

## CAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

Council Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018

### **CAMBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL.**

It has been requested that Cambourne Parish Council considers changing from a Parish to a Town Council. This was last considered on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012

Cambourne was designed and was marketed as a settlement of three villages Lower Cambourne, Great Cambourne and Upper Cambourne aimed to have 3,000 (+or-10%) this was subsequently added to by the addition of 950 dwellings in Upper Cambourne. In 2018 Planning Consent was granted for a fourth Village West Cambourne with a further 2,350 dwellings. There has also been additional infill within the villages on areas that were not part of the original master plan.

When construction first started in 1998 (First occupation 1999) and until recently there was a strong community spirit in certain areas of Cambourne unfortunately some of this has been diluted as Cambourne has grown in size.

For some time there has been a confusion of identity caused by the size of Cambourne as a whole with a growing number of people seeing Cambourne as a Town (of three Villages) rather than a Village. This needs to be resolved to give Cambourne an identity. In the eyes of some of the community the identity "is vague and confused". Due to this Cambourne is often described as a settlement.

It is considered that it is time to stand back and take a look at Cambourne and how it has grown and will grow over the next fifteen years. Cambourne currently has 4,284 homes (over 11,824 residents) Once the current consents have been completed in 2033 Cambourne is planned to have 7,120 homes (approx 19,650 residents)

Many in and around Cambourne already see Cambourne as a Town.

In June 2018 the House of Commons Library published a Briefing Paper Number 8322 City & Town Classification of Constituencies & Local Authorities.

The briefing paper was prepared because there was concern how communities could be compared so they established a new classification so similar communities can be compared. Extract below (Full copy attached).

#### 1.2 How does the classification work?

At its simplest, the classification categorises each constituency and local authority area according to the type of settlement in which the largest proportion of its population lives. To achieve this, settlements are classified according to an adjusted version of the taxonomy recently developed by the [Centre for Towns](#):

**12 Core Cities:** twelve major population and economic centres (*e.g. London, Glasgow, Sheffield*)

• **24 Other Cities:** other settlements with a population of more than

175,000 (e.g. Leicester, Portsmouth, Aberdeen)

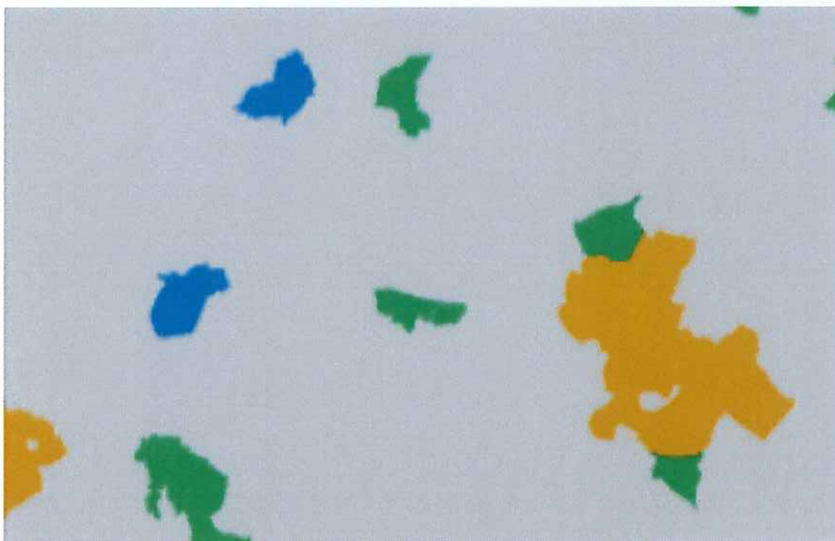
- **119 Large Towns:** settlements with a population between 60,000 and 174,999 (e.g. Warrington, Hemel Hempstead, Farnborough)

- **270 Medium Towns:** settlements with a population between 25,000 and 59,999 (e.g. Gravesend, Jarrow, Exmouth)

- **674 Small Towns:** settlements with a population between 7,500 and 24,999 (e.g. Falmouth, New Romney, Holbeach)

- **6,116 Villages and small communities:** settlements with a population of less than 7,500 (e.g. Chapel-en-le-Frith, Cottenham, Menai Bridge)

As part of the briefing they have produced a map indicating where the City and towns are located which includes Cambourne as a small town (enlarged extract below).



## THE CLASSIFICATION

- Core City
- Other City
- Large Town
- Medium Town
- Small Town
- Village or smaller

The Parish Council can resolve under Section 245 of the LGA1972 Part IV, Section 75 to call itself a Town Council.

**Town status.**

**Disadvantages:**

- No additional Powers
- Potential cost of Civic Regalia (but this is not required).

**Advantages:**

- Establishes Cambourne's Identity and gives an overall community identity linking the four Villages.
- No cost implications to the residents.
- The Council would be seen more positively and get more respect within the County and surrounding Districts.
- There aren't any increased responsibilities by becoming a Town Council.
- There is a genuine debate which could be had about the potential economic benefit, if any, of calling yourself a Town and having a visible role for the Mayor as ceremonial representative, for instance, meeting with Mayors of other Towns and strengthening partnership and business links to bring more opportunities to the town.
- Assists in marketing of the shops on the High Street. Nearly all professionals that come to Cambourne to give presentations see Cambourne as a Town. Part of the problem in marketing Cambourne is that larger companies won't go into villages. The village name discourages some companies from committing to Cambourne.
- Assist in marketing of the Business Park

**Changes:**

- The Title of the Council Changes.
- The Chairman can be called Town Mayor.
- The Vice Chairman can be called Deputy Town Mayor.

**Cost:**

- Mayoral Chain (There is a potential benefactor who would donate the Chain) this is not essential
- The precept would not be raised directly by the change in status.
- The staff costs will not be increased directly by the change in status.
- There will be a minor cost in updating the web site (but this can be done largely in-house).
- A hold has been put on orders involving branding while this issue has been on the cards including Notice boards, permanent signs, replacement uniform etc to avoid cost if a change was made. Therefore, this would not have an additional cost.

**Process:**

If we are considering changing the status of the Parish Council, the route would be:

- Consideration is given by the Parish Council as to changing the status of Cambourne from a Parish to a Town Council under section 245 of the LGA 1972 Part IV, Section 75.
- Notify the District Council of its decision to change the name.
- The District Council then has to notify the Secretary of State, the Director General of the Ordnance Survey and the Registrar General and must publish notice within the parish and anywhere else the District Council considered appropriate.
- The Council can then choose to rename the Chairman as Mayor
- Promote Cambourne as a Town to further develop its identity.

