

Final recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Allerdale Borough Council

Electoral review

June 2017

Translations and other formats

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

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

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

Why Allerdale Borough Council?

4 We are conducting a review of Allerdale Borough Council as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Allerdale. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

Our proposals for Allerdale Borough Council

- Allerdale Borough Council should be represented by 49 councillors, seven fewer than there are now.
- Allerdale Borough Council should have 23 wards, eight fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of all but two wards will change.

5 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements in Allerdale.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)
- Peter Knight CBE, DL
- Alison Lowton
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Sir Tony Redmond

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

1 Introduction

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

- The wards in Allerdale are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the borough.

What is an electoral review?

9 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

10 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Allerdale. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the borough. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
20 September 2016	Number of councillors decided
27 September 2016	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 December 2016	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
7 February 2017	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
3 April 2017	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
13 June 2017	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our ward.

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

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

	2016	2022
Electorate of Allerdale	75,638	77,836
Number of councillors	49	49
Average number of electors per councillor	1,544	1,588

17 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Allerdale will have electoral equality by 2022.

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

Submissions received

19 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2022, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2017. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 3% by 2022.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

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

Number of councillors

22 Allerdale Borough Council currently has 56 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that decreasing by eight would enable the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 48 councillors.

24 In response to our request for warding patterns we received borough-wide proposals from the Conservative and Labour groups based on a 48-member council. In addition, we received a 49-member proposal from council officers, based on discussions by a cross-party working group and submitted at its request, but without full Council support. The council officers' proposal was almost identical to the Conservative Group proposal, with the exception of the Workington area where the officers allocated an additional councillor to secure a better pattern of wards.

25 In formulating the draft recommendations, we noted that under a 48-member council it was very difficult to form a coherent warding pattern in Workington without transferring an area of the town centre to a surrounding rural ward. We were not persuaded that this would best reflect the communities in the area, but were unable to identify a better warding pattern under a 48-member council. However, we noted that, with minor modifications, the council officers' proposal for an additional councillor avoided the splitting of Workington. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 49-member council as we considered this enabled the strongest pattern of wards. This approach is consistent with our guidance on council size where we explain that it may be necessary to alter council size by plus or minus one councillor to secure better, more clearly identifiable boundaries.

26 In response to the draft recommendations we received no significant comments on council size and are therefore confirming 49 members as final.

Ward boundaries consultation

27 We received 16 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included three borough-wide proposals, from the Conservative and Labour groups on the Council, and from council officers. As stated above, the council officers' scheme was based on a 49-member council and formulated on principles agreed by a cross-party working group. The scheme itself was not adopted by the Council, but officers were asked to submit it despite this. The officers' scheme was identical to the Conservative Group's 48-member scheme in all areas except Workington where the officers allocated an additional member. The Labour Group scheme proposed wards for the whole borough and in a number of areas suggested alternatives to address electoral variances of over 10%. The Independent Group put

forward proposals for the areas to the north and west of Cockermouth and also for a ward in Workington.

28 All the borough-wide schemes provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Allerdale and generally secured good levels of electoral equality. However, it was notable that none of the borough-wide schemes provided any specific evidence to explain how the proposals fulfilled the statutory criteria, for example community identity links. In the absence of strong evidence for the borough-wide proposals we exercised our own judgment on the relative merits of the proposals, while trying to reflect the other evidence received.

29 We based the draft recommendations on the council officers' and Conservative Group's proposals for the borough, subject to a modification in Marsh and Wampool. In addition, as stated earlier, we had concerns about the creation of a ward combining rural parishes with the town centre area of Workington. We explored options to avoid this, but were unable to identify any. We noted that the council officers' proposal, with its additional councillor, transferred a smaller area to the Stainburn ward. On further examination, we noted that it was possible to make a minor modification to the council officers' 49-member proposal to completely avoid including a part of Workington town in a rural ward. We therefore based our draft recommendations on the council officers' proposal in Workington, with minor modifications.

30 Our draft recommendations were for 10 three-councillor wards, seven two-councillor wards and five one-councillor wards.

