East Dorset District Community Governance Review

Draft Recommendations
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Annex of parish and parish ward maps available as a separate document
1 Introduction

1.1 East Dorset District Council, at its meeting on Monday 24 February 2014 resolved that a Community Governance Review be conducted for the whole of the district of East Dorset in accordance with Part 4 Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

2 The Review

2.1 This Review commenced on 25 February 2014, when the Council published a Terms of Reference document and invited initial submissions from individuals or organisations who had an interest in the Review. In the Terms of Reference, the Council published a timetable for the Review.

2.2 A series of briefing sessions were held at the Council Offices, Furzehill during the preliminary stage. All parish and town councils were invited to attend together with the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils. The vast majority of parishes were represented. Officers also attended, by invitation, the Eastern Area DAPTC meeting held at the St Ives Village Hall to outline the remit of the review and process.

2.3 The formal consultation period, inviting interested parties to make initial submissions, commenced on 7 April and closed on 7 July 2014. The consultation was published on the Council’s web site and public notice boards, but more targeted engagement was sent to:-

- Parish and town council and parish meeting clerks;
- DAPTC Chairman and Chief Executive;
- Dorset County Council Chief Executive and local County Councillors;
- East Dorset Members of Parliament;
- Chambers of Trade, Commerce and Industry;
- Other business groups (including the Wimborne and Ferndown and Uddens BID’s);
- Residents’ and Community Associations;
- Housing Associations;
- Citizens Advice Bureaux;
- Local Libraries.
2.4 A copy of the consultation papers were also sent to each Member of East Dorset District Council.

2.5 To oversee the community governance review and to consider representations received during the initial submission phase, the Council appointed a Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group.

2.6 In preparing these Draft Proposals, the Council has been mindful of the initial submissions that have been received, which are referenced in this document and attached as a separate appendix to these draft recommendations. The Council also has the role of balancing these submissions against the wider requirements and duties that are placed upon it in the 2007 Act. In particular, the Council has a duty to ensure that community governance within its area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient.

2.7 In assessing this criteria, the community governance review is required to take into account:-

(a) The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and

(b) The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

2.8 The aim of the review is to bring about improved and stronger community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services; ensuring electors across the whole District are treated equitably and fairly.

3 Parish and Ward Boundary Changes

3.1 Reference has been made to parish and parish ward boundaries being coterminous with other district, county or parliamentary boundaries. Extending parish or parish ward boundaries to break the coterminous arrangements would require the creation of additional parish wards as no parish or parish ward may straddle a principal boundary.

3.2 The alternative to breaking the coterminous relationship is to seek consent from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a related alteration to redraw the principal council boundary. Since the District Ward boundaries have only recently been adopted significant reasons for such alterations would be required. Likewise, alterations to the County Division Boundaries is likely to prove difficult due to the impending review prior to the 2017 county council elections. Where such alterations are recommended in this paper, an assessment as to the likely success of alterations has been considered. If such alterations were desired but considered unlikely to succeed representations to this affect may be more appropriate at the time of the county division electoral review.
4 Draft Recommendations by Area

4.1 Since the Community Governance Review includes a review of the whole of East Dorset, this document is divided into a series of sections relating to each parish to assist the reader to follow the proposed changes. Some parishes are grouped together due to the nature of proposed recommendations.

4.2 Each section also follows a consistent structure, including a summary of the existing boundary areas, warding, the baseline electorate (February 2014) and the projected five-year electorate forecasts, the total number of councillors, the ratio of electors per councillor and the variance of this ratio from the average (where warded or grouped). Details of any representations received have been referenced, a summary of contested elections and an explanation for any proposed changes have also been included.

5 Next steps - Representations

5.1 All residents and any other persons or organisations wishing to make representations on the draft recommendations may do so by email to cgr@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk

Representations may also be returned to:
Democratic Services
East Dorset District Council
Council Offices
Furzehill
Wimborne
Dorset BH21 4HN.


5.2 Representations that are received will be taken into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

5.3 The deadline for receipt of comments is midnight on 7 November 2014.

5.4 It would be helpful if you could make clear in your response whether you represent an organisation or group, and in what capacity you are responding.

5.5 An electronic version of this consultation paper is available to download from our web site. Visit www.dorsetforyou.com/412554 or scan the QR code on the front of this paper.

6 Publication of responses – confidentiality and data protection

6.1 Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published, or disclosed in accordance with the access to
information regimes. (These are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

6.2 If you want any information you provide to be treated as confidential, you should be aware that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply, and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

6.3 If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give any assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by IT systems will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Council.

6.4 East Dorset District Council will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998 and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.
A. ALDERHOLT PARISH

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Ward</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alderholt North</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>-15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alderholt South</td>
<td>2308</td>
<td>2496</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Alderholt parish is currently divided into two wards, Alderholt North with a single Councillor representative, and Alderholt South with 8 Councillors.

1.2 The parish boundary adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Cranborne, Edmondsham and Verwood is coterminous with the new district ward boundary. The parish boundary adjoining the Verwood parish is also coterminous with the county division boundary.

1.3 The existing parish warding was historically required due to the former District warding. The East Dorset (Electoral Changes) Order 2014 negates the requirement for this warding.

1.4 Alderholt Parish Council has made a submission requesting the removal of the existing warding, a copy of which appears as Appendix ‘1’ to this document. The parish council has not made any suggestions to alter the number of Councillors. The overall projected electorate growth over 5 years is 7.3%.

1.5 There have been no contested elections at the ordinary elections since 2003.

1.6 The projected elector to councillor ratio, based on the draft recommendations is 306:1.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Alderholt:

2.2 That:

(a) the parish of Alderholt should not be abolished;

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Alderholt;

(c) the name of the parish of Alderholt should not be altered;

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;

(e) the parish council for Alderholt consist of 9 councillors;

(f) the existing wards of the parish of Alderholt be abolished; and
(g) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
B. CHALBURY, HORTON, WIMBORNE ST GILES AND WOODLANDS PARISHES

1 Background

1.1 The parishes of Chalbury, Horton (which comprises two parish wards of Horton East and Horton West), Wimborne St. Giles and Woodlands are grouped to form a common council known as Knowlton Parish Council. There are currently 2 seats in Chalbury, 1 seat in Horton East, 3 seats in Horton West, 4 seats in Wimborne St. Giles and 3 seats in Woodlands.

1.2 Each parish must be considered before the electoral arrangements can be reviewed.

1.3 There is no anticipated growth projected for any of these parishes.

1.4 Knowlton Parish Council submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions, a copy of which is appended to this document. In summary the parish council wished to reduce the number of councillors to provide a better ratio of councillors to electorate.

1.5 Verwood Town Council also submitted a response affecting a number of properties within the Horton East parish ward, requesting that transfer of a number of properties which were considered to have a closer community identity to the town.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish / Parish Ward</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chalbury</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horton East</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horton West</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>+29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wimborne St Giles</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>-21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlands</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>+34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chalbury

1.6 The parish boundary of Chalbury adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Hinton Martell, Witchampton and Moor Crichel is coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundary with Horton is independent of other delineations.

1.7 There have been no contested elections in Chalbury since 2003 including by-elections. Chalbury has 2 councillors on Knowlton Parish Council.

1.8 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 60:1
Horton

1.9 The parish boundary of Horton adjoining the neighbouring parish of Gussage All Saints is coterminous with the district ward boundary and the boundary with Holt and Wimborne St Giles is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundary. The boundary with Chalbury, Woodlands and Verwood is independent of other delineations.

1.10 The parish of Horton is divided into two wards, Horton West with 3 councillors, and Horton East with a single councillor. The dividing boundary between the two parish wards is coterminous with the district ward boundary.