**Identity/structure:**

The suggestion is that the structure would be the Town of Cambourne made up of the four villages each with its own electoral ward. It is important to maintain the three existing and the new as separate parts of the whole as each has its own individual character.

**Role of SCDC:**

Other than giving notice of a name change, the only further involvement of SCDC would be if there were a boundary change sought or a change to the electoral arrangements Cambourne could at any time request a community governance review (Local Government & Housing Act 2007) to create separate wards for Great, Lower, Upper and West Cambourne, with, say five seats each on the Parish (or Town) Council. This method supports the opportunity for guaranteed representation for different areas within an existing authority. The warding of Cambourne with a proportion of Councillors to each village based on the electorate. The benefit of this would be the potential reduction in election costs caused by the large ballot papers required for a whole village election.

Requests for community governance reviews generally come from the parish council with the reasons and evidence it has collected, the recommendations it proposes and, ideally, evidence of public support. Residents themselves can also petition the District Council for a review, giving the same information; in the case of Cambourne, the petition must be signed by a minimum of 10% of electors. The District Council then must undertake a formal consultation exercise, writing to all parishioners and placing notices in public areas, with responses to be received by a set deadline. The information is then considered by the Electoral Arrangements Committee at a public meeting, often with residents attending to give evidence for and against during the public speaking session, and a recommendation is made to full Council.

There's some more detailed information in the Parish Council Toolkit ([http://www.scambs.gov.uk/documents/retrieve.htm?pk\\_document=908153](http://www.scambs.gov.uk/documents/retrieve.htm?pk_document=908153)) and the legislation is at [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk).

Correspondence received in early 2018 from Jason Clerk Programme Manager / Development Officer South West

Hi John

I came across this guidance the other day. It clearly states says that a Parish can choose to be known as a Town if they wish, and it states that this is just a name, and has no impact with regards to planning or anything else (confirmed with Ed Durrant).

Happy to have a conversation around this, but thought it worth passing on as seems pretty clear cut.

Thanks

Jay

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/8312/1527635.pdf)

## Section 4: Other aspects of community governance reviews

### Parish names and alternative styles for parishes

1. Prior to the 2007 Act, a parish could be given the status of a town under section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972. "Town" status continues to be available to a parish. In addition, the 2007 Act inserted sections 12A and 12B into the 1972 Act to offer a further choice of alternative styles for a parish: community, neighbourhood and village. However, for as long as the parish has an alternative style, it will not also be able to have the status of a town and vice versa.
2. The 'name' of a parish refers to the geographical name of the area concerned and can be changed independent of a review by a principal council at the request of a parish council or parish meeting (where there is no parish council)<sup>6</sup>. A change in the status or 'style' of a parish allows for that area to be known as a town, community neighbourhood or village, rather than as a parish. The status or style of the parish will be reflected in the name of any council of the parish, the parish meeting, any parish trustees, and the chairman or vice-chairman of the parish meeting or of any parish council. So, for example, the council of a parish which uses the style 'village' will be known as the 'village council' and its councillors as the 'village councillors', etc.
3. References in legislation to a 'parish' should be taken to include a parish which has an alternative style, as is the case in relation to a parish which has the status of a town. The same applies in relation to references in legislation to a 'parish

meeting', 'parish council', 'parish councillor', 'parish trustees', etc in connection with a parish which has an alternative style.

4. The Government recognises that in long established parishes, particularly in rural areas, local people may wish to retain the name of their parish and the existing style of their parish councils, - although others may prefer "village" or another style. Following a community governance review, in areas previously unparished where a new parish is being created, people living there may wish for the style of their parish council to reflect the local community in a different way and may prefer one of the alternative styles. This may well be the case for those living in urban areas. Local authorities will wish to take account of these preferences in deciding the name of the parish and the chosen style.
- 5.

Section 245 of the 1972 Act:

245 Status of certain districts, parishes and communities. **E+W**

(1) If, on a petition presented to Her Majesty by the council of a district praying for the grant of a charter under this subsection, Her Majesty by the advice of Her Privy Council thinks fit so to do, She may by the charter confer on that district the status of a borough, and thereupon—

(a) the council of the district shall bear the name of the council of the borough;

(b) the chairman and vice-chairman of the council shall respectively be entitled to the style of mayor and deputy mayor of the borough.

**[F1(1A) Subsection (1)(b) above does not apply where the council are operating executive arrangements which involve a mayor and cabinet executive or a mayor and council manager executive.]**

(2) A petition for a charter under subsection (1) above shall not be presented except on a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object.

(3) No charter under subsection (1) above shall take effect before 1st April 1974.

(4) Where a petition is presented to Her Majesty before 1st April 1974 by the council of a district praying for the grant of a charter under subsection (1) above and it is signified on behalf of Her Majesty before that date that She proposes to accede to the petition and that She approves—

(a) the use for the district of any style previously belonging to an existing borough which on that date will become wholly or partly comprised in the district; and

(b) the use for the chairman and vice-chairman of the council of the district of any style previously belonging to the mayor or deputy mayor of that borough;

those styles may be so used as from 1st April 1974.

**[F2(4A) Where—**

## Agenda Item 13

(a) a council are operating executive arrangements which involve a mayor and cabinet executive or a mayor and council manager executive; and

(b) the chairman or vice-chairman of the council has previously used the style of mayor or deputy mayor by virtue of subsection (4)(b), the chairman or vice-chairman, as the case may be, shall no longer use that style.】

(5) A district which has the status of a borough, or for which the style of borough may be used, by virtue of the foregoing provisions of this section and the council of any such district shall not be treated as a borough or the council of a borough for the purposes of any Act passed before 1st April 1974.

(6) The council of a parish **F3** . . . which is not grouped with any other parish **F3** . . . may resolve that the parish **F3** . . . shall have the status of a town and thereupon—

(a) the council of the parish **F3** . . . shall bear the name of the council of the town;

(b) the chairman and vice-chairman of the council shall be respectively entitled to the style of town mayor and deputy town mayor;

(c) the parish meeting **F4** . . . shall have the style of town meeting.

(7) A resolution under subsection (6) above shall cease to have effect if the parish **F3** . . . to which it relates ceases to exist.

