Understanding Borough status; national context

- Until 1974, boroughs were primarily towns possessing Charters of Incorporation and many had historic ties to their status; however, the 1974 legislation allowed authorities to apply upon a resolution of two thirds of their membership.
- It is worth bearing in mind that it was not until 2009 that district councils as well as borough councils could award freedom statuses and this may have influenced why councils wanted borough status before this date.
- Most boroughs relate to towns rather than bigger geographic areas. The full list of all councils nationally, who have applied for borough status (including Unitary and non-Unitary Councils) is shown below;

Borough charters granted under section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972 to metropolitan and non-metropolitan districts of England

District	Population (ONS, 2017)	Year of charter
Allerdale	97,200	4 June 1992
Amber Valley	125,900	17 May 1989
Ashford	126,200	1 April 1974
Barnsley	243,300	1 April 1974
Barrow-in-Furness	67,100	1 April 1974
Basildon	184,500	26 October 2010
Basingstoke and Deane	175,300	20 January 1978
Bedford	169,900	1975
Birmingham	1,137,100	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Blackburn with Darwen	148,800	1 April 1974
Blackpool	139,900	1 April 1974
Bolton	248,800	1 April 1974
Boston	68,500	1 April 1974
Bournemouth	194,800	1 April 1974
Bracknell Forest	120,400	27 April 1988
Bradford	534,800	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Brentwood	76,600	10 March 1993
Brighton & Hove	288,200	1 April 1997 (granted city status in 2000)
Bristol	459,300	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Broxbourne	96,800	1 April 1974
Broxtowe	112,700	10 November 1977
Burnley	87,700	1 April 1974
Bury	189,600	1 April 1974
Calderdale	209,500	1 April 1974
Cambridge	124,900	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Canterbury	164,100	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Carlisle	108,300	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Castle Point	89,800	1992
Charnwood	180,400	1 April 1974
Chelmsford	176,200	10 November 1977

Cheltenham	117,100	1 April 1974
Cheshire East	378,000	2009
Cheshire West and Chester	338,000	2009
Chesterfield	104,600	1 April 1974
Chorley	115,800	1 April 1974
Christchurch	49,600	1 April 1974
Colchester	190,100	1 April 1974
Copeland	68,700	1 April 1974
Corby	69,500	28 October 1992
Coventry	360,100	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Crawley	111,700	1 April 1974
Dacorum	153,000	10 October 1984
	106,300	
Darlington Dartford		1 April 1974
	107,500	22 April 1977
Derby	257,000	1 April 1974 (and city status in 1977)
Doncaster	308,900	1 April 1974
Dudley	319,400	1 April 1974
East Staffordshire	117,600	11 May 1992
Eastbourne	103,300	1 April 1974
Eastleigh	130,500	1 April 1974
Elmbridge	136,400	1 April 1974
Epsom and Ewell	79,500	1 April 1974
Erewash	115,300	1975
Exeter	128,900	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Fareham	116,200	1 April 1974
Fylde	78,900	1 April 1974
Gateshead	202,400	1 April 1974
Gedling	117,100	1 April 1974
Gloucester	129,100	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Gosport	85,500	1 April 1974
Gravesham	106,100	1 April 1974
Great Yarmouth	99,400	1 April 1974
Guildford	147,800	1 April 1974
Halton	127,600	1 April 1974
Harrogate	160,000	1 April 1974
Hartlepool	160,000	1 April 1974
Hastings	92,800	1 April 1974
Havant	125,100	1 April 1974
Hertsmere	104,000	15 April 1977
High Peak	92,100	1 April 1974
Hinckley and Bosworth	111,400	1 April 1974
Hyndburn	80,400	1 April 1974
Hull City Council	260,700	1 April 1974
Ipswich	138,500	1 April 1974
Kettering	100,300	1 April 1974
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	151,900	1 April 1974
Kirklees	437,100	1 April 1974
Knowsley	148,600	1 April 1974
Lancaster	142,500	1 April 1974 1 April 1974 (and city status)
Redcar and Cleveland	136,000	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Leeds	784,800	· ·
	· '	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Leicester	353,500	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Lincoln	98,400	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Liverpool	491,500	1 April 1974 (and city status)