1.11 There have been no contested elections in Horton since 2003 including by-elections.

1.12 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 128:1 in Horton West and 74:1 in Horton East.

Wimborne St Giles

1.13 The parish boundary of Wimborne St Giles adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Gussage All Saints, Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundary with Cranborne, Edmondsham and Woodlands is independent of other delineations.

1.14 There have been no contested elections in Wimborne St Giles since 2003 including by-elections. Wimborne St Giles has 4 councillors.

1.15 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 78:1

Woodlands

1.16 The parish boundary of Woodlands adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Gussage All Saints is coterminous with the district ward boundary, and the boundary with Horton (East) is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundary. The boundary with Wimborne St Giles and Horton (West) is independent of other delineations.

1.17 There have been no contested elections in Woodlands since 2003 including by-elections. Woodlands has 3 councillors.

1.18 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 133:1

Grouped Parish Variance

1.19 It is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parishes which are grouped. There is a risk that where one parish is over-presented by councillors,
the residents of that parish (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

1.20 The Task and Finish Group considered the variance in elector to councillor ratio between the parishes which are grouped to form a common council.

1.21 The present projected variance in elector to councillor ratio varies +34% for Woodlands, to -39% in Chalbury.

1.22 The representation from Knowlton Parish Council proposed the following allocation of seats to the parishes to establish a better ratio:

(a) Wimborne St. Giles – 2 Seats
(b) Woodlands – 3 Seats
(c) Horton East and West – 3 Seats
(d) Chalbury – 1 Seat

1.23 The proposal as set out was not possible as it implied that Horton East and Horton West were combined. Horton West and Horton East are divided by both the District Ward and County Division Boundary and cannot therefore be amalgamated. However, this does reduce the number the councillors from 13 to 9, and was used by the Task and Finish Group as a guide to the parish council’s ambition.

1.24 Horton East parish ward is wholly within the district ward of Verwood West and the county division of Verwood and Three Cross, and as previously advised Verwood Town Council submitted representations regarding its boundary with the Horton East parish ward relating to the properties in this area.

1.25 The Task and Finish Group considered various options and concluded that altering the Horton Parish boundary to the east to be coterminous with the district ward and county division boundary would establish more effective and convenient community governance and reflect the community identity in this area. This would result in the abolition of the Horton East parish ward which would be absorbed into Verwood Dewlands South parish ward.

1.26 The net effect of altering the Horton parish boundary would be a reduction of 39 properties in both the baseline and 5 year projected forecasts for Horton parish.

1.27 The table below illustrates the revised electorate, ratios and variances that would be achieved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Properties 2019</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chalbury</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horton</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>+5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parishes of Chalbury, Horton, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands:

2.2 That:

(a) the parishes of Chalbury, Horton, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands should not be abolished;

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parishes of Chalbury, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands;

(c) the boundary of the existing parish of Horton be redrawn to the east where it adjoins the parish of Verwood to transfer the properties currently in the parish ward of Horton East to the parish of Verwood;

(d) the parish ward of Horton East be abolished;

(e) the name of the parishes of Chalbury, Horton, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands should not be altered;

(f) the existing common grouping of parishes, Chalbury, Horton, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands, to form Knowlton should not be altered;

(g) the grouped parishes referred to in (f) above should continue to have a parish council;

(h) the name of Knowlton Parish Council remain unchanged;

(i) the parish council for Knowlton consist of 10 councillors;

(j) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective parishes be as follows:

   (i) Chalbury – 1 councillor

   (ii) Horton – 3 councillors

   (iii) Wimborne St Giles – 3 councillors

   (iv) Woodlands - 3 councillors


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Properties 2019</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wimborne St Giles</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>-15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodlands</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>+9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(k) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
C. CORFE MULLEN PARISH

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Ward</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corfe Mullen Central</td>
<td>4186</td>
<td>4202</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>525</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corfe Mullen North</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>2220</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corfe Mullen South</td>
<td>2137</td>
<td>2146</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>537</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Corfe Mullen parish is divided into three wards, Central with 8 Councillors, North with 4 Councillors and South with 4 Councillors; a total of 16 Councillors. This warding was historically required due to the former District warding. The East Dorset (Electoral Changes) Order 2014 negates the requirement for this warding by establishing a new single district ward.

1.2 The parish boundary adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Pamphill and Sturminster Marshall is coterminous with the district ward, county division and parliamentary constituency boundaries. Corfe Mullen falls within the Parliamentary Constituency for Mid-Dorset and North Poole.

1.3 Corfe Mullen Parish Council submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions, a copy of which is appended to this document. In summary the parish wished to:-

(a) reduce the total number of Councillors from 16 to 14, citing a difficulty in attracting sufficient candidates to stand for election as the main reason;

(b) remove the existing parish ward arrangements so that all Councillors represent the parish as a whole. The parish council believe that residents are not aware of which ward they reside in and that the proposed change would be less confusing.

1.4 The overall projected electorate growth over 5 years is 3.8%

1.5 All 16 seats were contested in the 2003 elections, 4 were contested in 2007 but no seats were contested in 2011. A by-election for a single seat was held in 2008.

1.6 Reducing the number of councillors from 16 to 14 would establish a projected elector to councillor ratio of 612:1

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Corfe Mullen:
2.2 That:

(a) the parish of Corfe Mullen should not be abolished;
(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Corfe Mullen;
(c) the name of the parish of Corfe Mullen should not be altered;
(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;
(e) the parish council for Corfe Mullen consist of 14 councillors;
(f) the existing wards of the parish of Corfe Mullen be abolished; and
(g) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
D. CRANBORNE AND EDMONDSHAM PARISHES

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cranborne</td>
<td>599</td>
<td>601</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>+5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edmondsham</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>-13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Cranborne and Edmondsham parishes are grouped to form a common council known as Cranborne and Edmondsham Parish Council. There are currently 9 seats in Cranborne and 3 seats in Edmondsham. Each parish must be considered separately before the electoral arrangements can be reviewed.

1.2 There is no significant growth projected for either parish.

Cranborne

1.3 The parish boundary of Cranborne adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Pentridge and Alderholt is coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundary with Wimborne St. Giles and Edmondsham are independent of other delineations, and whilst these boundaries may be altered it was not considered appropriate to do so.

1.4 There have been no contested elections in Cranborne since 2003 including by-elections.

1.5 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 67:1

Edmondsham

1.6 The parish boundary of Edmondsham adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Alderholt and Verwood are coterminous with the district ward and county division respectively. The boundary with Cranborne and Wimborne St Giles are independent of any other delineation, and whilst these boundaries may be altered it was not considered appropriate to do so.

1.7 There have been no contested elections in Edmondsham since 2003 including by-elections.

1.8 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 56:1

Grouped Parish Variance

1.9 It is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parishes which are
grouped. There is a risk that where one parish is over-presented by councillors, the residents of that parish (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

1.10 The Task and Finish Group considered the variance in elector to councillor ratio between the two parishes which are grouped to form the common council.

1.11 The projected variance in Elector to Councillor ratio varies from +5% for Cranborne, to -13% for Edmondsham.

1.12 The Task and Finish considered two options for narrowing this ratio:-

(a) To increase the number of seats on Cranborne from 9 seats to 10, thus resulting in a variance of +2% for Cranborne and -5% for Edmondsham; or

(b) To reduce the number of seats in Cranborne from 9 to 7, and reduce the number of seats in Edmondsham from 3 to 2. The resultant variances would be 0% for Cranborne and -1% for Edmondsham.

1.13 Elections have been uncontested in Cranborne and Edmondsham for at least 12 years and therefore increasing the number of seats was unlikely to result in increased elected representation.

