



Industrial Communities Alliance

The all-party association campaigning on behalf of local authorities in the industrial areas of England, Scotland and Wales

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Miatta Fahnbulleh MP
Minister for Communities
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

By email to: ministerial.correspondence@communities.gov.uk

16 October 2025

Dear Miatta,

‘Phase 2’ neighbourhoods: definition

I wrote to you on 6 October with initial reactions from our member authorities to the *Pride in Place* announcements. I’d like to pick up on the definition of the 169 ‘Phase 2’ neighbourhoods.

In my letter I flagged up that the boundaries of MSOAs (the statistical units used to select the areas) don’t match the boundaries of neighbourhoods on the ground. We’ve subsequently taken a closer look and I’m attaching a few maps to illustrate this point. These have been shared with MHCLG officials but it would be helpful for you to be personally aware of the issues. As you’ll see:

- MSOA boundaries often cut through housing estates and streets
- They ignore natural divides such as railway lines, main roads and open spaces
- Some of the chosen MSOAs are next to one another in the same neighbourhood, which suggests it makes little sense to establish two separate boards

We’ve picked a random sample of areas here. These are not just ‘worst cases’. The problems seem likely to affect most if not all the Phase 2 neighbourhoods.

With this in mind, I’d therefore like to reaffirm the proposal in my letter of 6 October that all the relevant local authorities should be formally invited to review and redefine the boundaries of the Phase 2 neighbourhoods.

We note that the guidance offers flexibility to alter the boundaries. However, it's clearly important that this happens *before* the establishment of the neighbourhood boards, because it makes no sense to establish membership of the boards before the areas themselves have been properly defined.

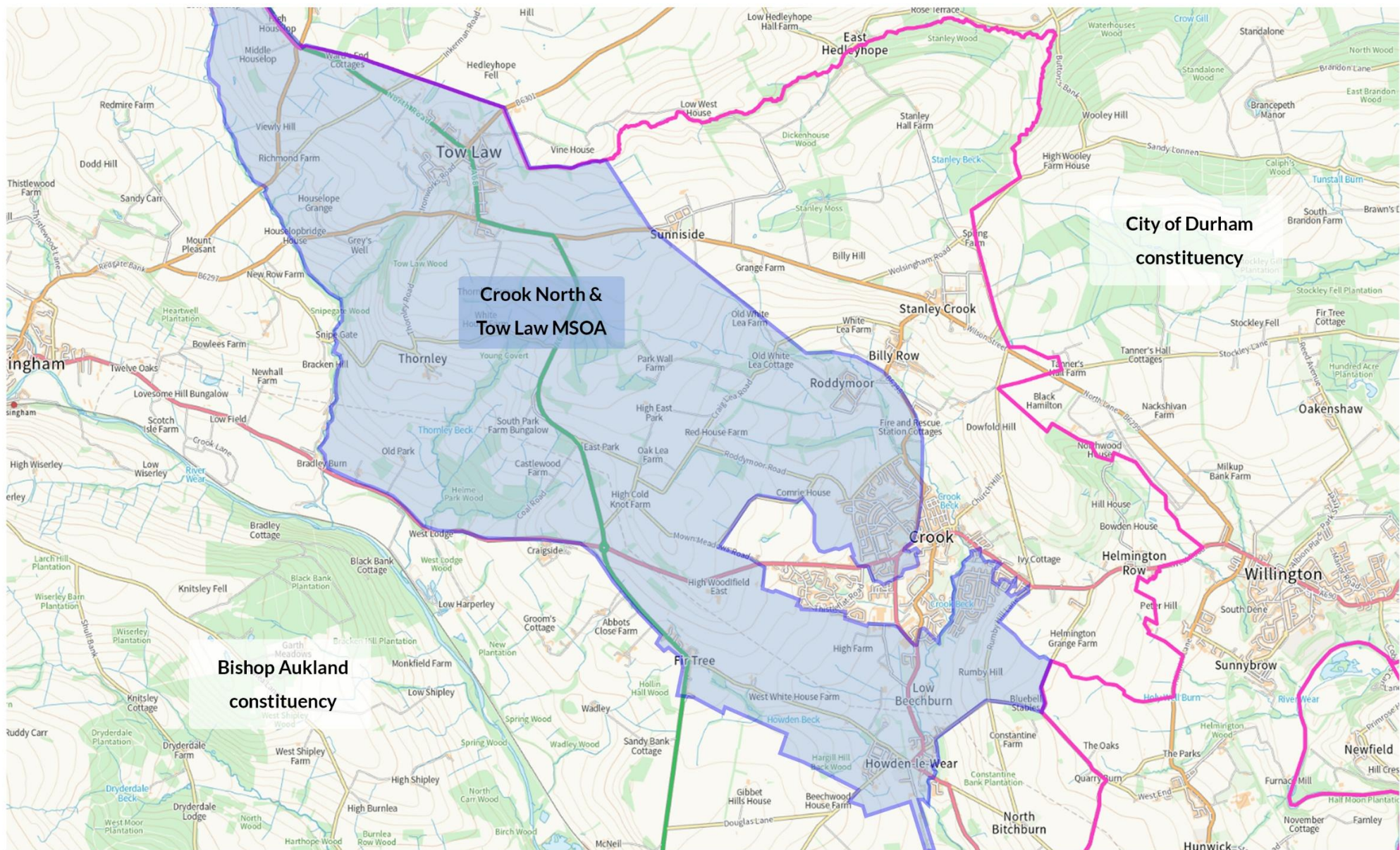
I am sure local authorities would be only too willing to collaborate in generating better definitions of the neighbourhoods to be targeted.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Yours,

