

NOTICE OF MEETING

Meeting: CABINET

Date and Time: WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020, AT 10.00 AM*

Place: COUNCIL CHAMBER - APPLETREE COURT, BEAULIEU ROAD, LYNDHURST, SO43 7PA

Telephone enquiries to: Lyndhurst (023) 8028 5000
023 8028 5588 - ask for Matt Wisdom
Email: democratic@nfdc.gov.uk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

*Members of the public may speak in accordance with the Council's public participation scheme:

- (a) immediately before the meeting starts, on items within the Cabinet's terms of reference which are not on the public agenda; and/or
 - (b) on individual items on the public agenda, when the Chairman calls that item.
- Speeches may not exceed three minutes. Anyone wishing to speak should contact the name and number shown above.

Bob Jackson
Chief Executive

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This Agenda is also available on audio tape, in Braille, large print and digital format

AGENDA

Apologies

1. MINUTES

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2020 as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To note any declarations of interest made by members in connection with an agenda item. The nature of the interest must also be specified.

Members are asked to discuss any possible interests with Democratic Services prior to the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

To note any issues raised during the public participation period.

4. **MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN / ANNUAL BUDGET 2020/21** (Pages 3 - 20)
5. **HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND HOUSING PUBLIC SECTOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2020/21** (Pages 21 - 32)
6. **ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL - WARDING PATTERN PROPOSALS** (Pages 33 - 56)

To:

Councillors

Diane Andrews
Jill Cleary
Michael Harris
Edward Heron (Vice-
Chairman)

Councillors

Jeremy Heron
Cllr Alison Hoare
Barry Rickman (Chairman)
Mark Steele

CABINET – 19 FEBRUARY 2020

PORTFOLIO: FINANCE, INVESTMENT &
CORPORATE SERVICES / ALL

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN / ANNUAL BUDGET 2020/21

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council that:
- 1.1.1 there is a General Fund Net Budget Requirement in 2020/21 of £19,194,110 as set out in appendix 5 to this report, including the transfers to and from reserves, as outlined in appendix 5d;
 - 1.1.2 the Band D Council Tax for 2020/21 shall be £178.36;
 - 1.1.3 the General Fund Capital Programme for 2020/21 of £9.894m, as set out in appendix 6 to this report be approved; and
 - 1.1.4 the site licence fees and service charges at Stillwater Park be increased by 2.4% in line with RPI inflation.

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To consider the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan, set the General Fund revenue and capital budgets for 2020/21 and set the level of Band D Council Tax.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 7 August 2019 and 6 November 2019 the Cabinet considered a number of issues through the established Medium Term Financial Plan reporting, that would affect the annual budget for 2020/21. The figures as included in those reports were based on latest information available at that time, before the provisional local government finance settlement had been released. **The financial assumptions in this paper are based on the provisional finance settlement as details of the final finance settlement are yet to be received.**
- 3.2 In accordance with the Council's financial strategy this report sets out the final proposals for:
- The General Fund Net Budget Requirement for 2020/21
 - A level of Council Tax for 2020/21
 - The Medium Term Financial Plan to 2023/24
 - The General Fund Capital Programme for 2020/21

4. Financial Strategy

- 4.1 The Council's financial strategy for 2020/21 is to:
- Review the budgets across all Services and make adjustments based on past financial performance,

- Deliver efficiencies and savings which protect the delivery of front line services provided in the Community,
- Support investment in infrastructure and services through the use of its reserves,
- Utilise short term funding gains to address funding issues over the medium term through the transfer in and out of reserves,
- Ensure a sufficient and appropriate level of reserves are available during the period of the Medium Term Financial Plan to safeguard frontline services; and
- Balance the needs of service users and council taxpayers

The budget for 2020/21 is set out in line with this strategy.

