

Identifying disadvantaged small towns that may benefit from a similar mode of intervention to the support David Nieper has offered in Alfreton

1 Findings

We estimate that up to 205 small towns in England and Wales are of a similar size to Alfreton, and have a similar deprivation profile to that seen in Alfreton. All 205 towns are outlined in Appendix 1.

Each of these towns:

- (a) qualifies as being a 'small town' according to the Centre for Town's typology;¹ and
- (b) exhibits a similar deprivation profile to Alfreton, as defined in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)².

The IMD is the government's official measure of relative deprivation for small areas in England. It combines information on income; employment; education, skills and training; health and disability; crime; barriers to housing and services; and living environment.

2 How we arrived at this figure

2.1 Restricting the dataset to 'small towns'

We cross referenced the typology of 'small towns' used by the Centre for Towns with the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) recorded in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) dataset. We then filtered our dataset to identify data relating to small towns in England and Wales.

2.2 Exhibiting similar levels of deprivation to those seen in Alfreton

We identified towns that fell into the range of IMD scores corresponding to those in Alfreton.

We did this by:

- identifying the five LSOAs that make up Alfreton and their corresponding entries in the IMD dataset;
- analysing the IMD scores for the LSOAs in Alfreton and created a range of scores that corresponded to this area;
- filtering the data on small towns to capture the small towns whose IMD scores fell into this range; and
- counting the number of distinct small towns that fell into this range.

¹ According to the typology published by Centre for Towns.
Centre for Towns. "Our Towns" (Last accessed 01/08/19 via <https://www.centrefortowns.org/our-towns>)

² Gov.UK, 2015. "Index of Multiple Deprivation" (Last accessed 01/08/19 via <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2015>)

3 Qualifications regarding the nature of this data

3.1 Freshness of the data

The latest Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) was published in 2015. It therefore does not represent the most current data for 2018/19. However, the IMD is currently the most reliable indicator of deprivation published by the government, and therefore using this data as indicative is consistent with best statistical practice.

3.2 Defining a ‘small town’

There is no clear national typology for small towns. We have adopted the Centre for Towns’ typology, and therefore define small towns as areas where roughly 10,000-30,000 people live. These areas may be contested, as town boundaries are often defined locally.

3.3 Obtaining data for Alfreton

Alfreton is the anchor town in our analysis; in other words, we wanted to identify other towns that are similar to its size and its deprivation profile. However, according to an analysis published by Amber Valley Borough Council,³ Alfreton comprises five different Lower-layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs). LSOAs are “small areas designed to be of a similar population size, with an average of approximately 1,500 residents or 650 households,” and 32,844 LSOAs were used to compile the IMD in 2015.⁴

It is not possible to aggregate the available LSOA data for Alfreton into a single measure of deprivation. We have, therefore, relied on a range of IMD scores that relate to each of the five LSOAs that sit within Alfreton. When we matched LSOAs to IMD scores, we had to include areas whose scores sat within a range of 19-39, rather than base our matching on the standard areas that together formed a single score. Accordingly, the range of scores is wider than would have been the case had we used data from a single LSOA.

In this context, when we say that 205 towns have similar geographical/deprivation profiles to Alfreton, we are saying that, in each case, at least one LSOA pertaining to that town qualifies.

3.4 Comparing school quality, specifically

We have not included a section specifically on the quality of the schools that exists in these 205 areas. More extensive analysis in each of these 205 areas would need to be done (including, for instance, to identify the schools that populate each area, scrutinise inspection reports, and analyse performance data) to assess whether the nature of the challenges they face means they would benefit from the kind of support David Nieper has offered in Alfreton.

³ Amber Valley Borough Council. “Alfreton Area Profile” (Last accessed 01/08/19 via <https://info.ambervalley.gov.uk/docarc/docviewer.aspx?docguid=a7e04b5fce414980ae790f948e2ee944>)

⁴ Ibid.

Appendix 1: List of 205 towns

Adwick le Street

Alfreton	Elland	Maltby	Seaham
Alsager	Ely	March	Shaw (Oldham)
Amptill	Failsworth	Marple	Shirebrook
Annfield Plain	Falmouth	Matlock	South Elmsall
Armthorpe	Farnworth	Mexborough	South Normanton
Ashton-in-Makerfield	Featherstone	Middlewich	South Ockendon
Baildon	(Wakefield)	Midsomer Norton	Southwick
Barton-upon-Humber	Ferndown	Milnrow	Spennymoor
Belper	Gatley	Mirfield	St Austell
Bentley	Golborne	Mossley	St Blazey
Bideford	Goole	Nantwich	St Ives (Cornwall)
Bingley	Guisborough	Neston	Stalybridge
Birstall	Guiseley	New Mills	Standish
Bishop Auckland	Hailsham	New Rossington	Stanford-le-Hope
Blandford Forum	Halstead	Newhaven	Stanley
Blaydon	Haydock	Newport (Isle of Wight)	Stapleford
Bodmin	Hazel Grove	Newquay	Staveley
Bolsover	Heanor	Newton Abbot	Stocksbridge
Bridport	Hebburn	Newton Aycliffe	Stretford
Brixham	Heckmondwike	Newton-le-Willows	Swallownest
Brownhills	Helston	Normanton	Swanage
Buxton (High Peak)	Hessle	Northam	Swinton
Camborne	Hetton-le-Hole	Oldbury (Sandwell)	Tavistock
Chapeltown	Heywood	Ossett	Teignmouth
Chatteris	Hindley	Otley	Thatcham
Cheadle	Holmfirth	Peacehaven	Thornaby-on-Tees
Chesham	Honiton	Penistone	Thornbury
Clay Cross	Horbury	Penrith	Thorne
Cleckheaton	Horsforth	Penzance	Tilbury
Clevedon	Houghton Regis	Peterlee	Tiverton
Cleveleys	Houghton-le-Spring	Platt Bridge	Todmorden
Clifton (City of Nottingham)	Hoylake	Plymstock	Truro
Congleton	Hoyland	Pontefract	Tyldesley
Conisbrough	Huntingdon	Portishead	Uckfield
Consett	Ilfracombe	Portslade-by-Sea	Ulverston
Coseley	Immingham	Poulton-le-Fylde	Verwood
Cottingham	Ince-in-Makerfield	Radcliffe	Walkden
Cowes	Ingleby Barwick	Ramsbottom	Wednesbury
Crook	Irlam	Rawmarsh	West Kirby
Crowthorne	Kempston	Redruth	Wetherby
Cudworth	Keynsham	Ripley	Whickham
Darlaston	Kingsteignton	Ross-on-Wye	Whitburn
Dawlish	Kippax	Rothwell	Whitefield
Dinnington	Knottingley	Royston	Whitehaven
(Rotherham)	Knutsford	Royton	Whittlesey
Dorchester (West Dorset)	Lees	Ryde	Wimborne Minster
Driffield	Leominster	Ryton	Witham
Dukinfield	Lewes	Saltash	Wombwell
Dunscroft	Litherland	Sandbach	Workington
Eastwood	Littleborough	Sandown	Worsbrough
	Liversedge	Sandy	Yarm
	Maghull	Seaford	Yeadon