



# New electoral arrangements for Westmorland and Furness Council Draft Recommendations

March 2025



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Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

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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 (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Wallace Sampson 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 details regarding the powers that we have, as well as further guidance and information about electoral reviews and the 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 34 wards, one more than there are now.

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

## How will the recommendations affect you?

12 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.

13 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.



## Have your say

14 We will consult on the draft recommendations for a 10-week period, from 4 March 2025 to 12 May 2025. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to comment on these proposed wards as the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be in making our final recommendations.

15 We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this report and look at the accompanying map before responding to us.

16 You have until 12 May 2025 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 31 for how to send us your response.

## Review timetable

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

18 The review is being 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 begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
30 September 2025	Publication of final recommendations



## Analysis and draft recommendations

19 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.

20 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.

21 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	176,699	184,975
Number of councillors	65	65
Average number of electors per councillor	2,718	2,846

22 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

23 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

24 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.

25 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 draft recommendations.

<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.

26 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

27 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.

28 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.

29 We received some submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. 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 therefore based our draft recommendations on a 65-councillor council.

## Ward boundaries consultation

30 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.

31 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.

32 The proposals from Putting Cumbria First were for 27 wards, with nine of these wards (33%) forecast to have notably high electoral variances by 2030. The proposals also included two four-member wards – as a matter of policy we do not recommend wards returning more than three councillors, as we consider that this has the potential to dilute the democratic accountability of members to the electorate. Putting Cumbria First noted that the electorates, and hence councillor allocations,

were not even among the three areas covered by predecessor district councils of South Lakeland, Eden and Barrow-in-Furness, but offered no specific evidence to support the community identities of the wards proposed.

33 We are under an obligation to consider the forecast electorates of each area, and not attempt to balance the number of councillors representing areas formerly covered by the district councils of Barrow-in-Furness, South Lakeland and Eden. Because of the high electoral variances and insufficient evidence relating to community identities, we have not adopted the proposals of Putting Cumbria First as part of our draft recommendations.

34 A number of submissions from individuals commented on the make-up of Westmorland & Furness as a whole, with several submissions suggesting that Penrith be removed from this authority and placed in the neighbouring Cumberland authority instead. This review is concerned only with the internal ward boundaries for Westmorland & Furness and cannot alter the external boundaries of the authority.

35 Our draft recommendations are based on the proposals of the Council. 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.

36 We conducted a detailed virtual tour of Westmorland & Furness in order to look at the various proposals and options. This tour of Westmorland & Furness helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

## Draft recommendations

37 Our draft recommendations are for nine three-councillor wards, 13 two-councillor wards and 12 one-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

38 The tables and maps on pages 9–26 detail our draft 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.

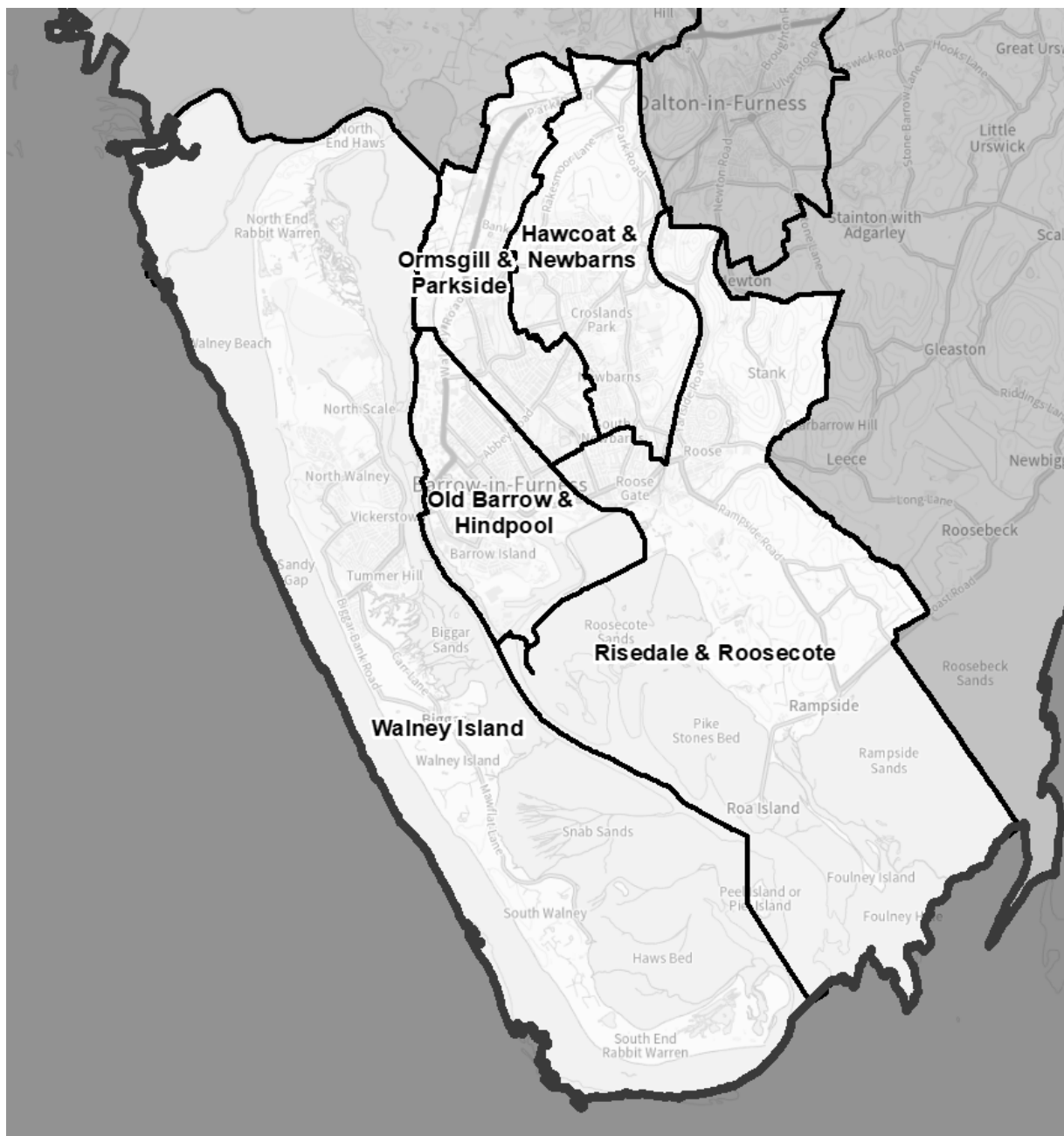
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<sup>4</sup> Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

39 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 37 and on the large map accompanying this report.

40 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

## 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*

41 The Council proposed retaining all five wards covering the town of Barrow, noting that they had been reviewed relatively recently and that the proposed housing developments within the town are not of sufficient size to disturb the relative balance of wards. Other than the warding scheme from Putting Cumbria First, we received no alternative proposals for wards covering the town. Some individuals commented on the differing political balance of councillors elected for Barrow-in-Furness compared to the rest of the authority – this is not a matter we can take into account when developing our recommendations.

