

New electoral arrangements for Fylde Borough Council Final Recommendations

November 2021

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A note on our mapping:

The maps shown in this report are for illustrative purposes only. Whilst best efforts have been made by our staff to ensure that the maps included in this report are representative of the boundaries described by the text, there may be slight variations between these maps and the large PDF map that accompanies this report, or the digital mapping supplied on our consultation portal. This is due to the way in which the final mapped products are produced. The reader should therefore refer to either the large PDF supplied with this report or the digital mapping for the true likeness of the boundaries intended. The boundaries as shown on either the large PDF map or the digital mapping should always appear identical.

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Introduction

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹ 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. Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

2 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Andrew Scallan CBE (Deputy Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Amanda Nobbs OBE
- Steve Robinson
- Jolyon Jackson CBE (Chief Executive)

What is an 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 there should be, where their boundaries are and what they should be called.
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division.

4 When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

5 Our task is to strike the best balance between these three considerations when making our recommendations.

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

6 More detail regarding the powers that we have, as well as the further guidance and information about electoral reviews and review process in general, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Why Fylde?

7 We decided to conduct a review of Fylde Borough Council ('the Council') as the last review was completed over 20 years ago and we are required to review the electoral arrangements of every council area in England 'from time to time'.² In addition, some councillors currently represent many more or fewer electors than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where the number of electors is as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

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

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

Our proposals for Fylde

9 Fylde should be represented by 37 councillors, 14 fewer than there are now.

10 Fylde should have 17 wards, four fewer than there are now.

11 The boundaries of 19 wards should change. Two, Medlar-with-Wesham and St Johns, will stay the same although St Johns will be re-named Lytham East.

12 We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Fylde.

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.

14 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

² Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009 paragraph 56(1).

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.

Review timetable

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

16 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
19 January 2021	Number of councillors decided
26 January 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
5 April 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
29 June 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
6 September 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
30 November 2021	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

17 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ 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.

18 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.

19 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.

	2020	2026
Electorate of Fylde	63,931	69,001
Number of councillors	37	37
Average number of electors per councillor	1,728	1,865

20 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 Fylde will have good electoral equality by 2026.

Submissions received

21 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

22 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2026 a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2021. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 8% by 2026.

23 During consultation, the Council was alerted to a small inconsistency in the forecasting by Treales, Roseacre & Wharles Parish Council. The Council had identified a substantial housing development at a site adjacent to the boundary of Kirkham. The Council had reflected the increase in the electorate arising from that

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

development as contributing to electoral change in Kirkham. The Parish Council had noted that whilst the development site lies within the same ward as the parish, the forecast for the ward did not reflect the increase in the number of electors from the development.

24 The Council concurred with the Parish Council and subsequently has provided the Commission with an amended electoral forecast for this specific area. This does not change the total number of electors in the borough but does increase the electoral forecast for Newton & Treales ward and, by the same degree, decreases the forecast for Kirkham.

25 We considered the revised 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

26 Fylde Borough Council currently has 51 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and concluded that decreasing by 14 will ensure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

27 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 37 councillors, for example, 37 one-councillor wards or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

28 We received eight submissions about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. Six of these supported the proposed reduction in the number of councillors. Two respondents indicated that they would favour a greater reduction in the number of councillors but added no views about how, with such greater reduction, the Council could maintain appropriate governance, scrutiny and community representation. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 37-councillor council.

29 We received two submissions about the number of councillors in response to the consultation on our draft recommendations. These submissions, whilst welcoming the reduction in the total number set out in our draft recommendations, expressed the view that a reduction from 51 to 37 would still mean that there are too many councillors. However, those submissions did not provide evidence relating to governance or representation to support that assertion. We have therefore maintained our initial proposal for 37 councillors as our final recommendation.

Ward boundaries consultation

30 We received 58 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included four borough-wide proposals: from the Council, from a group of Independent and Liberal Democrat councillors ('the councillors' alternative proposal'), from Councillor Linda Nulty and from a local resident. Several of the councillors jointly making the alternative proposal also wrote individually to support that proposal. The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards in particular areas of the borough.

31 The Council's borough-wide scheme provided a mixed pattern of two- and three-councillor wards for Fylde. The councillors' alternative proposal was a pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards as was that made by a local resident. We carefully considered the proposals received and were of the view that the Council's proposal and the councillors' alternative proposal would, with some exceptions, provide wards with good levels of electoral equality and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. The resident's proposal would result in high levels of electoral inequality in many parts of the borough despite using established parish and ward boundaries. Two residents expressed the view that no changes should be made to the boundaries of current wards but didn't relate comments about ward boundaries to the change to the total number of councillors.

32 Our draft recommendations also took into account local evidence that we received, which provided further evidence of community links and locally recognised boundaries. In some areas we considered that the proposals we received did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

33 Given the travel restrictions, and the social distancing, arising from the Covid-19 outbreak, there was a detailed virtual tour of Fylde. This helped to clarify issues raised in submissions and assisted in the construction of the proposed draft boundary recommendations.

34 Our draft recommendations were for four three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and one single-councillor ward. We considered that our draft recommendations would provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

Draft recommendations consultation

35 We received 163 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. Whilst we received around 25 expressions of support for our draft recommendations, there was a small number of general objections which questioned

the need for an electoral review. Objections to proposals were, in the main, made with regard to particular parts of the borough. These included around 100 objections to our draft recommendations for Freckleton in which we proposed a combination of parts of the parish with adjacent parishes in a Rural East ward. We also received 30 representations about Lytham and St Anne's, many supporting a proposal made by St Anne's-on-the-Sea Town Council for an alternative pattern of wards in the town.

36 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with substantial modification to wards in St Anne's, Ansdell and Fairhaven based on the submissions received.

Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are for four three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and one single-councillor ward. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we received such evidence during consultation.

