Full 061212
ITEM 16

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND – REVISED PROPOSALS FOR PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES – RECOMMENDATION FROM ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr John Bowman

LEAD OFFICER: Tim Capper, Democratic Services Manager

REPORT AUTHORS: Tim Capper

Summary	Reports revised proposals for new Parliamentary Constituencies for Cumbria
Recommendation:	That Council considers the views of the Electoral Review Working Party that representations are made to the Boundary Commission for England to the effect that Seascale ward should be included in the West Cumbria constituency and Dalton ward in the Penrith and Solway constituency.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Boundary Commission for England is required periodically to review the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies in England, and is currently conducting a review based on the rules laid down by Parliament in the Parliamentary Constituencies and Voting System Act 2011. These rules involve a significant reduction in the number of constituencies in England (from 533 to 502) and require that every constituency must have an electorate of no less than 72,810 and no more than 80,473 electors.

2 REVISED PROPOSALS

2.1 The initial Boundary Commission proposals were published in September 2011 and proposed a reduction in constituencies in Cumbria from six to five, including a proposal for a Copeland and Windermere constituency, consisting of the whole of the Borough of Copeland, plus Harrington ward from Allerdale and ten wards from the Windermere area of South Lakeland.

2.2 The initial proposals were considered by the Council at its meeting on 1 December 2011, and as a result the Council submitted an objection to the proposal, along with a large number of other organisations and individuals.

2.3 As a result of the representations and objections received, the Boundary Commission has now published revised proposals which are are radically different from the initial proposals. The revised proposals include a new West Cumbria constituency consisting of the Borough of Copeland but without the wards of Seascale, Bootle, Millom Without, Haverigg, Newtown and Holborn Hill to the south, which will be part of the new Barrow

and Furness constituency; and with the addition of the Allerdale wards of Harrington, Clifton, Dalton, Moss Bay, Moor Close, St John's, St Michael's, Seaton, Flimby, Ewanrigg, Ellenborough and Netherhall to the north. This results in a constituency with an electorate of 79,471, which is within the criteria for electorates per constituency in the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011. Consultation on the revised proposals runs until 10 December 2012.

2.4 The revised proposals are similar to the counter-proposals put forward by the Council and others at the consultation on the original proposals in 2011, the only differences being that our proposals included Seascale ward in the West Cumbria constituency, whereas the Boundary Commission includes Seascale in Barrow and Furness; and the Boundary Commission proposals include the Dalton ward of Allerdale in the new West Cumbria constituency, whereas our own counter-proposals did not.

2.5 An extract from the Boundary Commission report showing its reasoning behind the revised proposals for Cumbria is attached at Appendix "A" and a plan showing the proposed new West Cumbria constituency is at Appendix "B".

3 ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY

3.1 The Working Party has considered the revised proposals and generally welcomes them as being, in broad terms, similar to the counter-proposals put forward by the Council in response to the first consultation. However on a point of detail, the Working Party notes that the revised proposals, unlike our counter-proposals, effectively divide the cluster of nuclear industry sites in the Seascale/Drigg area between two constituencies – Barrow and Furness (Drigg LLWR site) and West Cumbria (main Sellafield site).

3.2 The Working Party considers that there would be merit in including all the main nuclear sites in West Cumbria in a single constituency, and are therefore recommending that representations are made to the Boundary Commission to the effect that the boundary between West Cumbria and Barrow and Furness should follow the parish boundary between Seascale and Bootle/Millom Without; and that in the north, Dalton Ward should be included in the Penrith and Solway constituency. This configuration would result in electorates of 76,975 for Barrow and Furness; 80,314 for West Cumbria; and 78,765 for Penrith and Solway.

4 CONCLUSION

4.1 Council is asked to consider the Working Party's recommendation that a further representation is made to the Boundary Commission during the current consultation.

List of Background Documents

List of Consultees: **Portfolio Holder**

Appendix 'A'.

(paragraphs AC410–AC418) is the key issue to resolve; it is not unusual for universities and their halls of residence to be some distance apart and in different constituencies and our view is that must be the case here.

