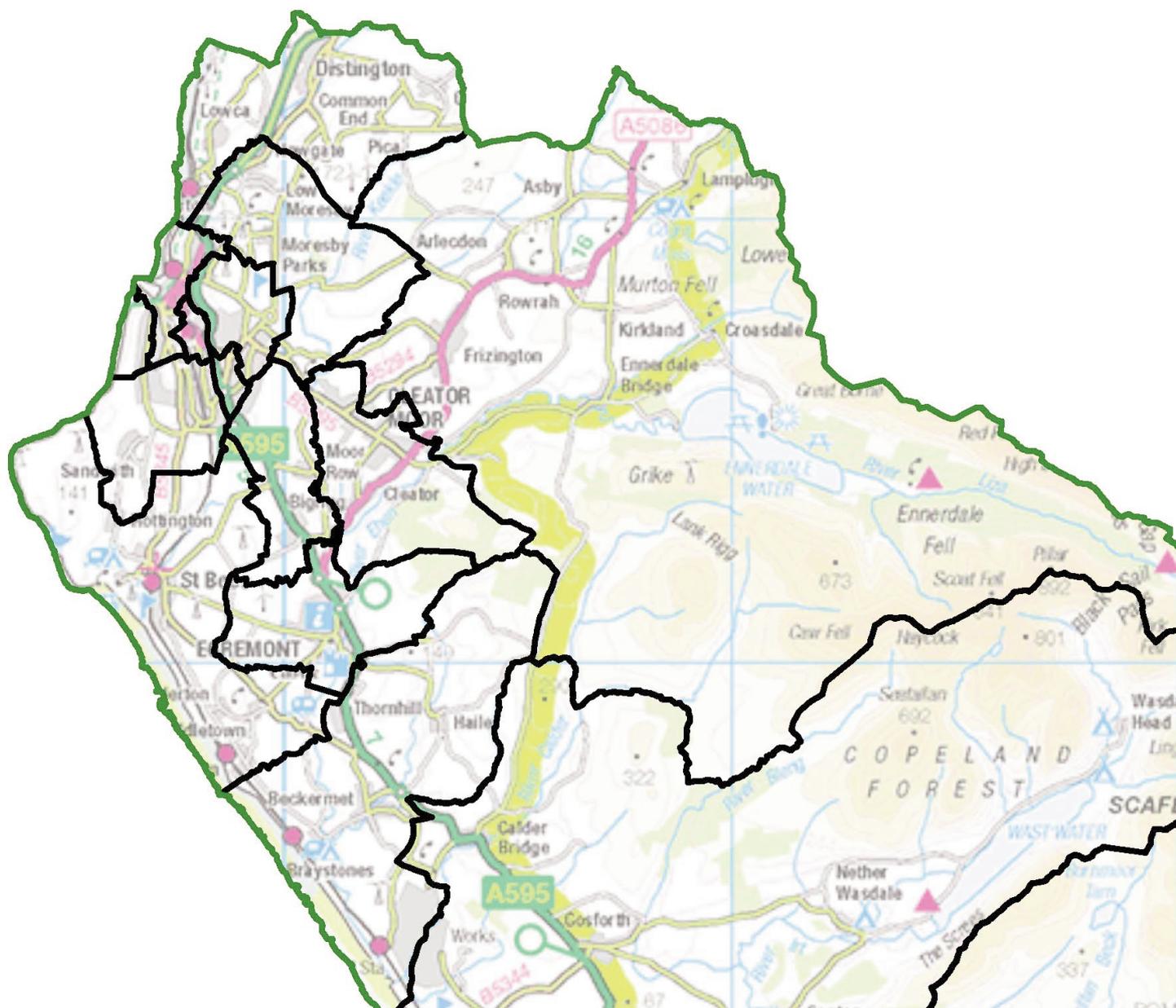


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for Copeland Borough Council

Final recommendations

August 2018

Translations and other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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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 Copeland?

4 We are conducting a review of Copeland Borough Council as the value of each vote in borough council elections varies depending on where you live in Copeland. 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 Copeland

- Copeland should be represented by 33 councillors, 18 fewer than there are now.
- Copeland should have 17 wards, eight fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of one ward will stay the same and 24 wards will change.

5 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Copeland Borough Council.**

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 OBE (Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Copeland Borough Council 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 Copeland. 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
21 November 2017	Number of councillors decided
28 November 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
12 February 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
3 April 2018	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
11 June 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
7 August 2018	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 or town 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 wards.

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.

	2017	2023
Electorate of Copeland	54,436	56,909
Number of councillors	33	33
Average number of electors per councillor	1,650	1,725

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'. The majority of our proposed wards for Copeland Borough Council will have good electoral equality by 2023.

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 Copeland Borough Council ('the Council') submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2023.

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 Copeland Borough Council currently has 51 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by Mayor Starkie and the Copeland Constituency Labour Party ('the Labour Party') and concluded that decreasing the number of councillors by 18, to a council size of 33, would enable the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

23 We supported the Mayor's view of how those 33 councillors would ensure effective decision-making and would be able to provide an effective representational role across the borough.

24 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 33 councillors – for example, three one-councillor wards and 10 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

25 We received two submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on our draft recommendations. Egremont Town Council and a local respondent were both in support of a reduction in the number of councillors. We are therefore confirming a set of final recommendations for Copeland Borough Council that is based on 33 councillors.

Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received 34 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included five borough-wide proposals. The Council, Mayor Starkie, the Labour Party and the Conservative Party proposed schemes which were identical in many areas. We also received a borough-wide scheme from the Conservative Association.

27 The five borough-wide schemes all provided a mixed pattern of warding arrangements of one-, two- and three-councillor wards. Having carefully considered the proposals received, we were of the view that the majority of the proposed patterns of wards resulted in good levels of electoral equality in most of the areas of the borough and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. Our draft recommendations were largely based on the schemes from the Council, Mayor Starkie, the Conservative Party and the Labour Party, which were largely the same.

28 Our draft recommendations were for 18 wards: nine one-councillor, three two-councillor and six three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

29 We received 27 submissions during our consultation on our draft recommendations. The majority of these submissions focused on the wards in the south of Copeland. The Council stated that it was generally supportive of the draft recommendations but proposed some modifications in Gosforth, Cleator Moor and Rosebank. We have adopted all of the alternative warding patterns that the Council proposed.