38 The tables and maps on pages 9–22 detail our final recommendations for each area of Fylde. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁵ criteria of:

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

39 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 29 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁵ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Central and North Fylde



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Rural North Fylde	2	-7%
Staining	1	7%
Wrea Green with Westby	2	2%

Rural North Fylde and Staining

40 The initial proposals we received for this area varied. A resident proposed combinations of parishes to form two wards which would cover the northern and eastern parts of the borough. Because neither would have good electoral equality by

2026, we did not include those proposed wards as part of our draft recommendations.

41 The Council proposed a Rural North West ward comprising Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck, Singleton, Staining and Weeton-with-Preese parishes. Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton would be combined to form a ward with Medlar-with-Wesham whilst Elswick would be combined with Roseacre, Treales & Wharles parish and Newton-with-Clifton parish.

42 An alternative proposal was jointly made by councillors, most representing current wards for the rural area. They proposed three single-councillor wards; Staining parish would constitute a ward on its own. Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton, Singleton and Weeton-with-Preese parishes would be combined to form one ward and Elswick would be combined with Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck to form another. This last ward would have an electoral variance of minus 13% by 2026. Those making the proposal acknowledged that this level of inequality would be relatively high and so offered a variation of their preferred proposal in which there would be a Staining ward whilst the other parishes in this area would be combined to form a two-councillor ward. That ward would have 7% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2026.

43 The councillors' alternative proposal was accompanied by detailed descriptions of the area and its communities. These descriptions were supported and supplemented by the parish councils in the area.

44 Councillor Nulty proposed that the part of Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton which lies to the south of the M55 be added to Medlar-with-Wesham ward. That proposal would require that the parish be divided into parish wards for the purposes of parish council elections. We will not normally recommend parish wards which have fewer than 100 electors as we do not consider that lower numbers make the election of a councillor viable. Our information shows that there are 59 electors in the area south of the M55 with no immediate prospect of a substantial increase resulting from housing development. We did not, therefore, include Councillor Nulty's proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

45 We were not persuaded that the Council's warding scheme would reflect community identities and interests, but neither were we persuaded by the evidence we received to recommend the electoral inequality resulting from the Elswick and Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck proposal. We consequently included in our draft recommendations a single-councillor Staining ward and a two-member Rural North Fylde ward.

46 In response to our draft recommendations, Staining Parish Council asked for a two-councillor ward which would combine Staining, Weeton-with-Preese and

Singleton, Elswick, Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton and Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck would form a second ward. Whilst this approach would provide electoral equality, we note the comments of both Singleton and Weeton-with-Preese parish councils earlier in the review which provided evidence against combining their parishes in a ward with Staining. One resident asked us to provide a ward which would combine Staining parish with the part of Weeton-with-Preese which lies to the north of the M55, but that would result in unviable parish warding. We also received a proposal that Thistleton village be combined with Elswick and Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck to form a single-member ward. Whilst no particular boundary for splitting Greenhalgh-with-Thistleton parish between wards was proposed, we found that simply isolating Thistleton village from the remainder of the parish would present similar shortcomings regarding the viability of parish wards. Furthermore, we could not identify a boundary which would overcome those shortcomings whilst reflecting clear community interests and identities. We therefore confirm, as final, our draft recommendations for this area.

Wrea Green with Westby

47 The initial proposals we received for this area again suggested significantly different boundaries. The Council proposed that Westby-with-Plumptions parish be combined with an unparished area, part of Lytham and Ansdell, to form a three-councillor ward. Bryning-with-Warton and Ribby-with-Wrea would be combined to form another. Both of these wards would have good electoral equality. However, the combination of rural parishes with a substantial part of the more urban unparished area attracted a great deal of opposition. We similarly received comments about the undesirability of including the Westby area in a ward with Warton village.

48 The councillors' alternative proposal echoed that of the Council for Warton and Ribby-with-Wrea and proposed that Westby-with-Plumptions parish form a single-councillor ward. We noted, however, that housing development expected to take place at Peel Corner would result in that ward having 12% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2026.

