



# New electoral arrangements for Westmorland and Furness Council Final Recommendations

September 2025

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## **A note on our mapping:**

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.



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# Introduction

## Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.<sup>1</sup> We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| • Professor Colin Mellors OBE<br>(Chair) | • Steve Robinson                 |
| • Andrew Scallan CBE<br>(Deputy Chair)   | • Wallace Sampson OBE            |
| • Amanda Nobbs OBE                       | • Liz Treacy                     |
|  | • Ailsa Irvine (Chief Executive) |

## What is an electoral review?

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed.
- How many wards or electoral divisions there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Why Westmorland & Furness?

7 We are conducting a review of Westmorland & Furness Council ('the Council') as it is a new authority, whose electoral arrangements have not been reviewed since its establishment in 2023. The existing electoral arrangements were intended to be interim for the purposes of the first elections to the authority.

8 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Westmorland & Furness are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the authority.

## Our proposals for Westmorland & Furness

9 Westmorland & Furness should be represented by 65 councillors, the same number as there are now.

10 Westmorland & Furness should have 35 wards, two more than there are now.

11 The boundaries of most wards should change; seven will stay the same.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Westmorland & Furness.

## How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

14 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the authority or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to consider any representations which are based on these issues.



## Review timetable

15 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Westmorland & Furness. We then held two periods of consultation with the public on warding patterns for the authority. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 August 2024	Number of councillors decided
27 August 2024	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
4 November 2024	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
4 March 2025	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
12 May 2025	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
30 September 2025	Publication of final recommendations



## Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation<sup>2</sup> states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors<sup>3</sup> there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

18 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

19 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2024	2030
Electorate of Westmorland & Furness	176,714	184,961
Number of councillors	65	65
Average number of electors per councillor	2,719	2,846

20 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Westmorland & Furness are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

## Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2030, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2025. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2030.

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<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

<sup>3</sup> Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

23 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

24 Our mapping tool uses geocoded electoral registers supplied by the Council to locate electors, by associating addresses with specific geographic coordinates. It considers each elector's location to produce precise elector counts for each ward. There can be very slight differences between the electorate figures published on our website at the beginning of the review and the electorate figures published in this report. However, these are very minor and do not impact on our recommendations.

## Number of councillors

25 Westmorland & Furness Council currently has 65 councillors. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

26 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 65 councillors: for example, 65 one-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

27 We received some submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. These submissions suggested that a lower number of councillors would result in monetary savings, but did not specify the number in question, or provide evidence as to how the Council could effectively discharge its duties with a smaller number of councillors. We have therefore based our final recommendations on a 65-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

28 We received 110 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included two authority-wide proposals from the Council and the Putting Cumbria First political party. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the authority.

29 The two authority-wide schemes provided mixed patterns of wards for Westmorland & Furness. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the Council's proposed pattern of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most areas of the authority and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

30 Our draft recommendations were based on the proposals of the Council and provided for nine three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and 12 one-councillor wards. They also take into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

## Draft recommendations consultation

31 We received 52 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments from the Council covering the entirety of our draft recommendations. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals for the Coniston area, and the areas to the south of Kendal.

## Final recommendations

32 Our final recommendations are for nine three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and 14 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

33 We visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Westmorland & Furness helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the wards in the Coniston and Kendal areas based on the submissions received. We also make minor modifications to the boundaries between Penrith North and Penrith South wards.

35 The tables and maps on pages 8–23 detail our final recommendations for each area of Westmorland & Furness. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory<sup>4</sup> criteria of:

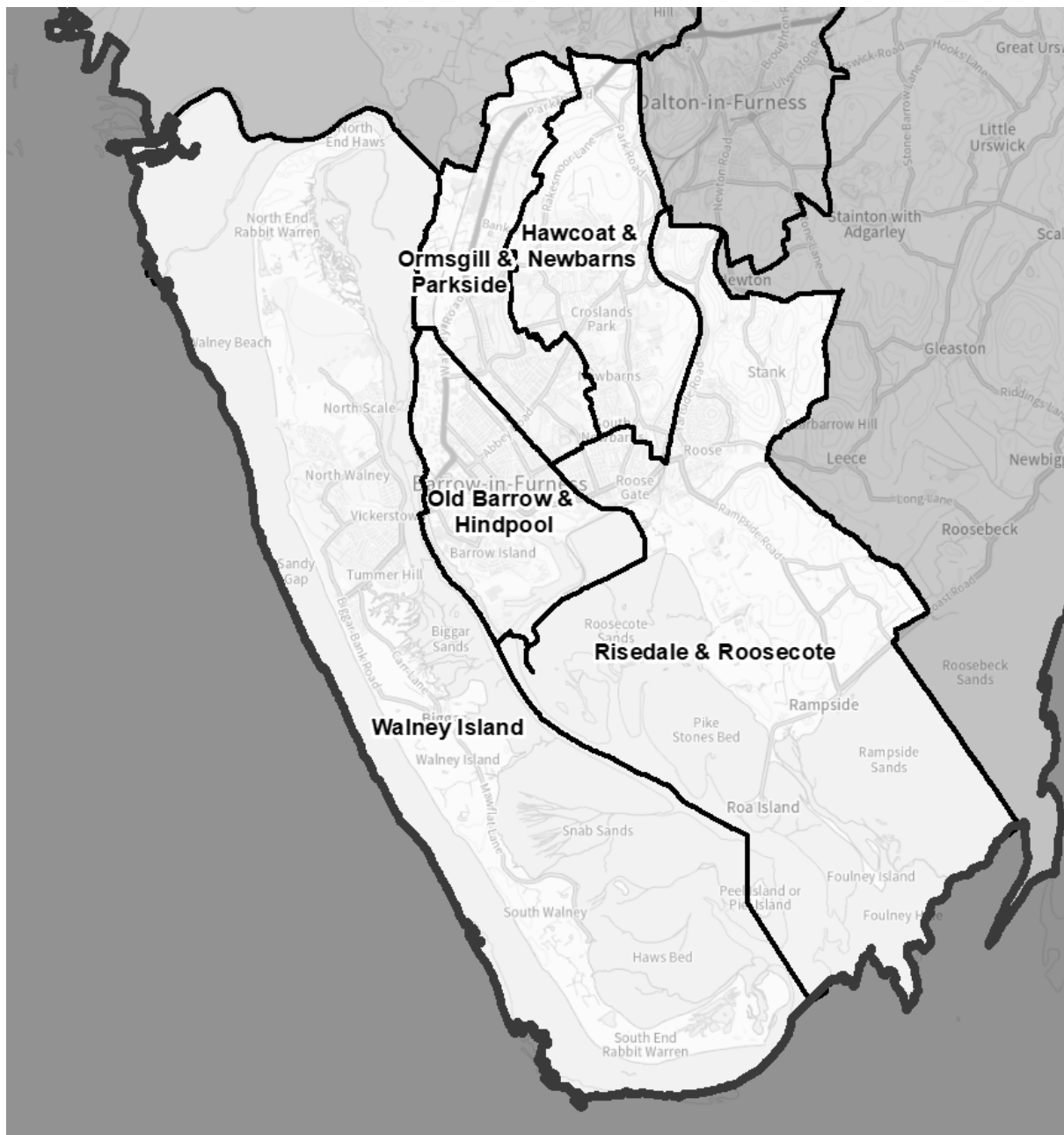
- Equality of representation.
- Reflecting community interests and identities.
- Providing for effective and convenient local government.