30 We received opposition to our draft recommendations where we split parishes across wards. Respondents requested that the parishes of Arlecdon & Frizington, Cleator Moor, Drigg & Carleton and Millom be retained wholly within the same ward. We have amended our draft recommendations so that all of these parishes, with the exception of Millom, are contained with the whole of their respective wards. We have not adopted a ward that contains the whole of Millom parish in one ward as it would produce poor variances in the area.

31 We received opposition to our proposed two-councillor Black Combe & Scafell ward. We were not persuaded to adopt the alternative wards proposed for this area, as we consider that our draft recommendations provided the best reflection of our statutory criteria.

32 Respondents considered that the area of Sandwith has more in common with the St Bees ward, rather than the area of Whitehaven that we have included it with. However, the inclusion of Sandwith within the St Bees ward would create a ward that would produce a variance of 20% and we are not minded to adopt a ward that would produce such a poor variance.

33 A respondent requested that the area of Kells be solely retained within its own ward; however, this would create a ward with a poor variance and we are not minded to adopt this alteration.

34 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with modifications to the following wards: Arlecdon & Ennerdale, Moresby, Egremont, Cleator Moor, Gosforth and Seascale. We are also proposing alternative ward names in the north of the borough.

Final recommendations

35 Pages 10–26 detail our final recommendations for each area of Copeland. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

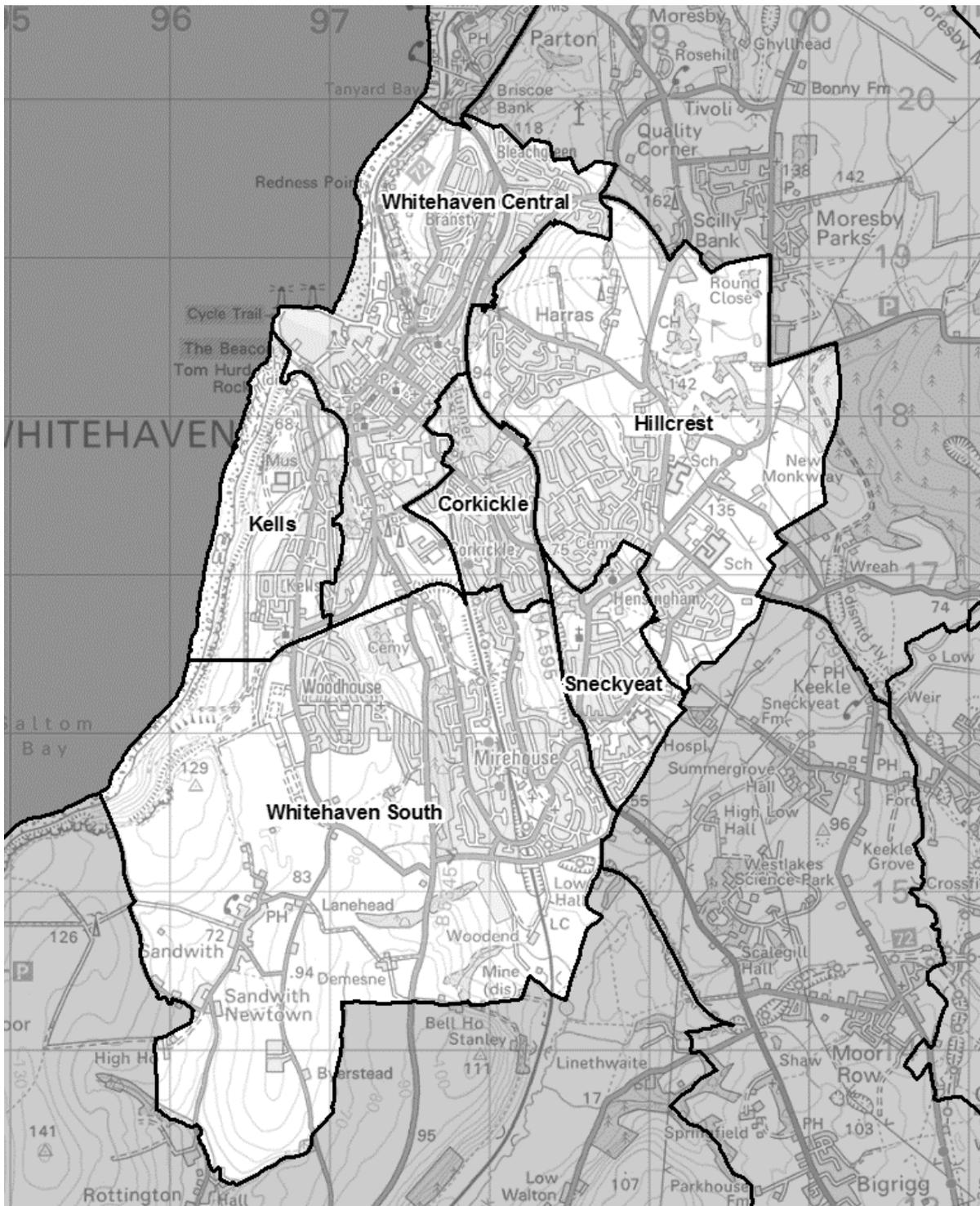
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

36 Our final recommendations are for six three-councillor wards, four two-councillor wards and seven 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.

37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 32–33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

Whitehaven



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Corkickle	1	-5%
Hillcrest	3	-9%
Kells	1	7%
Sneckyeat	1	1%
Whitehaven Central	3	-8%
Whitehaven South	3	9%

Hillcrest and Sneckyeat

38 We received three submissions that all proposed alternative ward names for the draft recommendation wards of Hensingham & Hillcrest and Rosebank.

39 One respondent proposed that the Rosebank ward should be renamed as Hensingham, and that the Hensingham & Hillcrest ward should be renamed Hillcrest. They considered this to be more geographically correct as the majority of Hillcrest Village is included within the Rosebank ward. Another respondent also considered that the majority of Hensingham is retained within the Rosebank ward.

40 The Council considered that the Rosebank ward should be renamed to reflect the more commonly used name of Sneckyeat, as it is used to name five different areas within the proposed ward.