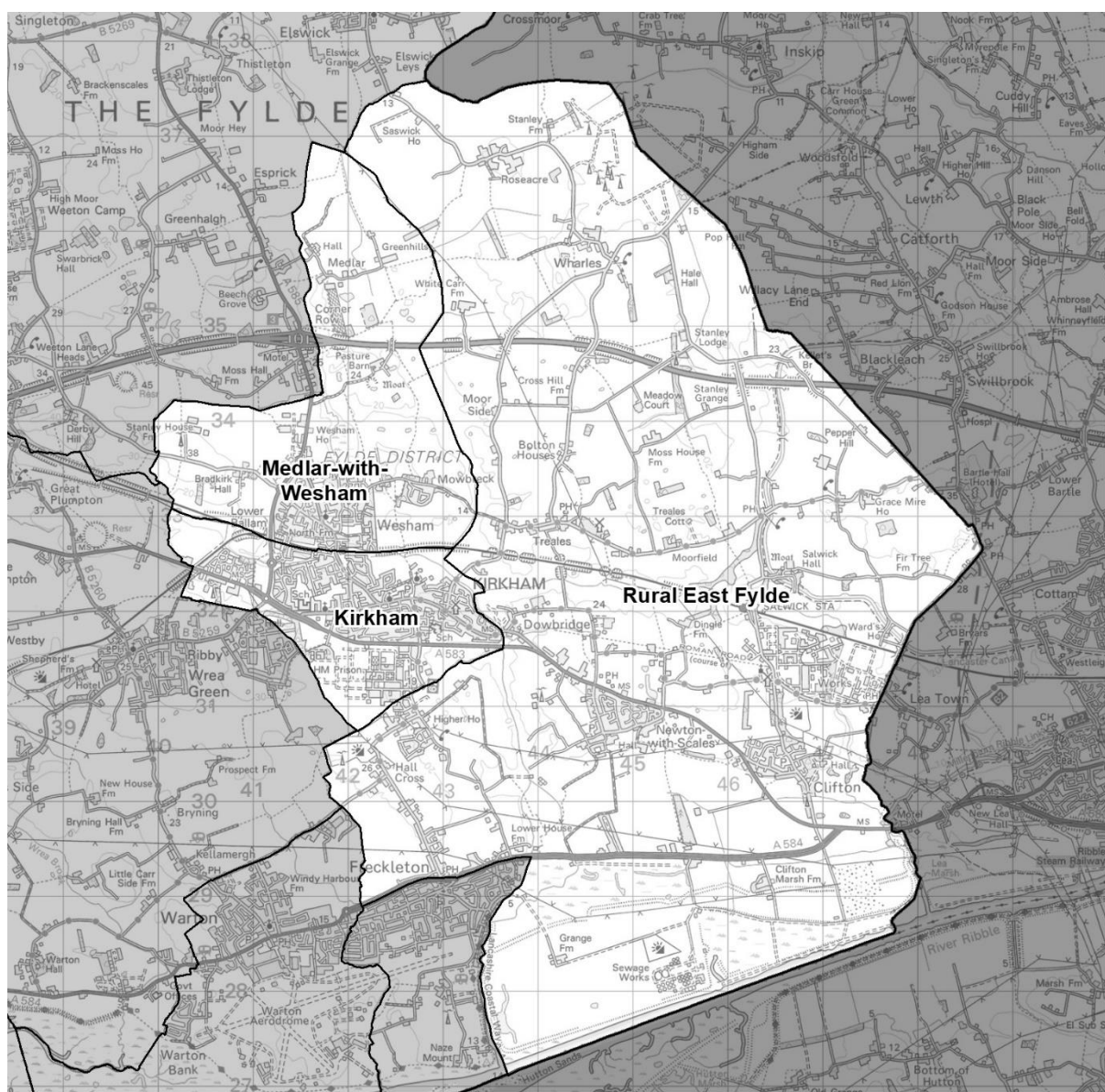
49 Westby-with-Plumptions Parish Council was clear in its strong opposition to being included in a ward with part of Lytham St Anne's, arguing that the identity, interests and needs of its rural area are different from the more urbanised Park area of Lytham. It said that if the parish had to be combined with any other area, then it should be with Ribby-with-Wrea. Meanwhile, in supporting that view, Bryning-with-Warton Parish Council proposed that Warton should form a distinct ward with two or three councillors. Both of these options would, however, result in significant electoral inequality. Councillor Nulty's suggestion that the Bryning area could be added to the suggested Wrea Green & Westby ward would overcome this.

50 Having reflected on the evidence of community identities and interests, the lack of expressed support from individuals or parish councils for the Council's proposal,

and the nature of Westby and the Park area of Lytham and Ansdell, our draft recommendations included a two-councillor Wrea Green with Westby ward including the Bryning area.

51 In response to our draft recommendations, Councillor Andrews proposed that the Wrea Green with Westby area be represented by two single-councillor wards. The councillor proposed including the Fox Lane Ends part of Westby-with-Plumpton in a single-councillor ward with Wrea Green 'and perhaps Bryning'. We carefully considered this proposal but concluded that it would not adequately balance our three statutory criteria. We therefore confirm as final our draft recommendation for a Wrea Green with Westby ward.

East Fylde and Kirkham



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Kirkham	3	9%
Medlar-with-Wesham	2	-9%
Rural East Fylde	2	7%

Kirkham and Medlar-with-Wesham

52 When we sought warding proposals, we received one which suggested that the parishes of Kirkham and Medlar-with-Wesham be combined to form a new ward. In a council of 37 members, the combined area should be represented by five councillors, but we did not consider that a five-councillor ward would provide for effective and convenient local government. We did not, therefore, include that proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

53 Whilst the current Kirkham North could constitute a two-member ward with good electoral equality, Kirkham South would have 18% more electors per councillor than the borough average by 2026. Councillor Nulty proposed that the northern part of Freckleton parish be combined with Kirkham South and that a new boundary between Kirkham North and Kirkham South be drawn. However, this proposal would result in higher electoral inequality than we are normally prepared to recommend.

54 A resident proposed that the boundaries of Kirkham parish be amended, to include the new housing development site at Dowbridge. Whilst we have no powers to make the change suggested, we note that including Dowbridge would not give the electoral equality we seek.

55 All other submissions proposed that Kirkham form a single ward. We therefore were persuaded to recommend that Kirkham town form a three-councillor ward having 9% more electors per councillor by 2026.

56 As a consequence, our draft recommendations included Medlar-with-Wesham as a two-councillor ward having 9% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2026.

57 We received no objections to these proposals in response to our consultation and therefore confirm them as part of our final recommendations.

Rural East Fylde

58 The Council initially proposed that three parishes in the east of the borough – Elswick, Roseacre, Treales & Wharles and Newton-with-Clifton – form a two-councillor ward. The three parish councils opposed that proposal.

59 The parishes of Newton-with-Clifton and Roseacre, Treales & Wharles currently form a Fylde borough ward. However, with the reduction in council size, retaining this ward would not result in good electoral equality.

60 Having formed our draft recommendation for Rural North Fylde, we accepted the proposal for Rural East Fylde which would add to the current Newton & Treales ward the parts of Freckleton parish which lie to the north of Preston New Road (A584) and east of Freckleton Pool. In recognising that those living in Freckleton parish would form a community of distinct but equal identity, we proposed the name Rural East Fylde, to demonstrate that no parish would have primacy in that ward.

61 In response to our draft recommendations, we received almost 100 objections to the inclusion of part of Freckleton in our proposed Rural East Fylde ward. Objections came in roughly equal measure from residents living to the north of the A584 and to the south of that road. Many respondents argued strongly that Freckleton parish as a whole has a strong community identity with a long history of

collective interest, support and activities: and we would not wish to deny those sentiments. Whilst some respondents appeared to have formed the view that our proposals would take those residents of the parish living to the north of the A584 out of the parish, there was repeated expression that the Rural East Fylde ward would be dominated by Newton-with-Clifton.

