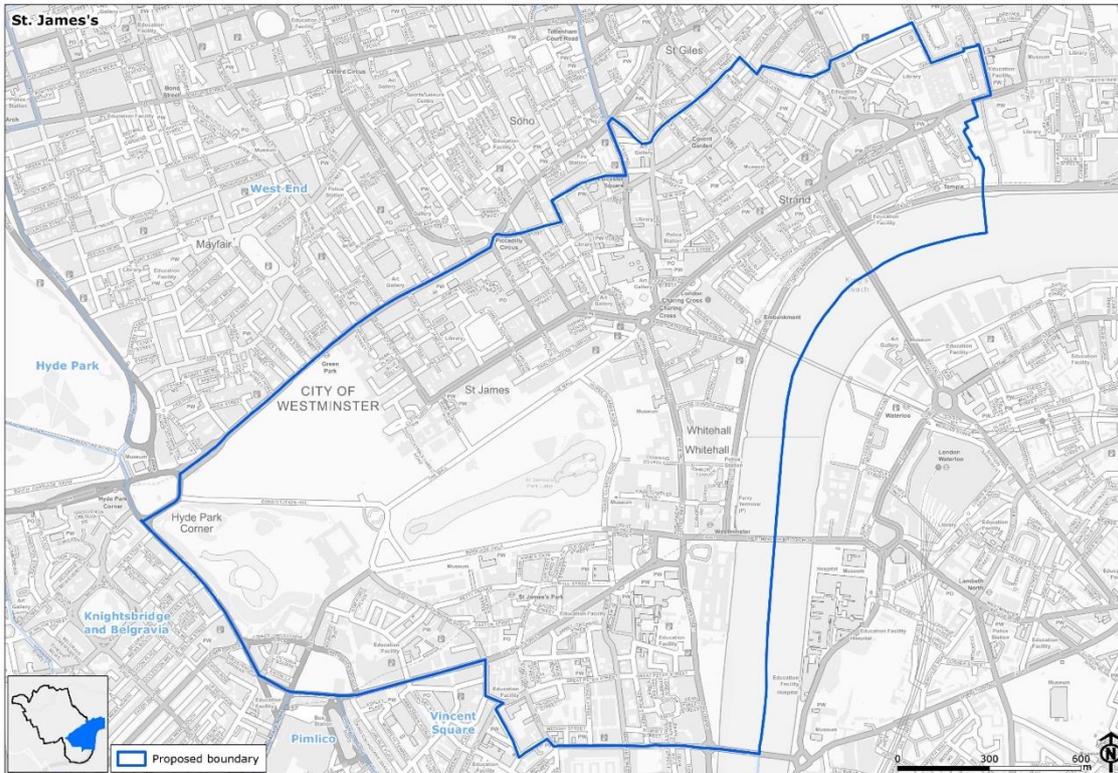
These two adjoining wards are proposed to have only small changes to their existing boundaries.



St James's - LARGELY UNCHANGED

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,374 (100.6% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for St. James's is the largest in area, at 339.9 ha and located at the south-western corner of Westminster. In the north and west, it mainly follows Westminster's border with Camden, City of London and Lambeth. In the south it is bounded by Horseferry Road, Elverton Street, Greycoat Lane, Artillery Row and Victoria Street. St. James's proposed western edge, which separates it from West End ward, lies on Piccadilly, Coventry Street, Wardour Street, Lisle Street and Charing Cross Road.