- 4.2 The Council's financial strategy over the medium term period extends to:
- The alignment of the budget to the Council's Corporate Plan and essential services,
 - Continuation of partnering and collaboration with others to transform service delivery,
 - The release of accrued short-term reserve balances to assist in the damping of the Fair Funding Review (and impact this has specifically to retained business rates),
 - The utilisation of reserve balances (and when necessary external borrowing) to invest in assets and target valuable additional income,
 - A commitment towards transforming the delivery of Council Services across the organisation; and
 - Ensuring strategies developed through the corporate framework appropriately feed into the Council's financial strategy

5. Medium Term Financial Plan – General Fund Budget 2020/21

- 5.1 Previous Medium Term Financial Plan updates were based on information pre-dating the release of the provisional finance settlement, and pre-dating the Council's annual statutory return confirming Business Rate collection expectations for 2020/21. The provisional finance settlement has now been released, business rate retention forecasts updated and the full detailed budget preparation process has taken place, including the allocation of central corporate costs to the Portfolios. The updated resource summary and budget requirements are now provided as appendix 1 and 2.
- 5.2 The provisional settlement for 2020/21 released during December was as anticipated. It had been previously communicated that the settlement would be a one-year deal. Funding factors that are implicated by the funding settlement assessment are;
- The New Homes Bonus - the deadweight factor has been left at 0.4% for 2020/21, and the growth in property numbers across the District results in bonus payments receivable of £33k for 2020/21
 - The business rates baseline - this has increased by £64k for 2020/21
 - Business Rate Retention - the forecast business rates to be collected and retained by the Council above the baseline in 2020/21 total an estimated £2.4m.
- 5.3 Other material changes (greater than £50k) that have been made within the budgets in comparison to 2019/20 include;

Pay & Price Increases

- Costs due to Pay Award (allowed at 2%) and incremental progression have totalled £575k, in line with previous expectations
- The increase in the Council's primary superannuation (pension) rate has resulted in additional costs to 2020/21 of £360k (although more than covered by the secondary contribution falling out, as outlined further below)
- £100k has been allowed for in the 2020/21 budget to cover a review of local pay and conditions (with proposals reportable through the HR Committee and Council), with a further £250k allowed for the following year.
- Inflation in utilities and contracts has been budgeted at £50k

Budget Adjustments relating to one-off items

- The 2019/20 budget funded £789k of ICT strategy expenditure. In 2020/21 the equivalent figure is £604k
- The Community Grants Panel has recommended one-off construction grants totalling £97.5k in 2020/21 (up to £100k is made available)
- A fully costed and specified scheme will be drawn up to ensure adequate emergency power back up exists at Appletree Court, a budget provision of £100k has been made available to deliver this project
- The Council will transfer the operational responsibility for a Public Convenience in April 2020 to Totton & Eling Town Council. The Council will make an annual saving of £10k, and to facilitate this change, will make a one-off payment of £50k to the Town Council.
- As previously reported, the pension fund is in a fully funded position from April 2020, and so the Council will not be required to make an annual deficit payment to the fund in the years 2020/21 through to 2022/23. As this could be reversed on the next revaluation, the Council is not removing this financial commitment from its budget (£1.513M), but instead, will make an annual (£1.25M) payment into a reserve until the next triennial valuation takes place in 2022.

Ongoing Savings Analysis

- Net Investment Property Income of £62k has been added to the budget for 2020/21 reflecting the income earned from an investment made in 2019/20
- Other items (individually less than £50k) as detailed in appendix 2 total £54k

New Budget Requirements

- As detailed in 2019/20 financial reporting, planning income is down on the previous expected target by £238k. The lower level of income reflecting 2019/20 performance has been allowed for in the 2020/21 budget. The MTFP allows for the previous income target to be re-instated by 2023/24
- As detailed in 2019/20 financial reporting, Health & Leisure income is down on the previous expected target. The target for 2020/21 has been based on the forecast outturn position for 2019/20 (£265k income adjustment, less £70k allowed for as expected from the operational review).
- The Council invested £1.7M in the asset maintenance and replacement programme for 2019/20. The programme for 2020/21 has been devised on an available budget of £1.8M.
- Minor salary growth has occurred across the Council within several services, combining to a total of £80k
- The headline financial implications (£700k) associated with the proposed Hampshire County Council revised waste arrangements are allowed for in 2021/22.

