

New electoral arrangements for Lancaster City Council Final Recommendations

May 2022

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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 Lancaster?

7 We are conducting a review of Lancaster City Council ('the Council') as 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 Lancaster 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 district.

Our proposals for Lancaster

9 Lancaster should be represented by 61 councillors, one more than there are now.

10 Lancaster should have 27 wards, the same as there are now.

11 The boundaries of 15 wards should change; 12 will stay the same.

How will the recommendations affect you?

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

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district 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.

Review timetable

14 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Lancaster. We then held three periods of consultation with the public

on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our final recommendations.

15 The review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
16 February 2021	Number of councillors decided
23 February 2021	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
12 July 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
14 September 2021	Publication of draft recommendations; start of second consultation
23 November 2021	End of consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
1 February 2022	Publication of further draft recommendations; start of limited consultation
15 March 2022	End of limited consultation; we began analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
10 May 2022	Publication of final recommendations

Analysis and final recommendations

16 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.

17 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.

18 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	2027
Electorate of Lancaster	108,145	112,735
Number of councillors	61	61
Average number of electors per councillor	1,773	1,848

19 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 but two of our proposed wards for Lancaster will have good electoral equality by 2027.

Submissions received

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

Electorate figures

21 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2026, a period five years on from the initially 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 4.2% by 2026.

22 We considered the information provided by the Council and were satisfied that the projected figures were the best available. We used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

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.

23 As a consequence of publishing further draft recommendations, this electoral review will now conclude in early 2022. We remain satisfied that the forecasts submitted by the Council for 2026 remain the best available for early 2027.

Number of councillors

24 Lancaster City Council currently has 60 councillors. As part of our final recommendations we are proposing that the Council should have 61 councillors. This figure has been arrived at following a series of decisions we took in relation to, firstly, how many councillors are needed to enable the Council to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively and, secondly, how the pattern of wards reflects community identities.

25 We initially looked at evidence provided by the Council and decided that retaining the existing council size would ensure that it could carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 60 councillors.

26 We received two submissions that referred to the number of councillors in response to our consultation on ward patterns. Both representations argued for a reduction in councillor numbers, with one citing comparative local authorities. The submissions did not provide detail on the governance, scrutiny and representational arrangements for Lancaster or provide evidence for an alternative council size. We therefore based our draft recommendations on a 60-councillor council.

27 Having listened to the views expressed during the consultation on our draft recommendations, we decided to undertake a period of limited further consultation on a pattern of wards that we considered better reflected our statutory criteria. In order to propose wards that reflected evidence of local communities, our further draft recommendations were based on a council size of 61 – one more than we announced at the beginning of the first consultation. We were satisfied that this would still ensure that the Council would be able to carry out its roles and responsibilities.

28 Following the consultation on our further draft recommendations, we have been convinced that a warding arrangement based on a council size of 61 would provide for the strongest balance of our statutory criteria. We also received support for the proposed adjustment in council size from submissions received during the consultation on our further draft recommendations. Our final recommendations are therefore based on a council size of 61.

Ward boundaries consultation

29 We received 33 submissions in response to our consultation on ward boundaries. While we received a submission from the Council, this only related to a single boundary. We did not receive any district-wide proposals from any respondent. We did, however, receive a proposal for the entire area to the south of the Lune River from the Lancaster & Fleetwood Constituency Labour Party ('the Constituency Labour Party'). The remainder of the submissions provided localised comments for wards in particular areas of the district.

30 The scheme we received for the area south of the Lune River provided a mixed pattern of single-, two- and three-councillor wards. We carefully considered the proposals and were of the view that the suggested pattern of wards in this limited area resulted in good levels of electoral equality in some wards and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries. We incorporated these proposals into our draft recommendations where we were persuaded that they provided for a good reflection of our statutory criteria.

31 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 did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

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

33 Our draft recommendations were for 15 three-councillor wards, five two-councillor wards and five single-councillor wards. 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

34 We received 27 submissions during consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a submission from the Constituency Labour Party that once again made comments on the arrangements for the area south of the River Lune. The remainder of the submissions, including a petition of 48 names, provided localised comments for warding arrangements in particular areas of the district. In particular, we received a number of strongly evidenced objections to our draft recommendations in the rural east, central and southern areas of Lancaster. In light

of the evidence received, we decided to undertake another round of consultation on our recommendations in these areas.

Further draft recommendations

35 We undertook a period of further limited consultation for warding arrangements in the rural east, central and southern areas of the district.

36 We received 23 submissions in response to this consultation. The majority of comments expressed support for the further draft recommendations. We did, however, receive compelling evidence from residents in our revised Scotforth East and John O’Gaunt wards, as well as from the North Lancashire Green Party (‘Green Party’). We have consequently made minor modifications to our proposals in these areas to reflect this evidence.

Final recommendations

37 Our final recommendations are for four single-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and 11 three-councillor wards. 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.

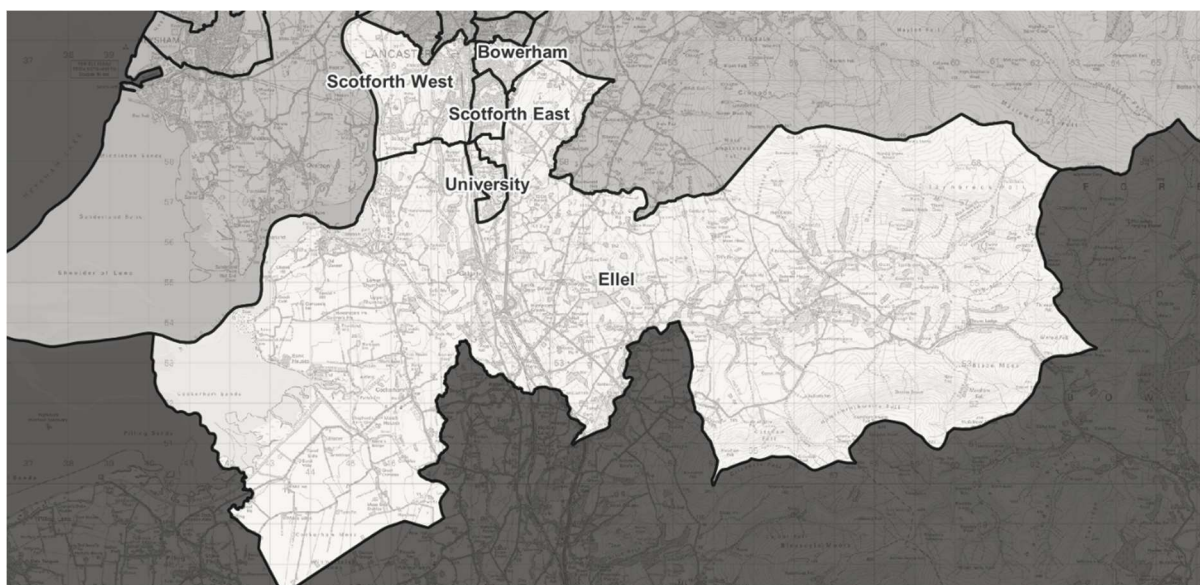
38 The tables and maps on pages 8–25 detail our final recommendations for each area of Lancaster. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

