

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Produced by the Strategic Intelligence Team

Geography Guide

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This is a very short guide to some of the key geographical boundaries within the Cheshire West and Chester Council area.

Administrative boundaries (relate to national and local government areas)

- **46 wards** - electoral wards are the base unit of UK administrative geography, and are the areas from which local authority councillors are elected. New ward boundaries were created in Cheshire West and Chester in 2011. Cheshire West and Chester Council has 75 councillors and so wards are a mix of one, two and three Member (Councillor) wards. The wards vary greatly in size, both in terms of geographical area and population.
- **114 civil parishes** - parishes and their councils are the most local level of government. Unlike electoral wards, parishes are not found in all parts of England and there are two large unparished areas in the area (one in Chester and one in Ellesmere Port). Not all parishes have a parish council and parish councils can cover more than one parish area. Administrative parishes are also known as 'civil parishes', this distinguishes them from ecclesiastical (church) parishes.

2011 Statistical boundaries (created by the Office for National Statistics) (there was a previous 2001 version)

- **1109 output areas** – output areas have been used for data collection and output of Census data since the 2001 Census. They have a minimum size of 40 resident households and a minimum population of 100 but the recommended size was rather larger at 125 households.
- **212 lower layer super output areas** - these are a geography designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. They are built up from groups of output areas (typically five). They have a minimum population of 1,000 and a mean population of 1,500.
- **47 middle layer super output areas** - these are a geography designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. They are built up from groups of lower layer super output areas. They have a minimum population of 5,000 and a mean population of 7,200.

Health boundaries

- **Two Clinical Commissioning Groups** – West Cheshire Clinical Commissioning Group and Vale Royal Clinical Commissioning Group together cover the Cheshire West and Chester area.

Other boundaries

- **Four localities** – Cheshire West and Chester is made up of four localities (Chester, Ellesmere Port, Rural and Northwich and Winsford). Locality teams are responsible for managing, planning and co-ordinating the strategic direction of matters concerning their local communities. The teams have responsibility for ensuring that all services are delivered in a way that suits the requirements of each community.

Map geographical boundaries

The Office for National Statistics website has a beginners guide to geography. You can also view standard geographical boundaries (including wards, parishes, statistical boundaries) using the map viewer on the Office for National Statistics Neighbourhood Statistics website. The user can type in the name of the place they want to view on the map and then tick to select the geographies they want to show or alternatively zoom in on the map and then select the boundaries they want to display.