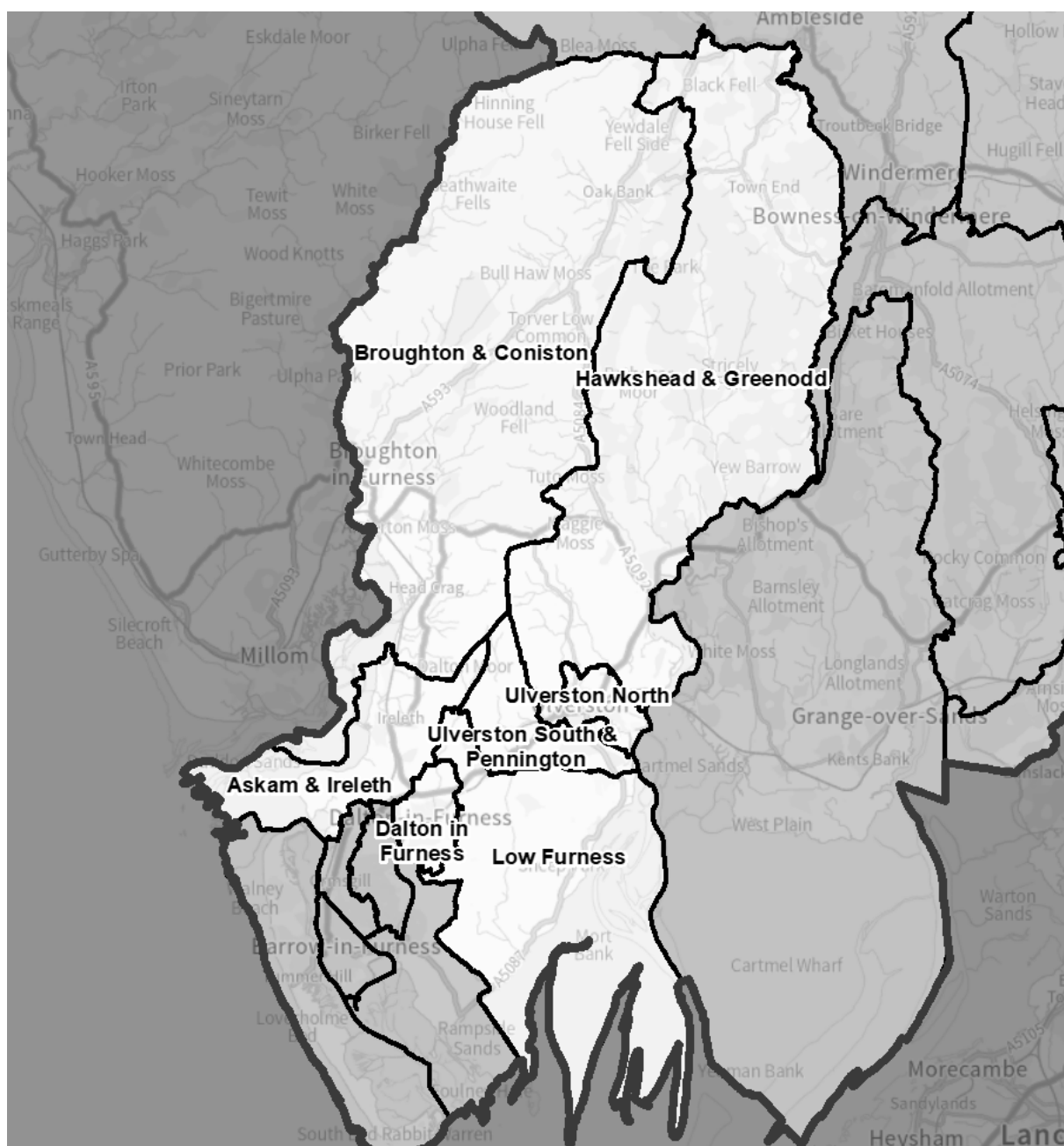
42 We have decided to base our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals. However, we propose one amendment to the existing boundaries, based on our observations on our virtual tour of Westmorland & Furness. The Council proposed retaining the existing boundary between Hawcoat & Newbarns and Ormsgill & Parkside wards, meaning that electors in Elkstone Avenue would be somewhat isolated within Ormsgill & Parkside ward. We consider that it may be a better reflection of community identity to move these electors into Hawcoat & Newbarns ward, alongside their immediate neighbours. We are proposing this change, which has a marginal impact upon electoral equality, as part of our draft recommendations.

43 Cumbria Animal & Hen Rescue provided a submission which was focussed on the perceived effectiveness of existing councillors rather than offering proposals or evidence regarding ward boundaries. The effectiveness or otherwise of elected members is a matter for the electorate to judge at local elections and not something we can consider as part of this electoral review.

44 We are satisfied that our draft recommendations will provide for wards that reflect local community identities and note that all five wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.



## Furness Peninsula



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Askam & Ireleth	1	1%
Broughton & Coniston	1	1%
Dalton in Furness	2	10%
Hawkshead & Greenodd	1	-8%
Low Furness	1	2%
Uiverston North	2	10%
Uiverston South & Pennington	2	3%

### *Askam & Ireleth, Broughton & Coniston and Hawkshead & Greenodd*

45 These three rural-based wards follow the proposal of the Council, which noted in its submission that there was considerable discussion around varying proposals in this area. A north-south split of wards crossing Coniston Water was considered by the Council's working group but rejected owing to poor transport links in this direction.

46 Both Coniston and Lowick parishes, and Cllr A. Bennett, provided submissions supporting the retention of the existing Coniston & Hawkshead ward, with both expressing satisfaction with their current Council representative. We do not consider political implications of our recommendations, including whether or not current councillors might be re-elected to revised wards. We note that, while the current Coniston & Hawkshead ward is forecast to have good electoral equality, with a -8% variance, this relies on also retaining the neighbouring wards in the High Furness, Dalton and Ulverston areas. These existing wards are not forecast to have good electoral equality, meaning that retaining the existing Coniston & Hawkshead ward in isolation does not offer a good balance of our statutory criteria. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

47 The Council's proposal of two wards running north-south, (broadly) on either side of Coniston Water, retains entire parishes within single wards and offers good electoral equality. We have therefore adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. An alternative was offered by Egton with Newland Parish Council, but this required the creation of large rural ward to the north of the area proposed.

48 Askam & Ireleth ward, covering the parish of the same name, again follows the Council's proposal. The Council argued that this ward being separated from the town of Dalton-in-Furness, to which it is joined under existing warding arrangements, will reduce confusion for local residents and improve members' accountability to the electorate.

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

49 The Council proposed a three-member ward in this area, covering the parishes of Lindal & Marton, Dalton Town with Newton, Urswick and Aldingham. The Council noted that the parish of Dalton Town with Newton is slightly too large to be a two-councillor ward with good electoral equality – it would have 13% more electors per councillor than the authority average by 2030.