AC426 We have been able to maintain the relationship between the Mossley Hill and Greenbank wards which cover the halls of residence by adding them to the newly configured Garston and Halewood constituency, along with the displaced St Michael's ward from Liverpool, Riverside. This ward has good public transport and road links with many other parts of the new constituency, builds on existing Parliamentary boundaries, and respects existing local authority ties. We recommend this new constituency retains the Garston and Halewood name of its predecessor.

AC427 Knowsley Council and others have argued that it is inappropriate to pair together Speke-Garston and the three Halewood wards because the Speke Boulevard dual carriageway, the A561, acts as a physical barrier between the two communities. They argue it is inconsistent with the Commission's proposals in other parts of the country where such barriers are seen as grounds for assigning wards that border them to separate constituencies. Our view is that each case must be taken on its merits. In this case, both Speke-Garston and the Halewood wards are already in the same constituency and we see no compelling case for altering that.

AC428 For completeness, we expand on our decision not to endorse the Liberal Democrats' counter-proposals to extend the sub-region westwards to embrace Halton and Warrington wards. We have found it entirely possible to construct ten constituencies for the Merseyside (less the Wirral) sub-region which meet the statutory requirements. To follow the Liberal Democrats' counter-proposals would, in our view, cause greater upheaval to our recommendations for Cheshire and the Wirral than is merited.

AC429 To summarise, we have made recommendations which:

a. retain three existing constituencies – Knowsley, St Helens North, and St Helens South and Whiston – unchanged;

b. make minor changes to four further existing constituencies – Southport, Bootle and North Liverpool, Crosby and Maghull, and Liverpool West Derby – to enable them to exceed the lower electoral quota limit;

c. have combined large elements of the remaining existing constituencies to create new ones which retain or build upon strong local community ties; and

d. have produced less overlap of constituencies and local government boundaries than did the initial proposals.

We have not pursued any counter-proposals which suggested splitting wards or crossing out of the Merseyside (less the Wirral) sub-region. We now move from Merseyside and northwards into our final sub-region of Cumbria.

Cumbria

AC430 There are currently six constituencies for this sub-region, which is coterminous with the County of Cumbria. Each of the existing constituencies has an electorate that is smaller than the electoral quota lower limit of 72,810. It is not possible, therefore, to retain any of the existing constituencies unchanged.

AC431 The Commission proposed that there be five constituencies, a reduction of one, all of which can be contained within the boundaries of the sub-region. There was widespread acceptance that this was sensible. However, there was also widespread concern that the Commission had fundamentally misunderstood the geographical and demographic characteristics of the sub-region such that its proposals for each of the new constituencies, with the exception of Carlisle (see paragraphs AC442–AC447), were flawed and should not be allowed to stand. The strength of feeling on this was strong, ranging from surprise to anger to incredulity, matched by a belief that had the Commission had the time or opportunity to visit the area before making its initial proposals, it is unlikely that it would have proceeded in the way it did.

AC432 We were fortunate to have had an opportunity to visit Cumbria following the public hearing in Carlisle, and were quickly able to grasp the impracticality of the initial proposals for the four proposed constituencies outside Carlisle.

AC433 Cumbria is bounded to the west by the Irish Sea, to the north by the Solway Firth and the Scottish border, to the east by the Pennines and the counties of Durham, Northumberland, and North Yorkshire, and to the south by Lancashire and Morecambe Bay. The M6 motorway runs the whole length of the county.

AC434 It is one of the most sparsely populated counties in the United Kingdom, with a population of around half a million and a density of just 73.4 people per square kilometre. Cumbria contains both the largest mountains and the biggest lakes in England. It is these significant geographical constraints that determine the natural boundaries of the county. They also determine the socio-economic divisions within Cumbria, the nature of the industries that can be and are pursued, the traditional communities and service centres, and the transport links that serve and connect them.

AC435 The sub-region was graphically described to us as a bowler hat with a large central mountainous dome in the middle, dented by the valleys created by natural drainage flows and watersheds, and a population largely gathered around the rim. We were told by Rory Stewart, MP for Penrith and the Border (Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, p 9) that Wordsworth likened the geography of the Lake District to a wheel: Scafell Pike is the hub, from which stretch the valleys and watersheds in every direction, like spokes.

