

Cumberland

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Comment text:

Related subject: Workington

I have uploaded a document containing the considered response to the Commissions's recommendations endorsed by Workington Labour Party

Attached Documents:

- boundary-commission-response-to-revised-proposals-january-2026-by-workington-labour-party.pdf

Review of Ward Boundaries for Cumberland Council and Workington Council

Revised Commission Proposals December 2025

Submission by Workington Branch Labour Party

1. Cumberland Council wards

a) We think the further draft recommendations for the two revised proposed wards in Workington are an improvement on the original recommendations. However, we propose that the “Workington Stainburn & St Josephs” ward should be called “Workington Stainburn & St Johns”. “St Josephs” is not a geographical term which would be recognised by the electorate; the non-Stainburn part of the proposed ward is known in the area as “St Johns” and makes up a significant plurality of the ward which was known as St Johns for over a hundred years since Workington was first warded.

b) We propose, again, an adjustment to the southern boundary of Seaton ward to exclude the area of Barepot (PD CX7), and return it to one of the Workington wards.

Reasoning:

i) Including Barepot (currently PD CX7) in the proposed Seaton ward requires that it become an isolated “orphan ward” in the Town Council warding pattern (since parish wards cannot cross Cumberland ward boundaries) with an electorate of only 116 which is well below the notional quota for the Town Council of c768 electors per town councillor and is not, we suggest, a viable ward; this has the consequence that electoral equality suffers across the rest of Workington wards.

ii) Barepot may appear on a flat street map to be adjacent to Yearl Rise, Calva Park and Princess Ave, but there is a difference of 30 meters in levels, made up of a steep and heavily wooded slope through which there is not so much as a footpath. This forms a natural boundary.

iii) Barepot residents live in Workington town/parish area with which they identify for all local services and do not regard Seaton as their local service centre.

c) The boundary between “Westfield” and “Moorclose” wards along Newlands Lane South (between Honister Drive and Westfield Drive) should follow the centre line of Newlands Lane.

Reasoning:

i) The proposed Cumberland boundary wavers from one side of Newlands Lane South to the other without any apparent reason. This will cause confusion to electors and to those public services which are organised by ward. Newlands Lane South is a main thoroughfare; running the boundary along Newlands Lane South is clearer and comprehensible. Roughly equal numbers of electors will move wards in each direction as a consequence, so the effect on electoral equality will be minimal if any.

ii) We note that the Commission’s mapping of Town Council wards shows that boundary running along the centreline of Newlands Lane South as we suggest; having a different boundary there for the Cumberland wards is an anomaly and both boundaries should follow Newlands Lane South.

2. Workington Council wards

a) The pattern of parish wards in place in Workington (2019 election) very closely reflects the real neighbourhoods of the town. They are not just wards: in most cases they are *places* of long standing and recognised as such by electors. We therefore welcome the revised map of Town Council wards which recognises those established neighbourhoods.

b) However, we do not agree with the proposal to have a separate ward for Barepot (called “Seaton” parish ward). With an electorate of only 116 (approx) this is not a viable ward. We recognise that this is a consequence of putting Barepot into Seaton ward for Cumberland Council warding, but as we have suggested above, that ignores Barepot’s identity as an integral part of Workington, not Seaton, and leaves Barepot (“Seaton”) as an orphan ward. It should be part of Northside parish ward.

c) There remain some minor adjustments to parish wards which we believe are necessary:

i) Grayling Way

We welcome all of Grayling Way being put into the same Cumberland ward (Westfield, but we think it should be called “Workington West”), but the Commission mapping shows Grayling Way divided between Westfield North and Salterbeck North. All of Grayling Way (including the new housing being built along a southern extension of Grayling Way, not yet shown on the Commission map) should be in Westfield North parish ward

ii) St Johns Church, Peter St, and Roper St

The separation of this small area from the rest of the ward covering Peter St and John St (which the Commission calls St Josephs but we think should be named “St Johns”) is shown on the Commission mapping of Town Council wards. This is anomalous: the boundary between Old Town parish ward and “St Joseph’s” parish ward should follow Washington St, from Jane St to Guard St.

3. Cumberland Council ward names

Workington, in particular, is made up of a number of neighbourhoods with which people identify. Dissonance between names of wards and the real places of the same name can cause confusion disaffection and alienation, and we know that trust in government is at an all time low. Messing with peoples local identities doesnt help. Where wards don’t map on to real places it may be better to use different names entirely, such as compass points. This is the case with Cumberland wards which are much bigger than our recognised neighbourhoods, and where using the name of just one neighbourhood when the ward is much bigger than that alienates and confuses.

Apart from the two new wards in the revised proposal, the Commission is proposing to use the names of neighbourhoods for the other three wards in Workington Town Council area.

Unfortunately, the boundaries do not fit the names the Commission is proposing, which will cause confusion. We therefore submit again that the names of the three wards which the Commission calls “Moorclose” “Westfield” and “Harrington”, but do not correspond with those neighbourhoods as understood by local people, should be “East” “West” and “South” respectively.

4. Workington Council ward names

We welcome the Commission’s proposals for Town Council ward names except

a) The area which the Commission proposes to call “St Josephs” - the Newlands Lane / Banklands / Harrington Road / John St / Peter St / Infirmary Road / Frostoms Road area – is recognised by most people as “St Johns” and that is the name which should be used. We recognise it does not quite include all of the former Town Council ward called St Johns but it does include the majority of it, including the historic core of that ancient ward.

b) The area which the Commission proposes to call “St Johns” – from Newlands Lane up to Ashfield Road and Moorfield Avenue – is a minority of the former ward of that name. That area is

locally known as “Ashfield”, which makes sense to local people and that is what is on the road signs.

c) The ward which the Commission wants to call "New Town" is technically correct as a description of 19th century town planning, but that area is recognised by local people as "St Michaels".

d) The two Salterbeck wards would be more recognisable to local residents as Salterbeck North and Salterbeck South.

Table of names

a) Counter-Proposal for Cumberland Council ward names (highlighted in yellow):

Commission Proposal	Counter-Proposal
Seaton	Seaton
Workington Stainburn & St Josephs	Workington Stainburn & St Johns
Workington Port	Workington Port
Workington Moorclose	Workington East
Workington Westfield	Workington West
Workington Harrington	Workington South

b) Counter proposal for Workington Parish Ward Names (highlighted in yellow):

Commission Proposal	Counter Proposal
Seaton	Delete
Northside	Northside
Harrington	Harrington
Westfield North	Westfield North
Moorclose West	Moorclose West
Moorclose East	Moorclose East
Westfield South	Westfield South
Low Salterbeck	Salterbeck North
High Salterbeck	Salterbeck South
St Johns	Ashfield
St Josephs	St Johns
Old Town	Old Town
Stainburn	Stainburn
New Town	St Michaels

13th January 2026