



Dorset Council

Date: Thursday, 14 July 2022
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

All members of Dorset Council are requested to attend this meeting of the Full Council.

Chief Executive: Matt Prosser, County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1XJ

For more information about this agenda please contact Democratic Services
Meeting Contact susan.dallison@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting, apart from any items listed in the exempt part of this agenda.

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Agenda

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1. APOLOGIES	
To receive any apologies for absence.	
2. MINUTES	5 - 24
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2022.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
To disclose any pecuniary, other registrable or non-registrable interests as set out in the adopted Code of Conduct. In making their decision councillors are asked to state the agenda item, the nature of the interest and any action they propose to take as part of their declaration.	
If required, further advice should be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.	

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any announcements from the Chairman of Council.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

A period of 30 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to questions and statements on the business of the Council in the following order:

- (a) Questions and statements from Town and Parish Councils;
- (b) Questions and statements from those living or working in the Dorset Council area;

A person or organisation can ask either 2 questions, or 2 statements or 1 question and 1 statement at each meeting. No more than 3 minutes shall be allowed for any one question or statement to be asked/read.

The full text of the question or statement must be received by 8.30am on Monday 11 July 2022.

Details of the Council's procedure rules can be found at:
[Council Procedure Rules](#)

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

A period of 15 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to petitions in accordance with the council's petitions scheme.

A period of 15 minutes is allocated to receive and respond to deputations in accordance with the council's constitution.

The petitions scheme and procedures relating to deputations can be viewed at:

[Council Procedure Rules](#)

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS FROM THE LEADER OF COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS

To receive any announcements and reports from the Leader of Council and members of the Cabinet.

8. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

To receive questions submitted by councillors. The deadline for receipt of questions is 8.30am on Monday 11 July 2022.

9. YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2022/23

To receive a recommendation from Cabinet.

10. COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS 69 - 162

To consider a report by J Andrews, Service Manager Democratic and Electoral Services.

11. REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL 163 - 174

To consider a report from the Independent Remuneration Panel.

12. HONORARY ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN OF THE DORSET COUNCIL AREA 175 - 182

To receive a recommendation from the Audit & Governance Committee.

13. URGENT ITEMS

To consider any items of business which the Chairman has had prior notification and considers to be urgent pursuant to section 100B (4) b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The reason for the urgency shall be recorded in the minutes.

14. EXEMPT BUSINESS

To move the exclusion of the press and the public for the following item in view of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the meaning of paragraph 3 of schedule 12 A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting whilst the item of business is considered.

There is no exempt business.

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DORSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12 MAY 2022

Present: Cllrs Tony Alford, Mike Barron, Richard Biggs, Cherry Brooks, Alex Brenton, Piers Brown, Simon Christopher, Kelvin Clayton, Robin Cook, Jean Dunseith, Matthew Hall, Paul Harrison, Sherry Jespersen, Carole Jones, Stella Jones, Andrew Kerby, Rebecca Knox, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Howard Legg, Robin Legg, Jon Orrell, Emma Parker, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Byron Quayle, Molly Rennie, Maria Roe, Jane Somper, Clare Sutton, David Taylor, David Tooke, Kate Wheller, Sarah Williams, John Worth, Jill Haynes, Mike Parkes (Vice-Chairman), Ryan Hope, Rob Hughes, Tony Ferrari, Beryl Ezzard, Andrew Starr, Derek Beer, David Walsh, Cathy Lugg, Toni Coombs, Gill Taylor, Barry Goringe, Brian Heatley, Ryan Holloway, Pauline Batstone, Tim Cook, Nick Ireland, Paul Kimber, Laura Miller, David Morgan, Louie O'Leary, Ray Bryan, Shane Bartlett, Val Potheary (Chairman), Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Julie Robinson, Spencer Flower, David Shortell, Susan Cocking, Gary Suttle, Simon Gibson, Bill Trite, Les Fry, Peter Wharf and Rod Adkins

Apologies: Cllrs Jon Andrews, Dave Bolwell, Graham Carr-Jones, Janet Dover, Mike Dyer, David Gray and Andy Canning

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting):

Susan Dallison (Democratic Services Team Leader), Aidan Dunn (Executive Director - Corporate Development S151), Jonathan Mair (Director of Legal and Democratic), Matt Prosser (Chief Executive), John Sellgren (Executive Director, Place), Hayley Caves (Member Development and Support Officer), Kate Critchel (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Jacqui Andrews (Service Manager for Democratic and Electoral Services), George Dare (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Theresa Leavy (Executive Director of People - Children), Elaine Tibble (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Louise Drury (Head of Service Children in Care and Care Leavers) and Claire Shiels (Corporate Director - Commissioning, Quality & Partnerships)

1. Election of Chairman

Proposed by Cllr Batstone, seconded by Cllr Coombs that Cllr Val Potheary be elected Chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Proposed by Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Roe that Cllr Beryl Ezzard be elected Chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Decision: that Cllr Val Potheary be elected as Chairman of Council for 2022/23.

The Chairman thanked: Cllr Parkes for his support as Vice-chairman during the previous year, the Democratic Services Team Leader, the Democratic Services Team, her Personal Assistant and her partner. She made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

The Chairman gave an update on the refurbishment of the war memorial at County Hall and the forthcoming Queen's Jubilee celebrations.

2. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Proposed by Cllr Potheary, seconded by Cllr Shortell that Cllr Barry Goringe be elected Vice-chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Proposed by Cllr Sutton, seconded by Cllr Ireland that Cllr Les Fry be elected Vice-chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Decision: that Cllr Barry Goringe be elected as Vice-chairman of Council for 2022/23.

Cllr Goringe made and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2022 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

5. **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman announced the sad death of John Russell, former Councillor for West Dorset District Council.

and

Cllr Bill Pipe had received an invitation to the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace which would take place the following week.

6. **Election of Leader of Council**

Proposed by Cllr Wharf, seconded by Cllr Parry that Cllr Spencer Flower be elected Leader of Council for 2022/23.

Decision: that Cllr Flower Spencer be elected as Leader of Council for 2022/23.

7. **Appointment of Deputy Leader of Council, Cabinet/Portfolio Holders and Lead Members**

The Leader reported that there were no changes to the appointments of Deputy Leader, Members of Cabinet and Lead Members.

8. Announcements and Reports from the Leader of Council and Cabinet Members

The Leader of Council presented his bulletin and highlighted the headlines as follows:

Mission Statement – A two-year plan setting out our priorities for 2022 to 2024.

The vision for 2022 – 2024 was to focus on the following ten priorities:

Dorset Local Plan

Housing for local people.

Adult social care

Children's services

Assets and Property

Working with the integrated care system

Climate and ecological strategy

Community safety

County deal

Digital innovation

Council members commented on the need to be bold with regeneration for the benefit of constituents and the need for more affordable housing.

9. Public Participation - Questions and Statements

Public questions, statements and the responses from the Leader of the Council or the appropriate portfolio holder are set out in Appendix 1 to these minutes.

10. Public participation - petitions and deputations

There were no petitions or deputations.

11. Questions from Councillors

There were three questions received from councillors. A copy of the questions and the responses were attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

12. Appointments to Committees, Joint Panels and Boards and Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen

The Corporate Director, Legal & Democratic introduced the report which confirmed the allocation of committee seats, delegated authority to group leaders to make changes to appointments and nominations for Chair and Vice Chair's.

Proposed by Cllr Flower, seconded by Cllr Fry.

Decision:

- (a) That the allocation of committee seats and the appointments to committees, joint panels and boards, as nominated by the Political Group Leaders, be approved for 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 & 3 of the report.
- (b) That delegated authority be given to Political Group Leaders to make in-year changes to committee, panel and board appointments.
- (c) That the nominations for committee Chairmen and Vice-chairmen for 2022/23 be approved as set out in Appendix 4 of the report.

13. Notice of Motion

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Cllr Noc Lacey-Clarke and seconded by Cllr Les Fry. Supported by Cllrs John Worth, Val Potheary, Tony Ferrari, Kate Wheller, Cherry Brooks, Mike Parkes, Spencer Flower, Rob Hughes, Susan Cocking, Toni Coombs, Graham Carr-Jones, Sherry Jespersen, Ray Bryan, Simon Christopher, Barry Goringe, Carole Jones, Andrew Kerby, Andrew Parry, Jane Somper, David Shortell and Paul Harrison.

Notice of Motion

“We must always support our democracy by ensuring the rights to peaceful protest are respected. However, the behaviour of two climate protesters at Full Council on the 14 April 2022 ruined the potential for an active debate by elected members, prevented any further amendments to the motion being put forward and encroached on the safety of members and officers of this council. The security of those in public office has very largely been self-policed through common decency and respect for the rule of law. Recent events across the country and in this Council chamber have caused concern and anxiety for the safety of those in public life who, abide by the principles of democracy and are elected to represent the interests of the people of Dorset.

Security measures will now need to be stepped up to protect elected members and officers of this council from a repeat of any unauthorised public access to the council chamber, which will sadly be at a cost to the local taxpayer.

The Motion:

That members of Dorset Council condemn the behaviour of those who disrupted the Full Council meeting on Thursday 14 April.”

Cllr Robin Legg proposed, Cllr Nick Ireland seconded the following amendment:

“That members of Dorset Council whilst regretting the behaviour of those who disrupted the full council meeting on Thursday 14th April are critical of the leadership of the authority who allowed such disruption to take place and used this interference with the democratic process as an opportunity to curtail debate.”

There was a short comfort break while the legitimacy of the amendment was confirmed with the Corporate Director, Legal & Democratic.

On returning to the Chamber the Chairman confirmed that the amendment was legitimate.

Members debated the amendment

On being put to the vote the amendment was **LOST**.

The debate continued and a number of views were expressed by members both in support and against the motion.

Proposed by Cllr Harrison. In accordance with procedure rule 19.6 a recorded vote was taken.

Those who voted in favour of the Motion: Cllrs: Rod Atkins, Anthony Alford, Michael Barron, Shane Bartlett, Pauline Batstone, Cherry Brooks, Piers Brown, Ray Bryan, Simon Christopher, Susan Cocking, Robin Cook, Toni Coombs, Jean Dunseith, Tony Ferrari, Spencer Flower, Les Fry, Simon Gibson, Barry Gorringer, Paul Harrison, Jill Haynes, Robert Hughes, Carole Jones, Sherry Jespersen, Andrew Kerby, Rebecca Knox, Nocturin Lacey-Clarke, Cathy Lugg, Laura Miller, Louis O’Leary, Emma Parker, Mike Parkes, Andrew Parry, Mary Penfold, Bill Pipe, Valerie Potheary, Byron Quayle, Belinda Ridout, Mark Roberts, Julie Robinson, David Shortell, Jane Somper, Gary Suttle, William Trite, David Walsh, Peter Wharf, Kate Wheller and John Worth.

Those who voted against the Motion: Cllrs: Belinda Bawden, Richard Biggs, Kelvin Clayton, Tim Cook, Beryl Ezzard, Brian Heatley, Ryan Hope, Nick Ireland, Stella Jones, Paul Kimber, Robin Legg, Howard Legg, David Morgan, Jon Orrell, Molly Rennie, Maria Roe, Andrew Starr, Clare Sutton, David Taylor, Gill Taylor and Sarah Williams.

Those who abstained: Cllrs Derek Beer, Alex Brenton, Matt Hall, Ryan Holloway and David Tooke.

Following a recorded vote, 47 for, 21 against and 5 abstentions the Motion was carried.

Decision: that members of Dorset Council condemned the behaviour of those who disrupted the Full Council meeting on Thursday 14 April.

14. Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

15. **Exempt Business**

There was no exempt business.

Appendix 1 - Public Questions
Appendix 2 Councillor Questions

Duration of meeting: 6.00 - 9.15 pm

Chairman

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**Annual Meeting of Council
12 May 2022**

Questions and Statements submitted for the Public Participation Period

Question 1 – submitted by Alistair Chisholm - read by Neil Matthews

In an email, dated 28th April 2022, written to all those invited to the second HYAS master planning workshop for the North Dorchester Garden Community, Wessex Water stated the following:

1.(We) are still not satisfied that risks to Eagle Lodge, a major strategic public drinking water supply source, can be mitigated..... “

and

2. “major development in a source protection zone can result in significant water quality deterioration in the aquifer.....serious pollution may render the source unusable.....”

and

3. "Significant investment is likely to be required to serve the site,
including new service reservoirs."

In view of these damning comments, and the massive costs involved in providing suitable mitigation measures to ensure the continued supply of healthy drinking water to the town, why is this Council continuing to spend public money on the DOR 13 site which is clearly and fundamentally flawed?

Response by Cllr David Walsh

Any major proposed development will have substantial issues that need to be resolved before it can be approved. This is an important part of devising the Plan as we work with key stakeholders to identify challenges and look to address concerns.

The Council has yet to endorse any specific aspects of the Local Plan and would not do so until asked to support the final draft for submission to the Secretary of State.

However, all decisions need to be supported by appropriate evidence, and we will continue to work with Wessex Water in investigating the issues that they have raised.

Question 2 – submitted by Rob Pearce on behalf of the Dorset Equality Group

Dorset Equality Group's question is to ask what progress is being made in implementing the Real Living Wage as the baseline staff employment rate.

As a group we are aware of the debates initiated by Councillors Nick Ireland and David Gray surrounding the Council's current pay structure, especially at the top and bottom of the scale. It is more than just our contention, there is a growing body of evidence, that the

pernicious effects of inequality impact heavily on happiness, health, housing and many other areas of life and that they affect us **all**.

We applaud the tenacity, flexibility and service to the people of Dorset which Dorset Council has demonstrated throughout the pandemic. The contribution of staff undertaking essential, but in the past relatively unrecognised, roles has been widely appreciated by Dorset residents and we urge Dorset Council to become in the very near future a Real Living Wage employer and to be in a position to promote widely the benefits of a more equitable wage structure.

We recognise the huge burdens placed on local authorities to fulfil their statutory obligations with diminishing resources in real terms, but we know too that economic, health and social crises provide unmissable opportunities for imaginative policy formation and implementation. It is our view that now is the time for Dorset Councillors, council officers and staff, trades unions, staff associations and Dorset residents to design such a policy and to see it to implementation. Not only will baseline pay increase, but so too will morale, productivity, local purchasing power and the example set to the private sector.

Dorset, despite all that it offers in terms of quality of life, has some of the highest indicators of inequality in the UK with often exorbitant urban housing costs; isolation and expensive, but frequently poor, public transport links in rural areas; and insecure and seasonal employment in seaside towns.

Let's secure for Dorset not only a highly valued quality of life but also the consideration and respect which the lowest paid deserve, alleviating some of their anxieties about the cost of enjoying life in Dorset.

Thank you very much.

Response by Cllr Jill Haynes

The majority of Dorset Council's pay rates are set through national pay bargaining.

The national local government employers are seeking to increase the lowest pay point, over a period, to achieve the Real Living Wage. As the Council is committed to national bargaining then it is right that we support the national employers in their endeavours.

The pace of Dorset Council's movement towards the Real Living Wage will therefore be determined through national negotiations

Question 3 & 4 – submitted by Dr Sandra Reeve on behalf of Dorset Climate Action Network (Question to be read by Giles Watts from Dorset Action Network)

Dorset Council needs to be seen to operate fairly and to set high standards in public office. **Dorset Climate Action Network** is therefore very disappointed at the way the motion on UK energy self-sufficiency (Agenda 13) was handled at the Full Council meeting on 14th April.

It was clear that there were strong feelings in the chamber about this motion which included the proposal: 'Mindful of the current experience of global conflict and uncertainty, Dorset Council urges the Government to introduce an energy policy with the principal objective of securing permanent UK energy self-sufficiency from as early a date as possible, ***utilising whatever forms of energy generation sourced from within the UK are necessary to***

this end'. This proposal ignores both the recommendations of the IPPC report and Dorset Council's own Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

Following the disruption by protesters, the meeting was moved to another room, where a vote was taken **with no debate permitted, apart from the words of the proposer and the seconder which were delivered before the disruption.**

We note the actions by the two protesters calling themselves Grannies for the Future. However Dorset Council's response to the protest was disappointing. By hurrying through the vote of such a key motion without public discussion and behind closed doors, the Council has stifled an important debate in the face of climate change and clearly failed to respect the principles of democracy, thereby damaging the Council's democratic reputation.

We call on the Council to deem the vote on the motion Agenda 13 null and void and bring the motion back to a future meeting so that it can be openly debated in public before a second vote is taken. We gather that this is possible if 24 members provide notice of a revised motion.

Question 1: Will the Chair please give their reasons for moving to an immediate vote on Agenda 13 without debate, rather than adjourning the vote to another occasion, which they could have chosen to do?

Question 2: We hope Dorset Council agrees that our energy and climate security is important enough to require a proper public debate; if so will the Council bring the motion back to a future meeting as this appears to us to be the most equitable way forward?

Response by Cllr Val Potheary

In the introduction to their questions Dorset Climate Action Network merely **note** the actions by the two protesters who disrupted the last Full Council meeting and they then go on to criticise the Council for what they say was a failing to respect the principles of democracy.

Noting the actions of the protesters is not good enough. What the protesters did was a deliberate attempt to prevent a democratic vote from taking place. It resulted in disruption to our meeting, it resulted in the police having to be called out and it is now resulting in council tax payers having to meet the cost of additional security measures for our meetings, tonight and in the future.

The question describes the vote as having taken place behind closed doors. That is not true. The disruption by the protesters meant that we had to reconvene in a different room but I did not re-start the meeting until members of the public were present, as we are obliged to do.

In fact it was the very presence of the three members of the public that influenced my decision. They had been in the gallery with the two protesters and having just witnessed such an extraordinary event I was most concerned that no further incidents occurred – who knew what might still happen!? So for reasons of members and officers safety I took the decision to forgo the usual debate and move straight to a vote. Yes, I could have adjourned the meeting, but I did not wish the protesters to succeed in preventing a democratic vote from taking place.

I was supported in my decision by both the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer. Debate was curtailed because of the actions of the protesters but my decision was to ensure that a democratic vote took place on an item that was included on our agenda to be decided that evening.

Questions, answers, motions and updates relating to climate feature regularly on our agendas and I expect that will continue. The Leader's motion to our last meeting was agreed and it stands now as a decision of the Council and has been enacted.

Question 5 & 6 – submitted by Caz Dennett XR, Dorchester, Weymouth and Portland

On the 4th April 2022 UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres said:

“We are on a pathway to global warming of more than double the 1.5°C limit agreed in Paris. Some Government and business leaders are saying one thing, but doing another. Simply put, they are lying. And the results will be catastrophic. This is a climate emergency.

Climate scientists warn that we are already perilously close to tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate impacts. But, high-emitting Governments and corporations are not just turning a blind eye, they are adding fuel to the flames.

They are choking our planet, based on their vested interests and historic investments in fossil fuels, when cheaper, renewable solutions provide green jobs, energy security and greater price stability.

Climate activists are sometimes depicted as dangerous radicals. But, the truly dangerous radicals are the countries that are increasing the production of fossil fuels [which include the UK].

Investing in new fossil fuels infrastructure is moral and economic madness.

We must triple the speed of the shift to renewable energy.

Leaders must lead.

If you live in a big city, a rural area or a small island State; if you invest in the stock market; if you care about justice and our children's future; demand an end to all fossil fuel subsidies.”

Is Antonio Guterres, the United Nations and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change wrong to say we must prevent all new oil & gas extraction, including here in Dorset?

Question 2

Three years ago Dorset Council declared we are in a climate emergency, yet last month passed a motion to support new oil & gas extraction including here in Dorset, and continues to invest £41 million of our Dorset Pension Fund in fossil fuels.

Does Dorset Council understand you are saying one thing and doing another, and displaying the moral and economic madness Mr Guterres refers to?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

If I may, I would like to answer your questions together as one is relate to the other.

Dorset Council has committed to the leadership required to deliver the aspirations of the climate and ecological strategy, working across multiple systems and partnerships. The council has significant tools and levers that it can utilise to help us on this journey, but it cannot deliver the change required on its own. As with any change of this scale, there will out of necessity be a period of transition where energy, transport and other key systems decarbonise, and wider behavioural change reduces our environmental impact. Reducing

the discussion to a simple binary set of choices minimises the scale and scope of the challenges that we all face within society. We are all facing a huge challenge to make the necessary changes, and therefore I have committed to continue dialogue with government and other key partners and communities to investigate how we can remove barriers and empower councils like Dorset to make decisions on their energy needs. I have always been open for dialogue on how we can work on accelerating the transition, and concrete ideas that are cognisant of the complexity of delivering on our aspirations that understand the role of local government are always welcome.

Dorset Council has delegated its responsibilities as an administering authority for the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) to the Pension Fund Committee which has a duty to scheme members and their employers to ensure that the contributions they pay into the pension fund are invested appropriately to make returns sufficient to meet the fund's obligations to pay pensions and other benefits.

In September 2020, the Pension Fund Committee agreed a strategy not to divest completely from companies involved in the sourcing and refining of fossil fuels but instead to seek to reduce investment in all high carbon emitting companies and to influence the demand for fossil fuels and their financing, not just their supply. Significant decarbonisation has been and will continue to be achieved through the transition of assets to the management of Brunel Pension Partnership, the pension fund's LGPS investment pooling manager. 10% of the pension fund's assets are now invested in Brunel's sustainable equities fund and all other actively managed Brunel funds are committed to a policy of a 7% year on year reduction in their carbon footprint."

Question 7 – submitted by Giles Watts

My wife and I are lucky enough to be hosting two lovely Ukrainian Families who are seeking sanctuary from the war. They are two women in their 30s and three children aged 5, 8 and 8. Both families are from Kharkiv which has been largely destroyed by Russian forces. At the start of the war they spent their first week cowering in an unlit cellar beneath a Barber's shop before escaping to Poland. The Polish welcomed them in without any delays and quickly allocated them a single room in a large apartment block in Katowice along with many other refugee families.

The families arrived in Dorchester on Friday after a 5-week struggle to obtain visas. Two of the children did not have passports and had to travel to Warsaw for biometrics (photos and fingerprinting). Despite intervention from Chris Loder's team – for which we are grateful – the last visa for the 8-year-old boy was not granted until Wednesday evening just hours before flying. The stress levels have been very high and our first hand experience of the Home Office's visa system has been a shameful disgrace.

Local support in Dorset has been fabulous and heart-warming with everyone wanting to help with everything including phone chips, clothing, events and even offers of monetary support. it is truly the kindness of strangers. Dorset council have also supported us in a number of ways. DBS checks and a safety check of our property have both been carried out with common sense and efficiency, while your helpline and welcome packs were well received although ultimately less useful than local networks such as "Help for Kindness" in Weymouth.

School places are our first priority and we were surprised that schools have not been provided with any additional resources and many are already full. We have been incredibly lucky. The Prince of Wales School in Dorchester under their inspirational head, Gary Spracklen, agreed to take in the children immediately, and has provided them with free

second hand school uniforms and allocated them with school meals out of their own budget until universal credit is confirmed.

For the mothers, the next stage may prove to be even more difficult. They need to sign up for medical and dental services and they need a bank account before they can apply for universal credit and child benefit which we have been informed will take at least 6 weeks and may require originals of documents they do not have. Until then, they will have almost no funds coming in. To work, they must also apply for a National Security number which we hear can be very tricky and time-consuming.

Question

We believe Dorset Council is receiving £10,500 from the government for every Ukrainian refugee. Out of this the Ukrainians receive £200 each on a pre-paid card and the Host families receive £350 per month. How do Dorset Council intend to spend the remaining funds? We wondered whether some should go to local schools that take on refugee children to provide additional staffing and resources and whether the council might also support language classes for both refugees and host families.

Response by Cllr Laura Miller

We thank Giles for their response and indeed offer our thanks to all hosts in Dorset. We are humbled by the wonderful warm welcome being provided to Ukrainian refugees by Dorset residents.

We recognise the challenges that people are facing in receiving their visas and share your appreciation of the work our local MPs have been doing to help address these issues with the Home Office.

The support from Dorset Council and partners, including 'Help and Kindness' and Volunteer Centre Dorset, who are undertaking the DBS checks on our behalf is coordinated through our Dorset Together network so I am pleased to hear how well this has worked. It is a strong multi-agency partnership that continues to respond to questions and emerging needs at both county and local level.

We are coordinating admissions to schools through our school admissions team and can confirm that 27 schools across the county have welcomed children or are in the process of welcoming children.

The council is due to receive funding based on a formula of £10,500 per guest arriving through the Homes for Ukraine scheme. This funding is being used to deliver the requirements of the Homes for the Ukraine scheme in the following ways:

- Undertaking the suitability checks for hosts including accommodation and DBS checks
- Set up our call centre response and undertaking the administration of payments to hosts
- Making interim payments to guests
- Providing guest welfare checks through in person visits once they have arrived
- Meeting any care or support needs of guests
- Helping guests settle if they wish to remain here
- Supporting voluntary and community organisations that are supporting hosts and guests

- Helping guests if initial accommodation arrangements don't work
- Supporting integration

I can confirm that there is a separate funding scheme for schools and early years settings. The council has agreed to release this funding as quickly as possible to settings as children arrive.

- £3,000 per child for Early Years settings for children accepting children aged 2 to 4 years
- £6,580 per child for Primary schools
- £8,755 per child for Secondary schools

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**Annual Meeting of Council
12 May 2022**

Questions submitted by Councillors

Question 1 – submitted by Cllr Maria Roe

In May 2019 Dorset Council declared not only a climate change emergency but also an ecological emergency. Dorset Council has many opportunities to show leadership on strengthening and protecting the natural environment.

Since November 2019 I have been trying to find out what Dorset Council's policy is on the use of glyphosate. I have had many discussions and emails with officers and I have had many different and conflicting responses. Some officers tell me that glyphosate is only used under statute to maintain hard surfaces and highways and used in exceptional circumstances to control pervasive weeds such as Japanese knotweed.

In November 2021 at the Places and Resources Scrutiny Committee the Climate Change & Ecological Emergency Strategy Progress report stated definitively that glyphosate will now only be used as a management tool for highway verges. However, this is quite clearly not the case as glyphosate is used on SANGs quite liberally. Where I live it has been sprayed down by the riverbank, around drain covers, 2 foot strips around a children's play area, around information boards, around the base of trees. I have been told that using Roundup ProVantage, which is readily available in supermarkets, will not have an adverse impact on bees and other insects, animals, or people. The last email I received stated that the Roundup herbicide has been one of the most trusted herbicides in the world for more than 35 years.

The reality is that it is highly toxic, and the science is being undermined. In 2020 and 2021 a landmark court cases have been taking place in the United States against Monsanto and the new owner Bayer. Settlements of 100,000 Roundup lawsuits of \$10.9 billion and \$2 billion for personal injury have been made for people suffering from cancer.

Professor Dave Goulson from the School of Life Sciences at the University of Sussex has for many years warned of the dangers of using glyphosate. The University of Birmingham published research in December 2020 where they tested keystone species and found that even at approved regulatory levels glyphosate causes significant DNA damage, embryonic development failure and interferes with the metabolism and gut function of animals.

My question is - what is Dorset Council's policy on the use of glyphosate?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

Dorset Council take the health of our residents seriously and complies with all current National regulations and guidelines in the use of glyphosate. We actively aim to reduce herbicide use and to use mechanical control methods wherever practicable.

Supplementary Question - Cllr Maria Roe

Many councils have stopped using Roundup because of the ecological emergency. Governments are notoriously behind the curve recognising dangers – you only have to look back at the 1960s and 1970s to see how powerful the tobacco industry used

to be. Think about how asbestos used to be thought of as safe, and more recently the deadly cladding on Grenfell tower.

But, we have a growing body of caselaw from the United States and most importantly we have the scientific evidence to show us how harmful glyphosate is.

My question requires a yes or no answer. Is Dorset Council willing to risk a law suit for using glyphosate?

Cllr Ray Bryan advised he would speak to the Legal Team and respond in due course.

Question 2 – submitted by Cllr Kelvin Clayton

The Council's Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy states that it "has a key role in lobbying government for clear policy and financial support required for the transition to a zero-carbon future". The Notice of Motion, proposed by the Leader of the Council, and approved at the last Council, calls for the Council to urge "the Government to introduce an energy policy with the principal objective of securing energy self-sufficiency from as early a date as possible, utilising whatever forms of energy generation sourced from within the UK are necessary to this end". Unless the latter is restricted zero-carbon energy, how does it intend to do both?

Response by Cllr Ray Bryan

The motion presented by the Leader and approved at last Full Council is not in conflict with the Climate Strategy. We are recognising that there is a need for a period of transition from a reliance on fossil fuels to an energy network that is fully resourced by renewable energy. It is clear that industrial and manufacturing machinery, transport and many other aspects of our daily lives will require oil-based products for a period of time until a transition can be made to alternatives. With current uncertainties and reliance on oil and gas from other countries it makes sense for our country to become more self-sufficient in this regard.

Following the debate at the last Full Council meeting, the Council Leader wrote to The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth & Climate Change expressing the need for energy self-sufficiency utilising whatever forms of energy generation sourced from within the UK as are necessary to this end, including wind, solar and hydrogen. This letter emphasised the need for government to meet its declared 2050 net zero carbon target.

Following COP 26 in Glasgow last year I sent a letter to central government expressing amongst other things the need for processes to be simplified to encourage the development of more renewable energy installations in the UK. I pointed out that it is unnecessarily difficult to set up solar arrays, wind farms, and tidal power generation in terms of bureaucracy, funding, and physical infrastructure and that we wanted the government to remove these barriers and empower councils to make their own decisions on how best to address their energy needs.

We are actively lobbying government to encourage renewable energy development but recognising that a period of transition will be necessary to meet our current energy needs. This is why we have set a realistic date for Dorset Council to become carbon neutral.

Our intention has always been and remains to become carbon neutral by 2040 or before and for us to influence and support the wider county meeting this goal by 2050. The motion presented and approved at last Full Council does not change this.

Question 3 – submitted by Cllr Belinda Bawden

Article 5.2(b) of the Council's Constitution states that it is the responsibility of the Chairman of Council "to preside over meetings of the Council so that its business can be carried out efficiently with regards to the rights of Members and the interests of the community".

Do these rights of Members include the right to speak in opposition to a Notice of Motion?

Response by Cllr Val Potheary

I believe that this question is alluding to my decision to move to a vote after protesters disrupted our meeting on 14 April.

I take my responsibilities as Chairman of the Council very seriously. As required by the Constitution I work hard to ensure that our business is carried out efficiently and with regard to the rights of members and the interests of the community.

There was a motion on our agenda to be decided on 14 April but protesters made a deliberate attempt to disrupt the meeting and to prevent a vote from going ahead.

I moved straight to a vote rather than adjourning to another occasion because I did not wish the protesters to succeed in preventing a democratic vote from taking place that evening.

Sometimes I have to make decisions so that council business can be carried on efficiently and that may include curtailing debate that would otherwise take place. Members might not always agree with my decisions but I do expect them to respect the Chair and to abide by what I have decided.

Question 4 – submitted by Cllr Alex Brenton

Since declaring a Climate and Ecological Emergency in 2019, Dorset Council has made substantial changes to the way the council operates, working towards being Carbon Neutral by **2050**. There is a welcome expansion of renewable energy schemes, the transport fleet is changing the use and procurement of vehicles.

However, there is one area where Dorset is **not** preparing for a low carbon future and that is in Planning Policy and Procedure. We are still permitting new buildings which are not fit for the next 30 years. They are neither Carbon Neutral in building techniques or use by residents.

As a Planning Committee we are constantly told that we **CANNOT demand** Carbon reduction measures as we have **no policy, and we cannot have a Policy until the Local Plan is agreed and accepted and even then it is subject to Government Building regulations which may or may not encourage these measures.**

In our Planning Officers reports we have a nod to Climate Change – usually indicating whether there is a bus service or train station nearby, as though lower car use is the only solution.

If we can ask for biodiversity and environmental surveys, why can we not ask for a Dorset Protocol NOW which demands information before the application is accepted.

On: -

Building techniques which reduce wastage and excess concrete use,

Solar energy capture from roof tiles or garden array,

Passive heat systems – ground or air source heat pumps,

Rainwater collection and storage and reuse,

Permeable outside ground coverings (drives and patios)

Most Councillors on Dorset Planning Committees believe we urgently need a Policy on Carbon Footprint of all new buildings. **When can we expect this to be delivered?**

Response by Cllr David Walsh

Changes to building regulations are coming into place this year, which will introduce more stringent energy efficiency requirements for new dwellings, and further enhancements are due in 2025 when the national Future Homes Standard will be introduced.

We cannot change development plan policy without adopting a new local plan or separate development plan document, which has gone through the statutory preparation process including a public examination. The local plan programme is currently under review and a revised programme has not yet been published.

In the meantime however, officers are carrying out some work on what can be done under the current policy framework, with the aim of developing an interim position statement, based on existing national and local policies but seeking to take as proactive approach as we can.

Question 5 – submitted by Cllr Alex Brenton

Every new building involves more impermeable covered space increasing rainfall run off and every dwelling produces sewage. Natural England is concerned that mitigation measures to stop Eutrophication are not enough, In the meantime, planning permission will only be granted if Dorset Council can be satisfied that it will not lead to an adverse effect upon the integrity of a protected habitat as a consequence of the impact of nutrient enrichment upon water quality.

All properties in my ward drain eventually into the Poole Harbour basin. **Can I assume that as our pumping and treatment plant in Lytchett Matravers already overflows regularly and cannot cope with existing flows that NO New Buildings will be permitted in Lytchett Matravers for the foreseeable future?**

Response by Cllr David Walsh

We have adopted policies for mitigation of the effects of Nitrogen on Poole Harbour, which allow development where it makes provision for appropriate mitigation of any adverse effects on protected habitats. Natural England has recently published revised guidance on nutrients matters, suggesting that the impact of Phosphorus on Poole Harbour needs to be considered, in addition to that of Nitrogen, and further work is taking place to work out the implications of this. Development proposals will be refused if they do not provide satisfactory mitigation but can be allowed if they do.