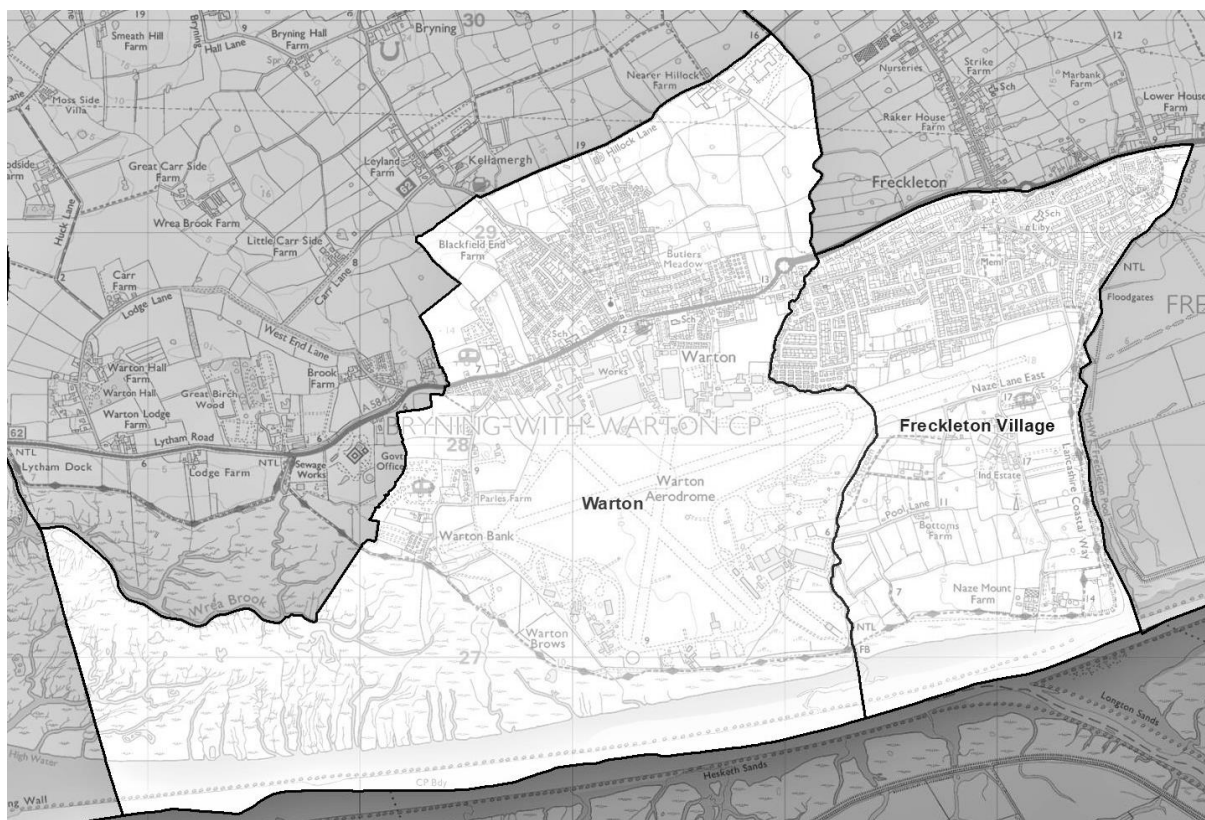
62 Some residents argued that Freckleton parish should constitute a single ward. As a two-councillor ward, this would result in a level of electoral inequality high enough to trigger an immediate further electoral review with both Freckleton and Rural East Fylde wards needing change. The same would be true if Freckleton were to be a three-councillor ward. Simply giving Freckleton parish an additional councillor to make a total of 38 councillors would result in more widespread electoral inequality and would, within five years, lead to a further electoral review requiring changes not only to Freckleton and Rural East Fylde but also to wards in Kirkham, North Fylde, St Anne's and Warton. Taken together, our draft recommendation for Freckleton Village and Rural East Fylde would mean that Freckleton parish would be represented by four councillors.

63 Several people who objected to our proposal argued that those Freckleton residents who do not live on Kirkham Road could be included in the Rural East Fylde ward, but we note that some of those residents expressed the same sense of identity as those who do live on Kirkham Road.

64 We note that almost the whole of the parish which lies to the north of the A584 is designated as Green Belt by the Council in its current Local Plan, with only some properties fronting onto Kirkham Road, plus housing on Strike Lane, excluded from that designation. Whilst including those houses in our Freckleton Village ward would provide reasonable electoral equality, we do not consider that doing so would provide a clear electoral boundary, or represent the community identity shared by others living to the north of the A584. We also consider that the voice of those living on Kirkham Road would lend weight to others living in the Green Belt area.

65 We are therefore not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for this area which we confirm as final. We would draw attention to the fact that, as correctly identified by some respondents, our recommendations do not move any Freckleton residents out of Freckleton and the parish boundary remains the same.

Freckleton Village and Warton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Freckleton Village	2	4%
Warton	2	10%

Freckleton Village

66 The Council initially proposed that Freckleton parish should constitute a three-councillor borough ward having 13% fewer electors per councillor than the average for the borough by 2026. That proposal was in part dependent on the creation of a ward which would combine Newton-with-Clifton with Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck in a ward which was opposed in many submissions and would contradict the evidence of community identity and interests which we received.

67 The alternative proposal we accepted as part of our draft recommendations was that the parts of Freckleton parish lying to the north of Preston New Road and to the east of Freckleton Pool be added to the Newton & Treales ward. Freckleton Village south of Preston New Road would then form a two-councillor ward.

68 Notwithstanding the objections we received, paragraphs 64–65 above set out our reasons for confirming our proposal for the northern part of Freckleton as part of our final recommendations. Having received no further objection which related

particularly to our proposed Freckleton Village ward, we confirm that proposal as part of our final recommendations.

