

# Cumberland

## Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]  
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Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Cumberland

Dear LGBCE

Following the commencement of the second part of the LCBCE enquiry into Cumberland Council, I hope that I might be able to contribute in a personal capacity.

From [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Though one-day I might consider standing for Cumberland Council, I am presently happily following another pathway at present.

Both areas underwent enhanced and sustained levels of housing increases, with the formation of Crindledyke, Windsor Way, Oakleigh Fields and Eden Gate being for such examples, in all I estimate that across the two wards [REDACTED] 1,000 homes were built and a further 800 applied for (some approved but not yet built). In my experience most development tends to be concentrated in certain wards (Wetheral, Dalston and the Garden Village area being good examples of current areas). I always tried to engage fully with the planning process and spent many additional hours as a Councillor reading reports, speaking to residents/parish councils and communicating with planners/stake-holders and applicants, all which a Councillor from an area that doesn't have housing pressures. I once kept an informal time-sheet in relation to one application and by the end of this, the amount of time invested was 68 hours (i.e. 1.75 working weeks). I would hope that this could be factored into your considerations. It was for the most part a pleasure to represent residents, however the work in relation to planning took some time, and I think in

areas such as Cummersdale, the Garden Village, Brampton, and Wetheral where these housing issues regularly occur, where possible it would help the elected members to have a slightly lower electorate to start with, to reflect that to some extent that their duties will have an enhanced planning element.

I also consider that we should see the opportunity of the boundary review to 'reset' current boundaries. In areas such as Windsor Way and Glaramara Drive, housing expansion has resulted in overspill into two or more divisions. In all honesty, this doesn't help residents in contacting a councillor on an issue, as it often results in the wrong Councillor being contacted in error. At its worst it leads to duplication. I once remember residents calling a meeting for a planned development on Windsor Way and residents asking their Councillors to attend. In total this was 8 Councillors. I would hope that in considering boundary lines, consideration might be made to the above issues.

Yours sincerely

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## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*