41 We acknowledge the opposition that we have received to our proposed ward names in this area. We are minded to adopt the Council's recommendation to rename the Rosebank ward as Sneckyeat, as we consider that this is a name that is already familiar to the local community. We are also minded to change the ward name of Hensingham & Hillcrest to Hillcrest.

42 As we received no submissions that related to the boundaries in this area, we are therefore confirming our draft recommendations as final subject to the name changes. Our final recommendations are for a three-councillor Hillcrest ward and a one-councillor Sneckyeat ward that are forecast to produce variances of -9% and 1% respectively, by 2023.

Corkickle

43 Our draft recommendations were for a one-councillor Corkickle ward that was forecast to produce a variance of -5% by 2023. The Council supported this ward, as it considered the Corkickle railway station provided a hub for the area, and it considered that the ward had good internal connectivity along the Back Corkickle/Inkerman Terrace main road. As we have not received any alternative warding patterns for this area we are confirming our draft recommendations as final.

Kells

44 Our draft recommendation was for a one-councillor Kells ward that was forecast to produce a variance of 7% by 2023. One respondent considered that the area of Kells should be wholly retained within one ward, rather than being split across two wards, as proposed in our draft recommendations. A Kells ward coterminous with the existing Kells parish would produce a variance of 22% by 2023. We have not been persuaded by the evidence provided to create a ward that will produce such a poor variance. Therefore, we are confirming our draft recommendations for Kells as final.

Whitehaven South

45 We received two submissions from local residents who proposed that Sandwith Village be included within the same ward as St Bees, rather than in the proposed Whitehaven South ward. They considered that the village of Sandwith is distinctly different from the rest of the proposed Whitehaven South ward, and that Sandwith Village is more 'demographically' similar to the St Bees ward to the south. One of the

respondents considered that the St Bees ward should be extended to Mirehouse Road and Wilson Pit Road.

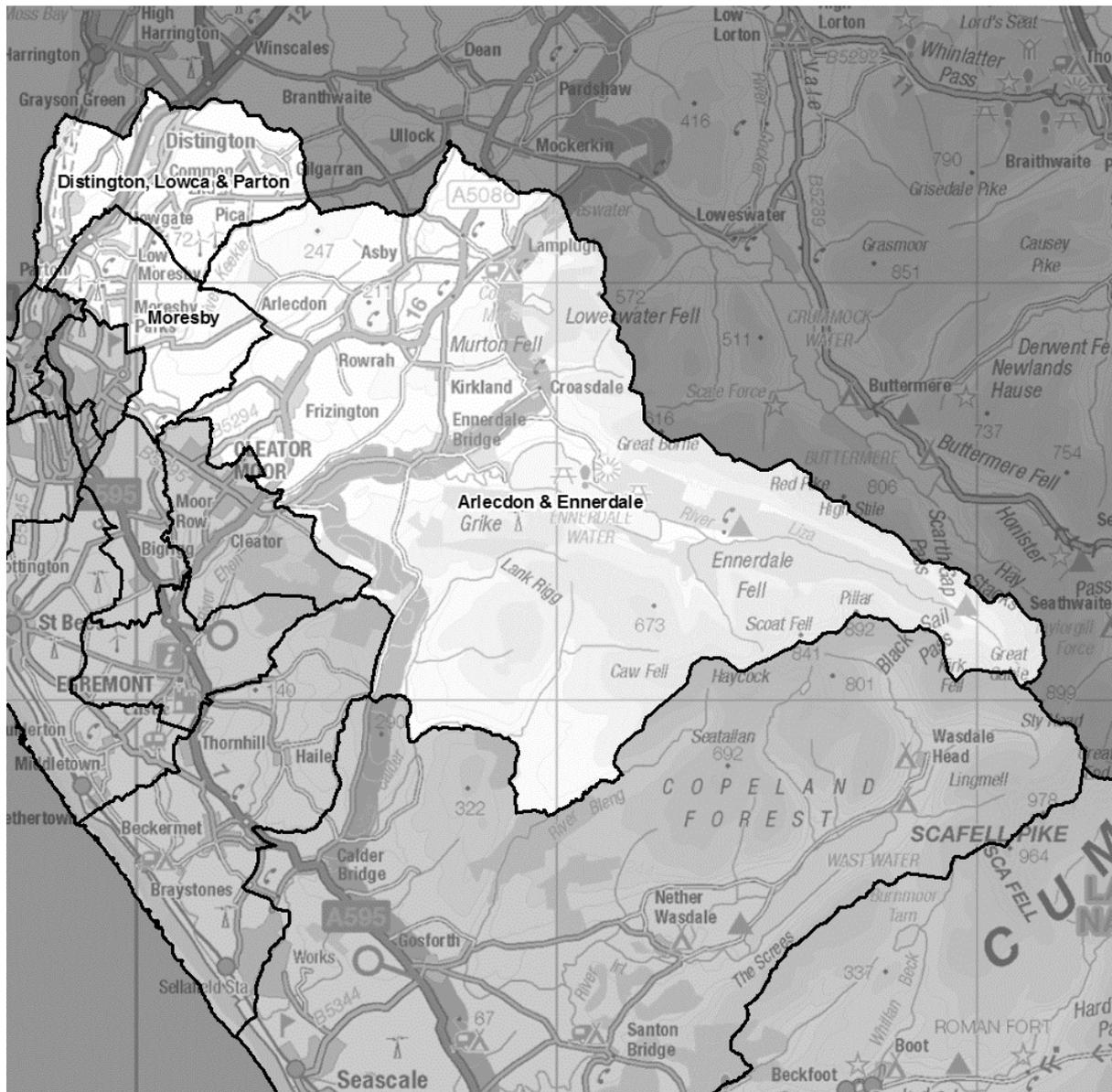
46 The boundary proposed along Mirehouse Road and Wilson Pit Road would split the housing development around Woodhouse across two wards. In the interest of keeping communities whole we are not minded to split the new development in this area. We considered altering the proposed boundary to run south of the housing development, which would include all of the housing development within the Whitehaven South ward and would retain Sandwith Village within the proposed St Bees ward. However, this would create a St Bees ward that would be forecast to produce a variance of 20%. We were not persuaded by the evidence to adopt a ward that was forecast to produce such a poor level of electoral equality.

47 Therefore, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final for a three-councillor Whitehaven South ward that is forecast to produce a variance of 9% by 2023.