1.14 Whilst a reduction in the number of seats referred to in paragraph 1.12(b) above would eliminate the variance and may increase the likelihood of contested elections, it was felt that such a reduction in representation in these rural parishes would have a detrimental impact on the effectiveness and convenience of local representation.

1.15 No submissions have been received regarding Cranborne and Edmondsham parishes.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parishes of Cranborne and Edmondsham:

2.2 That:

(a) the parishes of Cranborne and Edmondsham should not be abolished;

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parishes of Cranborne and Edmondsham;

(c) the name of the parishes of Cranborne and Edmondsham should not be altered;

(d) no change be made to the existing parish grouping arrangements for the parishes of Cranborne and Edmondsham;
(e) the parish group should continue to have a parish council;

(f) the parish council for Cranborne and Edmondsham consist of 12 councillors;

(g) the number of councillors elected for Cranborne remain unchanged at 9 councillors;

(h) the number of councillors elected to Edmondsham remain unchanged at 3 councillors;

(i) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
E. GUSSAGE ST MICHAEL PARISH

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gussage St Michael</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Gussage St. Michael is one of only two parishes which do not have a Council, but meets as a parish meeting.

1.2 The parish boundary of Gussage St. Michael adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Sixpenny Handley, Gussage All Saints, Moor Crichel and Long Crichel is independent of other principal council boundaries and may be altered if considered appropriate.

1.3 There are only 90 properties and 173 electors in the parish and there is no anticipated growth over the next 5 years. The parish operates as a parish meeting and has a relatively strong sense of identity. No submissions were received during the initial consultation period; however, the parish has resisted joining the group of neighbouring parishes to form a common council in the past. The guidance indicates that where a parish has an electorate of between 150 and 1000 electors, the Community Governance Review must decide whether or not the parish should have a council.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Gussage St Michael:

2.2 That:
   (a) the parish of Gussage St Michael should not be abolished;
   (b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Gussage St Michael;
   (c) the name of the parish of Gussage St Michael should not be altered;
   (d) the parish should not have a parish council; and
   (e) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015.
F. GUSSAGE ALL SAINTS, HINTON MARTELL, HINTON PARVA, LONG CRICHEL, MOOR CRICHEL AND WITCHAMPTON PARISHES

1 Background

1.1 The parishes of Gussage All Saints, Hinton Martell, Long Crichel, Moor Crichel and Witchampton are grouped to form a common council known as the Vale of Allen Parish Council. There are currently 3 seats in Gussage All Saints, 4 seats in Hinton Martell, 1 seat in Long Crichel, 2 seats in Moor Crichel and 4 seats in Witchampton.

1.2 Hinton Parva is the second of two parishes within East Dorset which does not have a Council and stands independent of any other parishes.

1.3 Each parish must be considered separately before the electoral arrangements can be reviewed.

1.4 There is no anticipated growth projected for any of these parishes.

1.5 No submissions have been received with regards to these parishes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hinton Parva</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gussage All Saints</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinton Martell</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>321</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Crichel</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>-19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moor Crichel</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>-8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witchampton</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>+12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hinton Parva

1.6 The parish boundary of Hinton Parva adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Pamphill and Holt is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundaries. The boundary with Hinton Martell to the north is independent of other delineations.

1.7 There are only 26 properties and just 29 electors within the parish. There is no known clerk to the parish meeting and it is unclear whether a parish meeting has been held in recent years.

1.8 The parish electorate is of a level where by the Community Governance Review must recommend that the parish should not have a council. This applies where the parish has 150 or fewer electors and does not currently have a council.
Gussage All Saints

1.9 The parish boundary of Gussage All Saints adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Wimborne St Giles, Woodlands and Horton is coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundary with Sixpenny Handley, Gussage St Michael and Moor Crichel is independent of other delineations.

1.10 There have been no contested elections in Gussage All Saints since 2003 including by-elections. The parish has 3 councillors on the Vale of Allen Parish Council.

1.11 The present projected elector to councillor ratio is 61:1

Hinton Martell

1.12 The parish boundary of Hinton Martell adjoining the neighbouring parish of Chalbury is coterminous with the district ward boundary, whilst the boundary with Holt and Pamphill is conterminous with the district ward and county division boundaries. The boundary with Hinton Parva and Witchampton is independent of other delineations.

1.13 There have been no contested elections in Hinton Martell since 2003 including by-elections. The parish has 4 councillors on the Vale of Allen Parish Council.

1.14 The present projected elector to councillor ratio is 80:1

Long Crichel

1.15 The parish boundary of Long Crichel adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Gussage St Michael and Moor Crichel is independent of other delineations. There are no coterminous boundaries.

1.16 There have been no contested elections in Long Crichel since 2003 including by-elections. The parish has 1 councillor on the Vale of Allen Parish Council.

1.17 The present projected elector to councillor ratio is 60:1

Moor Crichel

1.18 The parish boundary of Moor Crichel adjoining the neighbouring parish of Chalbury is coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundary with Long Crichel, Gussage St Michael, Gussage All Saints and Witchampton is independent of other delineations.

1.19 There have been no contested elections in Moor Crichel since 2003 including by-elections. The parish has 2 councillors on the Vale of Allen Parish Council.

1.20 The present projected elector to councillor ratio is 68:1
Witchampton

1.21 The parish boundary of Witchampton adjoining the neighbouring parish of Pamphill is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundary, and the boundary with Chalbury is coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundary with Moor Crichel and Hinton Martell is independent of other delineations.

1.22 There have been no contested elections in Witchampton since 2003 including by-elections. The parish has 4 councillors on the Vale of Allen Parish Council.

1.23 The present projected elector to councillor ratio is 83:1

Grouped Parish Variance

1.24 It is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parishes which are grouped. There is a risk that where one parish is over-presented by councillors, the residents of that parish (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

1.25 The Task and Finish Group considered the variance in elector to councillor ratio between the parishes which are grouped to form the common council.

1.26 The present projected variance in elector to councillor ratio varies from +12% for Witchampton, to -19% in Long Crichel.

1.27 The Task and Finish considered a number of options for narrowing this ratio for the Vale of Allen Parishes:-

(a) To increase the number of seats for Hinton Martell and Witchampton from 4 to 5 based on the present parish boundaries, thus resulting in an average ratio of 65:1, with a variance range from +5% to -8%. Elections have been uncontested in these parishes for at least 12 years and therefore increasing the number of seats was unlikely to result in increased elected representation;

(b) Due to the low number of electors in Long Crichel, if this parish was put to one side for the purposes of calculating the variance, and the number of councillors for Gussage All Saints was reduced from 3 to 2, the variance range (excluding Long Crichel) would be +14% (Gussage All Saints) to -16% (Moor Crichel). This was not considered to provide a significant improvement from the existing position.
1.28 Members therefore considered other options for these parishes including the amalgamation of the parishes of Hinton Martell and Hinton Parva; and Long Crichel and Moor Crichel.