【**F5**(7A) A resolution under subsection (6) shall cease to have effect if the parish has an alternative style (within the meaning of section 17A) by virtue of any of the following—

(a) an order under section 11;

(b) a resolution under section 12A;

(c) an order under section 86 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.】

(8) If a parish **F3** . . . council which has passed a resolution under subsection (6) above is dissolved without the parish **F3** . . . ceasing to exist, the dissolution shall not affect the status of the parish **F3** . . . or the application to it of paragraph (c) of that subsection and in England the parish trustees shall have the style of town trustees.

(9) A parish **F3** . . . council by whom a resolution under subsection (6) above has been passed or, if the council has been dissolved, the parish meeting in England **F6** . . . may resolve that the parish **F3** . . . shall cease to have the status of a town and thereupon subsection (6)(a) to (c) above and subsection (8) above shall cease to apply to the parish **F3** . . .

(10) The foregoing provisions of this section shall have effect subject to any provision made by a grant under Her Majesty's prerogative and, in particular, to any such provision granting the status of a city or royal borough or conferring the style of lord mayor, deputy lord mayor or right honourable.

Annotations: ?



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Annotations are used to give authority for changes and other effects on the legislation you are viewing and to convey editorial information. They appear at the foot of the relevant provision or under the associated heading. Annotations are categorised by annotation type, such as F-notes for textual amendments and I-notes for commencement information (a full list can be found in the Editorial Practice Guide). Each annotation is identified by a sequential reference number. For F-notes, M-notes and X-notes, the number also appears in bold superscript at the relevant location in the text. All annotations contain links to the affecting legislation.

### Amendments (Textual)

**F1S. 245(1A)** inserted (26.10.2000 (E.) and 28.7.2001 (W.)) by [2000 c. 22, ss. 46, 108\(4\), Sch. 3 para. 11\(1\)\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2000/2849, art. 2\(e\)](#)

**F2S. 245(4A)** inserted (E.) (6.5.2002) by [The Local Authorities \(Executive Arrangements\) \(Modification of Enactments\) \(England\) Order 2002 \(S.I. 2002/1057\), art. 5](#)

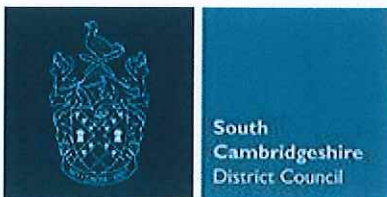
**F3**Words in [s. 245\(6\)-\(9\)](#) repealed (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 19, s. 66\(5\)\(8\), Sch. 15 para. 51\(a\), Sch. 18](#) (with [ss. 54\(5\)\(7\), 55\(5\), Sch. 17 paras. 22\(1\), 23\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1996/396, art. 4, Sch. 2](#)

**F4**Words in [s. 245\(6\)\(c\)](#) repealed (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 19, s. 66\(5\)\(8\), Sch. 15 para. 51\(b\), Sch. 18](#) (with [ss. 54\(5\)\(7\), 55\(5\), Sch. 17 paras. 22\(1\), 23\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1996/396, art. 4, Sch. 2](#)

**F5S. 245(7A)** inserted (13.2.2008) by Local Government and Public Involvement in [Health Act 2007 \(c. 28\), ss. 101, 245, Sch. 5 para. 8\(2\)](#); [S.I. 2008/337, art. 2\(c\)](#)

**F6**Words in [s. 245\(9\)](#) repealed (1.4.1996) by [1994 c. 19, s. 66\(5\)\(8\), Sch. 15 para. 51\(c\), Sch. 18](#) (with [ss. 54\(5\)\(7\), 55\(5\), Sch. 17 paras. 22\(1\), 23\(2\)](#)); [S.I. 1996/396, art. 4, Sch. 2](#)