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Recommendation to Dorset Council 14 July 2022

From Cabinet on 17 May 2022

Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: [T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children](#)

Report Author: David Webb

Title: Manager, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service

[Tel:01202 794321](tel:01202794321)

Email: david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: [Public](#)

Recommendation:

That the Youth Justice Plan 2022/23 be approved

Appendices

Report to the People and Health Overview Committee – 3 May 2022 – Youth Justice Plan 2022/2033, including the following appendices

Appendix 1: Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

Background papers

[Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 17th May 2022, 10.00 am - Dorset Council](#)

[Agenda for People and Health Overview Committee on Tuesday, 3rd May 2022, 10.00 am - Dorset Council](#)

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People and Health Overview Committee

03 May 2022

Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

For Recommendation to Cabinet

Portfolio Holder: Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: David Webb
Title: Manager, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Tel: 01202 794321
Email: david.webb@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

That the People and Health Overview Committee endorse the Youth Justice Plan so that Cabinet can recommend its approval to Full Council.

Reason for Recommendation:

Local authorities are required to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan, setting out how the statutory requirements for a multi-agency youth offending team are fulfilled locally. Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is a partnership between Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, along with Dorset Police, NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group and The Probation Service (Dorset). Approval for the Youth Justice Plan is also being sought from Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The Youth Justice Plan needs to be approved by the full Council.

1. Executive Summary

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 there is a statutory requirement to publish an annual Youth Justice Plan which must provide specified information about the local provision of youth justice services. The Youth Justice Board

provides guidance about what must be included in the plan and recommends a structure for the plan. The draft Youth Justice Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is attached at Appendix One. A brief summary of the Youth Justice Plan is provided in this report.

2. Financial Implications

The Youth Justice Plan reports on the resourcing of the Youth Justice Service. Local authority and other partner budget contributions have remained static since 2014/15, apart from a one-off cost of living increase to local authority contributions in 2019/20, along with a redistribution of the funding proportions to reflect Local Government Reorganisation. The annual Youth Justice Grant reduced from £790,000 in 2014/15 to £607,968 in 2020/21, rising to £659,239 for 2021/22. At the time of writing, the grant award for 2022/23 has not been announced.

The creation of the pan-Dorset Youth Justice Service in 2015 increased the service's resilience and ability to adapt to reduced funding and increased costs. The management of vacancies, and the deletion of some posts, has enabled a balanced budget to be achieved in the years to 2022.

3. Well-being and Health Implications

Young people in contact with youth justice services are known to be more likely than other young people to have unmet or unidentified health needs. The Youth Justice Service includes seconded health workers who work directly with young people and who facilitate their engagement with community health services. A summary of their work is included in the Youth Justice Plan.

4. Climate implications

No adverse environmental impact has been identified. The Covid-19 restrictions led to changes in some of the Youth Justice Service's working practices. These changes include reductions in staff travel, both to and from work and to visit service users, with more activities now being carried out remotely.

5. Other Implications

The Youth Justice Plan sets out the measures being taken to prevent and reduce offending and anti-social behaviour by young people. The Youth Justice Service contributes actively to the work of the Community Safety Partnership.

Children who are in contact with the Youth Justice Service often experience risks to their safety and well-being, including risks at home, risks in the community such as child exploitation and detriment to their education prospects. The Youth

Justice Plan refers to the work of the Youth Justice Service to safeguard children, working in conjunction with other local services in the Dorset Council area. The Youth Justice Service is working closely with colleagues in other Dorset Children's Services, including the Harbour Project, in order to align with new service developments.

6. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

7. Equalities Impact Assessment

The Youth Justice Plan does not relate to a new strategy, policy or function so an Equalities Impact Assessment has not been undertaken. Some information about equalities issues is included in the report. No adverse equalities impacts have been identified.

It is recognised nationally that young people with diverse heritage, and young people in the care of the local authority, are over-represented in the youth justice system and in the youth custodial population. It is also recognised that young people known to the YJS may experience learning difficulties or disabilities, including in respect of speech, language and communication needs. Information from Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service records, summarised in the Youth Justice Plan, shows that these issues of over-representation also apply in our area. Actions have been identified in the Youth Justice Plan to address these issues.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1: Youth Justice Plan 2022/23.

Appendix 1 will be published as a supplement to the agenda.

9. Background Papers

9.1 The Youth Justice Plan provides information on the resourcing, structure, governance, partnership arrangements and performance of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service. The Plan also describes the national and local youth justice context for 2022/23 and sets out our priorities for this year.

9.2 The Youth Justice Board continues to monitor three 'key performance indicators' for youth justice. The first indicator relates to the rate of young

people entering the justice system for the first time. Local performance in this area had declined in the period 2016-2018 but has been improving since then. The latest national data, relating to the 12 months to September 2021, shows a combined pan-Dorset rate of 183 per 100,000 under 18-year-olds entering the justice system for the first time. This compares with a figure of 288 per 100,000 under 18-year-olds in the year to December 2018. Local data enables us to monitor numbers of first-time entrants in each local authority area. This local data shows a continuing fall in the number of Dorset children entering the justice system. Dorset Council's emphasis on early intervention and prevention work for children aligns with the Youth Justice Service priority to reduce children entering the justice system for the first time.

- 9.3 The other two national indicators relate to reducing reoffending and minimising the use of custodial sentences. The reoffending rate fluctuates, partly because of the current counting rules for this measure. The latest national data, reported in the Youth Justice Plan, shows that the performance of Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service exceeds the regional and national averages.
- 9.4 Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service has low rates of custodial sentences. This is particularly the case for young people from the Dorset Council area. No Dorset children were sentenced to custody in the year April 2021 to March 2022. The Youth Justice Service works closely with other Dorset children's services to meet the needs and manage the risks of the small number of young people whose offending is serious enough to place them at risk of custody.

Footnote:

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

Youth Justice Plan 2022/23

Service	Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service
Service Manager/ Lead	David Webb
Chair of YJS Board	Theresa Leavy

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8. [Performance and priorities](#)
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1. Introduction, vision and strategy

Foreword

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Statement of Purpose

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service works with children in the local youth justice system. Our purpose is to help those children to make positive changes, to keep them safe, to keep other people safe, and to repair the harm caused to victims. We support the national Youth Justice Board Vision for a 'child first' youth justice system:

A youth justice system that sees children as children, treats them fairly and helps them to build on their strengths so they can make a constructive contribution to society. This will prevent offending and create safer communities with fewer victims.

Who We Are and What We Do

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a statutory partnership between Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council, Dorset Council, Dorset Police, The Probation Service (Dorset) and NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group.

We are a multi-disciplinary team which includes youth justice officers, restorative justice specialists, parenting workers, education and employment workers, police officers, a probation officer, nurses, speech and language therapists and a psychologist.

More information about the Youth Justice Service (YJS) partnership and the members of the YJS team is provided later in this document.

The team works with children who have committed criminal offences to help them make positive changes and to reduce the risks to them and to other people. We also work with parents and carers to help them support their children to make changes.

We contact all victims of crimes committed by the children we work with. We offer those victims the chance to take part in restorative justice processes so we can help to repair the harm they have experienced.

The organisations in the YJS partnership also work together to improve the quality of our local youth justice system, and to ensure that young people who work with the YJS can access the specialist support they need for their care, health and education.

The combination of direct work with children, parents and victims and work to improve our local youth justice and children's services systems enables us to meet our strategic objectives to:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system
- Improve the safety and well-being of children in the youth justice system
- Reduce and repair the harm caused to victims and the community
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

Introduction

This document is the Youth Justice Strategic Plan for the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) for 2022/23. It sets out the key priorities and targets for the service for the next 12 months as required by the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 and overseen by the Youth Justice Board. This Plan has been developed under the direction of the DCYJS Partnership Board after consultation with DCYJS staff and taking into account feedback from DCYJS users. This year's Plan follows more detailed and prescriptive guidance from the Youth Justice Board about the Plan's contents and format.

The Youth Justice Strategic Plan:

- summarises the DCYJS structure, governance and partnership arrangements
- outlines the resources available to the DCYJS
- reviews achievements and developments during 2021/22
- identifies emerging issues and describes the partnership's priorities
- sets out our priorities and actions for improving youth justice outcomes this year.

Headline Strategic Priorities for 2022/23

We will:

- Continue to reduce the rate of local children entering the justice system
- Widen and deepen local understanding of and response to over-representation in the youth justice system
- Continue to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the local youth justice system
- Make our assessments, plans and interventions more accessible, collaborative and responsive to discrimination
- Clarify and align activities to repair harm, to increase employability and to support pro-social interests and activities, including links to community organisations.

2. Local context

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service (DCYJS) is a partnership working across two local authorities: Dorset Council and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Dorset Council covers a large geographical, predominantly rural area with market towns and a larger urban area in Weymouth and Portland. Dorset Council has a population of about 380,000. Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole together form a conurbation with a population of nearly 400,000.

Other members of the DCYJS Partnership, such as Dorset Police, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, NHS Dorset CCG, Dorset HealthCare Trust and the Probation Service (Dorset) also work across both local authorities.

The following tables provide demographic information about young people in both local authorities:

[Population and benchmarking data:](#)

Population (Age 10-17)		
	Dorset	BCP
Number of Children	33,133	33,929
Male (%)	51.2	51.4
Female (%)¹	48.8	48.6
Pupils eligible for Free School Meals (%)	18.8	17.1
Pupils with SEN Support (%)	12.9	13.2
Pupils with an EHC Plan (%)²	4.9	3.8
Pupils from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (%)³	9.1	11
Children living in Poverty after housing costs (%)⁴	24.5	24.8

NB: Ethnicity data is only collected at the January School Census, and the January 2022 census figures are not yet available.

2020/21 Benchmarking Data

	Dorset	BCP	SN	Good+ SN	SW	England
Children in Need as at 31 March (rate per 10,000)	326	398	262	276	275	321
Child Protection Plans as at 31 March (rate per 10,000)	44	48.5	37	38	37	41
Children in Care as at 31 March (rate per 10,000)	66	62	59	58	56	67

Data updated for 2020/21.
 SN – Statistical Neighbour
 Good+ SN – Statistical Neighbour rated Good or Outstanding by Ofsted: **Cornwall, East Sussex, Shropshire, Suffolk and Wiltshire**
 SW – South West region data

¹ Source: Dorset mid-year 2020 population estimates (published June 2021)¹

² Source: October 2021 School Census (includes all pupils at a Dorset School aged 10-17; ages as at 31 August 2021)

³ January 2021 School Census (all non-white British pupils at a Dorset School, excluding 'Refused' and 'Information not yet obtained')

⁴ Local child poverty indicators 2019/20. Based on the DWP/HMRC statistics "Children in low income families: local area statistics" (March 2021).

3. Child First

The national Youth Justice Board (YJB) promotes a vision of a “*Child First youth justice system, defined as a system where all services:*

- *Prioritise the best interests of children and recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential. All work is child-focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers and meets responsibilities towards children.*
- *Promote children’s individual strengths and capacities to develop their pro-social identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future-focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.*
- *Encourage children’s active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion. All work is a meaningful collaboration with children and their carers.*
- *Promote a childhood removed from the justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal intervention. All work minimises criminogenic stigma from contact with the system.”*

DCYJS supports these principles and promotes them in its own work and in its interactions with local partners in children’s services and the youth justice system. In 2021 the service changed its name, having previously been called Dorset Combined Youth Offending Service, to reflect the shift away from thinking of children as offenders.

The DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22 set out strategic priorities which were aligned with the YJB’s Child First principles, reflecting work to improve both the local youth justice and children’s services systems and the quality of practice within DCYJS. The headline priorities were to:

- Continue and develop work to prevent children entering the justice system
- Reduce the rate of Black and Minority Ethnic children entering custody
- Develop joint work with other local services to improve outcomes for children in the justice system
- Widen the application of trauma-informed practice to all children working with the Youth Justice Service
- Strengthen the team’s work to repair harm and restore relationships.

Evidence of the Partnership’s commitment to Child First principles is embedded throughout this document.

4. Voice of the child

DCYJS works collaboratively with children to elicit their views and to hear their voices. The team’s Speech and Language Therapists complete assessments so that each child’s communication needs can be understood and responded to, not just by other workers in the team but also by the child, their carers and other professionals working with the child.

As well as hearing the child's voice in the team's day to day practice, there are also processes in place to gather the views of children and other service users about their experience of the service's work. A 'Smart Survey' feedback form is used, alongside some of the questions in the self-assessment documents that are completed by children and their carers. Service users also make spontaneous comments about the quality of the service's work with them. These comments are recorded and collated to give a wider, less structured perspective on the service's work.

In 2021/22 the service added a different approach to collecting feedback, focusing on a specific topic and conducting in-depth interviews with a small number of young people. The first topic chosen was young people who had been remanded or sentenced to custody in the past three years. The aim was to understand the child's journey to custody, their individual experiences, whether they experienced discrimination and how they had been affected by their contact with the Youth Justice Service and with other agencies, such as the police, the courts, education and children's services.

Eight young people and one parent have been interviewed for this project. A presentation summarising the young people's views has been shared with the Youth Justice Service Partnership Board, with team members in the Youth Justice Service and with other local partners including Dorset Police and the Care Experienced Young People's service in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

Some of the main findings from this piece of work include:

- The young people experienced permanent exclusion from school as a turning point in their lives
- Most interactions with the Police were 'fair enough' but sometimes young people felt they were targeted more than their peers, with provocative comments from some officers
- Young people did not understand what happened in court and did not feel able to challenge or question it, including when they had doubts about the advice from their solicitor
- The specific resources and interventions used by Youth Justice Service workers were not remembered but the young people did remember the quality of the relationship with individual workers
- Those who were under 18 and in custody found it hard to reflect on their situation and the steps that led to it, perhaps reflecting the instability and lack of safety in their current circumstances
- Young adults in the adult prison estate were better able to reflect. As well as thinking about their journey to custody they also showed insight into their current experiences in custody, describing loneliness, isolation and anxiety about the future.

The learning from this work informs the service's current plans and priorities, reflected in the Service Improvement Plan in section 11 of this document.

5. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements

The work of the Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service is managed strategically by a Partnership Board. The Partnership Board consists of senior representatives of the statutory partner organisations, together with other relevant local partners.

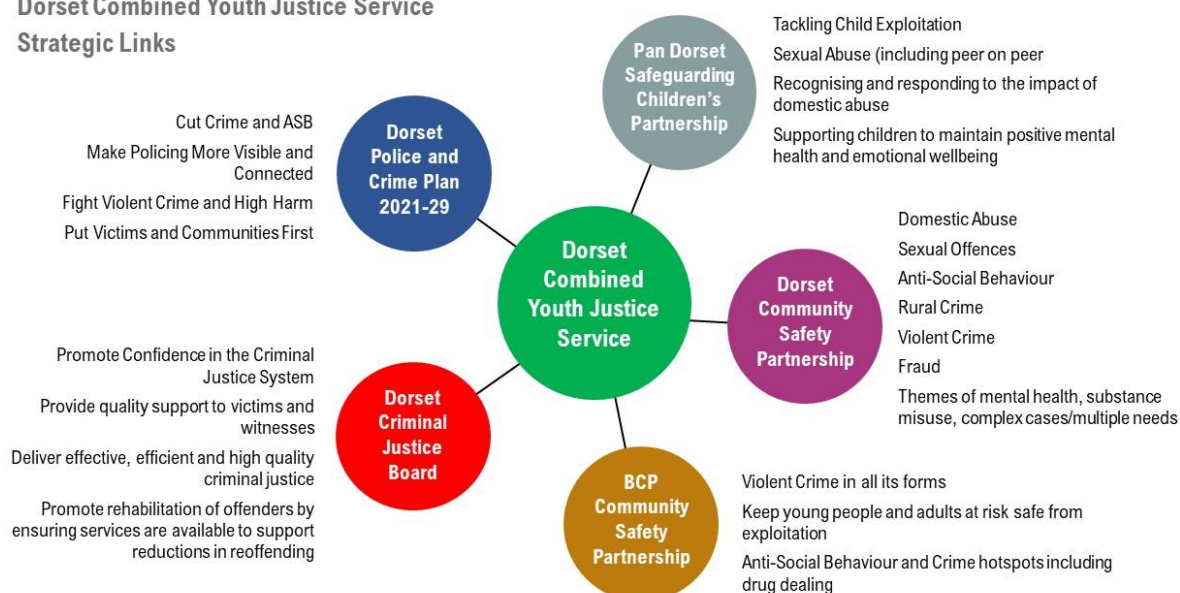
Membership:

- Dorset Council (chair)
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (vice-chair)
- Dorset Police
- The Probation Service (Dorset)
- NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group
- Public Health Dorset
- Dorset Healthcare University Foundation Trust
- Her Majesty's Court and Tribunal service
- Youth Justice Board for England and Wales
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Full Board membership, including job titles and attendance during 2021/22, is included in Appendix One.

The Partnership Board oversees the development of the Youth Justice Plan, ensuring its links with other local plans.

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service Strategic Links



Representation by senior leaders from the key partners enables the DCYJS Manager to resolve any difficulties in multi-agency working at a senior level and supports effective links at managerial and operational levels.

The DCYJS participates in local multi-agency agreements for information sharing, for safeguarding and for the escalation of concerns. Our Personal Information Sharing Agreement underpins local multi-agency work to prevent offending and to reduce reoffending.

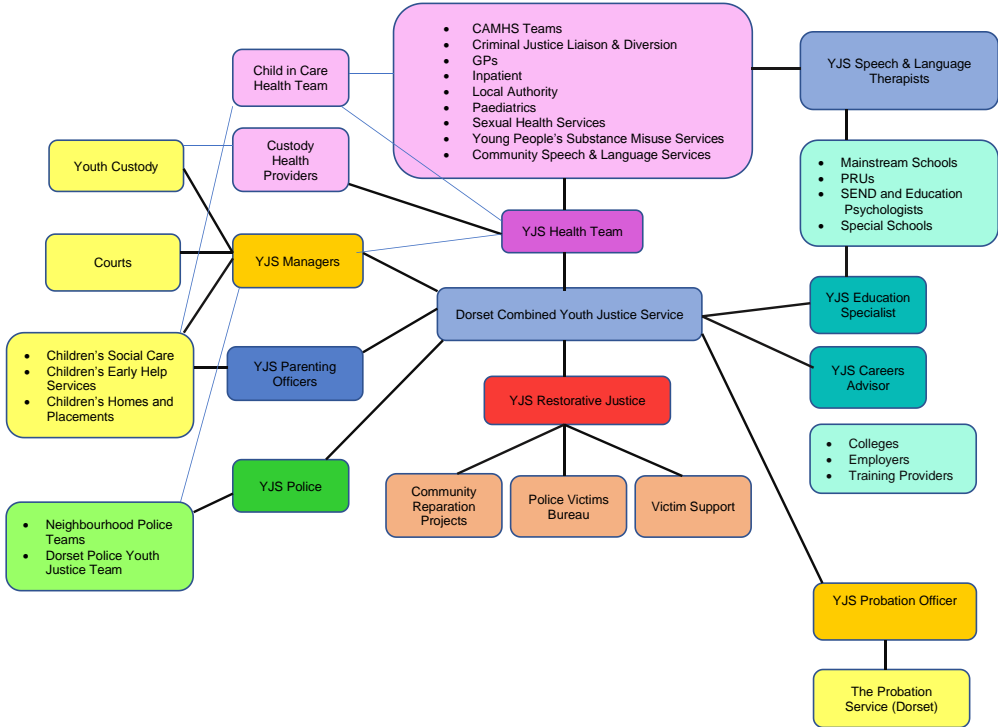
The DCYJS Partnership Board oversees activities by partner agencies which contribute to the key youth justice outcomes, particularly in respect of the prevention of offending.

The Partnership Board also provides oversight and governance for local multi-agency protocols in respect of the criminalisation of children in care and the detention of young people in police custody. The DCYJS Manager chairs multi-agency operational groups for each protocol and reports on progress to the DCYJS Partnership Board.

DCYJS is hosted by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. The Head of Service is a Tier 3 Manager, reporting to the Director for Corporate Parenting and Permanence in the Children’s Social Care service and maintaining regular contact with the equivalent post in Dorset Council.

Appendix Two includes the structure chart for DCYJS and structure charts showing where the service is located in each local authority.

DCYJS meets the statutory staffing requirements for youth justice services, set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its multi-disciplinary team works closely with other local services, as illustrated below:



6. Resources and services

The funding contributions to the DCYJS partnership budget are listed below. All local authority staff in DCYJS are employed by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council. Other staff are seconded from Dorset Police, the Probation Service (Dorset) and Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust. Like all public services, DCYJS operates in a context of reducing resources. Ensuring value for money and making best use of resources is a high priority for the service.

Partner Agency	21/22 Revenue <i>(excluding recharges)</i>	Staff
Dorset Council	£492,800	
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£577,700	
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner	£75,301	2.0 Police Officers
The Probation Service (Dorset)	£5,000	1.0 Probation Officer
NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group	£22,487	2.8 FTE Nurses, 0.8 Psychologist, 1.4 Speech and Language Therapists
Youth Justice Grant	<i>£659,239 (2021/22 figure)</i>	
Total	£1,832,527 <i>(assuming standstill contributions from all partners)</i>	

The Youth Justice Board Grant is paid subject to terms and conditions relating to its use. The Grant may only be used towards the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Reduce the number of children in the youth justice system;
- Reduce reoffending by children in the youth justice system;
- Improve the safety and wellbeing of children in the youth justice system; and
- Improve outcomes for children in the youth justice system.

The conditions of the Grant also refer to the services that must be provided and the duty to comply with data reporting requirements.

The Youth Justice Grant contributes to the Partnership's resources for employing practitioners who work with children to prevent and reduce offending and to keep children and other members of the community safe from harm. Resources are also used to provide restorative justice and reparative activities, to promote pro-social activities for children building on their strengths and to improve the education, training and employment opportunities of young people in the local youth justice system.

In addition to the service outcomes listed above, the Youth Justice Grant and other Partnership resources are used to achieve the strategic priorities set out in this Plan. Progress against those priorities is reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board, with oversight also provided by the respective children's services scrutiny committees of the two local authorities.

In recent years DCYJS has benefitted from one-off grant payments from NHS England to support the introduction of trauma-informed practice. In 2021/22 NHS England provided a payment of £22,800 to provide capacity in the service for a 'Trauma Champion' to develop this area of work over a 12-month period commencing in March 2022.

7. Progress on previous plan

The DCYJS Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22 identified strategic priorities under the headings of 'System Improvement' and 'Practice Improvement'.

The System Improvement priorities are listed below with a brief summary of progress made:

Developing work to prevent children entering the justice system:

- Out of Court Disposals protocol between DCYJS and Dorset Police updated to reflect new diversion options and increased commitment to seek diversion outcomes
- Early Help representatives from each local authority now participate in the weekly Out of Court Disposal decision-making meetings
- Options for additional support for children who are subject to informal justice outcomes, such as a Youth Restorative Disposal, to avoid having to enter the justice system in order to access services
- Consolidation of the Youth Diversion Disposal as a response to 'simple' drug possession offences
- Plans for developing the police Youth Diversion Officer role and the availability of the Youth Diversion Disposal for other offence types have been delayed.

Reducing the rate of Black and Minority Ethnic children entering custody:

- View-seeking work with young people in custody has been undertaken to gain better understanding of issues facing black and mixed heritage children in our local justice system
- Review completed of possible disproportionality in first-time entrants and school exclusion rates in the BCP Council area (over-representation of black and mixed heritage children was not identified in these outcomes)
- Meeting held with senior police and CPS colleagues, a DCYJS manager and the mother of a black child who has been sentenced to custody to enable the family's voice to be heard by key decision-makers
- Whole service meeting held in response to the thematic inspection report on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system to identify relevant team actions (included in the Service Improvement Plan in section 11 of this document)

Developing work with other local services to improve outcomes for children in the justice system:

- Strengthening of joint working arrangements and information sharing between DCYJS and the Harbour project in Dorset Council to reduce offending risks and improve outcomes

- Development of joint working and practitioner relationships between DCYJS and the Complex Safeguarding Team in BCP Council to help safeguard children who are suffering harm from child exploitation
- Pro-active work with local authority children's social care colleagues to improve joint support for children in care placed out of area and receiving youth justice interventions
- Ongoing work with CCG and local authority colleagues to develop a more integrated and comprehensive response to children who show harmful sexual behaviour
- Initiating a shared self-assessment process between DCYJS, SEND and Virtual School teams to identify possible improvements in our joint working arrangements
- The YJS has contributed to multi-agency work to improve the strategic and operational responses to children carrying weapons and to the use of the National Referral Mechanism but this remains an area for further development.

Practice Improvement priorities for 2021/22 are listed here, with brief details of actions taken, progress made and work still to do:

Widen the application of trauma-informed practice to all children working with the YJS:

- Work done to embed the trauma perspective in DCYJS assessments and plans
- Standard format established for recording health team consultations with case managers to summarise the impact of past trauma and guide engagement with the child
- Use of resources in work with children guided by trauma perspectives with priority given to engagement and relationship-building when necessary
- More work required on balancing the trauma perspective in work with children and the response to victim requirements

Strengthen the team's work to repair harm and restore relationships

- Progress made in embedding the 'standardised approach' for restorative justice responses to offences against emergency workers
- Work with The Harbour project to support their use of restorative approaches
- Some use of restorative approaches to respond to specific issues arising within the team
- Work to develop Unpaid Work and to establish clearer links and differentiation between reparation, victim work, Unpaid Work and positive activities has been delayed by staff sickness and pandemic issues
- Survey completed of staff knowledge, confidence and views on Restorative Justice to guide our plans for 2022/23.

8. Performance and priorities

The three national key performance indicators for youth justice services relate to:

- The rate of first time entrants to the criminal justice system
- The rate of reoffending by children in the criminal justice system
- The use of custodial sentences

The YJB publish quarterly performance data for youth justice services, compiled nationally, in relation to these three indicators. Since the start of the pandemic there have been some gaps in the publication of the national data. The information reported below is drawn from the data published in February 2022 for the period ending December 2021.

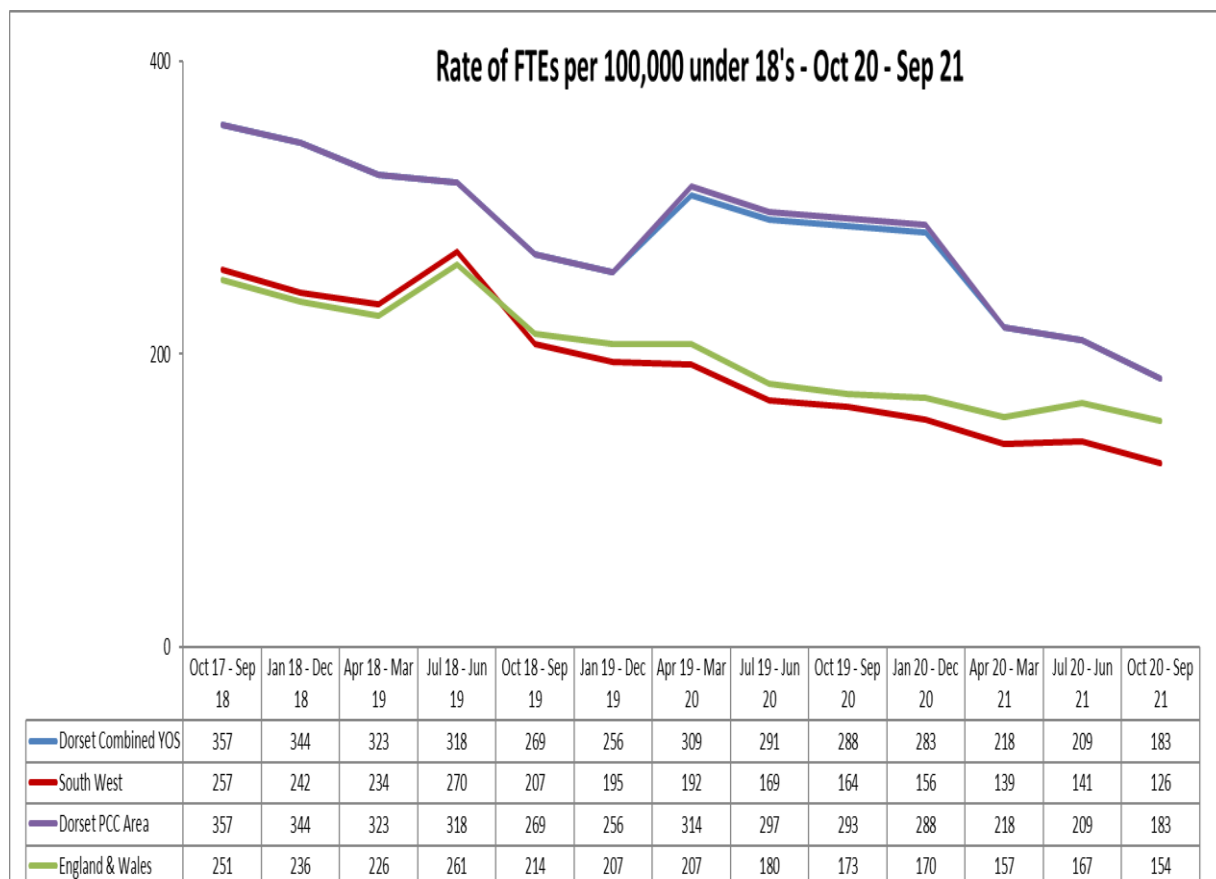
Attention is also paid to the use of custodial remands and to over-representation of minority groups in the youth justice system.

First Time Entrants

A 'First Time Entrant' is a child receiving a formal criminal justice outcome for the first time. A Youth Caution, a Youth Conditional Caution or a court outcome count as a formal criminal justice outcome. There are also informal options available for responding to offences by children. Dorset Police, DCYJS and other children's services work closely together to decide the appropriate outcome for an offence by a child, seeking an informal option whenever possible. It is recognised that receiving a formal justice outcome is in itself detrimental for children.

National performance data for First Time Entrants is drawn from the Police National Computer (PNC). Local data is also recorded on the DCYJS case management system. There is a discrepancy between national and local data for First Time Entrants; it is not possible to compare individual case records to confirm the accuracy of the respective figures. DCYJS has confidence in the accuracy of its case records showing home address information and child in care status.

The following chart shows the most recent published national First Time Entrants data. DCYJS has seen a reduction in its rate of children entering the justice system, reflecting the priorities of the DCYJS partnership and the work undertaken locally to divert children from formal justice outcomes. The combined rate for our two local authorities has dropped from 288 per 100,000 under 18s in the year to September 2020 to 183 in the year to September 2021. DCYJS remains above regional and national averages for this indicator but the gap is narrowing.



Local data for First Time Entrants shows a reduction across both local authority areas in recent years, shown in the following table:

[DCYJS First Time Entrants by Gender and Local Authority past 4 years:](#)

Year	BCP male	BCP female	BCP total	Dorset male	Dorset female	Dorset total	BCP and Dorset total
2018/19	78 (72%)	30 (28%)	108	75 (71%)	31 (29%)	106	214
2019/20	91 (85%)	16 (15%)	107	61 (77%)	18 (23%)	79	186
2020/21	63 (83%)	13 (17%)	76	38 (75%)	13 (25%)	51	127
2021/22 (to end Dec)	47 (87%)	7 (13%)	54	24 (92%)	2 (8%)	26	80
Total	279 (81%)	66 (19%)	345	198 (76%)	64 (24%)	262	607

This table shows that there has been a clear reduction in the number of local children entering the justice system over the past four years. Although there have been reductions in both local authority areas, this is particularly so in Dorset. The reduction applies to both males and females, with a larger proportionate reduction amongst females.

More detailed local data showing information about First Time Entrants over the past four years has been reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board. Some of the key points from this information are that:

- The reduction has not been so marked for the youngest age group with little change to the numbers of 10-13 year-olds entering the justice system
- There does not appear to be over-representation of children with diverse ethnic heritage. Over the past four years, 5% of Dorset's First Time Entrants and 8% of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole's First Time Entrants have been black or mixed heritage children, below the proportions in the population.
- The proportion of First Time Entrants receiving court disposals has increased, from 27% in 2018/19 to 43% in the first 9 months of 2021/22.
- The proportion of First Time Entrants receiving a Youth Caution has dropped from 56% in 2018/19 to 35% in the first 9 months of 2021/22. This suggests that some children are being diverted from Youth Cautions and receiving informal justice outcomes instead.

Following the analysis of local First Time Entrants data for the YJS Partnership Board meeting in January 2022, partners looked in more detail at the local children aged 10-13 who have entered the justice system since April 2020. The following table, drawn from Police, local authority and DCYJS information, shows the level of other needs amongst the BCP children in this group:

[BCP First-Time Entrants aged 13 or younger April 2020 to January 2021](#)

Factor	Yes (out of total 25 children)	Percentage
First contact with police as victim or witness of harm	24	96%
Known to children's social care	19	76%

Fixed Term Exclusions from school	23	92%
Permanent exclusion from school	11	44%
SEN support	14	56%
EHCP	7	28%
Weapons offences	13	52%
Other violence	7	28%
Previous YRD or SSCT input	7	28%
Youth Caution	11	44%
Youth Conditional Caution	10	40%
Referral Order	4	16%

All but one of these children first came to police attention not for their own behaviour but as the victim or witness of harm. In 23 out of 24 such instances the harm took place in the family home, such as witnessing domestic abuse, experiencing physical abuse, having a parent with mental health or substance use problems and/or having parents or older siblings in contact with the police.

The high level of Special Educational Needs in this group, combined with experiencing trauma at home, perhaps helps to explain the high level of fixed term and permanent exclusions from school which these children had experienced, despite their relatively young age.

It is also notable that 13 of these 25 children committed offences involving the possession of a weapon. This raises concern about the risk of harm and perhaps reflects the sense of threat that these children have experienced in their lives to date.

[Prevention and Diversion](#)

The rate of children entering the justice system is influenced by the effectiveness of local prevention and diversion activities. 'Prevention' refers to work with children who have been identified as being at risk of going on to commit offences if they do not receive additional help. 'Diversion' refers to the response to children who have been identified as committing an offence but who can be diverted from the justice system.

DCYJS does not directly undertake prevention work. Each of our local authorities provides early help services, working with other local organisations like schools, the Dorset Police Safer Schools and Communities Team and the voluntary sector.

In the Dorset Council area oversight of prevention activities sits with the Strategic Alliance for Children and Young People, supported by more detailed work at locality level. The DCYJS Manager is a member of the Strategic Alliance and team members participate in locality meetings to identify and respond to children at risk.

