

Allerdale District

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Comment text:

Summary counter-proposal in respect of Maryport South: Divide the proposed Maryport South three member ward into a single member Flimby Ward with 1473 electors and a two-member Ewanrigg Ward with 3077 electors. Summary counter-proposal in respect of Workington St Johns and Workington St Michaels: Include Polling Districts CW3, CW4, and CW7 in a 3-member St Johns ward with 4580 electors (1527 per councillor). The remainder of the proposed St Michaels Ward would be a 2 member ward with 2956 electors (1478 per councillor).

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ALLERDALE DISTRICT WARDS REVIEW 2016

A further submission on behalf of the Labour Group of Allerdale Councillors.

1. Maryport South

The Commission's proposed ward of Maryport South includes the distinct settlement of Flimby within an urban Maryport three-member ward.

Flimby, though part of the Maryport parish area, is a distinct community with a firm and separate identity. Many electors in Flimby have made oral representations to councillors against this proposal and in favour of seeking to retain Flimby as a separate single member ward.

Moving Whitecroft and Whitecroft Court with 92 electors from Polling District :CS5 (Glasson) to Polling District :CR (Flimby) enables retention of a single-member Flimby ward with 1473 electors. It is acknowledge to be 7% below the average proposed electorate but this is no more than the Commission is suggesting in other warding proposals; further, the proposals for housing allocations in the draft Part 2 Local Plan suggests that the electorate in this area will grow.

The rest of the proposed Maryport South ward would then have 3077 electors and be a two-member ward with 1538 electors per member. It approximates to the current Ewanrigg Ward and should be re-named "Ewanrigg".

Whitecroft and Whitecroft Court are separated from the rest of the proposed Maryport South ward by a major industrial estate. As a relatively new housing development they have no settled community links with any other area.

There are no "knock-on" effects on any other wards from this proposal.

Summary counter-proposal:

Divide the proposed Maryport South three member ward into a single member Flimby Ward with 1473 electors and a two-member Ewanrigg Ward with 3077 electors.

2. Workington St Johns / St Michaels

The Commission's proposals for Workington include the transfer of 1535 electors from the current St Johns Ward to an expanded St Michaels Ward (this area to be transferred is the Parish Ward of St Josephs, a recent invention with no purchase or identity in the community; it represents Polling Districts CW3, CW4 and CW7). There is no reason of electoral arithmetic for the proposed transfer. As the Commission's proposed area for transfer as 1535 electors, this could form a single member ward, or remain with St Johns where it currently is, or move to St Michaels, all without offence to electoral arithmetic.

However, moving this area to St Michaels does offend against community identity. There is a strong feeling in that area that it belongs in St Johns; it is the core of the Ward. The divide between St Michaels and St Johns is clearly understood in Workington, has been expressed in electoral ward terms continuously since 1884 and long before that to the two villages that originally made up Workington. Workington is the home of one of the last remaining "mass football" games, still played through the town. Its known as "Uppies and

Downies”, with St Michaels residents as the Downies and St Johns residents as the Uppies.

Representations have been made to ward councillors against the proposal to move 1535 St Johns people to St Michaels. The Commission seems to be trying to follow County Electoral Districts, but the St Johns / St Michaels boundary being followed in the Commission proposals dates only from 2011, has not found support in the community, and is opposed by the St Johns Residents Association.

This area, currently in St Johns Ward, should remain in St Johns Ward.

There are no “knock-on” effects on any other wards from this proposal.

Summary counter-proposal

Include Polling Districts CW3, CW4, and CW7 in a 3-member St Johns ward with 4580 electors (1527 per councillor).

The remainder of the proposed St Michaels Ward would be a 2 member ward with 2956 electors (1478 per councillor).

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