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

39 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table starting on page 30 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

Bowerham, Ellel, Scotforth and University



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bowerham	2	9%
Ellel	2	10%
Scotforth East	2	-5%
Scotforth West	2	10%
University	2	-16%

University and Ellel

40 On the basis of the evidence we received during the consultation on our draft recommendations, we proposed further draft recommendations for this area. These revised proposals proposed a two-councillor University ward that comprised only the university campus, as well as the Bailrigg Student Living development. In order to facilitate our proposed University ward, an additional councillor was added to the urban area across southern Lancaster. We acknowledged that our proposed University ward would have an electoral variance of -16% under a council size of 61. However, we were persuaded that there are unique particulars relating to the composition, circumstances and geography of the campus that justified the high variance. This proposal also allowed us to reflect the balance of the evidence across rural Scotforth and the more urban area of southern Lancaster.

41 In response to our consultation on the further draft recommendations, we received eight submissions relating to this area. These included representations from the Constituency Labour Party, Cat Smith MP, two councillors and four residents (including two who sent in a joint submission), as well as the Executive Committee of Lancaster University Students' Union ('SU Executive'). All of the submissions expressed strong support for our proposed University ward.

42 Consequently, we are confirming our further draft recommendations for University and Ellet wards as final. These wards would have 16% fewer and 10% more electors than the district average by 2027, respectively.

Bowerham, Scotforth East and Scotforth West

43 Our further draft recommendations in this area proposed a two-councillor Scotforth East ward and a new two-councillor Bowerham ward based on the proposals made by the Constituency Labour Party. The proposed arrangement reflected strong evidence received during the consultation on our original draft recommendations. Our revised Scotforth East ward kept the entirety of the existing ward together, used only the A6 as the ward's western boundary, and facilitated a Bowerham ward that was supported by compelling evidence from local residents. We also proposed a revised Scotforth West ward that was also based on the suggestion of the Constituency Labour Party, subject to some minor amendments to reflect evidence of communities received from other respondents.

44 In response to our consultation on the further draft recommendations, we received 12 submissions relating to this area. These included representations from the Constituency Labour Party, the Green Party, Cat Smith MP, two councillors and eight residents (including two who sent in a joint representation). The submissions contained a mixture of support and objections to the proposed arrangement in this area, with some suggesting amendments to the proposed wards.

45 Councillors Wood and Whitehead expressed strong support for the proposed wards in this area. Councillor Whitehead stated that the arrangements would enable residents to have 'proper representation', while Councillor Wood argued that the further draft proposals recognised 'the distinct communities' in the area, as well as 'the needs of residents'. Councillor Wood added that the use of the A6 as the boundary between Scotforth East and Scotforth West wards 'makes it simple and easy for residents to understand and maintain their similar but distinct identities', and that he supported our proposed Bowerham ward that was 'centred around the Bowerham Hotel and the shops opposite and up onto Coulston Road'.

46 Cat Smith MP set out her support for 'the creation of a ward for Bowerham, which is a local identity which residents of the area will relate to, and which represents a community centred around the facilities on Bowerham Road'. The MP also expressed general support for the arrangements in this area, noting that they 'have managed the tricky job of balancing the demands of our various communities'. The Constituency Labour Party expressed support for the proposed arrangements in this area, which had been based on their proposals at a previous stage of consultation.

47 Three local residents also expressed support for the further draft recommendations in this area. One resident noted that 'the use of the A6 reflects

how the community exists and makes it easier for residents to know who their councillor is'. They added that 'Bowerham functions as distinct community... being served by shops opposite the Bowerham Hotel. I am pleased to see the further draft proposals reflect the reality of the community'. In a joint submission, two additional residents detailed their support for our proposed Bowerham ward, noting that the ward will 'ensure the needs of the area are represented holistically, and will address other issues such as keeping the users of Barton Road Community Centre and Palatine Recreations Ground together in Scotforth East'.

48 We also received objections to our proposed boundary between Scotforth East and Scotforth West from the Green Party and five local residents. All five local residents live in properties immediately to the east of the A6 and had been included in Scotforth East ward under our further draft recommendations. Each of the representations argued that our new proposals had split a community and that residents to the immediate east of the A6 should be included in Scotforth West ward, with the submissions citing amenities and facilities they used across the A6 in the Greaves area of Scotforth West. These included schools, churches, shops, bus stops and transport links, and community spaces. One of the residents also noted the strong connection of Greaves Park to Scotforth West, while another added that they had 'no direct route into the main part of ScotEast as the roads... are cul-de-sacs, and it makes far more sense to keep us all as part of ScotWest'.

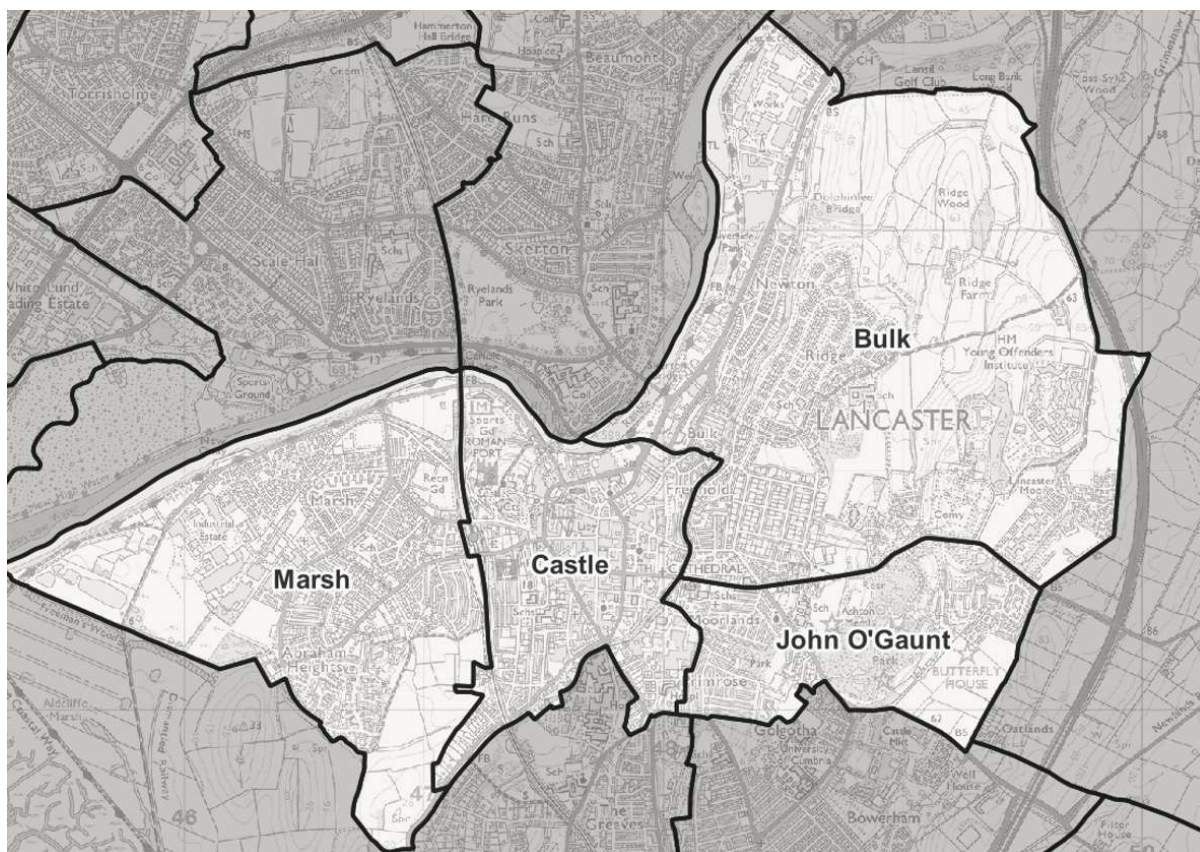
49 The Green Party made similar arguments to the residents, stating that the 'east side of the A6 has much more in common with Scotforth West and Scotforth East'. The Green Party also noted the community facilities in Scotforth West used by residents immediately east of the A6 and added that residents to the west of the A6 'use Greaves Park and in addition many families from the west of the A6 use the route through the park to walk to and from their local school'. They argued that roads to the east of the A6 should be included in Scotforth West ward, as well as suggesting that the area west of the A6 further south (from Booths Junction to Burrow Beck) should be included in Scotforth East ward. They argued that residents in this southern area were 'much more likely to use shops and facilities in Scotforth East'.