Draft recommendations consultation

31 We received 16 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included comments on Maryport and Workington from Allerdale Borough Council Labour Group. We also received comments from a number of parish councils in the borough. In a number of instances, while respondents have cited strong evidence of community links we have been unable to adopt the suggested proposals because they result in poor levels of electoral equality in either the proposed ward or neighbouring wards.

32 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations, subject to a number of modifications in the Maryport, Workington and Cockermouth areas to reflect the evidence received.

Final recommendations

33 Pages 10–17 detail our final recommendations for each area of Allerdale. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

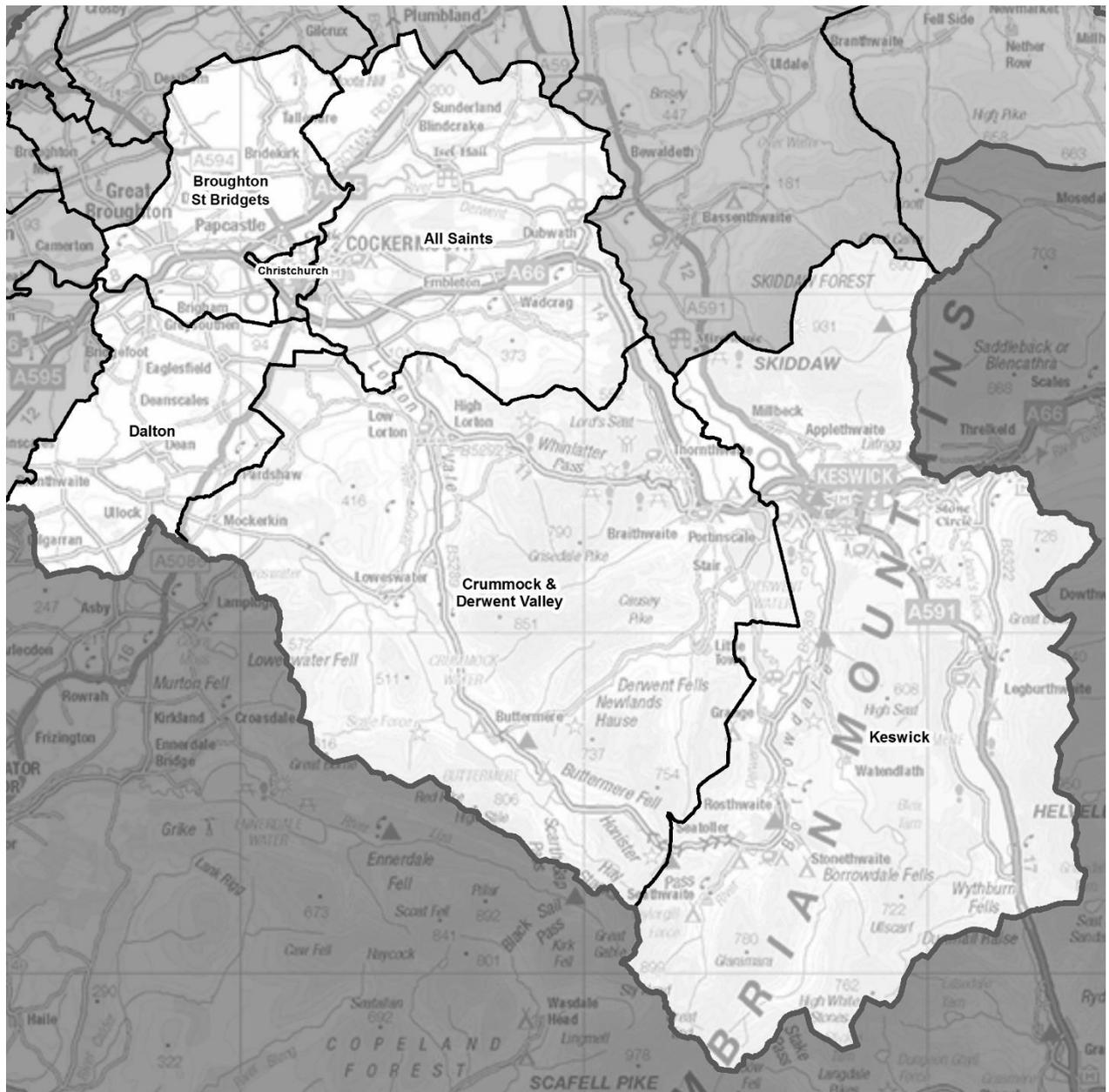
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

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

35 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 22–3 and on the large map accompanying this report.

