

# Cumberland

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** North Carlisle wards

See attached

## Attached Documents:

- cumberland-liberal-democrats-lgbce-second-consultation-response.docx

# Cumberland Liberal Democrats

## Response to proposed new warding arrangements

### Cumberland Council July 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the additional limited consultation on the proposed new ward arrangements for Cumberland Council.

These comments are submitted on behalf of the Cumberland Liberal Democrats, in partnership with the Cumberland Liberal Democrat Council Group.

#### General Comments

We support the proposal to create **55 single-member wards**, as we believe this provides the most consistent and effective pattern of representation across the authority.

#### Urban Carlisle (North of the River Eden)

The Cumberland Liberal Democrats support the Commission's recommendations set out in **paragraphs 57 and 62** of the draft proposals for North Carlisle.

We particularly welcome the Commission's acceptance, in paragraph 62, of the ward name changes proposed by the Liberal Democrats. These are:

- *Etterby & Stanwix West* renamed to **Stanwix West & Etterby**
- *Stanwix & Houghton* renamed to **Stanwix East & Houghton**

These revised ward names are used throughout this submission.

We also support the Commission's conclusion in paragraph 57 that the **River Eden constitutes a strong physical and community boundary** between the north and south of the city.

We explicitly endorse the Commission's reasoning in paragraph 57. The River Eden clearly limits the practical options for ward expansion across the city, and it is therefore reasonable and proportionate to accept a higher level of electoral variance than would normally be preferred in order to avoid creating wards that lack coherence or fail to reflect established communities.

Paragraph 57 represents an appropriate application of the Commission's statutory criteria, recognising that electoral equality must be balanced against community identity and the need for effective local government. This establishes an important principle within the draft recommendations: that respect for geography and

community cohesion may legitimately outweigh marginal numerical improvements. We believe this principle should be applied consistently when considering the alternative options outlined in paragraphs 58 and 59.

### **Objection to a Two-Councillor Ward in North Carlisle**

We do **not** support the creation of a two-councillor ward combining **Lowry Hill & Crindledyke** with **Stanwix East & Houghton**.

This proposal would merge areas with distinct neighbourhood identities, differing local priorities, and separate patterns of movement into a single ward. In our view, this would:

- Dilute the individual character of established communities;
- Reduce clarity for residents about which councillor represents their area;
- Risk fragmented accountability, particularly where councillors are from different political parties.

While the resulting ward would achieve numerical balance, it would be less meaningful and less intelligible to residents as a unit of representation.

### **Objection to a Three-Councillor Ward Covering All of North Carlisle**

We also oppose the proposal to combine the entirety of North Carlisle into a single three-councillor ward.

Such a ward would:

- Be geographically extensive and socially diverse;
- Lack a clear or shared community identity;
- Reduce councillor accessibility and visibility;
- Encourage diffusion of responsibility rather than clear ownership of casework.

Although this option would deliver a low forecast electoral variance, it would do so at the expense of meaningful community representation and would not reflect how residents perceive or experience their local communities.

**Councillor Tim Pickstone**  
**Group Leader, Cumberland Liberal Democrats**