Jay Clarke | Development Officer South West







**BRIEFING PAPER**

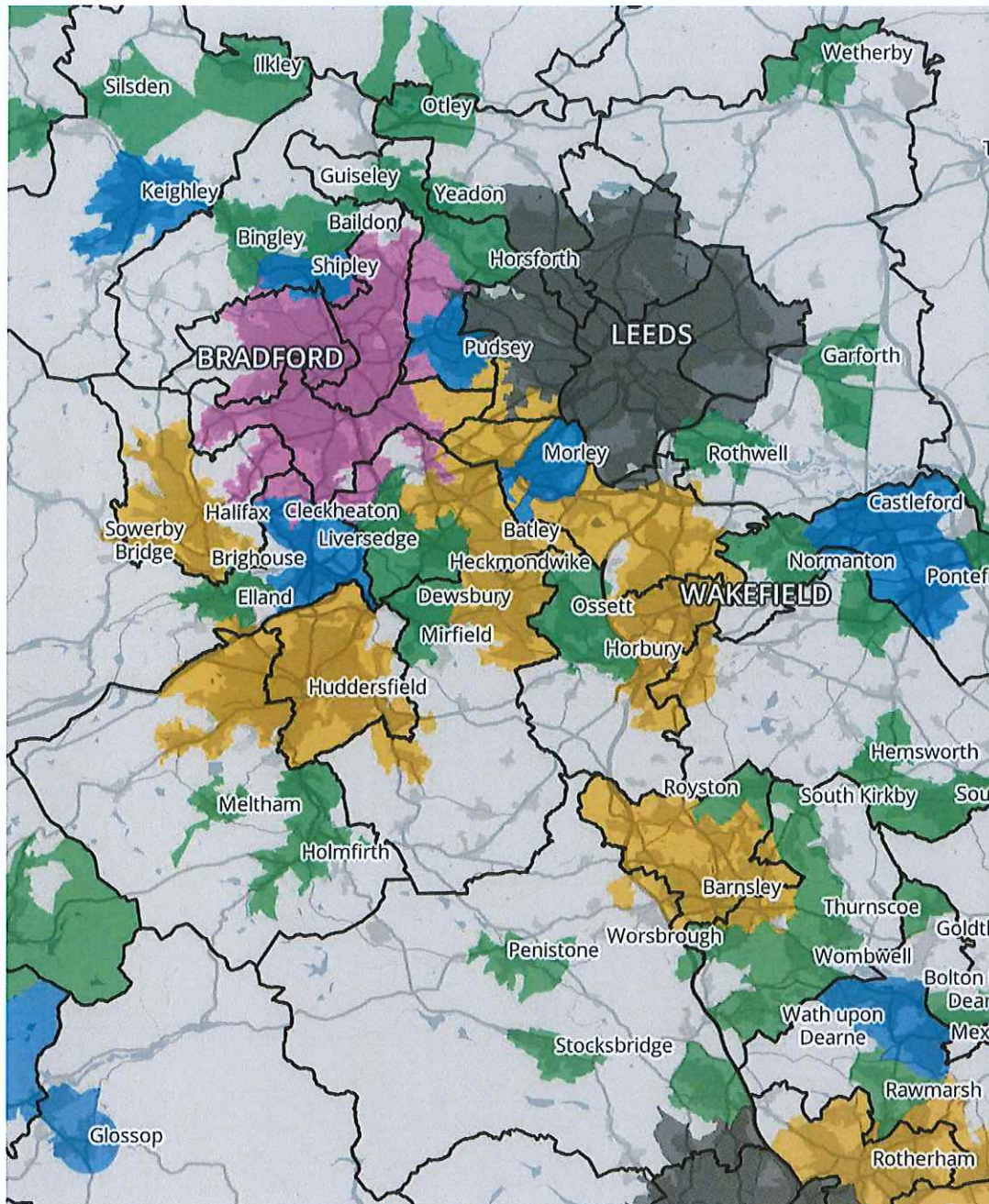
Number 8322, 21 June 2018

# City & Town Classification of Constituencies & Local Authorities

By Carl Baker

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2. Map of the City & Town Classification
3. House prices
4. Population, age and migration
5. Young people going to university
6. Broadband availability
7. Commuting Habits
8. How was the classification calculated?
9. How to use the classification



# 1. Cities & Towns: Introduction

The House of Commons Library has developed a new classification of constituency and local authority areas according to the size of the settlements people live in. The classification is intended to assist in analysing data, and understanding differences, trends and inequalities across Great Britain. Each constituency and local authority is assigned to one of six categories, e.g. “**Core City**” or “**Small Town**”, which most closely matches its population distribution. This is intended to offer an alternative to rural/urban classifications in analysing variation.

Cover page image shows towns and cities matched to constituency boundaries. See below for more information. Contains National Statistics data Crown Copyright. House of Commons Library (OS) 100040654 (2018).

## 1.1 Why Cities and Towns?

Classifying areas according to whether they are [urban or rural](#) is a familiar concept. Recently, however, interest has grown in the varying fortunes of different-sized settlements – for example, [whether cities have fared better than towns](#) since the financial crisis. Rural/urban classifications don't always provide a good way of dividing between towns and cities – for example, Cardiff (population 350,000) and North Walsham (population 12,500) are both classified as 'urban city and town'. So the urban/rural classification wouldn't be able to tell us about variation between settlements of different sizes, since it classifies both small towns and large cities with the same broad brush.

Since there was no existing classification of constituencies & local authorities in terms of cities and towns, we set out to fill the gap. This classification provides an alternative way to analyse information for constituencies and local authorities. It is not intended as a replacement for other classifications: for many datasets, differences between urban and rural areas are the right thing to capture. But sometimes we can learn more by looking at variation between cities, towns, and villages.

## 1.2 How does the classification work?

At its simplest, the classification categorises each constituency and local authority area according to the type of settlement in which the largest proportion of its population lives. To achieve this, settlements are classified according to an adjusted version of the taxonomy recently developed by the [Centre for Towns](#):

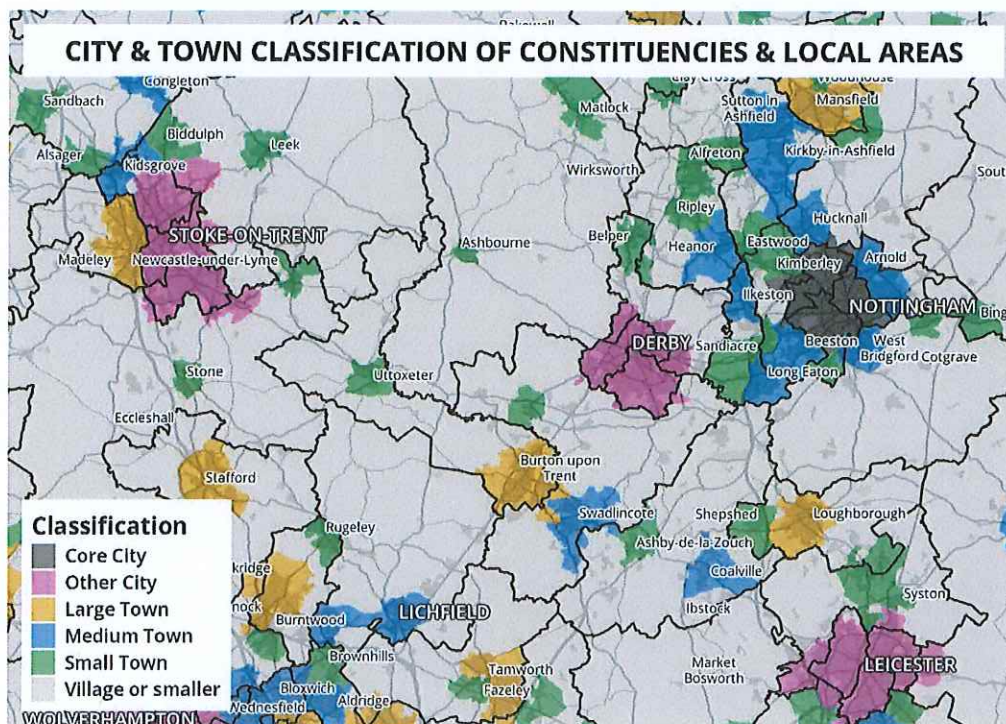
- **12 Core Cities:** twelve major population and economic centres (e.g. London, Glasgow, Sheffield)
- **24 Other Cities:** other settlements with a population of more than 175,000 (e.g. Leicester, Portsmouth, Aberdeen)
- **119 Large Towns:** settlements with a population between 60,000 and 174,999 (e.g. Warrington, Hemel Hempstead, Farnborough)
- **270 Medium Towns:** settlements with a population between 25,000 and 59,999 (e.g. Gravesend, Jarrow, Exmouth)

- **674 Small Towns:** settlements with a population between 7,500 and 24,999 (e.g. *Falmouth, New Romney, Holbeach*)
- **6,116 Villages and small communities:** settlements with a population of less than 7,500 (e.g. *Chapel-en-le-Frith, Cottenham, Menai Bridge*)

This classification isn't intended to resolve long-standing disputes about which settlements deserve to be called 'cities', 'towns', or 'villages'. In fact, it takes no account of the ceremonial definition of 'city', using the term only as a way to identify larger settlements. For instance, St Albans is identified as a 'large town' here because its population is 86,000 – even though it has city status. Luton, on the other hand, doesn't have city status, but is classified here as an 'Other City' because its population is 225,000.

