Dear Sir/Madam,
Please find attached letter regarding the above.

Regards,
Peter McCabe
Dear Reviewing Officer

I write to you regarding the Moss Side ward boundary, aware that the final decisions are so close to being published, but since these concerns do not involve any increase in the number of constituents I am hopeful that you will consider this opinion.

Unfortunately, we were not made aware of any proposed changes in boundary. We are “Avenues & Alleyways Action Group” an active residents’ group situated in Moss Side on the border of Whitworth Park (covering Haydn Avenue and Ruskin Avenue area, M14 4DP and M14 4DL area.) Whitworth Park is a fundamental part of Moss Side’s identity. With a troubled past, this is the huge jewel in the crown for what has historically been a deprived area. If this is removed from our ward, we lose a massive chunk of our local heritage. We are left with only one park that will be part of Moss Side. It is where we all go on a sunny day. It represents all the back gardens that we do not have in our little terraced houses. We have a strong connection with the park and the art gallery both physically and emotionally. It is where residents have held the Moss Side markets (a monthly craft fair where local people sell what they have made.) The art gallery is Moss Side’s one and only tourist attraction.

We are striving to say goodbye to the bad reputation that Moss Side has, as it really is a wonderful place to live and this is, in terms of arts, history, architecture one of the best things about Moss Side. To remove it from part of our identity will be so damaging and a major set back in regenerating our neighbourhood.

The proposal is to put it as part of Ardwick. Ardwick residents are not connected to this area due to the huge hospital and several streets worth of university buildings in the way. The geography of it means they will never feel that connection. Even the residential streets nearby that are proposed to be part of Ardwick consist mainly of students who are only hear for a year and don’t have that sense of local pride. It is only right that when ward meetings are held, decisions regarding the park are made by Moss Side Councillors representing Moss Side people who are the ones who use the park, supported by local Moss Side residents’ associations.

Given that the squirrels in the park cannot vote so there will be no change to the number of constituents, please, please, please will you change the boundary and keep the park and art gallery in Moss Side where they belong?

Yours faithfully,

Peter McCabe

Avenues & Alleyways Action Group Co-ordinator