36 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

## Barrow-in-Furness



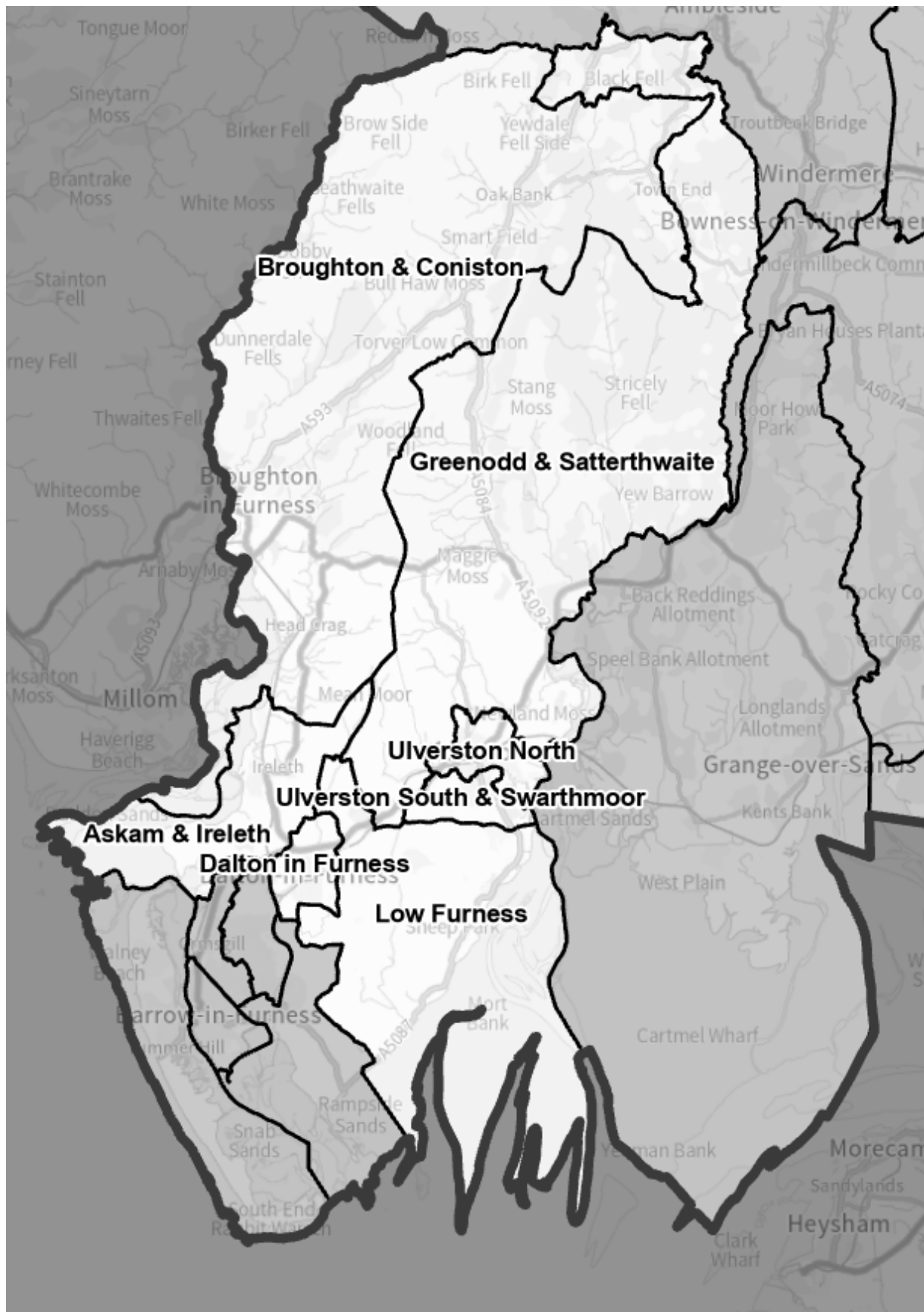
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Hawcoat & Newbarns	3	6%
Old Barrow & Hindpool	3	7%
Ormsgill & Parkside	3	-3%
Risedale & Roosecote	3	-2%
Walney Island	3	-2%

*Hawcoat & Newbarns, Old Barrow & Hindpool, Ormsgill & Parkside, Risedale & Roosecote and Walney Island*

37 Our draft recommendations in Barrow-in-Furness were based on the proposal of the Council. We made one modification to the Council's original proposal in respect of the boundary between Hawcoat & Newbarns and Ormsgill & Parkside wards.

38 Our draft recommendations, including the modification detailed above, were supported by the Council. We received very few other comments on the proposed ward boundaries in Barrow-in-Furness, as opposed to the position of Barrow within the Westmorland & Furness unitary authority. This latter point is not one which we can deal with as part of this electoral review. All five wards in Barrow are forecast to have good electoral equality, and we confirm our draft recommendations for the town as final.

## Furness Peninsula





Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Askam & Ireleth	1	1%
Broughton & Coniston	1	10%
Dalton in Furness	2	10%
Greenodd & Satterthwaite	1	-5%
Low Furness	1	2%
Ulverston North	2	10%
Ulverston South & Swarthmoor	2	-2%

*Askam & Ireleth, Broughton & Coniston, and Greenodd & Satterthwaite*

39 Our draft recommendations for these wards were supported by the Council, but opposed by Coniston Parish Council, Cllr M. Brereton, and a resident. The resident provided evidence of links between Coniston and Hawkshead, particularly in terms of doctors' surgeries. Coniston Parish Council argued for the retention of the existing 'Coniston and Hawkshead' ward, stating the existence of a 'natural community' although providing little specific evidence of the community identity shared between the settlements within this ward.

40 Councillors G. Sanderson and M. Kiziuk, of Lowick and Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Councils respectively, both noted that there were strong social and community links between these two parishes.

41 We considered all the submissions received for this area carefully and visited the area on our tour of Westmorland & Furness. We note that the geography of the area lends itself to wards running broadly north to south, as proposed in our draft recommendations. We considered retaining the existing Coniston & Hawkshead ward, as proposed by Coniston Parish Council. The existing ward offers good electoral equality but relies on neighbouring wards that would not offer good equality, and ultimately relies on dividing the town of Dalton in Furness between wards.

42 We considered various options, including placing Coniston parish in the eastern ward with Hawkshead, and making the consequential change of moving a number of parishes to the south into a ward based around Broughton. Of itself, this would be plausible, but given the fact that Egton with Newland, Mansriggs and Osmotherley parishes are grouped, there is no way to respect this grouping and retain good electoral equality for both wards. We consider that splitting grouped parishes between different wards is unlikely to provide for effective and convenient local government and prefer to avoid this wherever possible.

