

Report Title	Community Governance Review – Draft Recommendations
Meeting	Full Council
Meeting Date	22 January 2026
Report Author	Linda Jones, Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer
Lead Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Andrew Jarvis – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance
Wards Affected	All wards
PUBLIC. PART EXEMPT, OR FULLY EXEMPT	Public
Appendices (if any)	Appendix 1 – Anonymised responses to the public consultation

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council has authority to take decisions about parish electoral governance arrangements and is required to monitor these arrangements on an ongoing basis. This formal review mechanism is known as a Community Governance Review (CGR), which commenced in September 2025.
- 1.2 This report presents the Draft Recommendations, developed following the initial consultation by a cross-party Member Working Group, for discussion and approval. Once agreed, the Draft Recommendations will be open for the second and final stage of public consultation.

2. Recommendations

For the reasons set out in this report, Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree to the Draft Recommendations of the Community Governance Review, which have been developed considering the responses to the public consultation, and approve these for the second and final stage of public consultation as detailed in the report.

3. Information: The Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendations

- 3.1 Westmorland and Furness Council is able to undertake a review of any and all aspects of parish and town council governance through a Community Governance Review (CGR). This can include reviewing election dates, forms of governance, creation or abolition of parish councils, internal parish warding arrangements, external parish boundaries, and numbers of parish councillors.
- 3.2 Good practice suggests that principal councils should undertake periodic reviews of the parish arrangements every 10 to 15 years, however parts of Westmorland and Furness have not been reviewed for some time. In addition, the recent warding review by the LGBCE highlighted some areas where parish arrangements could be refined through a CGR. A Community Governance Review also provides an opportunity to review all arrangements

and to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features, and potentially remove any parish boundary anomalies that may exist.

- 3.3 In September 2025, Council agreed to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR), with the publication of the Terms of Reference followed by a public consultation ran from 9 October to 8 December 2025.
- 3.4 The Terms of Reference for the CGR were broad, allowing for a review of all aspects of community governance within the council area. This includes, for example, the establishment of a separate parish from an existing parish, alteration of parish boundaries, abolition or dissolution of a parish, change to parish electoral arrangements or parish grouping.
- 3.5 Now that the CGR has commenced, the Council is legally required to continue the process through to its conclusion.

Underpinning rules

- 3.6 A CGR must be undertaken:
- in accordance with the relevant legislation (Chapter 3 of the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007);
 - have due regard to guidance published by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), last published in March 2010
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf; and
 - comply with the Terms of Reference that the Council adopts.
- 3.7 The statutory guidance (Guidance on Community Governance Reviews 2010) sets out the broad criteria for a CGR, but notes that it is not appropriate to apply a 'one size fits all' approach. A CGR includes periods of consultation, and it is important that any consultation is open, transparent and fair.
- 3.8 References in legislation to a 'parish' also includes a parish which has an alternative style (such as 'town', 'village' or 'community' council) and parish meetings.
- 3.9 Legislation and statutory guidance set out the requirements for a CGR. These include that the Council must;
- draw up Terms of Reference (ToR) for the review, specifying the area/s under review and any consequential matters that need to be considered.
 - consult local government electors for the area under review and any other person or body (including a local authority) who appears to have an interest in the review.
 - have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review "reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient".
 - take into account any representations received in connection with the review.
 - publish recommendations as soon as practicable after making them and take steps to ensure that those who may be interested in the review are informed of those recommendations.

- 3.10 Subject to these duties, it is for the Council to decide how to undertake the review.
- 3.11 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 sets out two statutory criteria:

“The principal council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review —

- (a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
- (b) is effective and convenient.”

- 3.12 A CGR is largely a technical project, following statutory processes to understand the interests and identities of local residents and their preferred community governance arrangements. Final discussions and decisions will be made by Full Council.
- 3.13 As noted above, the Council must take into account the 2010 government guidance (published by DCLG). The Council must also have due regard for responses submitted during the consultations and be open and transparent such that local stakeholders are made aware of the outcome of the decisions and the reasons behind those decisions.
- 3.14 Whilst Members are advised to read the DCLG guidance in its entirety, some key extracts are included below. Essentially, the guidance supports the 2007 Act requiring that local people are consulted, and that their views are taken into account during the CGR. Whilst Westmorland and Furness Councillors are the decision-makers, those decisions must be based on evidence submitted through the CGR consultation process. Numbers refer to paragraph numbers in the DCLG guidance; emphasis added for clarity:

*7. The guidance supports and helps to implement key aspects of the 2006 white paper. The 2007 Act **requires that local people are consulted during a community governance review, that representations received in connection with the review are taken into account** and that steps are taken to notify them of the outcomes of such reviews including any decisions.*

*58. **It is clear that how people perceive where they live - their neighbourhoods - is significant in considering the identities and interests of local communities and depends on a range of circumstances, often best defined by local residents. Some of the factors which help define neighbourhoods are the geography of an area, the make-up of the local community, sense of identity, and whether people live in a rural, suburban, or urban area.***

*59. Parishes in many cases may be able to meet the concept of neighbourhoods in an area. Parishes should reflect distinctive and recognisable communities of interest, with their own sense of identity. Like neighbourhoods, **the feeling of local community and the wishes of local inhabitants are the primary considerations.***

*95. The recommendations **must take account of any representations received and should be supported by evidence which demonstrates that***

the recommended community governance arrangements would meet the criteria set out in the 2007 Act.

- 3.15 It is important to note that it is Westmorland and Furness Council who decide community governance arrangements. Therefore, where difficult decisions must be made, consideration must be given to opposing and differing views in light of legislation, best practice, and official guidance. Best practice guidance includes, for example, not having 'island' or 'donut' parishes or parish wards which are wholly surrounded by one other parish or parish ward, and using identifiable markers for boundaries (such as rivers, railways, roads and the edges of properties).
- 3.16 Essentially, proposals for change should first identify the identities and interests of the communities, and then consider the governance arrangements for that area.
- 3.17 Members are invited to note that the course of appeal is by way of Judicial Review, a potentially expensive and damaging mechanism open to local stakeholders if there is a failure in the decision-making process. For example, a failure to consult properly, or a failure not to take into account relevant consideration, or conversely irrelevant issues are taken into account in reaching a decision. In other words, it is important to ensure that community governance decisions can be justified both evidentially and procedurally to avoid potential legal challenge.
- 3.18 It is also important to recognise that the number of responses received is not necessarily strong evidence on the strength of feeling either for or against any particular viewpoint. It is true that stakeholders preferring the status quo may not make representations until and unless there is a suggestion of significant change that they would otherwise oppose. Therefore, where little response was received, it cannot be assumed that local people are in favour of supporting the change proposed by a few submissions; they may well currently be unaware of those suggestions and happy with no change. That is why the second round of formal consultation is important.
- 3.19 The aim of a CGR is to ensure community governance arrangements are appropriate at a local level. It is therefore not always appropriate to use Ward or Division boundaries to determine parish boundaries
- 3.20 Members are reminded that the scope of the CGR is defined in law. Whilst some responses have been received that are outside of the scope of the CGR, this Council has no authority to make decisions or recommendations on those matters and so cannot engage in meaningful discussion about them. Specifically, the CGR cannot consider or determine:
- Parliamentary constituency boundaries
 - Unitary authority wards, other than requesting consequential amendments are made to align with any changes to parish boundaries; note that the wards recently determined by the LGBCE are protected and cannot be changed without explicit permission by the LGBCE (and they are likely to support only very minor changes)
 - The number of Westmorland and Furness councillors
 - The powers and authority of different tiers of government (for example, a CGR cannot recommend granting planning determination powers to parish councils)

Consultation

- 3.21 When undertaking a CGR, the authority is required to consult with residents and interested parties. We have consulted with the following by sending details of the CGR and a link to the online feedback form:
- all householders, via the authority-held mailing lists and links from the home page of the website
 - Community organisations, residents' associations and local businesses, via local authority-held mailing lists
 - all parish councils
 - all Westmorland and Furness Councillors
 - local political parties
 - Members of Parliament
 - Police & Crime Commissioner
- 3.22 Parish and town councils were also invited to a briefing to explain the CGR and encourage them to consider the proposals and respond to the consultation.
- 3.23 A total of 85 responses were received. Given the broad and open nature of the initial consultation, a wide range of responses were received. These have been weighed against the statutory criteria and used to form the Draft Proposals that follow. Note that many respondents would not have been aware of these criteria when responding, although the points they have raised have been considered against those criteria as widely as possible. Note also that an initial consultation is, in its very nature, very difficult to respond to with meaningful proposals for change; many people find it easier to respond to specific recommendations and therefore an absence of commentary at this stage is not indicative of the feelings of local communities about governance in their area.
- 3.24 The existing town / parish councils, along with several local community groups and residents' associations, made detailed submissions to the consultation. Many of the proposals have been well thought-out, clearly presented, and effectively demonstrate how changes could be delivered through the CGR to improve local community governance and local democracy. It is unusual to receive such detailed and considered responses so early in a CGR, and whilst there is no guarantee that every proposal submitted by local groups will be delivered in full following the conclusion of a CGR (taking responses to the consultations into account), it is important to acknowledge the time and effort taken to prepare and submit these detailed proposals. The cross-party Member Working Group therefore wish to note their thanks to all contributors, allowing us to formulate the Draft Recommendations.

Introduction to the Draft Recommendations

- 3.25 Draft Recommendations are proposed here, for discussion and subsequent agreement by Full Council. Once approved, there will be a public consultation on them to help develop the Final Recommendations.
- 3.26 It is important to note that the inclusion of a Draft Recommendation is likely to elicit responses from members of the affected local communities, which would not be heard had the Draft Recommendation not been made. As a result, it is

vital to recognise that there may be changes between the Draft Recommendations and the Final Recommendations, taking local views into account. A CGR is required to reflect the interests and identities of local communities, and it is expected that the Final Recommendations will be based on the responses from local people far more acutely than the Draft Recommendations can. Where local people, elected representatives, or anyone with an interest in the area does not agree with a Draft Recommendation, they are encouraged to respond to the consultation so their views can be included in the development of the Final Recommendations.

- 3.27 Members of the Working Group agreed the principle that a Draft Recommendation must be both clear (easy to understand what the proposal is) and definite (making a recommendation, rather than leaving an area with no Draft Recommendation and leaving a 'blank sheet' for consultation. This allows residents and elected bodies to respond effectively and makes clear the proposed outcome of the CGR for each area if nothing changes during the consultation period. This supports open consultation and democracy, encouraging responses to definite proposals.
- 3.28 No decisions are confirmed at this stage. The consultation process on the Draft Recommendations is an essential part of the CGR, and responses will (by law) be taken into account in producing the Final Recommendations to Council.
- 3.29 This section of the report presents the rationale and evidence for the Draft Proposals.
- 3.30 The Council is required to publish the reasons for making its decisions as a result of a CGR. As such, a summary of the responses to the consultation are included at the appropriate section of the report, with all submissions included at the end, with personal information redacted or removed.
- 3.31 The sections of the report that follow show each area in turn, with consideration given for the boundary and geographical area, the name, and then the governance arrangements (such as numbers of councillors). Proposals are shown by area, but note that some changes in boundary arrangements are listed in shown in more than one affected area. The Draft Recommendations included within the report for approval have been considered by the cross-party Member Working Group.
- 3.32 Members are invited to note that, based on the underpinning legislation and guidance, which set out the statutory criteria for a CGR as well as the need to take into account local representations made through the consultation processes, at later stages the scope for making further changes or amending Final Recommendations may be limited by decisions made now. Any further suggestions must (1) be supported by evidence, (2) have been brought to the authority's attention during the CGR to date, and (3) have been consulted upon or raised through the consultation process. **This means that proposals for new governance arrangements cannot be considered at the final stage of the review only.** Anything discounted at this stage and therefore not consulted upon cannot subsequently be included in the final recommendations.