Whitehaven Central

48 We received no submissions that related directly to our proposed Whitehaven Central ward. Therefore, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final, for a three-councillor Whitehaven Central ward that is forecast to produce a variance of -8% by 2023.

North



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Arlecdon & Ennerdale	2	11%
Distington, Lowca & Parton	2	-10%
Moresby	1	-8%

Distington, Lowca & Parton

49 Parton Parish Council supported our proposed Distington ward boundaries. However, they considered that the ward names of 'North Copeland' or 'Distington, Lowca & Parton' would provide a better name for the ward. We are minded to adopt the ward name of 'Distington, Lowca & Parton' as it is wholly reflective of the parishes in the ward.

50 As we have not received any other proposals, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final subject to the name change, for a two-councillor Distington, Lowca & Parton ward that is forecast to produce a variance of -10% by 2023.

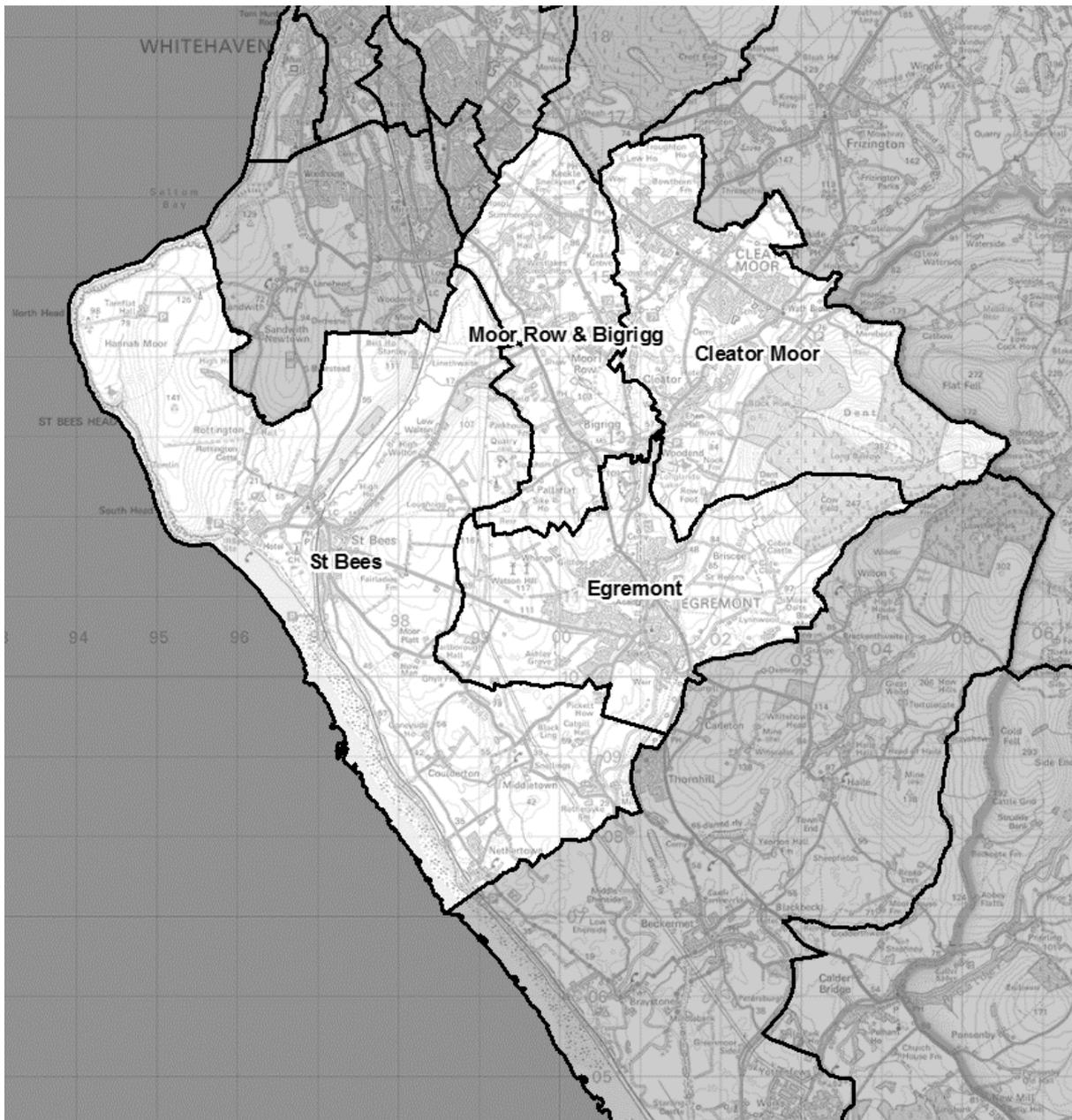
Arlecdon & Ennerdale and Moresby

51 Two local residents opposed our draft recommendations to split the parish of Arlecdon & Frizington across our proposed wards of Frizington & Moresby and Arlecdon & Ennerdale.

52 One respondent considered that the area of Frizington shares natural linkages with Arlecdon and Rowrah. They opposed Frizington's inclusion within the same ward as Moresby as 'it makes no sense in terms of community cohesion.' The other respondent requested that we do not split Arlecdon and Frizington as they form one parish and they considered that Frizington has little in common with Moresby.

53 We created the Frizington & Moresby ward, noting that it facilitated good draft recommendations for the surrounding area, but we did not receive sufficient evidence about communities in the ward itself. However, where possible, we aim to keep parishes whole and not separate them between wards, as we consider parishes generally reflect communities. We have been persuaded by the evidence provided to unite Arlecdon & Frizington parish by including Frizington within the Arlecdon & Ennerdale ward. Retaining the whole of the parish in the Arlecdon & Ennerdale ward increases the electorate in the ward so that it is entitled to two councillors. We note that it is forecast to have a variance of 11% by 2023, which we wouldn't normally adopt. However, we consider that this ward will reflect the community identity in the area. Our final recommendations are for a two-councillor Arlecdon & Ennerdale ward and a one-councillor Moresby ward that are forecast to produce variances of 11% and -8% by 2023, respectively.