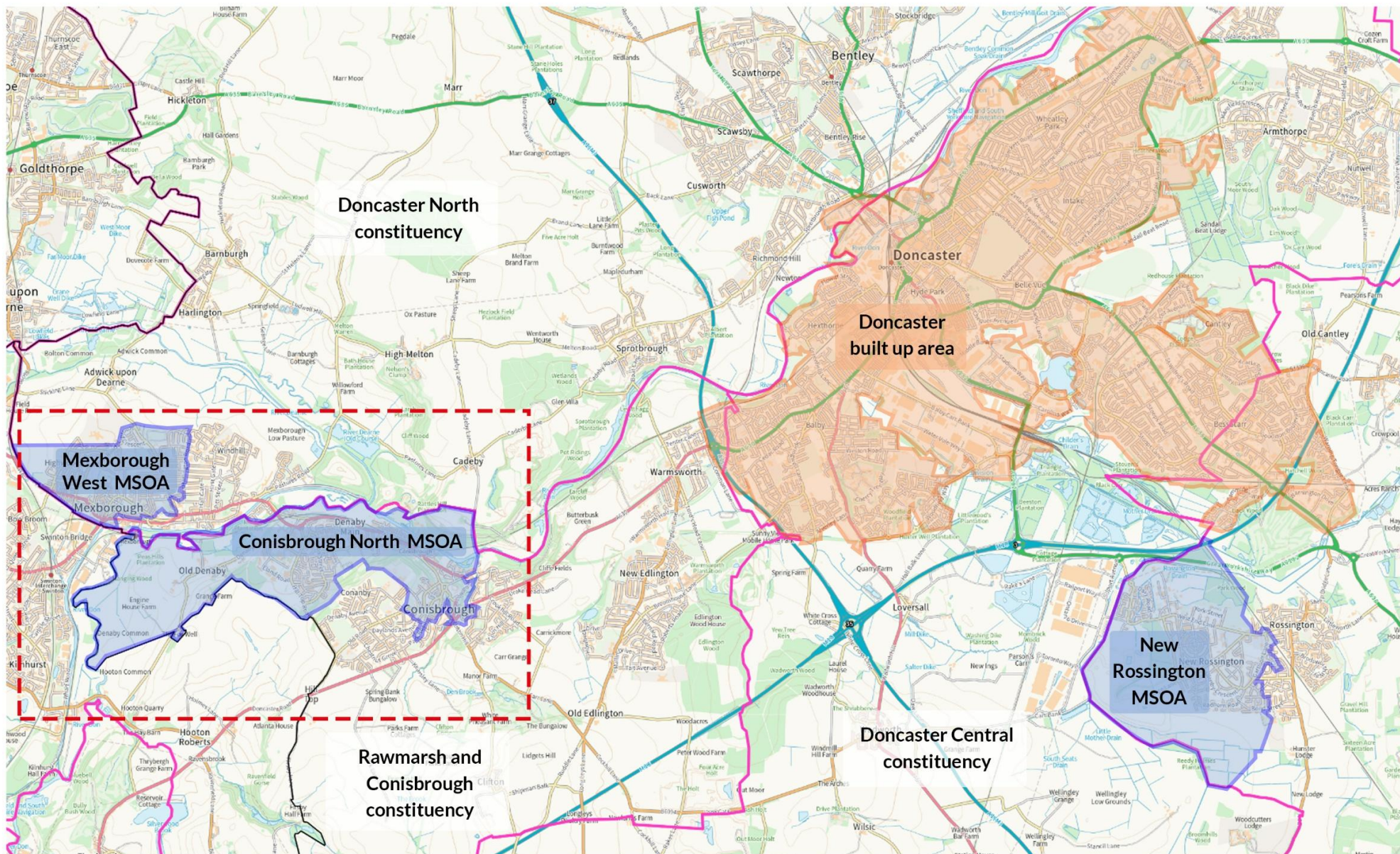
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Keith Cunliffe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cllr Keith Cunliffe
National Chair