3.33 Note that maps are included where a proposed Draft Recommendation includes a change to an existing boundary or creation of a new boundary.

3.34 In considering the number of parish councillors to serve a particular area, we have used the following:

- The statutory minimum number of councillors is five; there is no maximum, although it becomes more difficult and less effective or efficient to maintain an excessively large parish council. This allows this Council to consider the current number of parish councillors by area, recognise the different situations within each area, and then assess the appropriate number of parish councillors by area. There is no requirement for the number of electors represented by a single parish councillor to be the same between different parishes, although they should be comparable between wards of the same parish.
- Whilst the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) published guidance in 1988 on the suggested number of parish councillors per parish area based on the size of the electorate, these are non-statutory and there is no requirement for parish councils within an area to have equal ratios of electors to councillors. Further, these pre-date the digital age and do not necessarily reflect the ways in which parish councillors communicate with and represent their local communities. However, they do provide a good benchmark against which to consider the number of councillors in each parish council.

3.35 The NALC recommendations are:

Number of electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7
901 - 1,400	8
1,401 - 2,000	9
2,001 – 2,700	10
2,701 - 3,500	11
3,501 - 4,400	12
4,401 - 5,400	13
5,401 - 6,500	14
6,501 - 7,700	15
7,701 - 9,000	16

Number of electors	Councillors
9,001 - 10,400	17
10,401 - 11,900	18
11,901 – 13,500	19
13,501 - 15,200	20
15,201 - 17,000	21
17,001 - 18,900	22
18,901 - 20,900	23
20,901 - 23,000	24
Over 23,000	25

3.36 The Member Working Group discussed three options for determining the number of parish councillors per council: (i) To recommend following the NALC guidelines for every parish, noting this would lead to changes in many areas and this does not take local circumstances, needs or experiences into account; (ii) To only recommend changes where the parish has explicitly requested these, noting that some parishes may not have considered the number of councillors during their deliberations; or (iii) To use submissions during the consultation to determine the number of councillors where provided, and where no submission has been made to use the NALC recommendation where this differs from the current council size by at least 4 members. The Working Group agreed that option (iii) is the most pragmatic and reflects local need most appropriately. These are included in the Draft Recommendations.

- 3.37 Through the initial consultation, a number of responses suggested possible amalgamation of existing parish areas. There are two main ways in which this could happen:
- Grouping of parishes. In this case, two or more separate parishes keep their own legal identity, boundaries and assets but are served by a 'grouped parish council'.
 - Merging of parishes. This effectively abolishes the separate parishes and combines them into a single new parish. All assets become 'joint' and precepts are standardised across the parish. A single parish and parish council can be more convenient and lead to improved effectiveness and efficiency in delivering local services and democratic decision making. Separate parish wards can remain in place for each of the previous parishes, ensuring local identity remains represented in the overall parish.
- 3.38 In both cases, the total number of parish councillors on either a single new larger council or on a grouped council would be lower than for several separate councils. In general, merging parish councils can offer greater flexibility in terms of using assets and delivering services most effectively. As a result, in this report any Draft Recommendations referring to combining parish areas currently recommends *merging* of parish councils to deliver the most effective and convenient local governance. However, respondents are invited to consider the alternatives (remaining separate or grouping) in making their response to the consultation.
- 3.39 Once approved by Full Council, there will be a public consultation on the Draft Recommendations. That is, the Draft Recommendations are for consultation; they are not finalised at this stage. The only way to feed into the decision-making process is via the public consultation process. Where a parish council, local resident, business or other organisation or body does not agree with a Draft Recommendation they are invited to respond to the consultation stating their views, their reasons, and any alternative proposal. In general, Draft Recommendations to create a new council or change a boundary must attain sufficient support (quantitatively and/or qualitatively) through the public consultation to indicate broad support for the change. Where a Draft Recommendation is that the number of local councillors is changed, Parish and Town Councils will be encouraged to respond directly to confirm support or otherwise for the proposal, with their reasons. Best practice for a CGR consultation is that where it is proposed that the number of Councillors is changed unless we receive representations to the contrary, the number of Councillors representing that area will change.

Draft Recommendations

- 3.40 This section of the report is split into two sections.
- 3.41 The first provides a list of all parish areas, along with the headline change included in the Draft Recommendations (either no change, change in the number of councillors only, or more substantive changes). This also details the changes in numbers of parish councillors.
- 3.42 The second sets out proposals for parish areas that may require boundary or other more substantial changes, or where submissions requesting such changes have been received.

- 3.43 In addition to taking the public consultation responses into account, these Draft Recommendations have been shaped by internal analysis and review of current arrangements.

SECTION ONE | Index of parish areas

Parish: Ward	Electorate		Current cllrs	Draft Recommendations
	2024	2031		
Ainstable: Ainstable	337	337	7	No response. Change to 5 Cllrs as per NALC.
Ainstable: Croglin	134	134	4	Change to 2 Cllrs as per NALC.
Aldingham: North	408	408	3	Parish Council responded with comments regarding the LGBCE warding review, which are outside of the scope of the CGR. No changes proposed.
Aldingham: South	538	538	5	
Allithwaite & Cartmel: Allithwaite	1018	1018	6	See section 2K.
Allithwaite & Cartmel: Cartmel with Upper Holker	483	483	5	
Alston Moor: Alston	1045	1073	8	No response. Change to 6 Cllrs per NALC.
Alston Moor: Garrigill	229	229	3	Change to 1 Cllrs per NALC.
Alston Moor: Nenthead	363	371	4	Change to 2 Cllrs per NALC.
Appleby: Appleby	975	1192	8	No response. Change to 5 Cllrs per NALC.
Appleby: Bongate	1555	1555	8	Change to 6 Cllrs per NALC.
Arnside	1920	1933	8	Change Councillors to 11 Request made by PC prior to CGR to increase from 8 to 11. NALC guidance would be 9, but local knowledge from the PC is paramount. No response during the consultation.
Asby	272	272	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Askam & Ireleth	2723	2886	8	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Askham	260	267	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Bampton	232	232	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Bandleyside: Colby	112	112	3	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Bandleyside: Hoff	147	147	3	
Bandleyside: Ormside	118	118	3	
Barbon	201	206	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Barrow: Barrow Island	1621	1638	1	No response. Change from 21 to 25 Cllrs in total. No change for this ward.
Barrow: Central	2685	3328	2	No change.
Barrow: Hawcoat	4197	4391	2	Change to 3 Cllrs per NALC.
Barrow: Hindpool	4065	4179	2	No change.
Barrow: Newbarns	4550	4565	2	Change to 3 Cllrs per NALC.
Barrow: Ormsgill	4114	4181	2	No change.
Barrow: Parkside	4118	4182	2	No change.
Barrow: Risedale	4381	4387	2	Change to 3 Cllrs per NALC.
Barrow: Roosecote	3845	3992	2	No change.
Barrow: Walney North	4279	4347	2	Change to 3 Cllrs per NALC.
Barrow: Walney South	3992	3992	2	No change.
Barton & Pooley Bridge	144	149	5	See section 2A.
Beetham: East	605	605	4	See section 2J.
Beetham: West	849	849	5	
Blawith & Subberthwaite	139	139	5	See section 2E.
Bolton	394	421	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>

Parish: Ward	Electorate		Current cllrs	Draft Recommendations
	2024	2031		
Brough	630	639	7	No change Brough PC responded, advising the boundaries and council size remain appropriate.
Brough Sowerby Parish Meeting	113	113	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Brougham	214	214	5	See section 2F.
Broughton East	177	177	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Burneside: Strickland Ketel	855	855	7	See section 2H.
Burneside: Strickland Roger	368	368	4	
Burton-in-Kendal	1246	1248	9	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Cartmel Fell	235	309	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Casterton	254	254	5	See section 2I.
Castle Sowerby	289	289	9	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Catterlen	326	342	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Claife: Lower	143	143	3	No change A councillor from Claife PC responded, advising the boundaries and council size remain appropriate. A local Councillor felt a merger with Hawkshead may be appropriate, but neither parish advocated this change.
Claife: Upper	76	76	3	
Clifton	546	548	7	See section 2F.
Colton: Central	174	174	3	See section 2B.
Colton: East	174	174	3	
Colton: West	246	246	3	
Coniston	671	671	7	See section 2M.
Crackenthorpe Parish Meeting	86	86	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Crook	248	248	7	<i>No response – no change.</i> However, there has been some confusion over the name of the parish, with the parish council referring to itself as Crook & Winster, but official maps and records showing it as Crook. To avoid misunderstanding in future, the proposal is to formally change (or ensure) the name of the parish is recorded as Crook & Winster.
Crosby Garrett Parish Meeting	116	123	PM	No change The PM advised no changes are required.
Crosby Ravensworth	420	425	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Crosthwaite & Lyth	530	530	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Culgaith: Blencarn & Kirkland	129	129	3	No change Culgaith PC responded, advising the boundaries and council size remain appropriate, and support the retention of three separate wards to reflect the three distinct communities.
Culgaith: Culgaith	471	472	5	
Culgaith: Skirwith	155	155	2	

Parish: Ward	Electorate		Current cllrs	Draft Recommendations
	2024	2031		
Dacre	1154	1272	11	See section 2A.
Dalton-with-Newton: Anty Cross <i>Division of the current parish ward between Anty Cross and Newton to take effect from 2027 due to the LGBCE review.</i>	2646	2890	4	One respondent, a former Mayor of the TC, felt no changes were required. Change to 5 Cllrs per NALC
Newton			1	No change.
Dalton-with-Newton: Beckside	1951	2036	3	Change to 4 Cllrs per NALC
Dalton-with-Newton: Dowdales	1466	1520	2	Change to 3 Cllrs per NALC.
Dent	561	564	9	<i>No response – no change.</i> However, the parish council has been informally known as Dent with Cowgill for a number of years, but official maps and records show it as Dent. To avoid misunderstanding in future, the proposal is to formally change the name of the parish is recorded as Dent & Cowgill.
Docker Parish Meeting	48	48	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Duddon: Angerton	21	21	1	No change Duddon PC responded, advising the boundaries and council size remain appropriate. One parish councillor suggested the Ulpha and/or Millom Without could be included within the parish, but noted that both are in Cumberland; this is therefore not possible.
Duddon: Broughton West	736	765	7	
Duddon: Dunnerdale-with- Seathwaite	96	96	2	
Dufton	164	164	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Egton-with-Newland: Egton-with- Newland	654	701	6	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Egton-with-Newland: Mansriggs	44	44	1	
Egton-with-Newland: Osmotherley	205	205	2	
Firbank Parish Meeting	101	101	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Garsdale	172	172	7	No change The PC advised no changes are required.
Glassonby: Gamblesby	158	158	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Glassonby: Glassonby	94	94	4	
Grange: North	1760	1760	4	See section 2C.
Grange: South	1674	1807	4	
Grange: West	187	187	1	
Grayrigg Parish Meeting	182	182	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Great Salkeld	377	386	8	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Great Strickland	179	179	5	See section 2D.
Greystoke: Greystoke	507	519	6	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Greystoke: Johnby	64	64	1	
Greystoke: Little Blencowe	49	49	1	