AC436 We discovered, too, that these natural features also create real difficulties if one goes against, rather than with, the flow. Travel eastwards or westwards across the mountain ranges is largely possible only by using a small number of mountain passes – for example, Hardknott and Wrynose – which, while a testing drive in decent weather but with high risk of delays, are often quite literally impassable in the winter months. Our attention was drawn by the Workington Constituency Labour Party (IP/018940) to Cumbria County Council's highways guide to winter driving in the county, which shows that no priority is attached to keeping these passes open. Many people have told us that such routes should not be relied upon as communication links. We were grateful, too, to those who took the trouble to show that public transport routes also reflected the geographical topography, with journeys from east to west (and vice versa) often taking several hours and rarely without the need to change buses or trains.

AC437 Communities in Cumbria focus on and around six main 'service centre' towns: Carlisle, Workington, Whitehaven, Barrow-in-Furness, Penrith, and Kendal. People look to these centres to meet their schooling, health, community, workplace, and market needs. There is little movement between areas in terms of people travelling to use alternative service centres. Time and again, people told us that they had never visited a particular town, despite its relative proximity, as it was not their natural service centre. Any proposals for new constituencies must reflect the importance of these centres, since it is around such centres that local ties have been established.

AC438 We take account of these considerations as we set out our recommendations for the five new constituencies for Cumbria and our reasons for arriving at that configuration.

AC439 There was much similarity between the counter-proposals of the three main political parties. All were united in the view that, in drawing up its initial proposals, the Commission had failed to take sufficient account of the impact that the geography of the sub-region has on community, communications, and transport links.

AC440 The Labour Party (IP/025315) presented an alternative (to the other parties, as well as to the initial proposals) approach to the Carlisle constituency. It, too, took the City of Carlisle as its core, but it looked west, to embrace Dalston and the Solway wards[33] of the Borough of Allerdale in order to make up the electoral shortfall, rather than east, as in the initial proposals, to follow the City of Carlisle boundary.

AC441 The counter-proposals from all the main political parties are similar, Carlisle apart, with just minor variations regarding the drawing of the boundaries for the West Cumbria, Penrith and Solway, and Westmorland and Lonsdale constituencies. We note that the Conservative Party (CR/004791) would be content with whichever of the configurations the Commission might ultimately decide upon. Another local, compromise solution known as 'The Fairer Alternative' was commended to us by a good number of people. The representation of Miss Mary Burkett (IP/023401) was typical. We are not sure who the actual author of this counter-proposal is, but we have taken it into our consideration for the way forward in the Cumbria sub-region.

AC442 The initial proposal for the Carlisle constituency included all but one of the City of Carlisle's electoral wards. The electorate of the City of Carlisle is such that it was not possible to include all its wards in the proposed new constituency without exceeding the upper electorate range limit. This proposed constituency stretched north to the border with Scotland, and embraced a number of largely rural wards to the east of the city that currently sit in the existing Penrith and the Border Parliamentary constituency. In its initial proposals, the Commission considered that the Dalston ward, for reasons of both geography and electoral size, should be detached and linked instead with its neighbouring Borough of Allerdale wards, in a proposed Workington and Keswick constituency.

AC443 This was the one proposal that had widespread support among those who made representations, including the Liberal Democrats (IP/025331), John Stevenson, MP for Carlisle (IP/011905), and Councillor Mitchelson, leader of Carlisle City Council

[33] Aspatria, Holme, Marsh, Silloth, Solway, Wampool, Waver, and Wigton.

(Carlisle public hearing, Day 2, p 12). A number of individuals, including Councillor Mallinson (Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, p 51) would have preferred Dalston ward, or parts of it (for example, in and around Carleton, where a new housing development will make its ties with the city stronger), to remain linked with its fellow city council wards, but the electoral quota rules do not allow for this.