In the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council area, the Children and Young People's Partnership oversees prevention work.

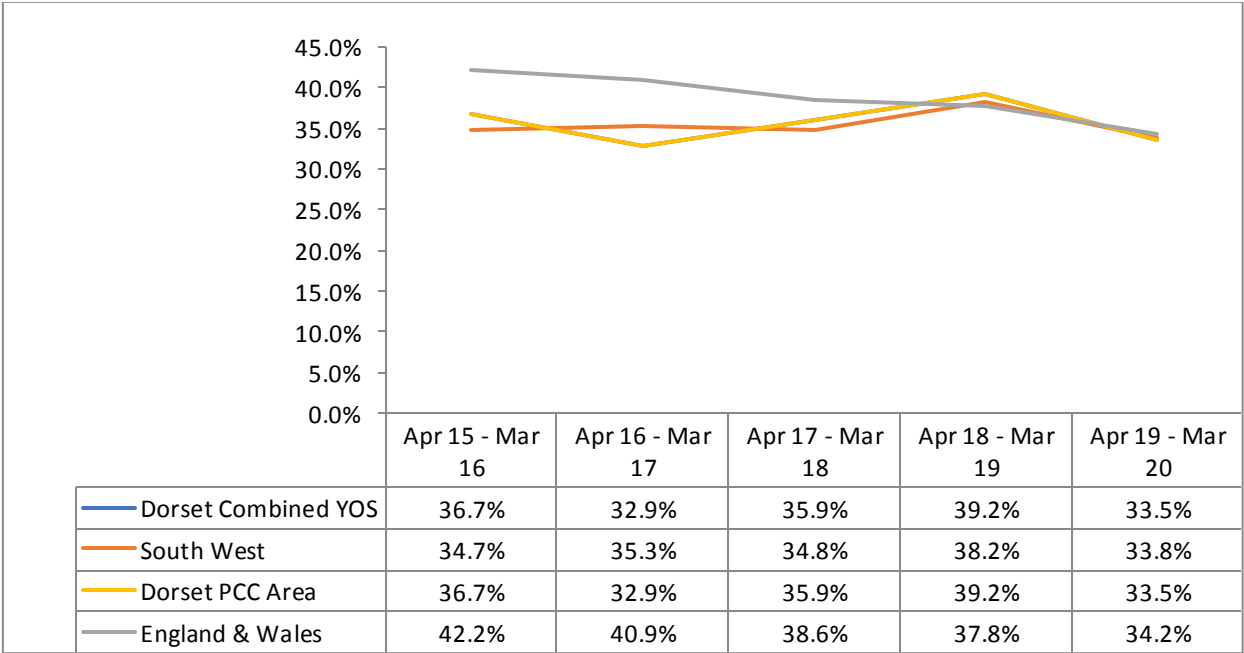
Diversion work is undertaken locally on a partnership basis. Dorset Police, DCYJS and local authority Early Help services meet weekly to review children who have come to attention for committing offences. Decisions are taken about the appropriate response, with diversion options being taken when possible. Diversion activities usually involve additional support for the child and, when appropriate, some form of restorative response in respect of the criminal offence. The Dorset Police Safer Schools and Communities Team, Early Help Services, Children’s Social Care Services and DCYJS each provide support at the diversion stage. The appropriate service for each child is decided on the basis of the child’s needs, risks and existing relationships with professionals.

During 2021/22 Dorset Police have piloted a Youth Diversion Officer. The remit of the post is to help ensure children who are diverted from the justice system get access to appropriate services and to identify and address any barriers preventing this access. Students from Bournemouth University are currently assisting Dorset Police with analysis of diversion work, including the role of the Youth Diversion Officer but extending back three years to look more widely at how outcomes for children who have contact with the justice system.

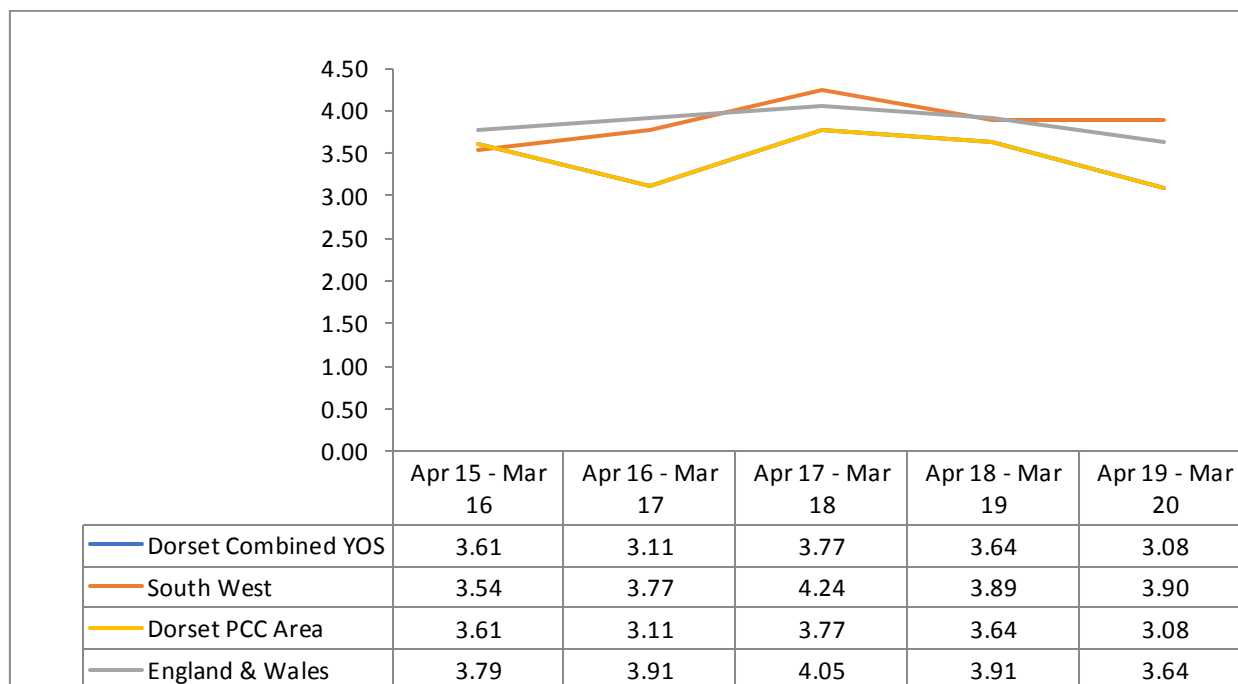
Rate of Proven Reoffending

National re-offending data is published in two formats: the ‘binary’ rate shows the proportion of children in the cohort who go on to be convicted for subsequent offences in the 12 months after their previous justice outcome; the ‘frequency’ rate shows the average number of offences per reoffender. Reoffending data is necessarily delayed in order to allow time to see if the child is reconvicted and for that later outcome to be recorded. The following data therefore relates to children with whom the service worked up to March 2020.

Reoffending rate (Reoffenders/Number in cohort)



Reoffences/Reoffenders



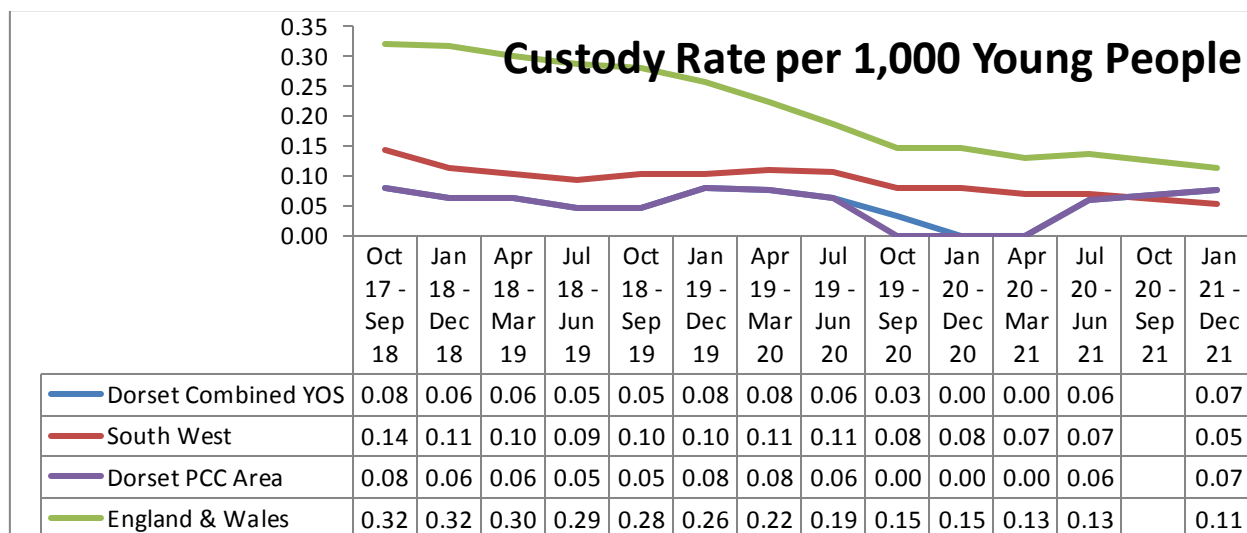
The data shows an improvement in the latest published performance, with Dorset below national and regional averages for both measures.

Local data can also be analysed for a more detailed and specific understanding of reoffending patterns. During 2021/22 the DCYJS Performance and Information Manager has experienced recurring periods of sickness absence, reducing the team's capacity for data analysis. Plans are in place to increase the resilience of the team's data analysis capacity in 2022/23.

[Use of Custodial Sentences](#)

DCYJS continues to see low numbers of children sentenced to custody.

The latest national data is copied below. The gap in the figures for the year to September 2021 reflects a gap in the national data publication.



[Supporting children in custody](#)

Members of the DCYJS partnership are committed to reducing the use of custody for children. It is recognised that incarceration can have a damaging effect on children's lives, putting pressure on family relationships, disrupting education, reviving or increasing experiences of trauma and damaging the child's living arrangements. Inspection reports for custodial establishments demonstrate ongoing concerns about their safety and about the impact on the children who are detained.

The low numbers of local children entering custody, reported above, is replicated across the south-west, meaning that there are no custodial establishments for children in our region. This means that all children in custody are located a considerable distance from home, making it harder for families to visit. DCYJS supports parents of children in custody, as well as the children themselves, helping them to cope with both the practicalities and the emotional impact of the situation.

DCYJS allocates paired case managers for all children in custody, to ensure resilience and shared reflection in the work with these children. A DCYJS nurse and a DCYJS education specialist are always allocated to children in custody to facilitate liaison with custody health care and education providers to help ensure that the child's specific educational and health needs can be met and to enable continuity of education and health care during and after the custodial period. DCYJS Speech and Language assessments are also shared with the custodial establishment to enable custody staff to communicate more effectively with the child.

Finding suitable accommodation for children leaving custody can be challenging. DCYJS contributes to local authority care planning processes, promoting the early identification of the child's release address. The DCYJS Manager reports to the DCYJS Partnership Board on the timeliness of accommodation being confirmed for children being released from custodial sentences. No children have reached their release date during 2021/22 so there is no current data to report.

While the national performance indicator relates to custodial sentences, there is also concern about the numbers of children being remanded into custody. In January 2022 the Ministry of Justice published a 'Review of Custodial Remand for Children' which noted that in 2021 about 45% of children in custody were on remand. During 2021/22

seven local children have been remanded in custody, an increase on the four custodial remands in the preceding year. Although there are some similarities among these remand cases, such as the seriousness of the alleged offences and in some cases the alleged commission of serious offences while on bail, each case has unique individual circumstances which require review. Of the seven cases, four remain on remand at the end of the year, two received a custodial sentence in excess of 12 months and one received a community sentence. Lack of suitable accommodation was a factor in the remand decision for this final case, concerns which DCYJS raised at the time.

Over-representation

It is recognised nationally that some groups of children, such as those with diverse ethnic heritage, children in care and children with Special Educational Needs are over-represented in the youth justice system. Nationally, just over 50% of children in custody identify as having diverse ethnic heritage, significantly more than the proportion in the total population.

The low numbers of local children being sentenced to custody makes it difficult to provide sound statistical analysis of possible over-representation of young people with diverse ethnic heritage. In the year 2021/22 fewer than 5 young people from the BCP Council area were sentenced to custody and no young people from the Dorset Council area received a custodial sentence. DCYJS undertakes an informal review process for each child sentenced or remanded to custody, including attention being paid to possible over-representation of or differential response to minority groups.

First-Time Entrants information referred to above, relating to the analysis of local children entering the justice system, does not show over-representation of children with diverse ethnic heritage at this stage of the justice system. National reviews do show, however, that black children can be more likely to 'progress' through the justice system to receive more onerous sentences, for complex reasons including the point of entry into the justice system and differences in the assessment of risk. Learning from national reviews, such as the thematic inspection published in October 2021 on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system, is shared within the DCYJS team and applied to our practice.

The proportion of girls on the DCYJS caseload fluctuates but stays within a range of about 15%-20% of the total caseload, consistent with national rates. Worker allocation decisions are taken carefully to be sensitive to each girl's needs. In the context of the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda and concerns about peer on peer sexual abuse, DCYJS managers are currently reviewing good practice and resources used elsewhere to help us improve our work with girls. The emphasis of some of this work will be on work with boys to help them achieve healthy relationships and to reduce the risk they pose to girls. These developments are being undertaken with support from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

DCYJS also works with a small number of young people who are exploring their gender identity and may be in the process of gender reassignment. Given the low numbers and the emerging information and understanding in this area it is hard to assess the extent of possible over-representation of this group in the youth justice system. It is clear though that these young people face potential discrimination and are likely to have specific needs which require an individualised response. This is an area for the service to develop its practice in 2022/23.

The analysis of local First Time Entrants, summarised above, showed the high level of Special Educational Needs and school exclusions amongst younger children entering the justice system. These concerns fit with evidence collected by the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapists, showing high levels of communication needs amongst children in our local youth justice system. In most cases these needs have not been identified or formally assessed until the child meets with the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapist.

Education, Training and Employment

Nationally and locally it is recognised that children in the youth justice system are less likely to stay in mainstream schools, to achieve good educational outcomes and to access education, employment or training after Year 11. Each local authority’s Director of Education is a member of the DCYJS Partnership Board. DCYJS employs an Education Officer and a post-16 Careers Adviser who work with schools and local authorities to increase the suitability of provision and with young people to understand their needs and to support their attendance and engagement. The DCYJS ETE workers maintain strong links with colleagues in the Virtual Schools, the SEND teams and Inclusion services.

Information reported above, in the section on First Time Entrants, showed the frequency of Special Educational Needs and school exclusions among younger children entering the justice system. Similar issues prevail on the overall DCYJS caseload. In late 2021 the DCYJS Manager and the BCP Council Director of Education reported to the BCP Council Equalities Action Commission on rates of school exclusions and possible links to over-representation. The following table reflects the BCP Council children on the the DCYJS caseload in November 2021:

BCP YJS cases November 2021

Ethnicity	No. on YJS caseload	Exclusions	Suspensions	Exclusions & Suspensions
White-British	81	16 (20%)	30 (37%)	46 (57%)
White-Other & White-Irish	6	1 (17%)	3 (50%)	4 (67%)
Mix WBA, WBC, Other	4	1 (25%)	2 (50%)	3 (75%)
All	91	18 (20%)	35 (38%)	53 (58%)

These figures indicate a high overall rate of permanent and fixed term exclusions on the YJS caseload, with a higher rate among mixed heritage children. It should though be noted that the low numbers in this group mean that a small change in numbers would have a large impact on the percentages.

Analysis of the DCYJS Dorset Council cases in March 2022 showed the following information about their education/training/employment status and their associated needs:

Dorset YJS cases March 2022

Education, Training, Employment Status	Number	With EHCP	Open to Children's Social Care	Open to Early Help
School age	20	5	9	4
Mainstream school	7	0	1	2
Alternative Provision/PRU	12	4	7	2
Custody	1	1	1	0
Post-16	21	5	4	1
Employed	6	1	0	0
Further Education	5	1	0	0
NEET	10	3	4	1
TOTAL	41	10	13	5

There is a higher rate of EHCPs and of contact with other children's services among those who are not in mainstream school and not in employment or further education. It should though be noted that those young people who are in school may be at risk of exclusion, needing support to avoid this outcome, and those who are in employment or at college may need help to maintain this status.

During the past year there have been low numbers of children receiving Elective Home Education. Successful work at individual case level means that in March 2022 there are no children on the YJS caseload who are designated as receiving Elective Home Education.

During 2021/22 DCYJS has started work to improve its data recording for ETE, to review the quality of joint work with local authority SEND services and with the Virtual Schools and to develop its options for post-16 young people who are NEET. These will continue to be priorities in 2022/23.

Serious Violence and Exploitation

Tackling child exploitation and reducing serious violence are priorities for strategic partnerships in both our local authority areas (as described in section 5 of this Plan).

Most of the violent offences committed by children do not reach the 'serious violence' threshold. Analysis and comparison of youth justice outcomes in the 3-month periods December 2019–February 2020 and December 2021–February 2022 shows a reduction in violent offences being dealt with but a small increase in weapon-related offences.

Analysis of First Time Entrants, summarised earlier in this section, shows that more than half of BCP Council First Time Entrants aged 13 or younger in the last two years had committed offences involving weapons (possession of a knife in most instances). The equivalent data for Dorset Council First Time Entrants showed a lower number and proportion of weapon offences, featuring in 20% of the cases.

The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2021 introduces a Serious Violence Duty for specified authorities, including youth justice services, to work together to share data

and knowledge, allowing them to target their interventions to prevent serious violence. As stated in section 5 above, tackling violence is a current priority for both our Community Safety Partnerships, and for the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner. This Youth Justice Plan contributes to that shared local commitment and endeavour.

Child Exploitation occurs across the pan-Dorset area, with DCYJS seeing higher rates of exploitation amongst its BCP Council caseload. DCYJS plays an active role in the partnership arrangements in both local authority areas to address child exploitation, participating in the strategic and tactical groups as well as other multi-agency initiatives. At the operational level, DCYJS team members are part of multi-agency child exploitation case meetings and contribute to multi-agency responses to concerns about specific locations or networks.

Dorset Police, Children's Social Care services and DCYJS work together to refer suitable cases to the National Referral Mechanism. Delays in the Home Office response to these referrals can lead to repeated adjournments of court cases involving young people who have had NRM referrals. Such delays exacerbate problems with youth justice timeliness, which were a local focus prior to the pandemic and which were compounded by court closures and restrictions during the pandemic. Long delays in completing cases in the youth court and the crown court mean that children can remain subject to bail conditions for many months. With months passing between the offence and the court outcome there is also a deleterious effect on work to meet the needs of victims and to address a child's offending.

[Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements \(MAPPA\)](#)

DCYJS is an active participant in the local MAPPA Strategic Management Board and has established strong working links with the MAPPA Coordinator. MAPPA status reflects either the young person's offence and sentence or a risk assessment indicating that the young person poses a High Risk of Serious Harm to others and requires multi-agency risk management above that which is provided through the DCYJS Risk Assessment Panel process.

In March 2022 eight DCYJS cases, out of 129 on the caseload, had MAPPA status, with most of them being managed at Level One (ordinary agency risk management).

During 2021/22, in line with the refreshed national MAPPA Guidance, improvements were made to MAPPA transition processes. When MAPPA Level Two or Level Three risk management commences for a young adult who was previously known to DCYJS the MAPPA Coordinator seeks relevant information from DCYJS to aid risk management and a representative of DCYJS attends at least the initial MAPPA meeting.

[Health and Communication Needs](#)

It has long been recognised that young people in the youth justice system have significant and interacting health needs which may not have been adequately identified or addressed. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires youth offending teams to include specialist health staff. The DCYJS health team, funded mostly by NHS Dorset CCG and employed by Dorset HealthCare Trust, comprises a part-time Psychologist, 2.8 Youth Justice Nurses and 1.4 Speech and Language Therapists. The YJS Nurses are employed through CAMHS and combine expertise in child mental health and wellbeing

with wider nursing expertise in respect of physical health, sexual health and substance misuse.

During 2021/22 the DCYJS health team has supported the development of the service's trauma recovery model of working. Young people in the youth justice system have often experienced past trauma, such as witnessing domestic abuse, being the victims of physical abuse, neglect and emotional abuse, which affects their cognitive and emotional development. Understanding a child's trauma history, and its impact on their current presentation, in a context of concerns about child exploitation and serious violence, enables YJS workers to respond to the child's individual needs with the emphasis often being on helping to establish a positive and pro-social relationship. YJS Nurses work directly with young people, sometimes providing treatment for past trauma, as well as providing case consultations to other YJS team members.

The YJS Speech and Language Therapists also play an important role in the individualised response to each child. All children who receive a court order or a second 'Out of Court Disposal' are offered a speech and language assessment. As was noted in the DCYJS 2021/22 Youth Justice Plan, the evidence from these assessments is that about 80% of young people known to DCYJS have additional communication needs, with about 30% having significant needs such as Developmental Language Disorder. In most cases these needs have not been identified until the YJS start working with the child and complete a speech and language assessment.

[Support for parents of children in the youth justice system](#)

The parents and carers of children in the youth justice system have particular needs and challenges. . Although the law holds children individually responsible from the age of 10 for criminal behaviour, parents may feel a sense of responsibility and there is often a family context to a child's behaviour. The difficult, complex emotions that parents feel in this situation require sensitive support. The youth justice system has specialist language and procedures which may be hard for parents to understand and navigate.

DCYJS employs parenting workers to provide support directly to parents, working in partnership with colleagues who support the young person. This work is aimed at helping families to restore and repair relationships and to support children's positive achievements.

The DCYJS parenting workers also provide assistance with the challenges of the youth justice system. Feedback from parents has shown that they may not understand what takes place in the youth court. For the small number who have a child in custody there are numerous practical challenges to face, as well as the emotional impact of the separation from their child and the concern about their child's welfare.

During 2021/22 the team have developed their focus on working with both parents, including absent parents, recognising the importance of fathers as well as mothers and responding to messages from serious case and learning reviews about the need to include both parents. DCYJS raised concerns this year with the YJB about the AssetPlus self-assessment process only seeking and recording the views of one parent. The team seeks the views of both parents whenever possible and working with both parents will continue to be a focus in 2022/23.

Restorative Justice and Victims

One of the challenges for DCYJS during 2021/22 has been achieving the correct balance between meeting the needs of the child, as described in the previous section, and meeting the needs of the child's victim. The DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners contact every victim of children who work with the service, seeking to find out about the impact of the offence and to seek opportunities for Restorative Justice activities.

Delays in the youth justice system, which are more common in cases that go to court, make it harder to engage victims in activity to repair the harm they have experienced. The DCYJS Restorative Justice Practitioners exercise tact and sensitivity in their contacts with victims, emphasising the victim's choice in whether or how much they engage with our service.

The Covid pandemic has exacerbated court delays and has also restricted the opportunities for face to face Restorative Justice meetings. During 2021/22 some Restorative Justice Conferences have taken place face to face, some have been conducted virtually and in some cases it has not been possible to find a suitable and safe way to hold the meeting.

An area of development in 2021/22 has been the 'standardised approach'. This is the local name given to victim work with emergency workers, following offences such as 'assault emergency worker'. Police officers and other emergency workers make up a high proportion of the YJS victim caseload but may be reluctant to participate in Restorative Justice. As well as seeking ways to increase their participation, the YJS Restorative Justice Practitioners have worked with the YJS Police Officers to develop other ways to help young people to understand the impact of their behaviour on emergency workers and to look for ways for young people to repair the harm caused.

In early 2022 DCYJS's lead manager for Restorative Justice surveyed the views of other team members about their knowledge, confidence and enjoyment of Restorative Justice work. There is a high level of commitment to Restorative Justice in the team. The survey identified some specific areas for development which will form part of our plans for 2022/23.

9. National Standards

Youth justice services are required to comply with minimum national standards. The latest edition of national standards, 'Standards for Children in Youth Justice Services', was published in 2019. The YJB mandates youth justice services to undertake periodic self-assessments of their compliance with national standards.

The last national standards self-assessment was completed in March 2020. DCYJS demonstrated adherence to the standards with a small number of standards requiring further activity in order to strengthen compliance.

The following areas of activity were identified for further development:

- Development of local strategies to prevent children from becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour
- Multi-agency analysis of disproportionality in court and out of court contexts for local children

- Evidencing strategic partner confidence in the YJS supervision of children on justice outcomes in the community
- Holding local partners to account for their part in the successful transition and resettlement of children released from custody
- Consistent recording/storage of sentence plans.

These actions were reported to the DCYJS Partnership Board and were added to DCYJS team plans. Progress has been made in all these areas though some of these activities are outside the direct control of DCYJS. Continuing actions are identified for each of the above issues, to develop or audit the progress made.

10. Challenges, risks and issues

Like other youth justice services, DCYJS operates in a context of system challenges and resource pressures. Achievement of the service's priorities in 2022/23 could be affected by a number of risks and issues, including:

- Funding and resources – in cash terms the DCYJS budget was £261K smaller in 2021/22 than it had been in 2014/15, before allowing for inflation and pay increases during that period. Continuing budget pressures and inflation risks make this a continuing challenge.
- Children's Services face a number of challenges, nationally and locally, with the shortage of suitable placements for children in care being of particular relevance to youth justice services. Without suitable placements it is difficult to establish the building blocks to help children build positive futures, such as education, health care and positive peer networks.
- Delays in the youth justice system, linked to pressures in the wider criminal justice system and exacerbated by Covid, make it harder to engage victims in Restorative Justice and to work effectively with young people to prevent future offending.
- The impact of Covid on young people is still emerging, including setbacks to young people's education and their mental health. These issues may contribute to negative effects on children's behaviour, increasing the likelihood of substance misuse, exploitation and offending.

The DCYJS service plan for 2022/23 will continue to address these issues, making best use of resources, working with partners to mitigate the impact of placement shortages, developing plans to improve timeliness in our local youth court system and responding to the education and mental health needs of children following the pandemic.

11. Service improvement plan

The DCYJS service plan and strategic priorities for 2022/23 have been developed in the context of all the information summarised in the preceding sections of this document.

The service's plan and priorities also reflect learning from self-assessments, case audits, learning reviews and inspection reports during 2021/22.

Self-assessment:

DCYJS is currently awaiting inspection. HMI Probation is entering the fifth year of a six-year inspection programme of all youth offending teams in England and Wales. DCYJS has not yet been inspected during this programme.

As part of preparations for inspection, in 2021 DCYJS updated a self-assessment for 'Domain One' of the inspection framework, relating to the arrangements underpinning the service's Organisational Delivery. The service has been working on areas for improvement identified in the self-assessment including:

- Some aspects of the DCYJS Board's work, including Board members advocating for youth justice issues in other parts of their work
- Improving the collection and use of data to inform performance and service improvement
- Improving links with other local children's services electronic case management systems
- Some Equality Act 'protected characteristics' need further work.

Case audit:

DCYJS undertakes a detailed case audit each year, using the youth justice inspection criteria. The audit in 2021 identified good practice in building relationships with young people, despite the restrictions caused by the pandemic. Areas for improvement were identified in:

- More work to be done on making assessments, plans and interventions accessible, collaborative (with young people, parents and with other professionals) and responsive to discrimination
- Work to do on clarifying and aligning reparation activities, unpaid work, employability options and constructive activities, including links to community organisations.

Learning reviews and inspection reports:

DCYJS takes part in local multi-agency learning reviews under both the Pan-Dorset Safeguarding Children's Partnership and the MAPPA Strategic Management Board. During 2021/22 the DCYJS Manager chaired the review panel for a Child Safeguarding Practice Review in the Dorset Council area and the review panel for a MAPPA Serious Case Review in Bournemouth.

Relevant issues identified in local learning reviews this year include:

- High quality transition arrangements for young people moving to adult services
- The importance of persistence in building positive relationships with young people
- Joint work across youth justice services for children in care placed out of area
- Identifying possible needs and risks for younger siblings when working with a child in the justice system
- Safe ways to manage risk within teenage intimate relationships.

HMI Probation published one thematic inspection report relating to youth justice work this year. The report on the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the youth justice system has been mentioned above. The DCYJS Team Plan for 2021/22 was updated to include the recommendations from this report and work in these areas will continue in 2022/23.

HMI Probation continued to publish inspection reports into individual youth justice services during 2021/22, summarised in their Annual Report in March 2022: [2021 Annual Report: \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/2021-annual-report/).

Views of DCYJS Board members, team members and service users:

Information relating to the service's performance, progress on past plans, learning from local and other case reviews and inspection reports and the priorities of other local strategic partnerships were reported and discussed with the DCYJS Board in January 2022 and with the DCYJS team in February 2022. The views of service users were collected during the year, with particular attention paid to the messages from the view-seeking work with young people in custody. Those conversations identified the following strategic priorities for our youth justice partnership in 2022/23.

Strategic Priorities for 2022-23

The work of the service is underpinned by commitments to repairing harm to victims and children, to helping children to build positive identities and futures and to the 'Child First' ethos of the Youth Justice Board. All of these commitments depend on the team's ability to build positive relationships with children, parents/carers, victims, other professionals and each other.

The DCYJS strategic priorities can be grouped under the following headings:

- System improvement
- Practice improvement

System Improvement

Continue to reduce the rate of local children entering the justice system

- Allocate Youth Justice Worker time to support children who are diverted from formal youth justice outcomes
- Develop multi-agency understanding and plans to avoid children aged 10-13 entering the justice system
- Work with Dorset Police on the next steps of their youth diversion work, including the outcome of research into the impact of formal and informal out of court disposals in recent years
- Confirm local multi-agency arrangements to ensure that children identified for early concerns over anti-social behaviour have any additional needs recognised and addressed.

Continue to address over-representation of minority groups in the youth justice system

- Implement the recommendations from the thematic inspection into the experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the justice system
- Monitor the experiences and outcomes for young people in our youth justice system with diverse heritage and take action to reduce the risk of them entering custody

- Develop data recording and reporting to identify different groups at possible risk of over-representation, such as more specific ethnicity information, disability, care status, SEND
- Cross-reference youth justice disproportionality issues with other relevant outcomes for children, such as school exclusion, experiencing exploitation, contact with social care services
- Develop the YJS response to children with gender identity issues
- Continue to share with partners the findings from DCYJS view-seeking work with young people in custody
- Work with local authority SEND and Virtual School partners to self-assess our joint work and develop action plans as required.

Continue to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of the local youth justice system

- Work with HMCTS to shorten the time between charge and first hearing dates for youth cases
- Co-produce with magistrates, young people and parents a guide to the local youth courts so that young people and their parents/carers are better prepared for court and better included in the work of the court
- Work with defence solicitors to share the findings from view-seeking work with young people to improve communication and the effectiveness of legal advice
- Provide police colleagues with training in the communication needs of young people in the justice system and suitable communication techniques
- Strengthen the support for young adults in the justice system by working jointly with local authority leaving care services, SEND services and the Probation Service.

Practice Improvement

Make our assessments, plans and interventions more accessible, collaborative and responsive to discrimination

- Agree with young people a better format for intervention plans, with advice from the DCYJS Speech and Language Therapists, to be used across all DCYJS work
- Change the format of DCYJS Referral Order Initial Panel reports to present the information about the child before the information about the offence
- Support DCYJS staff to write assessments, plans and reports in 'Easy Read' style
- Work with young people to understand their experiences of discrimination and its impact on their identity
- Meet with young people and their parents/carers to go through reports and seek their views before court appearances or Referral Order panel meetings
- Include the views of young people and their parents/carers in team case audit activities.

Clarify and align activities to repair harm, increase employability and to support pro-social interests and activities, including links to community organisations

- Review the team's approach to our work with young people to help them repair the harm from their offence
- Clarify the overlaps and distinctions between work to repair harm, Unpaid Work, employability courses and constructive activities
- Agree a budget to support children to access positive pro-social activities, building on their strengths and interests, that can be continued after DCYJS involvement ends
- Build links with a wider range of community organisations to increase the service's ability to find the right activities for children's varying interests and skills.

Workforce Development

The DCYJS Workforce Development Policy identifies core training for different roles in the team. As well as refresher training in child safeguarding, child exploitation and information governance, team members have also completed training in Motivational Interviewing, AIM3 Harmful Sexual Behaviour assessments and Restorative Justice with complex and sensitive cases.

In addition to these core training courses, which will continue to be attended and updated in 2022/23, the service's development plans require staff training in the following areas:

- Trauma-informed practice – refresher training for all practitioner staff, initial training for new staff
- MAPPA and the management of risk – refresher training for all practitioner staff
- 'Easy Read' – support from the team's Speech and Language Therapists to help team members write assessments, plans and reports in an 'easy read' style
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – use our joint self-assessment process with local authority colleagues to identify training needs in respect of SEND
- Self-harm and suicide risk – DCYJS health team to support colleagues in their assessment and response to self-harm and suicide risks.

Working in youth justice has perhaps never been as demanding as in the last two years, with the Covid pandemic not only affecting our service users but also our team members. Supporting the wellbeing of our staff and volunteers will continue to be a priority in 2022/23, attending to relationships within the team as well as with children, parents/carers, victims and other professionals.

Board Development

As mentioned above, the DCYJS inspection self-assessment identified some areas where the work of the Partnership Board could be strengthened. In December 2021 the Youth Justice Board published updated guidance for YJS Partnership Boards, 'Youth Justice Service Governance and Leadership'.

In addition to its quarterly meetings, the DCYJS Partnership Board will hold a development session in June 2022 to review the key messages from the national

guidance and from the local self-assessment, as well as taking time to consider the service's priorities and arrangements for the coming years.

Details of the current membership and attendance of the DCYJS Partnership Board are included in Appendix One.

12. Evidence-based practice and innovation

DCYJS service developments in recent years have included the addition of Speech and Language expertise to the team in 2018 and the implementation of the Trauma Recovery Model in 2020. Both these developments reflected growing evidence about the specific needs of children in the youth justice system.

One of the messages from our conversations with local young people who have been sentenced or remanded to custody was that the crucial and memorable element for them was their relationship with their YJS worker, not the interventions and resources used by the worker. This echoes evidence that has accrued over the years, in a number of settings, that the quality of the relationship is the most important factor in supporting positive change. Building a balanced, trusting and consistent working relationship with a child in the youth justice system is not innovative but it is skilled, difficult and evidence-based work. Understanding a child's communication needs and the impact of their past experiences increases the chances of success in this work.