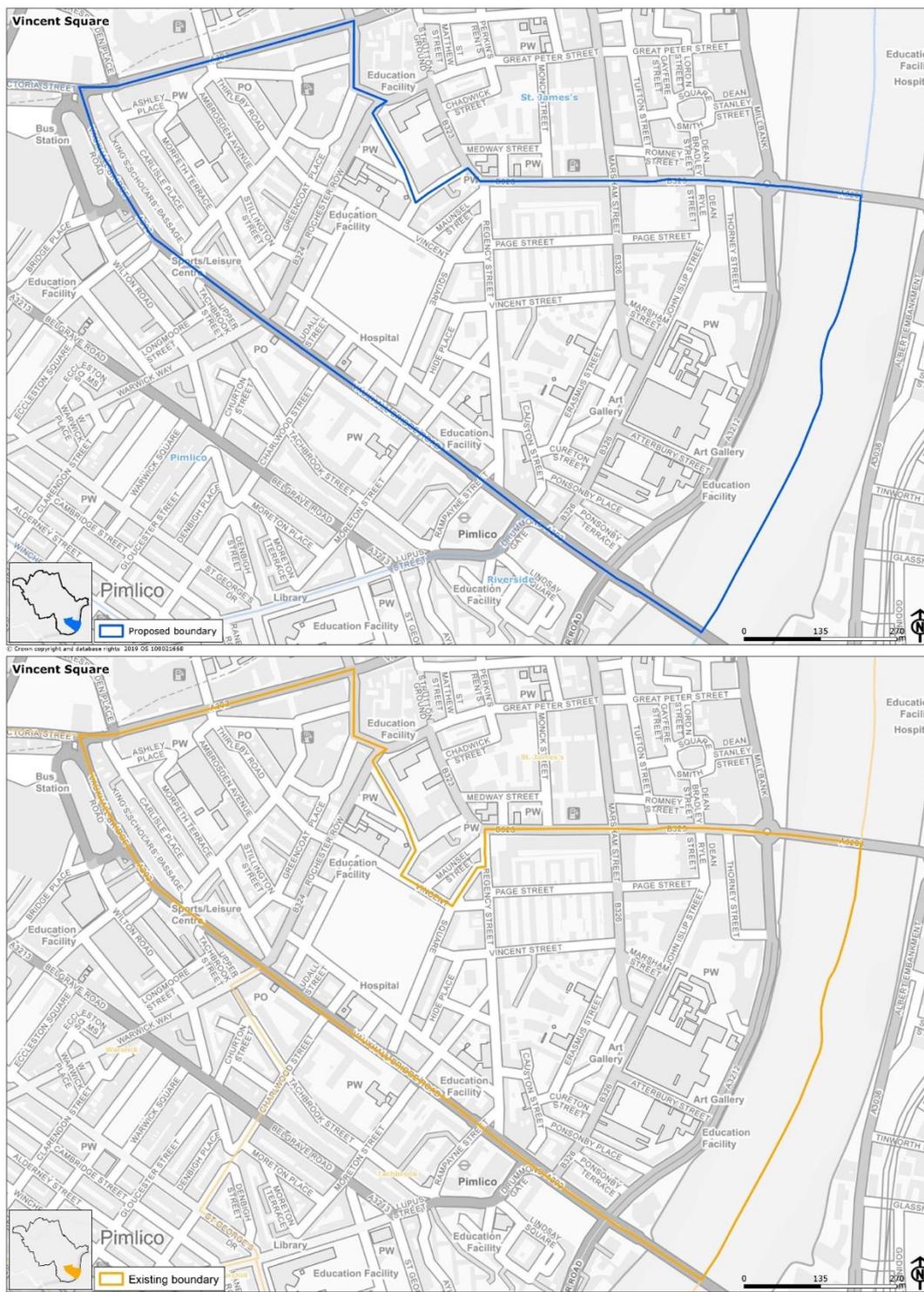


As mentioned above, the Chinatown area goes back to West End ward where it was before 2002. The projected electorate of this area is 324.

Vincent Square - LARGELY UNCHANGED

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,311 (99.9% of target electorate)