43 We are persuaded to alter our draft recommendations, to reflect the evidence of community identity between Coniston and Hawkshead parishes, and between Blawith & Subberthwaite and Lowick parishes. We have therefore decided to modify

our draft recommendations by adding Hawkshead parish to Broughton & Coniston ward, with Blawith & Subberthwaite parish moving into Greenodd & Satterthwaite ward (previously called Hawkshead & Greenodd). Given the difference in sizes between the two parishes in question, further changes are required to retain good electoral equality – we therefore propose placing the western, rural section of Pennington parish in our Greenodd & Satterthwaite ward. This is discussed further below (paragraph 52).

44 We considered whether to place Skelwith parish into Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere ward, noting that it has limited connectivity with the remainder of Greenodd & Satterthwaite ward, and that it cannot be placed in Broughton & Coniston ward while retaining good electoral equality. However, given the broad support for our draft recommendations for Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere, the already large geographic size of this ward and the lack of evidence supporting a move of Skelwith parish, we are retaining Skelwith in our revised Greenodd & Satterthwaite ward.

45 The Council supported our draft recommendations for Askam & Ireleth ward, covering the parish of the same name. We received no proposals for changes to this ward on its own merits (as opposed to consequential changes based on neighbouring wards) and we confirm our draft recommendation for Askam & Ireleth as final.

#### *Dalton in Furness and Low Furness*

46 Our draft recommendations proposed a two-member ward covering the entire town of Dalton in Furness, but with the separate settlement of Newton placed in a rural-based Low Furness ward. This was welcomed by the Council, who noted that, in spite of the disadvantages of splitting the parish of Dalton-with-Newton, our draft recommendations reflected local interests and identities more accurately than retaining the entire parish within a single ward. The draft recommendations were also supported by Cllr B. Cooper, who proposed a relatively minor amendment to the boundary separating Newton from Dalton in Furness.

47 Lindal & Marton Parish Council objected to our draft recommendations, noting that there was a good working relationship between the parish and district councillors who represent the existing Dalton North ward. The Parish Council expressed a desire to retain a link with all or part of Dalton in some form.

48 We considered this proposal carefully, but are not persuaded to amend our draft recommendations and link Lindal & Marton in a ward with Dalton in Furness. We note that neither of the existing wards covering Dalton offer good electoral equality, and consider that they split the town of Dalton in a way that does not appear to reflect its community identity. The only plausible alternative to retain Lindal

& Marton and Dalton in Furness within the same ward would be to revert to the Council's initial proposal for a three-member ward covering both Dalton and the Low Furness area. Given the evidence of differing community identities, and the broad support for our draft recommendations, we are not persuaded to alter them to this extent.

49 We have adopted the proposal of Cllr B. Cooper to amend the boundary through Dalton with Newton parish, with the revised boundary running along Long Lane and Newton Road. The change affects only a small number of electors, providing for a clearer and more recognisable boundary. Subject to this minor amendment, we confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

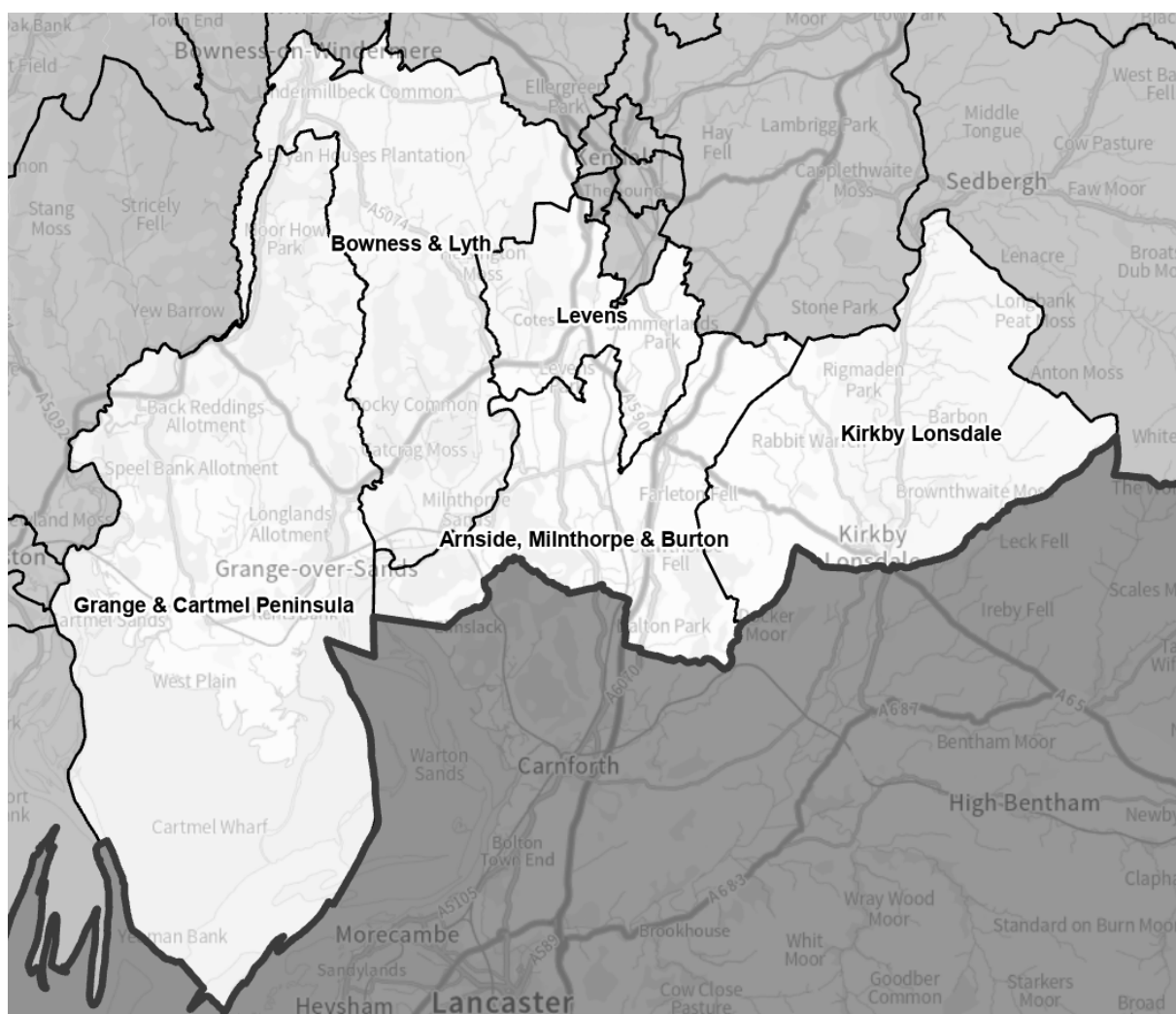
#### *Ulverston North and Ulverston South & Swarthmoor*

50 Our draft recommendations were for two wards covering Ulverston, with a boundary between them running along the Dragley Beck stream. This boundary was supported by the Council.