During 2021/22, working in the context of the Covid pandemic, DCYJS have introduced practice improvements to increase the effectiveness of our work including:

- Semi-structured interviews with young people who have been in custody to gain their views about how DCYJS and other local services could improve our work
- Use of virtual working to strengthen links between DCYJS practitioners and children in care placed out of our area
- Improved transition arrangements for young people entering adult services, supported by the DCYJS Probation Officer
- Increasing and diversifying DCYJS Police Officers' contacts with young people and parents to build trust
- Development of a DCYJS approach to improve restorative work for offences against emergency workers
- Increased use and consistent format for trauma-informed case consultations with the DCYJS health team
- Changing DCYJS practice to hold multi-agency Risk Assessment Panels for all weapons offences, not just those where the child is assessed as posing a High Risk of Serious Harm to others.

13. Looking forward

The strategic priorities and plans for the DCYJS partnership are set out in section 11. A more detailed action plan is used within the service to support this work.

While noting the concerns, risks and issues described in section 10 of this document, the intention of the DCYJS Partnership Board and the DCYJS staff group is that the coming year will see further improvements in the number of children entering the justice system, in how young people from over-represented groups are treated in our local youth justice system and in the efficiency and quality of our partnership work. For those young people

who do require support from DCYJS we will work collaboratively with them, making it easier for them to engage with our service and supporting them to access activities that will enable them to repair harm, enhance their education and skills and develop their strengths and abilities.

14. Sign off, submission and approval

Chair of YJS Board - name	Theresa Leavy
Signature	
Date	

15. Appendix 1

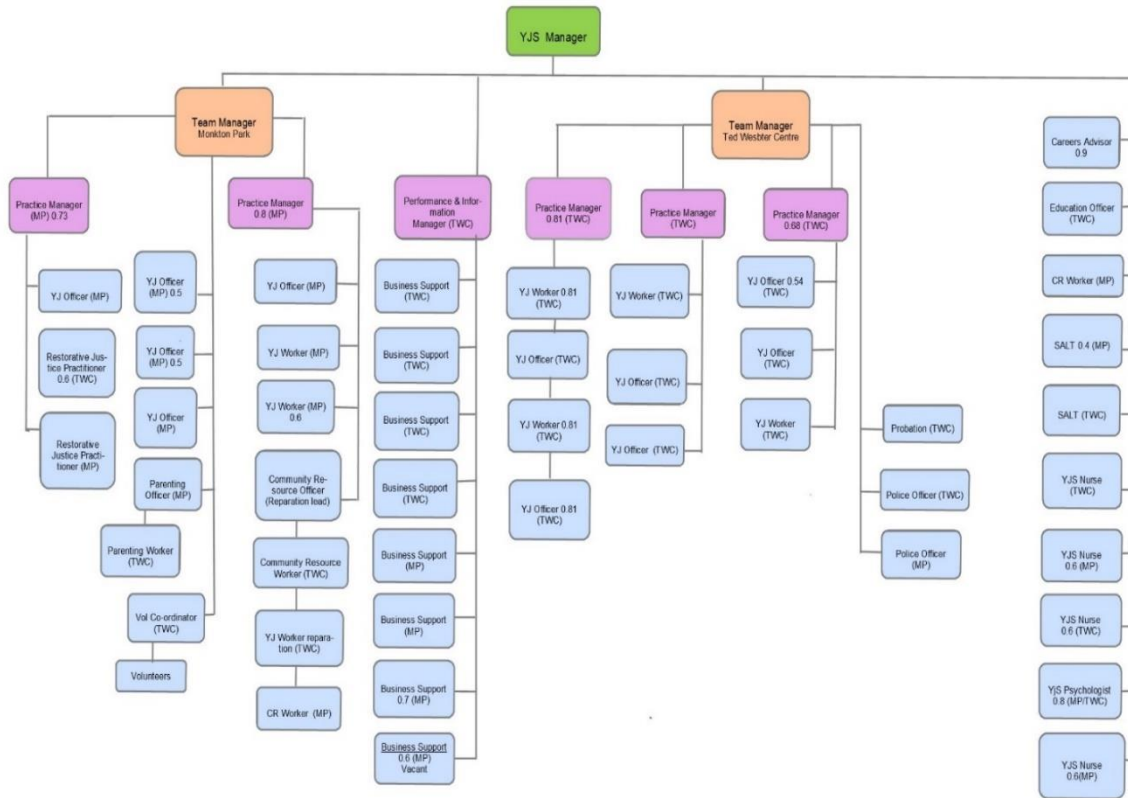
The following table shows the membership and attendance of the DCYJS Partnership Board:

Organisation	Current Post Holder	Board Member	Title	23/04/2021	16/07/2021	05/11/2021	21/01/2022	Key
Ansbury	Nicola Newman	Y	Chief Executive, Ansbury Guidance	Attendance	Non attendance	N/A	N/A	Membership ceased in July 2021
BCP Council DCS	Elaine Redding	Y	Corporate Director Children's Services	Attendance	Attendance	Non attendance	Deputy sent	
BCP Council CSC	Brian Relph/Jane White	Y	Head of Children & Young People Social Care	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	
BCP Council Education	Sarah Rempel	Y	Director, Family and Inclusion Services, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	N/A	N/A	Attendance	Deputy sent	
BCP Council Finance	Stephen MacDonald/Jo Collis-Heavens	Y	Senior Accountant, Children's Services	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	
Clinical Commissioning Group	Elaine Hurl	Y	Senior Commissioning Manager, Mental Health	Non attendance	Attendance	Non attendance	Non attendance	
Dorset Council DCS	Theresa Leavy (Chair)	Y	Executive Director for People - Children	Attendance	Attendance	Deputy sent	Attendance	
Dorset Council CSC	Sarah-Jane Smedmor	Y	Corporate Director Care and Protection	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	
Dorset Council Education	Mark Blackman/Vik Verma	N	Corporate Director, Education and Learning	Attendance	Non attendance	Attendance	Non attendance	
Dorset Healthcare Trust	Lisa White/Clare Hurley	Y	Clinical Services Manager, Bournemouth & Christchurch CAMHS	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	
Dorset Magistrates Youth Panel chair	Caroline Foster	Y	Chair, Dorset Magistrates Youth Panel	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	
Dorset Police	Jan Steadman	Y	Head of Criminal Justice and Custody	Attendance	Attendance	Non attendance	Attendance	
Dorset Police	Kerry Shelley	Y	Head of Youth Services / Acting Inspector, Dorset Police Youth Justice Team	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	
HM Court Services	Jane Dunmall	Y	Legal Advisor	Non attendance	Attendance	N/A	N/A	Membership cased July 2021
National Probation Service	Toni Shepherd	Y	National Probation Service Dorset	Non attendance	Attendance	Deputy sent	Attendance	
Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner	Lewis Gool/Helen Fletcher	Y	Grants and Commissioning Officer	Attendance	Non attendance	Attendance	Attendance	
Public Health Dorset	Nicky Cleave	Y	Assistant Director for Public Health	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	
YJS BCP Council	David Webb	Y	Service Manager, Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	Attendance	
Youth Justice Board	Kate Langley	Y	Head of Innovation and Engagement YJB and Head of South-West and South-Central regions	Attendance	Attendance	Non attendance	Non attendance	

16. Appendix 2 – Service Structure Chart

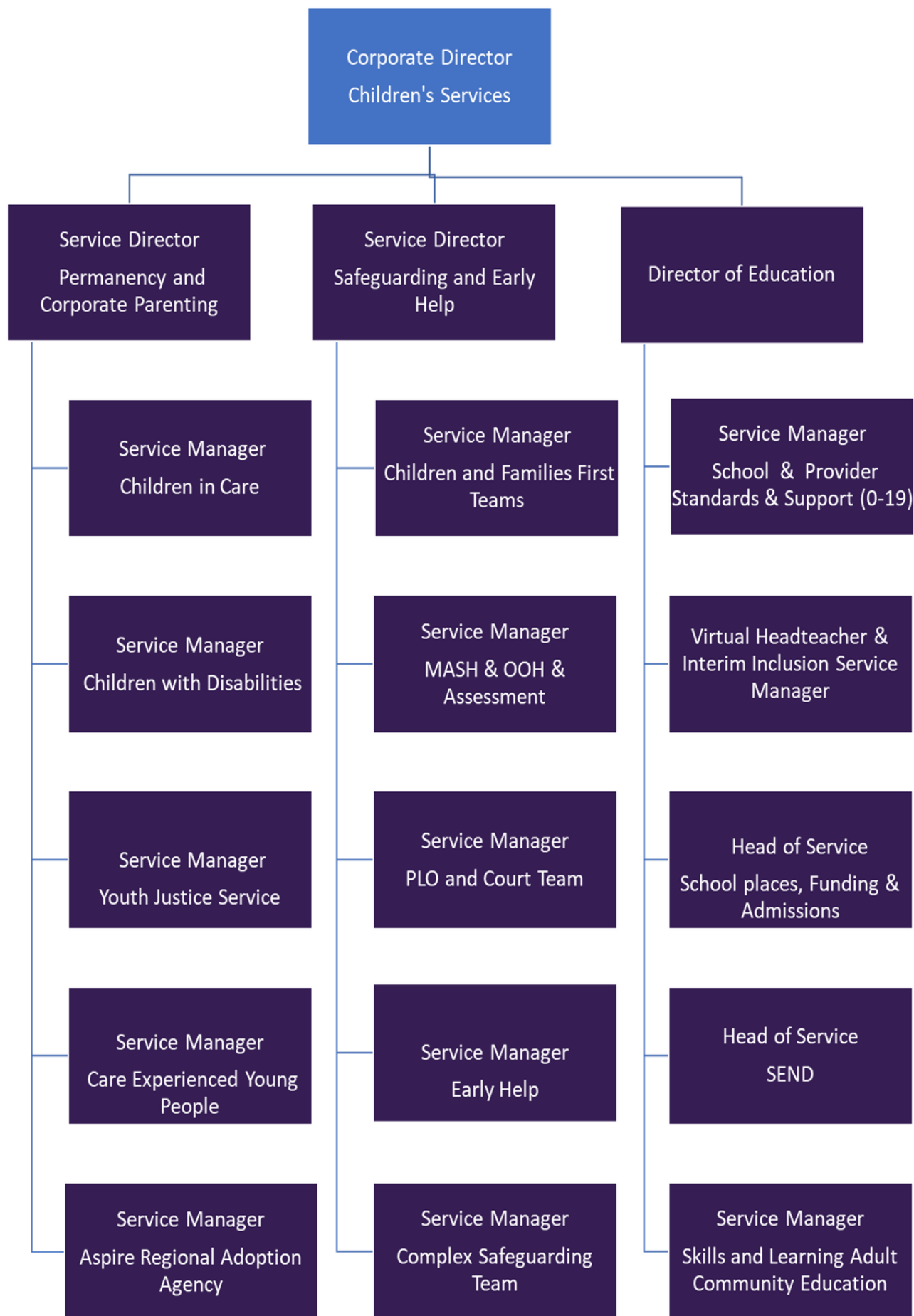
The following structure charts show the staffing structure of Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service and where the service sits in the two local authorities.

Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service - YJS Structure



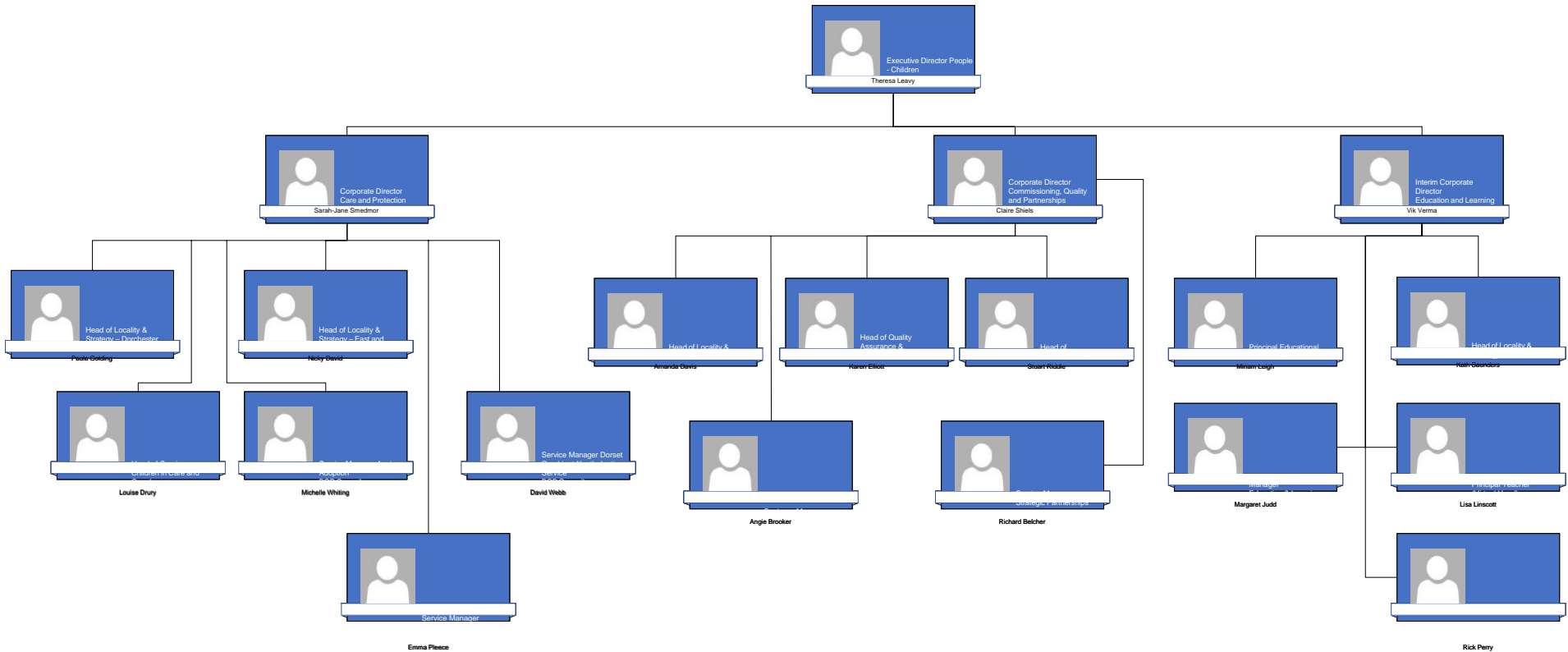
Dorset Combined Youth Justice Service January 2022

BCP Council Children's Services Extended Leadership Team:



Dorset Council Children's Services Extended Leadership Team:

Children's Services Extended Leadership Team



DCYJS Staff and Volunteers:

The following table shows the gender and ethnicity of DCYJS staff members and volunteers:

Ethnicity	Female staff members	Male staff members	Female volunteers	Male volunteers	Total
White British	38	11	13	6	68
White Other	1	1	1	1	4
Mixed Heritage	1	0	0	0	1

Five staff members in DCYJS are recorded as having a disability.

Common youth justice terms
Please add any locally used terminology

ACE	Adverse childhood experience. Events in the child's life that can have negative, long lasting impact on the child's health, and life choices
AIM 2 and 3	Assessment, intervention and moving on, an assessment tool and framework for children who have instigated harmful sexual behaviour
ASB	Anti social behaviour
AssetPlus	Assessment tool to be used for children who have been involved in offending behaviour
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
CCE	Child Criminal exploitation, where a child is forced, through threats of violence, or manipulated to take part in criminal activity
Children	We define a child as anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. This is in line with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and civil legislation in England and Wales. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate, does not change their status or entitlements to services or protection.
Child First	A system wide approach to working with children in the youth justice system. There are four tenants to this approach, it should be: developmentally informed, strength based, promote participation, and encourage diversion
Child looked-after	Child Looked After, where a child is looked after by the local authority
CME	Child Missing Education
Constructive resettlement	The principle of encouraging and supporting a child's positive identity development from pro-offending to pro-social
Contextual safeguarding	An approach to safeguarding children which considers the wider community and peer influences on a child's safety
Community resolution	Community resolution, an informal disposal, administered by the police, for

	low level offending where there has been an admission of guilt
EHCP	Education and health care plan, a plan outlining the education, health and social care needs of a child with additional needs
ETE	Education, training or employment
EHE	Electively home educated, children who are formally recorded as being educated at home and do not attend school
EOTAS	Education other than at school, children who receive their education away from a mainstream school setting
FTE	First Time Entrant. A child who receives a statutory criminal justice outcome for the first time (youth caution, youth conditional caution, or court disposal)
HMIP	Her Majesty Inspectorate of Probation. An independent arms-length body who inspect Youth Justice services and probation services
HSB	Harmful sexual behaviour, developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour by children, which is harmful to another child or adult, or themselves
JAC	Junior Attendance Centre
MAPPA	Multi agency public protection arrangements
MFH	Missing from Home
NRM	National Referral Mechanism. The national framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery in order to gain help to support and protect them
OOCD	Out-of-court disposal. All recorded disposals where a crime is recorded, an outcome delivered but the matter is not sent to court
Outcome 22/21	An informal disposal, available where the child does not admit the offence, but they undertake intervention to build strengths to minimise the possibility of further offending
Over-represented children	Appearing in higher numbers than the local or national average
RHI	Return home Interviews. These are interviews completed after a child has been reported missing
SLCN	Speech, Language and communication needs
STC	Secure training centre

SCH	Secure children's home
Young adult	We define a young adult as someone who is 18 or over. For example, when a young adult is transferring to the adult probation service.
YJS	Youth Justice Service. This is now the preferred title for services working with children in the youth justice system. This reflects the move to a child first approach
YOI	Young offender institution

Full Council

14 July 2022

Community Governance Review – Final Recommendations

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Author: Jacqui Andrews

Title: Service Manager, Democratic & Electoral Services

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: On 15 July 2021, Full Council approved terms of reference for a Council-wide community governance review, looking at the existing parish governance arrangements in the Dorset Council area and inviting representations from local councils, residents and any interested parties in respect of current and future arrangements.

Following on from the public consultation exercise, Full Council agreed draft recommendations on 15 February 2022 for a further period of public consultation which took place between 28 February 2022 and 23 May 2022. A member working group considered the responses received, and this report sets out Final Recommendations for new governance arrangements for town and parish councils in the Dorset Council area for consideration by Full Council. Agreed changes will be the subject of a Reorganisation Order that will take effect on 1 April 2024.

Recommendations:

1. That the proposals set out in Appendix 1 be adopted by the Council as Final Recommendations for the purposes of the Community Governance Review.

2. That, save as set out in the Final Recommendations, the existing parishes in the Dorset Council area, and the names, boundaries, council size, groupings, and other parish governance arrangements in respect of those parishes, remain unchanged.
3. That the Final Recommendations form a Reorganisation Order to take effect on 1 April 2024.

Reason for Recommendation:

To ensure that community governance arrangements within the Dorset Council area are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area and achieve electoral equality.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 On 15 July 2021, Full Council approved terms of reference for a Council-wide community governance review, looking at the existing parish governance arrangements in the Dorset Council area and inviting representations from local councils, residents and any interested parties in respect of current and future arrangements.
- 1.2 Initial submissions were invited between 5 August 2021 and 28 October 2021, and these were reviewed by a working group made up of the Group Leaders and the Deputy Group Leaders in preparing the draft recommendations which were agreed by Full Council on 15 February 2022. The draft recommendations were subject to a period of public consultation between 28 February 2022 and 23 May 2022.
- 1.3 A cross-party member working group considered all the responses received during the second period of public consultation and propose Final Recommendations as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

2. What is a Community Governance Review?

- 2.1 A Community Governance Review is a legal process whereby the Council will consult with those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review. This means making sure that those living in the area, and other interested groups, have a say in how their local communities are represented.
- 2.2 Section 93 of the 2007 Act allows principal councils to decide how to undertake a Review, provided that it complies with certain duties in that Act including details set out relating to consultation, the need to ensure

any proposals reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient. The Council has to publish its recommendations but the manner in which the Council consults with its residents is not prescribed.

- 2.3 A Review can consider one or more of the following options:
- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
 - the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes and the creation of town councils;
 - the electoral arrangements for parishes (for instance, the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding);
 - grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes;
 - other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings.

3. **Why is the Council undertaking a Review?**

3.1 The Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government published in 2008 recommends that principal councils should undertake a review of its area every 10-15 years. For some areas of the Council, a Review has not been undertaken for some time and, following the creation of Dorset Council, it is deemed appropriate to undertake a Review of all parishes within its area. A community governance review offers an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features, and remove any parish boundaries anomalies that may exist.

3.2 In this review, the Council was guided by the relevant legislation in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the 2007 Act"), the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews that the government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have issued ("[the Guidance](#)"), and the [Terms of Reference](#) for the review that were adopted by Full Council on 15 July 2021, with the timetable amended by Full Council on 14 December 2021.

4. **Considerations of the Review**

4.1 Electoral equality: It is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. There is no provision in legislation that each parish councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors. However, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England believes it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences

in levels of representation between different parish wards. Such variations could make it difficult, in workload terms, for councillors to adequately represent the interests of residents. There is also a risk that where one or more wards of a parish are over-represented by councillors, the residents of those wards (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

When undertaking a review and considering electoral arrangements, the Council is required to consider any change in the number and distribution of electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts. Electorate forecasts have been prepared by the Council using extant planning permissions and the Local Plan to project the five-year electorate forecast. It may be the case that some areas have wards that will have fewer electors than in other wards within the same parish when the Reorganisation Order takes effect in 2024, but the figures are calculated on the anticipated electorate in 2026.

- 4.2 A report summarising the number and type of responses is attached at Appendix 2. In preparing these Final Recommendations, the working group has been mindful of the initial submissions that were received during the period 5 August 2021 to 28 October 2021, and the submissions received during the public consultation on the Council's draft recommendations from 28 February 2022 to 23 May 2022. The submissions received during the 2nd period of public consultation can be viewed on the community governance review pages of the Dorset Council website [here](#).
- 4.3 The working group has balanced these submissions against the wider requirements and duties that are placed upon it in the 2007 Act.

5. **Final recommendations by area**

- 5.1 Appendix 1 to the report sets out the Final Recommendations of the cross-party member working group by parish. The appendix only refers to those parishes where changes were requested or proposed and does not reference those areas where no requests were received to review community governance arrangements, nor areas where electoral equality is considered to be met.
- 5.2 It should be noted that the parishes of Vale of Allen, Chickerell, Weymouth and Winterborne Farringdon have been removed from the final recommendations. Substantial alternative proposals were submitted in respect of these parishes and Dorset Council believes that further public consultation should be undertaken to seek residents' views on these proposals. The Community Governance Review legislation requires that any Review is concluded within 12 months of the publication of the Terms

of Reference in July 2021 so it is not possible for further consultation to be undertaken as part of this Review. For that reason, these parishes have been removed from this Review, and a further Review will be undertaken in respect of these parishes only commencing in October 2022. No other parishes will be considered as part of this further Review. This will enable full consultation to be undertaken with local residents and other interested parties that would be affected by any governance changes that might be proposed. Any Final Recommendations in the Review for the Vale of Allen, Chickerell, Weymouth and Winterborne Farringdon parishes will form the basis of a new Dorset Council (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will take effect on 1 April 2024 and will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2024.

6. Implementation

- 6.1 If Full Council chooses to accept the final recommendations of the Review, concluded after public consultation, it will be necessary for the legal team to prepare a Reorganisation Order and publish this together with the reasons for the changes, making maps available for public inspection. There are also various bodies that must be notified of the changes including the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.
- 6.2 Any changes to governance arrangements of the parishes will take effect on 1 April 2024, ahead of the next scheduled parish elections in May 2024.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications for Dorset Council associated with this report.

8. Climate Implications

- 8.1 There are no climate implications associated with this report.

9. Well-being and Health Implications

- 9.1 There are no well-being and health implications associated with this report.

10. Other Implications

- 10.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

11. **Risk Assessment**

- 11.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW

12. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

- 12.1 A detailed Equalities Impact Assessment has been prepared and can be found attached to the Full Council report on 15 July 2021 [here](#).

13. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Final recommendations for changes to parish Community Governance arrangements.

Appendix 2 – Consultation summary document.

14. **Background Papers**

[Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Guidance on Community Governance Reviews](#)
[Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007](#)

Dorset Council
Community Governance Review
Final Recommendations

Recommendations:

1. That the proposals set out in this Appendix be adopted by the Council as Final Recommendations for the purposes of the Community Governance Review.
2. That, save as set out in the Final Recommendations, the existing parishes in the Dorset Council area, and the names, boundaries, council size, groupings, and other parish governance arrangements in respect of those parishes, remain unchanged.
3. That the Final Recommendations form a Reorganisation Order to take effect on 1 April 2024.

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Section 1: Introduction

Dorset Council has undertaken a Community Governance Review of all the parishes within the Council area. In this review, the Council was guided by the relevant legislation in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the [Guidance](#) on Community Governance Reviews that the government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have issued (the

Guidance), and [the Terms of Reference](#) for the review that were adopted by Full Council on 15 July 2021, and amended by Full Council on 14 December 2021.

This Review related to the whole of the Dorset Council area and gave consideration to changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements. These changes include the alteration, merging, creation and abolishing of parishes; the naming of parishes, and the adoption of an alternative style for new parishes. They also involved changes to the council size (the number of councillors to be elected to the council), and whether to divide the parishes into wards for the purposes of elections. The general principles for the proposals that the Council is making along with the different types of recommendations are outlined below.

Town and parish councils are the first tier of local government and they are statutory bodies. They serve their electorates; they are independently elected by their local government electors, and they raise their own precept. Town and parish councils work towards providing local services and improving community well-being. The National Association of Local Councils describes their activities as falling into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs, and striving to improve the quality of life and community well-being within their areas.

Dorset Council is responsible for community governance arrangements within the Council area, and it is considered good practice to review community governance every 10-15 years. This is the first review carried out by Dorset Council, and at the commencement of the review, there were 153 parishes in the area, with 1400+ parish councillors. The electoral quota (the ratio of electors to parish councillors) varies widely across the area and in some parishes electoral equality is no longer achieved as a result of development over previous years.

On 5 August 2021, the Council commenced a 12-week period of consultation requesting initial submissions from the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, Members of Parliament, existing parish councils, local residents and other interested organisations – the consultation closed on 28 October 2021. The Review was widely publicised through the Council's website, social media, press releases and advertisements in local libraries as well as through the parish councils themselves.

The Group Leaders and their deputies met as a working group and gave careful consideration to all submissions received. They also took into consideration the analytical work undertaken to determine where electoral equality is no longer met, or will not be met in 2026 (the period that has to be taken into account for the purpose of the review) and have considered obvious boundary anomalies that need resolving.

Following the adoption of draft recommendations for consultation by Full Council on 15 February 2022, a period of 12 weeks' consultation was undertaken between 28 February 2022 and 23 May 2022. This consultation stage provided parish councils, electors and other interested persons or bodies with an opportunity to make the case for alternative proposals to those now forming the draft recommendations agreed by Full Council.

The public consultation required that if an alternative case was submitted, this must demonstrate that any alternative proposals were in line with the general principles of a Community Governance Review, as they are laid down in the legislation and the Guidance. The Council gave careful consideration to all submissions and alternative proposals that it received. These were balanced against the legislation, the Guidance and the Council's Terms of Reference.

This Appendix sets out Final Recommendations in this Review for consideration by Full Council, and the Final Recommendations agreed will form the basis of a new Dorset Council (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will take effect on 1 April 2024 and will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2024.

It should be noted that the parishes of Vale of Allen, Chickerell, Weymouth and Winterborne Farringdon have been removed from the final recommendations. Substantial alternative proposals were submitted in respect of these parishes and Dorset Council believes that further public consultation should be undertaken to seek residents' views on these proposals. The Community Governance Review legislation requires that any Review is concluded within 12 months of the publication of the Terms of Reference in July 2021 so it is not possible for further consultation to be undertaken as part of this Review. For that reason, these parishes have been removed from this Review, and a further Review will be undertaken in respect of these parishes only commencing in October 2022. This will enable full consultation to be undertaken with local residents and other interested parties that will be affected by any governance changes. Any Final Recommendations in the Review for the Vale of Allen, Chickerell, Weymouth and Winterborne Farringdon parishes will form the basis of a new Dorset Council (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will take effect on 1 April 2024 and will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2024.

The Community Governance Review does not include the electoral arrangements for Dorset Council or Parliamentary seats. This would be the responsibility of central government through the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Boundary Commission for England, respectively.

Section 2: General principles and types of recommendation

Parish areas and their boundaries

The Council has begun its review by giving consideration to the parish areas and their boundaries. In particular, the Council has sought to ensure that each parish:

- reflects the identities and interests of the different communities in the area. The Council considers that this is a 'community of identity' test, which is especially applicable to the new developments that presently cross parish boundaries.
- is effective and convenient. The Council considers that this is a 'viability' test, and the Council is keen to ensure that parishes are viable and are able to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute

to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner.

- takes into account any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area that reinforce the 'community of identity' test.

Names and styles

By and large, in these Final Recommendations, the Council has sought to defer to local views with regard to the names of any new parishes and the names of any new or altered parish wards, taking account of history, local connections or the preservation of local ties making a pressing case for the retention of distinctive traditional names.

A number of parishes have historically used the title of 'town' in accordance with the Local Government Act. This is a matter over which this review has no remit, and it will lie at the discretion of the council of the parish as to whether it would wish to adopt the name of 'town' in accordance with Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Parish grouping and electoral arrangements

The Council has considered submissions in respect of grouped parishes, of which there are 36 in the Dorset Council area, and their electoral arrangements, considering whether grouping arrangements are appropriate for some of the smaller parishes, and whether the alternative of merging parishes under a single unwarded or a warded parish council would be more readily understood.

The Council has also considered the electoral arrangements of each parish. The term 'electoral arrangements' covers the way in which a council is constituted for the parish, including:

- the number of councillors to be elected to the council;
- the division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors;
- the number and boundaries of any such wards;
- the number of councillors to be elected for any such ward;
- the name of any such ward.

The Council is required by law to consider any change in the number or distribution of the local government electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the Review started. The Final Recommendations take into account the electorate as the Council has projected it to 2026. Analysis of the present sizes of parish councils in the area together with the 5-year projected electorate can be found in [the Consultation Paper](#).

The Council has also given careful consideration to representations made in respect of the current warding arrangements of the parish councils. In considering whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council, the Council is required by legislation to consider the following:

- whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient;
- whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council.

It is important that warding arrangements should be clearly and readily understood by, and should have relevance for the electorate in a parish; they should reflect clear physical and social differences within a parish, whether urban or rural: one parish but comprising different parts. In addition, ward arrangements should have merit - not only should they meet the two tests laid down in the legislation, but they should also be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The additional costs of multiple ward elections should not be wasteful of a parish's resources.

In allocating parish councillors to parish wards, the Council has been particularly mindful of the government's Guidance that "it is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the elections of councillors" to a parish council. While there is no provision in legislation that each parish ward councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors, the Council concurs with the Guidance that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards. The Council has therefore attempted to ensure that the ratio of electors to councillors across the different wards of a parish is equitable insofar as that is practical.

Section 3: Evidence

In undertaking the Review, Dorset Council has taken into account key data for each parish and parish ward. The range of data used is as follows:

Electorate size and housing development data: Analysis of the present sizes of parish councils in the area together with the 5 year projected electorate, details of which can be found in [the Consultation Paper](#). The 5-year projected electorate has been calculated using information about the scale and exact locations of expected future housing developments within the Council area. It is also based on the Council's housing development plans as set out in the Local Plan.

May 2019 Elections data: The Council has used the Returning Officer's data on the number of nominations at the last ordinary elections for the parishes in May 2019 relative to the number of seats, including the numbers of parish councillors that did not go through the process of nomination and election and who were therefore co-opted to the parish council to fill vacancies that remained unfilled at those elections.

Responses to the Initial Submissions consultation: the Council has considered responses to the consultation between 5 August 2021 and 28 October 2021 (the first of two public consultations planned for the Community Governance Review). All responses received can be viewed on the Community Governance Review page of the Council's website [here](#).

Responses to the Draft Recommendations: Responses to the proposals contained in the Draft Recommendations during the consultation period that ran from 28 February 2022 to 23 May 2022 were carefully considered. All responses received can be viewed on the Community Governance Review page of the Council's website [here](#).

Council size: The legal minimum number of parish councillors for each council is five (Section 16, Local Government Act 1972). The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) considers that a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small, and it considers that a practical working minimum should be seven (NALC Circular 1126/1988). The government's Guidance makes the point that "the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors" (Guidance, paragraph 157).

There is no requirement in legislation that the number of councillors should be proportional to electorate size. The view given in the Guidance is as follows: "In considering the issue of council size, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, it should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes. This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government." (Guidance, paragraph 156).

With regard to parish wards, the Guidance adds another consideration, which is that the levels of representation and the ratios of electors to parish councillors should be broadly equitable. This report has already noted the emphasis in the Guidance "that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors" (Guidance, paragraph 166).

Section 4: Final assessment and draft recommendations

Recommendation 1 – Arne

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance arrangements.

Through the initial consultation survey the Council received an individual representation, to include Stoborough and Worgret Parish within Arne Parish Council name but Dorset Council has not received any substantial evidence to support this suggestion and no further comments were received during consultation on the draft recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 2 - Bere Regis

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance arrangements.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council to increase councillor numbers from 11 to 13. The National Association of Local Council (NALC) guidance and the 2026 predicted electorate do not support an increase in councillor numbers. No further comments were received during consultation on the draft recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 3 - Blandford Forum Town Council ([Map](#))

The current governance arrangements for Blandford Forum Town Council are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Badbury Heights	1	900	887	887
Blandford Central	6	3297	3343	557
Hilltop	2	727	822	411
Langton St Leonards	4	1578	1556	389
Old Town	3	1624	1639	546

The current governance arrangements do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to the warding pattern as shown on Map Recommendation No.3 and councillor numbers as follows:

Parish Ward	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Badbury Heights	2	556
Blandford Central	6	522
Hilltop	2	470
Langton St Leonards	3	519
Old Town	3	503

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that any other community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the initial public consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Blandford Forum Town Council to change the parish boundaries to include a number of existing parishes, or part thereof, to bring these within the Blandford Forum parish boundary. The full submission can be seen [here](#) .