Warton

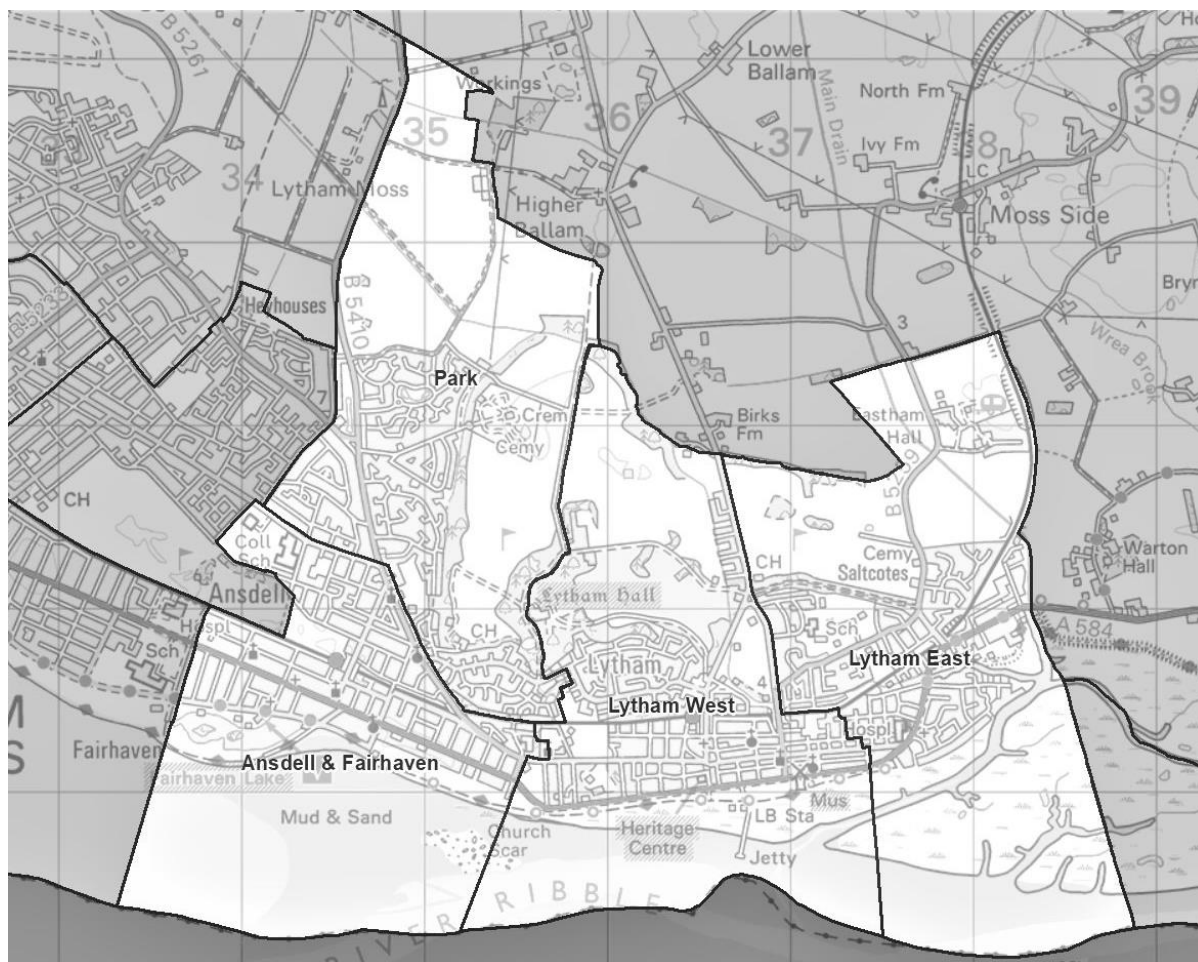
69 The Council's initial proposals would provide for a three-councillor ward which would combine Warton and Ribby-with-Wrea parishes in a ward. Some respondents expressed the view that Warton should form a distinct ward in order that the village may have a distinct voice in council matters. Those respondents also commented on the disparity between levels of representation in Freckleton and Warton. The disparity has arisen because of the extent of recent and planned housing development, particularly in Warton. This review provides the opportunity to address that disparity. Warton Parish Council provided an extensive description of the parish, particularly referencing strategic planning provisions for the village and also proposed that Warton become a separate ward.

70 Councillor Nulty's view was that Bryning-with-Warton should be a stand-alone ward with two members. Whilst citing the effect of housing development she also described the village as having an industrial feel on account of the BAE Systems plant and airfield. Councillor Nulty suggested that if the total parish electorate is deemed too high to provide electoral equality, the agricultural area of Bryning could be included in a ward with Wrea Green.

71 As a two-councillor ward, the parish of Bryning-with-Warton would have 15% more electors per councillor than the average for the borough. Councillor Nulty's suggestion that Bryning be included in a ward with Wrea Green offered a practical solution which would not only address electoral inequality but also distinguish the character of the agricultural parts of the parish from the more urbanised village. We therefore included that suggestion as part of our draft recommendations.

72 We received no objections to our proposed Warton ward and therefore confirm it as part of our final recommendations.

Lytham and Ansdell



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Ansdell & Fairhaven	2	7%
Lytham East	2	2%
Lytham West	2	-3%
Park	2	-4%

Ansdell & Fairhaven and Park

73 Responding to our initial consultation, it was clear that residents' views about Ansdell were divided between those who wished the current Ansdell ward to be retained and those who would combine Ansdell with Fairhaven or Lytham. The Council proposed a combination of Park ward with Westby-with-Plumpton parish. We rejected that proposal, however, in the light of the substantial local opposition it attracted. Our draft recommendations had regard to expressed wishes that wards in Lytham and Ansdell be retained.

