

# North Yorkshire

## Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Harrogate and Knaresborough

As a resident in urban Harrogate and Knaresborough, it is very clear that currently our Councillors have too many electors in their Divisions, compared to the LGBCE recommended number. Many in our area will have well over 6500 by 2030 if no changes are made. I support NYC having 108 Councillors, with an increase from 13 to 17 in the Harrogate and Knaresborough area, for the following reasons:

1. In NYC's submission to yourselves, Appendix B – electorate variance within existing Divisions (2023 data), 5 out of the top 8 with over 20% above the average ratio of electors per councillor are from Harrogate and Knaresborough.
2. It would equate to an average of 4600 electors per councillor (reflecting previous decisions of the LGBCE recently in other areas) to ensure adequate representation
3. North Yorkshire is very large - over 3000 square miles of varied urban, rural and coastal areas - with different and distinctive interests which need to be adequately represented in policy development and decision making in NYC
4. Meaningful engagement with electors and the ability to respond appropriately is under strain. At present, around three-quarters of NYC Councillors are already working around 20 hours per week and more in areas of greatest deprivation. An increase in numbers would help to reduce the burden on councillors, enable them to fulfil their roles more easily and encourage more employed people to stand for election.

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*