Dorset Council received submissions from Blandford St Mary Parish Council, Bryanston Parish Council, Pimperne Parish Council, Tarrant Monkton and Launceston Parish Council and Langton Long Parish Meeting against the proposal from Blandford Forum Town Council demonstrating how each of the parishes had clearly defined and well-established working arrangements, taking responsibility for a number of projects within their communities. These submissions can be seen [here](#) .

Responses were also received from 3 individuals against the proposals by Blandford Forum Town Council which can also be seen in the responses document [here](#).

Dorset Council was not convinced that the changes proposed by Blandford Forum Town Council would improve community governance and were not persuaded by the limited arguments put forward by the Town Council that there would be an improvement to community cohesion or more convenient governance of the area. Whilst the submission set out the changes being sought, detailed arguments were not presented in respect of all the changes as to how these would facilitate better community engagement and improved community cohesion. Dorset Council was also disappointed to note that prior to making their submission, the Town Council had not sought to collaborate with those parishes affected in drawing up proposals for new governance arrangements. However, it is noted that the Town Council has since been in contact with the affected parishes.

Dorset Council felt that the parishes affected by the proposals from the Town Council had demonstrated good community engagement and cohesion with many community initiatives and collaboration in place. It was also noted that the proposals would result in a significant number of parish wards being split by Dorset Council ward boundaries, something which the Guidance says should be avoided wherever reasonably practicable.

During the period of consultation on the draft recommendations, 24 submissions were made in support of the draft recommendation including from Blandford St Mary, Bryanston, Durweston and Pimperne Parish Councils. There were 3 submissions opposing the draft recommendations including from Blandford Forum Town Council. The Council did not receive any additional information that was persuasive for an alternative final recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current arrangements except to councillor numbers set out above, and warding arrangements as shown in Map Recommendation No. 3.

Recommendation 4 - Bridport Town Council ([Map 1](#))([Map 2](#))([Map 3](#))([Map 4](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that community governance changes would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the initial public consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Bridport Town Council to change the parish boundaries to include a number of existing parishes, or part thereof, to bring these within the Bridport parish boundary. The full submission can be seen as part of the responses document [here](#).

Dorset Council received 86 individual responses, and 126 responses via a leaflet published by Bridport Town Council supporting the proposals, all of which can be viewed in the responses document [here](#).

Dorset Council received 78 individual responses objecting to the proposals on the grounds that their parishes had a distinct identity, and this would be lost if merged with Bridport Town Council. All the responses can be viewed in the responses document [here](#).

Responses were also received from the affected parishes as follows:

- Allington Parish Council
- Symondsbury Parish Council
- Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council
- Bradpole Parish Council
- Burton Bradstock Parish Council

A full copy of the submissions can be found in the responses document [here](#)

Members of the Community Governance Review Working Group considered all the responses received and also undertook a site visit to Bridport and surrounding parishes on 15 December 2021. The Working Group also invited all the parishes affected to address the Working Group on 20 December 2021 and 26 January 2022 to make their case for or against the proposals by Bridport Town Council, and in respect of any other changes to community governance arrangements they might wish to propose.

Following consideration of all the submissions received in respect of the draft recommendations, Dorset Council was of the view that the Option 1 proposal put forward by Bridport Town Council would

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;

- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Dorset Council is persuaded by the arguments set out in the submission from Bridport Town Council that include:

- There is little separation between parishes, creating a sense of a single larger parish.
- A large number of services provided by the Town Council are enjoyed by residents of the wider area including the use of the community bus service, provision of community spaces and buildings etc.
- The Town Council manage a number of facilities/services that are outside of the town boundary.
- The designated area for the Bridport Neighbourhood Plan replicates the area proposed for the new Bridport parish.
- There is a strong sense of community cohesion with examples of residents across the area working together for a common goal e.g., the recent support network established to help residents during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The proposed warding arrangements will enable local centres to retain an identity of their own as is currently the case with West Bay which sits largely within the current Bridport parish.

Symondsbury Parish Council have advised that having consulted with their community and the neighbouring parishes, the proposals will support healthy governance and community cohesion of the parish as follows:

- To maintain and improve the effective, convenient, representative and appropriate governance currently provided by the Parish Council for the Parish, with a purpose and voice that can be heard.
- To promote and improve the health and cohesive identity of the Parish as a rural community, delivering sustainable services and requirements of the community whilst providing a positive interface with neighbouring parishes.
- To ensure the fair and appropriate financial income necessary to allow the Parish to provide the services required for all aspects of the community, including welcoming and catering for new members of the community and visitors.
- To provide appropriate assistance through grant or subsidy to services that the Symondsbury community may benefit from which are located in neighbouring parishes.
- To support the operation of the Parish Council in delivering services to and representing the community in association with progressive methods of governance.

A copy of the full response from Symondsbury Parish Council can be found using the link to the submissions.

During the period of consultation on the draft recommendations, 48 submissions were made in support of the draft recommendations including from Bridport Town Council and Symondsbury Parish Council (subject to corrections in the draft map). Bridport Town Council's submission referenced 151 expressions of support for the draft recommendations. There were 17

submissions opposing the draft recommendations including from Allington, Bothenhampton and Walditch, Bradpole and Burton Bradstock Parish Councils. The Council did not receive any additional information that was persuasive for an alternative final recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make the changes to the current governance arrangements as set out in Map Recommendation No. 4 and 4A (and Map Recommendation Nos. 13 and 29 for larger scale maps of changes to Symondsbury). The final recommendation in respect of Councillor numbers and Ward names for Bridport Town Council, and Symondsbury Parish Council are as follows:

Town Council Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Allington & West Bridport	5	3168	3168	634
Bothenhampton & Walditch	3	1843	1801	601
Bradpole	5	2614	2627	525
Central Bridport	5	2635	3149	629
West Bay	2	1038	1014	507

Symondsbury Parish Council

The final recommendation incorporates the remaining parts of Symondsbury and Allington Parishes that are not being included within the proposed Bridport Parish. The final recommendation is for the proposed Symondsbury Parish to be represented by 7 councillors.

Parish Council Ward	Current Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Pine View	1	155	N/A	N/A
Symondsbury	5	548	789	113 (7 councillors)
West Cliff	2	192	N/A	N/A

Recommendation 5 - Broadmayne and West Knighton ([Map](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the initial public consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council highlighting some boundary anomalies as a result of previous development in the parish where properties in the same road fell in 2 different parishes and also where a parish boundary runs through the site of individual properties, together with a proposal to amend the parish boundary to the west of the A352.

During the period of consultation on the draft recommendation, 2 submissions were made in support including from Broadmayne Parish Council. There were 6 submissions opposing the draft recommendation including from Knightsford Parish Council who partially opposed the draft recommendation, and from residents of Littlemayne who did not object to the correction of boundary anomalies but objected to the proposal to the west of the A352 relating to Littlemayne. The Council are persuaded by the views of the residents of Littlemayne and have therefore amended the final recommendation to just regularise the boundaries in Oakwood and 17a, 19 and 19a West Knighton. This would move Oakwood in its entirety to West Knighton parish, and would move 17a, 19 and 19a West Knighton to the Broadmayne parish.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change the parish boundary to resolve anomalies in Oakwood and 17a, 19 and 19a West Knighton as identified in Map Recommendation 5.

Recommendation 6 - Cerne Valley

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the initial public consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council seeking a change to the electoral arrangement to the Grouped Parish Council whereby electors from all 4 parishes could vote across the Grouped Parish rather than voting for a candidate representing their individual parish. S.19 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires each parish in a grouped parish council to return at least one councillor. Therefore, the only way to achieve the outcome sought would be to abolish the 4 existing parishes that form the Grouped Parish Council and create a single parish.

Dorset Council did not believe that this is what is being sought so made no change in the draft recommendations. No further views were received during the public consultation on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 7 - Char Valley ([Map 1](#)) ([Map 2](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the initial public consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council highlighting some boundary anomalies.

Dorset Council supports the move of "Hazy View, Ryall Road, DT6 6EG from Chideock parish to Whitchurch Canonorum parish. See Map Recommendation 7a.

There was a further request to move Newlands Holiday Park, Stonebarrow Manor and other properties from Whitchurch Canonorum to Charmouth. However, as a number of properties are involved and this will necessitate a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to amend Dorset Council ward boundaries, this change is not supported. However, this request will remain on file and will be considered at such time as the Dorset Council boundaries are reviewed.

Dorset Council supported Catherston Leweston becoming part of the Char Valley Grouped Parish Council subject to the parish arranging for a parish meeting of the residents of Catherston Leweston resolving to join.

Dorset Council supported moving the northern most boundary of Stanton St Gabriel to run along the A35. See Map Recommendation No.7b.

The current governance arrangements for Char Valley are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Stanton St Gabriel	1	64	62	62
Whitchurch Canonorum (North)	4	310	302	76
Whitchurch Carnonorum (South)	4	284	280	70
Wootton Fitzpaine	3	275	271	90

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Stanton St Gabriel	1	62
Whitchurch Canonorum (North)	4	76
Whitchurch Carnonorum (South)	4	70
Wootton Fitzpaine	4	69

Catherston Leweston has been removed from the proposed grouping as there was no parish meeting resolution to support this.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to change the parish boundary to resolve the anomalies, as identified in Map Recommendation 7a and 7b, and to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

Recommendation 8 – Charminster

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Charminster are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Charminster North	6	1148	1147	191
Charminster South	7	1318	1608	230

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government’s Guidance that “it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards”. Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Charminster North	5	230
Charminster South	7	230

During the public consultation period, 1 submission was received opposing the draft recommendation whilst it was supported by the Parish Council. In order to achieve electoral equality as required by Government Guidance, the Council believe that the reduction in Councillor numbers is appropriate.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

Recommendation 9 – Charmouth

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council seeking a boundary change which is supported by the businesses affected and also by the Parish Council where the businesses are currently situated.

However, as this proposed change would necessitate a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to amend Dorset Council ward boundaries, this change is not supported. However, this request will remain on file and will be considered at such time as the Dorset Council ward boundaries are reviewed.

No responses were received during the public consultation on the draft recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 10 - Chesil Bank

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Dorset Council do not believe that the boundary changes suggested by the Parish Council will lead to an improvement in Community Governance so recommended in the draft recommendations that the boundaries remain unchanged.

The current governance arrangements for Chesil Bank are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Abbotsbury	4	378	367	92
Fleet	2	75	72	36
Langton Herring	2	133	132	66
Portesham	6	629	609	102

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Abbotsbury	4	92
Fleet	2	72
Langton Herring	2	66
Portesham	7	87

During the public consultation period on the draft recommendations, 22 objections to the draft recommendations were received including Chesil Bank Parish Council and Long Bredy and Kingston Russell Parish Council. There was 1 submission supporting the change in Councillor numbers but opposing any boundary changes. However, reading the text of the submissions, some were objecting to the proposals of Chesil Bank Parish Council to amend the parish boundaries – this proposal was not supported by Dorset Council in its draft recommendations.

A number of objections were made in response to the reduction in Councillor numbers. Strictly applying the Government guidance on electoral equality, a reduction in numbers is necessary. However, Dorset Council have taken into account the views of local residents and support an additional councillor for Portesham and 2 councillors for Fleet to ensure resilience is maintained.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality as set out above.

Recommendation 11 - Chetnole and Stockwood

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Dorset Council do not believe that the boundary changes suggested by the Parish Council will lead to an improvement in Community Governance so recommend that the boundaries remain unchanged. No further evidence/representations were received setting out the perceived benefits of the proposals put forward by the Parish Council.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 12 – Chickerell

The parish of Chickerell has been removed from the final recommendations. Substantial alternative proposals were submitted in respect of this parish and Dorset Council believes that further public consultation should be undertaken to seek residents' views on alternative proposals submitted. The Community Governance Review legislation requires that any Review is concluded within 12 months of the publication of the Terms of Reference in July 2021 so it is not possible for further consultation to be undertaken as part of this Review. For that reason, this parish has been removed from this Review, and a further Review will be undertaken commencing in October 2022. This will enable full consultation to be undertaken with local residents and other interested parties that will be affected by any governance changes. Any Final Recommendations in the further Review will form the basis of a new Dorset Council (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will take effect on 1 April 2024 and will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2024.

Recommendation 13 – Chideock ([Map 1](#))([Map 2](#))([Map 3](#))([Map 4](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

During the initial consultation survey, a representation was received from the Parish Council to move 2 individual properties from Chideock Parish to Whitchurch Canonorum and Symondsburry parishes as the properties had no near neighbours in the Chideock Parish.

In regard to Hazy View, please see reference under Char Valley (Map Recommendation No. 7a).

In regard to Turnpike Cottage, Downside Cottage and Sundown Cottage these are split by the Parish and Dorset Council ward boundary. It is necessary to correct this boundary anomaly as the properties are currently split. Dorset Council will seek a very minor change to the Dorset Council ward boundary by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, but if this is not accepted, it will be necessary to create a separate polling district for these few properties.

No submissions were made in respect of the draft recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change the parish boundary to resolve the anomalies, as identified in Map Recommendation No.7a and Map Recommendation No.13.

Recommendation 14 - Colehill and Holt ([Map](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the initial consultation survey the Council received 37 representations, including submissions from both Colehill and Holt Parish Councils with varying views about possible changes to community governance arrangements across the parishes.

Dorset Council noted that the former East Dorset District Council carried out a review concluded in 2018 and for some of the proposals submitted as part of this review, Dorset Council could find no compelling evidence of any change in these communities that would support a change to community governance in these areas.

However, Dorset Council notes the more rural nature of Furzehill and is persuaded by the arguments that Furzehill shares clearer local identity with Holt. Dorset Council notes that Holt Parish Council are supportive of Furzehill moving within the Holt parish which was not the case when East Dorset District Council considered the proposal in 2018. Dorset Council's draft recommendation was that the whole of Furzehill moves from the parish of Colehill to the Parish of Holt as identified in Map recommendation No. 14. This would necessitate the warding of Holt Parish Council.

In addition, Colehill Parish Council sought the removal of their current warding arrangements. However, this is not possible as the parish is split by a Parliamentary constituency boundary. However, it was noted that warding arrangements would need to be revised due to the removal of Furzehill.

During the public consultation period on the draft recommendations, 64 submissions were received in favour of the draft recommendation including from Holt Parish Council. There were 22 submissions opposing the draft recommendation including from Colehill Parish Council. An alternative boundary amendment was also proposed by Colehill Parish Council.

The following warding arrangements are proposed for Colehill and Holt:

Colehill - Parish Ward	No. of Councillors	2021 Electorate	2026 Electorate	Avg per councillor 2026
Colehill (polling districts COM1 & COM3)	13	5064	4998	385
Colehill Hayes (polling district COM2)	3	1015	1032	344

Holt - Parish Ward	No. of Councillors	2021 Electorate	2026 Electorate	Avg per councillor 2026
Furzehill	2	204	214	107
Holt	9	1118	1156	128

Dorset Council did not support the alternative boundary amendment proposed by the Colehill Parish Council and were persuaded by the arguments received to confirm the Council’s draft recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to make a change to the current governance arrangements to move “the Lobe” of Furzehill currently in the parish of Colehill to the parish of Holt, and also to change warding arrangements for Colehill and Holt. See Map Recommendation No. 14.

Recommendation 15 - Compton Abbas

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current Governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation, to include Twyford (currently in Compton Abbas parish) within the parish of Fontmell Magna on the basis that the main residential part of both Fontmell Magna and Twyford are on the same side of the A350. There was also a suggestion that Compton Abbas and Melbury Abbas parishes should be merged. The Parish Councils affected by this proposal have not submitted any proposed changes to the current governance arrangements. Dorset Council has not received any substantial evidence to support this suggestion and no further comments were made during the public consultation period on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 16 - Corfe Mullen

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance arrangements.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation to ward the parish of Corfe Mullen. Historically the parish was warded but these governance arrangements were removed in 2014 at the request of the Parish Council. There has been no other submissions in respect of this suggestion, and the parish council are not seeking changes to current governance arrangements.

During the consultation on the draft recommendations, Dorset Council has not received any substantial evidence to support the warding suggestion and whilst warding was supported by 1 respondent when commenting on the draft recommendations, no further comments were made supporting this proposal.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 17 - Dorchester

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current Governance arrangements.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation to reduce the number of councillors elected to the Town Council which currently stands at 20 councillors. In 2026 the area covered by the Town Council is predicted to have 18,249 electors and NALC guidance in Circulate 1126/1988 suggests a council size of 21-22 councillors for this size electorate. The Town Council are not seeking any changes to current governance arrangements.

One submission was received during the consultation on the draft recommendations suggesting that the Town Council had too many Councillors and that this should be reduced. Dorset Council has not received any further comments during the public consultation period on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 18 - Evershot

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current Governance arrangements.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation to amend the parish boundaries to include the community of Holywell into the parish of Evershot. There was also a suggestion to change the name of Evershot Parish Council to Evershot and Holywell Parish Council.

Such a change would result in the parish straddling Dorset Council ward boundaries resulting in possible confusion for the local electorate. The Parish Council are not seeking any changes to current governance arrangements.

Dorset Council has not received any further comments during the public consultation period on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 19 - Frome Valley

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Frome Valley are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Cattistock	7	383	389	56
Chilfrome	2	49	51	26
Frome St Quintin	3	143	143	48

The draft recommendation of Dorset Council was to reduce the number of Councillors for Chilfrome to 1.

During the public consultation period, 2 submissions were received including Frome Valley Parish Council opposing the draft recommendation as the responders felt there would be no resilience if a single Councillor was unable to act. Strictly applying the Government guidance on electoral equality, a reduction in numbers is necessary. However, Dorset Council have taken into account the views of local residents and support retaining the current numbers rather than reducing to a single councillor for Chilfrome.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no changes to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 20 – Gillingham ([Map](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Dorset Council believe that the change to the boundary with East Stour Parish proposed by the Town Council will improve community governance in the area when the proposed development is built.

The current governance arrangements for Gillingham are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Ham	2	1212	1870	935
Milton on Stour	1	347	358	358
Rural	1	192	198	198
Town	9	4701	5356	595
Wyke	4	2551	2527	632

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers and revised warding arrangements as shown in Map Recommendation No.20 as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Ham	3	1212	1870	623
Milton on Stour	1	347	358	358
Rural	1	192	198	198
Town North	6	4701	3614	602
Town South	3		1733	578
Wyke	4	2551	2536	634

One submission opposing the recommendations was received but no alternative proposals were made.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality, and to make changes to the parish boundary and warding arrangements, as identified in Map Recommendation No. 20.

Recommendation 21 - High Stoy

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation to retain the current arrangements. The Parish Council are not seeking arrange changes to current governance arrangements. No further submissions were made in response to the draft recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 22 - Hilton

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considered that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council to form a new Grouped Parish Council of Hilton, Stoke Wake and Melcombe Horsey. Whilst, in principle, Dorset Council supported this proposal, in order for this to be included in the final recommendations, the parishes all needed a resolution of a parish meeting of residents from the parishes affected to this support this change. Melcombe Horsey Parish Meeting did not support a grouping of parishes so this recommendation cannot proceed.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no changes to community governance arrangements.

Recommendation re Holt – see Recommendation No.14 (Colehill & Holt)

Recommendation 23 - Iwerne Courtney and Steepleton

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Iwerne Courtney and Steepleton are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Iwerne Courtney	7	333	341	49
Iwerne Steepleton	2	16	16	8

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Iwerne Courtney	7	49
Iwerne Steepleton	1	16

One submission opposing the recommendation was received but no alternative proposals were made.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

Recommendation 24 - Knightsford

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Knightsford are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Tingleton	2	141	137	69
West Knighton	4	304	308	77
West Stafford	4	246	238	60
Woodsford	2	62	60	30

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Tingleton	2	69
West Knighton	5	62
West Stafford	4	60
Woodsford	1	60

No representations were received during the public consultation on the draft recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

Recommendation 25 - Long Bredy and Kingston Russell ([Map](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council seeking a change to the electoral arrangements to the Grouped Parish Council to create a single parish council whereby electors from all parishes could vote across the parish council area rather than voting for candidate representing their individual parish. S.19 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required each parish in a grouped parish council to return at least one councillor. Therefore, the only way to achieve the outcome sought would be to abolish the 2 existing parishes that form the Grouped Parish Council and create a single parish. The Parish Council have resolved to make this request as part of the community governance review.

During the public consultation on the draft recommendations, 2 submissions were received in support of the proposals including from Long Bredy and Kingston Russell Parish Council, and the recommendation was unanimously supported by residents attending a parish meeting on 28 March 2022.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to abolish the parishes of Long Bredy and Kingston Russell to create a single parish with the same outer boundary and taking the name from both existing parishes calling the new parish Long Bredy and Kingston Russell, as identified in Map Recommendation No.25.

Recommendation 26 - Lower Winterborne Grouped Parish

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Lower Winterborne Parish Council seeking a change to the Grouped Parish Council to remove Winterborne Zelston from the Grouped arrangements. This was supported by a small majority of residents responding to a parish survey issued by the Parish Council.

The draft recommendation was supported by 10 respondents and 1 objection was received but no commentary provided to explain the objection.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to remove Winterborne Zelston from the Lower Winterborne Grouped Parish Council. The new Grouped Parish Council will retain its existing electoral arrangements and existing parish boundaries with the exclusion of Winterborne Zelston ie 1 councillor representing Anderson and 7 councillors representing Winterborne Kingston. Residents of Winterborne Zelston can, if they wish, establish a parish meeting.

Recommendation 27 - Lyme Regis

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received 13 individual representation from local residents expressing concern about the effectiveness of the Town Council and the number of councillors. S.94 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 says that if a parish has more than 1000 electors then the Review must recommend that the parish should have a council. The parish of Lyme Regis is predicted to have an electorate of 3,080 electors in 2026 and therefore a parish council must be in place.

Dorset Council considered the recommendations of NALC which indicates a recommended council size of 10-11 councillors for the electorate of Lyme Regis. The Town Council currently has 14 councillors. In May 2019 and in a by-election in August 2019, the seats were filled by election, rather than co-option.

The Town Council have not sought any changes as part of the Review. Two submissions supporting the draft recommendation were received, one from the Town Council. 1 objection was made on the draft recommendations, reiterating comments about the

effectiveness of the Town Council that were expressed during the initial public consultation. S.94 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 says that if a parish has more than 1000 electors then the Review must recommend that the parish should have a council.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 28 - Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch ([Map](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the initial consultation survey the Council received 5 individual responses and also a response from Frome Vauchurch Parish meeting and Maiden Newton Parish Council supporting the creation of a Grouped Parish Council. Dorset Council supports the submission which has been agreed by residents at parish meetings.

Dorset Council’s draft recommendation also supported the amendment to the Frome Vauchurch Parish boundary as this will lead to a clearer and more easily identifiable geographical point.

One submission has been received during the public consultation opposing the boundary change but supporting the grouping. Two submissions were received supporting the draft recommendation from Maiden Newton Parish Council and Frome Vauchurch Parish meeting. Whilst acknowledging the submission opposing the boundary change, Dorset Council noted that the draft recommendation was supported by the Parish Council and Parish meeting.

The governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council will be as follows:

Parish	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	No of Councillors	No of electors per Councillor
Frome Vauchurch	145	146	2	73
Maiden Newton	859	908	7	130

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to create a grouped parish council and amend the boundary of the parish of Frome Vauchurch as identified in Map Recommendation No.28, and Councillor numbers as set out in the table above.

Recommendation 29 – Netherbury ([Map 1](#))([Map 2](#))([Map 3](#))([Map 4](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

A request has been received from Netherbury Parish Council, supported by Symondsburry Parish Council, to make a minor change to the boundary to move 2 properties from its parish to the parish of Symondsburry. The property owners have been consulted and feel they would be better represented by Symondsburry Parish Council and feel geographically closer to Symondsburry.

Dorset Council supports this proposal and will seek a very minor change to the Dorset Council ward boundary by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, but if this is not accepted, it will be necessary to create a separate polling district for these few properties.

One response was received during the public consultation in support of the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change the parish boundary to move 2 properties, as identified in Map Recommendation No.29.

Recommendation 30 - Owermoigne and Osmington

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received 10 individual representations in favour of maintaining the status quo. No formal proposal has been received to make changes to the current arrangements.

Neither Osmington Parish Council nor Owermoigne Parish Council have made submissions to change the current governance arrangements.

No comments were received during the public consultation on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation re Pamphill & Shapwick – See recommendation No. 48 (Wimborne Minster)

Recommendation 31 - Portland

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received 2 individual representations from local residents. One submission expressed concern about the effectiveness of the Town Council and suggested that it should be abolished. S.94 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 says that if a parish has more than 1000 electors then the Review must recommend that

the parish should have a council. The parish of Portland is predicted to have an electorate of 10,475 electors in 2026 and therefore a parish council must be in place. The second submission suggested a merge of wards and a reduction in the number of councillors.

Portland Town Council has not sought any changes to the current governance arrangements. There was 1 response received during the public consultation on the draft recommendations that referenced a discussion at a meeting of the Town Council but no proposals were submitted by the Town Council.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 32 – Puddletown ([Map](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Puddletown Parish Council has sought changes to the current governance arrangements, retaining the current Grouped Parish Council but merging the parishes of Athelhampton and Puddletown and also to merge the parishes of Burleston and Tolpuddle. Dorset Council recognised that electoral equality is not achieved with the current arrangements. The Parish Council undertook a survey of local residents and the majority of those who responded were in favour of the proposals of the Parish Council.

Dorset Council is recommending the changes proposed by the Grouped Parish Council and 3 responses in support of the draft recommendations have been received during the public consultation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to merge the parishes of Athelhampton and Puddletown (returning 9 councillors) and merging Burleston and Tolpuddle (returning 3 councillors), as identified in Map Recommendation No. 32.

Recommendation 33 - Queen Thorne

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Queen Thorne Parish Council are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Nether Compton	4	239	241	60
Over Compton	2	147	146	73
Sandford Orcas	3	151	150	50
Trent	4	252	250	63

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Nether Compton	4	60
Over Compton	3	49
Sandford Orcas	3	50
Trent	4	63

No responses were received to the draft recommendation during the public consultation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

Recommendation 34 - Shaftesbury

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Shaftesbury are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Shaftesbury East	6	3689	4103	684
Shaftesbury West	6	3143	3358	576

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Shaftesbury East	8	513
Shaftesbury West	7	479

One objection was received to the draft recommendation during the public consultation but no alternative proposals were made. Shaftesbury Town Council submitted a proposal with 3 different options for community governance arrangements. Dorset Council believes that most appropriate governance arrangements for the parish of Shaftesbury is to retain 2 Wards as set out in the table above with greater electoral equality.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

Recommendation 35 - Shipton Gorge ([Map](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Two individual responses were received from householders whose properties are in the parish of Lodors, but they feel more connected to Shipton Gorge. Both Shipton Gorge and Lodors Parish Council recognise this anomaly and support a parish boundary change to move the properties identified in the submission.

On inspecting parish maps, there are other properties that are affected in the same way. Dorset Council supports the proposal and will seek a very minor change to the Dorset Council ward boundary by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, but if this is not accepted, it will be necessary to create a separate polling district for these few properties.

No responses were received in respect of the Council’s draft recommendation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to alter parish boundaries in accordance with Map Recommendation No. 35.

Recommendation 36 - South Tarrant Valley

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for South Tarrant Valley are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Tarrant Crawford	1	22	23	23
Tarrant Keyneston	5	282	289	56
Tarrant Rawston	2	39	40	20
Tarrant Rushton	3	73	75	25

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government’s Guidance that “it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have

significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards”. Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Tarrant Crawford	1	23
Tarrant Keyneston	5	56
Tarrant Rawston	2	20
Tarrant Rushton	2	38

During the public consultation period on the draft recommendations, 1 objection to the draft recommendations was received from the Parish Council in response to the reduction in Councillor numbers. Strictly applying the Government guidance on electoral equality, a reduction in numbers is necessary. However, Dorset Council have taken into account the views of local residents and support an additional councillor for Tarrant Rawston to ensure resilience.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

Recommendation 37 - St Leonards and St Ives

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for St Leonards & St Ives are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
East	6	3245	3099	516
South	3	1106	1112	371
West	4	2143	2050	513

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
East	6	516
South	2	556
West	4	513

During the public consultation, 2 responses were received to the draft recommendation; one in support and one opposing the proposal but no alternatives we put forward.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

Recommendation - Swanage

No draft recommendations were made in respect of the parish of Swanage as no representations had been received during the initial public consultation between 5 August and 28 October 2021, and the Town Council had not sought any changes to community governance arrangements. The Council received 606 representations during the first public consultation exercise but none of these related to the parish of Swanage.

During the public consultation in respect of the draft recommendations, one representation was received from a local resident who proposed warding arrangements were put in place for the parish of Swanage on the basis that it would be easier for a resident of Herston to stand for election. However, Dorset Council does not support this view as any resident of the Herston area can stand for election whether warding arrangements are in place or not.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no changes to the community governance arrangements.

Recommendation re Symondsburry – see Recommendation Nos 4 (Bridport), 13 (Chideock) and 29 (Netherbury)

Recommendation 38 - The Comptons, Toller and Wynford

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for The Comptons, Toller and Wynford are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Compton Valence	2	55	55	28
Toller Fratrum	2	13	13	7
West Compton	2	42	42	21
Wynford Eagle	2	44	44	22

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Compton Valence	2	28
Toller Fratrum	1	13
West Compton	2	21
Wynford Eagle	2	22

One response was received in support of the draft recommendation during the public consultation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

Recommendation 39 - The Orchards and Margaret Marsh

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for The Orchards and Margaret Marsh are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
East Orchard	3	115	119	40
Margaret Marsh	1	31	32	32
West Orchard	1	59	60	60

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
East Orchard	4	30
Margaret Marsh	1	32
West Orchard	2	30

No responses were received to the draft recommendation during the public consultation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

Recommendation 40 - The Stours

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for The Stours are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
East Stour	7	474	479	68
Stour Provost	7	487	486	69
Todber	3	132	136	45
West Stour	3	170	170	57

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
East Stour	7	68
Stour Provost	7	69
Todber	2	68
West Stour	3	57

Two responses were received to the draft recommendation during the public consultation; one in support and one opposing the draft recommendation but no alternative proposals were put forward.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

Recommendation 41 - Thornhackett

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Thornhackett are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Beer Hackett	3	83	82	27
Thornford	7	670	724	103

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Beer Hackett	2	82
Thornford	8	91

Two responses were received during the public consultation period generally in support but suggesting Beer Hackett councillor numbers were set at 2. Two responses opposing the draft recommendations were received including from Thornhackett Parish Council in respect of Councillor numbers. Strictly applying the Government guidance on electoral equality, a reduction in numbers is necessary. However, Dorset Council have taken into account the views of local residents and support reducing the number to 2 councillors rather than a single councillor.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

Recommendation 42 - Upper Marshwood Vale

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Upper Marshwood Vale are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Bettiscombe	2	48	48	24
Marshwood	5	250	285	57
Pilsdon	2	29	28	14
Stoke Abbott	3	186	181	60

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Bettiscombe	1	48
Marshwood	5	57
Pilsdon	1	28
Stoke Abbott	3	60

No responses were received during the public consultation on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

Recommendation 43 - Vale of Allen

The grouped parishes forming the Vale of Allen have been removed from the final recommendations. Substantial alternative proposals were submitted in respect of this parish and Dorset Council believes that further public consultation should be undertaken to seek residents' views on alternative proposals submitted. The Community Governance Review legislation requires that any Review is concluded within 12 months of the publication of the Terms of Reference in July 2021 so it is not possible for further consultation to be undertaken as part of this Review. For that reason, these parishes have been removed from this Review, and a further Review will be undertaken commencing in October 2022. This will enable full consultation to be undertaken with local residents and other interested parties that will be affected by any governance changes. Any Final Recommendations in the further Review will form the basis of a new Dorset Council (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will take effect on 1 April 2024 and will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2024.

Recommendation 44 - Verwood

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Verwood are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Dewlands North	2	697	1030	515
Dewlands South	8	5208	5238	655
Stephen's Castle	7	4856	4841	692
Three Cross	1	1220	1233	1233

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have

significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards”. Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Dewlands North	2	697	1030	515
Dewlands South	8	5208	5238	655
Stephen’s Castle	7	4856	4841	692
Three Cross	2	1220	1233	617

No comments were submitted during the public consultation on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

Recommendation 45 - West Moors

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation suggesting that the name West Moors Town Council should be changed to West Moors Parish Council which was reiterated during the second period of consultation. A number of parishes have historically used the title of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Act. This is a matter over which this review has no remit, and it will lie at the discretion of the council of the parish as to whether it would wish to adopt the name of ‘town’ in accordance with Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972.

One comment was submitted during the public consultation in support of the draft recommendations, and one comment reiterating the point about the use of the name “Town Council” over which Dorset Council has no remit.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 46 - West Parley

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the initial consultation survey the Council received 6 individual representations opposing the merging of West Moors into the parish of West Parley. However, there have been no submissions seeking to include the parish of West Moors into the parish of West Parley.

No comments were submitted during the public consultation on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 47 – Weymouth

The parish of Weymouth has been removed from the final recommendations. Substantial alternative proposals were submitted in respect of this parish and Dorset Council believes that further public consultation should be undertaken to seek residents’ views on alternative proposals submitted. The Community Governance Review legislation requires that any Review is concluded within 12 months of the publication of the Terms of Reference in July 2021 so it is not possible for further consultation to be undertaken as part of this Review. For that reason, this parish has been removed from this Review, and a further Review will be undertaken

commencing in October 2022. This will enable full consultation to be undertaken with local residents and other interested parties that will be affected by any governance changes. Any Final Recommendations in the further Review will form the basis of a new Dorset Council (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will take effect on 1 April 2024 and will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2024.

Recommendation 48 - Wimborne Minster (including Pamphill and Shapwick) ([Map](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

A number of proposals were received from Wimborne Minster Town Council as follows:

Bringing the area of Pamphill South within the Wimborne Minster parish. Pamphill parish were largely supportive of this but suggested that the Almshouses should remain in Pamphill. However, Dorset Council were not persuaded by the argument that this small group of properties would be better served in terms of governance by remaining within Pamphill.