AC444 We did review whether the argument for splitting the electoral ward to enable the Carleton area to stay within the city constituency was so compelling as to create grounds for an exception to the Commission's policy on not splitting wards, but did not find this to be the case. We received representations, too, from Dalston, including from Mr Craig Brough, county chair of the Cumbria Young Farmers (Carlisle public hearing, Day 2, p 5), who, speaking in his individual capacity as a Dalston farmer, saw Dalston as 'a very rural ward'. He recognised the difficulties facing the Commission and accepted that the alternative – linking to a neighbouring Penrith constituency – had merit. Councillor Nicola Clarke (IP/007182) argued along similar lines.

AC445 An alternative configuration for Carlisle was put forward by the Labour Party, Councillor Colin Glover (Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, pp 53–55), Carlisle City Council, and Mr Eric Martlew, former MP for Carlisle (Carlisle public hearing, Day 2, pp 42–44). It proposed that it was preferable to retain the link between Dalston and the City of Carlisle but to then link this with wards of Allerdale Borough stretching from Brough westwards along the Solway coast. This had the advantage of joining up the more industrial area of Aspatria, Wigton, and Silloth with Carlisle, making use of the new Northern Development road routes into Carlisle from the west. The effect would be to free up those rural wards east of the city to re-form much of the existing Penrith and the Border constituency.

AC446 There was little support for this to the east or elsewhere and we found that the case for including the light manufacturing centres in Allerdale Borough was less well supported than that, considered below, for bringing together the predominantly rural areas of Penrith and Solway within a single constituency. The Labour Party's counter-proposal also has the disadvantage of spreading the proposed new constituency across two local authorities, rather than just one.

AC447 We support, therefore, the initial proposals for a Carlisle constituency, as having the best regard to the local authority boundary and to local ties. We agree that the existing constituency name of Carlisle remains appropriate.

AC448 There are six recognised 'service centres' for Cumbria (paragraph AC437). The existing constituencies are so arranged that there is one 'service centre' for each constituency. With a reduction in the number of the sub-region's constituencies to five, that cannot continue to be the case.

AC449 We note that there was broad support for combining Workington and Whitehaven into a single constituency, which would unite the industrial communities along the west coast. We received many oral and written representations – for example from the Jamie Reed, MP for Copeland (Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, p 19); Rory Stewart, MP for Penrith and the Border (IP/019309 and Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, p 8); and Tim Farron, MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale (Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, p 41) – that argued in favour of a West Cumbria constituency running up and down the coast, rather than, as in the initial

proposals, combining industrial coast communities with disparate, more rural communities spanning the Cumbrian Mountains.

AC450 Physically, the mountains are such a barrier that it is not sensible to try to embrace them in the ways proposed by the Commission. They would divide rather than integrate communities within the constituency, causing the breaking of local ties. In addition, it was argued that the interests of both industrial coastal communities and the agricultural or tourist communities, inland to the north-east and south-east, were better served by distinct Members of Parliament, who could develop specialist knowledge of the respective industries and, as a result, better represent the interests of their constituent communities in Parliament and elsewhere. Jamie Reed, MP for Copeland (Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, pp 22–23) and Councillor Karl Connor, representing Egremont North ward (Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, pp 24–26) made strong and passionate cases for an 'energy coast' constituency, with Sellafield at its heart.

AC451 There has been some debate as to where the southern reaches of this coastal constituency should lie. Both the Labour and Conservative parties, supported by Copeland Borough Council (IP/022947) and others, argued that the boundary should be between the Beckermet and Gosforth wards, where the River Calder flows directly through the Sellafield site itself. They argued that elected representatives of both this constituency and its southern neighbour would have a direct and vested interest in the development of the Sellafield site and in issues affecting its workforce, which is drawn from communities both north and south of the site.

AC452 Others, including 'The Fairer Alternative' proposals, favour the inclusion of Gosforth ward in the northern constituency, thus separating the interests of the two MPs, so that one would focus largely on Sellafield and the other on defence industry issues surrounding BAE Systems' Barrow dockyard. This suggestion attracted widespread support from many individuals across the sub-region.