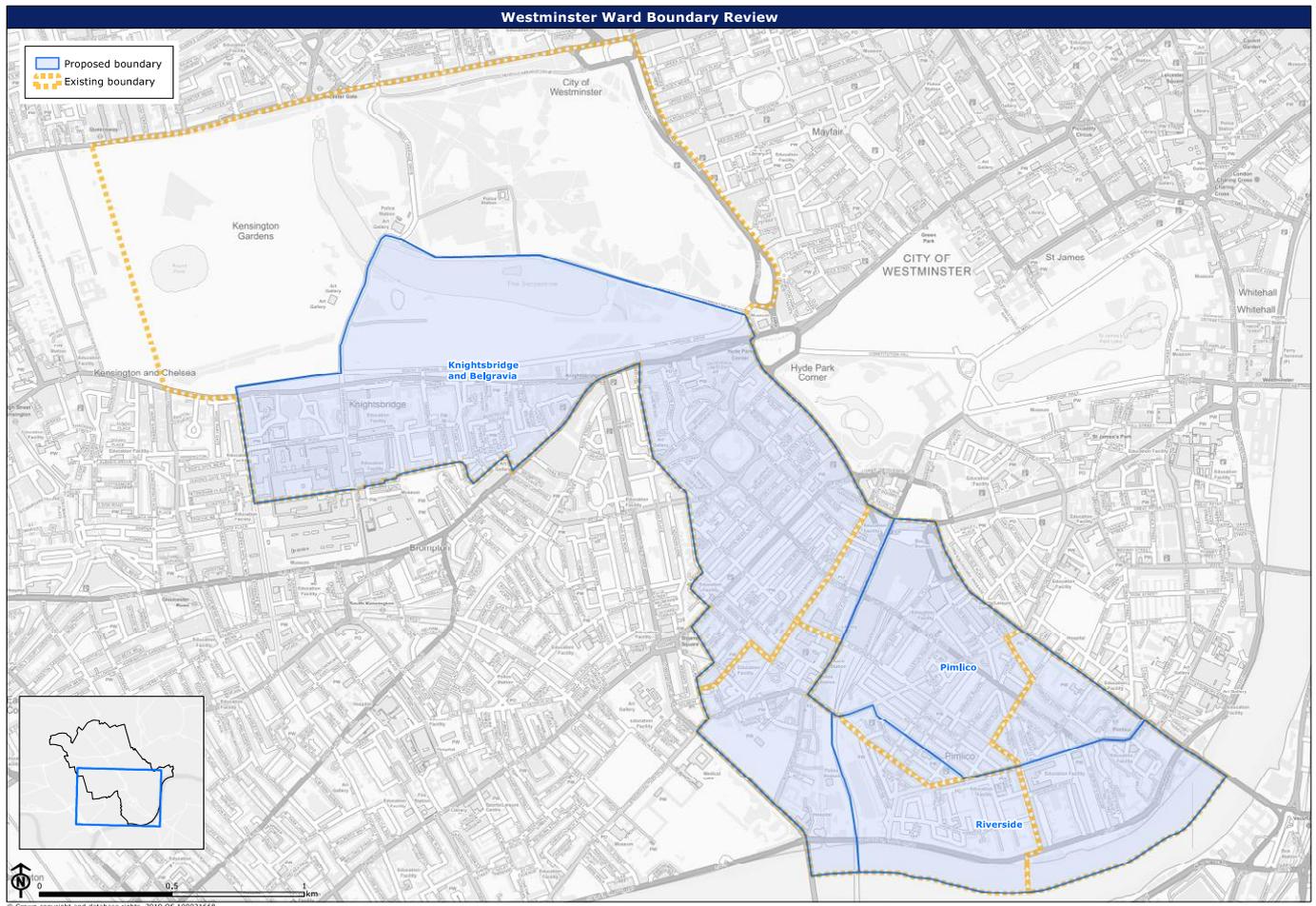
The proposed ward for Vincent Square is approximately 69.6 ha and located at the south of Westminster. It is bounded by the River Thames, Vauxhall Bridge Road and Victoria Street in the south. The northern edge of the proposed boundary is formed by Horseferry Road, Elverton Street, Greycourt Lane and Artillery Row.



A small part of an area around Vincent Square moves to the ward of that name. The area from Regency Place to the square, has a projected electorate of 312 electors, and the present boundary causes confusion because it is assumed that it is part of Vincent Square ward.

Knightsbridge & Belgravia, Pimlico and Riverside

These three wards are formed by merging four existing wards into three. The four wards were Knightsbridge and Belgravia, Warwick Ward, Tachbrook and Churchill wards which covered the area bordered by Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea to the west, Hyde Park to the north, Grosvenor Road / Grosvenor Gardens, Victoria Street and Vauxhall Bridge Road to the east and the Thames to the south. These existing area borders are maintained in this submission.