South Allerdale



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
All Saints	3	3%
Broughton St Bridgets	2	1%
Christchurch	2	9%
Crummock & Derwent Valley	1	-1%
Dalton	1	-5%
Keswick	3	0%

All Saints and Christchurch

36 Embleton & District Parish Council objected to its inclusion in the All Saints ward. It argued that it is not a suburb of Cockermouth, which has urban priorities versus its own rural needs. In addition, it argued that Embleton parish falls within the Lake District National Park whereas Cockermouth does not. It therefore requested that the parish be included in a ward with Lorton, Above Derwent and Keswick parishes.

37 Blindcrake Parish Council objected to its inclusion in the Aspatria ward, arguing that it has links to Cockermouth and should therefore be in the All Saints ward. In addition, it stated that it falls within the Lake District National Park, whereas the rest of the Aspatria ward does not. Two local residents argued that Blindcrake parish should not be in the Aspatria ward and cited links to Cockermouth and also to Setmurthy parish.

38 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We acknowledge the concerns of Embleton & District Parish Council, but note that removing the Embleton & District parishes from All Saints ward would increase the electoral variance in this ward from 2% to 11%. In addition, although transferring Blindcrake parish to All Saints ward would then improve this variance to 6%, transferring the Embleton & District parishes to Crummock & Derwent Valley ward would worsen the electoral variance here to 26%. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify this poor level of electoral equality.

39 In addition, it is not possible to transfer the Embleton & District parishes to a ward including Keswick, Above Derwent and Lorton parishes, without a significant knock-on effect which would require redrawing both the Keswick and Crummock & Derwent Valley wards. Overall, we are not persuaded that we have received sufficient evidence to justify such a wide-scale change. We therefore propose retaining the Embleton & District parishes in All Saints ward. However, in light of the evidence received we do propose transferring Blindcrake parish to All Saints ward as this would only marginally worsen electoral equality in All Saints ward from 2% fewer electors than the borough average in 2022 to 3% more, while marginally worsening the variance in Aspatria to 4% fewer electors per councillor.

Keswick and Crummock & Derwent Valley

40 A local resident expressed concerns about the inclusion of the villages below Skiddaw in the parish of Underskiddaw in the proposed Keswick ward, arguing that demands of these rural villages would be lost in a ward with the more urban Keswick. As stated above (paragraph 36), Embleton & District Parish Council objected to its inclusion in All Saints ward, arguing that it would be better placed in a ward with Lorton, Above Derwent and Keswick parishes. Above Derwent Parish Council expressed support for its inclusion in the proposed Crummock & Derwent Valley ward.

41 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the support from Above Derwent parish for its inclusion in Crummock & Derwent Valley ward. As stated above, transferring Embleton & District Parish Council to an alternative ward would require a significant redrawing of Crummock & Derwent

Valley and Keswick wards. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify this given the effect this would have on these adjoining wards.

42 Finally, we note the concerns of the local resident with regard the villages in Underskiddaw parish. However, retaining Underskiddaw parish in Boltons ward would worsen electoral equality in this ward to 13% more electors than the borough average by 2022 and we do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify this poor level of electoral equality. We are therefore confirming our draft recommendations for the Keswick and Crummock & Derwent Valley wards as final.

Broughton St Bridgets and Dalton

43 Councillor Fitzgerald expressed support for the retention of the existing Dalton ward. We received no comments on Broughton St Bridgets ward. In light of this, we are confirming the draft recommendations for this ward as final.

North Allerdale



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Allhallows & Waverton	1	1%
Aspatria	2	-4%
Bolton	1	0%
Ellen & Gilcrux	2	0%
Marsh & Wampool	2	4%
Silloth & Solway Coast	3	3%
Warnell	1	5%
Wigton & Woodside	3	7%

Allhallows & Waverton, Aspatria and Boltons

44 Bothel & Threapland Parish Council argued that it has more in common with communities in the proposed Boltons ward than with Aspatria ward. Allhallows Parish Council cited community links to Aspatria, including shops, the doctors surgery and library. It also argued that it has limited community links with Waverton and Newton Arlosh whose community focus is towards Wigton.