50 Having carefully considered the evidence received across all stages of consultation, we have been persuaded that our proposed Bowerham ward reflects communities in the area and should be included in our final recommendations. However, while we acknowledge the support for our proposed Scotforth East and Scotforth West wards, we are of the view that residents along the eastern side of the A6 – supported by the Green Party – have made a compelling case for their inclusion within Scotforth West ward. We consider that a warding arrangement which includes these residents in Scotforth East ward would split a coherent community.

51 Our final recommendations therefore include a minor amendment to the further draft recommendations at the intersection between Scotforth East, Scotforth West and Bowerham wards, with all properties and cul-de-sacs to the immediate east of the A6 (but only those north of Palatine Avenue) included in Scotforth West ward. The boundary will run along the rear of these properties, as well as the eastern side of Greaves Park, with all electors to the east of this boundary located in Bowerham ward. In our view, this arrangement best reflects our statutory criteria based on evidence received across all three consultation periods. While we acknowledge the suggestion of the Green Party for a modification to the boundary between Scotforth East and Scotforth West wards further south, we have not been persuaded that this modification would better reflect communities in the area, particularly given the support for the use of the A6 as a boundary expressed in other submissions.

52 Our modified Scotforth East, Scotforth West and Bowerham wards will have electoral variances of 5% fewer, 10% more and 9% more electors than the district average by 2027, respectively.

Central Lancaster



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bulk	3	10%
Castle	3	4%
John O'Gaunt	2	-3%
Marsh	3	-3%

Bulk, Castle, John O'Gaunt and Marsh

53 As a consequence of our further draft recommendations for Bowerham ward, we proposed an amended two-councillor John O'Gaunt ward that was based on the suggestion of the Constituency Labour Party, subject to some minor amendments to reflect evidence of communities received from other respondents. The revised John O'Gaunt ward united Dale Street in John O'Gaunt ward, reflecting strong evidence received during the consultation on our draft recommendations that the street should not be divided between wards. We also proposed revised Castle and Marsh wards, reflecting evidence relating to electors in Aldcliffe Yard, Aldcliffe Road and Cromwell Road. While our proposed Bulk ward was unchanged from our original proposal, we included the ward in our further consultation period since any new proposals may have had a direct impact on its composition.

54 In response to our consultation on the further draft recommendations, we received seven submissions relating to this area. This included representations from the Constituency Labour Party, the Green Party, Cat Smith MP and four residents. The submissions contained a mixture of support and objections to the proposed arrangement in this area.

55 The Constituency Labour Party and Cat Smith MP expressed support for the proposals. A local resident noted that ‘the proposal to make the small adjustment of Cromwell Road etc. being moved into Castle ward makes sense’.

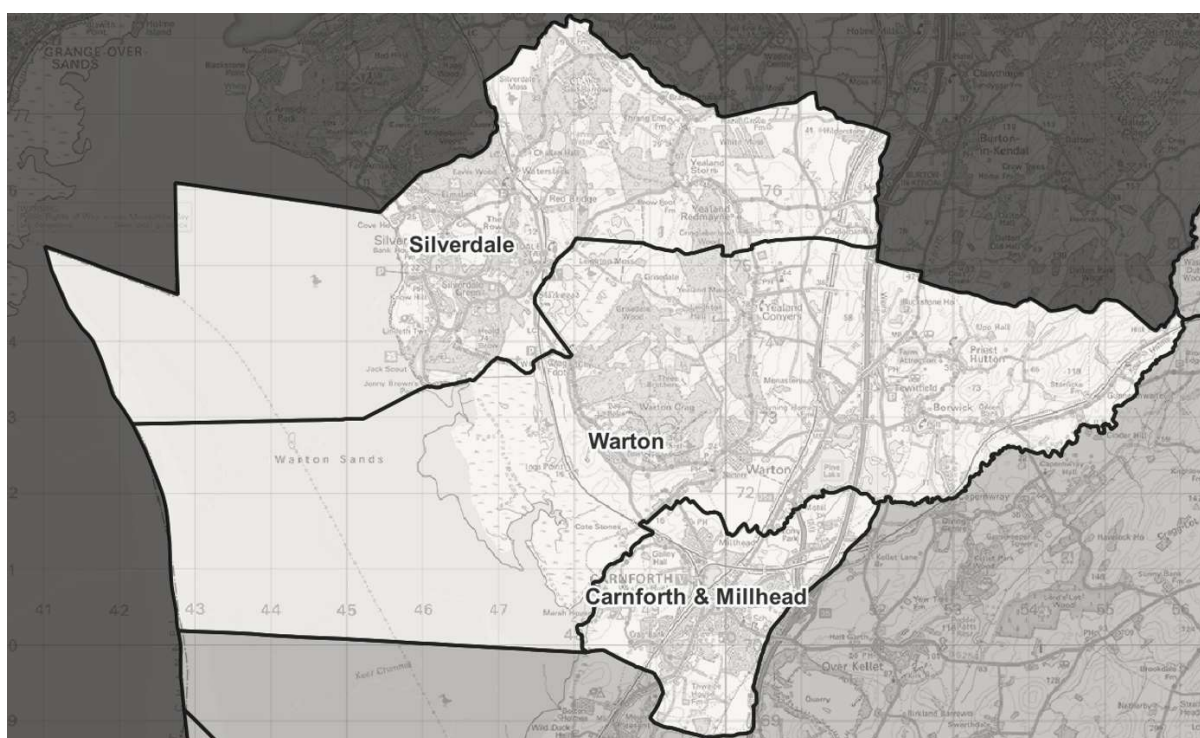
56 The Green Party proposed an amendment to the proposed boundary between Castle and John O’Gaunt wards. They argued that while they welcomed the proposal ‘to unite electors in Railway Street, Boundary Road, Meadowside and Springfield in the same ward’, these electors should be included in Castle ward rather than in John O’Gaunt ward, along with Royal Lancaster Infirmary and the White Cross Business Estate. The Green Party argued that this amendment would make Castle ward more coherent, citing local facilities used by residents in the area. This was supported by a local resident from Meadowside, who stated that ‘all amenities we use are in town, from groceries to the post office’.