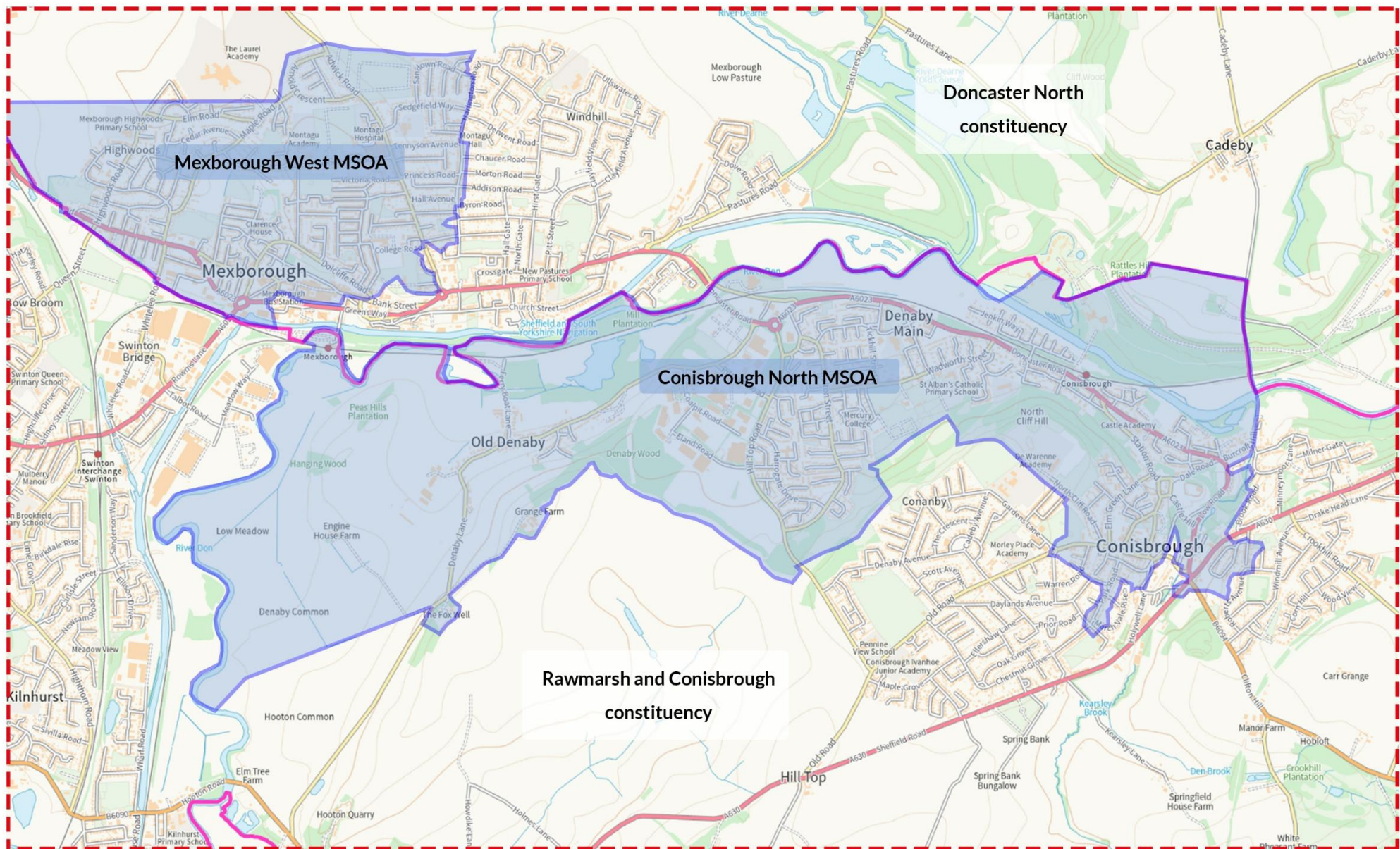
- Constituency boundaries
- Pride in Place funding (Phase 2)