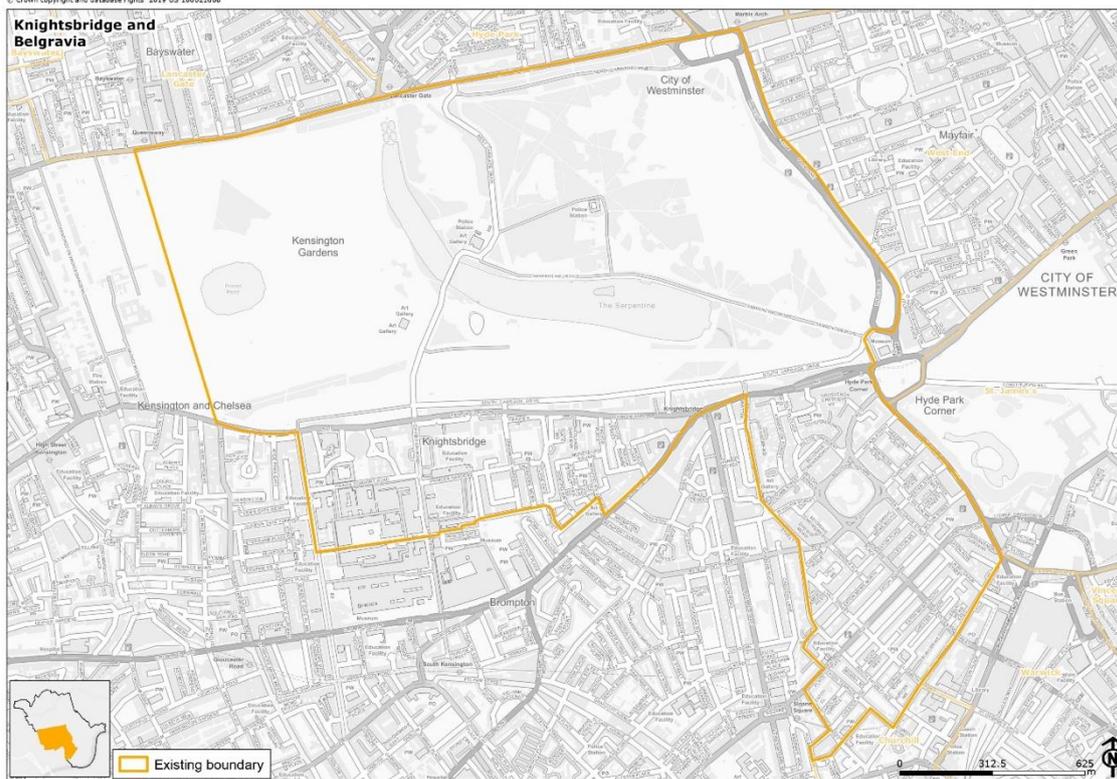
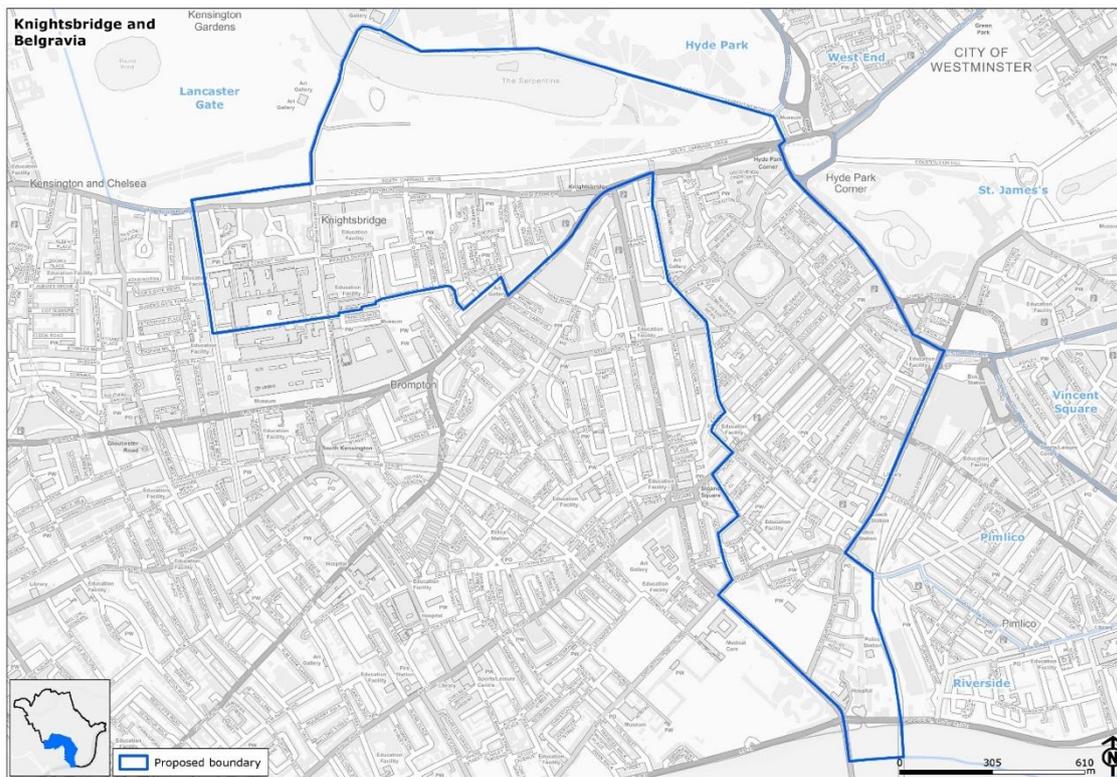