- Other items (individually less than £50k) as detailed in appendix 2 total £151k
- 5.4 The Council's budget for 2020/21 includes flexible homelessness support grant at £520k. The Council will utilise this funding on support officers and for the provision of temporary accommodation. The Council has an adopted homelessness strategy and the housing team have established an excellent working relationship with third-party stakeholders through the multi-agency forum. The Council has also very recently been awarded £222k for 2020/21 from the Government's Rough Sleeping Initiative Fund. Officers will continue to work closely with the Portfolio Holder and third parties to ensure the Council fully utilises this new funding to support the most vulnerable in our community in support of the government's target of eliminating rough sleeping by 2027.
- 5.5 The Council is in a strong position to invest in its services and absorb the necessary cost increases, but as outlined further in section 6 of this report, there is still work to be done over the period covered by this Medium Term Financial Plan to re-balance the Council's budget once the budget equalisation reserves have been utilised.
- 5.6 **Planned use of and contributions to Reserves**
- 5.6.1 Appendix 5d outlines all movements in reserves actioned in the 2020/21 General Fund revenue budget setting. In summary, in 2019/20 net transfers to reserves were made totalling £401,180. In 2020/21, transfers to reserves total £2.056M. Supporting narrative to explain the new transfers is provided below;
- 5.6.2 The Council makes annual contributions through its revenue budget to the quadrennial election fund so the cost of holding a district election is levelled out across a 4 year term. All-out district elections took place in May 2019, hence the value of the reserve was released to the 2019/20 budget at £175k. The 2020/21 budget allows for an annual contribution of £44k, in preparation for the elections in May 2023.
- 5.6.3 Since 2009/10, the Council and Priestlands School have been paying proportionate contributions (60% / 40% respectively) into a Synthetic Turf Pitch (STP) fund to cover the annual maintenance of the STP and to accrue a balance to enable a full replacement in line with the anticipated useful life expectation. The pitch was originally due to be replaced in 2019/20, however this project will now be delivered in 2020/21, so the value of the fund is released to the 2020/21 budget.
- 5.6.4 The works undertaken by the Council to achieve a balanced budget based on information before the positive business rate position for 2020/21 and the provisional settlement was confirmed, enable the Council to make a contribution to the budget equalisation reserve of £1.062M in 2020/21.
- 5.6.5 £1.250M of the previous £1.513M payment towards the Pension Fund deficit will be retained within the general fund budget, but payable to a reserve, as outlined in 5.3.
- 5.6.6 The Council maintains a suitable level of other useable reserves, over the period covered by this MTFP.

5.7 Summary of Proposals and Council Tax for 2020/21

- 5.6.1 The General Fund net budget requirement for 2020/21 will be £19.194m (appendix 5a & 5b), an increase of £1.701M on the 2019/20 budget requirement.
- 5.7.2 Pay & Price and new budget requirements of £1.849M have been added to the Council's budget for 2020/21, with the increases in costs being largely funded through the retention of business rates and the crystallisation of savings.
- 5.7.3 The proposed central support service business unit budgets have been provided at appendix 5c. Due to their nature, these costs end up across several Portfolios and so warrant separate inclusion as part of this budget setting report.
- 5.7.4 Band D Council Tax will be £178.36, an increase of £5 (2.88%) from 2019/20 and the cost to be met by council taxpayers will be £12,751,474.

6. The Medium Term Position

- 6.1 The 2020/21 budget is set in the context of a 1 year funding settlement announced by the government. There is still uncertainty over the medium term on the potential impact that the ongoing Fair Funding Review and the final design of the business rate retention scheme will have on individual local authorities. Both could have the ability to have a significant weighting on the availability of resources to fund Council services.
- 6.2 In the past few years, the government has made a clear move away from providing revenue budget support to lower tier authorities, towards a system where local authorities rely on local taxation paying for the local services provided. The Council's reliance on Business Rates as a key funding source is now more prominent than ever. Despite high employment levels currently being seen in the UK, the national picture with regards to retail on the highstreet doesn't look overly promising as more and more consumers utilise online shopping facilities. The Medium Term Financial Plan assumes a significant proportion of the Council's funding is receivable through Business Rate income. Officers of the Council will await any government proposals with regards to changes to the current 50% retention scheme, and any other more fundamental changes to this form of taxation with interest.
- 6.3 The Medium Term summaries set out over appendices 1, 2 and 3 provide an outlook of the future years' budgets and are set out on a prudent basis using the latest known information. The proactive forward planning undertaken by this Council enables a balanced budget to be shown for each year to 2022/23. The Council will continue to work towards the financial strategy as set out in section 4 of this report to ensure the longer term financial stability of the Council.
- 6.4 The Medium Term Financial Plan assumes use of the budget equalisation reserve in both 2021/22 and 2022/23. At the end of 2022/23, the reserve is all but utilised, which means a re-set to the general fund budget is required at this point. This required re-set is represented by the £1.143M budget shortfall as identified in 2023/24.
- 6.5 The current Medium Term Financial Plan deficit to 2022/23 will be closed (appendix 3)