Pride in Place funding in Durham



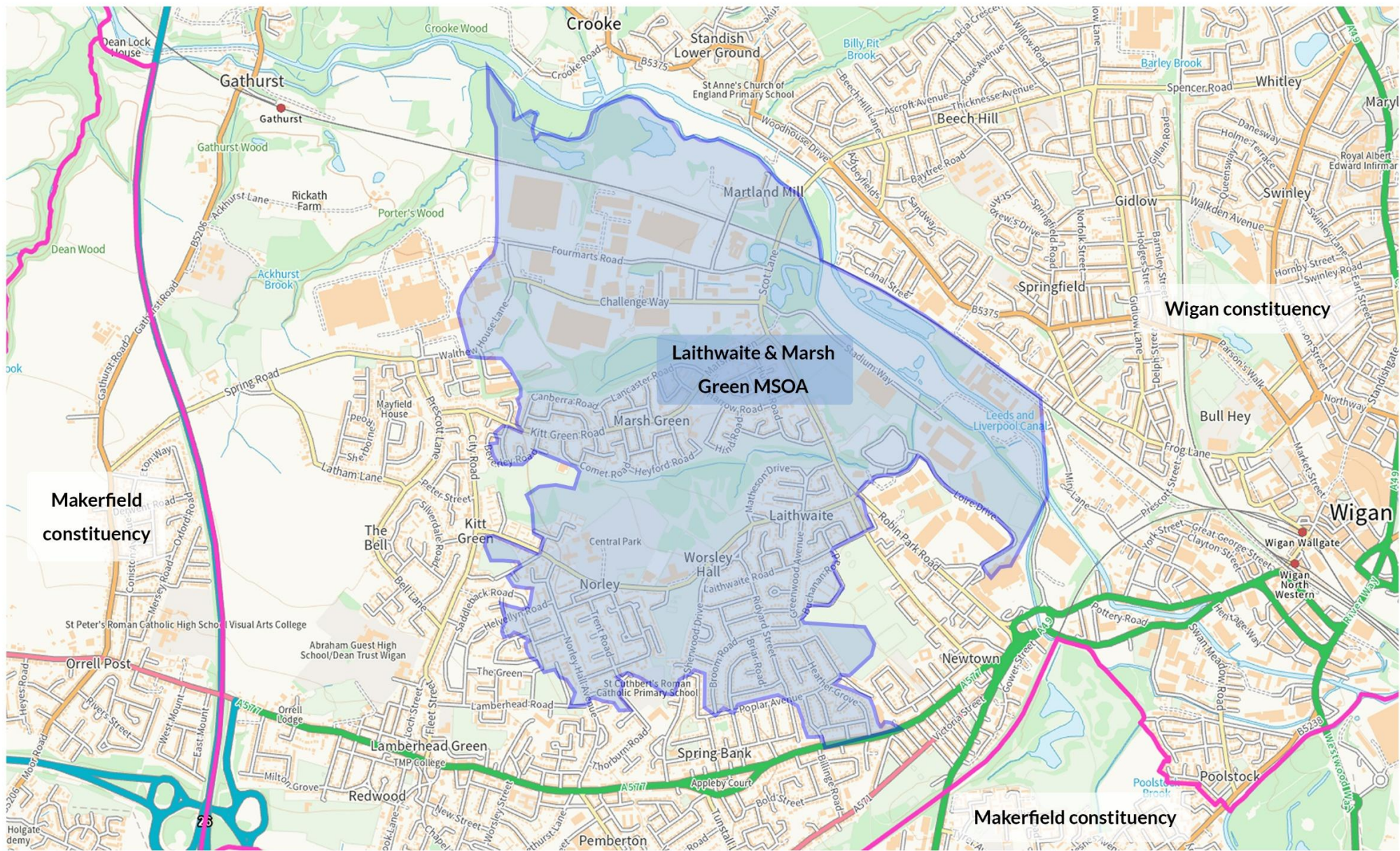
- Constituency boundaries
- Pride in Place funding (Phase 2)
- Plan for Neighbourhoods funding (Phase 1)