1.29 These changes would increase the electorate for the combined Hinton parishes to 350 and for the combined Crichel parishes to 196. By amalgamating these parishes the total number of councillors could be reduced from 14 to 12, the average elector to councillor ratio increased to 89:1 and establish an improved variance range. The table below illustrates the revised electorate, ratios and variances that would be achieved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Properties 2019</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gussage All Saints</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hinton</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crichel</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witchampton</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>-7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.30 The presently unrepresented parish of Hinton Parva would obtain representation at a parish level, although it should be recognised that this would result in a parish precept being levied on the 26 properties.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parishes of Gussage All Saints, Hinton Martell, Hinton Parva, Long Crichel, Moor Crichel and Witchampton:

2.2 That:

(a) the parishes of Gussage All Saints and Witchampton should not be abolished;
(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parishes of Gussage All Saints and Witchampton;
(c) the name of the parishes of Gussage All Saints and Witchampton should not be altered;
(d) the parishes of Hinton Martell and Hinton Parva be amalgamated to form a single parish;
(e) the name of the amalgamated parishes referred to in (d) above be Hinton;
(f) the style of the parish of Hinton be set as a parish;
(g) the parishes of Long Crichel and Moor Crichel be amalgamated to form a single parish;

(h) the name of the amalgamated parishes referred to in (g) above be Crichel;

(i) the style of the parish of Crichel be set as a parish;

(j) the existing common grouping of parishes for the Vale of Allen be altered to include the parishes of Crichel, Gussage All Saints, Hinton and Witchampton;

(k) the grouped parishes referred to in (j) above should continue to have a parish council;

(l) the name of the Vale of Allen Parish Council remain unchanged;

(m) the parish council for Vale of Allen consist of 12 councillors;

(n) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective parishes be as follows:

(i) Gussage All Saints – 2 councillors

(ii) Hinton – 4 councillors

(iii) Crichel – 2 councillors

(iv) Witchampton - 4 councillors

(o) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
G. HOLT PARISH

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holt</td>
<td>1097</td>
<td>1114</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Holt parish is one of the largest geographical parishes in East Dorset, with a projected household number of 536 and 1114 electors. It is unwarded and has 9 seats on the Council.

1.2 The parish boundary adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Hinton Parva, Hinton Martell, Horton, Verwood, Ferndown, Colehill and Pamphill is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundaries. The common boundary with the parish of West Moors forms the Parliamentary Constituency boundary.

1.3 The Parish Council submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions including three specific proposals to alter the external boundary of the parish to either include or exclude properties. The proposals put forward related to the parishes of Hinton Martell to the west (in particular approximately 30-40 properties within Gaunts Common), Verwood to the east (relating to 4 properties) and Colehill to the south (relating to an undisclosed but small number of properties).

1.4 Whilst it was accepted that the proposals had some logic, the coterminous boundaries would require either a related alteration to the district ward or county division boundaries, or the creation of parish wards. A related alteration for the principal council boundaries was considered unlikely to succeed and due to the low number of properties involved it was felt that the creation of additional parish wards was unviable.

1.5 The overall projected electorate growth over 5 years is 1.5%

1.6 The projected ratio is 124:1

1.7 There have been no contested elections held in the previous 12 years including by-elections. The Task and Finish Group considered reducing the number of seats but concluded that the number should remain unchanged due to the rural nature and size of the parish.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Holt:
2.2 That:

(a) the parish of Holt should not be abolished;
(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Holt;
(c) the name of the parish of Holt should not be altered;
(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;
(e) the parish council for Holt consist of 9 councillors; and
(f) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
H. PAMPHILL AND SHAPWICK PARISHES

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish / Parish Ward</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pamphill North</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>-18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamphill South</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shapwick</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>+82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Pamphill and Shapwick parishes are grouped to form a common council known as Pamphill and Shapwick Parish Council. Pamphill is divided into two wards, Pamphill North with 5 councillors, Pamphill South with 3 councillors and Shapwick has 1 councillor. Each parish must be considered separately before the electoral arrangements can be reviewed.

1.2 The overall projected electorate growth over 5 years is 6.9%, however, this is concentrated in the Pamphill South Ward representing a growth in this ward alone of 23.7%.

Pamphill

1.3 The parish boundary of Pamphill adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Witchampton, Hinton Martell, Hinton Parva, Holt, Colehill and Corfe Mullen is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundary. The parish boundary with Wimborne Minster is coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundaries with Shapwick and Sturminster Marshall are independent of other delineations.

1.4 The boundary between the parish wards of North and South is coterminous with the Parliamentary Constituency boundary. This ward must therefore be retained, although the parish boundary between Wimborne and Pamphill could potentially be redrawn.

1.5 There have been no contested elections in Pamphill since 2003 including by-elections.

1.6 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 70:1 in Pamphill North and 85:1 in Pamphill South.

Shapwick

1.7 The parish boundary with the neighbouring parishes of Pamphill and Sturminster Marshall are independent of other delineations.

1.8 There have been no contested elections in Shapwick since 2003 including by-elections.
1.9 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 155:1

**Grouped Parish Variance**

1.10 It is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parishes which are grouped. There is a risk that where one parish is over-presented by councillors, the residents of that parish (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

1.11 The Task and Finish Group considered the variance in elector to councillor ratio between the two parish wards in Pamphill, and between the two parishes which are grouped to form the common council.

1.12 The projected variance in Elector to Councillor ratio varies from +82% for Shapwick, to -18% for Pamphill North.

1.13 The Task and Finish Group considered options to narrow this ratio. Increasing the number of councillors for Shapwick from 1 to 2, would establish an improved ratio of Pamphill North (-8%), Pamphill South (+12%), and Shapwick (+3%), although it was accepted that this would not result in a greater chance of contested elections.

1.14 Pamphill and Shapwick Parish Council responded to the invitation for submissions but made no recommendations for change. Comments were received from the Parish Council and other interested parties regarding the location of polling stations but this was out of scope for this review.

1.15 Representations requesting the Review to consider the transfer of Pamphill South parish ward to Wimborne Minster have been received from Wimborne Minster Town Council, Mr and Mrs Taylor of Wesley Road and Councillor D G L Packer. If transferred to Wimborne Minster parish the number of councillors could be reduced.

1.16 Whilst the parish boundary realignment was possible, the Task and Finish Group concluded that this should not form part of the draft recommendations. The District ward boundary for Wimborne Minster was altered to be coterminous with the parish boundary in the East Dorset (Electoral Changes) Order 2014 and as a consequence a related alteration would be required from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to dis-engage the coterminosity that presently exists. It is unlikely that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England will grant such consent.
2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parishes of Pamphill and Shapwick:

2.2 That:

(a) the parishes of Pamphill and Shapwick should not be abolished;

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parishes of Pamphill and Shapwick;

(c) the name of the parishes of Pamphill and Shapwick should not be altered;

(d) no change be made to the existing parish grouping arrangements for the parishes of Pamphill and Shapwick;

(e) the parish group should continue to have a parish council;

(f) the parish council for Pamphill and Shapwick consist of 10 councillors;

(g) the parish of Pamphill continue to be divided into two parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map, and named respectively:

   (i) Pamphill North

   (ii) Pamphill South

(h) the number of councillors elected to Pamphill North parish ward remain unchanged 5 councillors;

(i) the number of councillors elected to Pamphill South parish ward remain unchanged at 3 councillors;

(j) the number of councillors elected to Shapwick parish be increased from 1 to 2 councillors;

(k) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
I. PENTRIDGE AND SIXPENNY HANDLEY PARISHES

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pentridge</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>-56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixpenny Handley</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>1018</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>+24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge parishes are grouped to form a common council known as Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council. There are currently 7 seats in Sixpenny Handley and 3 seats in Pentridge. Each parish must be considered separately before the electoral arrangements can be reviewed.

1.2 There is no significant growth projected for these parishes over the next 5 years.

Sixpenny Handley

1.3 The parish boundary of Sixpenny Handley adjoining the neighbouring parish of Wimborne St Giles is coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundaries with Pentridge, Gussage All Saints and Gussage St Michael are independent of other delineations.

1.4 There were contested elections in 2011 and 2007 in Sixpenny Handley, with 9 and 12 nominated candidates respectively.

1.5 The present projected elector to councillor ratio is 145:1

Pentridge

1.6 The parish boundary of Pentridge adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Wimborne St Giles and Cranborne are coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundary with Sixpenny Handley is independent.

1.7 There have been no contested elections in Pentridge since 2003 including by-elections.

1.8 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 51:1

Grouped Parish Variance

1.9 It is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parishes which are grouped. There is a risk that where one parish is over-presented by councillors,
the residents of that parish (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

1.10 The Task and Finish Group considered the variance in elector to councillor ratio between the two parishes which are grouped to form a common council.