dependant on the;

- Council's ability to maximise its revenues through local taxation,
- successful implementation of the commercial and residential property strategies to bring valuable new sources of additional income into the Council; and
- prudent use of budget equalisation reserves.

6.6 There are several workstreams already underway or in the pipeline which have the potential to favourably contribute to, or worsen, the forecast deficits shown to 2023/24. these are included within appendix 3 and include;

- In Progress: Leisure Delivery Review
- In Progress: Boundary Review
- Potential: Business Rate Changes
- Potential: Fair Funding Review
- Potential: Waste Strategy
- Potential: Parking Strategy
- Potential: Pension Valuation 2022

7. Pay & Reward

7.1 The working assumption in this Medium Term Financial Plan is that annual pay award of 2% will be applied to each financial year. The current blanket union request for 2020/21 is 10%. The Employee Side Liaison Panel will keep abreast of developments on the pay bargaining negotiations as they progress into 2020.

7.2 As outlined in section 5.3, the Council has set aside funds in both 2020/21 and 2021/22 to cover the potential cost of any pay reviews the Council decides to undertake. This financial commitment demonstrates the Council's understanding that appropriate pay and remuneration are key to the service delivery standards that the Council strives to achieve.

8. General Fund Capital Programme and Financing

8.1 The Council's proposed General Fund Capital Programme for 2020/21 totals £9.894m. The detail at project level and the proposed financing for the 2020/21 programme is detailed in appendix 6.

8.2 The Capital programme includes Smarter Working and the New Depot project, both initially included within previously approved capital programmes with a caveat that design and feasibility could proceed, but delivery would require further approval from Cabinet. An update is provided below;

- Smarter Working

To date, the 'Smarter Working' project has delivered significant improvements in the accommodation standards at Appletree Court for several services. Around 800 portable devices now enable a significant proportion of the workforce to work remotely, minimising travel to and from Appletree Court and making better use of officer time. The 2019 roll-out of Office 365 has been a major step change in ensuring the Council's main desktop operating system is up to date and fit for purpose. The Capital Programme for 2020/21 includes a 'future delivery' value of £1m over the next 2 financial years. As with previous drawdowns, the Cabinet will be asked to confirm use of this programme budget when the case is made by officers.

- Development of Council owned land at Hardley Industrial Estate into a new Depot
Following initial feasibility works undertaken, the Council now has a design which will be shortly submitted for planning approval. The planning application information will be used to inform a tender in order to receive a full cost estimate. This will be submitted to Cabinet for their approval before any works commence. The capital programme allows for building works to commence in 2020/21 and continue into 2021/22.
- 8.3 Another key element of the Council's Capital Programme are the Commercial and Residential Property Acquisition Funds. These are not shown in the programme at appendix 6 because of the uncertainty around when funds will be required. The Council has established governance arrangements in place for the approval of funds, and in-year financial reporting and updates to the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Panel provide members with valuable updates on activity in this area.
- 8.4 A range of Prudential Indicators need to be approved prior to the start of each financial year. The Council's Capital Strategy presented to the Cabinet on 5th February 2020 included the key capital Indicators. The Treasury Management function and Investment Strategy for 2020/21 to 2022/23 were considered by the Audit Committee on 24 January 2020 and have been recommended to the Council for approval.