AC453 There is merit in both proposals, but we are attracted to the case for drawing the boundary along the southern edge of the Gosforth ward and not splitting representation for the Sellafield site. Our recommended new constituency would have links with two local authorities, and overall, in our view, strikes a much better balance between the factors relating to geographical considerations, local ties, and existing constituencies than would the constituency outlined in the initial proposals. We recommend that it should be called West Cumbria.

AC454 Continuing south, the initial proposals for an expanded Barrow-in-Furness constituency, which would have extended west along Morecambe Bay to include the two Grange-over-Sands wards, met with considerable opposition on two main grounds.

AC455 First, there is a rail link but no road connecting the Furness peninsula in the west and the Cartmel peninsula in the east. Second, the towns and villages on the Cartmel peninsula look to Kendal as their natural service centre (see above) rather than to Barrow, as was explained by, among others, the Lower Allithwaite Parish Council (IP/021244), Tim Farron, MP for Westmorland and Lonsdale (IP/022537), and Councillor Mary Wilson (IP/018234). Traditionally, the Cartmel peninsula has formed part of Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency.

AC456 We accept the case put to us that, apart from the rail link, connections between the Furness and Cartmel peninsulas are poor. We recommend instead, having regard both to geographical constraints and to local ties, that the existing Barrow constituency should extend northwards up to and including the Seascale ward, to enable it to exceed the lower electorate range limit. In doing so, and although the proposed constituency would relate to three different local authorities, we believe our recommendation takes better account of the other statutory factors, particularly with regard to the boundaries of existing constituencies, accessibility, and local ties.

AC457 We received representations from Ulverston Conservative Branch (IP/021261), which expressed concerns about the correct naming of this enlarged constituency, proposing instead the name of Furness Peninsula. On balance, we recommend the retention of the existing constituency name of Barrow and Furness.

AC458 We are left, then, with the very large, predominantly rural area stretching from Morecambe Bay in the south to the Solway coast in the north-west, and from the Cumbrian Mountains in the south-west to the county border in the east. It contains the remaining two 'service centres' of Kendal and Penrith, the Central and Northern Lakes tourist areas, and the sparsely populated, dairy-farming hinterlands to the north and east. We were fortunate that there was considerable consensus, based on geographical considerations as well as on socio-economic and demographic characteristics, as to where the natural divisions lie and which allow for two evenly sized electorates.

AC459 For the reasons of geography set out above, we have rejected the initial proposals to join Copeland, on the coast, to Windermere and the Central Lakes area of the South Lakeland District across the Cumbrian Mountain range, in a proposed Copeland and Windermere constituency. This means that it is now possible to build on the existing constituency of Westmorland and Lonsdale, which is some 6,600 electors short of the minimum electorate range limit.

AC460 The heart of the existing constituency is Kendal, which sits in the middle of the South Lakeland District bowl, and through which all the main transport routes pass. These include, perhaps not surprisingly, the A6 and A685 roads, as well as good public transport services that connect Kendal and the Central and Southern Lakes with the towns of Kirkby Stephen and Appleby-in-Westmorland to the north-east.

AC461 We make the comment that this is not surprising as these towns were part of the historic county of Westmorland until 1974, and indeed Appleby was its county town. The extension of the existing constituency northwards is supported by all the main parties and by many individual commentators, including, for example, Councillor Andy Connell, deputy mayor of Appleby-in-Westmorland (Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, p 5) and Mr Peter Dudek (IP/012058).

AC462 There is a division of opinion, mainly on the part of the Liberal Democrats, as to whether the Eden wards of Shap and Crosby Ravensworth should be included in this new constituency. These views are not strongly expressed and, as the majority, including those who favour 'The Fairer Alternative', place these wards outside the constituency, we have

decided to place these two wards in a northern Penrith and Solway constituency.

AC463 There are also some, for example in the Long Marton ward, who look north to Penrith as their service centre, rather than to Kendal; Eden District Council (IP/023283) for one argued this case. We accept that residents of Long Marton ward (which has an electorate of just 988) are more likely to look north to Penrith than are their neighbours in the two Appleby wards, who historically have looked south towards Kendal. Consequently we exclude that ward from the recommended constituency, which should inherit the name Westmorland and Lonsdale from the existing constituency. This constituency reflects strongly the geography of the region, local ties, and communication links, and builds on existing local and Parliamentary boundaries.