57 Two local residents also proposed significant amendments to the proposed John O’Gaunt ward, arguing that ‘the ideal solution would have been a ward that covers the new build estates on the eastern part of both Bulk and John O’Gaunt wards... a single-member ward in the east of Lancaster would, for example, allow Freehold to join the existing two-member John O’Gaunt ward and the rest of Bulk to continue as a two-councillor ward’. The residents added that ‘even if the above is not possible, the further draft proposals are a highly positive solution and they balance the views expressed in the submissions well’. The residents’ proposal for significantly amended wards in the John O’Gaunt and Bulk area would result in high levels of electoral inequality in excess of 30% and we have therefore not adopted them as part of our final recommendations.

58 However, we have been persuaded to make a minor modification to the boundary between our proposed John O’Gaunt and Castle wards. We note the proposed amendment to John O’Gaunt and Castle wards to include Railway Street, Boundary Road, Meadowside and Springfield in Castle ward would reflect the views of a local resident, and that it was supported by compelling community evidence. We have therefore been persuaded to incorporate these roads into Castle ward along with the White Cross Business Estate, which provides for stronger and more identifiable boundaries as well as reflects access routes in the area. However, we have not been persuaded to include Royal Lancaster Infirmary in Castle ward. We note primary access to the site is from the south and are of the view that our criteria would best be reflected by the hospital’s inclusion in Scotforth West.

59 Subject to this minor change, we are confirming our further draft recommendations for Bulk, Castle, Marsh and John O’Gaunt wards as final. These wards would have 10% more, 4% more, 3% fewer and 3% fewer electors than the district average by 2027, respectively.

Carnforth & Millhead, Silverdale and Warton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Carnforth & Millhead	3	-11%
Silverdale	1	-8%
Warton	1	10%

Carnforth & Millhead

60 Our draft recommendations for Carnforth & Millhead proposed no amendments to the existing three-councillor ward. While this ward was forecast to have an electoral variance greater than 10% of than the district average by 2027, we noted the geography and spread of communities in the area and were unable to identify an alternative warding pattern that provided for good electoral equality while also reflecting communities in the area.

61 In response to our draft proposals, we received one submission from a local resident supporting the retention of the existing ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendation for Carnforth & Millhead ward as final. Our proposed ward will have an electoral variance of 11% fewer electors than the district average by 2027.

Silverdale

62 Our draft recommendations for Silverdale proposed no amendments to the existing single-councillor ward. We received no comments on this proposal during the consultation period.

63 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Silverdale ward as final. Our proposed ward will have an electoral variance of 8% fewer electors than the district average by 2027.