50 Urswick Parish Council, Aldingham Parish Council and Councillor Cooper argued for the retention of a separate Low Furness ward, broadly covering the area of the existing ward of this name. They argued that the rural areas had a very separate community identity from that of the town of Dalton and that they saw themselves as sharing the challenges of rural life. They were concerned about the perceived prospect of being 'drowned out' by the concerns of the town.

51 Dalton with Newton Town Council provided a submission stating that in isolation they would be satisfied with the existing warding arrangements, but that they accepted that changes in electorate made this unviable. They also noted that the town did not share a community identity with the neighbouring villages in other parishes, noting that in many cases the rural villages looked to Ulverston for their services rather than Dalton.

52 As Dalton Town with Newton parish is too large to form a two-member ward with good electoral equality, it would be necessary to move some electors in this parish into a neighbouring ward in order to achieve good electoral equality. The obvious electors to move would be those in the settlement of Newton in the southern section of Dalton Town with Newton parish. We viewed Newton on our virtual tour of Westmorland & Furness and consider that such a split of Dalton Town with Newton parish, while less than ideal, is plausible. In particular, we note that Newton has at least some community facilities of its own, rather than being entirely reliant upon Dalton for all services and facilities.

53 We have carefully considered all the submissions received for this area and consider the decision to be finely balanced. However, we have decided to recommend separate wards of Dalton-in-Furness and Low Furness as part of our draft recommendations. This is consistent with our recommendations in other areas of Westmorland & Furness where we have broadly attempted to recognise the separate nature of urban and rural-based wards, where the evidence to do so was clear. Our proposed Low Furness ward includes the parishes of Lindal & Marton, Urswick and Aldingham, together with the settlement of Newton from Dalton Town with Newton parish. We would particularly welcome further evidence for this area, both with regard to the principle of splitting Dalton Town with Newton parish between wards, and with regard to the precise boundary proposed as part of our draft recommendations.

#### *Ulverston North and Ulverston South & Pennington*

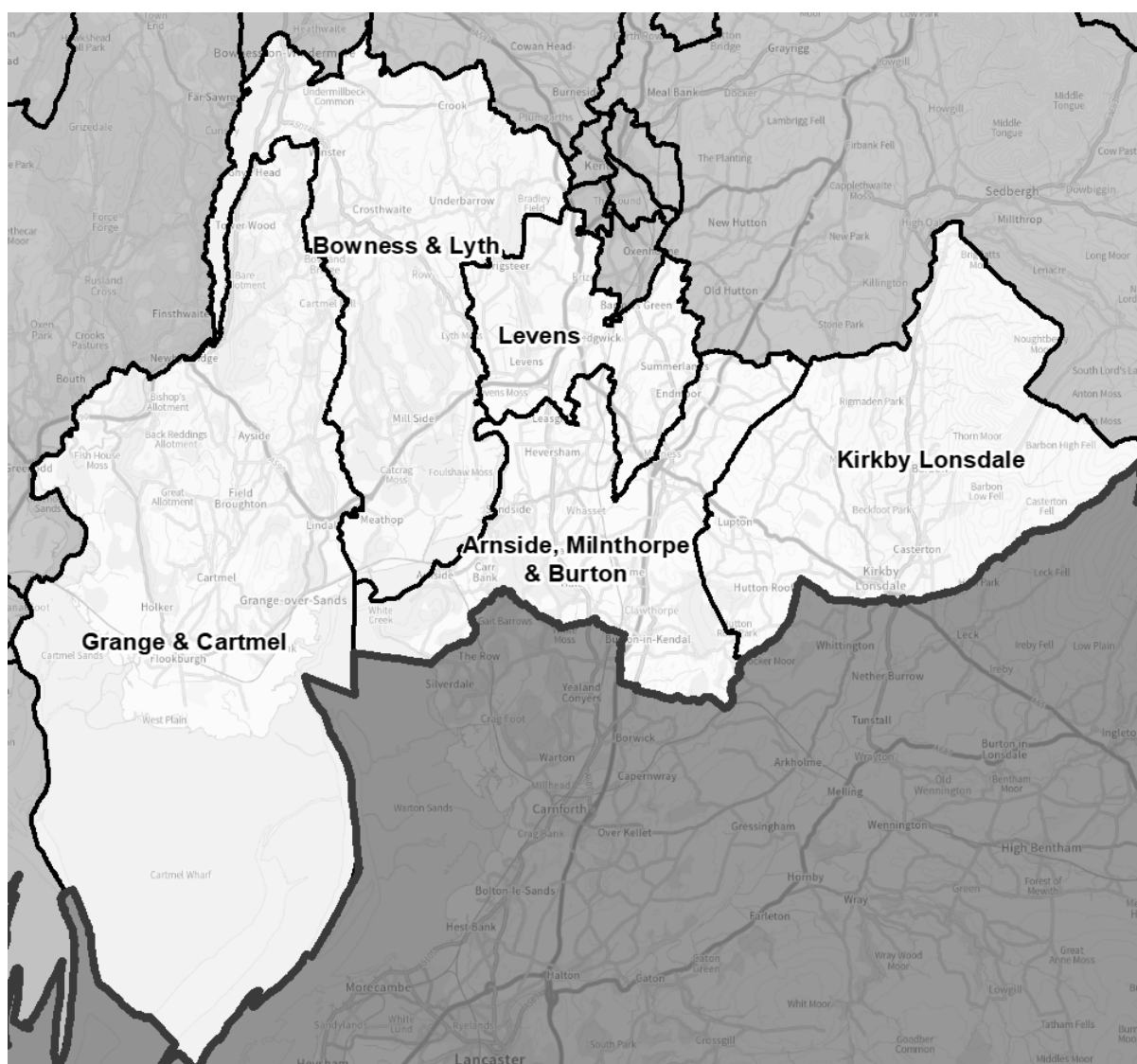
54 The Council proposed two wards covering the town of Ulverston and the neighbouring parish of Pennington. While Pennington parish has a rural element, the bulk of the electorate of this parish is in the Swarthmoor area, bordering directly upon Ulverston. The Council proposed that the entirety of Pennington parish should be placed in a ward including the southern section of Ulverston, and we have adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations. Cllr M. Wilson proposed a four-councillor ward in Ulverston – as discussed previously, we will not recommend more than three councillors per ward as a matter of policy.

55 The Council proposed a boundary between the two Ulverston wards broadly following the boundaries of existing parish wards. It stated that these reflected communities but did not offer specific evidence as to how this was the case. We

have based our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals. However, we propose that the ward boundary follow Dragley Beck stream throughout the built-up area of Ulverston, rather than following Well Lane, the railway line and Springfield Road, as proposed by the Council. This still allows Ulverston to be covered by two two-member wards with good electoral equality, but we consider that the boundary is likely to be clearer and more recognisable than the one proposed by the Council.