51 Our proposed Ulverston South & Pennington ward included the entire parish of Pennington, including both the rural area and the built-up settlement of Swarthmoor. This was opposed by Cllr Y. Athersmith, who argued that there was no community identity between the rural area of Pennington and Ulverston, and that adding electors from Ulverston would place additional workload on councillors.

52 We are persuaded to amend our draft recommendations, placing the rural area of Pennington parish into Greenodd & Satterthwaite ward, while retaining Swarthmoor in a re-named Ulverston South & Swarthmoor ward. This not only reflects the evidence of Cllr Athersmith, but also ensures that both our revised Greenodd & Satterthwaite and Ulverston South & Swarthmoor wards have good electoral equality. We are amending the name of this latter ward, to reflect the changes made.

## Southern Westmorland & Furness



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Arnside, Milnthorpe & Burton	3	3%
Bowness & Lyth	1	4%
Grange & Cartmel Peninsula	3	7%
Kirkby Lonsdale	1	-9%
Levens	1	4%

### *Arnside, Milnthorpe & Burton and Levens*

53 Our draft recommendations departed from the proposal made by the Council in this area, with a three-member ward in the southern area and a single-member ward to the south of Kendal. We received a range of comments on our draft recommendations for these wards.

54 Stainton Parish Council expressed a desire to remain in a ward joined to the southern section of Kendal. This proposal was also supported by a resident who expressed satisfaction with the current representatives – this point is not a matter we

can take into account. We considered the proposal carefully, and visited this area on our tour of Westmorland & Furness. We consider that there is relatively clear evidence of a separate community identity between the southern section of Kendal and smaller settlements such as Sedgwick, Stainton, and Summerlands. Without significantly re-casting our proposed wards in Kendal, the only alternative warding pattern which provides for good electoral equality would be to merge our proposed wards of Levens and Kendal South. We do not consider that sufficient evidence was provided to justify this change, and are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations in this way.

55 Heversham Parish Council argued that it had a shared identity with Hincaster and Levens, but no such identity with Arnside, Beetham, or Burton. No details of the shared community identity were provided, and we note that moving Heversham and Hincaster parishes into the northern ward with no other changes would lead to this ward having 30% more electors than the average for the authority – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality.

56 The Council recognised that either its original proposal or our draft recommendations would provide a viable warding pattern. However, it noted that the draft recommendations resulted in the A65 main road switching between wards on several occasions, and argued that Preston Richard and Preston Patrick parishes should ideally be placed in the same ward. Cllr J. Battye and a resident reinforced this latter point, while a resident of Helsington parish strongly supported the draft recommendations, noting that they shared no community identity with Milnthorpe which they would have been joined with under the Council's original proposal.

57 Cllr J. Battye noted that Hincaster and Heversham shared a neighbourhood plan. She also suggested that the name of Levens ward could be expanded to include a reference to Crooklands, as with the existing ward.

58 We have considered all of the submissions for this area very carefully and consider that the decision is finely balanced. We considered moving Hincaster parish into Levens ward to allow a more natural shape for this ward and to allow the management of the A65 to be simplified. However, this would result in Levens ward having an electoral variance of 11%, as well as breaking the links between Hincaster and Heversham parishes with their shared Neighbourhood Plan. We are therefore not persuaded to change our draft recommendations in this way.

59 We considered moving Preston Patrick into Levens ward, based on the evidence of a shared community identity with Preston Richard. However, without any compensating changes, this would leave Levens ward with a 16% variance and we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to justify this level of electoral inequality.

60 On balance, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for Arnside, Milnthorpe & Burton and Levens wards. We note that varying and sometimes contradictory evidence of community identity has been received for this area and have concluded that any potential revision to the draft recommendations is unlikely to offer a better balance of our statutory criteria. Levens and Arnside, Milnthorpe & Burton wards are forecast to offer good electoral equality by 2030, and we confirm our draft recommendations as final.

#### *Bowness & Lyth and Grange & Cartmel Peninsula*

61 Cllr J. Saunders, while not proposing specific changes, suggested that Windermere and Bowness should be united within a single ward. In contrast, our draft recommendations were supported by the Council, Windermere & Bowness Town Council, Cllr A. Jarvis, and Cllr S. Bavin. We are not persuaded to amend our draft recommendations for Bowness & Lyth ward, which is forecast to offer good forecast electoral equality. We therefore confirm them as final.

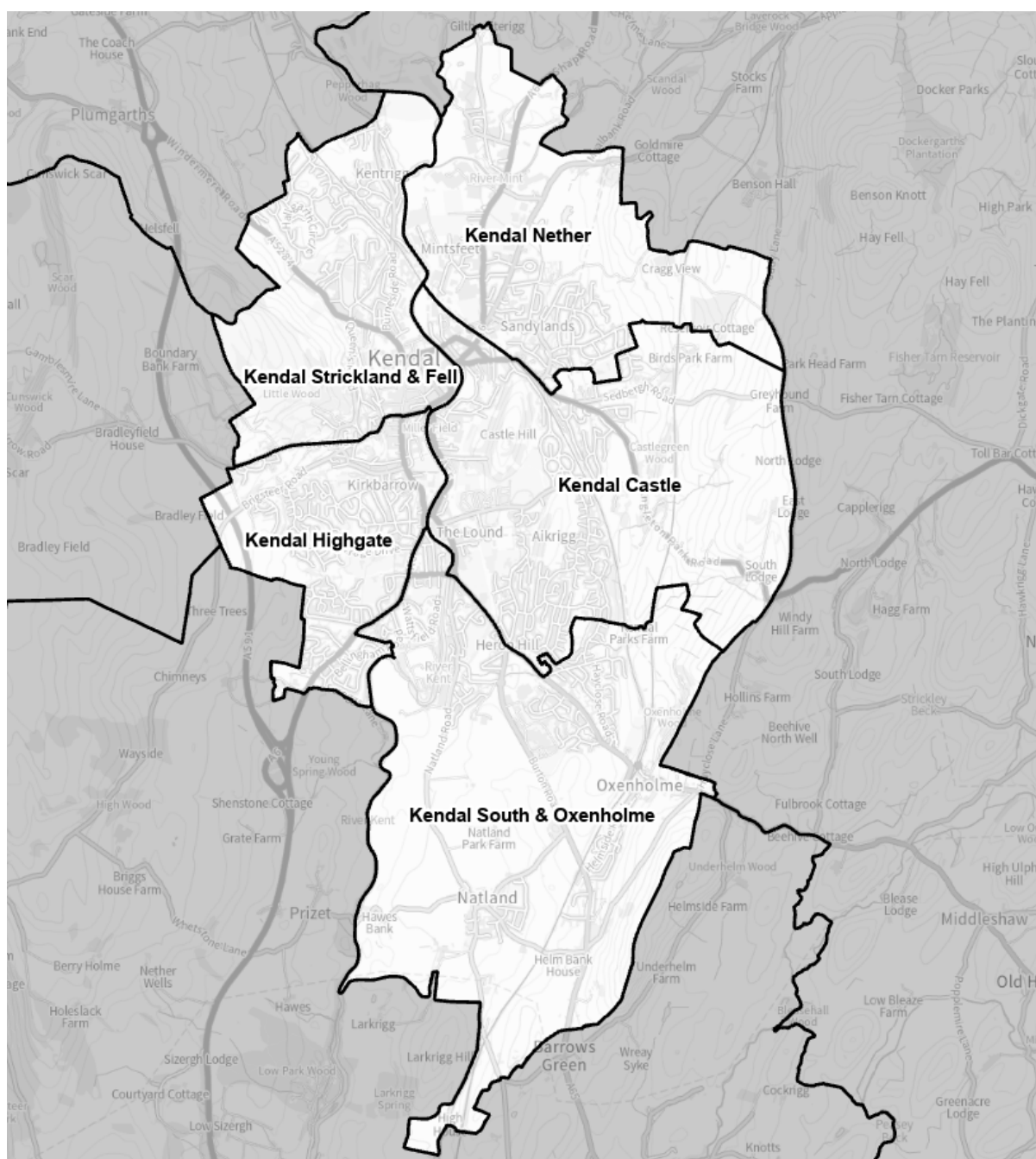
62 The Council supported our proposed boundaries for Grange & Cartmel ward, but proposed a change of name after discussion with local representatives. The name 'Grange & Cartmel Peninsula' was described as being more inclusive of the other villages and settlements in this ward. We are persuaded to amend our draft recommendations accordingly.