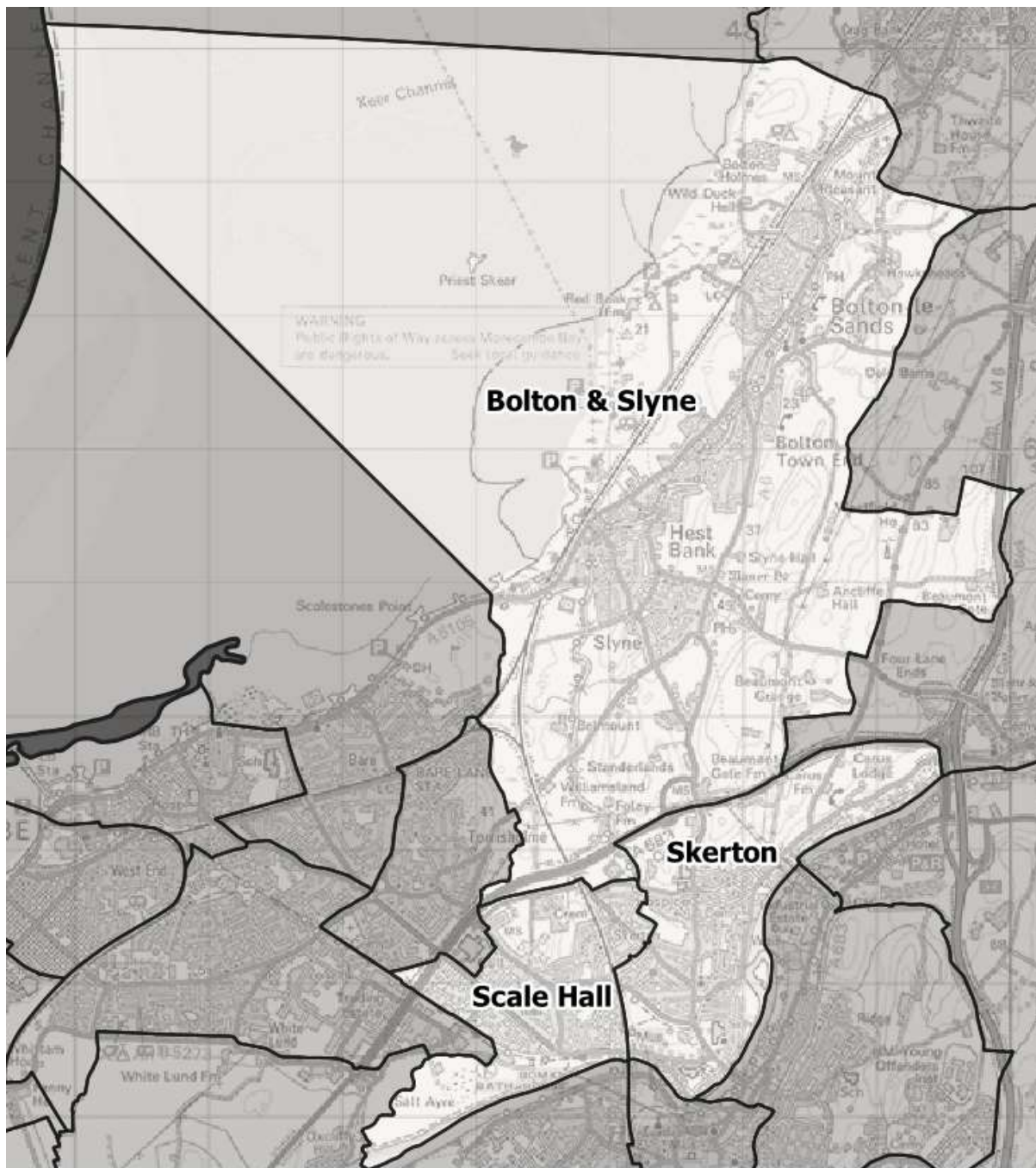
Warton

64 As a consequence of our further draft recommendations for Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet, Upper Lune Valley and Lower Lune Valley wards, we proposed an amended single-councillor Warton ward that included the parishes of Priest Hutton, Borwick, Warton and Yealand Conyers. While we were aware that this arrangement linked parishes either side of the motorway, we noted road links across the M6 and that this arrangement facilitated revised warding arrangements across the rural east of Lancaster district that reflected community evidence and provided for good levels of electoral equality.

65 In response to our further draft proposals for this area we received one submission from Borwick Parish Meeting objecting to the suggested arrangements. The Parish Meeting argued that Borwick has more in common with the villages in the existing Kellet ward. However, a warding arrangement which included Borwick parish in Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet ward would create an electoral imbalance of 13% in Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet ward. In our view, this level of electoral inequality has not been justified by the evidence provided. Moreover, we are of the view that the balance of evidence across rural Lancaster is best reflected by our further draft recommendations.

66 Consequently, we are confirming our further draft recommendations for Warton ward as final. The ward would have 10% more electors than the district average by 2027.

Bolton & Slyne, Scale Hall and Skerton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bolton & Slyne	3	9%
Scale Hall	3	-5%
Skerton	3	-1%

Bolton & Slyne and Skerton

67 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on a proposal from a local councillor. Our proposed Skerton ward extended the existing Skerton East ward north to the Bay Gateway and as far east as the M6 roundabout. This arrangement reflected arguments that the planned housing south of the Bay Gateway would look to Skerton for amenities and services. We proposed no further changes to the existing Skerton East or Bolton & Slyne wards.

68 In response to our draft proposals, we received two submissions that commented on this area. Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council raised objections to the proposal to create a parish ward south of the Bay Gateway, suggesting that such an arrangement would cause 'confusion' and that the southern area 'is being annexed from Slyne-with-Hest'. The Parish Council also raised concerns about the way in which city councillors would represent the parish under our proposals. A local resident argued that the western boundary of Bolton & Slyne should be formed by the railway line, citing arguments related to housebuilding and consultation.

69 While we note the points raised in the submission from the Parish Council, electors south of the Bay Gateway would not be annexed out of the parish: they would continue to be part of Slyne-with-Hest parish. We remain persuaded by arguments made at the previous stage of consultation that the planned development in the area – with some included within the Council's electoral forecasts as being completed by 2026 – will look towards the more urban Skerton area to the south, with the Bay Gateway representing a barrier between the residential communities in Slyne and Lancaster.

70 Having also considered the arguments made by the local resident, we note that our recommendations will not have an effect on decisions related to housebuilding or consultation locally; these are the responsibility of the local planning authority. Moreover, while we note the proposal to use the railway as the western boundary for Bolton & Slyne ward, there are no electors between the parish boundary and the railway line in this area. In the event that we were to use the railway as a boundary in this area, this would create a parish ward with no electors either living there at the moment or forecast to be living there by 2027.

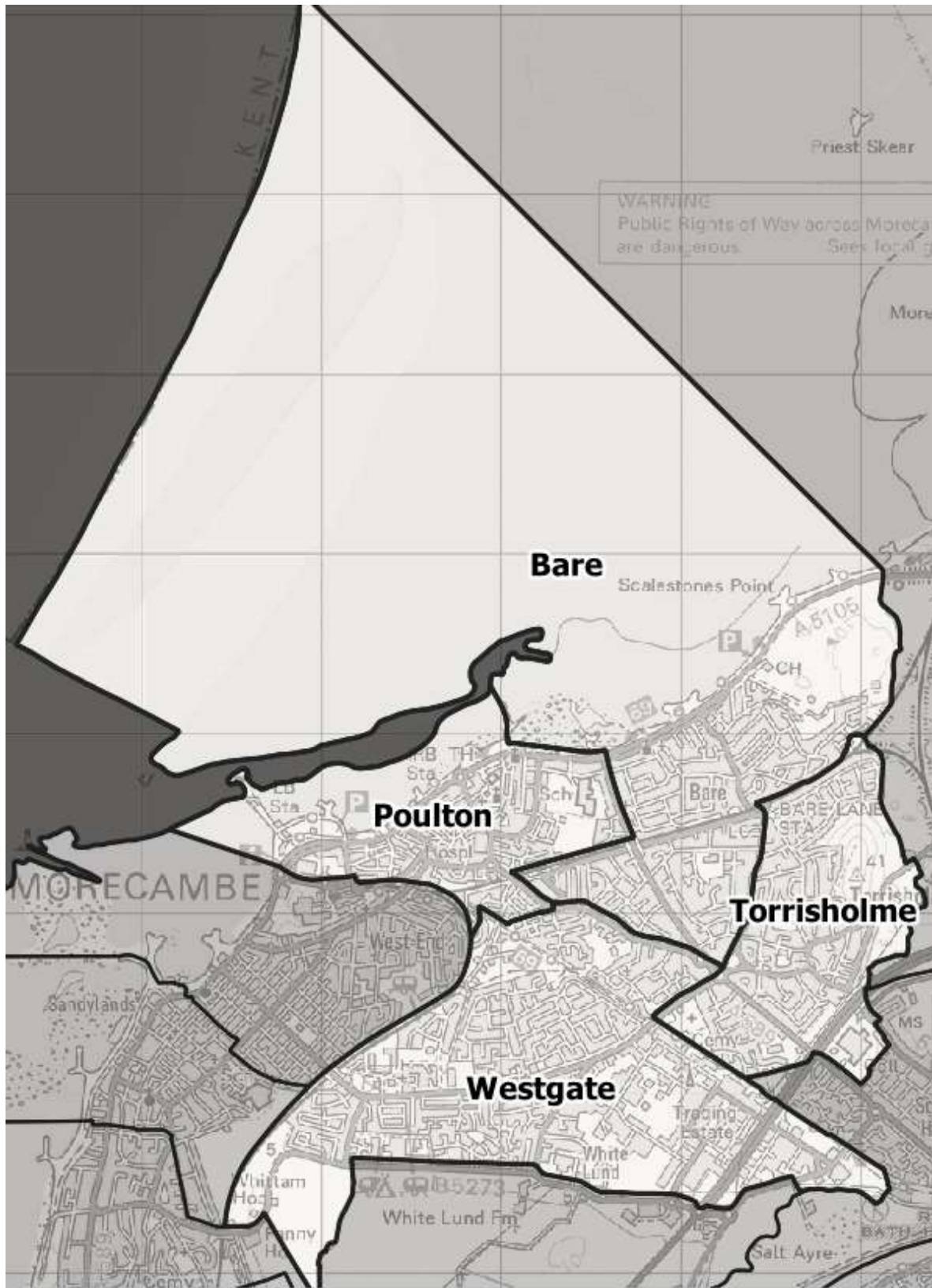
71 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Bolton & Slyne and Skerton wards as final. Our proposed wards will have electoral variances of 9% more and -1% fewer electors than the district average by 2027, respectively.