## Southern Westmorland & Furness



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

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

56 The Council proposed these wards, suggesting that they represent a range of linked communities. The Council had considered splitting the three-member Grange & Cartmel ward into a single-member ward covering Allithwaite & Holker and a larger two-member ward, but felt that this would split the contiguous communities in Grange and Allithwaite.

57 Other than the submission from Putting Cumbria First, we received no alternative proposals for this area, and we have decided to adopt the Council's proposed wards as part of our draft recommendations.

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

58 The Council proposed two two-member wards for this area, with an Arnside, Beetham & Burnham ward in the southern area, and Milnthorpe & Levens ward to the north. Both of these wards would offer good electoral equality. Sedgwick Parish Council provided a submission that focused on the parish boundary, rather than potential ward boundaries.

59 Milnthorpe Parish Council stated that it would prefer to remain linked to Beetham and Arnside parishes, noting that it shared several local issues with the neighbouring parishes to the south. This was supported by a resident of Arnside, who noted that they frequently visited Beetham and Milnthorpe for retail and leisure facilities.

60 We were persuaded by the evidence received that the Council's proposal may not fully reflect community identities in this area and are putting forward an alternative as a part of our draft recommendations. We cannot move Milnthorpe parish in isolation into a southern ward and still ensure good electoral equality. We therefore propose to move Heversham, Hincaster and Preston Patrick parishes into the southern ward, which we propose to name Arnside, Milnthorpe & Burton. This leaves a single-councillor Levens ward to the north, covering parishes between Preston Richard and Helsington.

61 We would particularly welcome further evidence as to whether our draft recommendations offer a better reflection of the community identity of this area than the Council's proposal, and whether the names of our proposed wards are appropriate or could be improved.

#### *Kirkby Lonsdale*

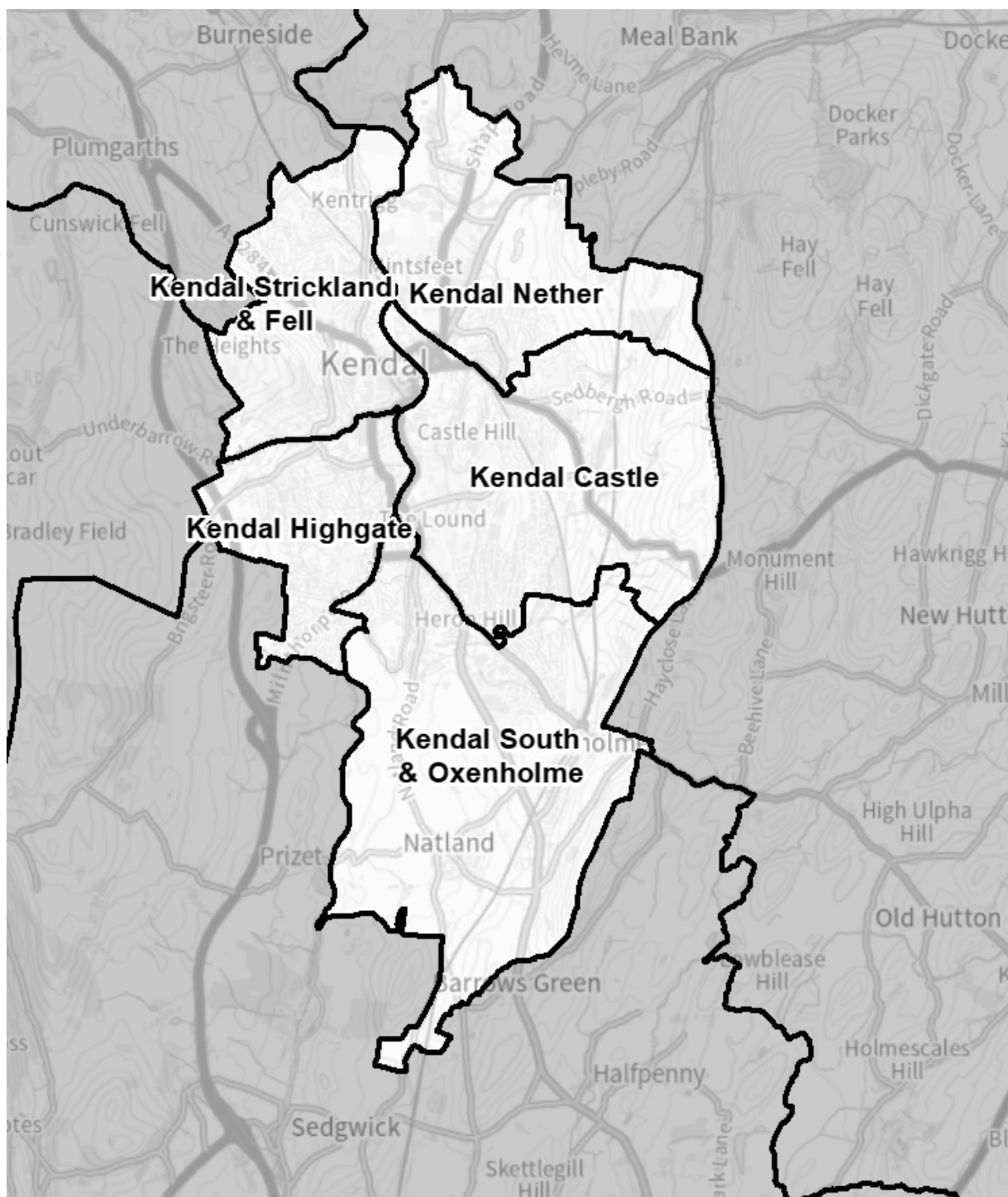
62 The Council proposed a single-member Kirkby Lonsdale ward, covering the eponymous parish and neighbouring small settlements. This was opposed by Councillor Simpkins, who argued for an alternative pattern of wards in the south-east of the authority, suggesting that the Council's proposal did not respect 'historical links' between Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh. While we consider that historical links are of interest, no specific evidence was provided of current community links between these areas. Councillor Simpkins also argued for the retention of the existing Kirkby Stephen & Tebay ward, which is forecast to have 27% fewer electors per councillor than average for the authority – well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality.

63 One resident of Kirkby Lonsdale argued that rural electors should be weighted more heavily than those in urban areas when allocating council representation. Legislation requires us to weight every elector equally, rather than offering preferential treatment or higher levels of representation to those in specific areas.

64 In the absence of viable alternatives, we have adopted the Council's proposal for Kirkby Lonsdale ward as part of our draft recommendations.



## Kendal



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2030
Kendal Castle	2	8%
Kendal Highgate	2	-5%
Kendal Nether	1	-4%

Kendal South & Oxenholme	2	-7%
Kendal Strickland & Fell	2	-6%

65 We received no proposals for ward boundaries within the town of Kendal, other than those from the Council and Putting Cumbria First. The latter proposal was for four wards, only one of which would have good electoral equality, so we have based our draft recommendations on the Council's scheme with some modifications. We received little specific evidence as to the existence or identities of separate communities within the town of Kendal.

