As one of the Councillors who proposed the boundary changes in line with the LGBCE recommendations, I would like to confirm my support for the proposed changes. While I looked at the differing choices, after talking with local residents about their thoughts it was decided to keep things simple. The merging of Kingsfold and Middleforth is in line with the way it is Policed by the Lancashire Constabulary. There were comments from other councillors that Kingsfold would lose its identity. Kingsfold has already been shared between Middleforth and Charnock, is still identified as Kingsfold on the map and local road signs. There were comments from councillors too that Kingsfold should be a single member ward, because of the differing type of people, this I find unacceptable. The community there is spread over 4 wards, Kingsfold, Charnock, Middleforth and Broad Oak. The only way to make a single member ward happen would be to shave off the edges of Kingsfold, I find this has been suggested to enhance political motives. On top of that, single member wards should be the last resort. For instance, if a single councillor cannot attend a meeting, is on holiday or is ill, then the ward will not be represented. With 2 or 3 members, the ward should always have a say at borough and county level. The merger of Whitefield and Howick and Priory make sense as well, although there has had to be some alterations to a few streets, which we kept to an absolute minimum, and using the roads and access by them it would be safe to say that the merger is a sensible approach and fits with the LGBCE recommendations. Charnock and Broad Oak remain almost similar with 2 members. On the whole, myself and the Labour Group looked at opening up competition. Unlike Western Parishes, where no attempt has been made to do this, or even reduce the number of councillors, though the figures have shown it was possible, I have made Penwortham somewhere that all the different parties now have to work to gain the confidence of the electorate. I would like to add a small submission about The Penwortham Community Centre and the fields next to it on Kingsfold Drive. Upon reflection, I would have liked to move them into the new Kingsfold/Middleforth ward and move the boundary to Brambles. It does seem odd that the original boundary took this, but the reasoning for it is that the Middleforth and Kingsfold Police and Communities Together meeting is held at the Community Centre and is also the base for the community Police Team. It would also boost the commitment to the Centre by residents of Kingsfold and Middleforth by the way of more council members representing it. I am happy with the ward name suggested, but, other councillors were worried about the loss of Kingsfold as a ward name. An option would be to, as Kingsfold, the place would now be split between two wards, the new "Middleforth" and the original Charnock, to rename those wards "Middleforth and Kingsfold North" and "Charnock and Kingsfold South" this is however based purely on a geographical map. The suggestion of St.Leonards will not give the new ward of Middleforth any identity, but will hide the long standing names of Kingsfold and Middleforth. An other reason for going against St.Leonards is that it relates to a church parish, and not to the wider community, especially as there are already identifiable links with Kingsfold and Middleforth and as mentioned, part of Kingsfold the place is in Charnock which falls outside the suggestion that the new "Middleforth" ward would be co-terminus with the Church Parish. I also support the Labour Groups proposals for Leyland and the Eastern Parishes. I support the proposals for Central and I have already given my views on the Western Parishes, I still would like to think that a councillor could have been removed there to show a sense of fairness and
openness. In all, I am happy that the LGBCE have looked at the proposals put forward by all groups and I am pleased that fairness and community cohesion is in abundance in the proposals.