

# **COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OF EGREMONT PARISH**

### **INITIAL PROPOSALS**

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Copeland Borough Council has agreed to a request from Egremont Town Council to undertake a Community Governance Review of Egremont parish.

1.2 This document sets out the Borough Council's initial proposals, which will form the basis of consultation with local government electors in the consultation stage of the Review.

#### **2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 Prior to 2012 Egremont Town Council's warding arrangements comprised two parish wards, Egremont North and Egremont South, with each ward electing 5 Councillors to the Town Council.

2.2 During the period October 2010 to January 2012 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) conducted a review of electoral arrangements for Cumbria County Council, with the Review including changes to electoral division boundaries in the Egremont area. The new electoral division boundaries cut across the boundaries of the then parish wards.

2.3 In these circumstances, LGBCE is required by Section 56 and Schedule 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act, 2009 to ensure that each parish ward must lie wholly within a single electoral division of the County Council; LGBCE was therefore obliged to make consequential recommendations, subsequently passed into law, which amended Egremont Town Council's electoral arrangements from 2 parish wards (Egremont North and South) to four (Egremont North, South, Central and East). LGBCE's 2012 Final Recommendations Report recognised that while LGBCE had no discretion in this respect, nevertheless there were separate powers available to District Councils under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to undertake Community Governance Reviews which can give effect to further changes to parish electoral arrangements.

#### **3 PROPOSALS**

3.1 There is a significant imbalance in electorate numbers across the existing four parish wards, as follows:

South Ward – 2849 electors – 4 Councillors elected

North Ward - 1456 electors – 3 Councillors

Central Ward – 1827 electors – 2 Councillors

East Ward – 78 electors – 1 Councillor

3.2 Egremont Town Council have suggested reverting to a two ward arrangement. The following configuration is proposed, with each ward returning five Councillors as follows:

Egremont South Ward (South + East) – 2927 electors

Egremont North Ward (North + Central) – 3283 electors

3.3 The Council is satisfied at this stage of the Review that this configuration would satisfy the two requirements in the statutory guidance on Community Governance Reviews, firstly to ensure that community governance reflects the identities and interests of the community in the review area, and second that community governance in the review area is efficient and convenient.

#### **4 CONSULTATION**

4.1 The Council is required to consult local government electors in the review area, and any other persons or organisations it considers to have an interest in the review. The consultation will run for a period of six weeks starting on 24 October and closing on 5 December.

#### **5 NEXT STEPS**

5.1 The Council will take into account all objections and representations received in the consultation. Its final recommendations will be published late in December 2016 and will be formally considered by the full Council at a date to be confirmed. Any changes will come into effect at the next Parish Council elections in May 2019.