Pride in Place funding in Doncaster



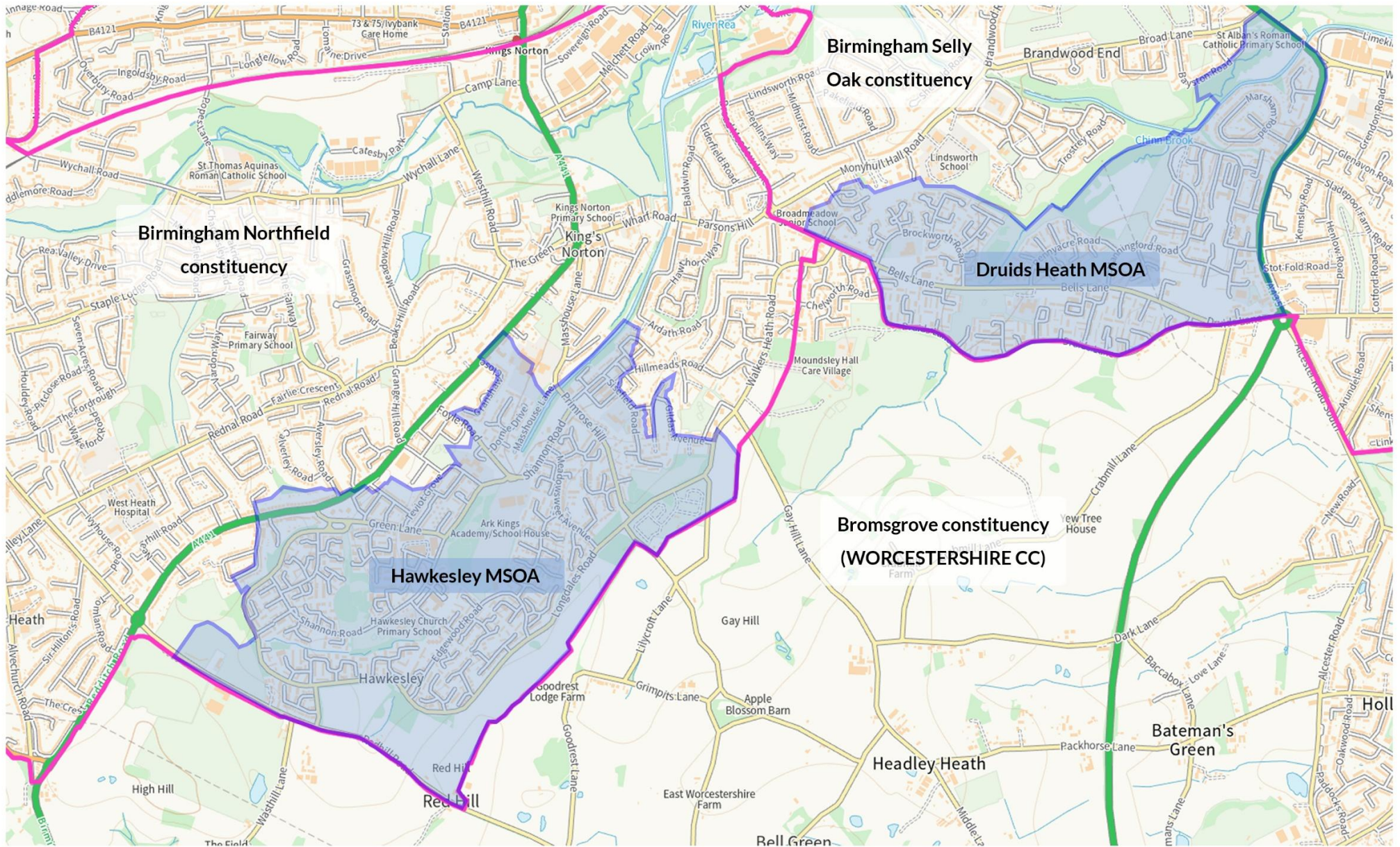
- Constituency boundaries
- Pride in Place funding (Phase 2)

Pride in Place funding in Doncaster



- Constituency boundaries
- Pride in Place funding (Phase 2)

Pride in Place funding in Wigan



- Constituency boundaries
- Pride in Place funding (Phase 2)

Pride in Place funding in Birmingham