9. Robustness of Estimates and Adequacy of Reserves

- 9.1 There are a range of safeguards in place to help prevent local authorities overcommitting themselves financially. These include the Chief Finance Officer's duty to report on the robustness of estimates and adequacy of reserves (under section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003) when the authority is considering its budget requirement (England and Wales).
- 9.2 The 2020/21 budget has been constructed based on all latest information and considers all factors that will have an implication to 2020/21 that are in the Council's control. On-going budget variations as reported during 2019/20 are also considered and adjustments made to forward budgets where necessary. Income projections are sensible and not overinflated, inflation is allowed for where it is expected to occur, and the full cost of the Council's staffing establishment is based on latest pay assumptions and is calculated in an appropriate level of detail. Senior Management across the Council engage with the Council's central finance team on the preparation of the detailed budgets, and only budgets that have the backing of senior management make it through to this budget setting report for consideration by members of the Cabinet.
- 9.3 In setting the General Fund Revenue Budget for 2020/21, the Council is making a net contribution to revenue reserves. Appendix 6 details the value of reserves to be utilised in financing the General Fund Capital Programme in 2020/21. The Council's Capital Strategy (Cabinet 5-Feb-2020) takes this further to combine the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Capital Programmes and details how reserves will be utilised in financing the delivery of these forecast programmes over the medium term period. Use of reserves is supplemented where appropriate with borrowing, and an assessment is made on the affordability and proportionality of financing charges to the revenue budget.
- 9.4 The General Fund Balance reserve at £3m is considered to be adequate considering the overall size of the Council's budget. Variations in actual performance as compared

to budget assumptions are inevitable in an organisation with a turnover as large as the Council's, especially when also considering the diverse range and complexities of services and differing levels of demand on those services throughout a fiscal period. Reserves exist, in particular the General Fund Balance reserve, to provide a cushion for these variations.

- 9.5 The Council's Chief Finance Officer is satisfied on the robustness of the estimates as included in the budget for 2020/21 and MTFP to 2023/24, and is able to provide assurance on the adequacy of reserves held by the Council.

10. Stillwater Park

- 10.1 Annually, the Cabinet recommends to Council the proposed Fees and Charges increase for the licence fees and service charges at Stillwater Park.
- 10.2 In line with previous years, the level of increase being proposed is in line with September RPI inflation, equivalent to 2.4%.

11. Risk Management

- 11.1 The budget for 2020/21 is based upon best estimates, but uncertainty still remains over the medium term, particularly surrounding the on-coming Business Rate retention scheme (in replacement of all other central funding) and the continuing uncertain economic climate (particularly surrounding Brexit). There has been strong suggestions that government departmental budgets would see an annual inflationary increase in the near future, as opposed to the reductions that has been the norm since 2009, however, nothing specific has been announced for lower tier authorities. It is vitally important that the Council continues with its prudent financial planning and continues to deliver the required savings/new income over the medium term period.
- 11.2 The Council provides regular financial monitoring reports, providing valuable updates on the latest forecasts as against original expectations and has £3m in the General Fund Reserve, available to support service delivery budgets. The Council also has a Budget Equalisation Reserve, which exists to smooth out annual fluctuations in Council funding. Within this context, the budget as now presented to Cabinet is considered to be robust and deliverable.

12. Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity

- 12.1 The Council's budget for 2020/21 includes investment of £31,000 on replacement CCTV cameras within the district. These cameras act as a deterrent to crime and disorder and the Council's CCTV monitoring officers are in regular contact with the Police. Over the Medium term, as the Council continually strives to provide services with less resources, any potential Crime and Disorder AND Equality and Diversity implications will be covered as and when key decisions are made.

13. Environmental Implications

- 13.1 The Council's investment in the Smarter Working programme has helped to reduce travelling time for officers across several departments of the Council and has improved

the efficiency of a large proportion of office space. The Asset Maintenance and Replacement Programme will see energy efficient lighting installed in more areas of Council buildings and will replace older less economic vehicles with the latest and most up to date models. As part of the vehicle replacement programme, the Council is also trialling the use of electric vehicles and will conduct a follow up review to see if a wider roll out is feasible.