74 In response to our draft recommendations, we received objections from some residents who argued that Fairhaven's name, identity and association with Ansdell should not be lost. Two thirds of the current Fairhaven ward electorate live in St

Anne's, whilst it is not clear that all of those who would identify themselves as Fairhaven residents live in that ward. Furthermore, as described below, we received a proposal from St Anne's-on-the-Sea Town Council providing wards which together would be coterminous with the town's boundaries. The Town Council included in its submissions, proposals for two-councillor Ansdell & Fairhaven and Park wards, each offering good electoral equality.

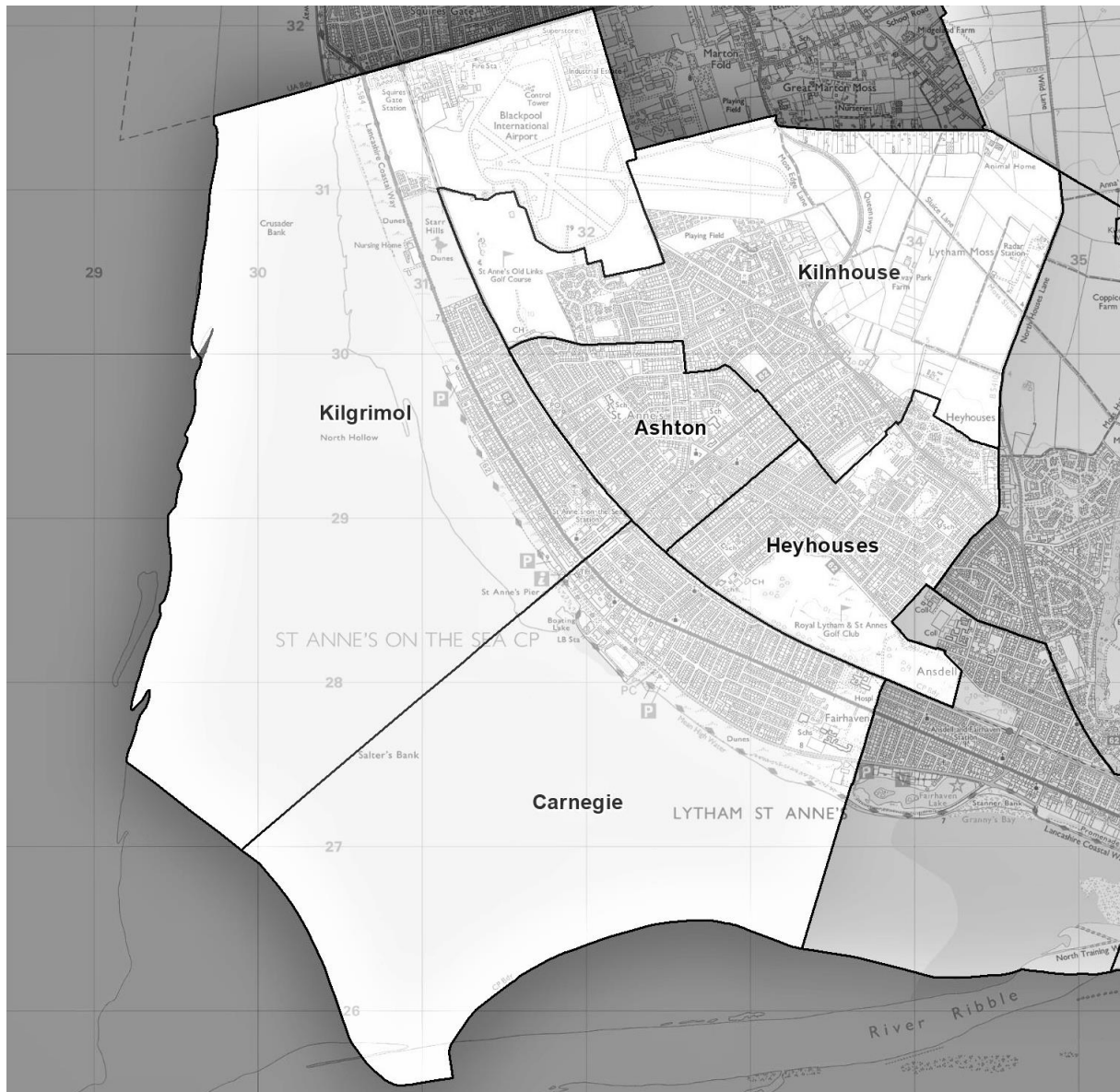
75 We accept that the Town Council's proposals improve upon our draft recommendations whilst being consistent with representations from the town's borough councillors and residents. We have therefore adopted them as part of our final recommendations.

Lytham East and Lytham West

76 When we asked for proposals for ward boundaries, we received suggestions from residents to combine the two Lytham wards or join them up with Ansdell and Fairhaven. We received no suggestions that, should Lytham continue to be represented by two wards, the boundary between them should change, although suggested names for the wards were Lytham East and Lytham West. One resident argued that St John's ward is misnamed because St John's Church is actually in Clifton ward. This lack of clarity led us to adopt the names Lytham East and Lytham West as part of our draft recommendations.

77 Our draft recommendations for Lytham attracted no objections. In making our final recommendations, however, we are modifying our proposals only to include the properties on Church Drive in our Ansdell and Fairhaven ward, to provide greater clarity of representation for those living there.

St Anne's-on-the-Sea



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2026
Ashton	3	-7%
Carnegie	2	8%
Heyhouses	3	-6%
Kilgrimol	2	-6%
Kilnhouse	3	-5%

78 Under current electoral arrangements, the parished area of St Anne's-on-the-Sea is combined with adjacent unparished areas at Fairhaven and the Park area of Lytham. The Council's proposals would mean that five wards would represent St Anne's-on-the-Sea town as a discrete area but would also require the creation of 10 St Anne's parish wards. The councillors' alternative proposal retained the

combination of the unparished areas at Fairhaven and Park with the town's area in a pattern of six wards. Both schemes would result in good electoral equality by 2026.

79 Responding to our invitation for warding proposals, the Town Council declined to offer comments on where ward boundaries should be drawn but raised the matter of the desirability of defining town council wards which match borough wards.