Parish: Ward	Electorate		Current cllrs	Draft Recommendations
	2024	2031		
Hartley Parish Meeting	114	114	PM	No change The PM advised no changes are required, and they are opposed to any merger with Kirkby Stephen.
Haverthwaite	611	696	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Hawkshead: Fieldhead	122	122	3	A local Councillor felt a merger with Claife may be appropriate, but neither parish advocated this change.
Hawkshead: Hawkshead	277	282	4	
Helbeck Parish Meeting	9	9	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Helsington	258	258	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Hesket: Armathwaite	938	938	5	Change in wards The PC would like to change from 3 wards to 5 (each with 2 councillors as per NALC): Armathwaite; Calthwaite; Hesket (to include High and Low Hesket); Plumpton; and Southwaite (to include Ivegill)
Hesket: Calthwaite	777	783	5	
Hesket: Southwaite	457	457	5	
Heversham	543	553	7	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Hincaster Parish Meeting	179	199	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Holme	1190	1190	7	See section 2J.
Hunsonby	384	388	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Hutton	348	357	9	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Hutton Roof	169	169	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Kaber Parish Meeting	86	86	PM	No change. Kaber PM support no change and do not wish to be merged with neighbouring parishes.
Kendal: Castle	1748	1748	2	See section 2H.
Kendal: Fell	1731	1731	2	
Kendal: Heron Hill	2985	3265	4	
Kendal: Highgate	1754	2037	2	
Kendal: Kirkland	2950	2950	4	
Kendal: Mintsfeet	1553	1600	2	
Kendal: Nether	3395	3395	4	
Kendal: Oxenholme	1211	1211	1	
Kendal: Stonecross	2240	2291	3	
Kendal: Strickland	3299	3639	4	
Kentmere Parish Meeting	86	86	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Killington Parish Meeting	157	157	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
King's Meaburn Parish Meeting	121	121	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Kirkby Ireleth: Heathlands	200	200	2	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Kirkby Ireleth: Lower Quarter	579	644	6	
Kirkby Ireleth: Middle Quarter	201	201	3	
Kirkby Lonsdale	1585	1622	9	See section 2I.
Kirkby Stephen	1532	1579	9	No change The PC suggested that the neighbouring parish meetings could merge with this PC, and that they would engage with the PMs on this. However, no support from the PMs has been received and therefore there appears to be insufficient

Parish: Ward	Electorate		Current cllrs	Draft Recommendations
	2024	2031		
				support for a merger of these communities into the PC. No change is therefore recommended.
Kirkby Thore	516	516	7	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required. Once the dualling of the A66 is complete, residents in some properties may, over time, feel more closely aligned with other parishes; this should be reviewed in future.
Kirkoswald: Kirkoswald	468	468	8	No response. Change to 5 Cllrs per NALC.
Kirkoswald: Renwick	208	208	4	Change to 2 Cllrs per NALC.
Lakes: Ambleside	1876	1924	6	No change. The PC have advised that they feel no change is required, and any reduction in the number of councillors would be detrimental to local service delivery and effective and convenient local governance.
Lakes: Grasmere	489	489	3	
Lakes: Langdales	234	234	3	
Lakes: Rydal & Loughrigg	171	171	2	
Lakes: Troutbeck	232	232	2	
Lambrigg Parish Meeting	73	73	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Langwathby: Edenhall	147	147	4	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Langwathby: Langwathby	487	500	6	
Lazonby	874	962	10	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Levens	979	979	8	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Lindal & Marton	558	614	5	See section 2L.
Lindale & Newton-in-Cartmel: Lindale	523	523	7	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Lindale & Newton-in-Cartmel: High Newton	148	148	2	
Little Strickland Parish Meeting	68	68	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Longsleddale Parish Meeting	67	67	PM	No change The PM responded advising no changes are required.
Long Marton: Brampton	144	144	2	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Long Marton: Knock	101	101	2	
Long Marton: Long Marton	339	339	3	
Lower Holker	1481	1640	7	See section 2K.
Lowick	198	198	5	See section 2E.
Lowther	346	384	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Lupton	135	135	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Mallerstang Parish Meeting	94	94	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Mansergh Parish Meeting	114	114	PM	No change The PM responded advising changes are required.
Martindale Parish Meeting	36	36	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Matterdale	323	323	12	No response. Change to 7 Cllrs per NALC.

Parish: Ward	Electorate		Current cllrs	Draft Recommendations
	2024	2031		
Melmerby	194	194	5	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required, although one resident responded suggesting an increase to 7.
Middleton Parish Meeting	95	95	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Milburn	148	148	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Milnthorpe	1616	1843	9	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Morland	320	328	7	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Mungrisdale	248	248	9	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Murton	283	283	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Musgrave	126	126	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Nateby Parish Meeting	103	106	PM	No change Three respondents supported no change to the PM, and noted the value the PM has delivered in local projects for the community.
Natland	882	1050	7	See section 2H.
Newbiggin Parish Meeting	77	84	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Newby Parish Meeting	135	135	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
New Hutton	289	289	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Old Hutton & Holmescales	336	336	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Orton	494	497	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Ousby	203	203	5	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Patterdale	348	362	7	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Pennington: Pennington	328	328	2	See section 2G.
Pennington: Swarthmoor	1238	1494	5	
Penrith: Carleton	2108	2334	2	
Penrith: East	2413	2639	3	
Penrith: North	3416	4158	4	
Penrith: Pategill	940	940	1	
Penrith: South	1972	1983	2	
Penrith: West	2247	2247	3	
Preston Patrick	330	339	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Preston Richard	1110	1161	8	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Ravenstonedale	465	465	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Satterthwaite	154	154	5	See section 2B.
Sedbergh	1824	2008	11	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Sedgwick	296	296	6	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Selside and Fawcett Forest Parish Meeting	192	192	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Shap: Shap	991	1040	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Shap: Shap Rural	98	98	3	

Parish: Ward	Electorate		Current cllrs	Draft Recommendations
	2024	2031		
Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiterigg: Scalthwaiterigg	91	91	2	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Skelsmergh & Scalthwaiterigg: Skelsmergh	278	278	5	
Skelton: Hutton-in-the-Forest	119	119	2	See section 2N.
Skelton: Ivegill	257	257	4	
Skelton: Laithes	41	41	1	
Skelton: Lamonby	117	117	1	
Skelton: Skelton	360	360	7	
Skelwith	108	108	5	See section 2M.
Sleagill Parish Meeting	90	90	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Sockbridge & Tirril	356	400	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Soulby	164	164	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Stainmore	247	247	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Stainton	259	259	5	No change The PC responded advising they felt no change was required.
Staveley-in-Cartmel	361	361	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Staveley-with-Ings: Hugill	361	361	4	Change in parish wards The PC would like to merge the three wards to create a single unwarded parish served by 12 councillors. They are currently three parish areas, this would abolish the three parishes and create a single unwarded parish.
Staveley-with-Ings: Nether Staveley	603	666	4	
Staveley-with-Ings: Over Staveley	408	408	4	
Tebay	627	664	9	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Temple Sowerby	385	485	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Threlkeld	354	354	9	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Torver	123	123	5	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Ulverston: Central	1438	1651	3	No change One resident responded, referring to the recent LGBCE review. Further changes to town wards are not currently possible.
Ulverston: East	1798	1822	3	
Ulverston: North	1587	1819	3	
Ulverston: South	1550	1922	3	
Ulverston: Town	1495	1495	3	
Ulverston: West	1541	1591	3	
Underbarrow & Bradleyfield	294	394	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Urswick, Bardsea & Stainton: Bardsea	282	282	2	Parish Council responded with comments regarding the LGBCE warding review, which are outside of the scope of the CGR. No changes proposed.
Urswick, Bardsea & Stainton: Stainton	196	196	1	
Urswick, Bardsea & Stainton: Urswick	647	701	5	
Waitby Parish Meeting	51	51	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Warcop	431	444	7	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Wharton Parish Meeting	31	31	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Whinfell Parish Meeting	155	155	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Windermere & Bowness: Applethwaite	1185	1595	4	Change council size Request for reduction made by a parish councillor and the PC, and supported by a local resident. To provide electoral equality, the wards will be served: Applethwaite (4)
Windermere & Bowness: Bowness North	1731	1738	6	
Windermere & Bowness: Bowness South	1265	1266	4	
Windermere & Bowness: Town	1547	1547	6	

Parish: Ward	Electorate		Current cllrs	Draft Recommendations
	2024	2031		
				Bowness North (4) Bowness South (3) Town (4).
Winton Parish Meeting	188	188	PM	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Witherslack, Meathop & Ulpha: Meathop & Ulpha	122	122	2	<i>No response – no change.</i>
Witherslack, Meathop & Ulpha: Witherslack	395	395	5	
Yanwath & Eamont Bridge	404	404	5	See section 2F. See section 2G.

SECTION TWO | Parishes with more substantive changes

2A Barton & Pooley Bridge and Dacre

Barton & Pooley Bridge parish council have advised that “The residents in the properties on the west bank of the river have always considered themselves as being part of Pooley Bridge but actually are within the Dacre Parish boundary. The Council would like the properties to be included within the Barton and Pooley Bridge Parish Boundary. The council have discussed the amendment with Dacre Parish Council who are in agreement with the proposal.” This has previously been raised by local members of the community ahead of the CGR.

Consultation responses

Barton & Pooley Bridge PC have submitted the proposal to amend the boundary. Dacre PC have made a submission supporting the proposal. In addition, Dacre PC have requested a reduction from 11 to 8 seats; this reflects the NALC guidance.

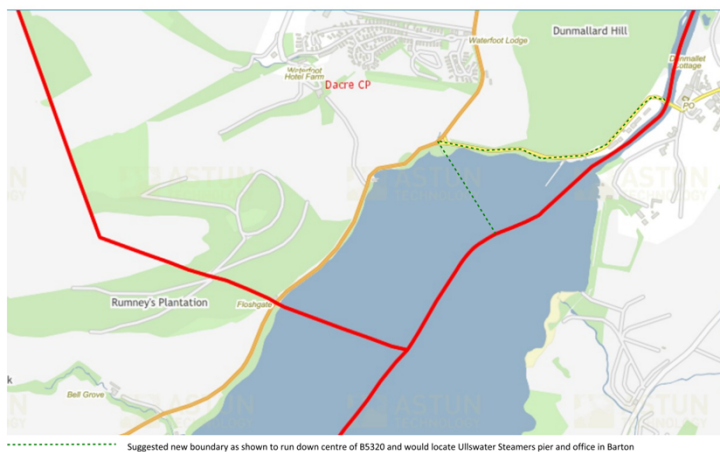
Considerations

The change in parish boundary is supported by both affected parish councils, and previous representation by local people indicates broad support. The affected properties look to Pooley Bridge, just across the water, for local services and support when required; the remainder of the community of Dacre is some distance away from these properties.

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Amend the boundary between Barton & Pooley Bridge and Dacre parishes, following the B5320 from Pooley Bridge to the junction with the A592, then running out to the current boundary as shown in the map below.
- (2) Reduce the number of parish councillors for Dacre to 8.
- (3) Following the review, request the LGBCE make consequential amendments to the Westmorland and Furness ward to match the new parish arrangements.

Number of registered local government electors in affected area: 0



Map supplied by both affected parish councils.

Colton parish has three wards, each served by 3 councillors, and a total of 594 electors. Satterthwaite parish has a total of 154 electors and 5 councillors.

Consultation responses

Colton PC made a submission stating that the PC “wishes to explore additional options including grouping or merging with Satterthwaite Parish Council with regards to the Community Governance Review. This is prompted by an ageing population, challenges in securing election candidates, and the shared use of local resources and facilities.”