14. Portfolio Holder Comments

- 14.1 I am pleased with how the Council's budget for 2020/21 has taken shape and how it gives a solid platform to work from when considering the Council's financial position extending over the medium term. We have a budget that factors in the latest forward looking information and reflects on performance as seen during the current financial year. Sound financial management ensures that the Council continues to invest for the future in all areas be they ICT, maintenance, more efficient vehicles or the inception of new depot facilities making sure that the we are best placed to deliver modern and up to date services that our residents rightfully expect.

The proposed decision to increase Council Tax is never taken lightly but when seen in context, an extra payment per band D household, of less than 10p per week, makes a significant contribution in helping the Council deliver on its statutory services, and supports those discretionary services that are so important to our community. All services are reviewed and inevitably some adapt and change over the period covered by this Medium Term Financial Plan, and this approach must be right when you take into account our changing world and the evolving needs of all 180,000 New Forest residents and Council Tax payers. The Council continues to face challenges, as the projections for 2023/24 attest, however sensible planning well in advance, coupled with a prudent approach to budgeting, means the Council continues to be well placed to meet them.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers:

MTFP – August '19
Financial Monitoring – Sept '19
MTFP – November '19
Financial Monitoring – Dec '19
Capital Strategy 2020-2022

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-2024

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Original	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
FUNDING					
Business Rates Baseline	3,933	3,997	4,077	4,158	4,242
- Business Rates Tariff Adjustment					
- Business Rates Retained Surplus	1,600	2,398			
- Business Rates Collection Fund Deficit(-) / Surplus	166	892			
Revenue Support Grant	0				
New Homes Bonus	526	286	249	182	0
Transition Grant / Business Rate Redistribution			400	400	400
Contribution to (-) Budget Equilisation Reserve	-748				
Total Government Determined Resources	5,477	7,573	4,726	4,740	4,642
Council Tax					
Base from Previous Year		12,542	12,613	12,688	12,767
Collection Fund Surplus		-2			
Base Line Adjustment		73	75	79	82
Total Council Tax	12,542	12,613	12,688	12,767	12,849
TOTAL FUNDING	18,019	20,186	17,414	17,507	17,491
Cumulative Change		-2,167	605	512	528
%age change		-12%	3%	3%	3%

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-2024

SUMMARY OF BUDGET MOVEMENTS

	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
	Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
Baseline Funding 2019/20	18,019	18,019	18,019	18,019
Budget Requirement 2020/21				
Pay & Price Increases				
Pay Award (2%)	400	400	400	400
Increments	175	175	175	175
Pension Contributions (Primary Rate)	360			
Local Pay Structure Review	100	250		
Prices (Utilities, Fuel & Maint.)	50	50	50	50
Pay & Price Increases	1,085	875	625	625
Cumulative Pay & Price Increases	1,085	1,960	2,585	3,210
Budget adjustments relating to one-off items				
Investment as outlined in ICT Strategy 18-22 (19/20)	-789			
Investment as outlined in ICT Strategy 18-22 (20/21)	604	-604		
Funding of One-off Community 'Construction Grants' (19/20)	-61			
Funding of One-off Community 'Construction Grants' (20/21)	98			
Investment in back-up power contingency ATC	100	-100		
Transfer of Public Convenience to Totton & Eling TC	40	-50		
Removal of Pension Deficit Contribution	-1,513			1,250
Pension Deficit Contribution to reserve	1,250			-1,250
	-271	-754	0	0
Ongoing Savings Analysis				
Investment Property Income	-62			
Reduction in community revenue grants / SLA's	-29	-11		
Tourism Review	-25			
	-116	-11	0	0
Cumulative effect of Adjustments and Savings	-387	-1,152	-1,152	-1,152
New Budget Requirements				
Planning Income Adjustment (based on 19/20)	238		-100	-138
Health & Leisure Centre Operating Adjustment	195			
Increase in Asset Maintenance & Replacement Programme	100			
General BU growth as result of hour and pay changes	80			
Waste & Recycling Income Adjustment (based on 19/20)	47			
Business Rates NFDC Car Parks	34			
Increase in RCCO	25			
CCTV / Community Safety Review	15			
Additional Budget Required for Tree Safety	15			
Investment in an Electoral Review of the District	15		-15	
HCC T19; Waste Collection		700		
	764	700	-115	-138
Cumulative Requirements	764	1,464	1,349	1,211
TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT	19,481	20,291	20,801	21,288
Total Funding Available (as above)	20,186	17,414	17,507	17,491
Estimated Cumulative Surplus / Shortfall (-)	705	-2,877	-3,294	-3,797