*Kendal Castle, Kendal Highgate and Kendal South & Oxenholme*

66 The Council proposed that the area around Wattsfield Road, Bellingham Road and Stonecross Road be placed in Kendal South ward, which is primarily on the eastern side of the River Kent. This area would have no direct access to the remainder of Kendal South ward as the areas around Romney Road and the associated bridge would be in Kendal Highgate ward under the Council's proposals.

67 While we would prefer to use the entirety of the River Kent as a strong and clear boundary throughout Kendal, this would result in poor electoral equality in at least one ward to the east of the river, or the inclusion of additional rural parishes in a Kendal-based ward. We prefer to have at least one ward crossing the river and are proposing to place areas to the north and south of Romney Road in Kendal South & Oxenholme ward. This allows a ward with complete internal access as well as good electoral equality. Furthermore, it allows the use of the A6 as a strong and clear boundary to the west of Romney Road. In the absence of strong evidence to the contrary, we consider our draft recommendations for this area provide an effective balance of our statutory criteria.

68 The Council's proposed boundary between Kendal South and Kendal Castle wards follows Murley Moss Lane and Esthwaite Avenue. We viewed this area on our virtual tour of Westmorland & Furness and do not consider these roads to be strong or recognisable boundaries. Instead, we are proposing a boundary following Oxenholme Road, before going to the west of Fulmar Drive and to the south of Esthwaite Avenue. While we appreciate that there is no especially strong boundary available in this area, we are persuaded that, wherever possible, ensuring all dwellings on the same street are in the same ward will provide for the best available boundary.

*Kendal Nether and Kendal Strickland & Fell*

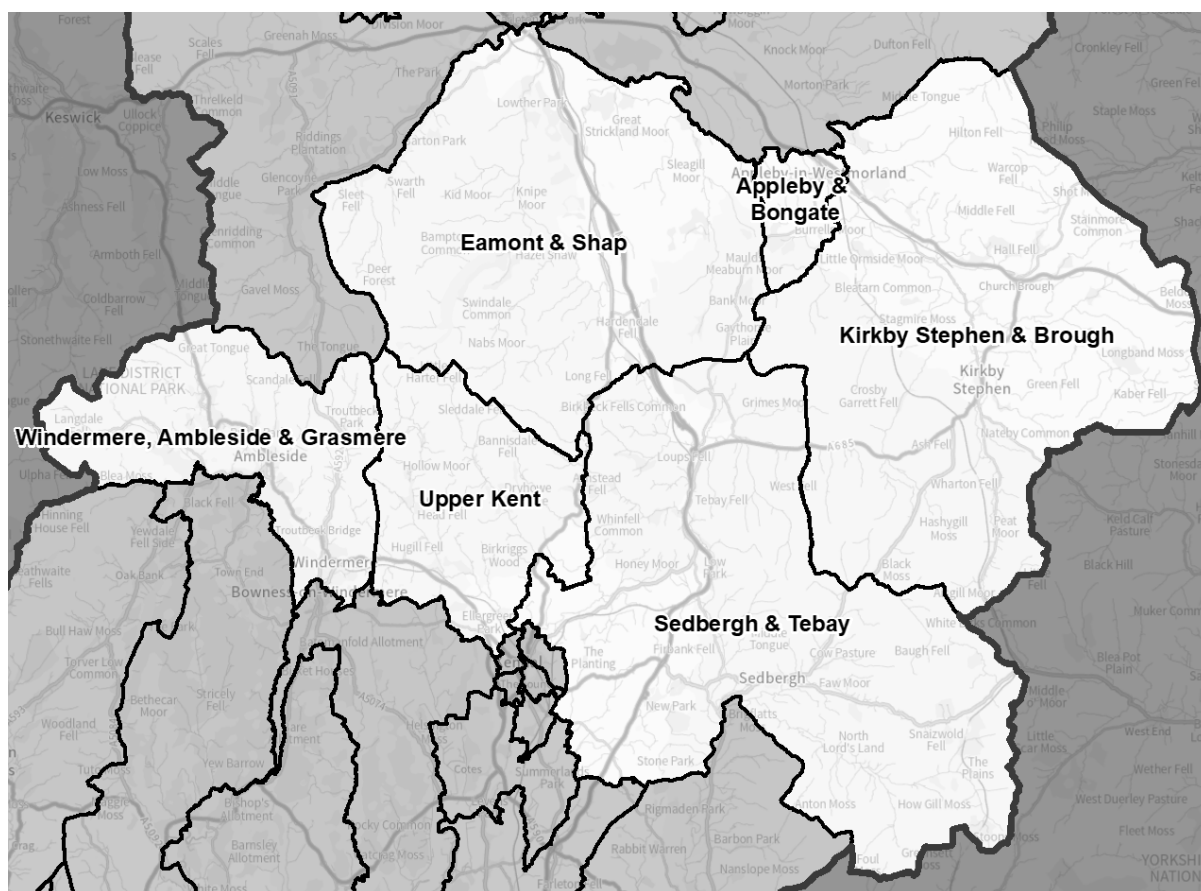
69 We are adopting the Council's proposed Kendal Strickland & Fell ward as part of our draft recommendations. A resident suggested that this ward be expanded into Strickland Ketel parish to allow for development which is forecast to take place in the region of High Sparrowmire. We considered this carefully, but we would be obliged to create a parish ward of Strickland Ketel parish which would currently have no

electors and which would therefore not promote effective and convenient local government. If a future Community Governance Review, under the auspices of Westmorland & Furness Council, was to amend the parish boundaries in this area, we can subsequently consider adjusting ward boundaries to match the new parishes.

70 The Council proposed that the southern boundary of Kendal Nether ward run along Sedbergh Road, with electors on the southern side of this road and on Oak Tree Road being placed in Kendal Castle ward. We carefully considered the evidence received but were not persuaded that this potential boundary would be a particularly strong and clear one. Additionally, we were of the view that residents of Sedbergh Road are likely to consider themselves as a single community. Consequently, we are instead proposing an alternative boundary, running behind Calder Drive and along Peat Lane. We would particularly welcome further evidence as to the community identity of this area, and whether our proposed boundary offers a good reflection of the communities within Kendal.

71 All five of our proposed Kendal wards are forecast to have good electoral equality by 2030.

## Central Rural Westmorland & Furness



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

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

72 The Council's proposal for this area was for a two-member ward covering the small town of Kirkby Stephen and Brough, together with a number of surrounding parishes; and a single-member Appleby & Bongate ward. Cllr A. Connell made a submission arguing that the existing Appleby & Brough ward had few community links. Both of the Council's proposed wards had relatively high electoral variances, with the proposed Appleby & Bongate ward having a variance of 10%, and Kirkby Stephen & Brough at -10%. The Council provided evidence, quoting local members,

that the links between Kirkby Stephen and Brough were more significant than those between Appleby and Brough, but did not provide specific evidence to justify this. We have broadly adopted the Council's proposal, in contrast to that of Councillor Simpkins (discussed at paragraph 62), but retain an open mind, and would welcome further evidence of the specific community links in these areas..