Satterthwaite PC responded to the initial consultation and also expressed an interest in joining Colton in a group.

Considerations

Both parishes are quite rural and sparsely populated, serving a number of small communities. The challenges expressed by respondents can make representation more difficult and delivery of local services more complex. With insufficient local electors to stand as future parish councillors, these challenges would become more acute.

The recommended number of councillors, based on NALC recommendations, for a total of 748 electors is 7. Rather than having a total of four parish wards, it may be beneficial to have two – one for the historic parish of Colton (5 councillors) and one for Satterthwaite (2 councillors).

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Merge **Colton** and **Satterthwaite** parishes into a single parish council, served by two parish wards: Colton (5 councillors) and Satterthwaite (2 councillors).

Grange parish is currently warded. However, the parish council has requested that the parish wards be abolished. The parish wards were based on historic county boundaries (no longer in force) and there is no longer a requirement for them.

Consultation responses

The PC submitted the following, a resolution from their recent meeting:

“Grange Town Council requests that the wards are removed and that the nine Councillors all work together to represent all residents in an unwarded parish. Grange is a small town; the Council has never been political, and having all Councillors available to all residents is more straightforward and accessible. There is no benefit apparent for having the town split into wards. Having wards in such a small place causes unnecessary administration and confusion.”

Considerations

The PC is best placed to make suggestions of this nature, and where parish wards no longer serve the local community, there is no reason to retain them. Whilst Grange West is a single member parish ward, it is not a distinct community from the rest of the parish and therefore is likely to be properly represented by the rest of the parish council. Whilst the NALC guidelines suggest a parish of this size should have 12 councillors, the removal of the parish wards will not increase the workload (and should actively decrease it) for the parish councillors, and therefore no change in council size is recommended.

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Remove the parish wards for Grange PC, resulting in one unwarded parish, served by 9 councillors.

During the consultation, Great Strickland PC reported that they were experiencing some challenges in terms of both recruiting new councillors and in updating administrative processes to ensure compliance moving forwards. With an electorate of just 179, there is limited capacity both within the PC and the parish community as a whole.

Consultation responses

The PC held a meeting in November 2025, attended by the current councillors, clerk and other local residents. They considered the options available to them – no change (which would not resolve their current challenges), abolish the PC and become a parish meeting, or merge with a neighbouring parish. No neighbouring parishes have expressed an interest in merging with Great Strickland, which essentially leaves two options – remain as a 5 Member Parish Council (which is likely to require new Councillors to stand for at least some of the seats), or dissolve and become an annual Parish Meeting. The PC also expressed concerns about the timetable, but the CGR process must be completed (including a formal consultation).

However, in their formal submission through the consultation form the PC did not express these points.

Considerations

Whilst it is unusual to abolish a parish council, in some circumstances that is the best option to ensure the identities and interests of the local community are represented, and that local governance is effective and convenient. As a very small parish (179 electors), Great Strickland is smaller than some current parish meetings (although also larger than some other parish councils).

On reflection, given the concerns of the parish council, there are two options. Either abolish the parish council and become a parish meeting instead; or continue as a parish council with 5 members. On balance, the best option for Great Strickland appears to be to abolish the parish council. In consulting with local residents, however, the alternative (to remain a parish council) will be made clear, along with a 'call to action' to stand on the parish council going forwards.

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Dissolve Great Strickland parish council and replace with Great Strickland Parish Meeting.

The Chair of Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council has indicated that there has been a decline in the number of electors in the area due to the growth of second homes and rental properties in the area, and that this has impacted on the ability of the council to deliver services. This issue is shared with other local parishes. Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council are interested in potentially merging with their neighbour, Lowick Parish Council.

Consultation responses

The Chair of Blawith & Subberthwaite Parish Council responded to the initial consultation on behalf of the PC.

Lowick PC have also stated “Lowick Parish Council would like to register an interest in joining with Blawith and Subberthwaite Parish Council.”

A local councillor supported this proposal.

Considerations

Both parishes have low electorates, and both have one relatively larger community and many smaller dispersed residential areas throughout their parish area. The challenges expressed by respondents can make representation more difficult and delivery of local services more complex. With insufficient local electors to stand as future parish councillors, these challenges would become more acute. A CGR can merge parish councils, creating a single new parish. Creating parish wards for the new larger parish can help ensure representatives from both communities are included in decision making, and help ensure appropriate representation across the whole area.

The recommended number of councillors, based on NALC recommendations, for 337 electors is 7. This can be adjusted to ensure electoral equality between the two parish wards.

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Merge Blawith & Subberthwaite and Lowick into a single parish council, served by two parish wards: Blawith (3 councillors) and Lowick (4 councillors).
- (2) Name the new parish council Lowick & Blawith.

A parish councillor advised that “Clifton Dykes most of which is inside the Clifton parish has a few households that confusingly sit in Brougham parish it it would for the sake of a few meters make more logical and representative sense to have all properties in Clifton Dykes sit within the Clifton parish. On the boundry [sic] with Eamont and Yanwath is a single property that although classed as Eamont in its postal address this single property sits in the boundary of Clifton and would make more representative sense to be in the Eamont and Yanwath Ward.”

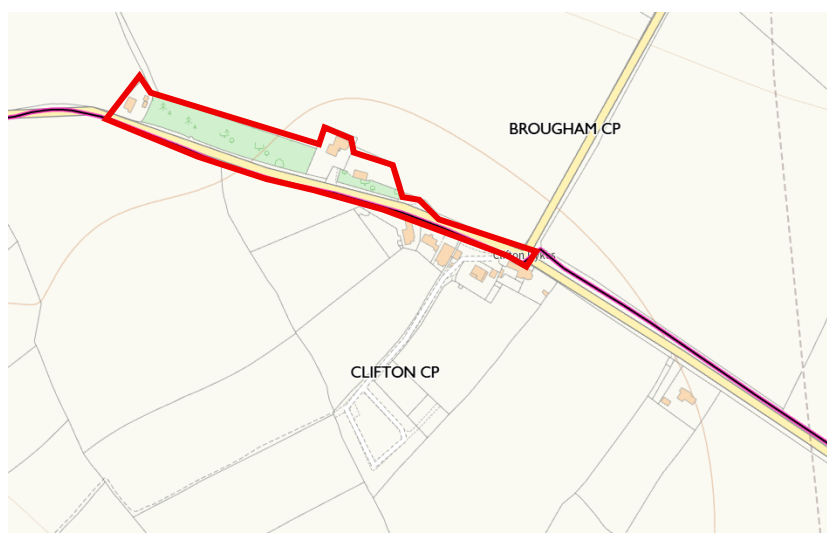
They also responded about the number of parish councillors: “Like many parish councils Clifton struggles to get candidates coming forward at election time and has not had a contested election for over a decade unfortunately. This also has an impact on ability to adopt general powers of competence. Given the population levels in the parish currently it would make logical sense to reduce the number as the council has previously requested to five seats with this been the current stable number of councillors as has been for two election cycles now. It would then also potentially enable the threshold for contested elections to take place in Clifton to encourage a healthy democratic process to take place.”

Consultation responses

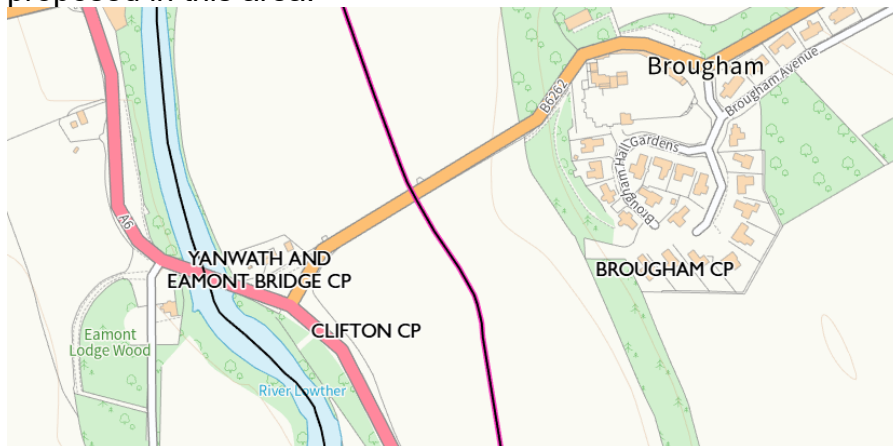
A parish councillor for Clifton responded as above; Clifton PC have also requested the boundary regarding Clifton Dykes be realigned and reduction to 5 councillors. Brougham PC have not responded to the initial consultation. Yanwath & Eamont Bridge PC did not respond.

Considerations

The community of Clifton Dykes is on the north east side of Clifton parish. The current parish boundary and W&F ward boundaries broadly follow the centre of the Wetheriggs road. A small number of properties currently sit to the north of the road, and are therefore in Brougham parish and Long Marton & Kirkby Thore ward. This effectively isolates these properties from the rest of their community. Whilst the response from Clifton felt that better representation of local interests and identities would be achieved by adjusting this boundary to the north of the affected properties, Brougham did not make a similar submission. If such a change were to take place it must (i) be consulted upon allowing the affected residents to express their view, and (ii) be subject to LGBCE approval for a consequential amendment to the W&F ward boundary to ensure both the parish and the ward boundaries align.



The boundary between Clifton and Yanwath & Eamont Bridge is the river Lowther, with properties to the east in Clifton. From the maps, it appears the property in question may be in the northern-most part of Clifton. Whilst they are geographically remote from the rest of Clifton parish, amending the boundary other than following the river may increase uncertainty and clarity of the location of the boundary. This property is also close to the boundary with Brougham, although there is no suggestion the residents feel more closely aligned with any parish other than Clifton. Therefore, no change is proposed in this area.



The number of parish councillors can be amended to reflect the low electorate, whilst retaining good electoral representation. This is subject to consultation, allowing local residents and the parish council to express their views on the proposed reduction.

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Amend the boundary between **Clifton** and **Brougham**, such that the entire Clifton Dykes community is included in Clifton parish.
- (2) Following the review, request the LGBCE make consequential amendments to the Westmorland and Furness ward to match the new parish arrangements.
- (3) Change the number of parish councillors for **Clifton** to 5.

Number of registered local government electors in affected area:3

Penrith is served by 6 town wards and 15 town councillors, and includes a diverse range of communities. The external town boundary is fairly well defined, although some minor adjustments to ensure they continue to reflect the local communities, may be warranted.

Consultation responses

The consultation elicited a good number of responses regarding Penrith. These ranged from some advocating for splitting the Town into multiple smaller parishes, through to other respondents who had heard of these suggestions and were strongly opposed to them. The Town Council made a submission requesting an increase in the number of councillors, with no further suggestion for other changes. Those advocating for splitting the Town felt their community was not well served by the current arrangements; those against felt splitting the Town would be divisive and not lead to effective or convenient local government nor representation of communities.

In the south, there were suggestions that properties to the north of the River Eamont should be part of Eamont Bridge, rather than included within Penrith, in order to bring greater cohesiveness to the community and potentially strengthening the response to flooding events.

Yanwath & Eamont Bridge council have not responded to the consultation.

