

Cumberland

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Cumberland

Pre LGR, Cumberland Council Area had a total of approx. 175 members from Cumbria County Council, Carlisle City Council and Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils. This number was too high, but what it did ensure was localised decision making and manageable case work loads. Based on the proposed 55 members on average an elected member has an electorate of 3900, notwithstanding the requirements to attend meetings of the Council/Committees, how does an elected member have the time to also undertake case/ward work, attend parish council/community meetings and represent their ward?. If we reduce the electorate per member by 500, to 3400 this would require a minimum member number of 64. This would allow a bit more flexibility for members to manage workload, they will also not be required to attend as many committee meetings, ensuring quality rather than quantity.

I am aware that savings are required, and as increasing the numbers reduces workload, the allowances should be reduced to reflect this - I appreciate this is a decision however for the Independent Panel.

Attached Documents:

None attached