#### *Kirkby Lonsdale*

63 Our draft recommendations for Kirkby Lonsdale were supported by the Council and the Kirkby Lonsdale & Lune Valley CIC. We received no other comments regarding this ward and have decided to confirm our draft recommendations as final.



## Kendal



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Kendal Castle	2	2%
Kendal Highgate	2	-5%
Kendal Nether	1	7%
Kendal South & Oxenholme	2	-6%
Kendal Strickland & Fell	2	-7%

*Kendal Castle, Kendal Highgate, Kendal Nether, Kendal South & Oxenholme, and Kendal Strickland & Fell*

64 Other than the Council's submission, we received no comments regarding the ward boundaries within the town of Kendal. As discussed above (paragraph 54), Stainton Parish Council proposed an extension to Kendal South & Oxenholme ward to include rural parishes to the south of the town. Burneside Parish Council (comprising Strickland Ketel and Strickland Roger parishes) supported the decision as part of our draft recommendations not to expand a Kendal-based ward into these parishes.

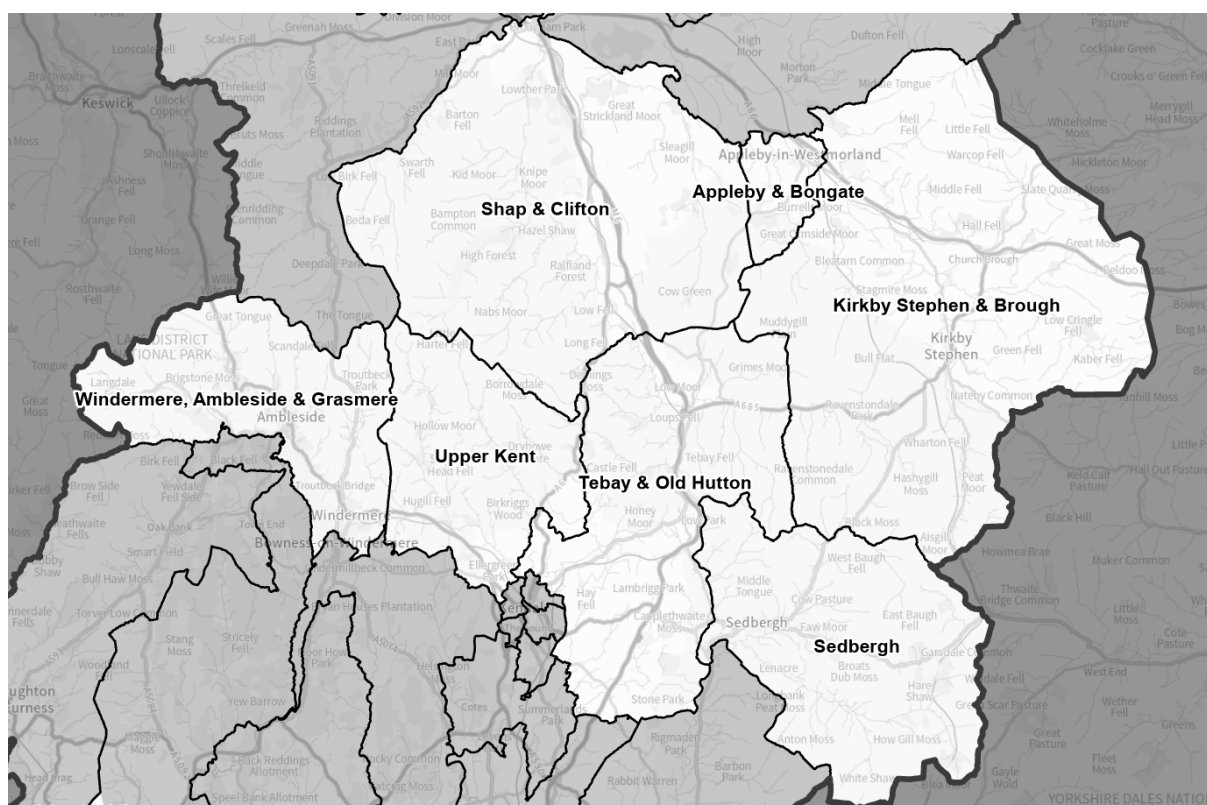
65 The Council supported our draft recommendations for the wards of Kendal Strickland & Fell, Kendal Highgate, and Kendal South & Oxenholme, but proposed an amendment to the boundary between Kendal Nether and Kendal Castle wards. The Council suggested that our proposed boundary split the Sandylands estate and proposed an alternative boundary running to the south of Sandylands and Castle Park School, before passing between Grasmere Crescent and Bowland Drive.

66 We considered this proposal carefully and viewed the potential boundaries on our tour of Westmorland & Furness. Given the evidence of community identity provided, we are persuaded to amend our draft recommendations and are adopting the Council's revised boundary as part of our final recommendations.

67 All five wards covering the town of Kendal are forecast to offer good electoral equality by 2030. Subject to the change detailed above, we confirm the remainder of our draft recommendations for Kendal as final.



## Central Rural Westmorland & Furness



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Appleby & Bongate	1	6%
Kirkby Stephen & Brough	2	-8%
Sedbergh	1	-4%
Shap & Clifton	2	-10%
Tebay & Old Hutton	1	1%
Upper Kent	1	6%
Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere	3	-7%

### *Appleby & Bongate and Kirkby Stephen & Brough*

68 Our draft recommendations for these wards were supported by the Council. One resident suggested that Ormside parish should be added to Appleby & Bongate ward, but offered no evidence other than the geographic location.

69 Brough Parish Council broadly welcomed the draft recommendations, noting that people from Brough tended to look to Kirkby Stephen rather than Appleby for many services. The Parish Council expressed some misgivings over the geographic size of the ward – in a rural area it is inevitable that a ward containing sufficient electors to offer good electoral equality will cover a relatively wide geographic area.

