

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 23 September 2022 17:13  
**Subject:** Levelling Up Bill

Dear all parish councils in the new Westmorland and Furness Council area,

Hope you are well.

Earlier this year I wrote to you asking for ideas for me to raise in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill Committee about how we can improve the life chances for people here in Cumbria. I'm extremely grateful to everyone who sent me their thoughts, ideas and experiences.

We are about half way through scrutinising the Bill and with Parliament currently in recess I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on how I've been getting on.

Thanks to your replies to my email, I've been doing my best to bang the drum for Cumbria.

The number one issue I have been raising is the desperate need for this Bill to give local authorities the power to enforce the number of affordable homes and to limit the number of new second homes or holiday lets in local communities.

The discussions in the committee have been constructive, collegiate and civil – a world away from the Punch and Judy politics of Prime Minister's Questions.

However, despite the warm words of ministers, they have been reluctant to accept any amendments from opposition MPs. This is a reminder that rural voices need to be heard and aren't being heard.

This also isn't helped by the fact that we are now on our third set of different Levelling Up ministers since our committee was created back in June.

My biggest concern remains that this Government's idea of levelling up is to delegate rather than devolve and is about what's convenient for the Government rather than what's best for local communities.

In the coming weeks I will putting forward amendments to the Bill on a range of topics including allowing local authorities to mandate that new housing is genuinely affordable, ensuring that all railway stations meet disability access standards and that there is a statutory obligation to provide the financial support needed so that rural GP practices can remain viable.

I will keep you updated with any progress or development that occurs.

Thank you for everything you do for your communities.

Kind regards,

Tim Farron MP

While Tim Farron will treat as confidential any personal information that you pass on, he will normally allow staff and authorised volunteers to see it if this is needed to help and advise you. He may pass on all or some of the information to external agencies if this is necessary to help with your case. Messages of an abusive or threatening nature may be passed to Cumbria Constabulary. Tim Farron may wish to write to you from time to time to keep you informed on issues which you may find of interest. Please let him know if you do not wish to be contacted for this purpose.