

Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade

Promoting the trading and commercial interests of Bowness, Windermere and the immediate area.

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Tim Farron MP
The Cottage
Yard 2
Stricklandgate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9

21 February 2007

Dear Mr Farron

New Council for Cumbria

At a recent Chamber of Trade meeting, the members present asked me to write to you expressing their concerns regarding the above. I have itemised these below;

1. The proposal by Cumbria County Council for a Unity Authority should not be considered at this stage as there has been an insufficient consultation period between County Council, District Councils, Town/Parish Councils and the voters.
2. The Executives of the County Council and District councils should be given three to four months to talk and consider all the options available i.e. one, two or three authorities for Cumbria.

A draft report should be prepared on the 'pros and cons' of each option, the cost of setting up the new authority (ies); the cost of running them and the likely council tax payment.

This report should be presented to all authorities, town/parish councils and the voters for consultation, prior to a full report being prepared. The options should be put to the electorate for them to decide which option should be put forward for Government consideration, prior to a referendum of the electorate. This we consider to be the democratic process.

3. Whether it is a single or a three authority the various departments should be spread throughout the County's towns and not allocated in one centre.
4. There should be a point of contact for the public in each town or centre.
5. All positions in the new authority (ies) should be advertised both locally and nationally as they should be deemed 'new positions' and not just a transfer from existing authorities.

On a question of information, is there a Government thinking that regions are too big to manage local affairs and that some of them should be managed at city level?

On behalf of the Chamber of Trade, I look forward to receiving your reply in due course.

Yours faithfully

Adrian G Faulkner – Secretary, Windermere & Bowness Chamber of Trade.

DMS., MCMI., CLP