70 We note that our Appleby & Bongate and Kirkby Stephen & Brough wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030. Given this and, having considered the evidence received, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for these wards and confirm them as final.

#### *Sedbergh and Tebay & Old Hutton*

71 Our draft recommendations were for a two-member ward covering the same area as these two wards. We noted in our draft recommendations that either a single ward or two wards would offer good electoral equality, and we specifically invited comments on which option would provide a better reflection of community identities.

72 The Council suggested retaining the two-member ward. It argued that a single-member warding option would result in one relatively compact ward and another geographically large and sprawling one. In contrast, Cllr. A Waite and Cllr J. Murray reported that both Orton and Tebay Parish Councils preferred two single-member wards, noting that Tebay and Orton did not consider themselves to have any shared community identity with Sedbergh. This view was echoed by Sedbergh Parish Council, which also felt that it had little community identity with Tebay.

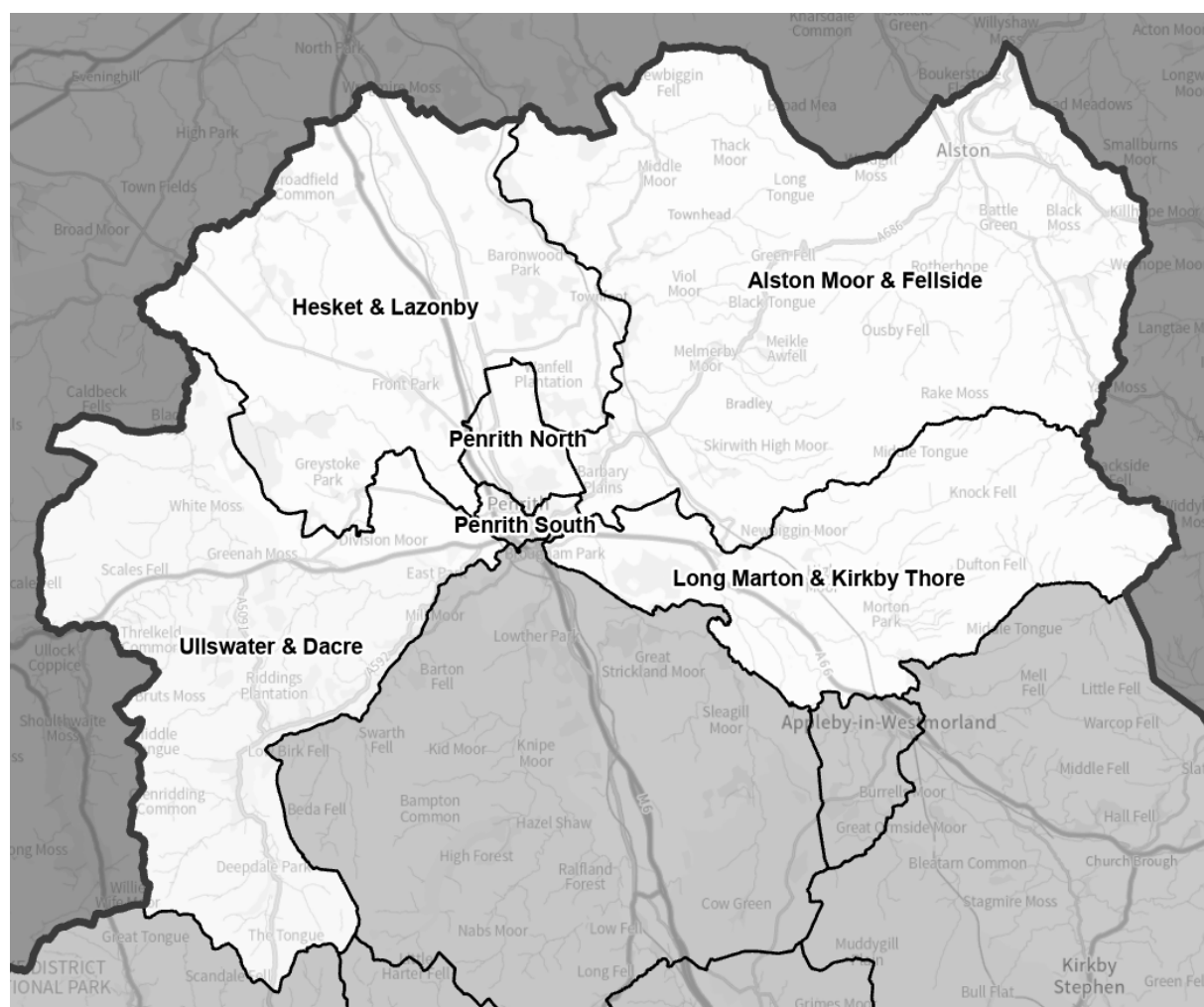
73 We have carefully considered all the submissions received for this area and are persuaded to amend our draft recommendations. We are recommending two single-member wards in this area with one covering Sedbergh, Garsdale and Dent parishes, and another covering parishes to the east of Kendal, from Orton in the north to Old Hutton & Holmescales in the south. We do not consider that either of these wards is geographically larger than necessary (particularly in comparison to other rural wards within Westmorland & Furness), and we consider that this pattern is likely to provide a better reflection of the community identities across this area.

#### *Shap & Clifton, Upper Kent, and Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere*

74 We received few proposals to alter the boundaries of these wards. The Council suggested that our proposed Eamont & Shap ward be renamed Shap & Clifton, and we are persuaded to make this change as part of our final recommendations.

75 Cllr J. Saunders suggested a potential change to Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere ward but, as discussed above (paragraph 61), we have not been persuaded to make a change in this area. Our draft recommendations were supported by the Council, Bowness & Windermere Town Council and several residents. Apart from the name change to Shap & Clifton ward, we have decided to confirm them as final. All three wards are forecast to offer good electoral equality by 2030.

## Northern Westmorland & Furness



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Alston Moor & Fellside	2	-8%
Hesket & Lazonby	2	0%
Long Marton & Kirkby Thore	1	-5%
Penrith North	2	7%
Penrith South	3	-4%
Ullswater & Dacre	1	2%

### *Alston Moor & Fellside, Hesket & Lazonby, Long Marton & Kirkby Thore, and Ullswater & Dacre*

76 Our draft recommendations for these wards were supported by the Council. Cllr J. Derbyshire supported the draft recommendations for Ullswater & Dacre ward and the move of Greystoke parish into Hesket & Lazonby ward, noting that the latter parish is entirely outside the Lake District National Park area. In contrast, Cllr J. Bridges of Greystoke Parish Council objected to the decision to place Greystoke in

Hesket & Lazonby ward, arguing that the parish's links were to the Ullswater Valley, rather than to the north.

77 We considered the submissions for this area carefully but are not persuaded to change our draft recommendations. Moving Greystoke parish into Ullswater & Dacre ward would, in the absence of consequential changes for which we have no evidence, leave the ward with a 23% electoral variance – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality. Given the support for our draft recommendations, we are not persuaded that the evidence provided by Cllr Bridges justifies this level of electoral inequality.