Bringing the area known as “Wimborne Showground” within the Wimborne Minster parish. Dorset Council were persuaded by the argument that this area is more geographically aligned to the parish of Wimborne Minster.

Removing the warding arrangements for Wimborne Minster parish. Dorset Council recognised that it was not possible to remove the warding arrangements as the parish is split by 2 Dorset Council wards.

The current governance arrangements for Pamphill and Shapwick are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Pamphill North	5	336	340	68
Pamphill South	3	215	230	77
Shapwick	3	149	151	50

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Pamphill	7	336	340	49
Shapwick	3	149	151	51

The current governance arrangements for Wimborne Minster are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
East	2	912	1777	889
Town	12	5631	6906	576

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, taking into account the changes set out in the draft recommendation, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends an increase to councillor numbers in line with NALC recommendations as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Wimborne East (polling district COM4)	3	912	1777	593
Wimborne Town (polling districts WIM1, WIM2 and WIM3)	13	5846	7136	548

There have been 17 representations during the public consultation on the draft recommendations; 13 objecting to the proposals, including Pamphill and Shapwick Parish Council and 4 in support including Wimborne Town Council. One supporter suggests extending the boundary next to Stone Lane Industrial Estate to take additional land from Pamphill into Wimborne. Dorset Council did not receive any compelling evidence that community governance would be improved by retaining the Almshouses within the parish of Pamphill.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make a change to the current governance arrangements to move parts of the parish of Pamphill to Wimborne Minster parish, and also to change warding arrangements for Pamphill, Shapwick and Wimborne Minster. See Map Recommendation No. 48.

Recommendation 49 - Winterbourne Abbas and Winterbourne Steepleton

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Winterbourne Abbas and Winterbourne Steepleton are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Winterbourne Abbas	3	294	348	116
Winterbourne Steepleton	3	220	215	72

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Winterbourne Abbas	4	87
Winterbourne Steepleton	3	72

No comments were submitted during the public consultation on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council’s final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

Recommendation 50 - Winterborne Farringdon

The grouped parishes forming Winterborne Farringdon have been removed from the final recommendations. Substantial alternative proposals were submitted in respect of these parishes and Dorset Council believes that further public consultation should be undertaken to seek residents’ views on alternative proposals submitted. The Community Governance Review legislation requires that any Review is concluded within 12 months of the publication of the Terms of Reference in July 2021 so it is not possible for further consultation to be undertaken as part of this Review. For that reason, these parishes have been removed from this Review, and a further Review will be undertaken commencing in October 2022. This will enable full consultation to be undertaken with local residents and other interested parties that will be affected by any governance changes. Any Final Recommendations in the further Review will form the basis of a new Dorset Council (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will take effect on 1 April 2024 and will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2024.

Recommendation 51- Winterborne St Martin ([Map](#))

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from Winterborne St Martin Parish Council seeking a slight change of boundary to incorporate land at Monkeys Jump roundabout into the parish. The Parish Council has been working hard to manage the land as it directly affects residents in the parish. This change does not affect any properties.

No comments were submitted during the public consultation on the draft recommendations.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change the parish boundary as identified in Map Recommendation No. 51.

Recommendation 52 - Wool and Bovington

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation, to separate Bovington from Wool Parish Council. No changes were sought from the Parish Council, and Dorset Council has not received any substantial evidence to support this suggestion but welcomed further feedback on the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

One comment in support of the draft recommendation was submitted during the public consultation.

Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

Recommendation 53 - Yetminster and Ryme Intrinseca

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Yetminster and Ryme Intrinseca are as follows:

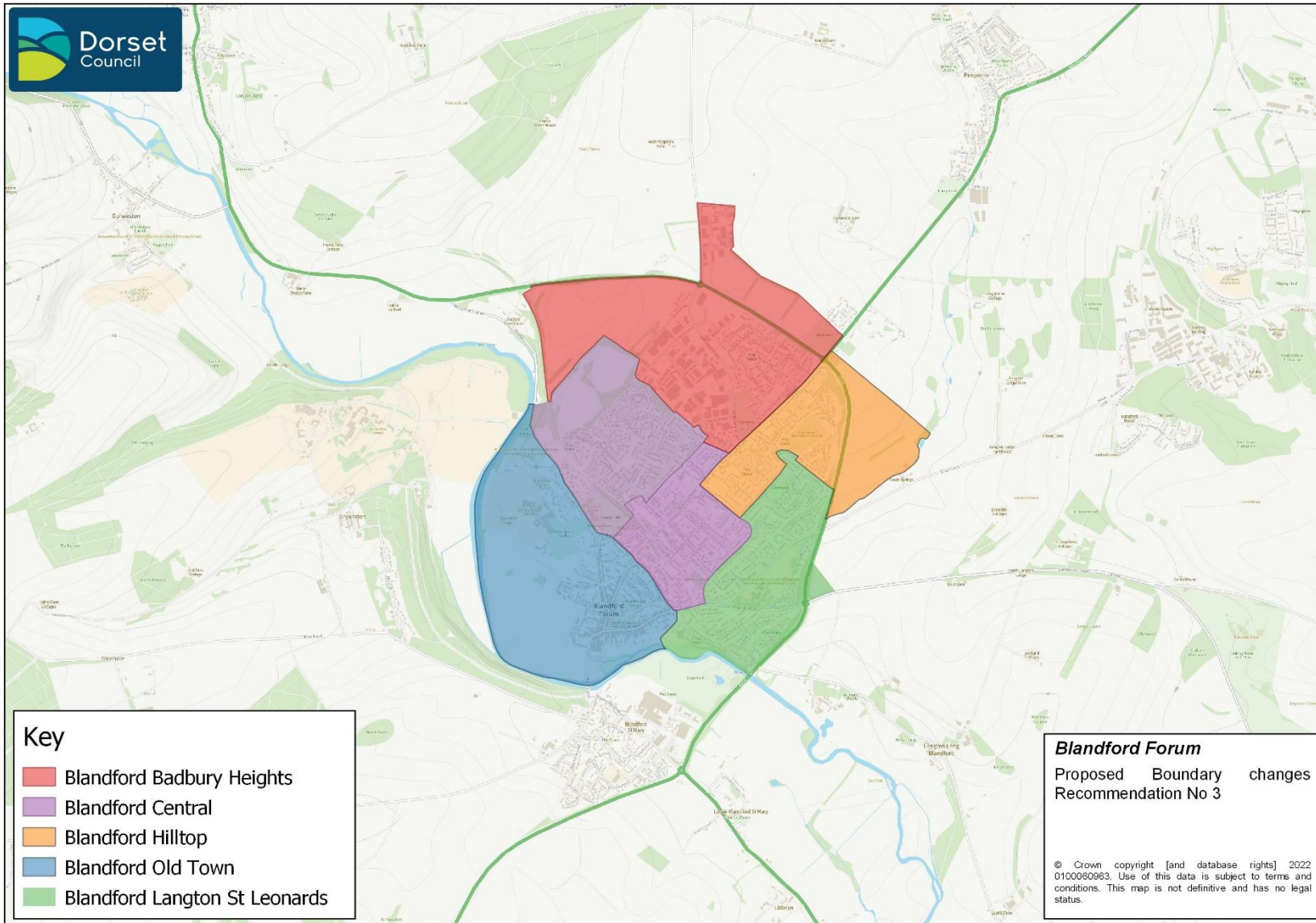
Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Ryme Intrinseca	3	110	111	37
Yetminster	9	957	1056	117

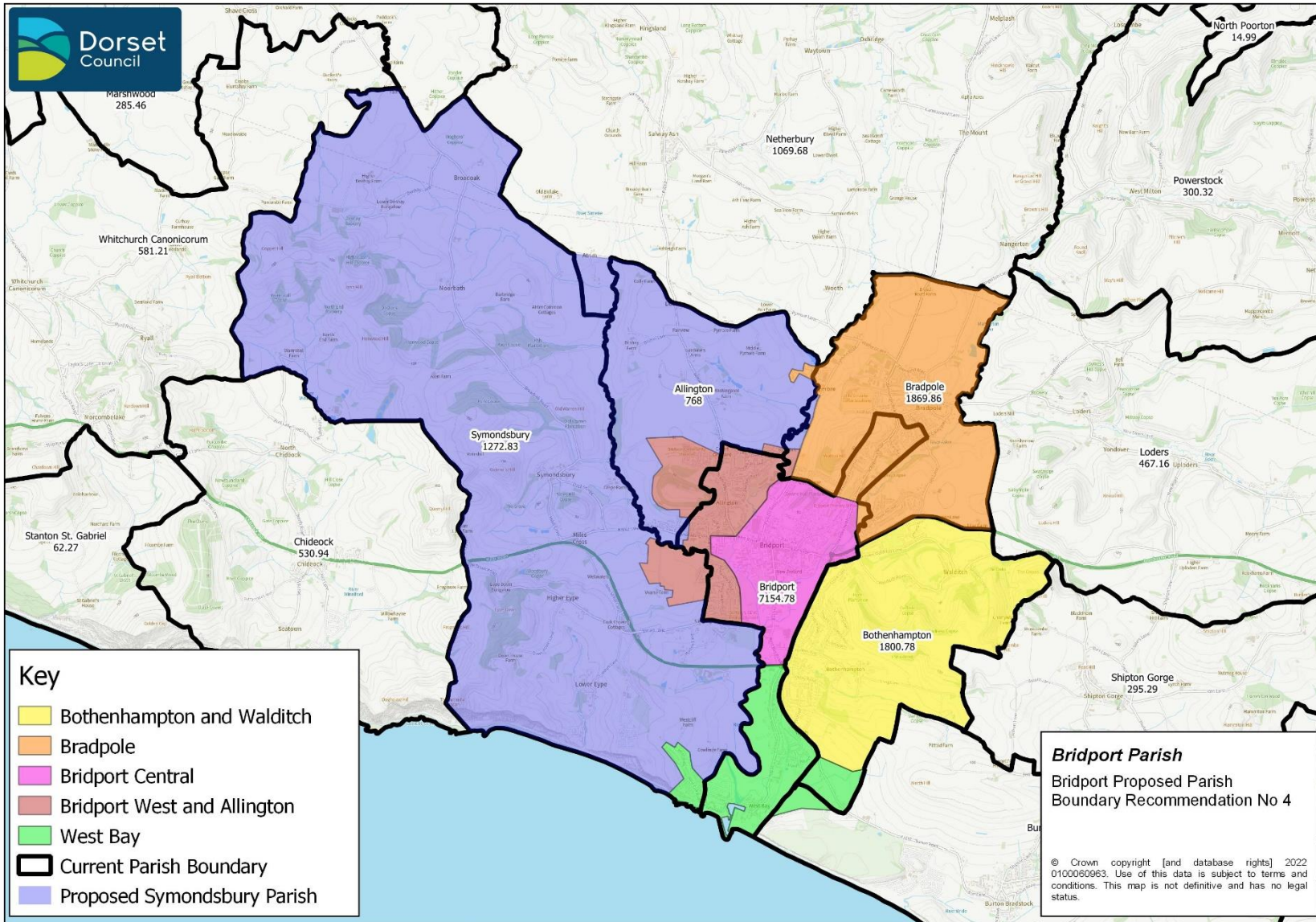
The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

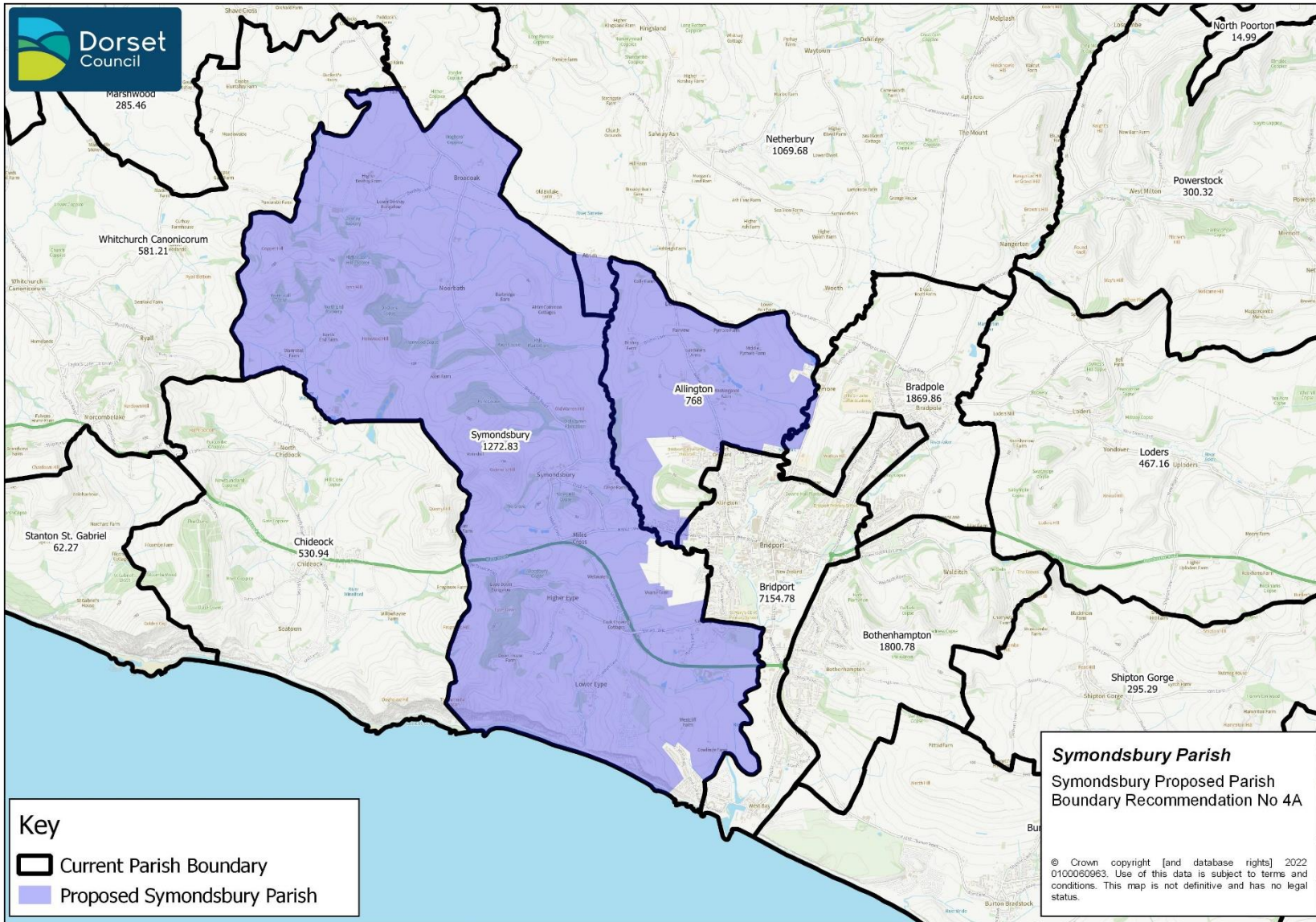
Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Ryme Intrinseca	1	111
Yetminster	9	117

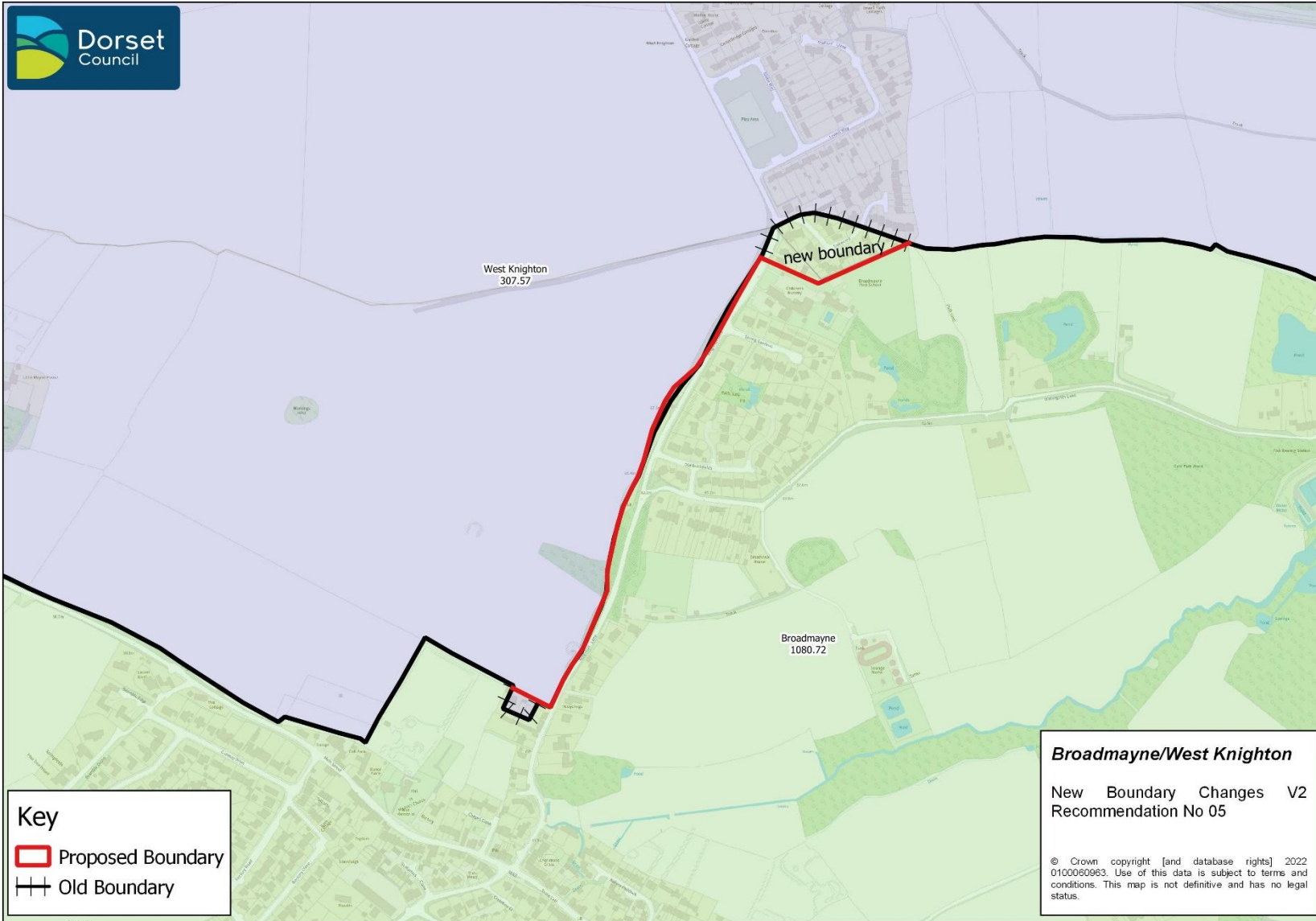
No comments were submitted during the public consultation on the draft recommendations.

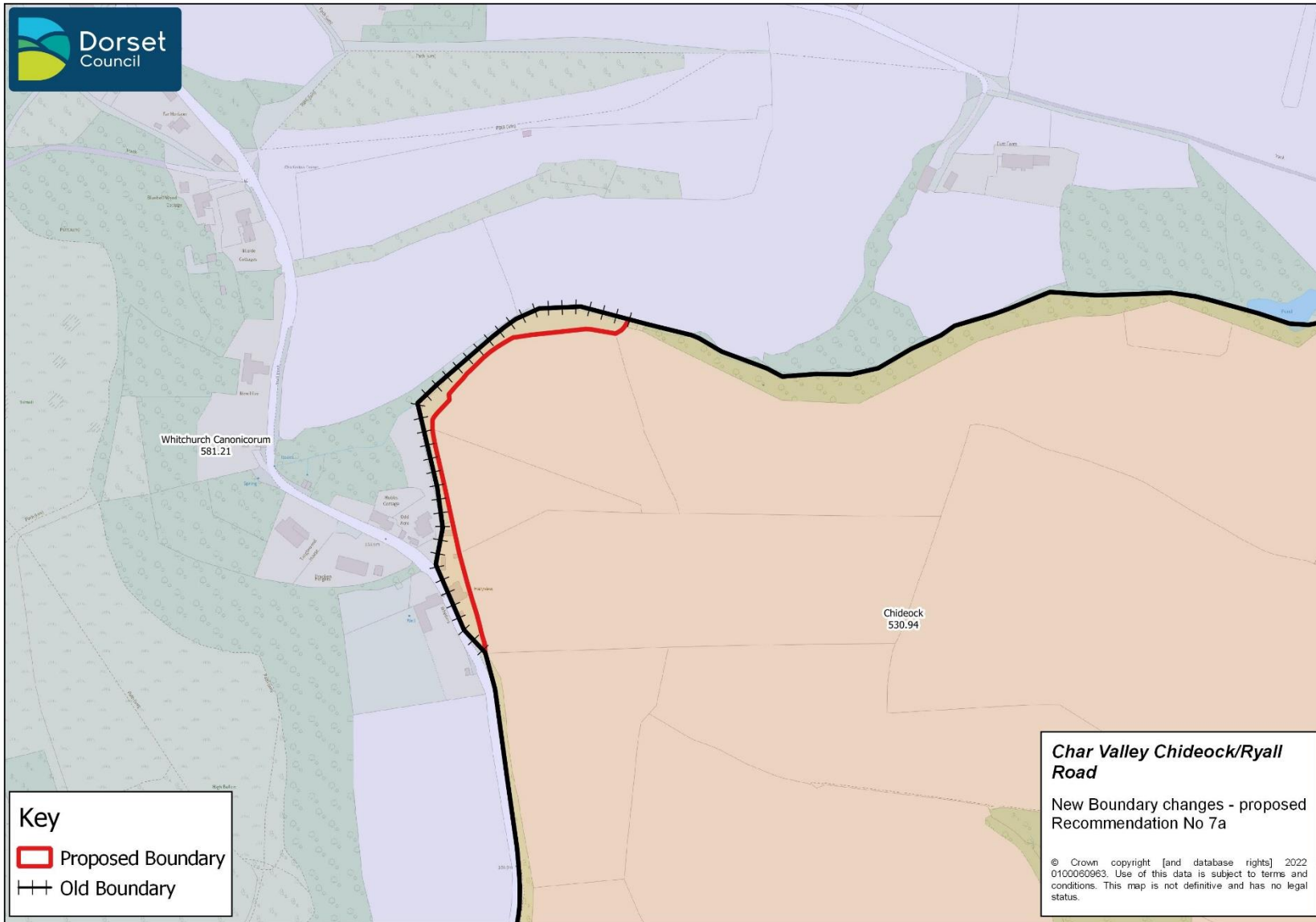
Recommendation: Dorset Council's final recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.