Considerations

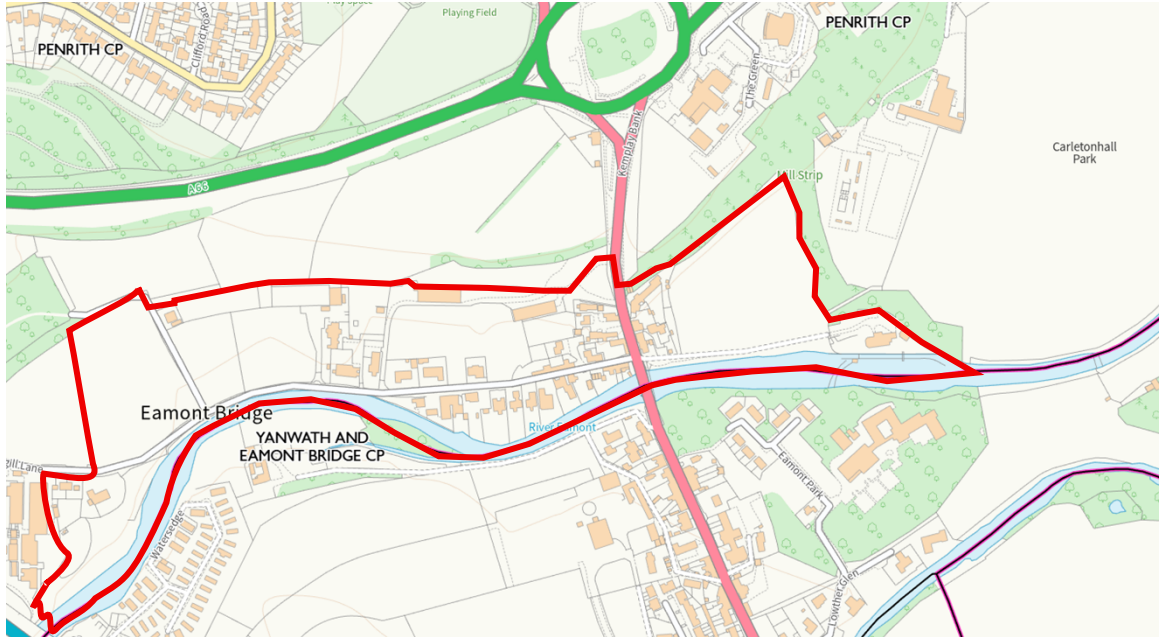
- (1) Whilst there are clearly strong feelings from some about a perceived lack of representation for their community within Penrith, resulting in their suggestion to split the Town into separate parish councils, the broader consideration must relate to the two statutory criteria – effective and convenient local government and representation of local community interests and identities.

There is an advantage for town and parish councils that represent large towns to be cohesive – this gives greater economies of scale and allows for better use of resources. There is a basic cost associated with all democratic bodies, and splitting one council into multiple parts will significantly increase the financial cost. There would also be a need for more councillors overall, requiring greater input from local people. One respondent felt that local businesses could work alongside local people to form smaller local parish councils; this is not a feature of current local democracy – whilst local businesses can liaise with a parish or town council, they do not get a ‘seat’ on the council as that is reserved for elected individuals.

There is already a difference of opinion raised about the splitting of the council. If the town were split, it is likely to increase costs, and reduce the effectiveness and convenience of local government. Currently all parts of the town are represented on the town council through the warding arrangements. Local people who feel their community is inadequately represented are welcome to stand for election at future elections to serve their community. Therefore, there is no proposal to split the town council.

- (2) There is some merit in considering a change in boundary around Eamont Bridge, to ensure properties to the north of the river are in the same parish as those on the south where there are shared interests, identities and challenges. However, the current boundary runs along the river; a change would mean

moving the boundary to the next clear demarcation which is the A66. This would then include a number of additional properties (including the Westmorland and Furness depot, Cumbria Fire & Rescue HQ, and residential and business units). There is also an argument that having two separate parish councils to support residents in the case of local issues (such as flooding) gives greater resources and 'strength in numbers'. The question therefore rests on whether the residents in the affected area (between the river and the A66) feel more closely aligned to Penrith or Eamont Bridge. On balance, it is felt that the residential area immediately north of the river may be better aligned with Eamont Bridge, but the non-residential area north of this to the A66 would not be.



- (3) The Town Council has requested a change in the number of councillors, to give better equality of representation.

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Amend the boundary between **Penrith** and **Yanwath & Eamont Bridge** such that the residential area north of the river becomes part of Yanwath & Eamont Bridge.
- (2) Change the number of parish councillors for **Penrith** to 17 in total, serving six wards: Carleton (3), East (3), North (5), Pategill (1), South (2), West (3).

Number of registered local government electors in affected area: 85

Kendal is a large town serving over 22,000 electors. There is ongoing development both within the town and on its periphery; some of these developments are in neighbouring parishes.

Consultation responses

A number of relevant responses have been received. One Westmorland and Furness councillor felt the boundaries were appropriate. A second councillor felt the newer ongoing developments in neighbouring parishes should be included in an expanded Kendal.

Kendal TC have submitted a long and detailed response to the consultation, provided in full in the Annex to this report. In summary, these seek to:

1. *Extend the southern boundary in Oxenholme, as per a previous CGR which was not fully enacted by the local authority at the time (a predecessor to Westmorland and Furness).*
2. *Amend Town Council ward layouts, naming and numbers of Councillors following the LGBCE review.*
3. *Extend the Town boundary in a number of areas (beyond Scroggs Wood, between Natland Road and Burton Road, on the fields off Shap Road, High Sparrowmire, and east of the bypass). These are locations that are earmarked for future development. The full TC response gives reasons for inclusion of these areas within Kendal.*

In contrast, Natland parish council have submitted a detailed response as follows:

1. *No Boundary Change Needed. Natland Parish Council sees no need to change the boundary of the Parish. However, the Parish Council believes it is likely that Kendal Town Council will make a bid to extend their own boundary with Natland to incorporate the Beeches development and the proposed new development of more than 450 homes planned for the land south of the Beeches between Natland Road and the A65. Therefore, we believe it necessary to lay out the reasons why the boundary should remain unchanged.*
2. *Reasons to Retain Existing Borders. The reasons for retaining the existing boundary between Kendal and Natland are based on community identity, wishes of the affected residents, utilisation of potential Community Infrastructure Levy, local village services and timing of any proposed change with respect to the proposed new development.*
3. *Community Identity and Views of Residents. Natland is a rural parish with a population centred around the village green but spread out over a large mainly rural area. The parish extends to the North to the historic natural border of Natland Mill Beck. There is a natural green gap formed by the valley of Natland Mill Beck. This means that the historic properties on Natland Mill Beck Lane and the relatively new Beeches estate lie within Natland Parish. There has been no articulated desire by these residents to be moved into Kendal Town. Indeed, when this idea was last mooted and residents were formally consulted, they chose to stay within Natland. Any proposed change which moves residents from Natland Parish to Kendal Town should again be tested by a formal consultation of the affected residents and independently run by Westmorland and Furness Council.*
4. *Local Village Services. Kendal is a Principal Service Centre so, by definition, villages over a large surrounding area will look to Kendal for most of their services. This is no reason for Kendal Town Council to seek to expand into*

those villages. Natland has an active church, a successful primary school and a busy village hall providing a hub for many community activities. All these facilities draw people in from across the Parish and wider. If the proposed new estate to the south of the Beeches is to be built then Natland can look forward to these village facilities continuing their success into the future with new, vibrant and younger village residents. Moreover, it is a goal of the Parish expressed in consecutive Parish Plans that a footpath and cycle path be built to connect the Beeches and the proposed new build to the village centre, thus encouraging their active and safe travel to the village centre facilities. Such a footpath/cycle way would of course be very costly and Natland would be expected to make a contribution. It would be the intention of the Parish Council to earmark a proportion of the CIL from the proposed new build to this project.

- 5. Timing. This CGR is taking place early. The last one took place only 6 years ago and at that time the residents who would be affected by a proposed shift in the boundary made clear that they didn't want to move. Nothing has obviously changed to warrant the same change being suggested. If the proposed new development of more than 450 homes goes ahead then the new residents would have no say in the proposal. The Parish Council believes it would be better for any proposal to change this boundary be delayed until the next CGR, presumably in 2035, when the new residents would have a chance to express their views on a proposed change.*
- 6. Conclusion. Natland Parish Council submits these views on the assumption that Kendal Town Council will submit a case for appropriating the northern part of Natland parish. However, we do so without knowing if this is the case, the extent of any proposed appropriation, and the arguments offered in support. The Parish Council requests sight of any proposals put forward by Kendal so that the Natland may respond to these.*

In addition, Burneside PC have made a submission calling for the strengthening of the green gap and refuting any claim by Kendal on expanding into the area:

"This response was agreed at our meeting on 02/12/2025.

Burneside Parish Council (BPC) feels the current Parish boundaries are correct and work well. Before Local Government Re-organisation BPC submitted a petition to the then South Lakeland District Council, which had the support of many in our community. This was a petition to 'Save our Green Gap'. Our Green Gap between Burneside and Kendal is extremely important to us and our community. Protection of the area and no development on any land between Burneside and Kendal is of upmost importance. Recently public objection from both Kendal and Burneside led to the planning application for a new mobile mast in the Green Gap to be withdrawn.

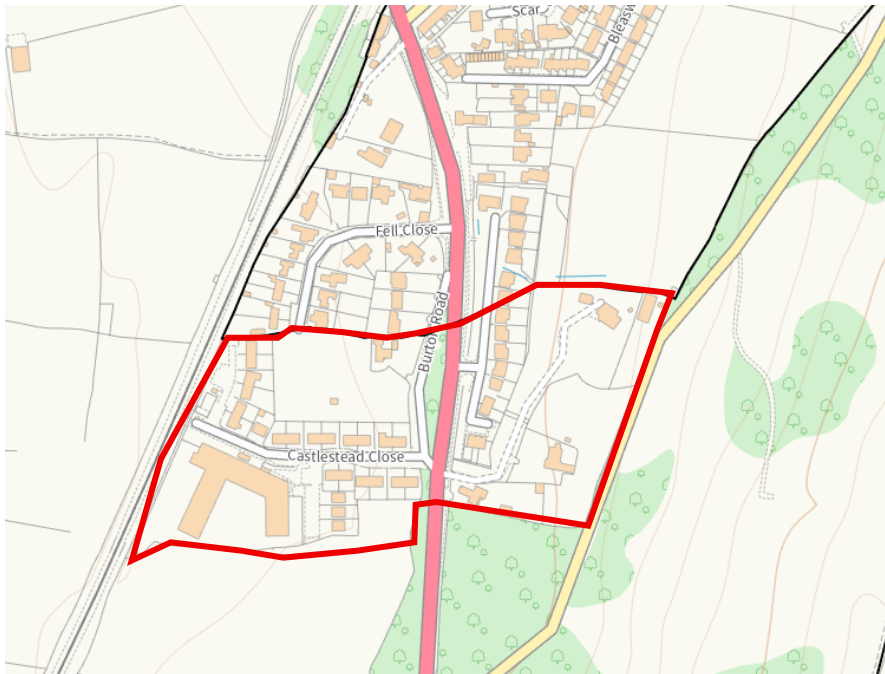
There is currently a live planning application for a new housing estate next to High Sparrowmire, which has attracted much local objection, including from BPC. We have been led to believe that Kendal Town Council (KTC) will ask for the area in question to become part of Kendal. BPC does not support this land grab, as we have previously petitioned, especially as no planning decision has been made. A KTC Councillor told a public meeting re the proposed development at Hallgarth Community Centre that they could benefit from Community Infrastructure Levy (Parish element) money as it would come to KTC. As the area in question is within Strickland Ketel, a Burneside Parish, it would come to BPC. This comment seemed to show lack of knowledge, respect and importance to our community that this area is within our Parish."

