

**From Cllr David Northam, Upwey & Broadwey Ward,
Dorset Council and Weymouth Town Council**

Amendment to Item 13

I recommend that Littlemoor & Preston ward (Green Highlight) should not be a two-member ward but should be split into two single-member wards as the two communities are distinct and different with a clear boundary between them as detailed in the attached map (Yellow Highlight).

The proposed boundary line between the two separate and different communities is clear and identifiable – this reflects the boundary between the two Town Council Wards of Preston & Littlemoor (noting the addition of Boxwood Road and Harebell Drive).

Cllr Furhmann made a proposal to the Working Group including single-member wards for Preston and Littlemoor. The two wards were assessed by officers as follows – Littlemoor 3939 Electors electoral equality +2.6% and Preston 4380 Electors electoral equality +14.1%.

The boundary commission review will ultimately decide whether the Council's and other parties' submissions make sense against the three criteria of:

1. **Electoral Equality:** Ensuring that each councillor represents roughly a similar number of voters, so the value of a vote is consistent across the local authority area.
2. **Community Identity:** Ensuring that ward boundaries reflect local community interests, identities, and ties, and that boundaries are easily identifiable.
3. **Effective and Convenient Local Government:** Ensuring the new arrangements allow for effective representation and that the council can function properly, including considering the electoral cycle.

Given that Littlemoor and Preston are two distinct and very different communities and there exists a clear boundary, it is felt this outweighs the higher level of electoral inequality, and that these two areas should be two single member wards.

I recommend this change as the revised boundary provides two communities with clear and different identities and interests. This enables the electors to have clear and accountable representation, and encourages, and enables, single candidates to stand for councils on a fairer basis than in a two-member ward.