Luton	214,700	1 April 1974
Maidstone	167,700	1 April 1974 1 April 1974
	<u> </u>	
Manchester	545,500	1 April 1974 (and city status) 1998
Medway	277,600	
Melton	50,900	1 April 1974
Middlesbrough	140,600	1 April 1974
Milton Keynes	267,500	1 April 1974
Newcastle-under-Lyme	129,000	1 April 1974
Newcastle upon Tyne	295,800	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Northampton	225,700	1 April 1974
North East Lincolnshire	159,800	1996
North Lincolnshire	171,300	1998
North Tyneside	204,500	1 April 1974
North Warwickshire	64,100	1 April 1974
Norwich	140,400	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Nottingham	329,200	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Nuneaton and Bedworth	128,700	1 April 1974
Oadby and Wigston	57,000	1 April 1974
Oldham	233,800	1 April 1974
Oxford	154,600	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Pendle	90,700	15 September 1976
Peterborough	198,900	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Plymouth	263,100	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Poole	151,300	1 April 1974
Portsmouth	214,700	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Preston	141,300	1 April 1974 (granted city status in
rreston	141,500	2002)
Reading	163,100	1 April 1974
Redditch	85,200	15 May 1980
Reigate and Banstead	146,400	1 April 1974
Ribble Valley	59,500	1 April 1974
Rochdale	218,500	1 April 1974
Rossendale	70,400	1 April 1974
Rotherham	263,400	1 April 1974 1 April 1974
	106,400	1 April 1974 1 April 1974
Rugby Runnymede	<u>'</u>	
Rushcliffe	86,900	20 January 1978
	116,000	1 April 1974
Rushmoor	95,800	1 April 1974
St Albans	147,100	1 April 1974 (and city status)
St Edmundsbury	113,700	1 April 1974
St Helens	179,300	1 April 1974
Salford	251,300	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Sandwell	325,500	1 April 1974
Scarborough	108,400	1 April 1974
Sefton	274,600	1975
Sheffield	577,800	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Slough	148,800	1 April 1974
Solihull	213,900	1 April 1974
Southampton	252,400	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Southend-on-Sea	181,800	1 April 1974
South Ribble	110,400	1 April 1974
South Tyneside	149,600	1 April 1974
Spelthorne	99,100	1 April 1974
Stafford	134,800	1 April 1974
Stevenage	87,700	1 April 1974
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Stockport	291,000	1 April 1974
Stockton-on-Tees	196,500	1 April 1974
Stoke-on-Trent	255,400	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Sunderland	277,200	1 April 1974 (granted city status in
		1992)
Surrey Heath	88,800	1 April 1974
Swale	146,700	20 January 1978
Swindon	220,400	1 April 1974
Tameside	224,100	1 April 1974
Tamworth	76,500	1 April 1974
Taunton Deane	117,400	1975
Telford and Wrekin	175,800	2002
Test Valley	124,000	22 October 1976
Tewkesbury	90,300	1 April 1974
Thurrock	170,400	1 April 1974
Tonbridge and Malling	128,900	12 December 1983
Torbay	135,200	1 April 1974
Trafford	235,500	1 April 1974
Tunbridge Wells	118,100	1 April 1974
Wakefield	340,800	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Walsall	281,300	1 April 1974
Warrington	209,700	1 April 1974
Watford	96,700	1 April 1974
Waverley	125,000	21 February 1984
Wellingborough	78,900	1 April 1974
Welwyn Hatfield	122,300	2006
West Devon	55,300	27 April 1982
West Lancashire	113,900	2009
Weymouth and Portland	65,800	1 April 1974
Wigan	324,700	1 April 1974
Winchester	123,900	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Windsor and Maidenhead	150,100	1 April 1974 (Royal Borough)
Wirral	322,800	1 April 1974
Woking	101,100	1 April 1974
Wokingham	165,000	2007
Wolverhampton	259,900	1 April 1974. Granted city status 2000
Worcester	102,300	1 April 1974 (and city status)
Worthing	109,600	1 April 1974
Wyre	110,400	1 April 1974
York	208,200	1996 (and city status)