The precise division between 'large', 'medium' and 'small' towns is, to a large extent, subjective. The distinctions used here aim to provide a useful distribution of settlements across six categories for the purposes of analysis at constituency and local authority level.

The map on the following page illustrates how the classification works. The following sections provide some example uses of the classification to give insight into variations and inequalities. The final sections provide technical information on the classification.

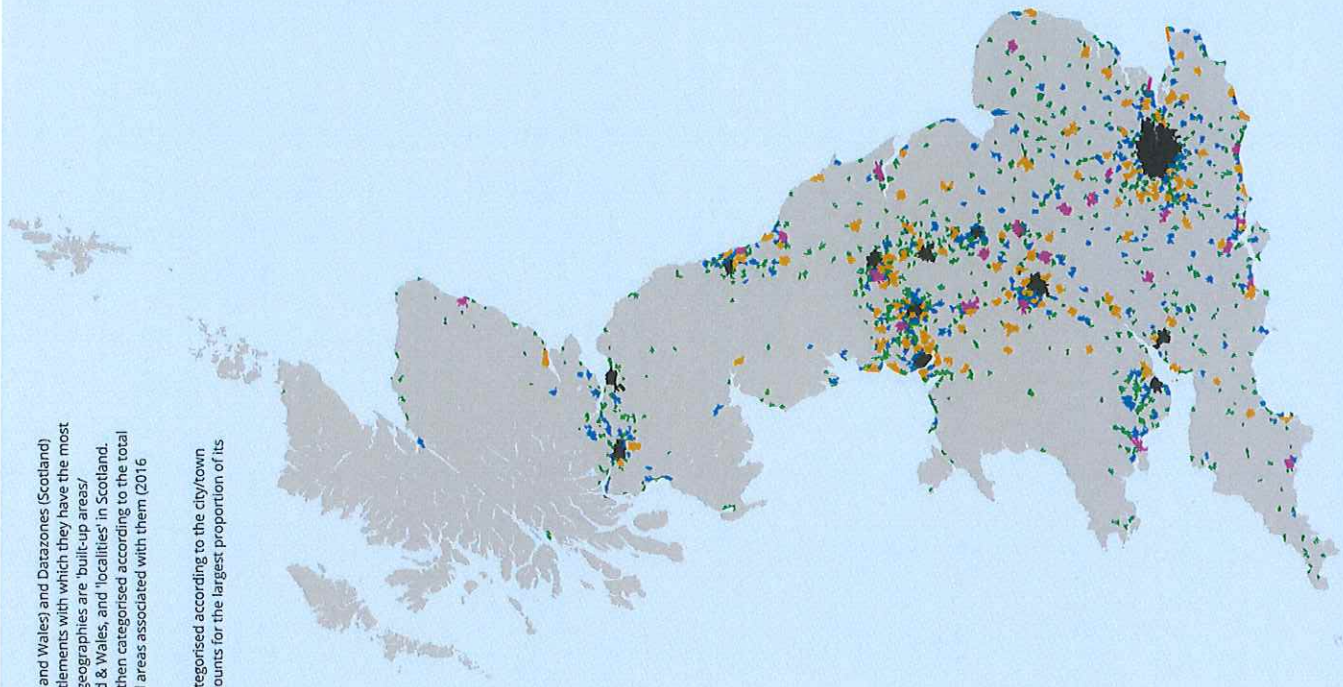


Settlements classified in the Midlands

# CITY AND TOWN CLASSIFICATION OF SMALL AREAS

**METHOD**  
 Output Areas (England and Wales) and Datazones (Scotland) are matched to the settlements with which they have the most natural fit. Settlement geographies are 'built-up areas/ subdivisions' in England & Wales, and 'localities' in Scotland. These settlements are then categorised according to the total population of the small areas associated with them (2016 estimates).

Each constituency is categorised according to the city/town classification which accounts for the largest proportion of its residents.



# CITY AND TOWN CLASSIFICATION OF CONSTITUENCIES

## THE CLASSIFICATION

- Core City
- Other City
- Large Town
- Medium Town
- Small Town
- Village or smaller

**Core Cities:** London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Liverpool, Bristol, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds, Edinburgh, Cardiff, Nottingham, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne

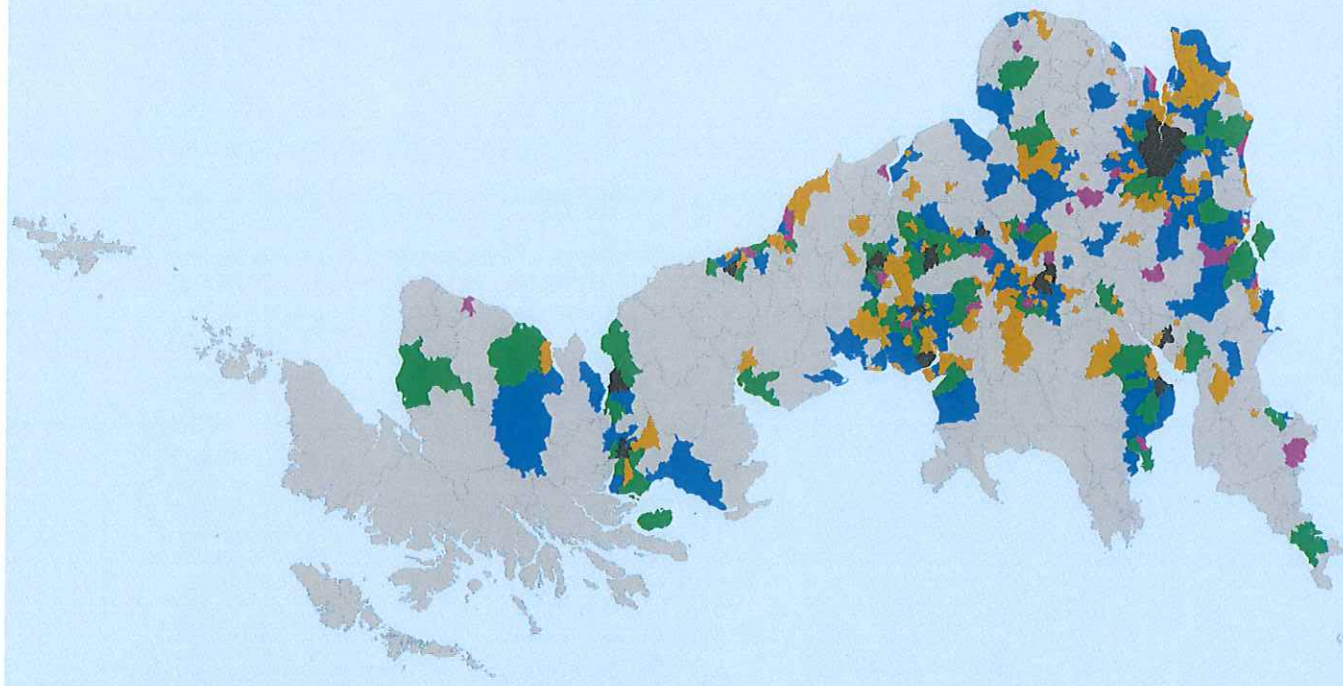
**Other Cities:** All other settlements above 175,000 population

