

Gawsworth

Local Plan Strategy site LPS 15 is a major new housing development which is within the Moss ward of the parish of Gawsworth, but which is adjacent to the existing urban development in Macclesfield and is a consequence of that settlement's expansion. There is also existing development at Manley Road, Sussex Avenue, Hillcrest Road, Rising Sun Road, Moss View Road and Surrey Road which forms part of Macclesfield settlement expansion, but which lies in Gawsworth parish. This development forms the Moss ward of the parish. It is considered that this development, along with site LPS 15 when developed, forms part of the community of identity of Macclesfield. Moving this area to Macclesfield would bring all of LPS 15 along with the existing development which adjoins it within the parish of Macclesfield.

Map 13 (“Gawsworth”) and Map 24 (“Macclesfield”) in Appendix 5 show the extent of the area that could be transferred (the orange shaded “potential expansion area” within the parish of Gawsworth) if this boundary were to be changed.

However, while this area (as currently defined) makes good use of natural boundaries (Congleton Road, Gawsworth Road and the minor road to Brownhills Farm and Dalehouse Farm), it may be felt that it would take in too much rural hinterland that does not identify with the community of Macclesfield.

In its response to the Borough Council’s pre-consultation survey, Gawsworth Parish Council informed the Council that it undertook a community survey, in which 89 per cent of respondents said they would oppose Gawsworth being integrated into Macclesfield Town Council’s area. Additionally, a 155-signature petition was presented to the parish council giving the same view. The parish council itself is against ceding any of its area to the parish of Macclesfield and opposes any border alterations. It proposed that present warding arrangement whereby the parish was divided into two wards – Village and Moss parish wards – should be removed, giving its view that this would alleviate issues with finding enough local councillors. The parish council also offered an alternative proposal whereby the parish’s Moss ward should be extended to include the LPS15 site and the extent of LPS 19 (South West Macclesfield) which is currently within the parish of Gawsworth or that the community should be given the opportunity to change the name of the Moss ward. The parish council considers that the existing total of nine seats was appropriate and, if the warding arrangement was retained, it proposed five seats for the Village ward and four for the Moss ward.

While the Borough Council considers that housing site LPS 15 and the adjoining existing development comprising the Moss parish ward should be transferred to the parish of Macclesfield, the Council is anxious to hear the further views of electors and interested bodies on how much of the expansion area should be transferred: the expansion area as currently defined with its large rural hinterland extending to Gawsworth Road, or a smaller area that more tightly contains housing site LPS 15 and the existing housing at Manley Road, Sussex Avenue, Hillcrest Road, Rising Sun Road, Moss View Road and Surrey Road, or no transfer at all.

Where no change in the area is being advocated, the Borough Council will want to be assured that this area actually forms part of the Gawsworth community of identity. Views on this matter should be supported by evidence that the residents of the area look to Gawsworth for services and opportunities for social and leisure amenity.

The area comprises undeveloped and existing housing development. The Borough Council estimates that, if the expansion area as currently defined was transferred, this would add 828 electors (by the 2025 electorate) to the parish of Macclesfield.

This report now turns to the question of the governance arrangements for the parish of Gawsworth. That question cannot be fully resolved until the extent of the area to be transferred to Macclesfield parish from the parish of Gawsworth is resolved upon.

The current governance arrangement for Gawsworth is as follows:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2018)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2018)
Moss	3	474	158
Village	6	943	157.2
Total	9	1,417	157.4

For guidance purposes only, the following tables are provided:

If the expansion area as currently defined was transferred in full, the following governance arrangements would be relevant for the residual parish of Gawsworth:

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Remove the warding arrangement as no longer relevant (whole of Moss ward would be moved to Macclesfield)	9	884	98.2

If the expansion area was not transferred in full, the following governance arrangements might continue. However, it should be noted that there may be other consultation responses which propose a different approach and which the Borough Council may be minded to accept.

Ward	Councillor no.	Electors (2025)*	Ratio of electors per councillor (2025)
Moss	3	461	153.7
Village	7	1,251	178.7
Total	10	1,712	171.2

*These figures improve on the original Community Governance Review forecasts by taking full account of which parish ward the LPS 15 site is in.

Map 13: Gawsworth