80 Our draft recommendations sought to reflect elements of the proposals we received whilst providing for good electoral equality within the context of the reduction in the total number of borough councillors. In response to our consultation, the Town Council prepared a scheme of boundaries for the town. In addition, there were also around 30 representations from residents, councillors and Mark Menzies MP (Fylde), all objecting to our draft recommendations. Most of those respondents directly expressed their support for the Town Council's proposals.

81 We consider that as a whole, the Town Council's proposal for St Anne's is an improvement on our draft recommendations. We are therefore accepting the Town Council's proposals as part of our final recommendations.

Ashton, Heyhouses and Kilnhouse

82 The current boundary between Ashton and Central wards is also the boundary between St Anne's North and St Anne's South electoral divisions. In our draft recommendations, we reflected that boundary in our proposed town council wards. By combining the parts of Ashton and Central wards which lie to the east of the railway line, we proposed a two-councillor Saints ward with good electoral equality. Constituted of two town council wards, this would present a less fragmented pattern of town council wards for this area than would the Council's or the councillors' alternative proposal which would require three.

83 In response to the draft recommendations, the Town Council proposed to extend our Saints ward northwards as far as Highbury Road East and added the Dover Road and Margate Road area, resulting in a three-councillor ward. The Town Council also proposed retention of the name Ashton citing its significance in the history of the town, which reflected the comments of residents who also opposed the loss of that name. We have accepted the Town Council's proposals in making our final recommendations.

84 In our draft recommendations, we included Pilling Avenue, Ripley Drive and Haymarket in Park ward which meant we could propose a two-councillor Heyhouses ward with no further departures from the current Heyhouses ward boundaries. Responding to the draft recommendations, the Town Council proposed a more substantial alteration to the current Heyhouses ward by including in it, the parts of the current Park ward which lie to the west of Smithy Lane and North Houses Lane and which are within the St Anne's parish boundary. To compensate, the Town

Council proposed to exclude from Heyhouses ward the Singleton Avenue area and those parts of the current ward which lie to the east of Heyhouses Lane and Queensway. The Town Council would include those areas and the Frobisher Drive area in its proposed Kilnhouse ward.

85 We consider that the Town Council's Heyhouses and Kilnhouse wards reflect distinct and well-connected communities and therefore accept them as part of our final recommendations.

86 To reflect the boundaries of divisions for the election of councillors to Lancashire County Council, each of our Ashton, Heyhouses and Kilnhouse wards is divided into two parish wards with the number of councillors to be elected to St Anne's-on-the-Sea Town Council determined by the number of electors.

Carnegie and Kilgrimol

87 In the current electoral arrangements, the seafront between Squires Gate and Fairhaven Lake is represented in four wards. The Council proposed a less fragmented pattern for the seafront area with just two wards. Our draft recommendation was that the seafront area should be represented in two wards, each of which would be represented by three councillors.

88 The Town Council's proposal is that there should instead be two two-councillor wards to represent the seafront area. As in our draft recommendations, St Anne's Road West forms the boundary between these wards. Their Carnegie ward differs from the Promenade ward in our draft recommendations by excluding the unparished Fairhaven area with a consequential reduction from three councillors to two.

89 The Town Council similarly proposed a reduction of our proposed North Beach ward by following the railway line to the northern edge of St Anne's Old Links golf course. Excluding the Frobisher Drive and Heeley Road areas allows a two-councillor ward with good electoral equality.

90 The Town Council's proposed names for these wards, Carnegie and Kilgrimol, are rooted in the town's history and we are content to adopt them in our final recommendations.

Conclusions

91 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Fylde, referencing the 2020 and 2026 electorate figures against the proposed number of councillors and wards. A full list of wards, names and their corresponding electoral variances can be found at Appendix A to the back of this report. An outline map of the wards is provided at Appendix B.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2020	2026
Number of councillors	37	37
Number of electoral wards	17	17
Average number of electors per councillor	1,728	1,865
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

The Fylde Borough Council should be made up of 37 councillors serving 17 wards representing one single-councillor ward, 12 two-councillor wards and four 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 Fylde Borough Council. You can also view our final recommendations for Fylde Borough Council on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

92 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 and electoral division. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review. However, Fylde 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.

93 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 Bryning-with-Warton, Freckleton and St Anne's-on-the-Sea.

94 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bryning-with-Warton parish.

Final recommendations

Bryning-with-Warton Parish Council should comprise nine councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Bryning	1
Warton	8

95 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Freckleton parish.

Final recommendations

Freckleton Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Freckleton Village	10
Outer Freckleton	2

96 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for St Anne's-on-the-Sea parish.

Final recommendations

St Anne's-on-the-Sea Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Ashton North	1
Ashton South	1
Carnegie	2
Heyhouses	2
Kilgrimol	2
Kilnhouse East	1
Kilnhouse West	2
Park	1

What happens next?

97 We have now completed our review of Fylde 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 2023.

Equalities

98 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A

Final recommendations for Fylde Borough Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Ansdell & Fairhaven	2	3,881	1,941	12%	4,006	2,003	7%
2	Ashton	3	5,113	1,704	-1%	5,190	1,730	-7%
3	Carnegie	2	3,962	1,981	15%	4,015	2,007	8%
4	Freckleton Village	2	3,782	1,891	9%	3,868	1,934	4%
5	Heyhouses	3	4,798	1,599	-7%	5,286	1,762	-6%
6	Kilgrimol	2	3,260	1,630	-6%	3,506	1,753	-6%
7	Kilnhouse	3	4,879	1,626	-6%	5,328	1,776	-5%
8	Kirkham	3	5,723	1,908	10%	6,094	2,031	9%
9	Lytham East	2	3,698	1,849	7%	3,824	1,912	2%
10	Lytham West	2	3,417	1,709	-1%	3,618	1,809	-3%
11	Medlar-with-Wesham	2	3,231	1,616	-7%	3,380	1,690	-9%

