

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 Symondsbury 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
Tinkleton	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
Tinkleton	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 Symondsbury Parish Council, to make a minor change to the boundary to move 2 properties from its parish to the parish of Symondsbury. The property owners have been consulted and feel they would be better represented by Symondsbury Parish Council and feel geographically closer to Symondsbury.

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 Loders, but they feel more connected to Shipton Gorge. Both Shipton Gorge and Loders 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 Symondsbury – 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.