78 A resident of Hesket suggested that their family looked to Cumberland, rather than Westmorland & Furness, for services. As discussed above, this electoral review cannot amend the external boundaries of the two unitary authorities covering Cumbria and is only concerned with the internal electoral arrangements of Westmorland & Furness.

79 We received no other comments on our draft recommendations for these wards, all of which will offer good electoral equality by 2030. We have therefore decided to confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

#### *Penrith North and Penrith South*

80 To ensure good electoral equality, the town of Penrith is entitled to five Westmorland & Furness councillors. We received no proposals for wards joining Penrith to any adjacent areas, or for any configuration other than a three-member and a two-member ward. Comments regarding Penrith focused on the boundary between the two wards, and specifically that in the centre of the town.

81 In its original submission to the first consultation, the Council proposed retaining the existing boundary through the centre of Penrith, running along the A6 King Street, Albert Street, Corney Place, and Stricklandgate. Based on our observations, we put forward an alternative boundary as part of our draft recommendations that would follow Drovers Lane, Meeting House Lane, and Folly Lane. We considered that, while either option offered comparable electoral equality, our proposed boundary might be more likely to promote effective and convenient local government, as it allowed the entirety of Penrith High Street to be in a single ward.

82 We received no support for our draft recommendations. The Council, Penrith Town Council, and Cllr P. Bell all argued for the retention of the existing boundary, as proposed in the Council's original submission. The Council and Cllr Bell argued that the town centre was a shared resource for all residents and should be a shared responsibility for councillors from across the town. The Town Council suggested that

the changes to parish warding as a result of our draft recommendations would make some parish wards too large to promote effective and convenient local government.

83 We visited this area on our tour of Westmorland & Furness and viewed the potential boundaries in the town. While we continue to believe that the boundary proposed as part of our draft recommendations offers as strong and clear a boundary as is available in the centre of Penrith, we are persuaded by the local evidence received to amend our draft recommendations. We are reverting to the Council's original proposal to retain the existing boundary between Penrith North and Penrith South wards. This also means that the existing parish warding can stand with minimal amendment, as requested by the Town Council.



## Conclusions

84 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Westmorland & Furness, referencing the 2024 and 2030 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found in Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided in Appendix B.

### Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2024	2030
Number of councillors	65	65
Number of electoral wards	35	35
Average number of electors per councillor	2,719	2,846
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Final recommendations

Westmorland & Furness should be made up of 65 councillors serving 35 wards representing 14 single-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and nine three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

#### Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Westmorland & Furness. You can also view our final recommendations for Westmorland & Furness on our interactive maps at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### Parish electoral arrangements

85 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

86 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Westmorland & Furness Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

87 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Barrow, Dalton Town with Newton, Kendal, Pennington, Penrith and Ulverston.

88 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Barrow parish.

#### Final recommendations

Barrow Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, as at present, representing 11 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Barrow Island	1
Central	2
Hawcoat	2
Hindpool	2
Newbarns	2
Ormsgill	2
Parkside	2
Risedale	2
Roosecote	2
Walney North	2
Walney South	2

89 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Dalton Town with Newton parish.

#### Final recommendations

Dalton Town with Newton Town Council should comprise 10 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Anty Cross	4
Beckside	3
Dowdales	2
Newton	1



90 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Kendal parish.

**Final recommendations**

Kendal Town Council should comprise 28 councillors, as at present, representing 10 wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Castle	6
Fell	2
Heron Hill	2
Highgate	2
Kirkland	2
Mintsfeet	2
Nether	3
Oxenholme	3
Stonecross	2
Strickland	4

91 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Pennington parish.

**Final recommendations**

Pennington Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Pennington	2
Swarthmoor	5

92 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Penrith parish.

**Final recommendations**

Penrith Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Carleton	4
East	2
North	4
Pategill	1
South	2
West	2

93 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Ulverston parish.

#### Final recommendations

Ulverston Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East	3
North	3
South	3
South East	2
South West	1
Town	3
West	3

## What happens next?

94 We have now completed our review of Westmorland & Furness. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2027.



## Equalities

95 The Commission is satisfied that it complies with its legal obligations under the Equality Act and that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.



# Appendices

## Appendix A

### Final recommendations for Westmorland & Furness

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alston Moor & Fellside	2	5,206	2,603	-4%	5,260	2,630	-8%
2	Appleby & Bongate	1	2,789	2,789	3%	3,006	3,006	6%
3	Arnside, Milnthorpe & Burton	3	8,478	2,826	4%	8,763	2,921	3%
4	Askam & Ireleth	1	2,723	2,723	0%	2,886	2,886	1%
5	Bowness & Lyth	1	2,854	2,854	5%	2,955	2,955	4%
6	Broughton & Coniston	1	3,026	3,026	11%	3,125	3,125	10%
7	Dalton in Furness	2	5,888	2,944	8%	6,271	3,136	10%
8	Grange & Cartmel Peninsula	3	8,658	2,886	6%	9,109	3,036	7%
9	Greenodd & Satterthwaite	1	2,643	2,643	-3%	2,690	2,690	-5%
10	Hawcoat & Newbarns	3	8,805	2,935	8%	9,014	3,005	6%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
11	Hesket & Lazonby	2	5,552	2,776	2%	5,683	2,842	0%
12	Kendal Castle	2	5,701	2,851	5%	5,786	2,893	2%
13	Kendal Highgate	2	5,074	2,537	-7%	5,408	2,704	-5%
14	Kendal Nether	1	3,009	3,009	11%	3,056	3,056	7%
15	Kendal South & Oxenholme	2	4,954	2,477	-9%	5,317	2,659	-7%
16	Kendal Strickland & Fell	2	5,030	2,515	-7%	5,370	2,685	-6%
17	Kirkby Lonsdale	1	2,553	2,553	-6%	2,595	2,595	-9%
18	Kirkby Stephen & Brough	2	5,173	2,587	-5%	5,255	2,628	-8%
19	Levens	1	2,902	2,902	7%	2,953	2,953	4%
20	Long Marton & Kirkby Thore	1	2,568	2,568	-6%	2,704	2,704	-5%
21	Low Furness	1	2,804	2,804	3%	2,914	2,914	2%
22	Old Barrow & Hindpool	3	8,371	2,790	3%	9,145	3,048	7%
23	Ormsgill & Parkside	3	8,174	2,725	0%	8,305	2,768	-3%
24	Penrith North	2	5,101	2,551	-6%	6,069	3,035	7%