1.11 The current projected variance in Elector to Councillor ratio varies from +24% for Sixpenny Handley, to -56% for Pentridge.

1.12 Sixpenny Handley with Pentridge Parish Council submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions, a copy of which appended to this document. In summary the parish wishes to make no changes to the boundaries and to retain the same number of councillors advising the current arrangements provide for a good balance both in full council and committee meetings.

1.13 The Task and Finish Group considered various options to reduce the variance, including a reduction in the number of councillors representing Pentridge from 3 to 1, resulting in a narrowed variance of -1% to +5%. However, mindful of the views of the Parish Council to retain the same number of Councillors in total, whilst balancing the need for electoral equality, the Task and Finish Group concluded that a reduction in the number of councillors representing Pentridge from 3 to 2, and an increase in the number of councillors representing Sixpenny Handley from 7 to 8, would be an appropriate compromise.

1.14 Altering the councillor representation in this manner would provide for a narrowed elector to councillor ratio of +9% for Sixpenny Handley, and -34% for Pentridge.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parishes of Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge:

2.2 That:

(a) the parishes of Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge should not be abolished;
(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parishes of Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge;
(c) the name of the parishes of Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge should not be altered;
(d) no change be made to the existing parish grouping arrangements for the parishes of Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge;
(e) the parish group should continue to have a parish council;
(f) the parish council for Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge consist of 10 councillors;

(g) the number of councillors elected for Sixpenny Handley be increased from 7 to 8 councillors;

(h) the number of councillors elected to Pentridge be decreased from 3 to 2 councillors;

(i) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
J. ST LEONARDS AND ST IVES PARISH

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Ward</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Leonards &amp; St Ives East</td>
<td>3235</td>
<td>3245</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>+9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Leonards &amp; St Ives South</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>1061</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>-29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Leonards &amp; St Ives West</td>
<td>2148</td>
<td>2154</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>539</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 St Leonards and St Ives parish is divided into three wards, East with 6 Councillors, South with 3 Councillors and West with 4 Councillors; a total of 13 Councillors. This warding was historically required due to the former District warding. The East Dorset (Electoral Changes) Order 2014 negates the requirement for this warding by establishing a new single district ward.

1.2 The parish boundary adjoining the neighbouring parishes of West Moors and Ferndown is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundaries, and the boundary with Verwood is coterminous with the county division boundary.

1.3 The Parish Council has submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions. In summary the parish recognises that the warding is not required but has made arrangements to work with the parish warding to respond to elector enquiries. The parish further indicates that the warding arrangements would be cheaper should elections be necessary. The parish wishes to retain the existing parish ward arrangements.

1.4 The overall projected electorate growth over 5 years is 3.8%.

1.5 A by-election for a single seat was contested in 2008 but otherwise no elections have been contested since 2003.

1.6 The projected elector to councillor ratios for the wards are: East 541:1, South 354:1 and West 539:1.

1.7 It is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parish wards. There is a risk that where one parish ward is over-presented by councillors, the residents of that parish ward (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.
1.8 The Task and Finish Group considered the variance in elector to councillor ratio between the three parish wards. The current variance in elector to councillor ratio varies from +9% for the East ward to -29% for the South ward.

1.9 Whilst not necessarily increasing the likelihood of contested elections, a reduction in the number of councillors in the South ward from 3 to 2 would equalise the variance discrepancy. The resultant variance would range from +1% in East ward to -1% in South ward. The total number of councillors would be reduced from 13 to 12.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of St Leonards and St Ives:

2.2 That:

(a) the parish of St Leonards and St Ives should not be abolished;
(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of St Leonards and St Ives;
(c) the name of the parish of St Leonards and St Ives should not be altered;
(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;
(e) the parish council for St Leonards and St Ives consist of 12 councillors;
(f) the parish of St Leonards and St Ives continue to be divided into three parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map, and named respectively:
   (i) St Leonards and St Ives East
   (ii) St Leonards and St Ives South
   (iii) St Leonards and St Ives West

(g) the number of councillors elected to St Leonards and St Ives East parish ward remain unchanged 6 councillors;
(h) the number of councillors elected to St Leonards and St Ives South parish ward be reduced from 3 to 2 councillors;
(i) the number of councillors elected to St Leonards and St Ives West parish ward remain unchanged 4 councillors; and
(j) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
K. STURMINSTER MARSHALL PARISH

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sturminster Marshall</td>
<td>1539</td>
<td>1591</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Sturminster Marshall parish is unwarded and has 9 seats on the Council.

1.2 The parish boundary adjoining the neighbouring parish of Corfe Mullen is coterminous with the district ward, county division and parliamentary constituency boundaries. The boundary with Shapwick and Pamphill is independent of other delineations.

1.3 The projected electorate growth over 5 years is 3.4%.

1.4 There have been no contested elections in Sturminster Marshall since 2003 including by-elections and the projected elector to councillor ratio is 177:1.

1.5 Sturminster Marshall Parish Council has submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions, requesting that no changes be made.

1.6 The Task and Finish Group considered reducing the number of seats on the Council but concluded that the number of councillors should remain unchanged due to the size of the parish.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Sturminster Marshall:

2.2 That:

(a) the parish of Sturminster Marshall should not be abolished;

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Sturminster Marshall;

(c) the name of the parish of Sturminster Marshall should not be altered;

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;

(e) the parish council for Sturminster Marshall consist of 9 councillors; and

(f) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those
recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
L. VERWOOD PARISH

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Ward</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dewlands North</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewlands South</td>
<td>5314</td>
<td>5344</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>891</td>
<td>+31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newtown &amp; Potterne</td>
<td>1552</td>
<td>1561</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>-24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephens Castle</td>
<td>3280</td>
<td>3422</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>-16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three Cross</td>
<td>1209</td>
<td>1215</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>-11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 Verwood parish is divided into five wards, Dewlands North with 1 councillor; Dewlands South with 6 councillors; Newtown and Potterne with 3 councillors; Stephens Castle with 6 councillors and Three Cross with 2 councillors.

1.2 This current warding was established by The East Dorset (Electoral Changes) Order 2014 and any changes to these wards will require the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

1.3 The parish boundary adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Wimborne St Giles, Horton (West), Holt and West Moors is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundaries, and the boundary with Edmondsham and St Leonards and St Ives is conterminous with the county division boundary. The parish boundary adjoining the Horton (East) Parish ward is independent of other delineations.

1.4 The Parish Council has submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions. In summary the parish is seeking a realignment of the parish boundary to run along the line of the dismantled railway, thus transferring those properties in Hayward Way, Verwood; Village Hall Lane, Crab Orchard Way, West Moors Road (west side) and Sandy Lane, Three Legged Cross into the Verwood parish from Horton and Holt. The parish would also like to reduce the number of wards but retain the same number of councillors.

1.5 Using the dismantled railway line as the boundary would require the establishment of additional parish wards and would not provide for more convenient or effective community governance, in part due to the high variance in elector to councillor ratio that would result.

1.6 As detailed in that Section of this report referring to Horton, the Task and Finish Group concluded that a realignment of the boundary between Horton and Verwood to be coterminous with the district ward and county division boundary would establish more effective and convenient community governance and reflect the community identity in this area. This would result in the abolition of the
Horton East parish ward which would be absorbed into Verwood Dewlands South parish ward

1.7 This alteration would effectively comply with the request of the parish with the exception of those properties to the west of West Moors Road, Three Legged Cross, which would remain in Holt parish.