In drawing up the new wards, there were several natural boundaries that are used: Hyde Park, the railway line from Ebury Bridge to the Grosvenor railway bridge over the Thames, Buckingham Palace Road, Vauxhall Bridge Road and the Thames.

Knightsbridge & Belgravia

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,779 (105.5% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Knightsbridge and Belgravia is 204.9 ha and located at the south western edge of Westminster. The northern edge of the proposed boundary separates it from Hyde Park and Lancaster Gate wards, on Serpentine Road, West Carriage Drive and Albert Memorial Road. In the west, it is mainly bounded by Grosvenor Place, Buckingham Palace Road and Ebury Bridge, as well as the rail tracks towards Victoria Station where it meets the river Thames. In the west, it follows Westminster's border with Kensington and Chelsea.

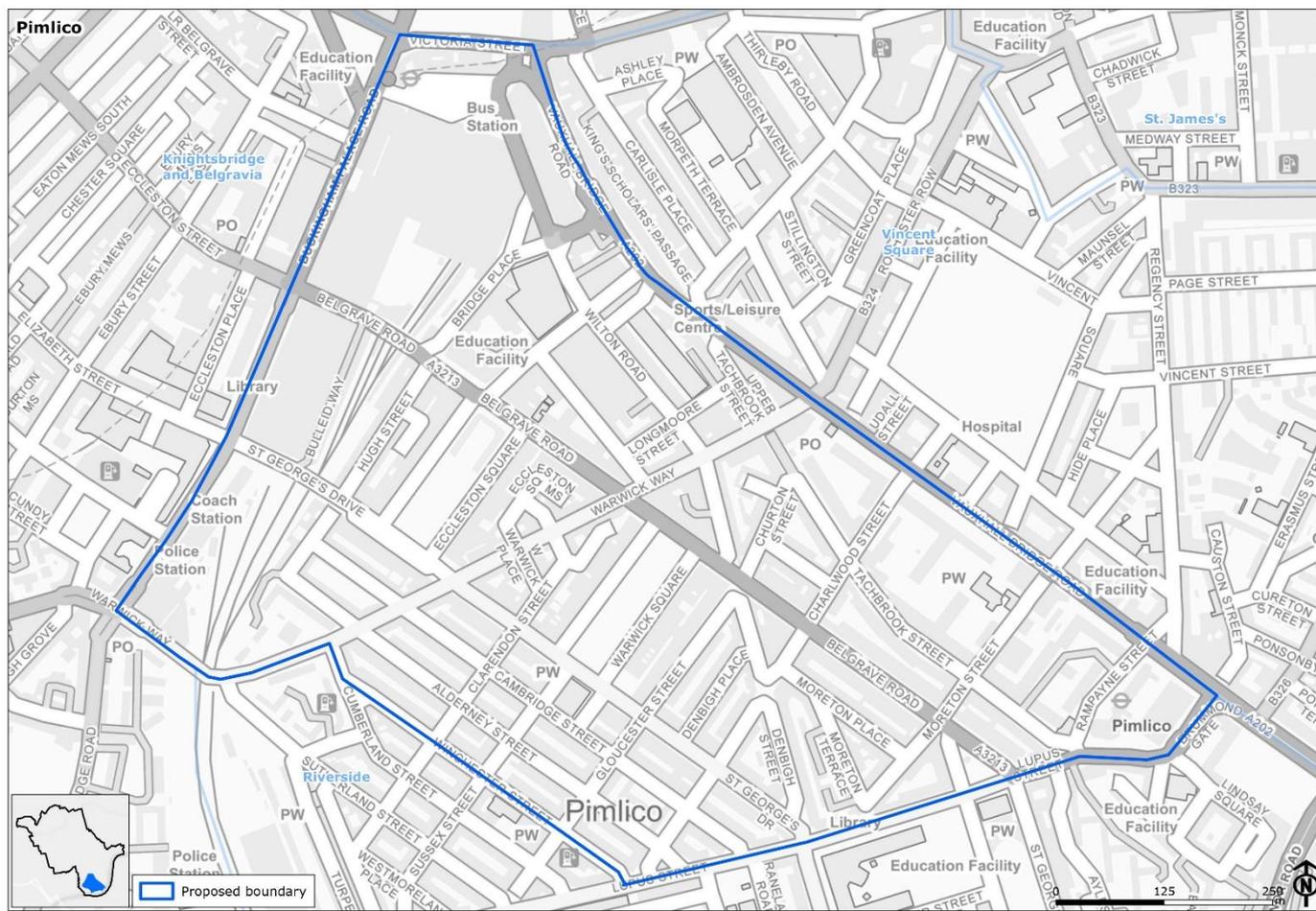


Although the proposed Knightsbridge and Belgravia ward is more than 5% over the electoral quota target, greater equality could only be achieved by breaching key boundary roads and the railway tracks. The previous ward had the greatest electoral deficit of all Westminster wards and so being over the electoral quota is less of an issue in that context. The proposed ward will be bounded by Buckingham Place Road and the Grosvenor Railway bridge that are two very clear boundary roads and bridges that act as a physical barrier to areas east of them. The previous boundary roads were in place to achieve electoral equality and made the geography of Churchill ward split into two parts divided by a railway bridge.

Pimlico

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8382 (100.7% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Pimlico is 59.8 ha and located at the south west of Westminster. In the west, it is separated from Knightsbridge and Belgravia by Buckingham Palace Road and Ebury Road. In the south, it follows Lupus Street and Winchester Street. It is also bounded by Vauxhall Bridge Road and Victoria Street, in the west and north respectively.