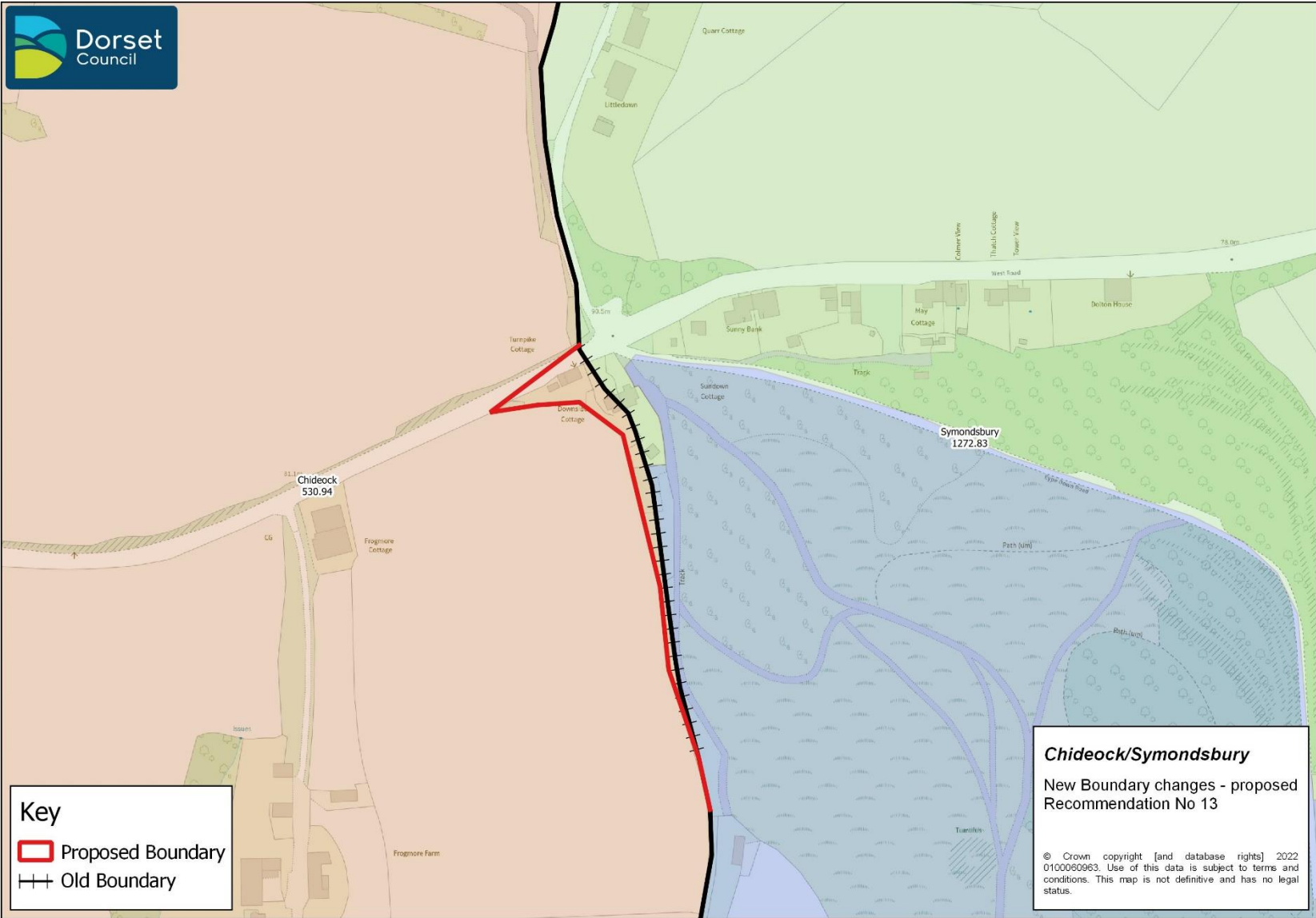


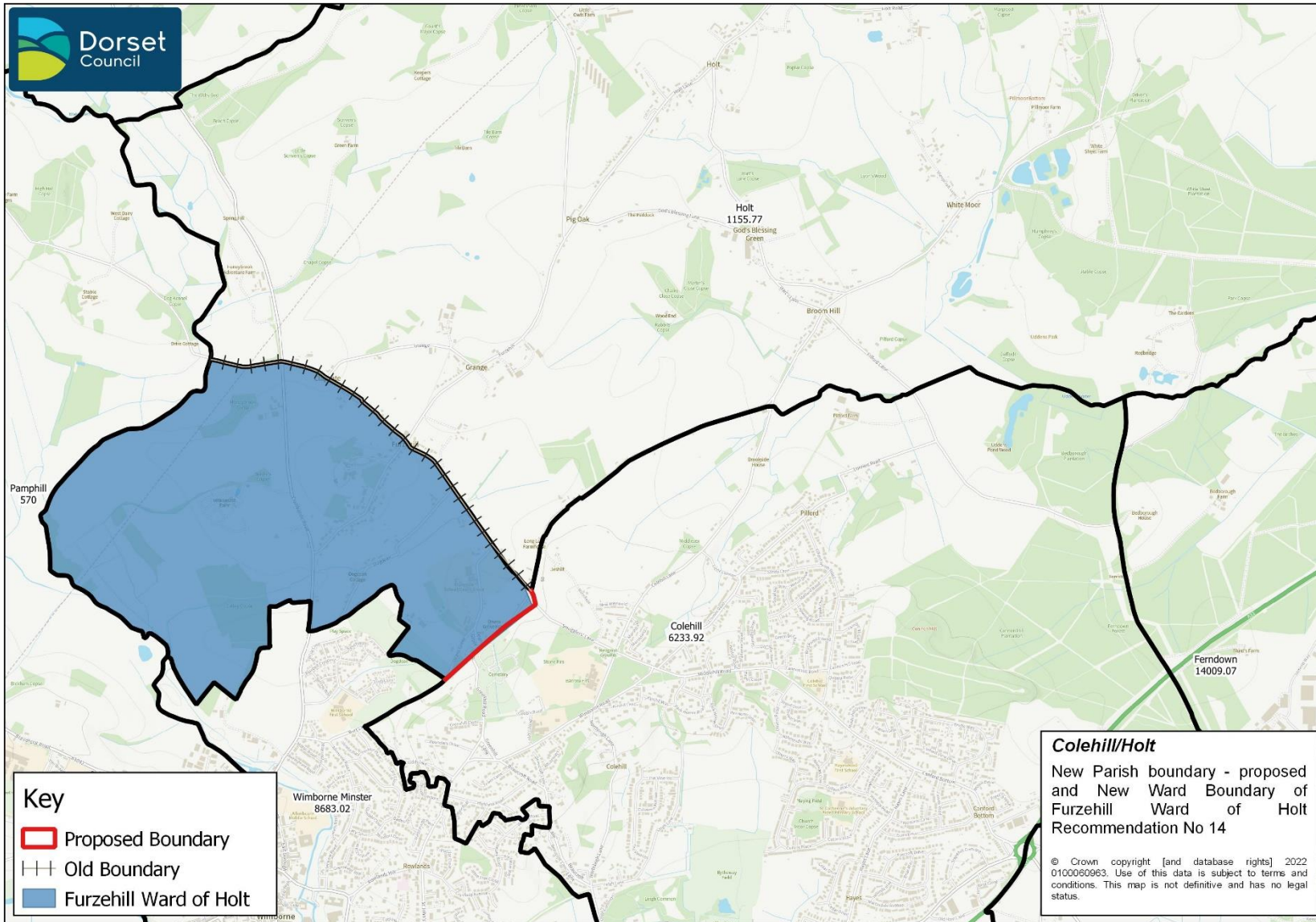


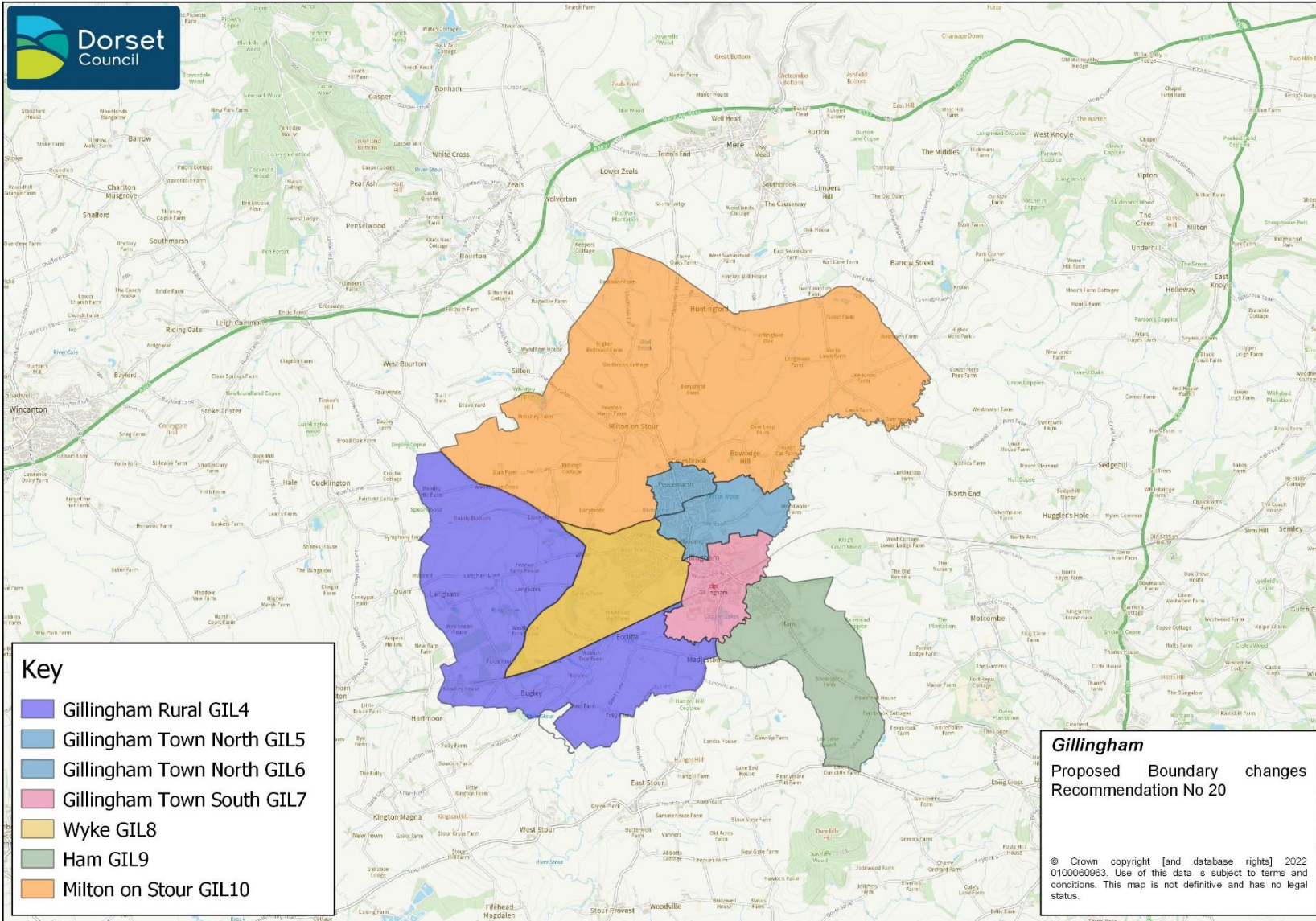


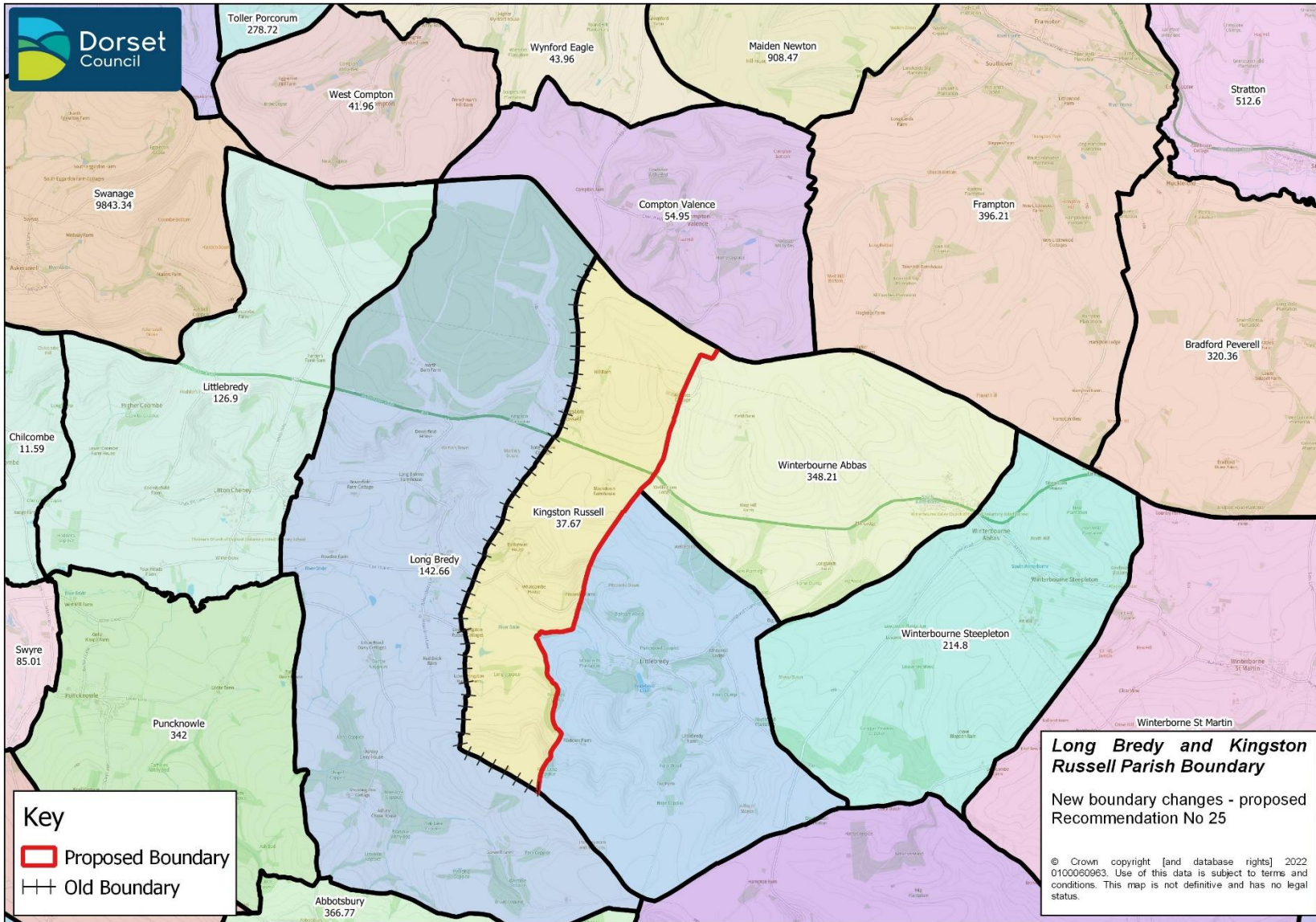


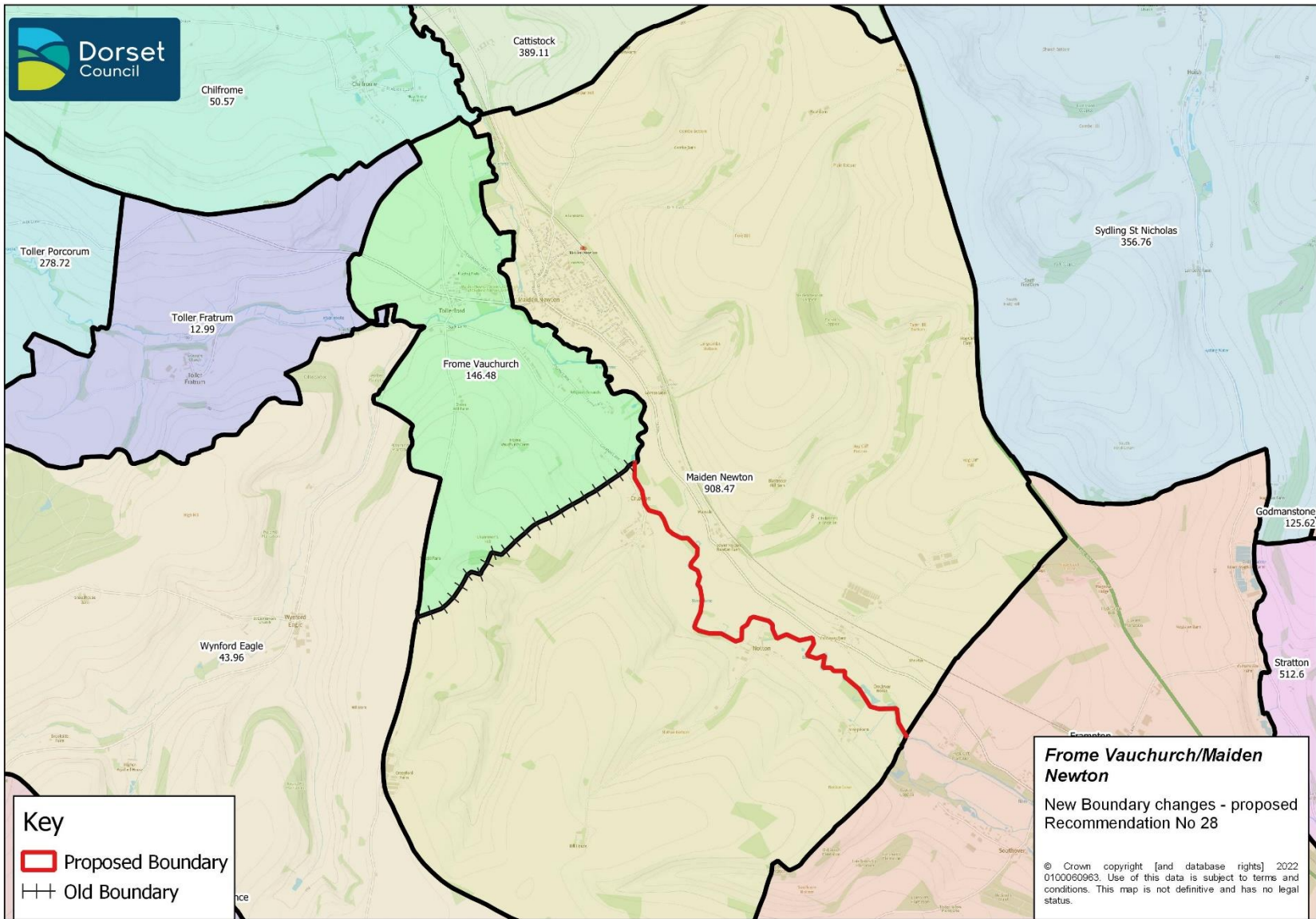


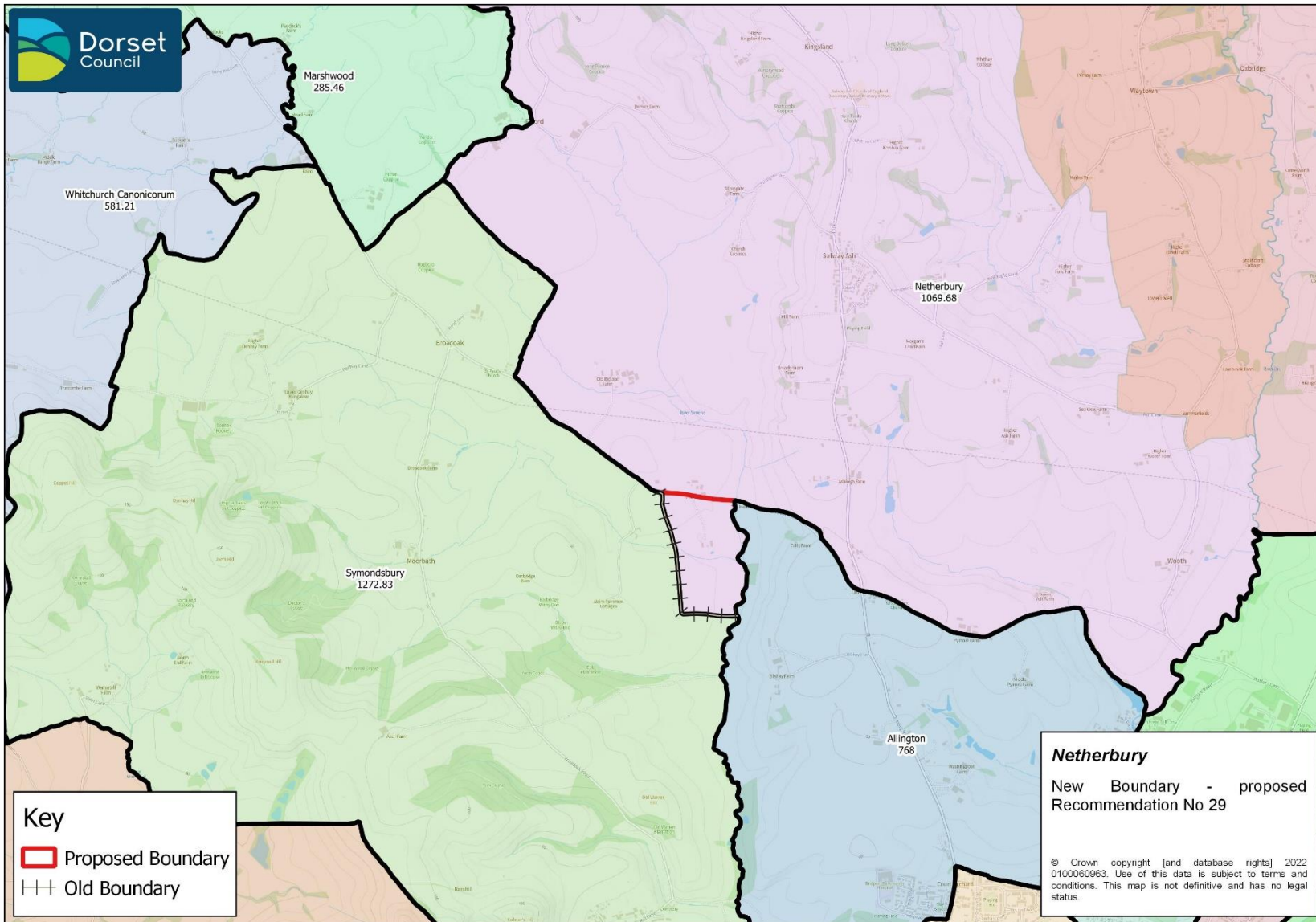


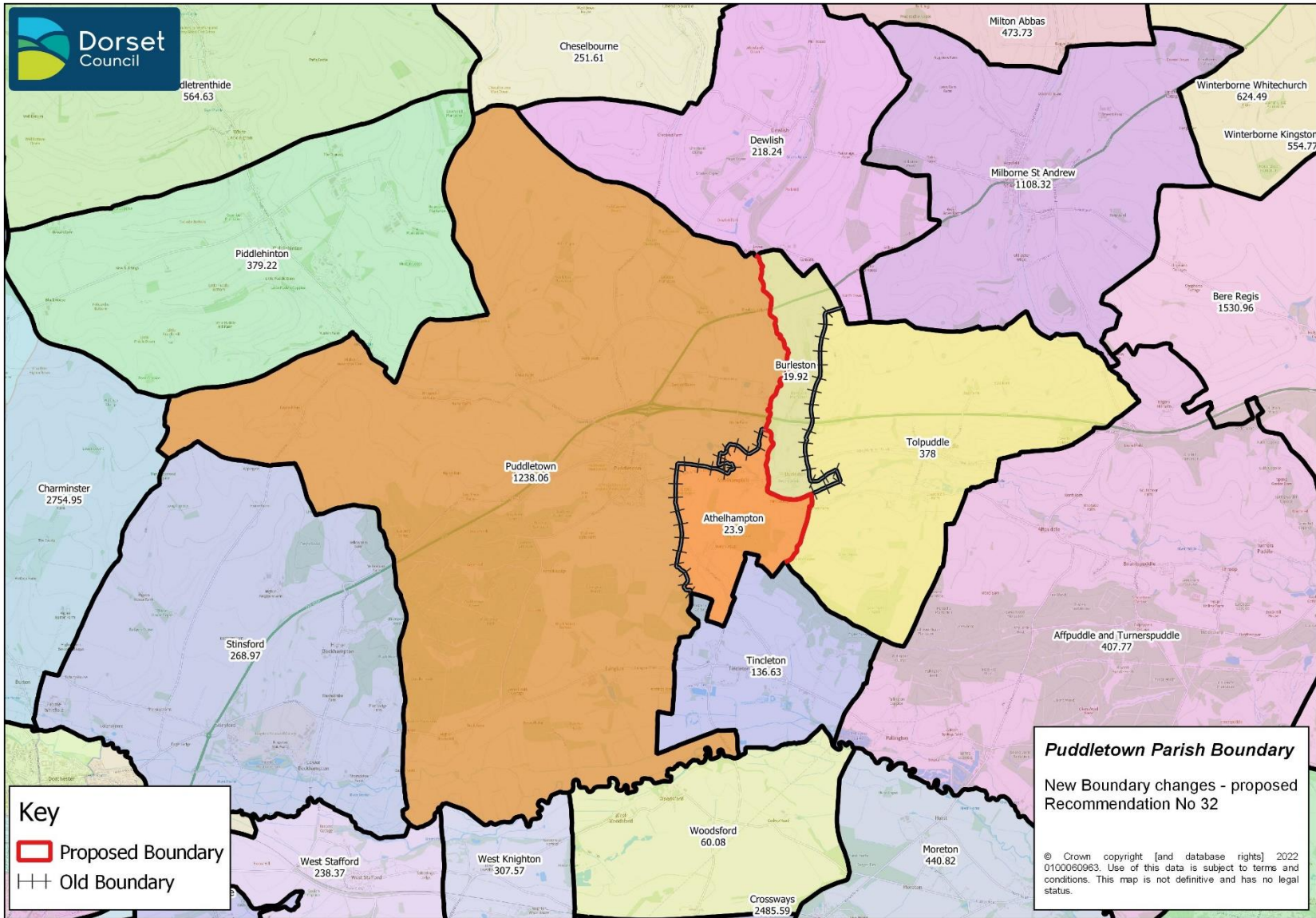


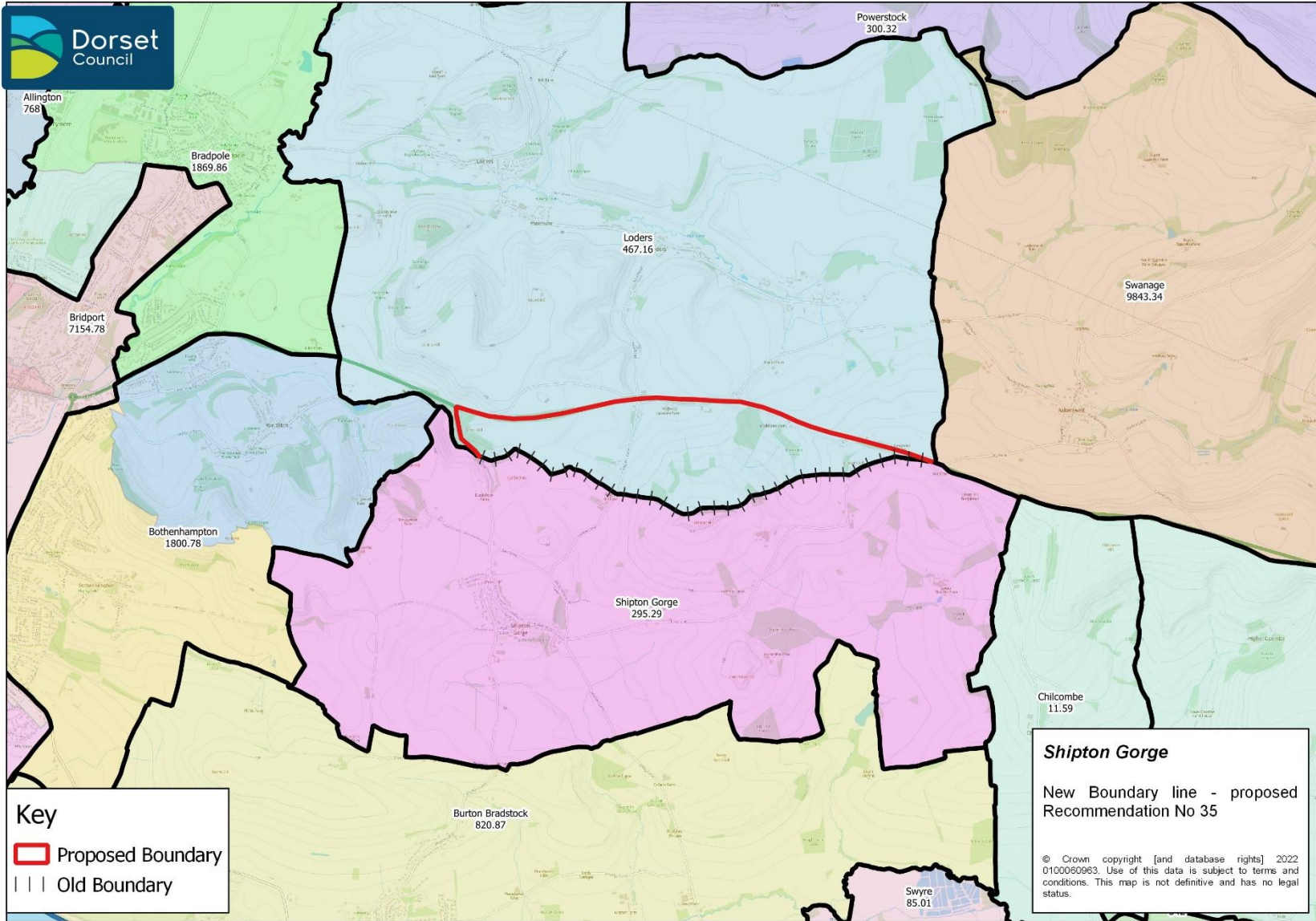


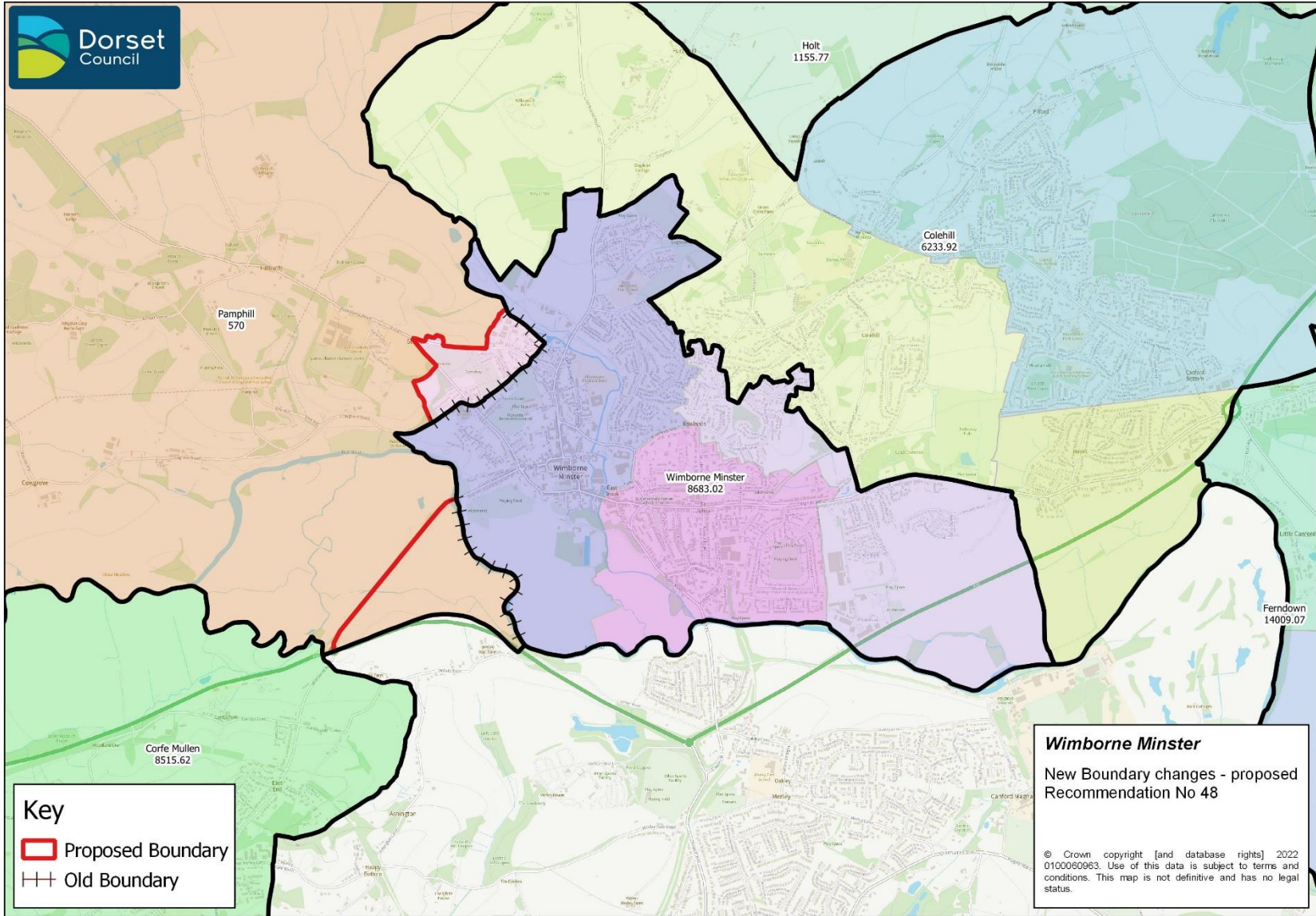
















Bradford Peverell
320.36

Dorchester
18248.3

Winterborne St Martin
613.14

Winterborne Monkton
61.07

Key

-  Proposed Boundary
-  Old Boundary

Winterborne St Martin

New Boundary changes - proposed
Recommendation No 51

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Community Governance Review
Second Stage Consultation

Consultation Response Report

Produced by Mark Simons
for Dorset Council

June 2022

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Community Governance Review

Consultation Response Report

What was the consultation about?	<p>Dorset Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review of all the parishes within the Council area.</p> <p>This Review relates to the whole of the Dorset Council area and gives consideration to changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements. These changes include the alteration, merging, creation and abolishing of parishes; the naming of parishes, and the adoption of an alternative style for new parishes. They may also involve changes to the council size (the number of councillors to be elected to the council), and whether to divide the parishes into wards for the purposes of elections.</p> <p>On 5 August 2021, the Council commenced a 12-week period of consultation requesting initial submissions from the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, Members of Parliament, existing parish councils, local residents and other interested organisations – the consultation closed on 28 October 2021.</p> <p>The Dorset Council Group Leaders and their deputies met as a working group and have given careful consideration to all submissions received. They have also taken into consideration the analytical work undertaken to determine where electoral equality is no longer met, or will not be met in 2026 (the period that has to be taken into account for the purpose of the review) and have considered obvious boundary anomalies that need resolving.</p> <p>The working group has made Draft Recommendations that comprise a series of proposals, but do not reference parishes where no changes were proposed during the consultation period and where the working group consider that no changes are required to facilitate improved community governance.</p> <p>Following the resolution of Full Council, a period of 12 weeks' consultation was undertaken between 28 February 2022 and 23 May 2022. This consultation stage provided parish councils, electors and other interested persons or bodies with an opportunity to make the case for alternative proposals to those recommended to Full Council</p>
What did we need to find out	<p>The review must make a series of recommendations based on the following topics, some of which are dependent upon and relate to each other.</p>

	<p>Parish Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~ creating, merging and abolishing parishes; ~ alternative styles for any new parishes; ~ lesser boundary alterations between existing parishes; ~ changes to parish names; ~ grouping parishes under a common council. <p>Electoral Arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~whether to have a parish council or not; ~the size of the council; ~whether to ward the parish or not; ~drawing up appropriate ward boundaries; ~allocating councillors to wards. <p>This survey was structured to get input on the 53 specific recommendations.</p>
Over what period did the consultation run?	The consultation period ran from 28 February 2022 to midnight on the 23 May 2022.
What consultation methods were used?	<p>The consultation involved an online and paper consultation survey. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey. This included set questions and a free text section for people to add any other comments. • Paper surveys available from the 23 Dorset Council libraries. <p>Respondents could attach details of their alternative proposals if they wished.</p>
How many responses were received overall?	411 overall responses were received. 88.1% of responses were from individuals and 11.9% from organisations. 48 said they represented an organisation and 44 of those were their official response.
How representative is the response to the wider population?	The response size is reasonable for a council consultation of this type, and very similar to the first phase consultation. As this was an open survey it is not possible to define a statistically valid sample size.
Where will the results be published?	Results will be published on the council's website www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk
How will the results be used?	<p>The results from this consultation will analysed and reported on separately to this report.</p> <p>On 14 July 2022, Full Council will consider its Final Recommendations in this Review, which will form the basis of a new Dorset Council (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2024.</p>
Who has produced this report?	Mark Simons Consultation Officers, Dorset Council June, 2022

Note

Note this report looks at the wider responses from the public, and which organisations generally responded to the proposals. It is not intended to consider the detailed content of submissions and this will be considered separately.

Any “out of format” responses will be considered by the Community Governance review team when they look at the detailed proposals.

Background

The consultation explained:

“At its meeting on 15 July 2021, Dorset Council resolved that a Community Governance Review be conducted for the whole of the Dorset Council area. The guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (2008) recommends that principal councils should undertake a review of its area every 10-15 years.

For some areas of the Council, a review has not been undertaken for some time and, following the creation of Dorset Council, it is deemed appropriate to undertake a Review of all parishes within its area. The Review is a legal process whereby the Council will consult with those living in the area, and other interested parties, on the most suitable ways of representing the people in the area identified in the review and thus have a say in how their local communities are represented.

Recommendations

There are 53 separate recommendations open for comments and you could also make alternative proposals. They included:

Arne (Rec 1)

Bere Regis (Rec 2)

Blandford Forum (affecting Blandford Forum, Blandford St Mary, Bryanston, Pimperne, Tarrant Monkton, Tarrant Launceston, Langton Long) (Rec 3)

Bridport (affecting Bridport, Allington, Symondsbury, Bothenhampton and Walditch, Bradpole, Burton Bradstock) (Rec 4)

Broadmayne and West Knighton (affecting Broadmayne, West Knighton) (Rec 5)

Cerne Valley (affecting Cerne Abbas, Godmanstone, Nether Cerne, Up Cerne) (Rec 6)

Char Valley (affecting Chideock, Charmouth, Stanton St Gabriel, Whitchurch Canonorum, Wootton Fitzpaine, Catherston Leweston) (Rec 7)

Charminster (Rec 8)

Charmouth (Rec 9)

Chesil Bank (affecting Abbotsbury, Fleet, Langton Herring, Portesham) (Rec 10)

Chetnole and Stockwood (affecting Chetnole, Stockwood) (Rec 11)

Chickerell (also see Weymouth – Recommendation No.47) (Rec 12)

Chideock (Chideock, Symondsbury, (also see Char Valley – Recommendation No. 7) (Rec 13)

Colehill and Holt (affecting Colehill, Holt) (Rec 14)

Compton Abbas (affecting Compton Abbas, Melbury Abbas, Fontmell Magna) (Rec 15)

Corfe Mullen (Rec 16)

Dorchester (Rec 17)

Evershot (affecting Evershot, Holywell, Melbury Bubb, Frome St Quintin) (Rec18)

Frome Valley (affecting Cattistock, Chilfrome, Frome St Quintin) (Rec 19)

Gillingham (affecting Gillingham, East Stour) (Rec 20)

Highstoy (affecting Batcombe, Hermitage, Hilfield) (Rec 21)

Hilton (affecting Hilton, Ansty, Stoke Wake, Melcombe Horsey, Melcombe Bingham) (Rec 22)

Iwerne Courtney and Steepleton (affecting Iwerne Courtney, Steepleton) (Rec 23)

Knightsford (affecting Tincleton, West Knighton, West Stafford, Woodsford) (Rec 24)

Long Bredy and Kingston Russell (affecting Long Bredy, Kingston Russell) (Rec 25)

Lower Winterbourne (affectng Anderson, Winterborne Kingston, Winterborne Zelston) (Rec 26)

Lyme Regis (Rec 27)
Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch (affecting Maiden Newton, Frome Vauchurch) (Rec 28)
Netherbury (affecting Netherbury, Symondsbery) (Rec 29)
Owermoigne and Osmington (affecting Owermoigne,Osmington) (Rec 30)
Portland (Rec 31)
Puddletown (affecting Athelhampton, Burleston, Puddletown, Tolpuddle) (Rec 32)
Queen Thorne (affecting Nether Compton, Over Compton, Sandford Orcas, Trent) (Rec 33)
Shaftesbury (Rec 34)
Shipton Gorge (affecting Shipton Gorge, Loders) (Rec 35)
South Tarrant Valley (affecting Tarrant Crawford, Tarrant Keyneston, Tarrant Rawston, Tarrant Rushton) (Rec 36)
St Leonards and St Ives (affecting St Leonards, St Ives) (Rec 37)
The Comptons, Toller and Wynford (affecting Compton Valence, Toller Fratrum, West Compton, Wynford Eagle) (Rec 38)
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The Stours (affecting East Stour, Stour Provost, Todber, West Stour) (Rec 40)
Thornhackett (affecting Beer Hackett, Thornford) (Rec 41)
Upper Marshwood Vale (affecting Bettiscombe, Marshwood, Pilsdon, Stoke Abbott) (Rec 42)
Vale of Allen (affecting Critchel, Gussage All Saints, Gussage St Michael, Hinton, Witchampton) (Rec 43)
Verwood (Rec 44)
West Moors (Rec45)
West Parley (Rec 46)
Weymouth (affecting Weymouth, Chickerell, Winterborne Farringdon) (Rec 47)
Wimborne Minster (affecting Wimborne Minster, Pamphill, Shapwick) (Rec 48)
Winterbourne Abbas and Winterbourne Steepleton (affecting Winterbourne Abbas, Winterbourne Steepleton) (Rec 49)
Winterborne Farringdon (affecting Bincombe, Whitcombe, Winterborne Came, Winterborne Herringston, Winterborne Monkton) (Rec 50)
Winterborne St Martin (affecting Winterborne St Martin, Winterborne Monkton) (Rec 51)
Wool and Bovington (affecting Wool, Bovington) (Rec 52)
Yetminster and Ryme Intrinseca (affecting Yetminster,Ryme Intrinseca) (Rec 53)

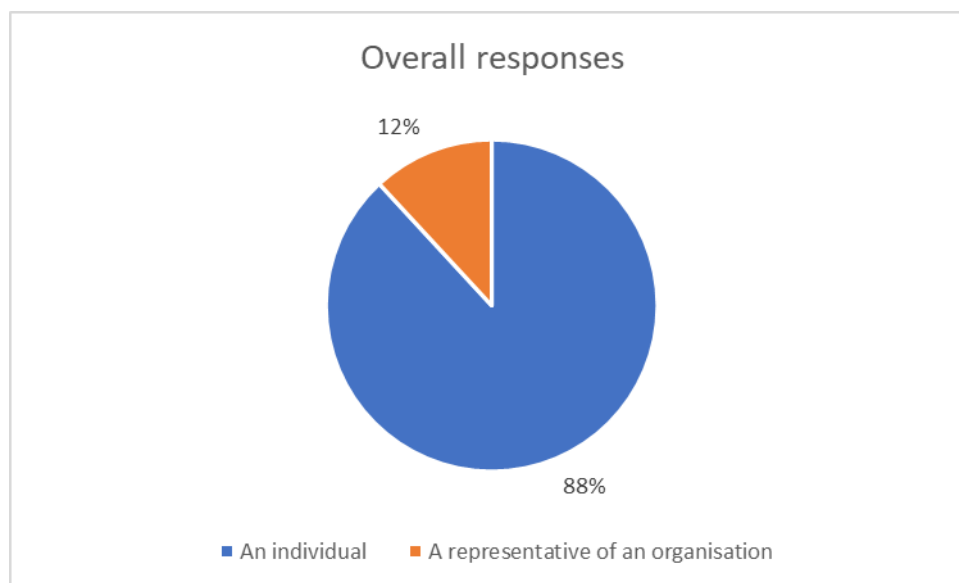
About respondents

411 overall responses were received. All included the basis on which they were replying

Q Are you responding as:

Respondents (411):

	% of all respondents	Number
An individual	88.1%	356
A representative of an organisation	11.9%	48



88% of respondents were responding as individuals. Other responses came on behalf of organisations (12%). 44 of the 48 organisational responses said they gave the official response of the organisation. However, there were a few cases where more than one response came from an organisation. This was where either, the organisation had done a further response suggesting alternative proposals for an existing or other areas, provided additional information, or a paper/email copy had also been submitted to ensure their response was captured.

Taking account of repeat responses etc shows there were 33 official organisational responses to the consultation. These organisations were listed below.