1.8 The projected electorate growth over 5 years is 2.4%.

1.9 Elections have been held in at least one of the parish wards in each of the parish elections since 2003.

1.10 The current projected elector to councillor ratios for the wards are: Dewlands North 693:1; Dewlands South 891:1; Newtown and Potterne 520:1; Stephens Castle 570:1 and Three Cross 608:1.

1.11 It is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parish wards. There is a risk that where one parish ward is over-presented by councillors, the residents of that parish ward (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

1.12 The Task and Finish Group considered the variance in elector to councillor ratio between the parish wards. The current variance in elector to councillor ratio varies from +31% for the Dewlands South ward to -24% for the Newtown and Potterne ward.

1.13 Whilst the Task and Finish Group acknowledged the request of the Town Council to reduce the number of wards, the only parish ward which could be removed, subject to the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, is Verwood Newtown and Potterne. This could be amalgamated with Verwood Stephen’s Castle parish ward.

1.14 The table below illustrates the revised electorate, ratios and variances achievable with the alterations proposed (e.g., the transfer of Horton East to South, and the amalgamation of Verwood Stephens Castle and Verwood Newtown and Potterne):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERWOOD Parish Ward</th>
<th>Properties 2019</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dewlands North</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>+1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dewlands South</td>
<td>2911</td>
<td>5418</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>677</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including Horton East)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.15 The net effect of these draft recommendations is an increase of 39 properties in both the baseline and 5 year projected forecasts for Verwood parish.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Verwood:

2.2 That:

(a) the parish of Verwood should not be abolished;

(b) the boundary to the existing parish of Verwood be redrawn to the west where it adjoins the parish of Horton to transfer the properties currently in the parish ward of Horton East to the parish of Verwood;

(c) the name of the parish of Verwood should not be altered;

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;

(e) the parish council for Verwood consist of 18 councillors

(f) the existing parish wards of Stephens Castle and Newtown and Potterne be amalgamated;

(g) the boundary of the existing parish ward of Dewlands South be altered to include the area transferred from Horton parish and referred to in (b) above;

(h) the parish of Verwood be divided into 4 parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map, and named respectively;

(i) Dewlands North

(ii) Dewlands South

(iii) Stephens Castle

(iv) Three Cross

(i) the number of councillors elected to each of the parish wards established in (i) above be as follows:

(i) Dewlands North – 1 councillor
(ii) Dewlands South – 8 councillors

(iii) Stephens Castle – 7 councillors

(iv) Three Cross – 2 councillors

(j) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
M. WEST MOORS PARISH

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Moors</td>
<td>6623</td>
<td>1591</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 West Moors parish is unwarded and has 15 seats on the Council.

1.2 The parish boundary adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Verwood, St Leonards and St Ives and Ferndown is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundaries. The parish boundary adjoining the parish of Holt is coterminous with the Parliamentary Constituency boundary. There are no independent boundaries.

1.3 There is no significant projected electorate growth over 5 years for West Moors.

1.4 There have been no contested elections in West Moors since 2003 including by-elections and the projected elector to councillor ratio is 442:1.

1.5 West Moors Parish Council has submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions. The Parish Council requested the Review to consider altering the southern boundary of the parish to align with the A31 from the Palmersford roundabout to the Ameysford Road underpass as opposed to the current boundary which follows the Uddens water course, which over time, has changed. There are no electors residing within the affected area.

1.6 This southern boundary is coterminous with the district ward and county division boundaries, and any changes to these boundaries would require a related alteration to the principal boundaries for the Order to succeed. The Task and Finish Group acknowledged the merits of the proposal but concluded that this boundary alteration would be better supported as a proposal when the County Divisions are next reviewed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

1.7 The Parish Council also requested a reduction in the number of Councillors from 15 to 12. The Parish Council wishes to retain the General Power of Competence and believes that a reduction in the number of Councillors help the council with this ambition.

1.8 The Task and Finish Group supported the parish council in this regard, which would result in revised elector to councillor ratio of 552:1.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has
made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of West Moors:

2.2 That:

(a) the parish of West Moors should not be abolished;

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of West Moors;

(c) the name of the parish of West Moors should not be altered;

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;

(e) the parish council for West Moors consist of 12 councillors; and

(f) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
N. WEST PARLEY PARISH

1 Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Parley</td>
<td>3107</td>
<td>3488</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.1 West Parley parish is unwarded and has 11 seats on the Council.

1.2 The parish boundary adjoining the neighbouring parish wards of Ferndown Longham and Hampreston is coterminous with the district ward boundary. The boundary with Ferndown to the north is independent. West Parley falls within the boundary of the District ward of Ferndown Links South. There is no clear division between the two parishes.

1.3 The overall projected electorate growth over 5 years is 12.3%.

1.4 The projected elector to councillor ratio is 317:1

1.5 There were no contested elections in West Parley in 2003 and 2007 but in 2011 there were 22 candidates for the 11 seats.

1.6 West Parley Parish Council submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions, requesting no change be made to either the boundaries or electoral arrangements.

1.7 However, the Task and Finish Group was asked to consider an anomaly which impedes effective and efficient electoral arrangements. There are 8 properties on the northern end of Barrack Road who gain access via Christchurch Road but reside and therefore vote in the Ferndown parish. The Task and Finish Group concluded that this could be resolved by redrawing the northern boundary of the parish to extend northwards to the east of the properties in Lone Pine Park and then run eastwards coterminous with the District Ward boundary. This would have a small impact on the parish of Ferndown with a reduction in the tax base.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of West Parley:

2.2 That:

(a) the parish of West Parley should not be abolished;

(b) the boundary to the existing parish of West Parley be redrawn to the north to extend northwards from the existing parish boundary to the east of the...
properties in Lone Pine Park and to run eastwards coterminous with the District Ward boundary;

(c) the name of the parish of West Parley should not be altered;

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;

(e) the parish council for West Parley consist of 11 councillors; and

(f) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
O. WIMBORNE, COLEHILL AND FERNDOWN PARISHES

1 Background

1.1 The parishes of Wimborne, Colehill and Ferndown have been combined into a single section due to the relationship of a number of the draft recommendations.

1.2 Each parish will be introduced separately for consistency and a separate set of Draft Recommendations for each parish has been provided for clarity and to ease representations.

Ferndown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Ward</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ameysford</td>
<td>2495</td>
<td>2529</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>+7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndown Central</td>
<td>236</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndown Links North</td>
<td>6888</td>
<td>6981</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td>+71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndown Links South</td>
<td>1638</td>
<td>1660</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1660</td>
<td>+144%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndown Stapehill East</td>
<td>545</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndown Stapehill West</td>
<td>1223</td>
<td>1241</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>621</td>
<td>-9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampreston</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>-22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longham</td>
<td>1580</td>
<td>1826</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>609</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 The East Dorset (Electoral Changes) Order 2014 altered, along with the District Wards, the parish wards for Ferndown and established a total of eight parish wards, Ameysford (4 councillors), Ferndown Central (5 councillors), Ferndown Links North (6 councillors), Ferndown Links South (1 councillor), Ferndown Stapehill East (1 councillor), Ferndown Stapehill West (2 councillors), Hampreston (1 councillor) and Longham (3 councillors).

1.4 The 2014 Order established a number of anomalies which will not lead to effective and efficient local government and these are listed below:-

(a) The ratios of elector to councillor and the variances vary dramatically from 48:1 (-93%) to 1660:1 (+144%);

(b) Ferndown Central parish has an electorate of just 240 but has 5 councillors;

(c) The parish ward names for Hampreston and Longham are assigned to the incorrect parish wards in the 2014 Order.

1.5 The Regulations require that any parish arrangements established within the previous five years may not be altered without the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and therefore recommendations to correct these anomalies requires such consent.
1.6 The parish boundary adjoining all neighbouring parishes of Colehill, Holt, West Moors and St Leonards and St Ives are all coterminous with either the district ward, the county division or a parliamentary boundary.