**Large Towns:** population 60,000 - 174,999

**Medium Towns:** population 25,000 - 59,999

**Small Towns:** population 7,500 - 24,999

**Village or smaller:** population below 7,500



As noted above, we have made some changes to Centre for Towns' settlement taxonomy in order to create a classification of constituencies and local authorities which best captures variation between different types of areas. Most notably, we have added a new 'Other City' category which captures the largest settlements that are not Core Cities. Because of this, we also altered the thresholds for the lower settlements categories in order to maintain a good distribution of settlements. In addition, we have used only a single category for villages and small communities, since distinctions between smaller settlements are less salient at the constituency and local authority level. Smaller differences and additions to Centre for Towns' taxonomy are explained below.

### 3. House prices

It will probably come as no surprise that London has the highest average house prices in the country – more than double the national average. Elsewhere, however, it is Core Cities outside London that have the lowest average prices: Liverpool's prices are lowest in this group, and Bristol's are the highest. The next-lowest prices are found in Other Cities, where Bradford has the lowest prices and Brighton & Hove has the highest. Large, Medium and Small Towns have roughly similar prices on average, while Villages and Small Communities have prices around 25% higher than towns, at just over £300,000.

The chart below shows average prices in 2017 compared with five years earlier.



London has seen the largest rise in prices over the last five years, at 43%. Prices in villages have risen by the lowest proportion – 20%. Note that because these are mean averages, they will be skewed by very high prices paid in certain areas. Means aren't often used for house prices, so these figures aren't comparable with averages published by the ONS and elsewhere.

This analysis is based on data for census lower super output areas (LSOAs), classified using the taxonomy described above.

Source data: ONS, [House price statistics for small areas](#)

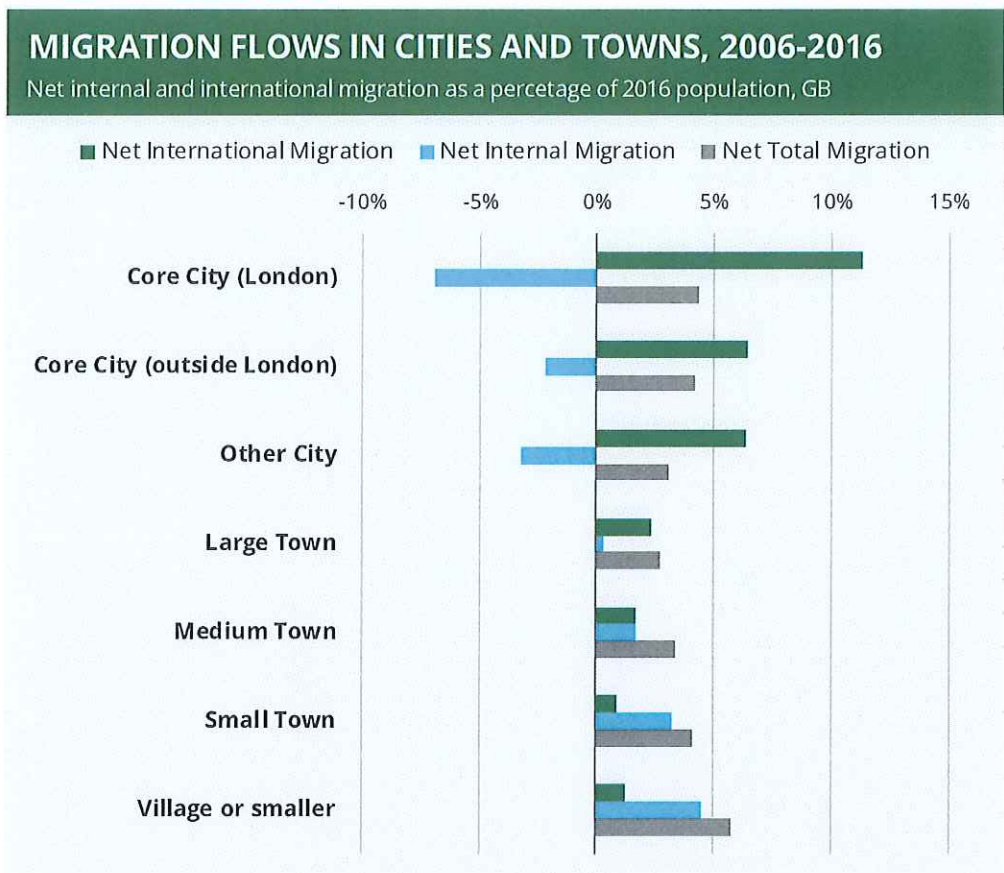
## 4. Population, age and migration

Between 2006 and 2016, the population growth in city local authorities was higher than in towns and villages. London's population grew 15%, while Core Cities outside London grew by 10% (with a high of 17% in Manchester). The population in Other Cities grew 9% (with a high of 18% in Coventry). By contrast, the population in Small Towns grew 5%.

The average age of the population in Core Cities and Other Cities has remained unchanged. But in towns and villages the average age has grown: towns and villages already had an older population than cities on average in 2006, and this gap has grown.