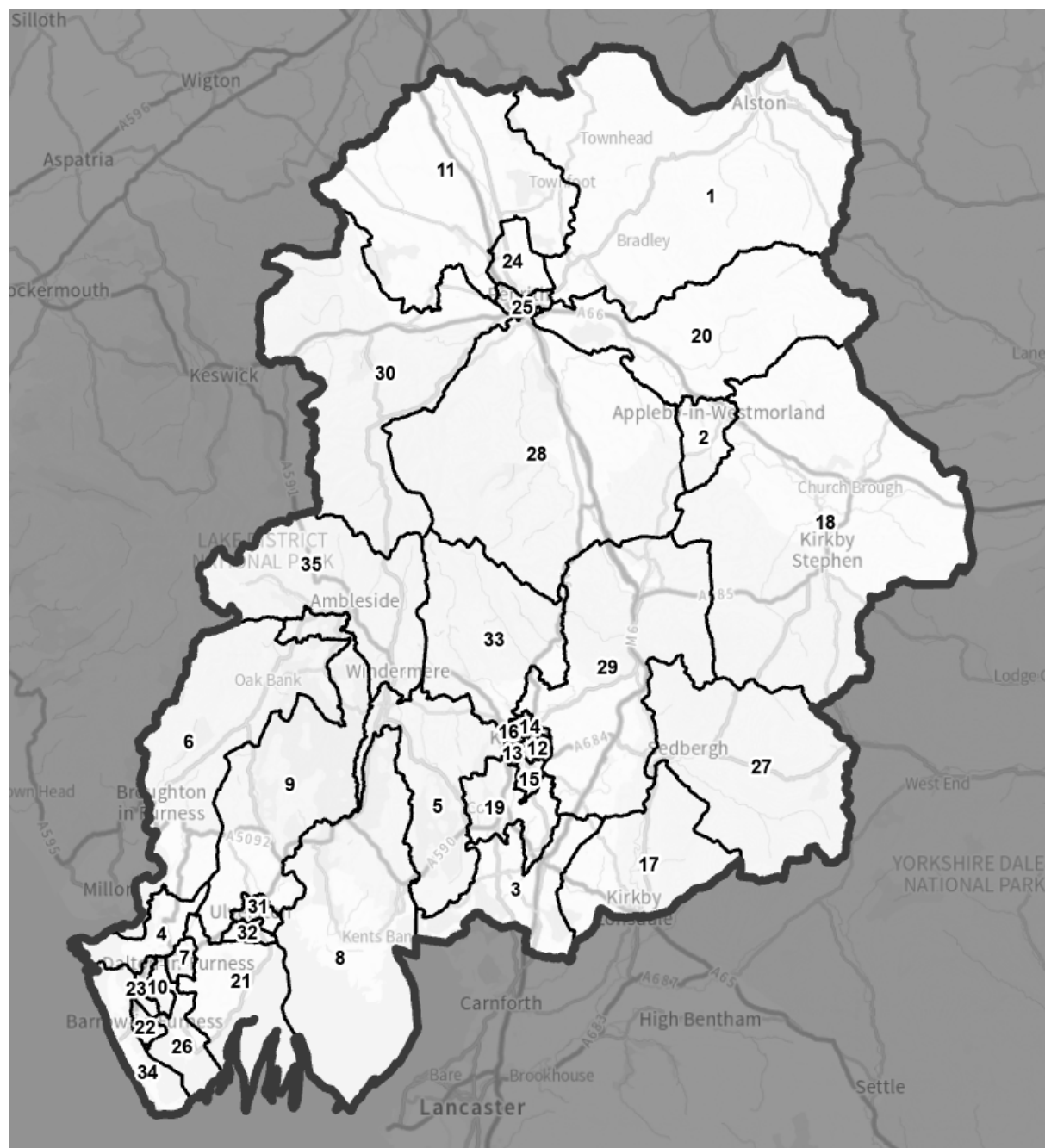
	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2024)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2030)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
25	Penrith South	3	7,996	2,665	-2%	8,233	2,744	-4%
26	Risedale & Roosecote	3	8,226	2,742	1%	8,379	2,793	-2%
27	Sedbergh	1	2,557	2,557	-6%	2,744	2,744	-4%
28	Shap & Clifton	2	4,970	2,485	-9%	5,128	2,564	-10%
29	Tebay & Old Hutton	1	2,831	2,831	4%	2,871	2,871	1%
30	Ullswater & Dacre	1	2,775	2,775	2%	2,916	2,916	2%
31	Ulverston North	2	5,961	2,981	10%	6,242	3,121	10%
32	Ulverston South & Swarthmoor	2	4,686	2,343	-14%	5,552	2,776	-2%
33	Upper Kent	1	2,940	2,940	8%	3,003	3,003	6%
34	Walney Island	3	8,271	2,757	1%	8,339	2,630	-2%
35	Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere	3	7,465	2,488	-8%	7,930	3,006	-7%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>176,714</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>184,961</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Averages</b>		<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,719</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,846</b>	<b>—</b>

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Westmorland & Furness Council.

Note: The ‘variance from average’ column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the authority. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

## Appendix B

### Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Alston Moor & Fellside
2	Appleby & Bongate
3	Arnside, Milnthorpe & Burton
4	Askam & Ireleth
5	Bowness & Lyth
6	Broughton & Coniston
7	Dalton in Furness

8	Grange & Cartmel Peninsula
9	Greenodd & Satterthwaite
10	Hawcoat & Newbarns
11	Hesket & Lazonby
12	Kendal Castle
13	Kendal Highgate
14	Kendal Nether
15	Kendal South & Oxenholme
16	Kendal Strickland & Fell
17	Kirkby Lonsdale
18	Kirkby Stephen & Brough
19	Levens
20	Long Marton & Kirkby Thore
21	Low Furness
22	Old Barrow & Hindpool
23	Ormsgill & Parkside
24	Penrith North
25	Penrith South
26	Risedale & Roosecote
27	Sedbergh
28	Shap & Clifton
29	Tebay & Old Hutton
30	Ullswater & Dacre
31	Ulverston North
32	Ulverston South & Swarthmoor
33	Upper Kent
34	Walney Island
35	Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere

A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: [www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/westmorland-and-furness](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/westmorland-and-furness)

## Appendix C

### Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

[www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/westmorland-and-furness](http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/westmorland-and-furness)

#### *Local Authority*

- Westmorland & Furness Council

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor Y. Athersmith (Pennington Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Battye (Westmorland & Furness Council) (2 submissions)
- Councillor S. Bavin (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor P. Bell (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor M. Brereton (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor J. Bridges (Greystoke Parish Council)
- Councillor W. Clark (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor B. Cooper (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor J. Derbyshire (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor A. Jarvis (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor D. Jones (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor M. Kiziuk (Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Murray (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor G. Sanderson (Lowick Parish Council)
- Councillor J. Saunders (Windermere & Bowness Town Council)
- Councillor A. Waite (Westmorland & Furness Council)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Kirkby Lonsdale & Lune Valley Community Interest Company

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Aldingham Parish Council
- Brough Parish Council
- Burneside Parish Council
- Coniston Parish Council
- Helsington Parish Council
- Heversham Parish Council

- Holme Parish Council
- Lindal & Marton Parish Council
- Orton Parish Council and Tebay Parish Council (joint submission)
- Penrith Town Council
- Sedbergh Parish Council
- Stainton Parish Council
- Windermere & Bowness Town Council

#### *Local Residents*

- 20 local residents

## Appendix D

### Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Changes Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority.
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents

Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at <a href="http://www.nalc.gov.uk">www.nalc.gov.uk</a>
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average
Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council





The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government.

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