1.7 Ferndown Town Council submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions. Additional submissions relating to Ferndown as a whole were submitted by Councillor Lugg, Mr Basil Barnett of Carroll Avenue, Ferndown and Mr Peter Lucas of Langford Gardens, Bournemouth. In addition submissions were received from Councillor D G L Packer, Mr and Mrs Taylor of Wesley Road, Wimborne, Wimborne Town Council and Colehill Parish Councillor K D Johnson suggesting that the Ferndown Stapehill West parish ward should be transferred to either Wimborne or Colehill. A copy of these submissions are included within the Annex to this report.

1.8 The submissions by the Town Council and Mr Peter Lucas refer to the parish warding arrangements currently in place and not those to be established by the 2014 Order which has been laid before Parliament. However, the underlying theme of the submissions is a reduction in the number of councillors and a reduction in the number of parish wards which should be coterminous with the district wards where possible.

1.9 There was a cluster of by-elections in a number of the wards in 2007, 2008 and 2009, otherwise elections have only been contested in two of the parish wards since 2003.

1.10 The parish ward of Stapehill West located to the west of the Canford Bottom Roundabout does have many synergies to Colehill or Wimborne and is now somewhat divorced from the parish of Ferndown to the east. Aligning the parish ward to be coterminous with the district ward of Colehill East would appear to provide consistency. It should be noted however, that the existing parish ward boundary is coterminous with the Parliamentary Constituency boundary along its northern edge.

1.11 The parish ward boundary between Hampreston (named Longham in the 2014 Order) and Longham (named Hampreston in the 2014 Order) is redundant and is not coterminous with any other boundary delineation. The Task and Finish Group considered that the amalgamation of these parish wards to a single Hampreston and Longham parish ward would be advantageous and lead to more effective and convenient governance arrangements.

1.12 The Task and Finish Group acknowledged the desire of the Town Council and others to rationalise the number of parish wards elsewhere, however, no other reductions in parish wards were considered feasible at this time due to the prevailing district ward and county division boundaries. However, the Task and Finish Group concluded that representations should be made when the County Division review is undertaken for the amalgamation of the Ferndown Central and
Ferndown Links North parish wards, and the redrawing of the county division boundary to be coterminous with the district ward boundary.

1.13 As a consequence, this results in the adoption of a parish ward of Ferndown Central, which is largely green space and only has an electorate of 240. For the purposes of calculating the ratios of the other wards and the variances, this ward has been incorporated into Ferndown Links North as the longer-term ambition.

1.14 As detailed in the draft recommendations for West Parley, there is a draft recommendation to alter the parish boundary between West Parley and Ferndown effectively transferring eight properties from Ferndown Links South parish ward to West Parley parish.

1.15 The projected electorate growth over 5 years for Ferndown is 3.4%.

1.16 The draft recommendations would result in a reduction in the baseline data of 634 properties (643 properties in the 5 year projected forecast).

1.17 The table below illustrates the revised electorate, ratios and variances achievable with the alterations proposed (e.g., the removal of Stapehill West, the amalgamation of Hampreston and Longham, and the reduction of councillors from 23 to 19 as requested by the Town Council):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FERNDOWN Parish Ward</th>
<th>Properties 2019</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ameysford</td>
<td>1403</td>
<td>2529</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>843</td>
<td>+6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndown Central</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>(see para 1.13 above)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndown Links North</td>
<td>4059</td>
<td>6981</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndown Links South</td>
<td>967</td>
<td>1646</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>+3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferndown Stapehill East</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hampreston and Longham</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td>2354</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>785</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colehill Parish Ward</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colehill East</td>
<td>4010</td>
<td>4028</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>+7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colehill West</td>
<td>1335</td>
<td>1745</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lacey</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>-63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parmiter</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>358</td>
<td>-15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.18 Colehill parish is divided into four wards, Colehill East with 9 Councillors, Colehill West with 4 Councillors, Lacey with 1 Councillor and Parmiter with 1 Councillor;
a total of 15 Councillors. The spelling of parish ward ‘Lacey’ was altered by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in the 2014 Order which has been laid before parliament, and as a consequence this document adopts this spelling.

1.19 The perimeter of the combined Colehill and Wimborne parishes is coterminous with the District Ward boundaries of Wimborne Minster, Colehill West and Colehill East, with the exception of the parish boundary separating Colehill East parish ward and Ferndown Stapehill West parish ward, which itself is the Parliamentary Boundary.

1.20 The Colehill parish boundary adjoining the neighbouring parishes of Pamphill, Holt and Ferndown (where it abuts Colehill Parmiter) is also coterminous with the county division boundaries; as is the boundary between the parish wards of Colehill West and Colehill Parmiter and Colehill West and Colehill Lacey.

1.21 The boundary separating the parishes of Wimborne and Colehill is coterminous with either the district ward boundary and/or the county division boundary. The only exception is the parish ward boundary between Colehill West and Wimborne Minster Cranfield which is not coterminous with any other boundary line.

1.22 The projected elector to councillor ratios for the Colehill wards are:
- Colehill East 448:1;
- Colehill West 436:1;
- Colehill Lacey 153:1; and
- Colehill Parmiter 358:1

1.23 The current variance in elector to councillor ratio varies from +7% for the Colehill East ward to -63% for the Colehill Lacey ward.

1.24 The overall projected electorate growth over 5 years in Colehill is 9.9%, although the majority of this growth is within the parish wards of Colehill West and Parmiter.

1.25 Elections were contested in Colehill East and Colehill West in 2003 but have been uncontested since.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wimborne Minster</th>
<th>Electorate 2014</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wimborne Minster</td>
<td>5214</td>
<td>5793</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wimborne Minster Cranfield</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>-25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.26 Wimborne is divided into two wards, Wimborne Minster with 11 Councillors and Wimborne Cranfield with 1 Councillor, a total of 12 Councillors.
1.27 The coterminosity of the boundaries for Wimborne are detailed above under Colehill.

1.28 The projected elector to councillor ratios for the Wimborne Minster wards are:
   - Wimborne Minster 527:1; and
   - Wimborne Minster Cranfield 384:1

1.29 The current variance in elector to councillor ratio varies from +2% for the Wimborne Minster ward to -25% for the Wimborne Minster Cranfield ward.

1.30 The overall projected electorate growth over 5 years in Wimborne Minster is 10.4%.


Representations

1.32 Representations have been received from a number of bodies and individuals regarding the Colehill and Wimborne parishes, which are included in the Annex to this document, including those from Colehill Parish Council, Cllr K D Johnson (Colehill Parish Council), Wimborne Minster Town Council, Wimborne BID, Mr and Mrs A & J Taylor (Wesley Road, Wimborne) and Councillor D G L Packer.

Options for Colehill and Wimborne Minster

1.33 The Task and Finish Group considered the representations received and a number of options for the Colehill and Wimborne Minster parishes. The area surrounding Wimborne and Colehill has been the subject of great change over recent years and faces growing pressures for development in the future, not least as a consequence of the recently approved Core Strategy. The options considered were:-

(a) No Change to Wimborne or Colehill Parish boundary or wards (excluding the amalgamation of Ferndown Stapehill West)

(b) Amalgamation of parts of the parishes (with the option to amalgamate Ferndown Stapehill West)

(c) Amalgamation of the whole of the two parishes (with the option to amalgamate Ferndown Stapehill West)

1.34 Consideration was also given to the amalgamation of Pamphill South parish ward with Wimborne Minster but this was not supported. Further details are included within that section of this document referring to Pamphill and Shapwick.