73 We have made one modification to the Council's proposal for these wards as part of our draft recommendations. The Council proposed to place Ormside parish in Appleby & Bongate ward, whereas we are placing it in Kirkby Stephen & Brough ward as part of our draft recommendations. This change improves the electoral equality of both wards, and we have no evidence to suggest this will have a negative impact upon community identity. We would welcome further evidence as to whether this is an adequate reflection of the community identity of this parish, or whether we could go further towards improving electoral equality by also moving Hoff parish into Kirkby Stephen & Brough ward.

#### *Sedbergh & Tebay and Eamont & Shap*

74 The Council proposed a two-member Sedbergh & Tebay ward broadly similar to the one we are proposing as part of our draft recommendations. It also proposed two single-councillor wards named Eamont & Shap and Clifton, Crosby & Yanwath.

75 The Council's proposals placed Orton and Tebay parishes in separate wards, with Orton placed in an Eamont & Shap ward that stretched to the southern edge of Penrith. Both Orton and Tebay parish councils provided submissions arguing that the villages and parishes shared community links, specifically links between the churches and the 'Orton and Tebay Families Together' programme. We have adopted this proposal to keep the two parishes in the same ward and recommend that both parishes be placed in Sedbergh & Tebay ward.

76 This change means that, without further modification, the Council's proposed Eamont & Shap ward would not offer good electoral equality (22% fewer electors per councillor than average for the authority). We propose to reduce this variance by merging the Council's proposed Clifton, Crosby & Yanwath ward with the remainder of Eamont & Shap to create a two-councillor ward with improved electoral equality, albeit at the lower end of the range. We are aware that this is a geographically larger ward than those proposed by the Council but note that the majority of the electorate is relatively concentrated on either side of the M6, while the A6 offers connectivity without needing to use the motorway.

77 Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council made a submission commenting on the fact that they are currently represented by only a single Westmorland & Furness councillor in the existing Upper Kent ward, in contrast to having multiple councillors on different bodies prior to the formation of Westmorland & Furness Council. The details of local government structures, or how individual councillors

choose to represent their areas, is not a matter for this review. However, we do note that under our draft recommendations, Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiterigg will be part of a two-councillor ward.

78 With the addition of Orton parish into Sedbergh & Tebay ward, we note that it would be possible to divide this ward into two single-member wards with good electoral equality. This would be achieved by Sedbergh, Garsdale and Dent parishes forming a single-member ward and the remainder of our proposed two-member ward (from Old Hutton & Holmescales to Orton parishes) forming another single-member ward. We are not proposing this as part of our draft recommendations, but we would welcome further evidence as to whether this option might provide for more effective and convenient representation for local residents.

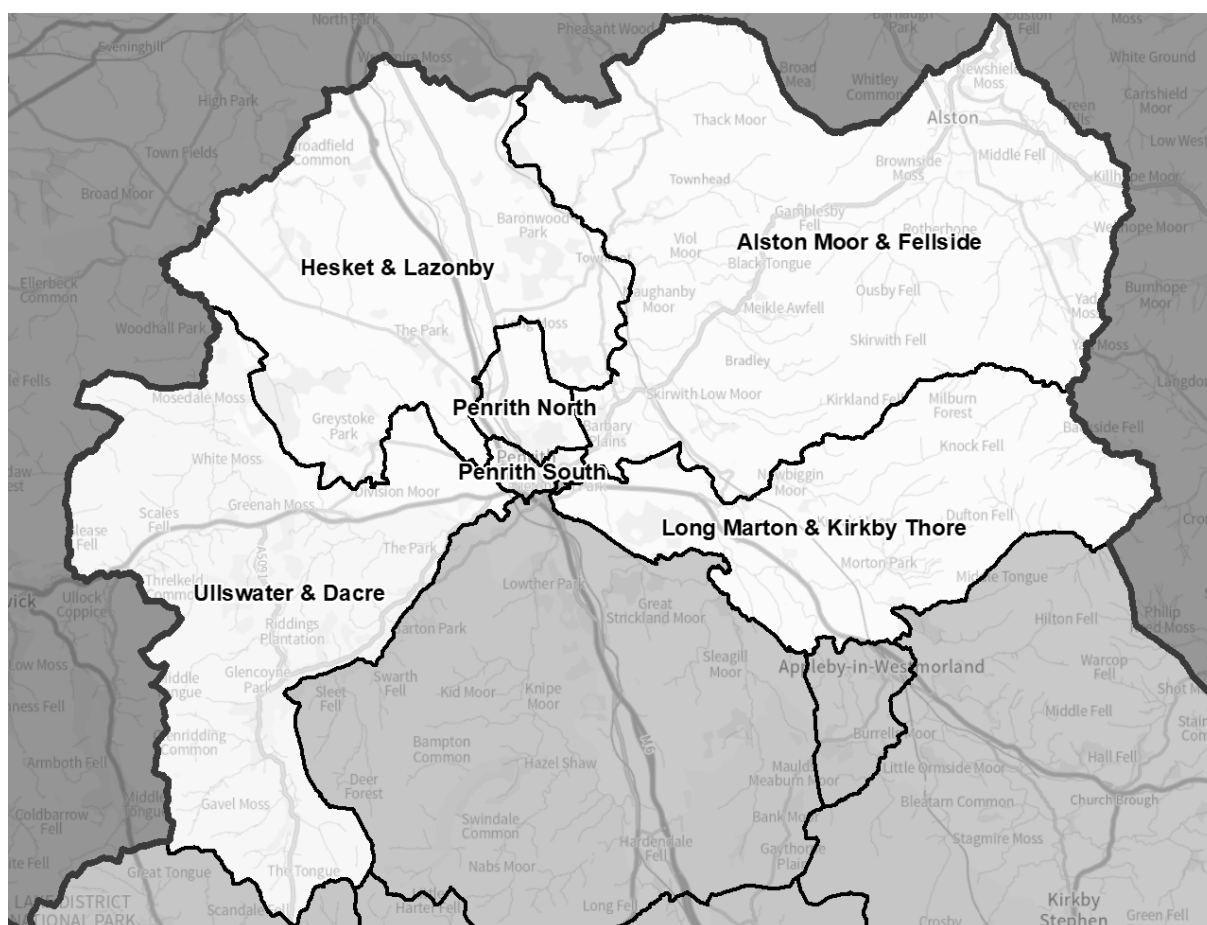
#### *Upper Kent and Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere*

79 We received several representations for wards in this area, as well as that of the Council. The joint parish council of Strickland Ketel and Strickland Roger parishes argued that these parishes should remain in a single ward, and this is achieved under the Council's proposals.