West



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Cleator Moor	3	13%
Egremont	3	-6%
Moor Row & Bigrigg	1	12%
St Bees	1	6%

Cleator Moor and Egremont

54 Five respondents opposed our draft recommendations to split the parish of Cleator Moor across two wards. The general consensus of respondents was to create a three-councillor ward that is coterminous with Cleator Moor parish.

55 The Council, Cleator Moor Town Council and Egremont Town Council opposed our draft recommendations to split the parish of Cleator Moor and include Cleator Village within the same ward as Egremont. They considered that the entirety of the parish of Cleator Moor has its own community identity, which should not be split across wards. Cleator Moor Town Council noted that both the village and town areas shared the same school resources, places of worship and share the same name. All of these respondents were in support of creating a three-councillor Cleator Moor ward that is coterminous with the parish boundary and acknowledged that this ward would be forecast to produce a variance of 13% by 2023.

56 The Labour Group fully supported the submission made by Cleator Moor Town Council. They also acknowledged that the creation of a three-councillor Cleator Moor ward is forecast to produce a variance of 13% by 2023. However, they consider that this is justified because the areas 'share many local services – nurseries, primary schools, shops, health centre, churches, sports clubs and library'. They also proposed a second alternative that would retain Cleator in a Cleator Moor ward but would also include the areas of Keekle, Padstow and Summergrove with the Cleator Moor parish in two two-councillor wards, as this could enable the creation of two two-councillor wards in the area.

57 A respondent considered that Cleator should not be included within an Egremont ward. They considered that the residents in Cleator Village have closer ties and share resources with those in Cleator Town, and not Egremont. They considered that if Cleator Village is combined within the same ward as Egremont, the residents would not be effectively represented.

58 We considered that during this consultation we have received persuasive evidence that the entire parish of Cleator Moor has its own community identity, which should be retained wholly within one ward. Accordingly, we are proposing to create a three-councillor Cleator Moor ward that is coterminous with the parish boundaries. The creation of this ward will also facilitate a three-councillor Egremont ward that reflects the town of Egremont. We consider that these two wards will provide a good reflection of the separate community identities of each parish. We did not think that the option for two two-councillor wards would better reflect the statutory criteria. Our final recommendations are for a three-councillor Cleator Moor ward and a three-councillor Egremont ward. These wards are forecast to produce variances of 13% and -6% by 2023, respectively.

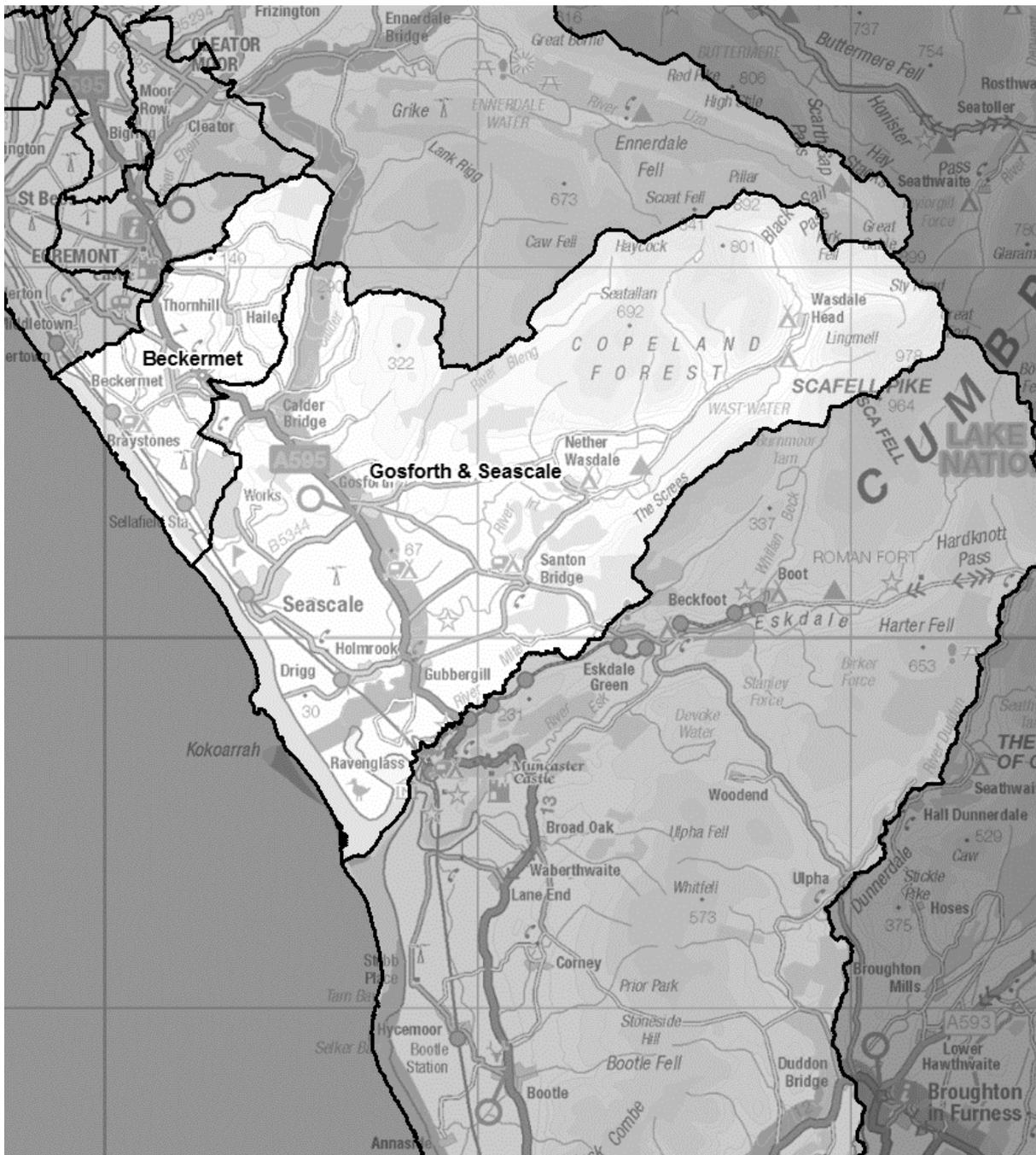
St Bees

59 We received two submissions which requested that the area of Sandwith, part of Whitehaven parish, be included within the proposed St Bees ward (see paragraphs 45–7). We were not persuaded by the evidence provided to alter our draft recommendations in this area. Therefore, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final for a one-councillor St Bees ward that is forecast to produce a variance of 6% by 2023.

