

## CLEATOR MOOR TOWN COUNCIL



The Review Officer (Copeland)  
Local Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Millbank Tower  
LONDON  
SW1P 4QP

RECEIVED

17 JAN 2018

15<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Dear Sir or Madam

Cleator Moor Town Council have reviewed the Boundary Commission's proposal and have recorded the following comments:

- The wards of Cleator Moor North and Cleator Moor South should change to reflect and include the ward of Cleator Moor East at the Borough Council level. This will then be the same as the Cumbria County Council and the parish council ward divisions, and avoid unnecessary confusion.
- There are many housing developments in Cleator and Cleator Moor at the approved planning stage. Some developers have commenced building these new properties, which will be occupied by residents who are likely to need representation at some point. The work load of each of the Borough Councillors will be greatly increased, with such a huge reduction in their numbers. Members dispute that the current electorate numbers take into consideration the new build that is ongoing throughout the Borough.
- There are a number of new large economic developments such as Whitehaven Mining and Moorside, which are likely to create an influx of workers into the Borough, who again are likely to need representation from their councillors at some point.
- The current method of Individual Elector Registration disadvantages those with low information technology skills. In Copeland as a whole residents are recorded overall as having a high likelihood of digital exclusion.

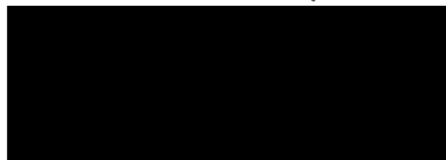
<http://heatmap.thetechpartnership.com/?area=Copeland&metric> This reflects resident's ability to register to vote and their ability to access I.T. equipment and is indicative of the low number of registered electors compared to the population figures.

Both the current electorate (as noted by the Boundary Commission consultation) and the forecast electorate (as noted by the Boundary Commission consultation) fall far short of the census figures from 2011. The census figures will have increased significantly when taken in 2021 due to the number of new build properties in the town.

	Current Electorate (Boundary Commission Consultation)	Forecast Electorate (Boundary Commission Consultation)	Census 2011
Cleator Moor North	3229	3677	4120
Cleator Moor South	2040	2179	2816
Total	5269	5956	6936
Difference compared to the Census figures	-1667	-980	

- At Cleator Moor Town Council, we have an open office policy and welcome the public to contact us with their concerns. More frequently, I am finding that these are Copeland Borough Council issues. They cover a range of topics, but often callers tell me, that "they can't get through to the Copeland telephone line." With only two offices in the Borough where face to face contact with Copeland Borough Council staff is possible, reducing the number of available Borough Councillors would not seem appropriate. The Copeland Borough Council web site is not always available nor is it user friendly. The reduction of Borough Councillors for our town will place an increased burden on the parish tier of government.

Yours faithfully



Mrs H Gilmour  
Clerk to the Council