Scale Hall

72 Our draft recommendations for Scale Hall proposed no amendments to the existing ward, subject to a name change from Skerton West to Scale Hall. We received no comments on this proposal during the consultation period.

73 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Scale Hall ward as final. Our proposed ward will have an electoral variance of 5% fewer electors than the district average by 2027.

Bare, Poulton, Torrisholme & Westgate



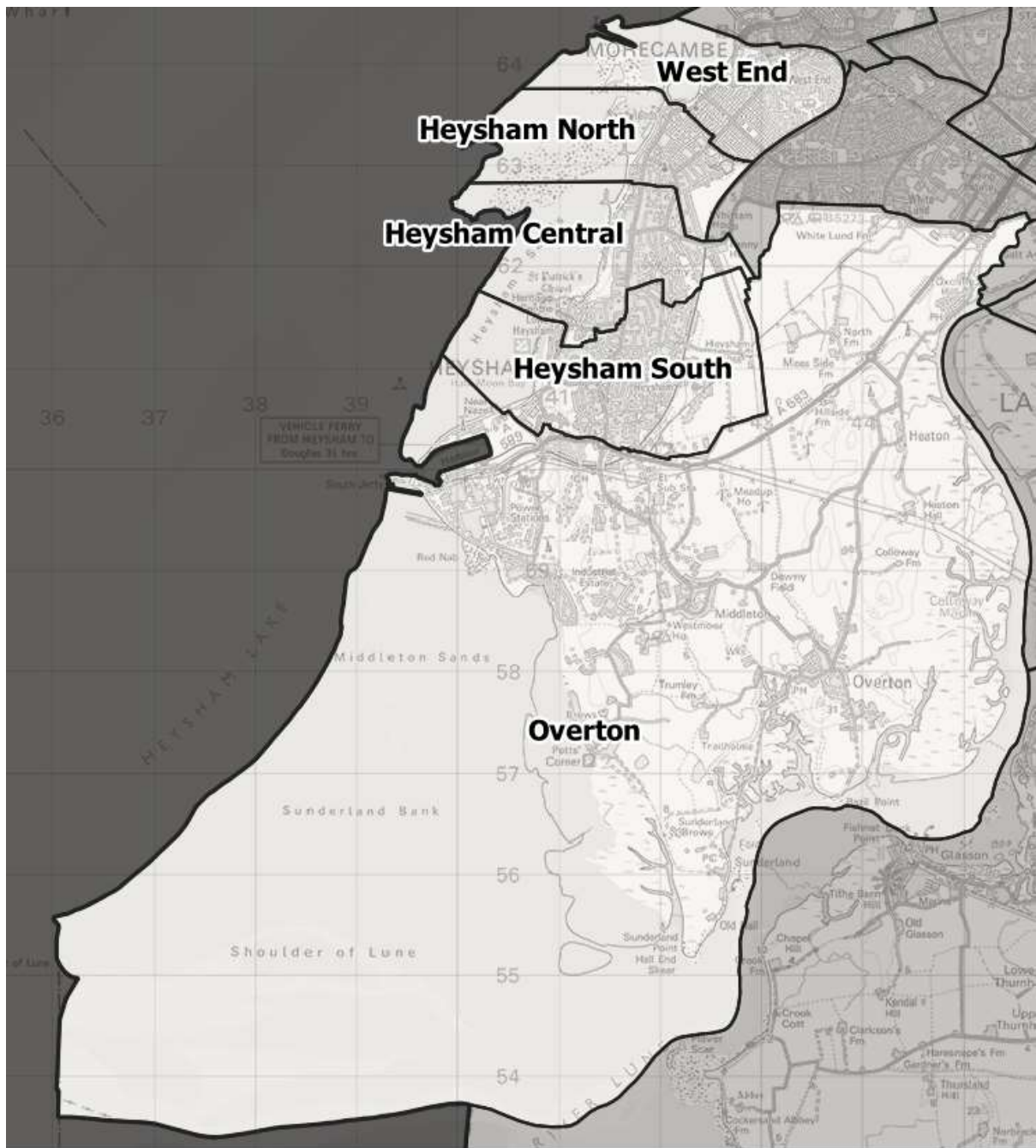
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Bare	3	2%
Poulton	2	-1%
Torrisholme	2	1%
Westgate	3	-1%

Bare, Poulton, Torrisholme and Westgate

74 Our draft recommendations for this area proposed no amendments to the existing wards. We received one comment on these proposals during the consultation period. As set in paragraph 68, a local resident proposed the railway as the boundary between Bare ward and Bolton & Slyne. For the reasons discussed in paragraph 70, we are unable to adopt this proposal.

75 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Bare, Poulton, Torrisholme and Westgate wards as final. Our proposed wards will have electoral variances of 2% more, 1% fewer, 1% more and 1% fewer electors than the district average by 2027, respectively.