Moor Row & Bigrigg

60 We received no submissions that related directly to our proposed Moor Row & Bigrigg ward. Therefore, we are adopting our draft recommendations as final, for a one-councillor Moor Row & Bigrigg ward that is forecast to produce a variance of 12% by 2023.

Central



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Beckermat	1	5%
Gosforth & Seascale	2	1%

Gosforth & Seascale

61 We received 10 submissions in response to our draft recommendations which were for a one-councillor Gosforth ward and a one-councillor Seascale ward, forecast to produce variances of 1% and 0% by 2023, respectively. Five of the respondents were in support of combining our proposed Seascale and Gosforth wards into a two-councillor ward. Six of the respondents opposed our draft recommendations as they considered that the parish of Drigg & Carleton should not be split across two wards, but these respondents did not all necessarily say that the two wards should be combined to address this issue. We also received requests to remove the parish of Eskdale, the village of Ravenglass and the parish of Muncaster from the proposed Black Combe & Scafell ward and include them within the Gosforth or Seascale wards.

62 The Council, the Copeland Conservative Group and Seascale Parish Council provided very similar evidence to support the creation of a two-councillor ward that would combine our proposed Gosforth and Seascale wards. They considered that Seascale and Gosforth are two separate communities but that they work together on local tourism issues and that the parish of Seascale acts as a service hub, providing a health centre, post office and rail links for the neighbouring parishes.

63 Gosforth Parish Council and Ponsonby Parish Council considered that if the proposed Seascale and Gosforth wards were combined into a two-councillor ward, that this would provide a greater resilience to represent the views of the two communities.

64 The Council, Bootle Parish Council, Millom Without Parish Council, Ponsonby Parish Council and Whicham Parish Council opposed our draft recommendations as they split the parish of Drigg & Carleton across two wards. Ponsonby Parish Council considered that splitting the parish across two wards would not provide for effective and convenient local government, as it would create confusion about representation and the democratic process for local residents.

65 Bootle Parish Council also considered that the parish of Eskdale should be included within the combined ward of Gosforth and Seascale, as it considered that this parish has more links to the west, rather than down to the south.

66 A local resident considered that the parish of Eskdale should be included within either of the proposed Seascale or Gosforth wards. He considered that the parish has more in common with the areas of Ravenglass and Seascale to the west than with Haverigg to the south. He noted that Eskdale is separated from the remainder of the Black Combe & Scafell ward by various fells.

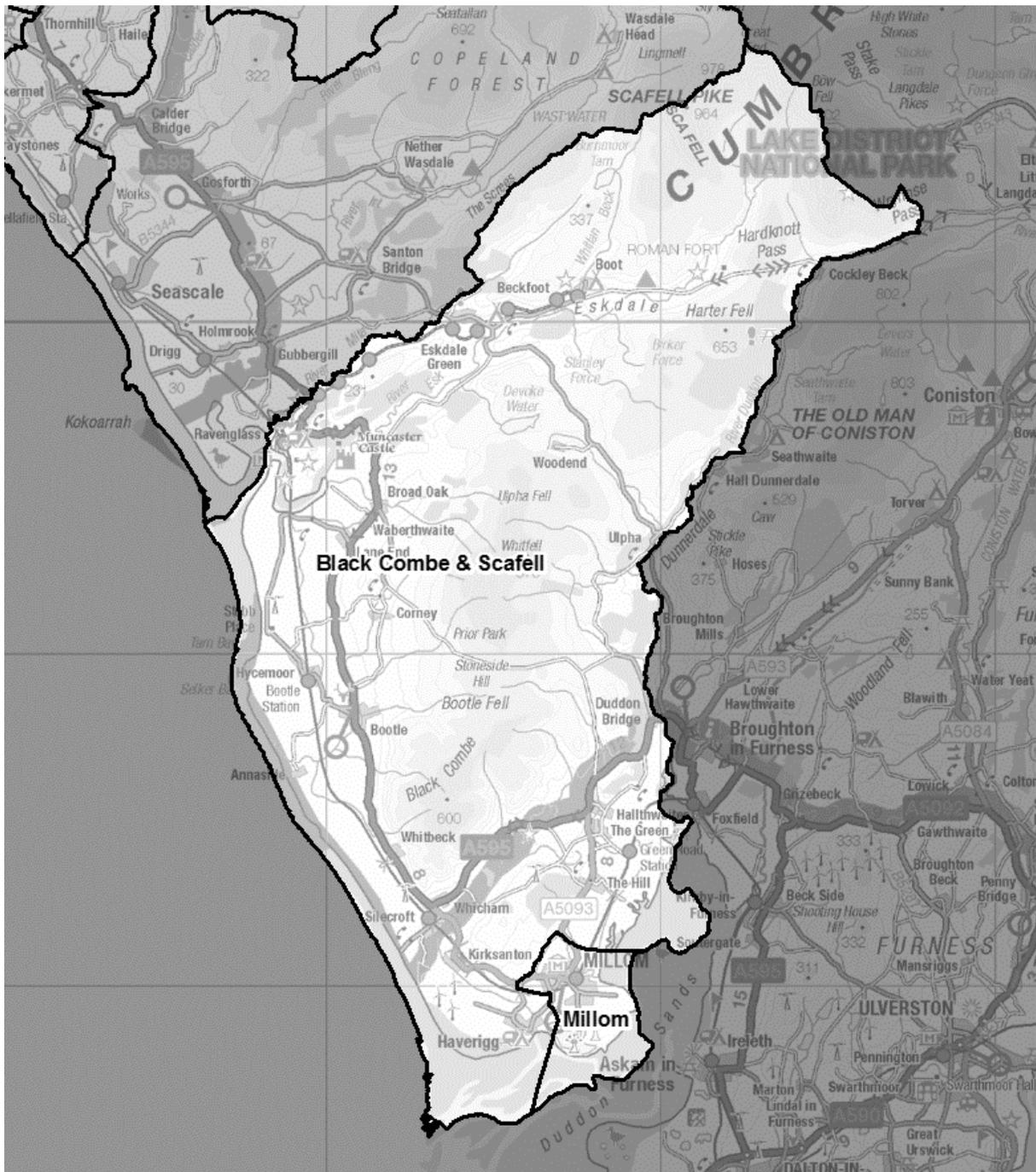
67 One local resident proposed that the whole of Muncaster parish be included within the proposed Black Combe & Scafell ward. Another resident proposed that only Ravenglass Village, which is located in Muncaster parish, should be included within the Black Combe & Scafell ward. They considered that the areas have more in common with the wards to the north rather than the south. The second respondent considered that the villages of Ravenglass and Seascale are both rural villages with broadly similar needs and challenges.