45 As stated above (paragraph 37), Blindcrake Parish Council objected to its inclusion in the Aspatria ward, arguing that it has links to Cockermouth and should therefore be in the All Saints ward. In addition, two local residents argued that Blindcrake parish should not be in the Aspatria ward and cited links to Cockermouth and also to Setmurthy parish.

46 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. As stated above (paragraph 39), in light of the evidence received we do propose transferring Blindcrake parish to All Saints ward as this would only marginally worsen electoral equality in All Saints ward from 2% fewer electors than the borough average in 2022 to 3% more, while marginally worsening the variance in Aspatria to 4% fewer electors per councillor.

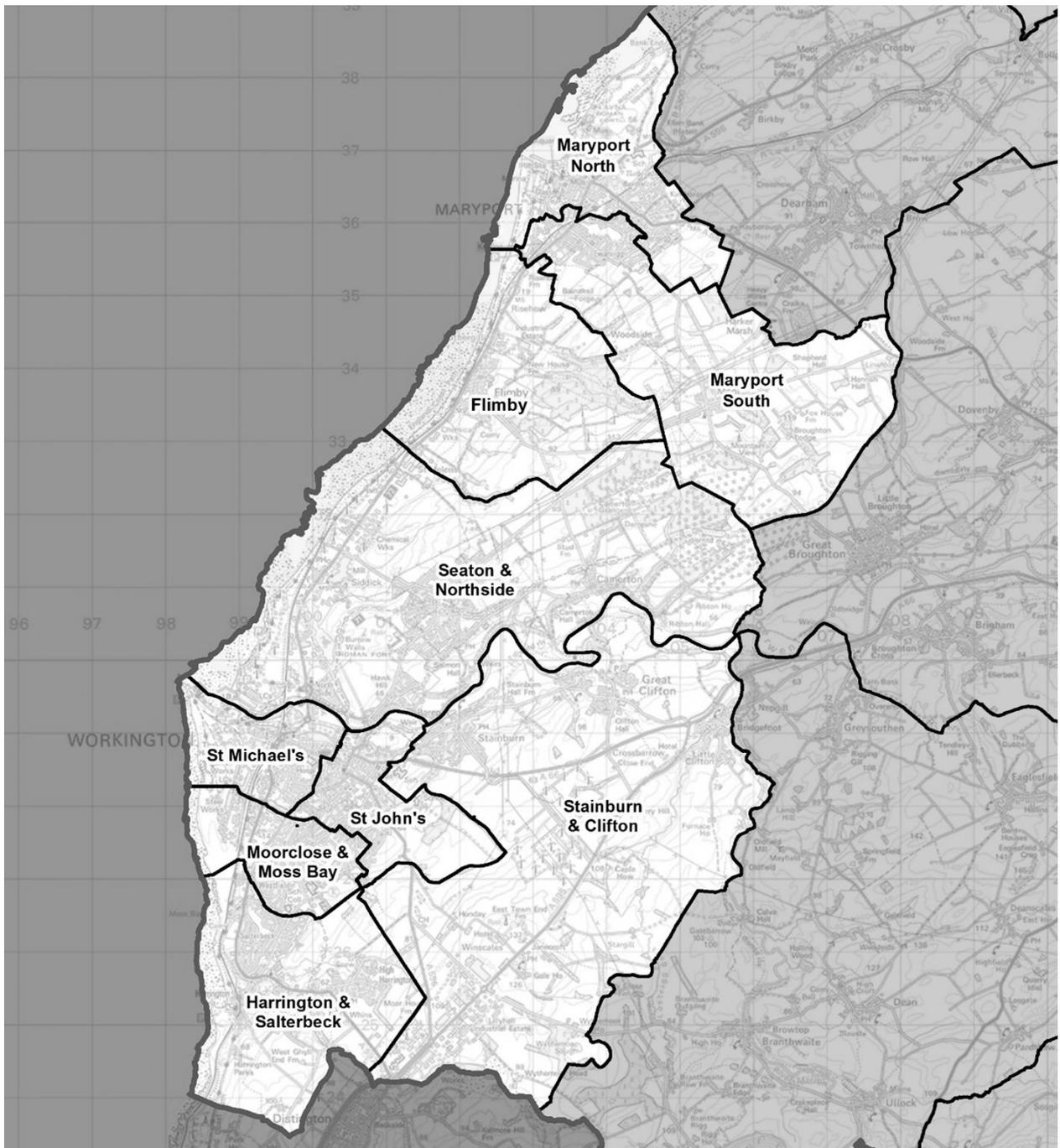
47 We note the comments from Bothel & Threapland and Allhallows parishes. Bothel & Threapland Parish Council provided only limited evidence of community links and we note that transferring the parish to the Boltons ward would worsen electoral equality in this ward from 0% to 27%. In light of this poor level of electoral equality we are not adopting this amendment to our recommendations and are confirming the proposed Boltons ward as final.

