**Should Penrith be a part of Cumberland Council?**

On Monday 13 March, Penrith Town Council considered the motion from Town Councillor Jonathan Davies to request the incoming Westmorland and Furness Council conduct a Community Governance Review to change the upper-tier administrative authority for the parish of Penrith to the incoming Cumberland Council.

**Penrith Town Council resolved not to support the motion.**

Whilst we recognise that the name of the new authority isn’t what we perhaps would have chosen or is one that we identify with, there have been consultations, negotiations, and extensive work to deliver the government’s decision to have two unitary authorities for Cumbria and we believe that taxpayers’ money would be better spent fostering an effective relationship with the incoming Westmorland & Furness Council. We understand that the two new administrative authorities will work closely together and Penrith’s historical and civic links to Cumberland will not be diminished. Cumbria as a county, and Eden Valley as an area, are not impacted.

We look forward to working with both authorities when they are constituted on 1 April 2023. It is unfair to pre-judge how effective either new authority will be.

Penrith Town Council will always have the best interests of the community at heart. We understand Penrith has historically been part of the County of Cumberland. We will continue to be a part of Cumbria from 1 April 2023. Our local government administration however will change from Cumbria County Council to Westmorland and Furness Council.

While we appreciate the attachment some people feel to Cumberland, it would not be a good use of council time, energy, or money to try and overturn a statutory decision of the UK Government. Our focus is on making Penrith a great place to live right now and we think that’s what people expect of us.

**Notes to Editor:**

Local government reorganisation in Cumbria will mean the current six district councils and Cumbria County Council will be replaced by two new unitary authorities.

Copeland, Allerdale and Carlisle will form the new Cumberland Council and Eden, South Lakeland and Barrow will form the new Westmorland & Furness.

Motion authored by Town Councillor Jonathan Davies:

<https://www.penrithtowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/01-230301-Accessible-Full-Council-Agenda-2023-1.pdf>