AC464 This leaves, finally, the towns of Penrith, Keswick, and Cockermouth, and the rural hinterlands to the east and west. This area, from the Eden Valley to the Solway Plain, as we heard from Rory Stewart MP at the public hearing (Carlisle public hearing, Day 1, pp 10–11) and in writing from Eden District Council, is one of the most sparsely populated in England. Furthermore, the existing Penrith and the Border constituency has more self-employed people than any other constituency in Britain, has extremely low unemployment and crime rates, and is dominated by dairy farming: it is the largest producer of milk in England.

AC465 The three northern lakes link the three main towns. Farmers take their stock to the Penrith Mart and the agricultural college is at Newton Rigg, just outside Penrith. Both Rory Stewart MP and members of the National Farmers Union, orally at the public hearings and in written representations, stressed the importance of ensuring representation at Westminster that has a clear focus on, and knowledge of, the issues facing rural areas and livestock farming (in much the same way as the coastal MPs specialise in the energy and defence industries). They argued that a constituency drawn from the wards of the District of Eden and the Borough of Allerdale, with the overflow Dalston ward from Carlisle, would provide such a clear focus.

AC466 We recommend the creation of a new Penrith and Solway constituency. This constituency reflects strongly the geography, local ties, and communication links of the region.

AC467 To summarise:

a. We adopt the Commission's initial proposals for a Carlisle constituency.

b. We recommend four new constituencies that build on but reconfigure the existing constituencies of Copeland, Barrow-in-Furness, Westmorland and Lonsdale, and Penrith and the Border to reflect the loss of the sixth existing constituency of Workington (now subsumed into the new Penrith and Solway, and West Cumbria constituencies).

Conclusions and recommendations

AC468 We set out below a summary of our conclusions as to the recommended constituencies within the North West. We follow the course already adopted, of setting out those conclusions by reference to the five sub-regions.

AC469 At the same time we have indicated the names of the respective constituencies.

AC470 In general terms, except where otherwise stated, we have adopted the name of the constituency as set out in the initial

proposals. We have taken this course where our recommendations coincide with the initial proposals or where the change that we envisage is of a limited nature, such as not to warrant any alteration.

AC471 Where we have departed from the name as designated in the initial proposals, our default position has been to use the existing name of the constituency where that is appropriate. Failing that, we have adopted the name that reflects those representations that were made to us, orally or in writing, concerning names. Where appropriate, as set out below, we have utilised a new name that reflects the principal town(s), particular geographical features, or area.

Cheshire and the Wirral

AC472 Under our recommendations we have maintained the initial proposals in respect of six of the 13 constituencies in this sub-region, plus a cross-county boundary constituency at Poynton.

AC473 We recommend the same names be adopted for four of them – Chester, Congleton, Crewe and Nantwich, and Macclesfield – and that the names of the remaining two – Wirral Deeside and Eddisbury – should be changed from the initial proposals although their configuration remains the same.

AC474 Congleton, and Crewe and Nantwich remain the same as the existing constituencies.

AC475 There were three constituencies that required only minimal change from the existing constituency in terms of ward movement, namely Wallasey, Birkenhead, and Tatton.

AC476 The following constituencies differ from the initial proposals: Mersey Banks and Weaver, Widnes and Runcorn, Warrington South, and Warrington North. We have recommended a different name in the first instance only.

AC477 We recommend the same cross-county boundary constituency at Poynton as the initial proposals.

Greater Manchester

AC478 In relation to Greater Manchester, four of our constituencies are the same as the initial proposals: Cheadle, Hazel Grove and Poynton, Stalybridge and Hyde, and Wigan. We recommend that the names of the constituencies be adopted.

AC479 However, a total of 18 of our recommended constituencies (out of a total of 26 constituencies) have required no, or minimal, change to the existing constituency.