West End, Heysham and Overton



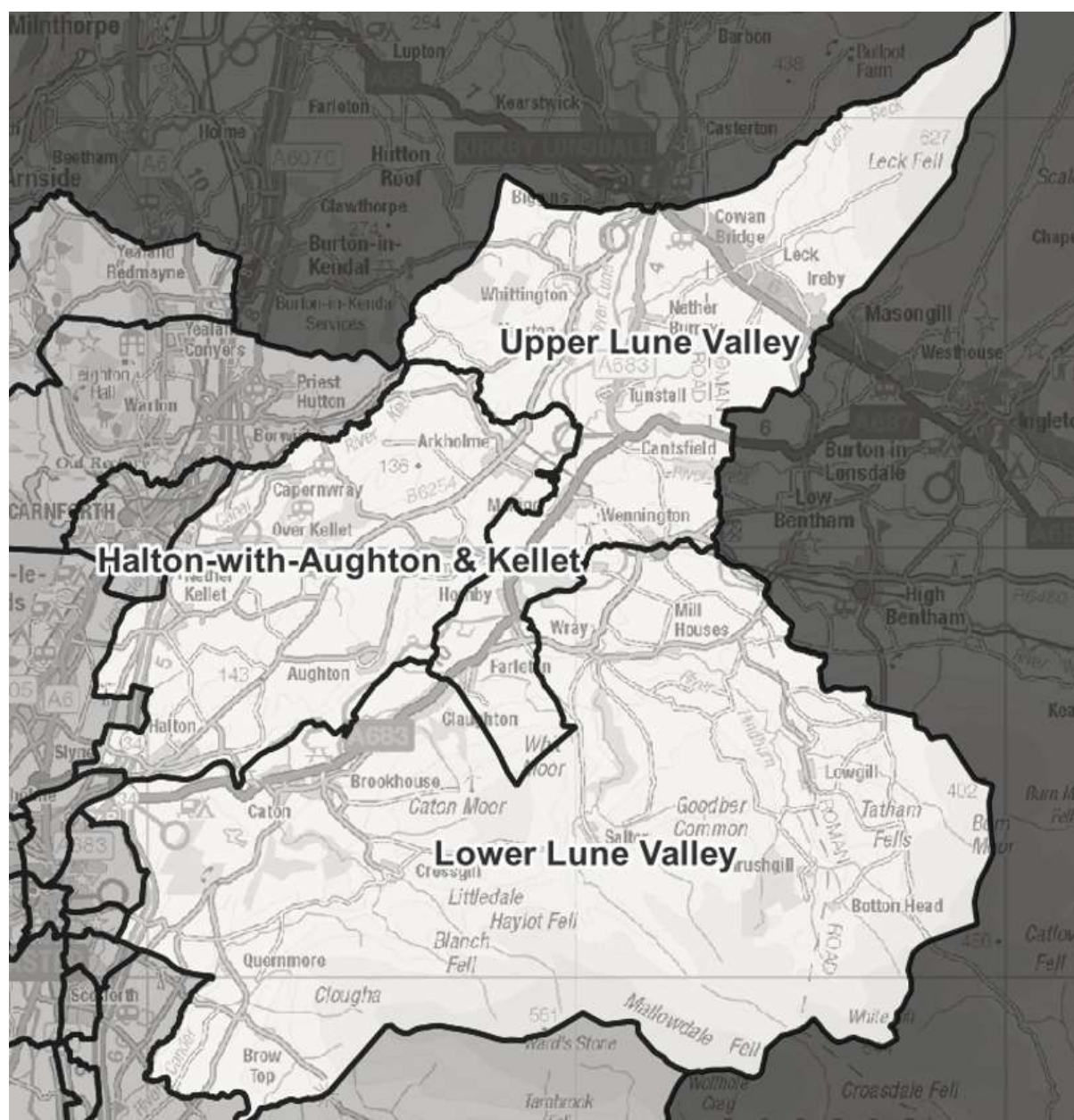
Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Heysham Central	2	-7%
Heysham North	2	-8%
Heysham South	3	-5%
Overton	1	5%
West End	3	-6%

West End, Heysham and Overton

76 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the existing wards, subject to some minor amendments including a name change from Harbour ward to West End ward. In response to our draft recommendations, we received no comments on this area.

77 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Heysham Central, Heysham North, Heysham South, Overton and West End wards as final. Our proposed wards will have electoral variances of 7% fewer, 8% fewer, 5% fewer, 5% more and 6% fewer electors than the district average by 2027, respectively.

Rural East



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet	2	10%
Lower Lune Valley	2	2%
Upper Lune Valley	1	5%

Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet, Lower Lune Valley and Upper Lune Valley

78 Our further draft recommendations in this area proposed a two-councillor Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet ward, which included the parishes of Nether Kellet and Over Kellet, as well as Gressingham and Arkholme-with-Cawood; a single-councillor Upper Lune Valley ward identical to the existing ward, with the exception of

Gressingham; and a two-councillor Lower Lune Valley identical to the existing ward. Our proposed pattern of wards reflected community evidence we received linking Halton with Over Kellet and Nether Kellet, constrained the geographical expanse of the rural wards as much as appeared practicable (again reflecting local evidence), and provided for reasonable levels of electoral equality.

79 In response to our consultation on the further draft recommendations, we received four submissions relating to this area. The majority of the submissions expressed support for the further draft recommendations, although we also received an objection from a resident who argued that Arkholme-with-Cawood parish should be included in Upper Lune Valley ward. However, such an arrangement would create an electoral imbalance of 22% in Upper Lune Valley. We have therefore not adopted this proposal as part of our final recommendations.

80 Consequently, we are confirming our further draft recommendations for this area as final. Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet, Lower Lune Valley and Upper Lune Valley wards would have 10% more, 2% more and 5% more electors than the district average by 2027, respectively.

Conclusions

81 The table below provides a summary as to the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality in Lancaster, referencing the 2020 and 2027 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	2027
Number of councillors	61	61
Number of electoral wards	27	27
Average number of electors per councillor	1,773	1,848
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendations

Lancaster City Council should be made up of 61 councillors serving 27 wards representing four single-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and 11 three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Lancaster.

You can also view our final recommendations for Lancaster on our interactive maps at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Parish electoral arrangements

82 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.

83 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, Lancaster City 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.

84 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 Scotforth Parish Council, Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council and Halton-with-Aughton Parish Council.

85 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Scotforth parish.

Final recommendations

Scotforth Parish Council should comprise five councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Scotforth	3
Burrow Heights	1
University	1

86 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Slyne-with-Hest parish.

Final recommendations

Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Slyne-with-Hest North	5
Slyne-with-Hest South	2

87 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Halton-with-Aughton parish.

Final recommendations

Halton-with-Aughton Parish Council should comprise eight councillors, as at present, representing two wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Halton-with-Aughton East	6
Halton-with-Aughton West	2

What happens next?

88 We have now completed our review of Lancaster. 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

89 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 Lancaster

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Bare	3	5,596	1,865	5%	5,679	1,893	2%
2	Bolton & Slyne	3	5,959	1,986	12%	6,066	2,022	9%
3	Bowerham	2	3,884	1,942	10%	4,033	2,016	9%
4	Bulk	3	5,564	1,855	5%	6,076	2,025	10%
5	Carnforth & Millhead	3	4,668	1,556	-12%	4,938	1,646	-11%
6	Castle	3	5,340	1,780	0%	5,787	1,929	4%
7	Ellel	2	3,795	1,898	7%	4,053	2,027	10%
8	Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet	2	3,738	1,869	5%	4,065	2,033	10%
9	Heysham Central	2	3,445	1,723	-3%	3,447	1,724	-7%
10	Heysham North	2	3,304	1,652	-7%	3,404	1,702	-8%
11	Heysham South	3	5,114	1,705	-4%	5,254	1,751	-5%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
12 John O'Gaunt	2	3,433	1,717	-3%	3,576	1,788	-3%
13 Lower Lune Valley	2	3,699	1,850	4%	3,785	1,892	2%
14 Marsh	3	5,053	1,684	-5%	5,400	1,800	-3%
15 Overton	1	1,890	1,890	7%	1,939	1,939	5%
16 Poulton	2	3,630	1,815	2%	3,658	1,829	-1%
17 Scale Hall	3	5,096	1,699	-4%	5,286	1,762	-5%
18 Scotforth East	2	3,392	1,696	-4%	3,528	1,764	-5%
19 Scotforth West	2	3,867	1,934	9%	4,071	2,035	10%
20 Silverdale	1	1,664	1,664	-6%	1,695	1,695	-8%
21 Skerton	3	5,009	1,670	-6%	5,507	1,836	-1%
22 Torrisholme	2	3,649	1,825	3%	3,716	1,858	1%
23 University	2	2,933	1,467	-17%	3,112	1,556	-16%
24 Upper Lune Valley	1	1,834	1,834	3%	1,935	1,935	5%
25 Warton	1	1,965	1,965	11%	2,036	2,036	10%