<b>TOWNS AND VILLAGES ARE GETTING OLDER. CITIES ARE NOT</b>				
Median age and population change, GB, 2006-2016. Based on local authority data				
Classification	Median Age 2006	Median Age 2016	Median Age Change	Population Growth
Core City (London)	34	34	0	+15%
Core City (outside London)	34	34	0	+10%
Other City	36	36	0	+9%
Large Town	39	40	+1	+7%
Medium Town	40	42	+2	+6%
Small Town	41	44	+3	+5%
Village or smaller	42	46	+4	+6%

City local authorities had much higher long-term net international migration (more people coming from abroad than leaving to go overseas) than towns and villages over this period. However, more people in cities also left to live in smaller settlements elsewhere in this country, resulting in negative internal migration. In towns, the opposite was true: international migration was lower than cities, but migration from other parts of the country was higher.



Among Core Cities outside London, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Nottingham had the highest net international migration. Meanwhile Manchester, Nottingham and Birmingham had the largest negative internal migration to other parts of Great Britain. Among Other Cities, Coventry, Luton and Aberdeen had the highest net international migration. Among towns, net international migration was highest in Boston and lowest in Elmbridge (Surrey). Net internal migration was highest in Christchurch and lowest in Oxford.

This data is based on local authority areas and only accounts for changes due to migration, and not natural change (i.e. births and deaths). The analysis is based on local authority data, aggregated using the city/town taxonomy described above.

ONS, [Annual mid-year population estimates \(via Nomis\)](#)

ONS, [Local Area Migration Indicators, UK](#)

## 5. Young people going to university

London constituencies have the highest percentage of 18-year olds entering full-time higher education, at 42%. Entry rates outside London are broadly similar between different classifications, ranging from 28% to 34% - although Other City and Core City constituencies outside London and Other City constituencies have rates slightly below town and village constituencies.

However, the change in entry rates over the past decade varies substantially between cities and towns. Broadly, larger settlements had higher increases in young people going to university: Village and Small Town constituencies have had the smallest increase in higher education entry rates, while Core Cities have had the largest increases.

So while cities outside of London have the lowest university entry rates, they have also experienced some of the highest growth in entry rates since 2006.

HIGHER EDUCATION ENTRY RATE AT AGE 18 BY CITY/TOWN CLASSIFICATION, 2017, ENGLAND & WALES		
Classification	Entry rate	Proportional change since 2006
Core City (London)	42%	+50%
Core City (outside London)	30%	+53%
Other City	28%	+43%
Large Town	31%	+38%
Medium Town	32%	+31%
Small Town	32%	+26%
Village or smaller	34%	+24%
<b>England &amp; Wales</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>+37%</b>

This analysis is based on constituency-level data, aggregated using the city/town taxonomy described above.

Data source: [UCAS 2017 End of Cycle Report](#)

## 6. Broadband availability

Availability of fast broadband connections is, unsurprisingly, worse in rural areas than urban areas. This is reflected in the 'Village or Smaller' row in the table below – only 81% of premises in villages have access to superfast speeds (30 Mbps or above), compared with 96-98% in towns



and cities. Also, almost one in 10 lines in villages have connectivity below the Government's planned universal service obligation (USO) – i.e. they can't receive download speeds of at least 10 Mbps and upload speeds of at least 10 Mbps.

However, there are also some differences between towns and cities on broadband connectivity measures. While superfast availability is similar in cities and towns, availability of ultrafast speeds (300 Mbps or above) differs – availability is 66%-67% in Core Cities, but 29% in Small Towns. However, towns fare better than cities when it comes to the USO – while around 1% of lines in towns are below the USO, this rises to 1.3% in London. Among Core Cities outside London the average is 1.5%, with the percentage ranging from 0.5% in Newcastle to 2.2% in Manchester. While Other Cities appear to have worse USO availability than Core Cities, this is driven entirely by Hull, where 17.5% of premises were below USO in January 2018. If we exclude Hull, then 1.2% of premises in Other Cities were below the Universal Service Obligation, ranging from 0.3% in Swindon to 2.3% in Coventry.

<b>BROADBAND CONNECTIVITY IN CITIES AND TOWNS</b>				
England & Wales; Jan 2018; based on output area data				
Classification	Superfast speeds available	Ultrafast speeds available	Full fibre available	Below universal service obligation
Core City (London)	97%	67%	7.8%	1.3%
Core City (outside London)	97%	66%	3.2%	1.5%
Other City	96%	72%	6.3%	2.1%
Large Town	98%	57%	1.8%	1.1%
Medium Town	97%	47%	1.8%	1.0%
Small Town	96%	29%	4.0%	1.1%
Village or smaller	81%	12%	5.9%	9.8%

This analysis is based on census output area data, aggregated using the city/town taxonomy described above.

Data source: [Ofcom, Connected Nations Spring 2018 update](#)

## 7. Commuting Habits

The size of the settlements people live in is related to commuting habits. The table below shows data from the 2011 census on how far people said they travelled to work. On average, people in England and Wales travelled 9.1 miles. People living in London travelled the smallest distance – almost a mile less than those living in Core Cities outside London. Among these cities, distances travelled varied from 7.5 miles in

Birmingham to 9.5 miles in Newcastle. Among Other Cities, distances varied from 6.8 miles in Bradford to 11.9 in Brighton & Hove.

People living in Small Towns tended to travel further (10.2 miles) than those living in Large Towns (8.9 miles). But those living in towns which near Core Cities (marked here as 'in Conurbation' – see [here](#) for more explanation) typically travelled over a mile less to work than those living in the same size settlements elsewhere. Of all towns, those living in Haslemere had the largest average travel distances, at 16 miles.

<b>DISTANCE TRAVELLED TO WORK</b>	
By city/town classification, England & Wales, 2011	
Classification	Average distance (miles)
Core City (London)	7.0
Core City (outside London)	7.9
Other City	8.5
Large Town	8.9
Large Town in Conurbation	8.1
Medium Town	9.7
Medium Town in Conurbation	8.0
Small Town	10.2
Small Town in Conurbation	8.6
Village or Small Community	12.0
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>9.1</b>

This analysis is based on census output area data, aggregated using the city/town taxonomy described above.