68 We consider that combining our Gosforth and Seascale wards into a two-councillor ward will reflect the communities in the area and will also facilitate retaining the parish of Drigg & Carleton wholly within one ward. We were persuaded by the evidence received that the two areas have shared community interests and that those within the Gosforth ward naturally look towards Seascale for their resources. We noted that both Gosforth and Seascale parish councils supported this proposal and that there are strong links between the two areas. We were not, however, persuaded by the evidence provided to include Eskdale parish, the whole of Muncaster parish or the village of Ravenglass into this ward. We note that transferring either one of these parishes would provide a satisfactory level of electoral equality but transferring both would result in poor levels. We did not consider there was sufficient evidence to justify transferring either the whole or part of either parish. Accordingly, we are proposing a two-councillor Gosforth & Seascale ward that is forecast to produce a variance of 1% by 2023.

Beckermest

69 We received no submissions that related directly to our proposed Beckermest ward. Accordingly, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final, for a one-councillor Beckermest ward that is forecast to produce a variance of 5% by 2023.

South



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Black Combe & Scafell	2	2%
Millom	3	-9%

Black Combe & Scafell and Millom

70 Our draft recommendations for a three-councillor Millom ward were based on the Council's proposal and were supported by the Labour Party and Mayor Starkie. Our two-councillor Black Combe & Scafell ward was also based on the Council's proposal which was supported by the Labour Party.

71 The Millom Conservative Group re-submitted their original proposal for three wards: South Copeland East, South Copeland West and Mid Copeland. We did not adopt this pattern of wards as part of our draft recommendations as they would create a Beckermest ward that would produce a variance of 14% and a South Copeland West ward that would produce a variance of 13%. We did not consider that these proposed wards were supported by sufficient evidence of community identity. We also note that if we were to adopt these proposals, there would be a significant knock-on effect to the Gosforth & Seascale and Beckermest wards. Therefore, we have not been persuaded by their submissions to adopt any of their proposed wards again.

72 Bootle Parish Council supported the wards proposed by the Millom Conservative Group. They considered the warding pattern took into account the challenges presented by the local geography, which they considered limits connectivity in the area. They also considered that the parish of Millom should not be split across two wards, and that Haverigg should remain with Millom town.

73 Millom Without Parish Council opposed our proposed Black Combe & Scafell ward, as they considered the ward to be too large geographically and has poor internal connectivity which would limit the councillor's ability to carry out their role. The parish also re-proposed the ward names that were included as part of their original submission in the previous consultation.

74 Millom and Haverigg Town Council opposed our draft recommendations to split the parish of Millom, which included the Haverigg area of the parish within the Black Combe & Scafell ward. Instead they proposed two two-councillor wards, combining the areas of Haverigg and Holborn Hill in one ward and the remaining area of the parish in another ward. They considered that this warding pattern would provide better 'manageability' for the councillors, while also reflecting the strong community identity shared between Millom and Haverigg.

75 We note the opposition that we have received to our proposed Black Combe & Scafell ward. We acknowledge that the ward is geographically large, however, we do not consider that we have received alternative warding patterns in this area, which better reflect our statutory criteria.

76 We welcomed the option provided by Millom and Haverigg Town Council and considered the evidence provided to retain the area of Haverigg within the same ward as the whole of Millom Town, or part of it. However, a ward that has boundaries which are coterminous with the parish of Millom would create a three-councillor ward that is forecast to produce a variance of 26%. We also considered the proposal from Millom and Haverigg Town Council to create two two-councillor wards within the parish of Millom. However, this would create a Newtown ward and a Haverigg &

Holborn Hill ward that would be forecast to produce variances of -22% and -10% by 2023, respectively, and we do not consider that is justified.

77 We have considered all of the evidence received for the two wards in this area; however, we have not been persuaded to move away from our draft recommendations. Therefore, we are confirming our draft recommendations as final for a two-councillor Black Combe & Scafell ward and a three-councillor Millom ward that are forecast to produce variances of 2% and -9%, respectively, by 2023.

Conclusions

78 The table below shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2017 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	33	33
Number of electoral wards	17	17
Average number of electors per councillor	1,650	1,725
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	3	3
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Copeland Borough Council should be made up of 33 councillors serving 17 wards representing seven single-councillor wards, four two-councillor wards and six 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 Copeland Borough Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Copeland Borough on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

79 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.

80 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, Copeland 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.

81 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Lowsideside Quarter Parish Council, Weddicar Parish Council and Whitehaven Town Council.

82 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 Lowsideside Quarter parish.

Final recommendation	
Lowsideside Quarter Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Braystones	2
Nethertown	6

83 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 Weddicar parish.

Final recommendation	
Weddicar Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Weddicar North	1
Keekle	7

84 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 Whitehaven parish.

85 The Commission has the power to change the total number of town councillors as part of an electoral review. As a result of the borough warding arrangements and the need to create parish wards where the parish of Whitehaven is divided by the borough ward or county division we have increased the number of town councillors from 11 to 12 for Whitehaven Town Council to represent the 12 parish wards.