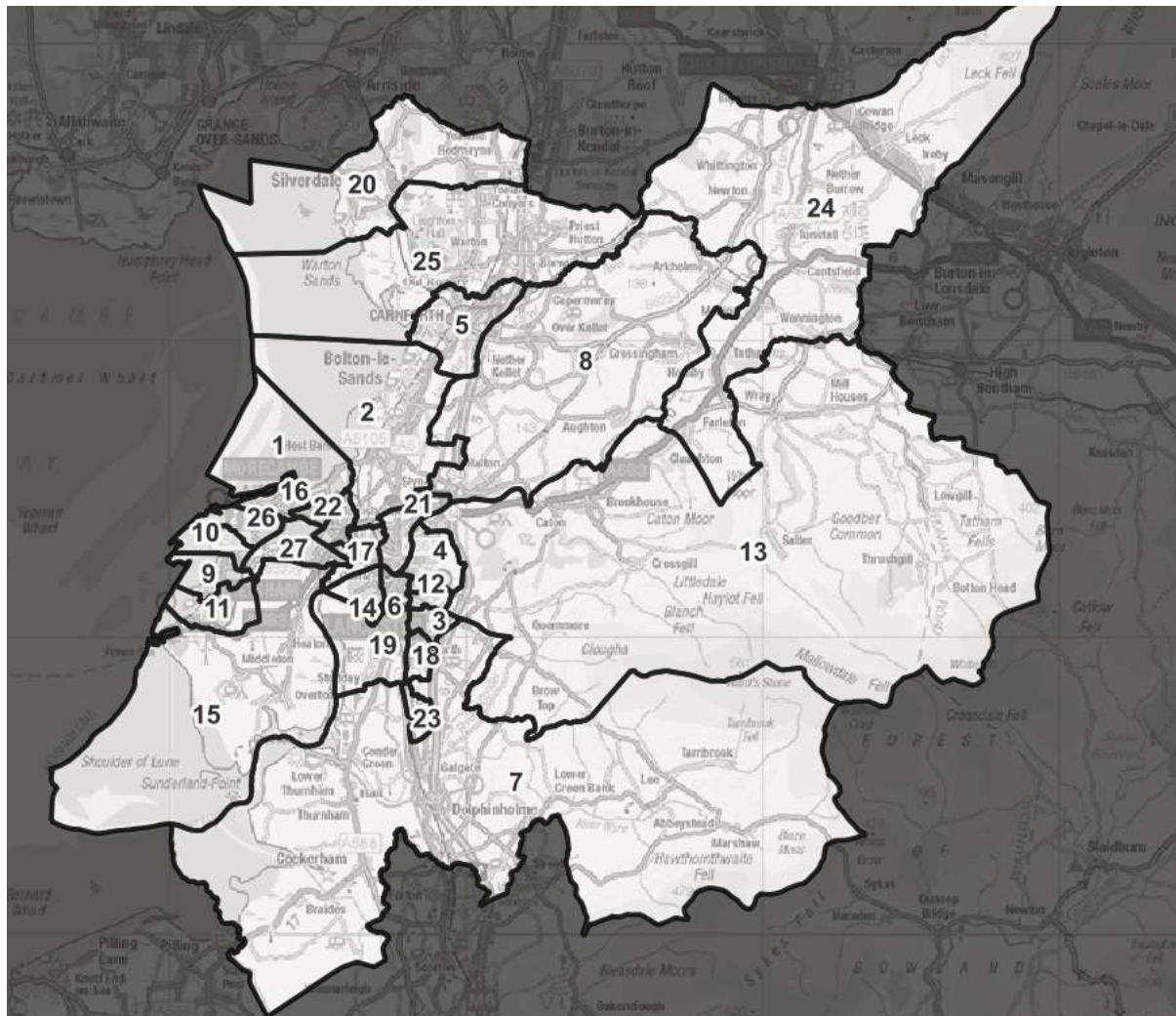
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2020)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2027)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
26 West End	3	5,207	1,736	-2%	5,207	1,736	-6%
27 Westgate	3	5,417	1,806	2%	5,482	1,827	-1%
Totals	61	108,145	-	-	112,735	-	-
Averages	-	-	1,773	-	-	1,848	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Lancaster City 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 district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



Number	Ward name
1	Bare
2	Bolton & Slyne
3	Bowerham
4	Bulk
5	Carnforth & Millhead
6	Castle
7	Ellel
8	Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet
9	Heysham Central
10	Heysham North
11	Heysham South
12	John O'Gaunt
13	Lower Lune Valley

14	Marsh
15	Overton
16	Poulton
17	Scale Hall
18	Scotforth East
19	Scotforth West
20	Silverdale
21	Skerton
22	Torrisholme
23	University
24	Upper Lune Valley
25	Warton
26	West End
27	Westgate

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/lancaster

Appendix C

Submissions received in response to our draft recommendations

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

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

Political Groups

- Lancaster & Fleetwood Constituency Labour Party
- Lancaster & Morecambe Liberal Democrats
- Submission of 48 names submitted by Lancaster Labour Party

MPs

- Cat Smith MP

Councillors

- Councillor D. Brookes
- Councillor P. Stubbins
- Councillor J. Pritchard
- Councillor J. Wood
- Councillor A. Whitehead
- Councillors O. Robinson, K. Whearty & F. Askari
- Councillor Dr E. Lewis

Town & Parish Councils

- Scotforth Parish Council
- Slyne-with-Hest Parish Council

Local Organisations

- Barton Road Centre
- Executive Committee of Lancaster University Students' Union

Local Residents

- 12 local residents

Submissions received in response to our further draft recommendations

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

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

Political Groups

- Lancaster & Fleetwood Constituency Labour Party
- North Lancashire Green Party

MPs

- Cat Smith MP

Councillors

- Councillor J. Wood
- Councillor A. Whitehead

Town & Parish Councils

- Borwick Parish Meeting
- Heaton-with-Oxcliffe Parish Council

Local Organisations

- Executive Committee of Lancaster University Students' Union

Local Residents

- 15 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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