Considerations

It is not unusual for developments on the edge of towns to, eventually, be included within the town council area itself. However, this is not a given. It is best practice to ensure the people who live in the area being moved from one parish to another have the chance to have their say as to which parish or community they feel part of. That must include a full consultation. However, where a development is not yet completed, there is the additional challenge – the local residents don't yet live there and so cannot have their say. Precedent suggests not seeking to move these areas until they are developed and inhabited, and at that time consultation can take place with the residents who may be affected by any change. Even then, there is no certainty that the residents will choose to move to a new parish.

On the three aspects that Kendal TC raised:

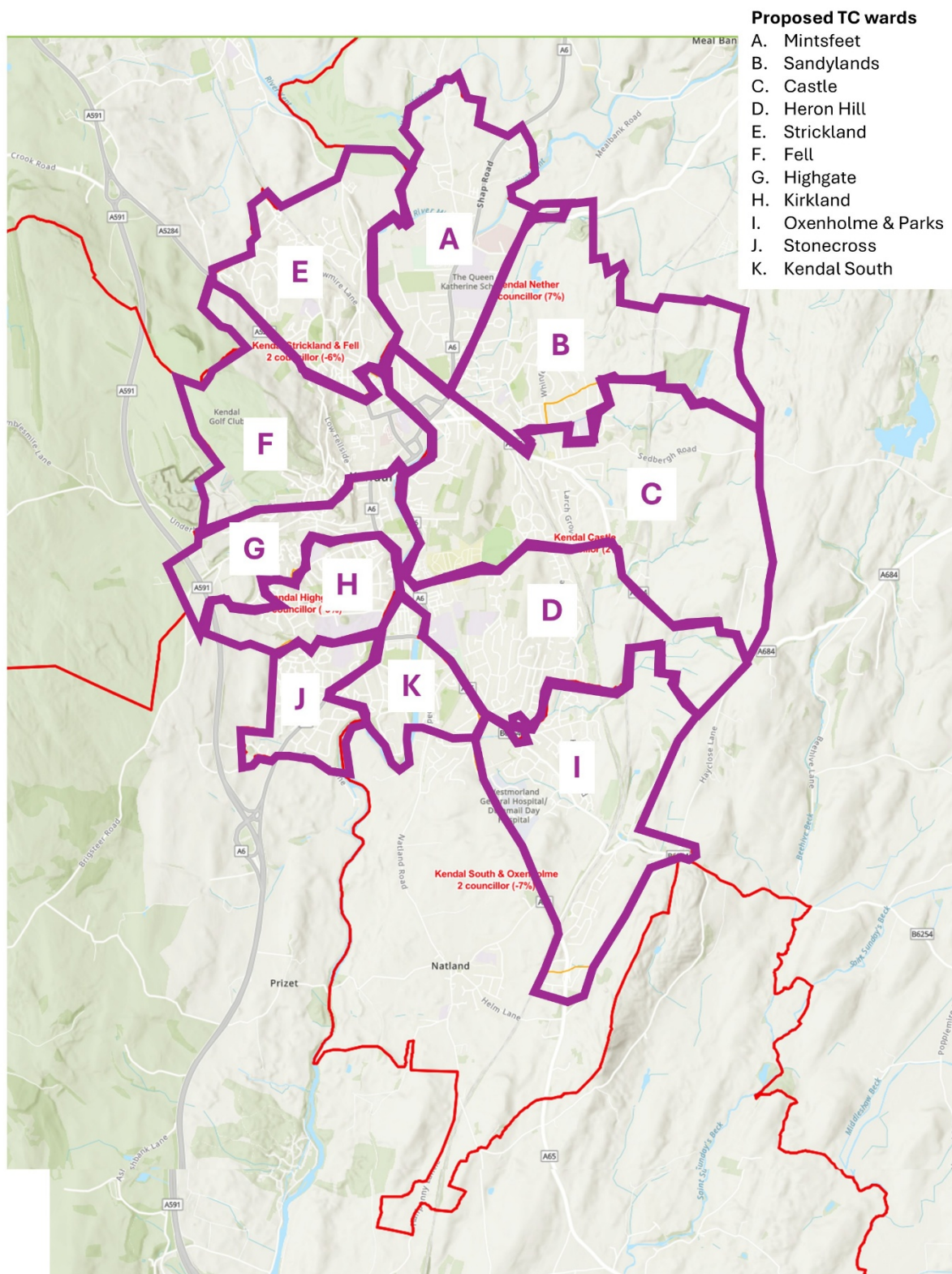
- (1) The previous CGR is now, effectively, null due to the LGBCE changes since and this ongoing review. However, there is logic to extending beyond Oxenholme to include the southern tip of the residential development (subject to (2) below). This would include Rochester Gardens and Castlestead Close, which would move to Kendal.



- (2) The proposed new Town Council wards would result in changes across large parts of Kendal, some very small and others much more substantial. The boundaries implemented by the LGBCE are protected and require their permission to make any changes following a current CGR. It is highly unlikely that they would grant permission to changes at this stage, given the very recent review. No Town ward can straddle a Westmorland and Furness ward, which would mean consequential changes to the W&F ward boundaries; these are very unlikely to be supported by the LGBCE given the significant work that they and others undertook to make the warding arrangements as they stand (taking effect at the next elections). The Town ward boundary changes are therefore not proposed as Draft Recommendations where they impact on LGBCE warding, although splitting town wards into smaller new wards is proposed. However, the proposed Town Council ward names can be implemented; although these would then differ from the coterminous Westmorland and Furness wards. The suggested Town ward names are as follows; note the external ward boundaries are unchanged from the LGBCE review:
 - **Mintsfeet** unchanged following LGBCE review.
 - **Sandylands** name changed from Nether.

- Kendal Castle – split to **Castle** and **Heron Hill**. Division is from Nether Bridge, along Lound Road then follows the centre of Parkside Road, then south along the A684.
- **Strickland** *unchanged following LGBCE review.*
- **Fell** *unchanged following LGBCE review.*
- **Highgate** *unchanged following LGBCE review.*
- **Kirkland** *unchanged following LGBCE review.*
- **Oxenholme & Parks** *name changed, but boundary unchanged, following LGBCE review (was Oxenholme).*
- **Stonecross** *unchanged following LGBCE review. This differs from that proposed by the Town Council, as their suggestion would see a town council ward straddling the Westmorland and Furness ward boundary which is not possible.*
- **Kendal South** *This is the ward the LGBCE have named 'Heron Hill'. It lays between Stonecross and Heron Hill (part of Castle) and includes both sides of the river.*

(3) The expansion of Kendal Town, requested by Kendal, would see land earmarked for future development being included in Kendal Town. However, this land is not yet developed and not yet occupied. Best practice is that residents of an area are best placed to determine to which community they feel most closely aligned. It is therefore preferable to leave these boundaries untouched until the properties are built and occupied, allowing residents to determine their parish council. Further, the LGBCE are highly unlikely to support major boundary changes at this time, given the boundaries have only just been set through their significant warding review.



Draft Recommendations

- (1) Adjust the boundary between **Kendal** and **Natland** such that Rochester Gardens and Castlestead Close such that both move to Kendal.
- (2) Revise the Town Council ward names for **Kendal** as follows:
 - a. Mintsfeet (2 councillors)
 - b. Sandylands (3 councillors)

- c. Castle (3 councillors)
- d. Heron Hill (3 councillors)
- e. Strickland (4 councillors)
- f. Fell (2 councillors)
- g. Highgate (2 councillors)
- h. Kirkland (2 councillors)
- i. Oxenholme & Parks (3 councillors)
- j. Stonecross (2 councillors)
- k. Kendal South (2 councillors)

Number of registered local government electors in affected area: 124

Casterton has 254 electors, and 5 parish councillors; the parish centre is just to the east of the River Lune, with the rest of the sparsely populated parts of the parish extending some distance to the east. Kirkby Lonsdale has an electorate of 1585 and 9 parish councillors, and has a number of smaller communities in addition to the town of Kirkby Lonsdale itself. The boundary between the two parishes is the River Lune.

Consultation responses

No responses were received from Kirkby Lonsdale.

Four responses were received regarding Casterton: Two local residents advised they felt the boundaries were appropriate and no changes required. Two felt the parish should be abolished, giving a long response setting out why they felt the parish was not effective. A fourth felt it was hard to recruit to the parish council and decisions are made by neighbouring parishes.

Considerations

One respondent called for the abolition of Casterton, replacing it with either a parish meeting or merging with Kirkby Lonsdale. The concerns they raised about Casterton were:

- (1) Whether some of the current councillors are eligible to be councillors. This is not a matter for a CGR but should be reported to the Monitoring Officer for assessment.
- (2) That no contested elections have been held for a number of years. Elections are administered by Westmorland and Furness council, so the only reason this can occur is when no more candidates stand than there are seats. All eligible electors are welcome to stand at the next election. An uncontested election in itself does not cause a concern for a CGR.
- (3) The high parish precept and spending plans. This is not a matter for the CGR, but is for local electors and parish councillors to address. Concerns about the appropriateness of spending should be reported to the Monitoring Officer.
- (4) Concerns regarding how the parish reported a review by the Information Commissioner are outside of the remit of a CGR.
- (5) Political affiliations of councillors. Parish councillors are able and entitled to be members and/or representatives of political parties.

Overall, it appears one respondent has concerns about Casterton parish council, in part due to a divide between residents from the local area and 'incomers'. However, a CGR is not the mechanism to address these issues. A CGR can only consider the two statutory criteria, and whilst the respondent may feel that the parish council is not currently effective, the alleged reasons for that appear to be related to individuals and current processes being followed rather than the community governance infrastructure itself.

On balance, taking all the responses into account, it appears no change at the current time is required for either parish.

Beetham has 1454 electors across two wards (East and West) and is served by up to 9 councillors (currently 7, with 2 additional vacancies); Holme has 1190 electors and 7 councillors.

Consultation responses

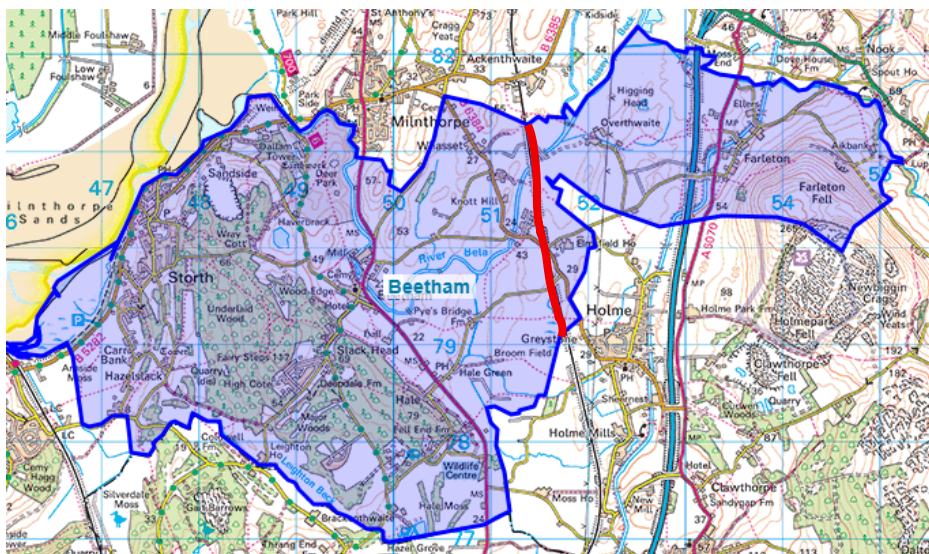
No responses were received from Holme.

