

Cumberland

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Cumberland Liberal Democrat Party (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Corby and Hayton

I welcome the Boundary Commission decision to increase the number of councillors from 46 to 55 and to retain the principle of one councillor per division. My experience of multi member wards in Wales was not encouraging: there is confusion amongst the electorate over who to contact and a risk that workload becomes unevenly distributed. I have been councillor for Corby & Hayton since August 2021, initially for Cumbria County Council and since May 2023 for Cumberland Council. The electorate of Corby & Hayton has been close to the average (3,900) now proposed for Cumberland. My caseload derived from close to this number of residents has been manageable over the past four years.

The current Corby & Hayton Ward is approximately 100 -120 square miles in area, bounded in the west by the River Eden (with one rail and one road crossing); in the east by Northumberland; in the south by the north edge of the Pennines and Westmorland and Furness; to the north the boundary is the river Irthing and the Brampton Ward. I can access all parts of the ward by bicycle.

Six parishes fall wholly within Corby and Hayton:

- Castle Carrock & Geltside
- Carlatten & Cumrew
- Cumwhitton
- Farlam
- Hayton
- Midgeholme

That part of Wetheral parish that lies on the eastern side of the river Eden falls within Corby & Hayton ward,

Corby and Hayton is a largely rural ward made up of 12 villages: Castle Carrock, Corby Hill, Cumrew, Cumwhitton, Farlam, Great Corby, Hallbankgate, Hayton, Heads Nook, Little Corby, Talkin and Warwick Bridge. There are smaller settlements at Broadwath, Burnrigg, Faugh, Fenton, Hornsby, Kirkhouse, Midgeholme and Tindale.

Little Corby, Corby Hill and Warwick Bridge together form a small urban area which accommodates over 70% of Corby & Hayton's population.

The Church of England team grouping of churches covers churches at Castle Carrock, Cumrew, Cumwhitton, Farlam and Hayton. Road transport, bus and rail services to Carlisle are common issues for all my parishes. Interestingly, Cumrew, Cumwhitton, Farlam and Wetheral Parish Councils acted in concert to challenge Cumberland Council's winter maintenance programme.

As the projected 2030 electorate (3879) is within 0.54% of the desired average (3,900) there is no compelling case to change existing boundaries. However, if it would facilitate appropriate sizing of the current Brampton ward, then adding the settlement of Milton to the Corby & Hayton ward by moving part of the boundary to the A69 Brampton bypass would add about another 100 electors and increase total electorate to circa 4,000 (close to the current number) and +2% of the desired average.

Attached Documents:

None attached