48 Allhallows Parish Council provided some evidence of its links to Aspatria; however, we note that transferring the parish from the Allhallows & Waverton ward to Aspatria ward would worsen electoral equality in these wards to 25% fewer and 16% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2022, respectively. We do not consider there to be sufficient evidence to justify such a poor level of electoral equality. We are therefore confirming the draft recommendations for Allhallows & Waverton and Aspatria wards as final.

Ellen & Gilcrux, Marsh & Wampool, Silloth & Solway Coast, Warnell and Wigton & Woodside

49 We received no comments on these wards and are therefore confirming them as final.

West Allerdale



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2022
Flimby	1	-7%
Harrington & Salterbeck	3	-5%
Maryport North	3	-4%
Maryport South	2	-3%
Moorclose & Moss Bay	3	1%
Seaton & Northside	3	4%
St John's	3	-4%
St Michael's	2	-7%
Stainburn & Clifton	2	-5%

Flimby, Maryport and Seaton & Northside

50 Broughton Moor Parish Council expressed concern that it would not be in a ward with Ewanrigg in Maryport. The Labour Group argued that the three-member Maryport South ward should be divided into a two-member Maryport South ward and single-member Flimby ward. It stated that Flimby is a distinct community with a separate identity.

51 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received. We note the comments from Broughton Moor Parish Council, but would point out that we have already recommended it be in a ward with Ewanrigg in Maryport. We have also examined the proposal put forward by the Labour Group, noting that this is a modification to its draft proposal. We note that it is now proposing the transfer of a smaller area of Maryport to Flimby ward (involving only the properties around White Croft and White Croft Court). Our draft recommendations rejected this proposal on the basis that it transferred a larger area Maryport to a Flimby ward. However, we note that the revised proposal transfers a smaller number of properties which are separated from Maryport by an industrial estate. We also accept that this proposal will still ensure good electoral equality. We acknowledge that while Flimby is part of Maryport parish, it stands alone from Maryport town and therefore has a distinct identity. We are therefore adopting the proposals for a two-councillor Maryport South ward and single-councillor Flimby ward as part of our final recommendations. We have decided to confirm our proposed Maryport North ward as final.

Workington

52 The Labour Group objected to the draft recommendations for a two-councillor St John's ward and three-councillor St Michael's ward. It argued that the transfer of part of St John's to St Michael's was unnecessary as good electoral equality could be achieved with a three-councillor St John's ward and two-councillor St Michael's ward. It argued that the draft recommendations transferred an area considered a core part of St John's to St Michael's and that this would not reflect community identities. St John's Residents' Association also objected to the draft recommendations, arguing they unnecessarily transferred an area of St Michael's ward to St John's ward. The Association argued that a three-councillor St John's ward and two-councillor St Michael's ward would better reflect local communities.

53 We have given careful consideration to the evidence received and note the concerns of the Labour Group and St John's Residents' Association. While our draft recommendations secured good electoral equality we acknowledge that it is also possible to secure good electoral equality with a two-councillor St Michael's and three-councillor St John's ward. Furthermore, we are persuaded that this proposal would reflect community links more closely. We do, however, note that this proposal would require the transfer of the area around Iredale Crescent out of the St Michael's ward as it would not retain direct road access into that ward. We therefore propose transferring this area to the Moorclose & Moss Bay ward. The final recommendations would be for a three-councillor Moorclose & Moss Bay ward, three-councillor St John's ward and two-councillor St Michael's ward with variances of 1%, -4% and -7% respectively, by 2022.

