

County Durham

Personal Details:

Name: Richard Bell
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Organisation Name: (District or county officer)

Comment text:

For some reason the website won't accept my email address, so I am emailing with the following comments:

West Auckland Division

I agree with you that a compact, single-councillor division focused upon the closely linked communities of St Helen Auckland and West Auckland would best reflect community identities and interests. These two built-up areas run into each other and have more in common that with the rural villages nearby , which fit better with the Evenwood division.

Teesdale (Evenwood, Barnard Castle East and West)

I welcome the retention of 6 Cllrs but would have preferred our proposal of 3*2 member divisions rather than 2*3 member divisions. The proposed Barnard Castle division is very large, with in the 'teens of parish councils, and it will be next to impossible for an individual to keep a profile across such a large area.

I would ask you to consider creating a single member division , per the attached, called Upper Teesdale, comprising all parishes/polling districts west of Barnard Castle on both north and south banks of the River Tees. The numbers fit and would permit Barnard Castle town to be represented by 2 Cllrs. This would give clearer lines of accountability to electors and make it easier for Cllrs to maintain a profile. This idea is supported by many of the upper Teesdale parish councils.

From a personal perspective the Upper Teesdale division suggested is still a big area and a lot of parish councils for 1 CCllr and is probably

equally inconvenient to service as your proposed 3 member division, but I think you should consider it.

I support your proposed 3 member Evenwood division, noting the links with Escomb, Witton Park etc.

Consett Area

I support your recommendations for Consett South and Lanchester divisions.

In Consett North, I do feel that Leadgate and Medomsley villages are distinct communities from Consett , and that if a way can be found of recognising this, without messing up your proposed Consett South and Lanchester divisions then you should do so.

Richard Bell

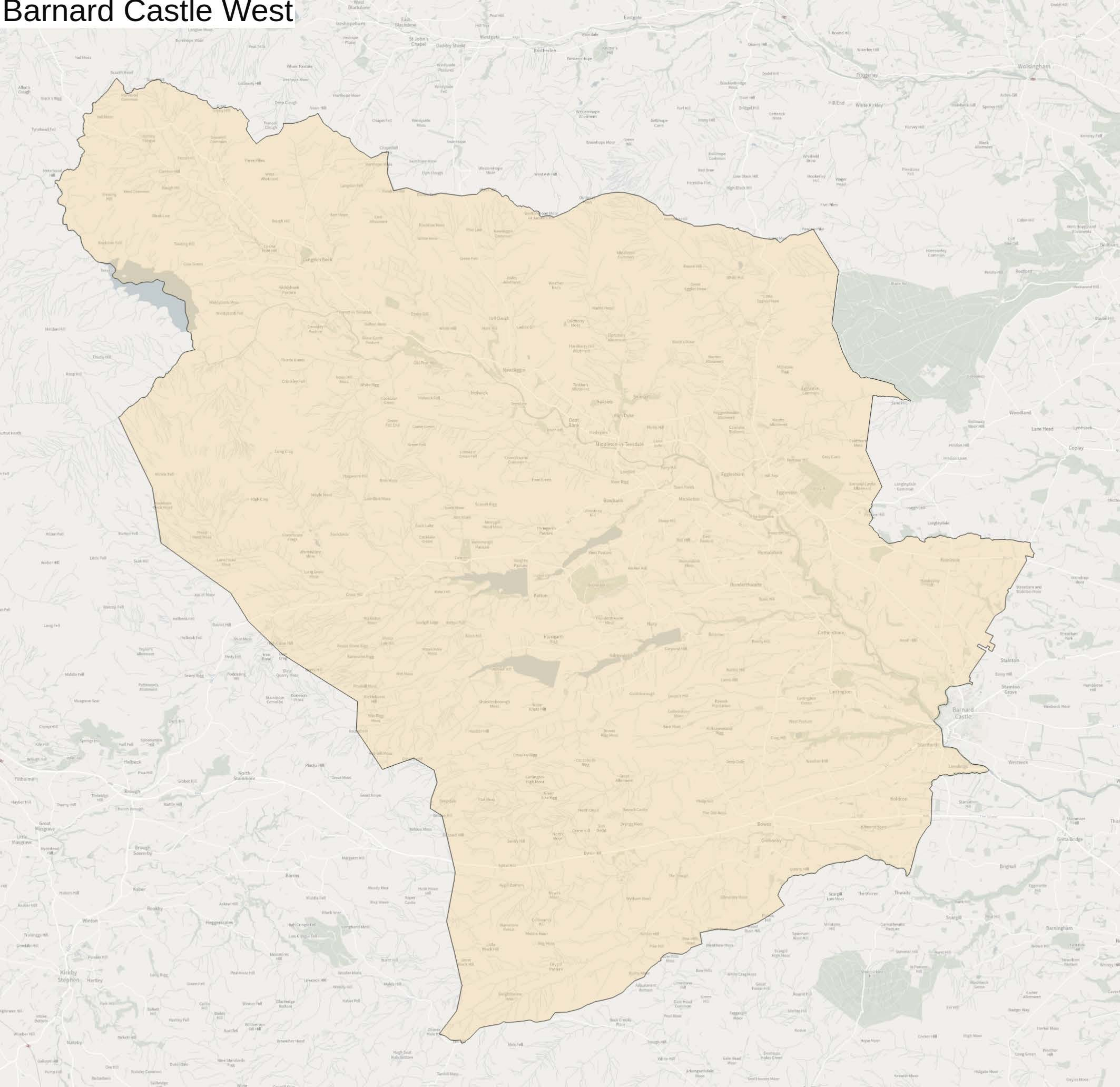
County Councillor, Barnard Castle West Division
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Finance



Attached Documents:

- Barnard Castle West - Counter.png
- Variances of Counter.xlsx

Barnard Castle West



Division name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2028)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
Barnard Castle	3	12,265	4,088	-1%

Counter

Upper Teesdale	1	4473	4473	7.78%
Barnard Castle	2	7,792	3896	-6.12%