

## Agenda Item 10

### Council Response to Consultation

Following initial response from interested parties, the Boundary Commission is minded to go with 33 councillors across 11 three-councillor wards. Barrowford Parish Council would like to see the necessary reduction in the number of Borough Councillors accommodated in a configuration that keeps the whole of Barrowford within one ward.

The current arrangement has the Barrowford Parish Council ward of Higherford merged with the neighbouring village of Blacko as a separate one-councillor Borough ward. The necessary increase in elector numbers within each ward, which the Parish assumes will be around 6050 per three-member ward, would enable the addition to Barrowford of Blacko & Higherford ward and the Pendleside villages element of the current Higham & Pendleside ward to achieve this necessary figure in the longer term.

However, one further factor needs to be considered: a recent growth projection sent out by the Borough Council's Corporate Director shows an increase of around 120 electors to the year 2025. But the approved Trough Laithe 500-house Strategic Housing Site has the potential to exceed two electors per household in the long term, leading to over 1000 more electors in the ward. A delicate balancing act approach will need to be taken so as to:

1. Ensure all of Barrowford stays within one ward.
2. Reduce potential future changes becoming necessary if the newly created ward is not to exceed the Boundary Commission's acceptable range of electors per ward (plus or minus 10% of the Borough-wide average).

The proposed ward includes villages that currently fall under the Barrowford and Western Parishes Area Committee and have been proportionately represented in it, working together since the inception of the Area Committees. This familiarity could continue, with the ward mirroring much of the current Area Committee, giving a continuity of Borough councillor representation.