80 One resident, without providing a specific proposal, suggested that it would be sensible for Windermere to be entirely within a single ward. We considered this but note that Windermere is currently divided between two different parishes (Lakes parish and Windermere & Bowness parish), as well as being divided between existing wards. If it is a widely held view that the lake should be within a single ward, we would welcome proposals for how this could be accomplished while respecting parish boundaries. However, on the basis of the evidence received, we are content to adopt the proposals of the Council as part of our draft recommendations.



## 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	5%
Ullswater & Dacre	1	2%

### *Alston Moor & Fellside and Hesket & Lazonby*

81 We received few representations for wards in this area, other than that of the Council.

82 One resident suggested that Armathwaite and Ainstable formed a natural community, and should be placed together in the same ward, together with Lazonby, Kirkoswald, Renwick and other neighbouring settlements. Evidence was provided of links between GPs and schools in this area.



83 We considered this proposal carefully but are not persuaded to amend the proposals put forward by the Council as part of our draft recommendations. Given the constraints of the external boundary of the authority in this area, there are relatively few options available to us. Moving Ainstable parish into Hesket & Lazonby ward with no compensating changes would leave Alston Moor & Fellside ward with an electoral variance of -16%, going well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality; and moving Kirkoswald parish as well would further worsen this situation. It would be possible to move the village of Armathwaite alone into Alston Moor & Fellside ward, while retaining good electoral equality for both this and Hesket & Lazonby. However, this would require splitting Hesket parish between wards, as well as only partially meeting the suggestion of the resident and losing the relatively clear and recognisable boundary of the River Eden. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our draft recommendations but would welcome further evidence as to how our recommendations could be modified to reflect communities while maintaining good electoral equality.

84 Given the isolation of Alston Moor from other electors in Westmorland & Furness, we considered whether a single-member ward for this parish might be appropriate. Such a ward would have an electoral variance of -41% from the authority's average. While in exceptional cases we can be persuaded to recommend a high electoral variance in order to better reflect communities, such a very large variance would not offer an effective balance of our statutory criteria and we have not adopted this proposal, preferring that of the Council in this area.

#### *Long Marton & Kirkby Thore and Ullswater & Dacre*

85 Other than the proposals of the Council and Putting Cumbria First, we received no submissions on warding patterns for these wards. We are adopting the proposals of the Council as part of our draft recommendations, as these offer good electoral equality and are compatible with our draft recommendations in adjoining areas of the authority.

#### *Penrith North and Penrith South*

86 The town and parish of Penrith has an appropriate number of electors to be represented by five councillors. We received no proposals for boundaries dividing the two wards covering the town other than that of the Council and Putting Cumbria First.

87 We received several submissions arguing that the town of Penrith itself should be placed in the adjoining Cumberland local authority area, rather than remain in Westmorland & Furness. However, this is not a matter that can be considered during this current electoral review of Westmorland & Furness.

88 Councillor Smith, and two residents, noted that the settlement of Eamont Bridge is divided by the River Eamont, with electors on the northern side of the river in the

parish of Penrith and warded accordingly. Councillor Smith and the residents suggested that the entirety of Eamont Bridge should be placed in a rural-based ward.

89 We considered this carefully and note the presence of the A66 as a potential strong and clear boundary between the urban area of Penrith and the less urban area to the south. However, placing electors south of this road in either Eamont & Shap or another rural ward would require the creation of a very small parish ward for Penrith Town Council – one town councillor would represent the roughly 60 electors in this area. We do not consider that this arrangement would promote effective and convenient local government, and we have not adopted it as part of our draft recommendations. If the parish boundary is changed in future through a Community Governance Review led by Westmorland & Furness Council, we can subsequently consider adjusting ward boundaries to match the new parish boundaries if requested by the Council.

90 The Council's proposed boundary between the northern and southern ward of Penrith followed Carleton Road, Roper Street and King Street. Having considered this warding arrangement, we were not persuaded that the boundary proposed was particularly strong or clear, particularly where it would place two sides of a narrow shopping street in different wards. We have therefore modified the Council's proposal and recommend the boundary follow Folly Lane, Benson Row, Meeting House Lane and Drovers Lane. As well as still offering good electoral equality, we consider that this boundary is likely to prove clearer and split fewer neighbouring dwellings between wards.

## Conclusions

91 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our draft 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

	Draft recommendations	
	2024	2030
Number of councillors	65	65
Number of electoral wards	34	34
Average number of electors per councillor	2,718	2,846
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	2	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

#### Draft recommendations

Westmorland & Furness Council should be made up of 65 councillors serving 34 wards representing 12 single-councillor wards, 13 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 draft recommendations for Westmorland & Furness on our interactive maps at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

## Parish electoral arrangements

92 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.

93 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.

94 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, Penrith and Ulverston.

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

### Draft 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

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

**Draft 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

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

**Draft recommendations**

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

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Castle	7
Fell	2
Heron Hill	2
Highgate	2
Kirkland	2
Mintsfeet	2
Nether	2
Oxenholme	3
Stonecross	2
Strickland	4

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

**Draft recommendations**

Penrith Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing five wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Carleton	3
North	5
Pategill	1
South	2
West	3

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

#### Draft 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

## Have your say

100 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole authority or just a part of it.

101 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Westmorland & Furness, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

102 Our website is the best way to keep up to date with progress on the review and to have your say [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

103 Each review has its own page with details of the timetable for the review, information about its different stages and interactive mapping.

104 Submissions can also be made by emailing [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk) or by writing to:

**Review Officer (Westmorland & Furness)**  
**LGBCE**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Floor**  
**3 Bunhill Row**  
**London**  
**EC1Y 8NQ**

105 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Westmorland & Furness which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of electors.
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

106 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of electors.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

107 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in Westmorland & Furness?

108 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

109 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?

110 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices and on our website at [www.lqbce.org.uk](http://www.lqbce.org.uk) A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

111 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers. This includes your name, postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

112 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

113 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft



Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Westmorland & Furness in 2027.