Beetham Parish Council made a submission regarding both the external boundary of the parish, and the current number of councillors:

- (1) "When viewed geographically it can be seen that Beetham Parish is a very spread out parish with a section towards the East which is distant and detached from the other areas. It includes half of Farleton Fell, the other half being in Holme Parish and councillors think that it would make more sense for this section to either be included with Holme or Lupton Parishes. Currently it is felt that Beetham Parish Council does not represent the electors within this area, the closest East Ward councillor lives in Hale. The natural boundary would be the railway line."
- (2) "Beetham Parish Council has struggled for years to fill the council to the required 9 and has worked, and is currently working, with 7. The number required to be quorate would remain the same."

Considerations

Looking at both the maps and the submission from Beetham PC, it appears the few residents in the eastern edge of the parish are geographically distant and potentially underrepresented by the current parish governance arrangements. The railway line provides a clearly identifiable boundary to follow. It appears the residents in this area may be better represented and served if they were part of Holme parish, although importantly neither Holme parish nor the affected residents have yet had a chance to comment on this suggestion.



Amending the number of councillors from 9 to 7 would be in line with the NALC guidelines, and reflects the needs of the local community. It may also be beneficial to

the parish to remove the parish wards at the same time; this would be subject to hearing from the parish council at the next stage consultation.

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Amend the parish boundary for **Beetham**, such that the area east of the railway becomes part of **Holme** parish. Households in the affected area will be consulted directly, as their views are essential in these discussions.
- (2) Remove the parish wards for **Beetham** parish.
- (3) Change the number of parish councillors for **Beetham** to 7.

Number of registered local government electors in affected area: 73

Allithwaite & Cartmel has around 1500 electors across two wards; Lower Holker has 1640 electors in one ward.

Consultation responses

One respondent from Allithwaite & Cartmel advised they felt the boundaries and current arrangements remained appropriate.

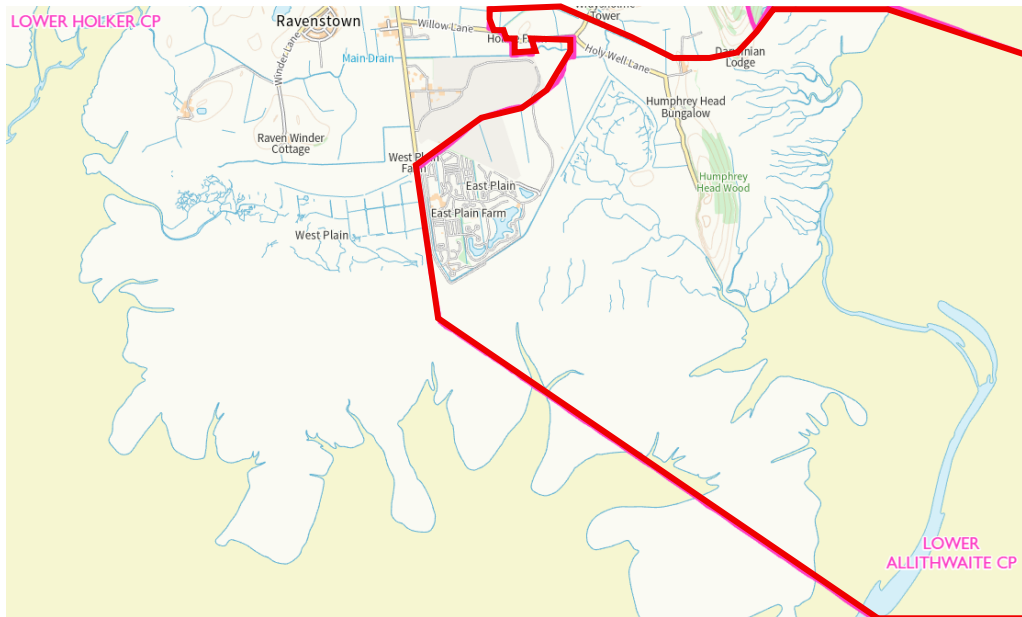
Lower Holker Parish Council, however, proposed an amendment to the parish boundary between Lower Holker Parish and Allithwaite & Cartmel Parish:

- *A large caravan site, operated by Haven, is located within the adjoining Allithwaite & Cartmel Parish. The site grown considerably over the last 20 years and there is currently planning permission for over 1,000 lodges on the site. The main access for the new/replacement lodges, contractors and thousands of visitors is through the villages within Lower Holker ie Holker, Cark & Flookburgh. The villages of Cartmel and Allithwaite are not affected in this way. The Parish Boundary means that Haven is located just within Allithwaite & Cartmel Parish. This means that Lower Holker Parish Council is not a consultee for any Planning Applications for development of the site, despite it being the only access route and therefore primarily impacted by any decisions made.*
- *Lower Holker Parish Council would therefore like to request that the Haven site is included within Lower Holker Parish so that those most impacted by developments can be directly consulted. We have prepared a map of the proposed amendment which includes the Haven site, following the coast and then the route of the railway.*

Considerations

Whether a parish council is included as a consultee on planning applications is not, on its own, a consideration for a CGR. However, it is possible that Lower Holker PC consider that the community at the Haven site and properties to the east (Humphrey Head wood and surrounds) are more closely aligned with Lower Holker than with Allithwaite. No residents, nor the PC, from Allithwaite have suggested this is the case, however.

On balance, given the access to the Haven site is via Lower Holker, and any development in that area has a direct impact on residents of Lower Holker but not Allithwaite, it is likely that this area is more closely aligned with Lower Holker.



Draft Recommendations

- (1) Amend the boundary between **Allithwaite & Cartmel** and **Lower Holker** to follow the railway line, such that the Haven site and Humphrey Head are included in Lower Holker.

Number of registered local government electors in affected area: 18

Lindal & Marton has 614 electors and 5 parish councillors. Pennington has around 1700 electors across 2 wards, served by 7 councillors in total.

Consultation responses

Lindal & Marton PC responded advising they felt no change was required, having discussed and considered fully at their council meeting.

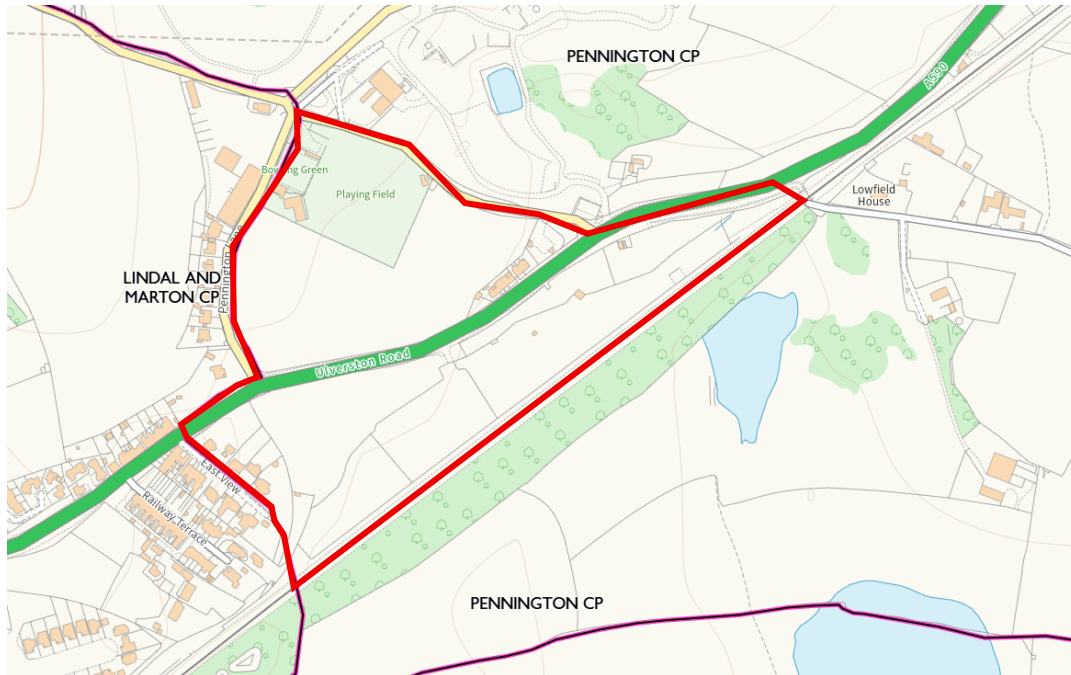
Pennington PC has not responded to the consultation.

A local Westmorland and Furness councillor did respond:

- *The existing boundary between the Pennington Parish and the Lindal & Marton Parish, shown in the attached as Figure 1, is outdated, having never been reviewed in recent years, as this previously formed the district boundary between Barrow BC and South Lakeland DC (1974-2023).*
- *There are a number of properties which are directly adjacent to Lindal village, in some cases on the same street, which are in different parishes. These properties look to Lindal rather than the distant village of Pennington for local services. My suggestion is to include the properties at Bank Terrace and the east side of East View, within the Lindal & Marton parish. This new proposed boundary is drawn in the attached as Figure 2, using Lindal Moor Road, Ulverston Road (A590), and the railway line, as the new boundary.*
- *A more comprehensive view also shows a number of properties to the west of Lindal & Marton parish which have no road connection to Pennington, but are currently included in that parish. Figure 3 shows another suggested parish boundary which would include these properties from Carkettle Farm south-east towards Whinfell Farm, before heading due east to a local stream, then south-east again to Ulverston Road (A590), and the railway line, as the new boundary. These proposed new boundaries would better reflect existing local communities, and give clear lines of demarcation.*

Considerations

Historic parish boundaries often remain in place for many years, but a CGR is an opportunity to reflect and consider if they remain appropriate. The current boundary runs along East View, with properties to the east in Pennington; they may be better served by being in Lindal & Marton; however this is also the new ward boundary for Westmorland and Furness and a change requires permission from the LGBCE. Approval cannot be guaranteed, but is more likely if it targets those few affected properties rather than a wider area. It is considered that the area including East View and the residents of properties near the bowling green are more likely to be considered part of Lindal & Marton than Pennington, particularly as the boundary sign for the village is included in that area.



Draft Recommendations

- (1) Amend the boundary between **Lindal & Marton** and **Pennington** to the east of the properties on East View and Bank Terrace.
- (2) Following the review, request the LGBCE make consequential amendments to the Westmorland and Furness ward to match the new parish arrangements.

Number of registered local government electors in affected area: 16

Skelwith has 108 electors and 5 councillors. Coniston has 671 electors and 7 councillors.

Consultation responses

Coniston PC advised that they felt no changes were required, but have been approached by their neighbouring parish asking to consider merging the two parish councils.

Skelwith PC have responded, advising that they wish to consider merging with Coniston parish and that they are meeting to discuss in mid-December 2025:

- *We think there are options for improving community governance in our Parish Skelwith.*
- *This is because it is difficult for us as one of the smallest Parishes to have sufficient numbers of residents willing or able to participate either as Elected Members of the Parish Council or as the Clerk.*
- *This is sadly because numbers of people on the electoral roll are so low in some Lakeland communities, these communities are no longer sustainable to operate on their own as Parishes. This is in part due to large numbers of second homes and holiday lets. In Skelwith, we only have 105 people on the electoral roll.*
- *At Skelwith we would like to group with Coniston and we have as such submitted a formal request to Coniston PC, we are meeting together on the 15th December to discuss this further.*
- *It would make sense to group with Coniston and for their Clerk to look after Skelwith as well.*
- *In Skelwith we are also giving back our Community Centre to the Church, we simply could not manage to find the £20k needed every year to keep it going. There are so few people that are active in the community. The return will complete in Jan 2026.*
- *The community look to Coniston and the Crake Valley as their key service centre, for the doctors, for fuel, shopping and for social events. The A583 connects these parishes and the borders are shared in part.*
- *There is a very strong feeling that the parish does not want to grouped with the Lakes Parish under any circumstances. Hawkshead would be the second choice if Coniston was not possible.*

This view was supported by a local councillor.