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-2024

OPTIONS IDENTIFIED TO CLOSE BUDGET SHORTFALL

£5 Council Tax Increase 2020/21
 £5 Council Tax Increase 2021/22
 £5 Council Tax Increase 2022/23
 £5 Council Tax Increase 2023/24

Cumulative Council Tax Increase

Commercial / Residential Property Investment 2020/21
 Commercial / Residential Property Investment 2021/22
 Commercial / Residential Property Investment 2022/23

Cumulative Property Investment Income**MTFP24 Savings In Progress**

In Progress: Leisure Delivery Review
 In Progress: Boundary Review

MTFP24 Potential....

Potential: Business Rate Changes
 Potential: Fair Funding Review
 Potential: Waste Strategy
 Potential: Parking Strategy
 Potential: Triennial Pension Valuation 2022

Annual Contribution to (-) / Use of Budget Equilisation Reserves**Estimated Cumulative Surplus / Shortfall (-)**

2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Budget	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast
£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
357	357	357	357
	359	359	359
		362	362
			364
357	716	1,078	1,442
	175	175	175
	400	400	400
		250	250
0	575	825	825
	saving ?	saving ?	saving ?
			saving ?
	+ / - ?	+ / - ?	+ / - ?
	saving ?	saving ?	saving ?
		+ / - ?	+ / - ?
		+ / - ?	+ / - ?
			+ / - ?
-1,062	1,586	1,391	387
0	0	0	-1,143

Reserves Supporting the MTFP

General Fund Balance
 Budget Equilisation Reserve

3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
3,364	1,778	387	0

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-2024

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	Original	Budget	Forecast	Forecast
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
ASSET MAINTENANCE & REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME				
Asset Maintenance				
Health & Leisure Centres (including Equip)	360	500		
Dibden Golf Centre	30	72		
Eling Experience	25			
Offices, Depots & Outlying Buildings	105	118		
Stillwater Park		75		
CCTV Camera Replacement		31		
	520	796	-	-
ICT Replacement Programme	200	150		
V&P; Deferred Expenditure (Depreciation / MRP)	1,192	1,082		
	1,912	2,028	-	-
Rephased Budget from previous year		- 28		
Less: Proportion allocated to HRA	- 215	- 200		
Third Party Contribution	-	-		
Total Revenue Programme	1,697	1,800	-	-
General Fund Budget Available	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800
ICT INVESTMENT AND THIRD PARTY GRANTS				
ICT Maintain & Protect	350			
ICT Strategy (including 'Customer') 2018-2022	600	728	453	
Less: Proportion allocated to HRA	- 162	- 124	- 77	
	789	604	376	
Community Grants - 'One-off Construction'	61	98	100	100
Total Business Development and Third Party Programme	850	702	476	100

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-2024

SUMMARY OF NET BUDGET REQUIREMENTS WITH FINANCING	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
	Budget	Gross	Income	Budget
		Expenditure		
PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS				
Community Affairs	1,704	1,976	-479	1,497
Economic Development	-61	415	-426	-11
Environment and Regulatory Services	8,821	12,489	-3,312	9,177
Finance, Corporate Services and Improvement	5,187	39,708	-35,845	3,863
Housing Services	1,670	4,876	-3,029	1,847
Leader and Corporate Affairs	42	68	0	68
Leisure and Wellbeing	986	8,653	-7,250	1,403
Planning and Infrastructure	908	6,857	-5,496	1,361
	19,257	75,042	-55,837	19,205
Reversal of Depreciation	-1,736	0	-1,545	-1,545
Contribution to/(from) Earmarked Revenue Reserves	-347	44	-300	-256
Contribution to Revenue Reserves	0	1,250	0	1,250
NET PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS	17,174	76,336	-57,682	18,654
Minimum Revenue Provision	1,225	1,181	0	1,181
RCCO	350	375	0	375
Interest Earnings (Net)	-730	0	-730	-730
New Homes Bonus	-526	0	-286	-286
Other Grants	0	0	0	0
GENERAL FUND NET BUDGET REQUIREMENTS	17,493	77,892	-58,698	19,194
<u>COUNCIL TAX CALCULATION</u>				
Budget Requirement	17,493	77,892	-58,698	19,194
Less:				
Settlement Funding Assessment				
Revenue Support Grant	0	0	0	0
Business Rates Funding Target	-3,934	24,330	-28,327	-3,997
	-3,934	24,330	-28,327	-3,997
Locally Retained Business Rates	-1,600	1,125	-3,523	-2,398
Budget Equalisation Reserve	748	1,062	0	1,062
Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Business Rates	-166	0	-892	-892
Estimated Collection Fund (Surplus)/Deficit Council Tax	-220	0	-218	-218
COUNCIL TAX	12,321	104,409	-91,658	12,751
TAX BASE NUMBER OF PROPERTIES	71,074.40			71,492.90
COUNCIL TAX PER BAND D PROPERTY	173.36			178.36
GENERAL FUND BALANCE 31 MARCH	£3M			£3M