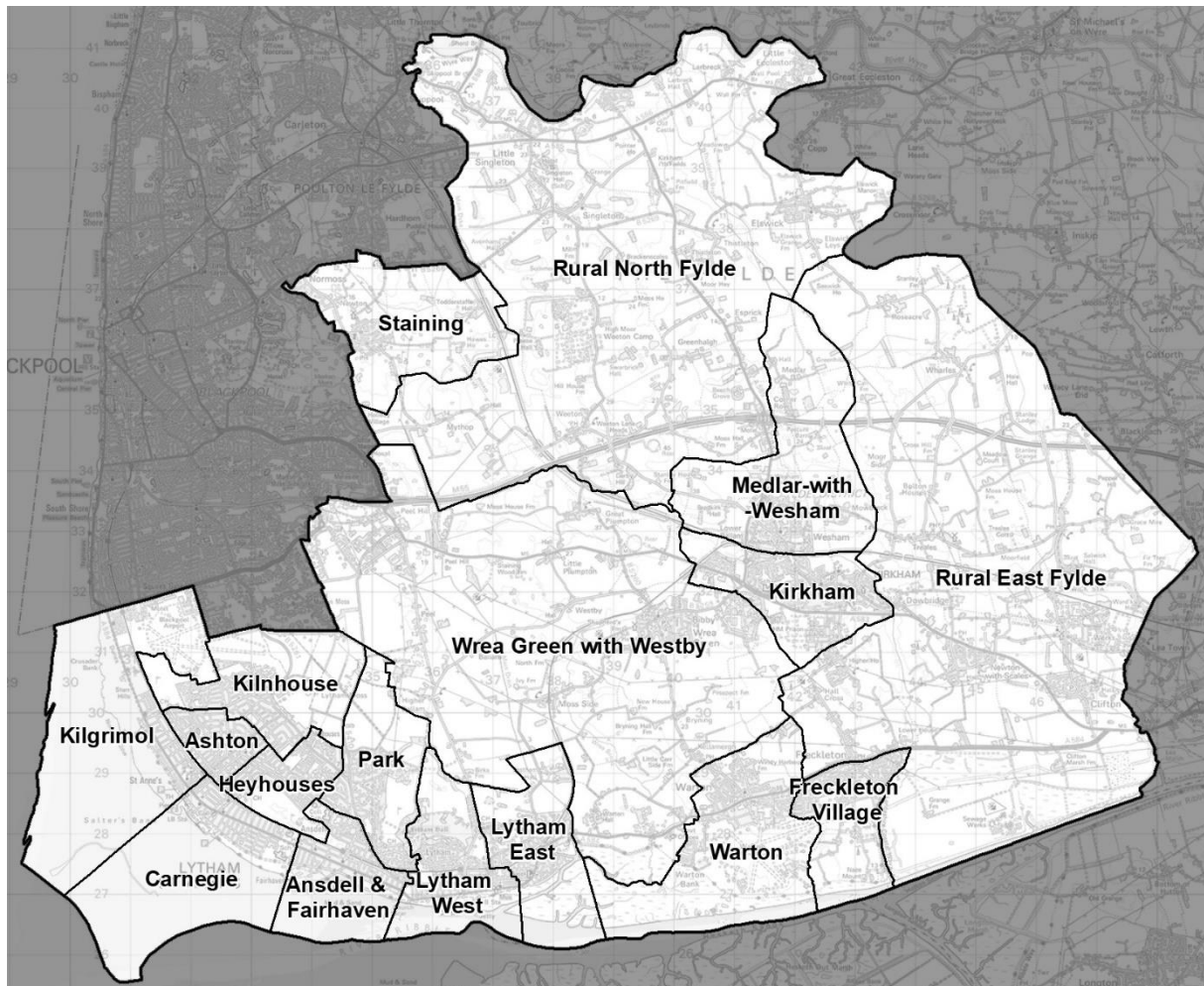
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2026)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 Park	2	3,466	1,733	0%	3,575	1,788	-4%
13 Rural East Fylde	2	3,457	1,729	0%	3,994	1,997	7%
14 Rural North Fylde	2	3,022	1,511	-13%	3,452	1,726	-7%
15 Staining	1	1,969	1,969	14%	1,987	1,987	7%
16 Warton	2	3,117	1,559	-10%	4,085	2,043	10%
17 Wrea Green with Westby	2	3,156	1,578	-9%	3,793	1,897	2%
Totals	37	63,931	-	-	69,001	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,728	-	-	1,865	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Fylde 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:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/fylde

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at:

www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/north-west/lancashire/fylde

Councillors

- Councillor F. Andrews (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Anthony (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor T. Armit (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Brearley (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor K. Buckley (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Buckley (Lancashire County Council)
- Councillor P. Bull (Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck Parish Council)
- Councillor A. Clayton (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Collins (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor B. Gill (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Green (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor N Griffiths (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor G. Harrison (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor K. Harrison (St Anne's-on-the-Sea Town Council)
- Councillor P. Hodgson (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Jones (Kirkham Town Council)
- Councillor M. Lee (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor L. Nulty (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor D. O'Rourke (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor L. Oades (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor V. Settle (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor E. Silverwood (Fylde Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Singleton (Lancashire County Council)
- Councillor C. Thomas (Freckleton Parish Council)
- Councillor T. Threlfall (Fylde Borough Council) – Two submissions
- Councillor S. Trudgill (Fylde Borough Council)

Members of Parliament

- Mark Menzies MP (Fylde)

Parish and Town Councils

- Elswick Parish Council

- Elswick and Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck Parish Councils
- Kirkham Town Council
- Little Eccleston-with-Larbreck Parish Council – Two submissions
- Medlar-with-Wesham Town Council
- Newton-with-Clifton Parish Council
- St Anne's-on-the-Sea Town Council – Two submissions
- Staining Parish Council

Local Residents

- 125 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 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. We only take account of electors registered specifically for local elections during our reviews.
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 can 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 (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.

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