AC480 The existing constituencies which are retained are Heywood and Middleton, Leigh, Makerfield, Manchester Withington, Rochdale, Salford and Eccles, Wigan, Worsley and Eccles South, and Wythenshawe and Sale East. We recommend that the existing names be retained.

AC481 The constituencies that required only minimal change are Altrincham and Sale West, Bolton South East, Bolton West, Bury South, Bury North, Cheadle, Manchester Gorton, Stretford and Urmston, and Stalybridge and Hyde. Again, since there have been only minor alterations, with one exception[34] we recommend that the existing names of the constituencies be retained.

AC482 As indicated, we adopt the Commission's proposals for a cross-sub-regional Hazel Grove and Poynton

[34] We rename Manchester Gorton as Manchester Gorton and Reddish North.

constituency, and recommend that the name be utilised.

AC483 However, we depart from the initial proposals for a cross-sub-regional constituency of Rochdale and Rawtenstall. Instead we recommend a cross-county boundary constituency north of Bolton linking it with Darwen. We recommend that the constituency be named Bolton North and Darwen, to reflect the towns that make up the constituency.

AC484 Additionally, the following six constituencies differ from the initial proposals: Blackley and Broughton, Manchester Central, Oldham West, Oldham East and Saddleworth, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Stockport. In each instance the recommended constituency still bears a very strong overlap with the existing constituency, such as to warrant the retention of the existing constituency name (save the addition of Denton to the Ashton-under-Lyne constituency).

Lancashire

AC485 We have maintained the initial proposals for eight of the 14 constituencies (to which there should be added one cross-sub-regional constituency). Of these, we recommend the same names for all of them as the initial proposals. They are: Chorley, South Ribble, Blackburn, Morecambe and Lunesdale, Blackpool North and Fleetwood, Blackpool South, Fylde, and West Lancashire.

AC486 Only West Lancashire remains the same as the existing constituency.

AC487 We have recommended minimal changes to the initial proposals for Preston, and Lancaster and Wyre; the latter also has a different name recommended to that in the initial proposals.

AC488 The following constituencies' configurations differ from the initial proposals: Ribble Valley, Burnley and Accrington East, Pendle, and Rossendale and Oswaldtwistle. Due to the significant changes in east Lancashire, we have recommended new names for the last three of these.

AC489 Our recommendation for the cross-county boundary constituency is between Bolton North and Darwen, and we have recommended this name for it.

Merseyside (less the Wirral)

AC490 Under our recommendations we have maintained the initial proposals in respect of three constituencies of the ten in this sub-region. Of these, we recommend the same names for all of them as the initial proposals which, with one minor change, mirror the existing constituencies. These are Southport, St Helens North, and St Helens South and Whiston.

AC491 We have also retained the existing constituency of Knowsley with the same name.

AC492 The existing constituency of Liverpool, West Derby required only minimal change and we have recommended retention of the existing name (albeit without the comma).

AC493 We have had to make further alterations to the initial proposals for Bootle and for Maghull, which in turn has led us to recommend that those constituencies be named Bootle and North Liverpool, and Crosby and Maghull.

AC494 More substantial changes have been required to the Commission's remaining initial proposals to create our recommended constituencies of Liverpool Wavertree, Garston and Halewood, and Liverpool Riverside and