Final recommendation	
Whitehaven Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, representing 12 wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Corkickle North	1
Corkickle South	1
Harras	1
Hillcrest	1
Kells	1

Mirehouse East	1
Mirehouse West	1
Sneckyeat North	1
Sneckyeat South	1
Whitehaven Central North	1
Whitehaven Central South	1
Whitehaven South	1

3 What happens next?

86 We have now completed our review of Copeland 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

87 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 Copeland Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Arlecdon & Ennerdale	2	3,738	1,869	13%	3,845	1,922	11%
2	Beckermet	1	1,747	1,747	6%	1,804	1,804	5%
3	Black Combe & Scafell	2	3,460	1,730	5%	3,520	1,760	2%
4	Cleator Moor	3	5,274	1,758	7%	5,863	1,954	13%
5	Corkickle	1	1,651	1,651	0%	1,634	1,634	-5%
6	Distington, Lowca & Parton	2	3,097	1,549	-6%	3,107	1,553	-10%
7	Egremont	3	4,767	1,589	-4%	4,884	1,628	-6%
8	Gosforth & Seascale	2	3,321	1,661	1%	3,478	1,739	1%
9	Hillcrest	3	4,239	1,413	-14%	4,729	1,576	-9%
10	Kells	1	1,784	1,784	8%	1,837	1,837	7%
11	Millom	3	4,593	1,531	-7%	4,712	1,571	-9%

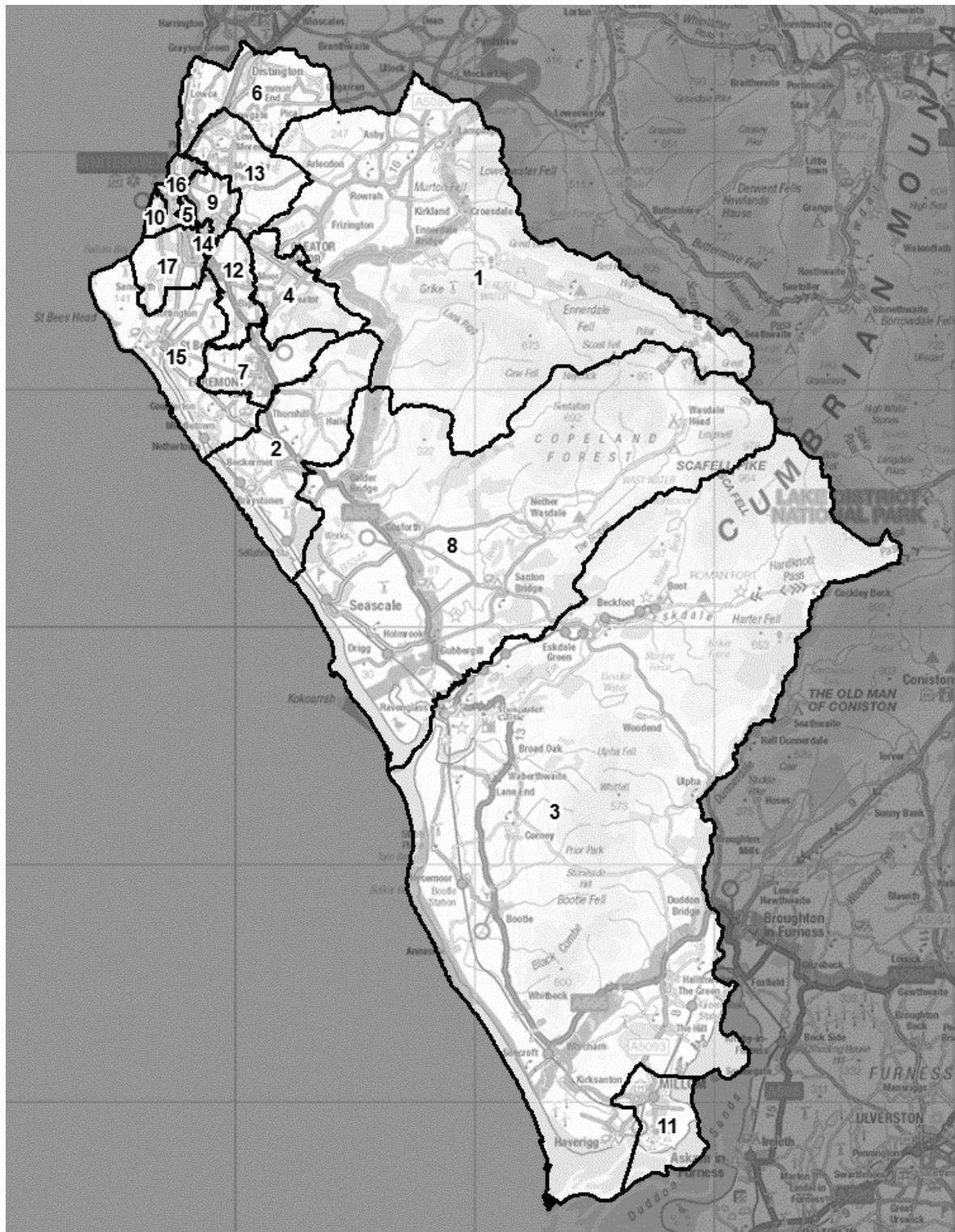
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Moor Row & Bigrigg	1	1,828	1,828	11%	1,940	1,940	12%
13 Moresby	1	1,508	1,508	-9%	1,592	1,592	-8%
14 Sneckyeat	1	1,751	1,751	6%	1,748	1,748	1%
15 St Bees	1	1,785	1,785	8%	1,836	1,836	6%
16 Whitehaven Central	3	4,605	1,535	-7%	4,754	1,585	-8%
17 Whitehaven South	3	5,291	1,764	7%	5,626	1,875	9%
Totals	33	54,436	-	-	56,909	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,650	-	-	1,725	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Copeland 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/all-reviews/north-west/cumbria/copeland>

Key

1. Arlecdon & Ennerdale
2. Beckermeth
3. Black Combe & Scafell
4. Cleator Moor
5. Corkickle
6. Distington, Lowca & Parton
7. Egremont
8. Gosforth & Seascale
9. Hillcrest
10. Kells
11. Millom
12. Moor Row & Bigrigg
13. Moresby
14. Sneckyeat
15. St Bees
16. Whitehaven Central
17. Whitehaven South

Appendix C

Submissions received

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

Local Authority

- Copeland Borough Council

Political Group

- Copeland Conservative Group
- Copeland Labour Group
- Millom Conservative Group

Parish and Town Council

- Bootle Parish Council
- Cleator Moor Town Council
- Egremont Town Council
- Gosforth Parish Council
- Millom with Haverigg Town Council
- Millom Without Parish Council
- Parton Parish Council
- Ponsoby Parish Council
- Seascale Parish Council
- Whicham Parish Council

Local Residents

- 12 local residents

Anonymous

- 1 anonymous

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

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

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

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street, London
SW1H 0TL

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk or
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Twitter: @LGBCE