Torver PC has not responded to the consultation. However, if the amalgamation of Coniston and Skelwith, and of Blawith & Subberthwaite and Lowick were to go ahead, Torver would stand out as being a small separate parish between two larger amalgamated parish areas. This may not be in the best interests of the parish, and a local ward member has suggested potentially including Torver in the combined new parish here within the Draft Recommendations to allow local people and the parish councils to fully consider the options.

Considerations

Whilst Coniston have not yet considered this approach by Skelwith, the submission from the latter clearly highlights the challenges they are facing in continuing as a small separate parish council. Given this was submitted by a local parish, and supported by

a local councillor, the Draft Recommendation is to merge these two parishes; this proposal gives local people the opportunity to consider and discuss the options and to respond through the consultation. In addition, Torver is proposed to be combined within this new parish.

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Merge **Coniston** and **Skelwith** and **Torver** into a single parish council, served by three parish wards: Coniston (5 councillors), Skelwith (2 councillors) and Torver (2 councillors).
- (2) Name the new parish council **Coniston, Skelwith & Torver**.

Skelton has 477 electors and 15 councillors across 5 separate wards.

Consultation responses

No responses were received during the consultation period.

However, following the close of the consultation, Skelton parish council submitted a proposal to amend the parish boundaries affecting two neighbouring parishes – Greystoke and Hesket. Hesket PC have made a separate submission, proposing to amend their parish warding arrangements, which would be compromised by the Skelton proposal.

Considerations

The proposal from Skelton was received after the close of the consultation, and therefore outside of the scope of the CGR process. In addition, the proposals are not compatible with the requests of (and Draft Recommendations for) Hesket parish. Further, the proposals would impact the Westmorland and Furness ward boundary set by the LGBCE in a way that is unlikely to be acceptable to them. For all these reasons, therefore, no Draft Recommendations are proposed for Skelton based on this submission.

However, based on the NALC recommended number of councillors, the number of councillors for Skelton PC is proposed to be reduced from 15 to 8.

Draft Recommendations

- (1) Change the number of parish councillors for **Skelton** to 8 as follows: Hutton-in-the-Forest ward (1 councillor), Ivegill ward (2 councillors), Laithes ward (1 councillor), Lamonby ward (1 councillor) and Skelton ward (3 councillors).

SECTION THREE | Summary of Draft Recommendations

#	Draft Recommendation
1	Change the number of parish councillors for Ainstable to 7 as follows: Ainstable ward (5 councillors) and Croglin ward (2 councillors).
2	Amend the boundary between Allithwaite & Cartmel and Lower Holker to follow the railway line, such that the Haven site and Humphrey Head are included in Lower Holker.
3	Change the number of parish councillors for Alston Moor to 9 as follows: Alston ward (6 councillors), Garrigill ward (1 councillor) and Nenthead ward (2 councillors).
4	Change the number of parish councillors for Appleby to 11 as follows: Appleby ward (5 councillors), Bongate ward (6 councillors).
5	Change the number of parish councillors for Arnside to 11.
6	Change the number of town councillors for Barrow to 25 as follows: Barrow Island (1 councillor), Central (2 councillors), Hawcoat (3 councillors), Hindpool (2 councillors), Newbarns (3 councillors), Ormsgill (2 councillors), Parkside (2 councillors), Risedale (3 councillors), Roosecote (2 councillors), Walney North (3 councillors), Walney South (2 councillors).
7	Amend the boundary between Barton & Pooley Bridge and Dacre parishes, following the B5320 from Pooley Bridge to the junction with the A592, then running out to the current boundary. Following the review, request the LGBCE make consequential amendments to the Westmorland and Furness ward to match the new parish arrangements.
8a	Amend the parish boundary for Beetham , such that the area east of the railway becomes part of Holme parish.
8b	Remove the parish wards for Beetham parish.
8c	Change the number of parish councillors for Beetham to 7.
9a	Merge Blawith & Subberthwaite and Lowick into a single parish council, served by two parish wards: Blawith (3 councillors) and Lowick (4 councillors).
9b	Name the new parish council Lowick & Blawith .
10	Amend the boundary between Clifton and Brougham , such that the entire Clifton Dykes community is included in Clifton parish. Following the review, request the LGBCE make consequential amendments to the Westmorland and Furness ward to match the new parish arrangements.
11	Change the number of parish councillors for Clifton to 5.
12	Merge Colton and Satterthwaite parishes into a single parish council, served by two parish wards: Colton (5 councillors) and Satterthwaite (2 councillors).
13a	Merge Coniston and Skelwith and Torver into a single parish council, served by two parish wards: Coniston (5 councillors), Skelwith (2 councillors) and Torver (2 councillors).
13b	Name the new parish council Coniston, Skelwith & Torver .
14	Change the name of the parish of Crook to Crook & Winster
15	Change the number of parish councillors for Dacre to 8.
16	Change the number of parish councillors for Dalton-with-Newton to 13 as follows: Anty Cross ward (5 councillors), Newton ward (1 councillor), Beckside (4 councillors) and Dowdales ward (2 councillors).
17	Change the name of the parish of Dent to Dent with Cowgill

18	Remove the parish wards for Grange parish council, resulting in one unwarded parish, served by 9 councillors.
19	Dissolve Great Strickland parish council and replace with Great Strickland Parish Meeting.
20	Remove the parish wards for Hesket parish council, and re-ward with 5 wards each with 2 Councillors (Armathwaite; Calthwaite; Hesket; Plumpton; and Southwaite).
21a	Adjust the boundary between Kendal and Natland such that Rochester Gardens and Castlestead Close such that both move to Kendal.
21b	Revise the Town Council ward names for Kendal as follows: a. Mintsfeet (2 councillors) b. Sandylands (3 councillors) c. Castle (3 councillors) d. Heron Hill (3 councillors) e. Strickland (4 councillors) f. Fell (2 councillors) g. Highgate (2 councillors) h. Kirkland (2 councillors) i. Oxenholme & Parks (3 councillors) j. Stonecross (2 councillors) k. Kendal South (2 councillors)
22	Change the number of parish councillors for Kirkoswald to 7 as follows: Kirkoswald ward (5 councillors) and Renwick ward (2 councillors).
23	Amend the boundary between Lindal & Marton and Pennington to the east of the properties on East View. Following the review, request the LGBCE make consequential amendments to the Westmorland and Furness ward to match the new parish arrangements.
24	Change the number of parish councillors for Matterdale to 7.
25a	Amend the boundary between Penrith and Yanwath & Eamont Bridge such that the residential area north of the river becomes part of Yanwath & Eamont Bridge.
25b	Change the number of parish councillors for Penrith to 17 in total, serving six wards: Carleton (3), East (3), North (5), Pategill (1), South (2), West (3).
26	Change the number of parish councillors for Skelton to 8 as follows: Hutton-in-the-Forest ward (1 councillor), Ivegill ward (2 councillors), Laithes ward (1 councillor), Lamonby ward (1 councillor) and Skelton ward (3 councillors).
27	Remove the parish wards for Staveley with Ings parish council, resulting in one unwarded parish, served by 9 councillors.
28	Change the number of parish councillors for Windermere & Bowness to 15 in total, serving four wards: Applethwaite (4), Bowness North (4), Bowness South (3), Town (4).

Future work

Once agreed by Full Council, a public consultation will commence on the Draft Recommendations, including delivery of leaflets to properties where the Recommendation is to change which parish they are in or remove their parish council.

4. Link to Council Plan Priorities: (People, Climate, Communities, Economy and Culture, Customers, Workforce)

- 4.1 A CGR ensures that the council meets its Communities priority, by ensuring local representation is effective at a parish and town council level.

5. Consultation Outcomes

- 5.1 The CGR requires a public consultation, to ensure the views of parish and town councils and local residents are heard and taken into account in developing the Recommendations. This initial consultation concluded in November 2025.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 The Council is not required to amend the parish and town council election cycles, and may prefer to leave them as-is without consultation and without undertaking a CGR. However, this is unlikely to be conducive of effective and convenient local government and will lead to increased costs for both affected parishes and this authority.

7. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 7.1 The Final Recommendations from this CGR will allow the Council to amend the scheduled parish and town council election dates, if agreed, for the reasons set out in this report.

8. Climate and Biodiversity Implications

- 8.1 The CGR has no direct impact on climate or biodiversity.

9. Legal and Governance Implications

- 9.1 The Council, as principal council, has authority to take decisions about parish electoral governance arrangements under Sections 79 and 102(2) the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 9.2 Sections 81 – 84 of the said Act cover relevant aspect of the Terms of reference for the review. These are to be the Terms under which the review is to be undertaken and approved by the Council. The Terms must specify the area under review and any modifications to make to them. As per the

Guidance, there is no 'one size fits all' approach, nevertheless on general principles, the Terms of reference should set out clearly the matters on which a community governance review is to focus. As soon as practicable after deciding the Terms, they must be published.

- 9.3 Section 102(6) provides (6) The Terms of reference of a community governance review “allow for a community governance petition or community governance application to be considered” if the terms of reference of the review are such that—(a) the area under review includes the whole of the petition area or application area; and (b) the recommendations to be considered by the review include all of the petition's or application's specified recommendations.
- 9.4 Functions relating to Community governance are reserved to Council as referred in the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000.
- 9.5 In accordance with Section 79 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 a Community Governance Review conducted under Section 86 may be for any of the purposes of Sections 87 to 92. Section 98(6) enables an authority to override the provisions of Section 16(3) and Section 90 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 36 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, which govern the timing of ordinary elections to a parish council and the term of office of persons elected to fill casual vacancies in a parish council. This is also underlined by the LGBCE Guidance on community governance at paragraphs 31 and 147-152 of the same.

10. Human Resources Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct Human Resources Implications arising from this report.
- 10.2 Due to the specialist nature of undertaking a CGR and the current capacity within electoral and democratic services teams, support for this review has been provided through a consultant from the Association of Electoral Administrators.

11. Financial Implications

- 11.1 The external costs associated with a CGR include specialist support, and the costs associated with the consultation exercise. These costs will be met from the existing elections budget.

12. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty, Armed Forces Veterans, Care Experienced, Rurality, and Socio-Economic Inequalities implications)

- 12.1 The CGR, and parish election cycles, have no direct impact on equality and diversity matters. Combining election cycles following a CGR should reduce confusion, benefitting all members of society.

13. Risk Implications

- 13.1 There is a potential risk areas related to this CGR if due process is not followed openly, transparently and in accordance with the legislation - there is

a risk that a Judicial Review is launched to seek to appeal the outcome. The likelihood of this can be kept low by ensuring the legal steps are completed and the results of the consultation are taken into account.

14. Background Documents

- 14.1 Guidance on community governance reviewed; Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), last published in March 2010
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf
- 14.2 Council report of February 2025
[https://westmorlandandfurness.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s29794/Council CGRCoveringReport%20SMR.pdf](https://westmorlandandfurness.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s29794/Council%20CGRCoveringReport%20SMR.pdf)



**Westmorland
& Furness
Council**