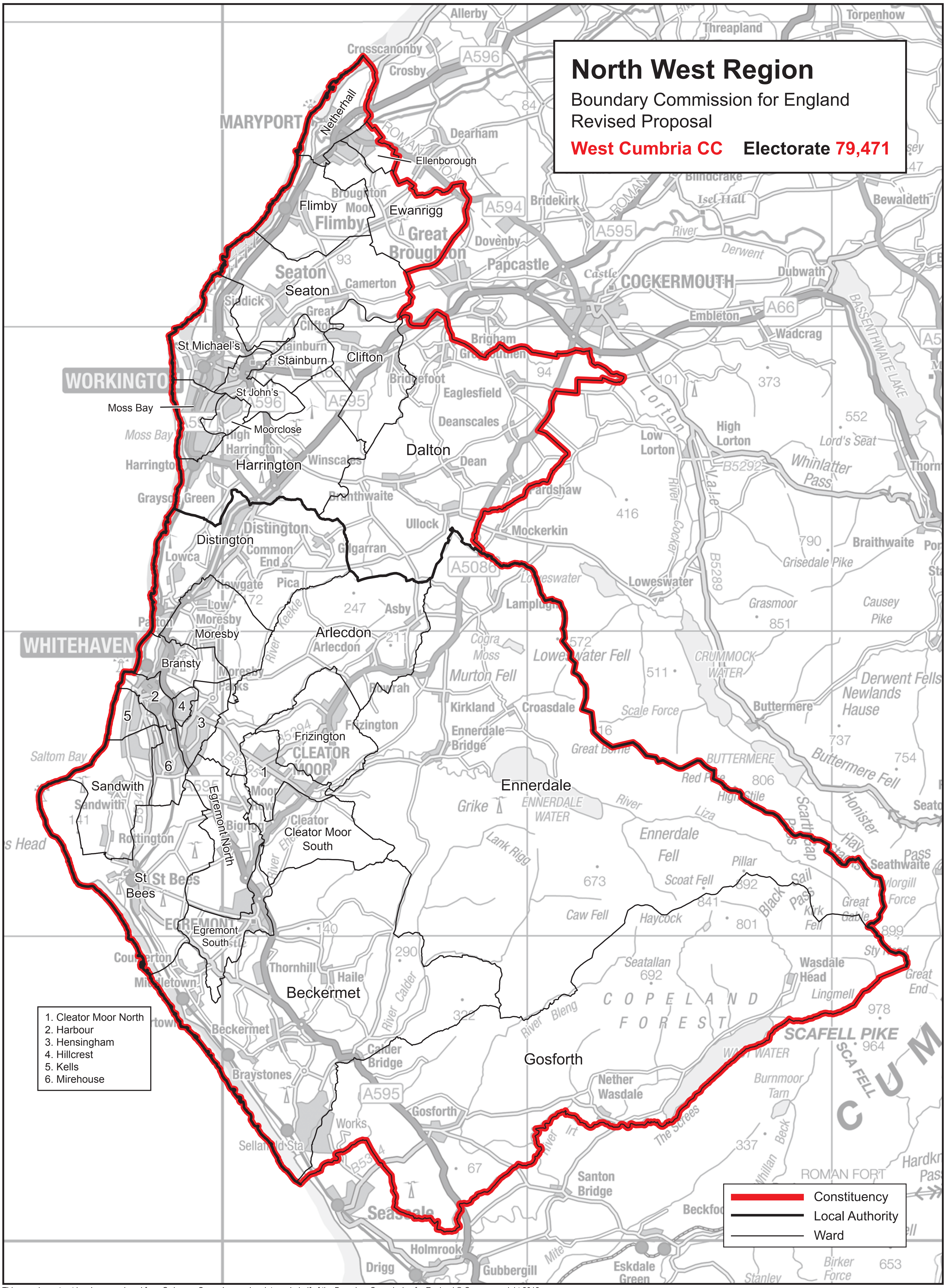
Walton. In the former two instances, the recommended constituencies still have a very strong overlap with the existing constituencies, such as to warrant the retention of the existing constituency names. In the latter case, we have combined major elements of two existing constituencies and have thus felt it appropriate to retain both names in the recommended name of the new constituency.

Cumbria

AC495 Our recommendations for Cumbria maintain the initial proposals in respect of just one constituency of the five in this sub-region. For this, we recommend the same name (Carlisle) as the initial proposals.

AC496 The remaining four constituencies all now display such substantial changes from the initial proposals that we have been unable to recommend retention of any of the proposed names. Two of our new constituencies have a strong overlap with the existing constituencies of Westmorland and Lonsdale, and Barrow and Furness, such that we recommend the retention of the existing names. For the two remaining constituencies, we recommend new names better to reflect the areas that make up the new constituencies, namely West Cumbria, and Penrith and Solway.

Mark Savill
Nicholas Elliott QC
Neil Ward
July 2012



West Cumbria CC