1.35 The Task and Finish Group concluded that Wimborne Minster and Colehill both retained a sense of community identity and interest and that a full amalgamation was not appropriate. However, the existing boundary between the two parishes...
has become blurred as developments, particularly around Allenview, Cranfield and Lacey have progressed. The future developments identified within the adopted Core Strategy were considered to have clear identity with the town of Wimborne rather than the village of Colehill.

1.36 It was concluded that altering the extent of the parish boundaries effectively amalgamating Wimborne Minster parish with the Colehill parish wards of Colehill West, Lacey and Parmiter would provide a clearer definition of the two parishes and better reflect the community identity of those residing in these areas. The remainder of Colehill, namely Colehill East ward and the parish ward of Stapehill West would form the altered parish of Colehill.

1.37 The Task and Finish Group considered that a related alteration to the county division boundary alignment should be included in the Order for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The related alteration would seek the re-alignment of the county division boundary to be coterminous with the district ward boundary established in the East Dorset ( Electoral Changes ) Order 2014 between Wimborne Minster and Colehill West Wards.

1.38 This related alteration would facilitate a reduction in the number of parish wards for Wimborne Minster to just two and provide for a greatly improved variance in the elector to councillor ratio. Reducing the number of wards also enables a reduction in the total number of councillors, as requested by the Town Council.

1.39 The tables below (for Colehill and Wimborne Minster) illustrate the revised electorate, ratios and the variances achievable with the alterations proposed (e.g., the transfer of Stapehill West to Colehill parish, the amalgamation of the parish wards of Colehill West, Lacey and Parmiter with Wimborne Minster, and the related alteration to alter the alignment of the county division boundary):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLEHILL Parish Ward</th>
<th>Properties 2019</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colehill East</td>
<td>2068</td>
<td>4028</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colehill Hayes</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>1241</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(formerly Stapehill West)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WIMBORNE MINSTER Parish Ward</th>
<th>Properties 2019</th>
<th>Electorate 2019</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Elector Ratio</th>
<th>Variance from average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wimborne East (formerly Colehill West)</td>
<td>1352</td>
<td>2640</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wimborne Central (formerly Wimborne Minster)</td>
<td>3825</td>
<td>5793</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.40 The net effect of these draft recommendations on the number of properties within each of the parishes of Colehill and Wimborne would be as follows:-

Colehill – A net reduction in the baseline data of 245 properties (518 properties in the 5 year projected forecast).

Wimborne Minster – A net increase in the baseline data of 871 properties (1,153 in the 5 year projected forecast).

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 Separate draft recommendations are set out below for each of the parishes of Ferndown, Colehill and Wimborne Minster.

3 Ferndown

3.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Ferndown:

3.2 That:

(a) the parish of Ferndown should not be abolished;
(b) the boundary to the existing parish of Ferndown be redrawn to the south-east where it adjoins the parish of West Parley. The revised boundary shall exclude the land and properties to the east of Lone Pine Park and to run eastwards coterminous with the District Ward boundary. This revised boundary shall transfer those properties in Barrack Road to be transferred to the parish of West Parley;
(c) the boundary to the existing parish of Ferndown be redrawn to the west where it adjoins the parish of Colehill to transfer the properties currently in the parish ward of Stapehill West to the parish of Colehill;
(d) the name of the parish of Ferndown should not be altered;
(e) the parish should continue to have a parish council;
(f) the parish council for Ferndown consist of 19 councillors;
(g) the existing parish ward of Ferndown Stapehill West be abolished;
(h) the existing parish wards of Ferndown Hampreston and Ferndown Longham be amalgamated to form a single parish ward of Hampreston and Longham;
(i) the parish of Ferndown be divided into 6 parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map, and named respectively;

(i) Ameysford
(ii) Ferndown Central

(iii) Ferndown Links North

(iv) Ferndown Links South

(v) Ferndown Stapehill East

(vi) Hampreston and Longham

(j) the number of councillors elected to each of the parish wards established in (i) above be as follows:

(i) Ameysford – 3 councillors

(ii) Ferndown Central – 1 councillor

(iii) Ferndown Links North – 9 councillors

(iv) Ferndown Links South – 2 councillors

(v) Ferndown Stapehill East – 1 councillor

(vi) Hampreston and Longham – 3 councillors

(k) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.

4 Colehill

4.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Colehill:

4.2 That:

(a) the parish of Colehill should not be abolished;

(b) the boundary to the existing parish of Colehill be redrawn to the east where it adjoins the parish of Ferndown to transfer the properties currently in the parish ward of Ferndown Stapehill West to the parish of Colehill;

(c) the boundary to the existing parish of Colehill be redrawn to the west where it adjoins the parish of Wimborne Minster to transfer the properties currently in the parish wards of Colehill West, Lacey and Parmiter to the parish of Wimborne Minster;

(d) the name of the parish of Colehill should not be altered;

(e) the parish should continue to have a parish council;
(f) the parish council for Colehill consist of 12 councillors;

(g) the existing parish wards of Colehill West, Colehill Lacey and Colehill Parmiter be abolished;

(h) the parish of Colehill be divided into 2 parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map, and named respectively;

(i) Colehill East (*alternative ward name suggestions are invited*)

(ii) Colehill Hayes (*formerly Stapehill West*) (*alternative ward name suggestions are invited*)

(i) the number of councillors elected to each of the parish wards established in (h) above be as follows:

(i) Colehill East – 9 councillors

(ii) Colehill Hayes – 3 councillors

(j) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.

5 Wimborne Minster

5.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of East Dorset District, under the terms of reference published on 25 February 2014, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Wimborne Minster:

5.2 That:

(a) the parish of Wimborne Minster should not be abolished;

(b) the boundary to the existing parish of Wimborne Minster be redrawn to the east where it adjoins the parish of Colehill to transfer the properties currently in the parish wards of Colehill West, Lacey and Parmiter to the parish of Wimborne Minster;

(c) the name of the parish of Wimborne Minster should not be altered;

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;

(e) the parish council for Wimborne Minster consist of 16 councillors;

(f) the existing parish ward of Cranfield be abolished;

(g) the parish of Wimborne Minster be divided into 2 parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map, and named respectively;
(i) Wimborne Central *(alternative ward name suggestions are invited)*

(ii) Wimborne East *(alternative ward name suggestions are invited)*

(h) the number of councillors elected to each of the parish wards established in (g) above be as follows:

(i) Wimborne Central – 11 councillors

(ii) Wimborne East – 5 councillors

(i) an East Dorset District Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2015 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2015.
### Community Governance Review - Consultation Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Date/Timeline</th>
<th>Timescale</th>
<th>Outline of Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage One – Invitation of Initial submiss</td>
<td>07/04/14 to 06/07/14</td>
<td>3 months</td>
<td>Initial submissions invited in response to consultation document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Two – Consideration of Initial submiss</td>
<td>07/07/14 to 01/09/14</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>Consideration of initial submissions received by the Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resources 30/07/14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Draft recommendations prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and/or</td>
<td></td>
<td>Consider volume and whether special Resources Committee is required prior to Council (01/09/2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sp. Resources* 01/09/14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Council 01/09/14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Three – Publish Draft Recommendations</td>
<td>05/09/14 to 07/11/14</td>
<td>2 months</td>
<td>Publish draft recommendations for further consultation with stakeholders and residents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for Consultation</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage Four – Final Recommendations</td>
<td>10/11/14 to 15/12/14</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>Consideration of responses to submissions received by the Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sp. Resources* 15/12/14</td>
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<td>Prepare final recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Council 15/12/14</td>
<td></td>
<td>Final recommendations published – concluding review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Council resolves to make a Reorganisation Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>01/04/2015</td>
<td></td>
<td>Effective date of Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>07/05/2015</td>
<td></td>
<td>Effective date of any changes to parish/town boundaries and electoral arrangements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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East Dorset District Council