What's the name of the organisation you represent?
Allington Parish Council
Blandford Forum Town Council
Bothenhampton & Walditch Parish Council
Bradpole Parish Council
Bridport Town Council
Broadmayne Parish Council
Bryanston Parish Council
Burton Bradstock Parish Council
Charminster Parish Council
Chesil Bank Parish Council
Chickerell Town Council
Colehill Parish Council
Durweston Parish Council
Frome Valley Parish Council
Frome Vauchurch Parish Meeting
Furzehill Residents Association
Hilton Parish Council
Holt Parish Council
Knightsford Parish Council
Long Bredy & Kingston Russell Parish Council
Lyme Regis Town Council
Maiden Newton Parish Council
Melcombe Horsey Parish Meeting
Pamphill and Shapwick Parish Council
Pimperne Parish Council
Pimperne Village Hall Management Committee
Shaftesbury Town Council
South Tarrant Valley Parish Council
Thornhackett Parish Council
Vale of Allen Parish Council
Weymouth Town Council
Wimborne Minster Town Council
Winterborne Farringdon Parish Council

Seven of the organisations represented were Town Councils, 23 were Parish Councils, one Parish Meeting, one Residents Association and one Village Hall Management Committee.

Four respondents said they represented an organisation but said that they were not providing their official response.

Responses

The following table shows the number of responses from individuals and organisations to each proposal. Individuals and organisations could respond on more than one proposal. No individual analysis is provided here as each individual response will be considered and analysed separately by Democratic Services Officers.

Number of organisational responses (all) on these proposals	Number of individual responses on these proposals	Proposal
0	0	Arne (Rec 1)
0	0	Bere Regis (Rec 2)
6	22	Blandford Forum (affecting Blandford Forum, Blandford St Mary, Bryanston, Pimperne, Tarrant Monkton, Tarrant Launceston, Langton Long) (Rec 3)
10	57	Bridport (affecting Bridport, Allington, Symondsburry, Bothenhampton and Walditch, Bradpole, Burton Bradstock) (Rec 4)
2	6	Broadmayne and West Knighton (affecting Broadmayne, West Knighton) (Rec 5)
0	0	Cerne Valley (affecting Cerne Abbas, Godmanstone, Nether Cerne, Up Cerne) (Rec 6)
0	0	Char Valley (affecting Chideock, Charmouth, Stanton St Gabriel, Whitchurch Canonicorum, Wootton Fitzpaine, Catherston Leweston) (Rec 7)
1	1	Charminster (Rec 8)
0	0	Charmouth (Rec 9)
3	21	Chesil Bank (affecting Abbotsbury, Fleet, Langton Herring, Portesham) (Rec 10)
0	0	Chetnole and Stockwood (affecting Chetnole, Stockwood) (Rec 11)
2	76	Chickerell (also see Weymouth – Recommendation No.47) (Rec 12)
0	0	Chideock (Chideock, Symondsburry, (also see Char Valley – Recommendation No. 7) (Rec 13)
6	86	Colehill and Holt (affecting Colehill, Holt) (Rec 14)
0	0	Compton Abbas (affecting Compton Abbas, Melbury Abbas, Fontmell Magna) (Rec 15)
0	1	Corfe Mullen (Rec 16)
0	1	Dorchester (Rec 17)
0	0	Evershot (affecting Evershot, Holywell, Melbury Bubb, Frome St Quintin) (Rec 18)
1	1	Frome Valley (affecting Cattistock, Chilfrome, Frome St Quintin) (Rec 19)
0	1	Gillingham (affecting Gillingham, East Stour) (Rec 20)
0	0	Highstoy (affecting Batcombe, Hermitage, Hilfield) (Rec 21)
3	0	Hilton (affecting Hilton, Ansty, Stoke Wake, Melcombe Horsey, Melcombe Bingham) (Rec 22)
0	1	Iwerne Courtney and Steepleton (affecting Iwerne Courtney, Steepleton) (Rec 23)
0	1	Knightsford (affecting Tincton, West Knighton, West Stafford, Woodsford) (Rec 24)

1	2	Long Bredy and Kingston Russell (affecting Long Bredy, Kingston Russell) (Rec 25)
0	9	Lower Winterbourne (affectng Anderson, Winterborne Kingston, Winterborne Zelston) (Rec 26)
1	2	Lyme Regis (Rec 27)
3	1	Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch (affecting Maiden Newton, Frome Vauchurch) (Rec 28)
0	1	Netherbury (affecting Netherbury, Symondsbury) (Rec 29)
0	0	Owermoigne and Osmington (affecting Owermoigne,Osmington) (Rec 30)
0	0	Portland (Rec 31)
0	3	Puddletown (affecting Athelhampton, Burleston, Puddletown, Tolpuddle) (Rec 32)
0	0	Queen Thorne (affecting Nether Compton, Over Compton, Sandford Orcas, Trent) (Rec 33)
1	1	Shaftesbury (Rec 34)
0	0	Shipton Gorge (affecting Shipton Gorge, Loders) (Rec 35)
1	0	South Tarrant Valley (affecting Tarrant Crawford, Tarrant Keyneston, Tarrant Rawston, Tarrant Rushton) (Rec 36)
0	2	St Leonards and St Ives (affecting St Leonards, St Ives) (Rec 37)
0	1	The Comptons, Toller and Wynford (affecting Compton Valence, Toller Fratrum, West Compton, Wynford Eagle) (Rec 38)
0	0	The Orchards and Margaret Marsh (affecting East Orchard, Margaret Marsh, West Orchard) (Rec 39)
0	2	The Stours (affecting East Stour, Stour Provost, Todber, West Stour) (Rec 40)
1	3	Thornhackett (affecting Beer Hackett, Thornford) (Rec 41)
0	0	Upper Marshwood Vale (affecting Bettiscombe, Marshwood, Pilsdon, Stoke Abbott) (Rec 42)
2	5	Vale of Allen (affecting Critchel, Gussage All Saints, Gussage St Michael, Hinton, Witchampton) (Rec 43)
0	1	Verwood (Rec 44)
0	1	West Moors (Rec 45)
0	0	West Parley (Rec 46)
3	69	Weymouth (affecting Weymouth, Chickerell, Winterborne Farringdon) (Rec 47)
3	16	Wimborne Minster (affecting Wimborne Minster, Pamphill, Shapwick) (Rec 48)
0	0	Winterbourne Abbas and Winterbourne Steepleton (affecting Winterbourne Abbas, Winterbourne Steepleton) (Rec 49)
1	0	Winterborne Farringdon (affecting Bincombe, Whitcombe, Winterborne Came, Winterborne Herringston, Winterborne Monkton) (Rec 50)
0	0	Winterborne St Martin (affecting Winterborne St Martin, Winterborne Monkton) (Rec 51)
0	1	Wool and Bovington (affecting Wool, Bovington) (Rec 52)
0	0	Yetminster and Ryme Intrinseca (affecting Yetminster, Ryme Intrinseca) (Rec 53)

The main recommendations commented on were Colehill and Holt, Chickerell, Weymouth and Bridport. Twenty of the recommendations received no comments.

Alternative Proposals

Alternative proposals were provided by respondents for a range of the recommendations made. The proposals receiving the most alternative proposals submitted were: Colehill and Holt, Weymouth, Wimborne Minster, Chesil Bank, Chickerell and Bridport. These are shown in the table below.

Number of responses on these proposals	Proposal
0	Arne (Rec 1)
0	Bere Regis (Rec 2)
1	Blandford Forum (affecting Blandford Forum, Blandford St Mary, Bryanston, Pimperne, Tarrant Monkton, Tarrant Launceston, Langton Long) (Rec 3)
9	Bridport (affecting Bridport, Allington, Symondsburry, Bothenhampton and Walditch, Bradpole, Burton Bradstock) (Rec 4)
3	Broadmayne and West Knighton (affecting Broadmayne, West Knighton) (Rec 5)
0	Cerne Valley (affecting Cerne Abbas, Godmanstone, Nether Cerne, Up Cerne) (Rec 6)
0	Char Valley (affecting Chideock, Charmouth, Stanton St Gabriel, Whitchurch Canonicorum, Wootton Fitzpaine, Catherston Leweston) (Rec 7)
0	Charminster (Rec 8)
0	Charmouth (Rec 9)
10	Chesil Bank (affecting Abbotsbury, Fleet, Langton Herring, Portesham) (Rec 10)
0	Chetnole and Stockwood (affecting Chetnole, Stockwood) (Rec 11)
10	Chickerell (also see Weymouth – Recommendation No. 47) (Rec 12)
0	Chideock (Chideock, Symondsburry, (also see Char Valley – Recommendation No. 7) (Rec 13)
18	Colehill and Holt (affecting Colehill, Holt) (Rec 14)
0	Compton Abbas (affecting Compton Abbas, Melbury Abbas, Fontmell Magna) (Rec 15)
0	Corfe Mullen (Rec 16)
0	Dorchester (Rec 17)
0	Evershot (affecting Evershot, Holywell, Melbury Bubb, Frome St Quintin) (Rec 18)
1	Frome Valley (affecting Cattistock, Chilfrome, Frome St Quintin) (Rec 19)
0	Gillingham (affecting Gillingham, East Stour) (Rec 20)
0	Highstoy (affecting Batcombe, Hermitage, Hilfield) (Rec 21)
0	Hilton (affecting Hilton, Ansty, Stoke Wake, Melcombe Horsey, Melcombe Bingham) (Rec 22)
0	Iwerne Courtney and Steepleton (affecting Iwerne Courtney, Steepleton) (Rec 23)

1	Knightsford (affecting Tincton, West Knighton, West Stafford, Woodsford) (Rec 24)
2	Long Bredy and Kingston Russell (affecting Long Bredy, Kingston Russell) (Rec 25)
0	Lower Winterbourne (affecting Anderson, Winterborne Kingston, Winterborne Zelston) (Rec 26)
0	Lyme Regis (Rec 27)
2	Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch (affecting Maiden Newton, Frome Vauchurch) (Rec 28)
0	Netherbury (affecting Netherbury, Symondsbury) (Rec 29)
0	Owermoigne and Osmington (affecting Owermoigne, Osmington) (Rec 30)
1	Portland (Rec 31)
0	Puddletown (affecting Athelhampton, Burleston, Puddletown, Tolpuddle) (Rec 32)
0	Queen Thorne (affecting Nether Compton, Over Compton, Sandford Orcas, Trent) (Rec 33)
0	Shaftesbury (Rec 34)
0	Shipton Gorge (affecting Shipton Gorge, Loders) (Rec 35)
0	South Tarrant Valley (affecting Tarrant Crawford, Tarrant Keyneston, Tarrant Rawston, Tarrant Rushton) (Rec 36)
0	St Leonards and St Ives (affecting St Leonards, St Ives) (Rec 37)
0	The Comptons, Toller and Wynford (affecting Compton Valence, Toller Fratrum, West Compton, Wynford Eagle) (Rec 38)
0	The Orchards and Margaret Marsh (affecting East Orchard, Margaret Marsh, West Orchard) (Rec 39)
0	The Stours (affecting East Stour, Stour Provost, Todber, West Stour) (Rec 40)
1	Thornhackett (affecting Beer Hackett, Thornford) (Rec 41)
0	Upper Marshwood Vale (affecting Bettiscombe, Marshwood, Pilsdon, Stoke Abbott) (Rec 42)
2	Vale of Allen (affecting Critchel, Gussage All Saints, Gussage St Michael, Hinton, Witchampton) (Rec 43)
0	Verwood (Rec 44)
1	West Moors (Rec 45)
0	West Parley (Rec 46)
16	Weymouth (affecting Weymouth, Chickerell, Winterborne Farringdon) (Rec 47)
11	Wimborne Minster (affecting Wimborne Minster, Pamphill, Shapwick) (Rec 48)
0	Winterbourne Abbas and Winterbourne Steepleton (affecting Winterbourne Abbas, Winterbourne Steepleton) (Rec 49)
0	Winterborne Farringdon (affecting Bincombe, Whitcombe, Winterborne Came, Winterborne Herringston, Winterborne Monkton) (Rec 50)
0	Winterborne St Martin (affecting Winterborne St Martin, Winterborne Monkton) (Rec 51)
0	Wool and Bovington (affecting Wool, Bovington) (Rec 52)
0	Yetminster and Ryme Intrinseca (affecting Yetminster, Ryme Intrinseca) (Rec 53)

37 recommendations did not receive any alternative proposals.

General Comments

118 additional comments were made, and these will be considered during the separate detailed analysis of each suggestion.

Diversity information

Diversity information was collected from all those responding to the consultation as individuals rather than as an organisation. The information is summarised below:

Age

Age band	%
Under 18	0.0%
18 - 24	1.2%
25 - 34	3.3%
35 - 44	5.4%
45 - 54	8.9%
55 - 64	22.9%
65 or over	48.8%
Prefer not to say	9.5%

Gender

Gender	%
Male	51.6%
Female	40.9%
Prefer to self describe	0.0%
Prefer not to say	7.5%

Disability

With a disability	%
Yes	6.9%
No	84.4%

Prefer not to say	8.7%
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Disability (if specified)	%
Physical disability	39.1%
Learning disability / difficulty	4.3%
Long-standing illness or health condition	34.8%
Mental health condition	8.7%
Sensory impairment (hearing, Sight or both)	30.4%
Prefer not to say	8.7%
Other (please specify)	0.0%

Ethnicity

Ethnic Group (where selected)	%
White British	83.0%
White Irish	1.5%
Any other White background	0.6%
Asian/Asian British - Chinese	0.3%
Mixed ethnic background - White and Asian	0.3%
Prefer not to say	12.8%
Any other ethnic group (please specify)	1.5%

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Full Council

14 July 2022

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – Review of allowances for co-opted and independent members

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s):

Executive Director: J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Author: Lindsey Watson
Title: Senior Democratic Services Officer
Tel: (01305) 252209
Email: lindsey.watson@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

The current Scheme of Members' Allowances was agreed by Full Council on 3 September 2020, following consideration of recommendations made by the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP).

Following requests made to the Monitoring Officer he asked the IRP to review the allowances available to co-opted and independent members, as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the Dorset Council Scheme of Members' Allowances.

The opportunity was also taken to ask the IRP to review the Travel Allowances section of the Scheme and to recommend the rate at which drivers of electric vehicles should be reimbursed. In addition the IRP have made a recommendation concerning consultation with councillors regarding the possible introduction of a policy for Parental/Adoption/Sick leave.

This report presents the report and recommendations of the IRP, following their review.

Recommendation:

That the attached report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, in respect of the review of allowances for co-opted and independent members, as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the Dorset Council Scheme of Members' Allowances, and other matters reviewed, be adopted by Full Council and that the Panel be thanked for their work in arriving at the recommendations.

An extract from the report setting out a summary of the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel is set out below:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to £2,000 per annum in recognition of the significant role that they perform and the huge impact they have on the success or otherwise of the PCP.
- B. To increase the retainer for the Independent Person appointed to contribute to the arrangements of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct to £1,000 per annum and that any significant additional duties are agreed and remunerated at an hourly rate to be determined in the discretion of the Monitoring Officer.
- C. To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the Harbours Committee to £1,000 per annum to recognise the role performed outside of the formal meetings of the Committee.
- D. To increase the allowance paid to Co-opted Members of the Overview Committee to £500 per annum on the basis that this might increase the likelihood of recruiting members to these positions.
- E. To include an allowance within the Travel Allowances section of the Scheme to reimburse the cost of charging an electric vehicle and that this should be set at the same rate as for petrol and diesel vehicles.
- F. That a consultation be undertaken of Dorset Councillors regarding the possible introduction of a policy for Parental/Adoption/Sick leave and that the response be considered as part of the Panel's next fundamental review of the Scheme.

Reason for Recommendation:

To enable Full Council to consider recommendations on the scheme of allowances following a review undertaken by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

1. **Report**

- 1.1 Under the Local Government (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Dorset Council is required to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel to make recommendations to the Council in respect of its Scheme of Members' Allowances. When setting a scheme of allowances or when making changes to the scheme of allowances, the Council must have regard to the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.2 The Monitoring Officer has received requests and has asked the Independent Remuneration Panel to review the allowances available to co-opted and independent members, as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the Dorset Council Scheme of Members' Allowances.
- 1.3 In addition, the Independent Remuneration Panel was asked to consider further matters relating to allowances for the use of electric vehicles and allowances in respect of parental/adoption/sick leave.
- 1.4 The Independent Remuneration Panel has concluded their review of these matters and their report and recommendations are presented at appendix 1 for Full Council consideration.

2. **Financial Implications**

The allowances recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel represent an annual increase in the budget for members' allowances of £8100.

3. **Climate Implications**

None directly arising from this report.

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

None directly arising from this report.

5. **Other Implications**

None directly arising from this report.

6. **Risk Assessment**

- 6.1 **HAVING CONSIDERED:** the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW
Residual Risk: LOW

7. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

An equalities impact screening was carried out on the Panel's report in 2019 and no issues were identified. Linked to this it was reported that, a general equalities impact assessment had been drafted as part of the work to inform the approach to be taken to the provision of support and development for the Dorset Councillors and co-opted/independent members.

8. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel – Scheme of Members' allowances for Dorset Council

9. **Background Papers**

[Dorset Council Constitution – Part 5: Scheme of Members' Allowances](#)

Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

Scheme of Members' allowances for Dorset Council

1. Introduction

This report has been prepared by the Independent Remuneration Panel (the **Panel**) for Dorset Council (the **Council**) comprising three individuals drawn from the community:

- (i) John Quinton (Chairman);
- (ii) Keith Broughton; and
- (iii) Martin Varley.

2. Legal Basis

- 2.1. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (the **Regulations**) apply to all local authorities.
- 2.2. The Regulations require a relevant authority to make a scheme providing for the payment of a basic allowance to each member of that authority.
- 2.3. Regulation 9 permits an authority to make allowances in respect of Co-Opted Members. Regulation 10(3) provides for the scheme to be amended at any time. Regulation 10(4) requires that where any index is used for the purpose of annual adjustment of allowances, it must not rely on that index for longer than a period of four years before seeking a further recommendation from the independent remuneration panel,
- 2.4. Before a relevant authority may make or amend a scheme of allowances it must have regard to recommendations made in relation to such a scheme by an independent remuneration panel.
- 2.5. An Independent Person (IP) may be appointed by a relevant authority pursuant to the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. Allowances paid to an IP do not fall within the Regulations. However, the Panel has been asked to make recommendations concerning allowances to be paid to IPs as part of this review.

3. Context of the Review

- 3.1. The Panel last reviewed the members' allowance scheme for Dorset Council (the **Scheme**) in 2020.
- 3.2. The Panel has been asked to consider making recommendations in respect of the allowances to be paid to IPs.
- 3.3. At that time the Panel did not receive any evidence or representations regarding Co-opted Members and IPs' allowances. The Panel therefore recommended that those allowances continue to be payable at the current levels of £350.
- 3.4. Since that time a number of requests have been made to the Monitoring Officer of the Council for a review to be undertaken of those allowances paid to Co-opted Members and also to IPs.
- 3.5. Accordingly, the Monitoring Officer has asked the Panel to review the allowances payable to:
 - (i) the Co-opted Members of the Police and Crime Panel (PCP);
 - (ii) the Co-opted Members of the Overview Committee with oversight of education matters;
 - (iii) the Co-opted Members of the Harbours Committee; and
 - (iv) the IPs appointed to contribute to the arrangements of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct.
- 3.6. In addition, the Panel was asked to consider including an allowance for electric vehicles within the travel allowances section of the Scheme and to consider establishing a Parental/Adoption/Sick leave policy within the Scheme.

4. Role of the Panel

- 4.1. Regulation 20(2) requires that an independent remuneration panel shall consist of at least three members none of whom:
 - (i) is also a member of an authority in respect of which it makes recommendations or is a member of a committee or sub-committee of such an authority; or
 - (ii) is disqualified from being or becoming a member of an authority.
- 4.2. The three members of the Panel are individuals, none of whom is disqualified from being or becoming a member of a relevant authority.

5. Evidence

- 5.1. To inform its recommendations, the Panel was provided with the following evidence:
- (i) the Regulations;
 - (ii) benchmarking data from South West Councils and from other unitary authorities' current allowances schemes;
 - (iii) the current Scheme;
 - (iv) the articles of the Constitution; and
 - (v) specific submissions from individuals as referred to in the following paragraphs.
- 5.2. The Panel also had the opportunity to interview those individuals named at paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2.

6. Methodology for the review

- 6.1. The Panel interviewed the following Councillor and Co-opted members:
- (i) Mike Short, Co-opted member and current Chairman of the PCP;
 - (ii) Ian McVie, Co-opted member of the PCP;
 - (iii) Lee Hardy, Co-opted member of the Harbours Committee;
 - (iv) Councillor Mark Roberts, Chairman of the Harbours Committee; and
 - (v) Nick Maton, IP appointed to contribute to the arrangements of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct by members and Co-opted Members.
- 6.2. In addition, the Panel interviewed Jonathan Mair, Monitoring Officer, Dorset Council and Marc Eyre, Service Manager for Assurance and principal adviser to the Police and Crime Panel.
- 6.3. The Panel wishes to record its thanks to those individuals who gave evidence.
- 6.4. The Panel recognised that consideration of the allowances payable to Co-opted members involved assessing the workload and commitment required to fulfil those roles. It was not about individual responsibilities or accountabilities or the ability/experience of the current Co-opted Member or IP.

7. Co-opted Member of the PCP

- 7.1. The Panel considered detailed submissions on this role including:
- (i) the forward work plan of the PCP outlining the lead member role of the Co-opted Member;
 - (ii) a draft job description for the PCP Co-opted Member;
 - (iii) guidance provided by the Local Government Association on the appointment of Co-opted Members to the PCP and on the governance of PCPs; and
 - (iv) the Guidance Handbook for the Dorset PCP.
- 7.2. Both the current Co-opted Members of the PCP submitted evidence to support an increase in the allowance and enlarged upon this evidence as part of the interview process.
- 7.3. The evidence presented to the Panel indicated that the commitment to fulfil this role was approximately two to three days per month. It was clear to the Panel that this was a significant role and one which had a huge impact on the effectiveness of the PCP.
- 7.4. Individual Co-opted Members took a lead role in scrutinising the performance of the Police and Crime Commissioner (**PCC**) in relation to specific themes within the Police and Crime Plan. Co-opted Members were recruited on the basis of the wider experience and skills that could supplement and complement the skills of the councillors on the PCP. On this basis the Co-opted Member contributed significantly to the successful scrutiny of the PCC, establishing key lines of enquiry and ensuring evidence based decision making.
- 7.5. Based on the evidence received the Panel recommends an increase in the allowance of the Co-opted Member of the PCP to £2,000 in recognition of the significant role that the Panel were told they perform and the huge impact they have on the success or otherwise of the PCP

8. Independent Persons - promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct

- 8.1. The Panel was informed that the IP is an integral part of the process for the consideration of complaints against Councillors, elected to Dorset Council and all Parish and Town Councils.
- 8.2. The role involved conducting initial checks, collating evidence and reviewing complaints against assessment criteria. The IP is not part of the decision making process. However, the IP had often attended hearings to present their findings. Workload had increased recently and currently the Monitoring Officer was using the allowance (£350) in

effect as a retainer. Where there was significant workload in relation to a specific complaint, an additional hourly allowance has been paid.

- 8.3. The Panel acknowledged that this role had developed from that under the Localism Act 2011. The IP role is quite different from that as a serving member of the committee considering complaints concerning the conduct of Councillors. The IP role involves the critical analysis of a complaint and the ability to compile reasoned and measured arguments to provide conclusions based on the evidence collated by the IP.
- 8.4. The Panel agreed to recommend the retention of the current system where in effect a retainer is paid but that this retainer should be increased to £1,000 per annum and any significant additional duties, as determined by the Monitoring Officer, to be remunerated separately. The Panel thought that the Monitoring Officer would be able to determine the appropriate hourly rate for specific additional duties.

9. Co-opted Member, Harbours Committee

- 9.1. The Panel was informed that the Harbours Committee was in effect an Advisory Board exercising the functions of the Council as a harbour authority as defined in the Harbours Act 1964. All major decisions were referred to the Council's Cabinet for approval.
- 9.2. The consensus regarding the commitment required to fulfil this role was between half a day and a full day per month. Outside of the formal Committee role the Co-opted Member interviewed by the Panel was involved in ad-hoc groups from time to time which helped prepare strategies for the Committee.
- 9.3. A key area of focus for the Committee was marine safety and the skills and experience of the Co-opted Members helped supplement that possessed by the Councillors serving on the Committee.
- 9.4. The Panel agreed to recommend that to recognise the role outside of the formal meetings of the Committee and the additional experience and skills, the allowance should be increased to £1,000 per annum.

10. Co-opted Members, Overview Committee

- 10.1. The Panel understood that the "People and Health" Overview Committee was the Council's designated Committee for the oversight of the Council's statutory functions in relation to education matters.
- 10.2. In this respect the membership of this Committee should include:
 - (i) a person nominated by a Diocesan Board of Education for a Church of England diocese falling wholly or partly with the area of the Council;

Appendix 1

- (ii) a person nominated by the Bishop of any Roman Catholic diocese falling wholly or partly with the area of the Council; and
- (iii) two parent governors from maintained schools within the area of the Council.

10.3. Currently, all the positions referred to in the previous paragraph are vacant and have been vacant for some time.

10.4. The Panel therefore received no evidence or representations regarding the current allowance (£350). However, on the basis that a modest increase might facilitate the recruitment of representatives, the Panel agreed to recommend an increase to £500 per annum.

11. Travel allowance – Electric Vehicles

11.1. The Panel was asked to consider the inclusion of an allowance to provide for the reimbursement of the cost of charging an electric vehicle.

11.2. Currently the Scheme provided for the reimbursement of 45p per mile for cars up to 10,000 miles and 25p per mile thereafter. The Panel was also informed that the Officers Travel Allowance Scheme (**OTAS**) followed HMRC rates and applied the same rate for electric cars as for petrol/diesel vehicles.

11.3. The Panel agreed that an allowance should be provided for within the Scheme for the cost of charging an electric vehicle and recommended that it should be set at the same rates for petrol and diesel vehicles.

12. Parental/Adoption/Sick Leave

12.1. The Panel noted that currently there is no legal provision for Councillors to take sickness, maternity, paternity, shared parental, or adoption leave. There is a requirement under, the Local Government Act 1985, for councillors to attend at least one meeting of the authority every six months, unless for a reason agreed by the Full Council, or they cease to be a member of the authority. This rule would continue to apply regardless of the provisions in the Scheme.

12.2. A number of local authorities nationally are now making provision for SRAs to continue during sickness, maternity, paternity, shared parental, and adoption leave, to help support the equality, inclusion, and diversity of members.

12.3. The allocation of Special Responsibilities is a political decision and the allowance scheme cannot determine that when a member returns from long-term leave, they return to the same SRA position. Unlike SRAs, there can be no provision for a councillor covering the case work of another's division to receive a second payment of the basic allowance,

as such it is for political groups to agree how to cover the division work of a councillor who is taking sickness, maternity leave, etc.

- 12.4. The Panel accepts that the introduction of a policy for managing long-term absence might encourage a more diverse range of candidates to stand for election. With that in mind the Panel recommends that a consultation be undertaken of all Dorset Councillors and that response be considered as part of the Panel's next fundamental review of the Scheme.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the PCP to £2,000 per annum in recognition of the significant role that they perform and the huge impact they have on the success or otherwise of the PCP.**
- B. To increase the retainer for the Independent Person appointed to contribute to the arrangements of promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct to £1,000 per annum and that any significant additional duties are agreed and remunerated at an hourly rate to be determined in the discretion of the Monitoring Officer.**
- C. To increase the allowance for the Co-opted Members of the Harbours Committee to £1,000 per annum to recognise the role performed outside of the formal meetings of the Committee.**
- D. To increase the allowance paid to Co-opted Members of the Overview Committee to £500 per annum on the basis that this might increase the likelihood of recruiting members to these positions.**
- E. To include an allowance within the Travel Allowances section of the Scheme to reimburse the cost of charging an electric vehicle and that this should be set at the same rate as for petrol and diesel vehicles.**
- F. That a consultation be undertaken of Dorset Councillors regarding the possible introduction of a policy for Parental/Adoption/Sick leave and that the response be considered as part of the Panel's next fundamental review of the Scheme.**

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Recommendation to Full Council

From Audit & Governance Committee – 22 June 2022

Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen of the Dorset Council area

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: Jonathan Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Status: Public

Recommendation:

1) That Full Council be asked to agree to amend the Constitution to include the criteria and process for awarding the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman to former members of Dorset Council.

2) the wording of the second bullet point in paragraph 2.3 of the report as to the criteria to be met for any nominations for Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen be amended to read “ The nominee shall **ordinarily** have served a minimum of 16 years.....”

Reason for Recommendation:

Inclusion of the process and criteria for conferring an honorary title on a former member within the Constitution will make the process more open and transparent.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Report to Audit & Governance Committee on 22 June 2022

Appendix 2 - Draft minute from the Audit & Governance Committee on 22 June 2022

Background Papers

None.

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Audit and Governance Committee

22 June 2022

Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen of the Dorset Council area

For Recommendation to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): All Councillors

Executive Director: J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Author: Jacqui Andrews
Title: Service Manager, Democratic & Electoral Services
Tel: 01258 484325
Email: jacqui.andrews@dorstcouncil.gov.uk

Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman in recognition of previous service by elected members. Whilst some of Dorset Council's predecessor councils made similar awards for Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen, this practice was not adopted by Dorset Council on its creation in 2019.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the council, in consultation with the Group Leaders, propose establishing a mechanism to enable the conferring of the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman to former members who have given a period of public service for a minimum of 16 years, and are considered to have made an outstanding contribution to the area in their role as elected member.

Recommendation:

That Full Council be asked to agree to amend the Constitution to include the criteria and process for awarding the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman to former members of Dorset Council.

Reason for Recommendation:

Inclusion of the process and criteria for conferring an honorary title on a former member within the Constitution will make the process more open and transparent.

1. Legislative background

- 1.1 Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 permits the council to confer the title "Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman" on a person who has, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent service to the council as a former member of the council. The status of an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman is a purely honorary one in recognition of previous service, and does not give any special status to attend or to address meetings of the council or any committee or sub-committee.
- 1.2 The Act does not specify how 'eminent service' is defined and, as such, has been left as a matter for local interpretation.

2. Process

- 2.1 It is proposed that the council establishes a panel of members who will consider nominations for the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman and make recommendations to a specially convened meeting of Full Council. The proposal is that the panel is be made up of 1 member from each of the political groups appointed by the Group Leaders, plus the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
- 2.2 The Act states that conferring such a title should be undertaken at a meeting of Full Council specially convened for the purposes of considering conferring a title where not less than two-thirds of the members must vote in favour. The specially convened meeting will be held immediately prior to a scheduled Full Council meeting.
- 2.3 Any nominations for Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen should meet the following criteria:
 - The nominee has retired from Dorset Council, and
 - The nominee shall have served a minimum of 16 years which can include service on any of the following authorities:
 - Dorset Council
 - Dorset County Council (disbanded in March 2019)
 - East Dorset District Council (disbanded in March 2019)
 - North Dorset District Council (disbanded in March 2019)
 - Purbeck District Council (disbanded in March 2019)
 - West Dorset District Council (disbanded in March 2019)

— Weymouth & Portland Borough Council (disbanded in March 2019),
and

- The nominee is considered to have made an outstanding contribution in their role as an elected member.

2.3 It is intended that any person who is bestowed the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman will receive a badge and a certificate in recognition of the honour.

3. **Financial Implications**

3.1 It is likely that each badge and certificate will cost approximately £100 to produce based on a minimum order of 10 badges. This cost will be met from the existing Chairman's budget.

4. **Climate Implications**

4.1 There are no climate implications associated with this report.

5. **Well-being and Health Implications**

5.1 There are no well-being and health implications associated with this report.

6. **Other Implications**

6.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

7. **Risk Assessment**

7.1 **HAVING CONSIDERED:** the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:
Current Risk: Low
Residual Risk: Low

8. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

This report does not impact on any equality and diversity issues.

9. **Appendices**

None

10. **Background Papers**

None

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The Committee considered a report on proposals to enable the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman in recognition of previous service by elected members, with the mechanism to be able to do this – and the criteria to be met - set out in detail, namely:-

- former members of Dorset Council who had given a period of public service for a minimum of 16 years,
- had served on either Dorset Council, or its predecessors - Dorset County Council or one of the six former District Councils now comprising the Dorset Council area, and
- were considered to have made an outstanding contribution to the area in their role as elected member.

The process for bestowing to honour was detailed and explained by the Service Manager for Democratic and Electoral Services in that it was proposed to establish a panel of members who would consider nominations and make recommendations to a specially convened meeting of Full Council – to precede a scheduled meeting of Council. The Panel's composition was explained and what proportion of the Full Council would be required to endorse that nomination.

Any person who was bestowed the title would receive a badge and a certificate in recognition of the honour, funded through the Chairman's Fund.

The Committee discussed the arrangements and criteria as being proposed and, whilst they were pleased to see such recognition being proposed, asked how the 16 years' service had been arrived at. Officers confirmed that this was seen to be an optimum length of service which would reflect a member's commitment to public service and provide the opportunity for outstanding achievements to be recognised and evaluated.

Some members considered the 16 year qualifying period too protracted, given that, in their opinion, a member serving for less time could well have been seen to have significantly achieved, but would not necessarily qualify for the honour. They asked that a shorter period be considered.

The Director – Legal and Democratic recognised this and suggested that the criterion could be amended to include the word "ordinarily", so that there was scope for any nominations that fell into that category having the opportunity to be considered too.

Discussion took place as to how "outstanding contribution" would be qualified and what judgement would be made on this. Officers confirmed that although this was open to interpretation, in most cases it should be fairly evident, with the Nomination Panel being able to assess this criterion in the capacity they had.

What opportunity there was for town and parish councillors to be considered for the honour was also raised, with officers confirming that these titles were only able to be bestowed on those members as categorised in the second bullet point. However, there were other options for recognition of contributions made by Parish and Town councillors i.e Honorary Freeman/Freewoman.

Having had the opportunity to consider this matter and having a better understanding of what it entailed, the Committee was satisfied with the suggested amended wording by the Director – Legal and Democratic and, in being proposed by Cllr Bill Pipe and seconded by Cllr Robin Legg, it was

Recommendation

- 1) That Full Council be asked to agree to amend the Constitution to include the criteria and process for awarding the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman to former members of Dorset Council.
- 2) the wording of the second bullet point in paragraph 3.2 of the report as to the criteria to be met for any nominations for Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen be amended to read “ The nominee shall **ordinarily** have served a minimum of 16 years.....”

Reason for Decision

Inclusion of the process and criteria for conferring an honorary title on a former member within the Constitution will make the process more open and transparent.