## Equalities

114 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

### Draft 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	2,766	2,766	2%	2,860	2,860	1%
7	Dalton in Furness	2	5,894	2,947	8%	6,277	3,139	10%
8	Eamont & Shap	2	4,970	2,485	-9%	5,128	2,564	-10%
9	Grange & Cartmel	3	8,658	2,886	6%	9,109	3,036	7%
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	Hawkshead & Greenodd	1	2,575	2,575	-5%	2,627	2,627	-8%
12	Hesket & Lazonby	2	5,552	2,776	2%	5,683	2,842	0%
13	Kendal Castle	2	6,034	3,017	11%	6,119	3,060	8%
14	Kendal Highgate	2	5,074	2,537	-7%	5,408	2,704	-5%
15	Kendal Nether	1	2,676	2,676	-2%	2,723	2,723	-4%
16	Kendal South & Oxenholme	2	4,954	2,477	-9%	5,317	2,659	-7%
17	Kendal Strickland & Fell	2	5,030	2,515	-7%	5,370	2,685	-6%
18	Kirkby Lonsdale	1	2,553	2,553	-6%	2,595	2,595	-9%
19	Kirkby Stephen & Brough	2	5,173	2,587	-5%	5,255	2,628	-8%
20	Levens	1	2,902	2,902	7%	2,953	2,953	4%
21	Long Marton & Kirkby Thore	1	2,568	2,568	-6%	2,704	2,704	-5%
22	Low Furness	1	2,798	2,798	3%	2,908	2,908	2%
23	Old Barrow & Hindpool	3	8,371	2,790	3%	9,145	3,048	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 %
24	Ormsgill & Parkside	3	8,174	2,725	0%	8,305	2,768	-3%
25	Penrith North	2	4,342	2,171	-20%	5,310	2,655	-7%
26	Penrith South	3	8,754	2,918	7%	8,991	2,997	5%
27	Risedale & Roosecote	3	8,226	2,742	1%	8,379	2,793	-2%
28	Sedbergh & Tebay	2	5,388	2,694	-1%	5,615	2,808	-1%
29	Ullswater & Dacre	1	2,775	2,775	2%	2,916	2,916	2%
30	Ulverston North	2	5,961	2,981	10%	6,242	3,121	10%
31	Ulverston South & Pennington	2	5,014	2,507	-8%	5,880	2,940	3%
32	Upper Kent	1	2,940	2,940	8%	3,003	3,003	6%
33	Walney Island	3	8,271	2,757	1%	8,339	2,780	-2%
34	Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere	3	7,465	2,488	-8%	7,930	2,643	-7%
<b>Totals</b>		<b>65</b>	<b>176,699</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>184,975</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>Averages</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,718</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,846</b>	<b>-</b>

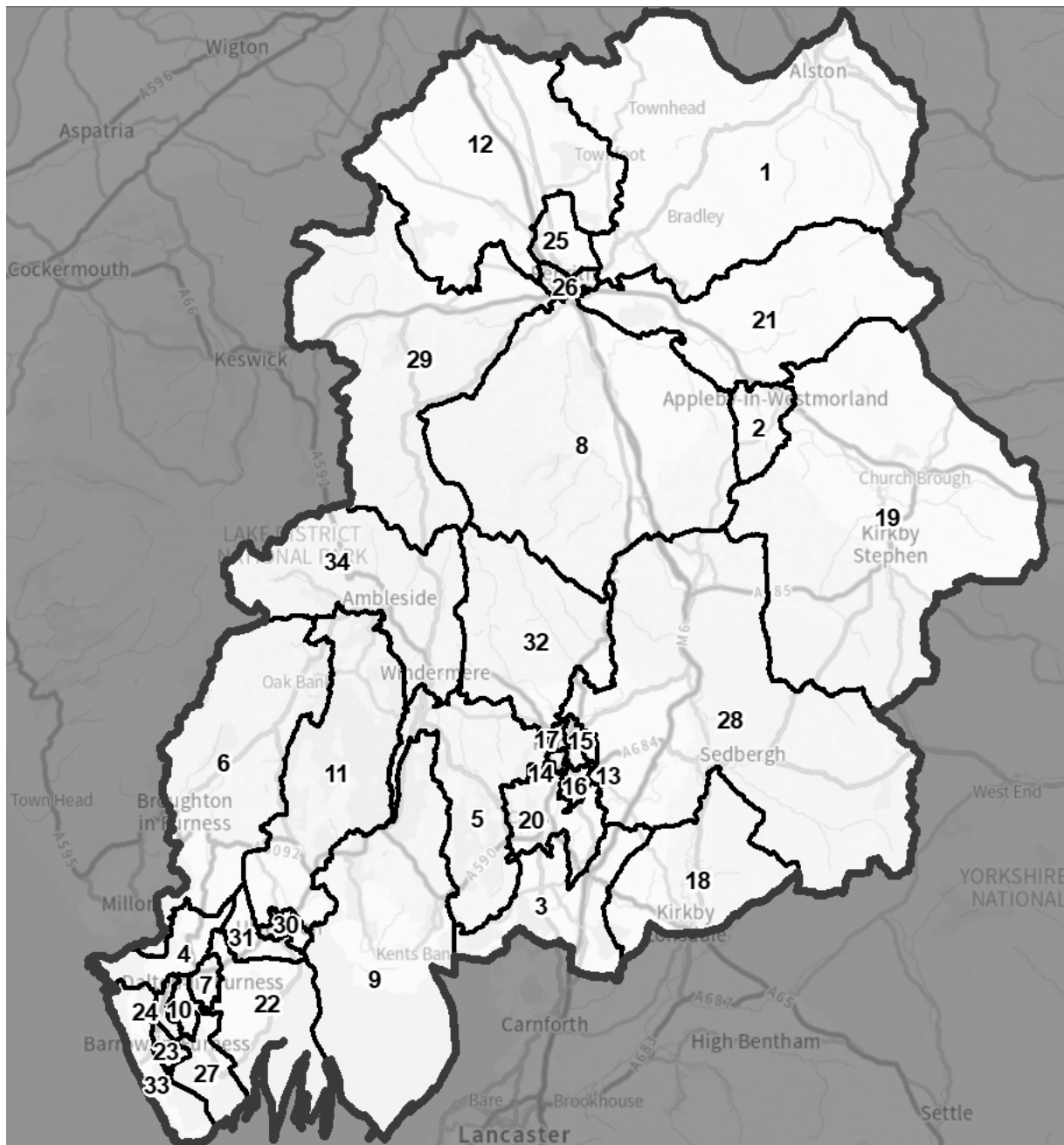
Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Westmorland & Furness Council.

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

#### *Political Groups*

- Putting Cumbria First

#### *Councillors*

- Councillor A. Bennett (Colton Parish Council)
- Councillor A. Connell (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor B. Cooper (Westmorland & Furness Council)
- Councillor G. Simpkins (Westmorland & Furness Council) (2 submissions)
- Councillor H. Slater (Pennington Parish Council)
- Councillor D. Smith (Penrith Town Council)
- Councillor M. Wilson (Ulverston Town Council)

#### *Local Organisations*

- Cumbria Animal & Hen Rescue

#### *Parish and Town Councils*

- Sedgwick Parish Council
- Milnthorpe Parish Council (2 submissions)
- Lowick Parish Council
- Burneside Parish Council (Strickland Ketel & Strickland Roger parishes)
- Aldingham Parish Council
- Dalton with Newton Town Council
- Tebay Parish Council
- Coniston Parish Council
- Orton Parish Council
- Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council
- Urswick, Bardsea & Stainton Parish Council
- Egton with Newland, Mansriggs & Osmotherley Parish Council

### *Local Residents*

- 86 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

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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for  
England  
7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row,  
London,  
EC1Y 8YZ

**Telephone:** 0330 500 1525  
**Email:** [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)  
**Online:** [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)  
**X:** @LGBCE