54 We received no other comments on our proposed wards in Workington and are therefore confirming them as final.

Conclusions

55 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2016 and 2022 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2016	2022
Number of councillors	49	49
Number of electoral wards	23	23
Average number of electors per councillor	1,544	1,588
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	0	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Allerdale Borough Council should be made up of 49 councillors serving 23 wards representing six single-councillor wards, eight two-councillor wards and nine three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Allerdale Borough Council. **You can also view our final recommendations for Allerdale Borough Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>**

Parish electoral arrangements

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

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

58 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Workington and Maryport town councils.

59 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Maryport Town Council.

Final recommendation	
Maryport Town Council should comprise 18 councillors, as at present, representing seven wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brooklands	1
Ellenborough	4
Ellenfoot	1
Ewanrigg	4
Flimby	3
Glasson	1
Netherhall	4

60 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Workington Town Council.

Final recommendation	
Workington Town Council should comprise 30 councillors, as at present, representing 11 wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ellerbeck	1
Harrington	4
Iredale	1
Moorclose	5
Moss Bay	2
Northside	1
Salterbeck	3
St John's	4
St Joseph's	2
St Michael's	5
Stainburn	2

3 What happens next?

61 We have now completed our review of Allerdale Borough Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2019.

Equalities

62 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Allerdale Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	All Saints	3	4,493	1,498	-3%	4,929	1,643	3%
2	Allhallows & Waverton	1	1,550	1,550	0%	1,599	1,599	1%
3	Aspatria	2	3,023	1,512	-2%	3,046	1,523	-4%
4	Boltons	1	1,576	1,576	2%	1,595	1,595	0%
5	Broughton St Bridgets	2	3,162	1,581	2%	3,203	1,601	1%
6	Christchurch	2	3,234	1,617	5%	3,451	1,725	9%
7	Crummock & Derwent Valley	1	1,596	1,596	3%	1,573	1,573	-1%
8	Dalton	1	1,497	1,497	-3%	1,507	1,507	-5%
9	Ellen & Gilcrux	2	2,950	1,475	-4%	3,173	1,586	0%
10	Flimby	1	1,452	1,452	-6%	1,472	1,472	-7%
11	Harrington & Salterbeck	3	4,437	1,479	-4%	4,537	1,512	-5%
12	Keswick	3	4,705	1,568	2%	4,773	1,591	0%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2016)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2022)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	Marsh & Wampool	2	3,135	1,568	2%	3,308	1,654	4%
14	Maryport North	3	4,475	1,492	-3%	4,565	1,522	-4%
15	Maryport South	2	3,016	1,508	-2%	3,079	1,539	-3%
16	Moorclose & Moss Bay	3	4,748	1,583	3%	4,835	1,612	1%
17	Seaton & Northside	3	4,788	1,596	3%	4,958	1,653	4%
18	Silloth & Solway Coast	3	4,618	1,539	0%	4,912	1,637	3%
19	St John's	3	4,687	1,562	1%	4,580	1,527	-4%
20	St Michael's	2	2,967	1,484	-4%	2,956	1,478	-7%
21	Stainburn & Clifton	2	2,867	1,434	-7%	3,014	1,507	-5%
22	Warnell	1	1,638	1,638	6%	1,667	1,667	5%
23	Wigton & Woodside	3	5,024	1,675	8%	5,108	1,703	7%
Totals		49	75,638	-	-	77,836	-	-
Averages		-	-	1,544	-	-	1,588	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Allerdale Borough Council.

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

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/cumbria/allerdale>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/north-west/cumbria/allerdale>

Political Group

- Allerdale Borough Council Labour Group

Councillors

- Councillor M. Grainger (Allerdale Borough Councillor)
- Councillor M. Fitzgerald (Allerdale Borough Councillor)

Local Organisations

- St John's Ward Residents' Association

Parish and Town Council

- Above Derwent Parish Council
- Allhallows Parish Council
- Blindcrake Parish Council
- Bothel & Threapland Parish Council
- Broughton Moor Parish Council
- Embleton & District Parish Council

Local Residents

- Six local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average

Ward

A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council