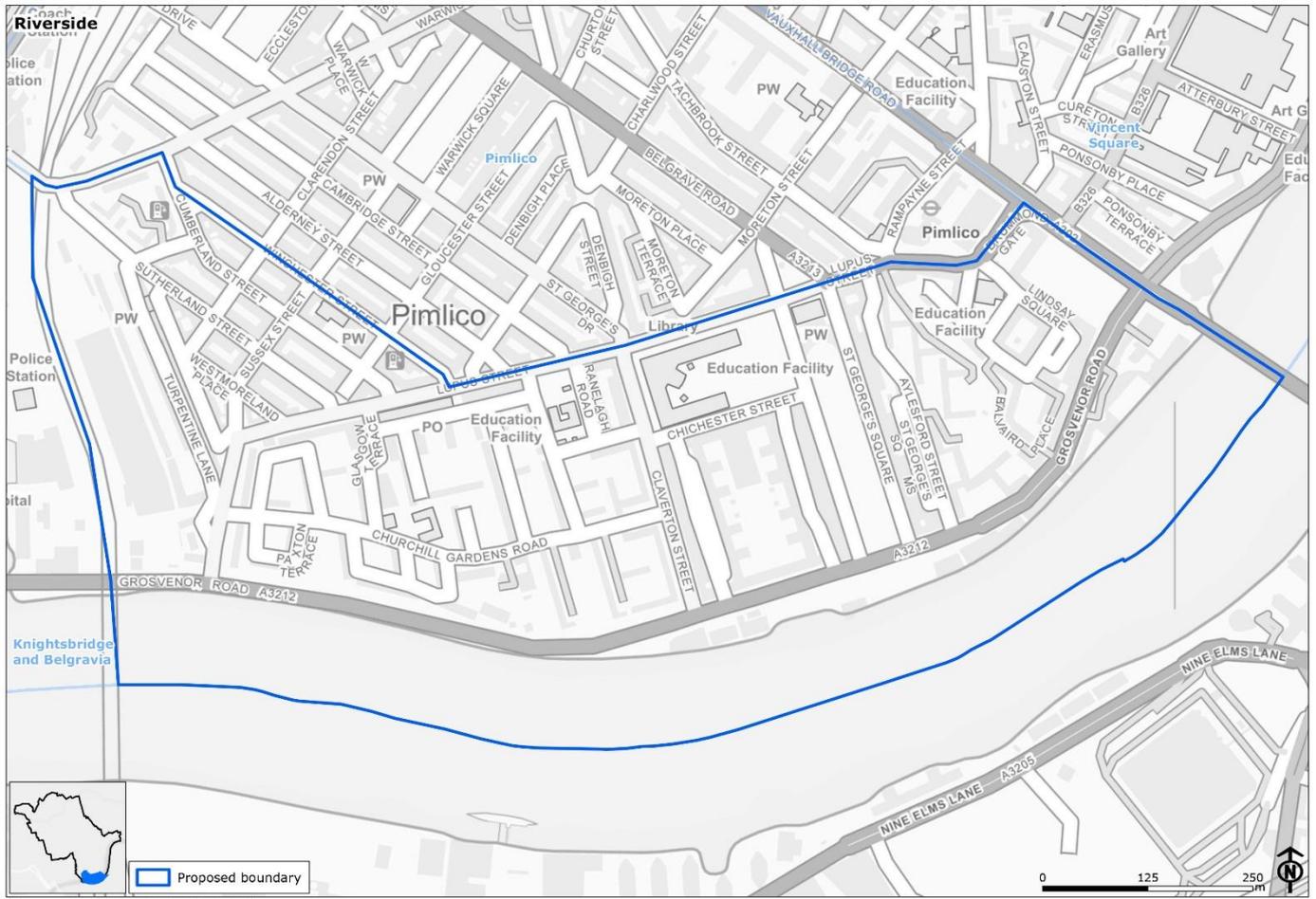


The Pimlico ward is centred around the 'Pimlico grid' an area that is well known and recognised in London SW1. The streets that form this ward have very similar characteristics and form a neighbourhood north of Lupus Street. The ward starts at Pimlico Underground Station at its most southern point. There is a natural boundary at Buckingham Palace Road that marks the transition from Pimlico into the Belgravia area. The previous boundary of Ebury Street was too far to the north west and the new boundary is a more natural one that has the two distinct areas east and west of it.

Riverside

Proposed electorate in 2024 = 8,172 (98.2% of target electorate)

The proposed ward for Riverside is approximately 65 ha and located at the south-western corner of Westminster. In the south of the ward, the proposed edge follows Westminster's border with Wandsworth, mainly on the river Thames, between Vauxhall Bridge and Victoria Station's rail tracks. The northern edge of the proposed ward follows Bessborough Street, Lupus Street, Winchester Street and Warwick Way.



The new Riverside ward has strong fixed boundaries with the railway line from Ebury Bridge to the Grosvenor railway bridge over the Thames to the west and Vauxhall Bridge Road to the east. There are two very distinct blocks that form a significant part of this ward, Churchill Gardens Estate and Dolphin Square. The Grosvenor railway bridge is a physical barrier that separates this area from streets to the east of it. This boundary can only be crossed in north at Ebury Bridge and the south at Grosvenor railway bridge. The boundary at Vauxhall Bridge Road is also a physical one that delineates the two areas very clearly.

APPENDIX

Maps:

Existing Wards

Proposed Wards

Abbey Road

Bayswater

Church Street

Harrow Road

Hyde Park

Knightsbridge and Belgravia

Lancaster Gate

Little Venice

Maida Vale

Marylebone

Pimlico

Queen's Park

Regent's Park

Riverside

St. James's

Vincent Square

West End

Westbourne