Source: [NOMIS 2011 census data](#)

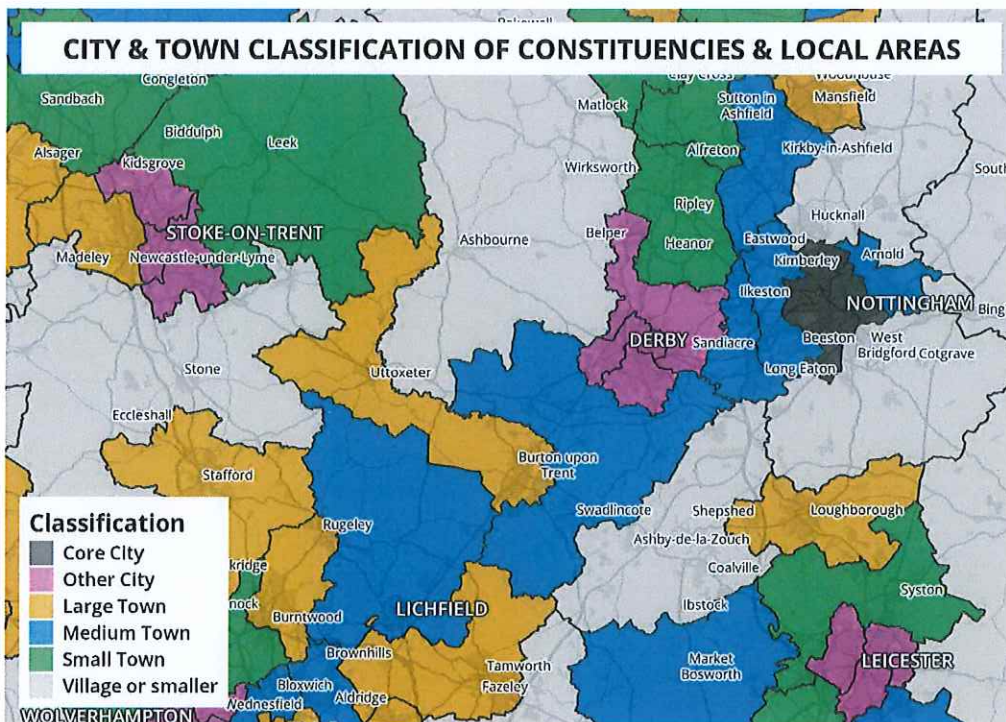
## 8. How was the classification calculated?

The analysis matches almost 200,000 [Census Output Areas](#) to [Built-up-areas](#) and [Built-up-area subdivisions](#)<sup>1</sup> - geographies developed by the [Office for National Statistics](#) as part of the census. The set of output areas making up each Built-up-area and subdivision are the boundaries of the settlement for the purposes of this analysis. 2016 [population estimates](#) for output areas are then aggregated to estimate the population of each settlement.

<sup>1</sup> Some of these details apply to England and Wales only: in Scotland, Datazones are used instead of Output Areas, and Localities instead of Built-up-Areas. Note that because built up areas are used as the basis for calculating populations, the populations used for each settlement won't necessarily match other measures like parish boundaries.

The next step is to match each Output Area to a constituency and a local authority on a best-fit basis. Based on this, a population breakdown of each area is produced based on the settlements contained in the constituency.

An area's City and Town Classification is the category that accounts for the largest percentage of the population. For example, 70% of Lancaster & Fleetwood constituency lives in a medium town, and 30% live in villages (or smaller settlements), so the constituency would be classed as a 'Medium Town' constituency.



*Constituencies classified in the Midlands*

Some constituencies and local authorities contain a range of different settlement types, meaning that it's difficult to assign them to a main City and Town Classification. For instance, Redcar and Cleveland local authority is an even split between Medium Town, Other City, Village, and Small Town. To aid with cases like this, a column is provided showing the percentage of the population in each area that lives in the primary classification. For many analysis purposes it may be appropriate to exclude areas where a relatively small percentage of the population lives in the primary classification, as these may not be representative of the category. Alternatively, it may be appropriate to divide an area's data between multiple categories using the flat data sheets in the spreadsheet download.

### Examples of constituencies split between multiple city/town categories

Constituency	Core City	Other City	Large Town	Medium Town	Small Town	Village/ smaller
South Ribble	0	0	22,915	30,623	17,582	28,277
Windsor	0	0	22,325	32,622	30,416	19,491
Bury South	30,600	0	9,728	31,160	22,992	4,579
Weaver Vale	0	0	28,250	30,331	9,223	20,813
Doncaster North	0	0	4,183	26,901	34,338	33,010
South West Wiltshire	0	0	0	35,488	35,053	31,138

Some towns form part of a larger conurbation with a core city. For example, the large town of Sutton Coldfield is 'attached' to Birmingham, the medium town of West Bridgford forms part of the Nottingham area, and the small town of Caterham is contiguous with London. In cases like this, the constituencies and local authorities in the area are noted as being 'in Conurbation'. This allows analysis of whether (for example) towns which are near to core cities have different experiences to towns which are not.

The 'in conurbation' flag is only used for towns near core cities – towns that are associated with non-core cities are not listed as conurbations. Also, the flag is used only in cases where towns are roughly contiguous with a core city – for example, while Morley is listed as being 'in conurbation' due to its proximity to Leeds, Halifax is not. Much like the decision about where to place the distinction between small/medium/large towns, the decision around whether to count areas as being 'in conurbation' is sometimes subjective.

Finally, for core cities only, a distinction is made between London and core cities outside of London. Since London's population is greater than all other core cities combined, this allows analyses to correct for the fact that London is, on some indicators, unlike other core cities.

The boundaries of core cities include only their main administrative areas and not their broader built-up areas – e.g. the core city of Manchester includes only Manchester built up area subdivision and not Stockport, Salford, Trafford, etc. If you wish to look at trends for broader core cities, then you should include 'in conurbation' areas.

## 9. How to use the classification

The spreadsheet in [the downloads section on our website](#) contains the information needed to undertake your own research using the city & town classification of constituencies and local authorities. It includes:

- 1. *Constituencies*: full data on the classification of each constituency and the distribution of its population between city/town categories
- 2. *Local authorities*: full data on the classification of each local authority and the distribution of its population between city/town categories
- 3. *Constituencies*: flat data showing the number and percentage of each constituency's population in each city/town category
- 4. *Local authorities*: flat data showing the number and percentage of each local authority's population in each city/town category
- 5. *Output areas*: source data showing the matching of each output area to a built-up area, and the city/town classification of each output area. This also includes a match to LSOA and MSOA geographies to allow for analysis at different levels.

The output area data is also available as a CSV download.

You can use spreadsheet software to match the geography codes provided with those used in published data, and then aggregate the data using city/town classifications. In Microsoft Excel, for instance, this may involve using the [vlookup](#) and [pivot table](#) functions.

Constituency and local authority data to use in analysis can be sourced from a range of publishers. We have aggregated a range of data on our [website](#).

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