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-2024

ANALYSIS OF GROSS PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS

	Employees	Premises	Transport	Supplies and Services	Support Services	Capital Charge	Gross Expenditure	Income	Budget
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
2020/21									
Community Affairs	963	42	3	788	180	0	1,976	-479	1,497
Economic Development	279	2	0	84	50	0	415	-426	-11
Environment and Regulatory Services	7,634	938	2,027	815	679	395	12,488	-3,312	9,176
Finance, Corporate Services and Improvement	3,993	333	21	34,971	389	1	39,708	-35,845	3,863
Housing Services	1,580	339	0	2,665	292	0	4,876	-3,029	1,847
Leader and Corporate Affairs	31	0	0	32	6	0	69	0	69
Leisure and Wellbeing	5,068	2,071	1	1,074	421	18	8,653	-7,250	1,403
Planning and Infrastructure	4,486	1,193	0	375	778	25	6,857	-5,496	1,361
	24,034	4,918	2,052	40,804	2,795	439	75,042	-55,837	19,205
2019/20									
Community Affairs	993	11	3	992	195	0	2,194	-490	1,704
Environment and Regulatory Services	7,212	860	2,191	768	647	418	12,096	-3,275	8,821
Finance, Corporate Services and Improvement	5,400	85	21	38,289	350	0	44,145	-38,958	5,187
Housing Services	1,433	152	0	2,180	262	0	4,027	-2,357	1,670
Leader and Corporate Affairs	14	0	0	25	3	0	42	0	42
Leisure and Wellbeing	5,087	2,173	1	769	427	18	8,475	-7,489	986
Local Economic Development, Property and Innovation	446	157	0	130	84	1	818	-879	-61
Planning and Infrastructure	4,177	1,139	0	676	732	25	6,749	-5,841	908
	24,762	4,577	2,216	43,829	2,700	462	78,546	-59,289	19,257

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-2024

CENTRAL SUPPORT SERVICE BUSINESS
UNITS

2020/21

	Employees	Premises	Transport	Supplies and Services	Support Services	Capital Charge	Gross Expenditure	External Income	Budget
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
Human Resources (704)	373	15	3	59	171	0	621	-33	588
Community & Business Improvement (713)	171	4	0	1	14	0	190	0	190
Communications (716)	78	2	0	7	37	0	124	0	124
Legal Services (742)	376	11	1	51	118	0	557	-5	552
Secretarial Services (724)	178	6	0	6	40	0	230	0	230
ICT (736)	1,193	36	10	38	137	0	1,414	-65	1,349
ICT Maint./Licences/Phones (738)	0	0	0	1,482	0	0	1,482	0	1,482
ICT Communications (740)	0	0	0	249	46	0	295	-24	271
The Design Room (734)	81	2	0	22	15	0	120	-6	114
Customer Services (732)	246	13	1	6	70	0	336	0	336
Courier (722)	29	0	11	0	1	0	41	0	41
Information Offices (731)	292	63	2	80	25	0	462	-8	454
Support Services (762)	211	14	0	23	23	0	271	0	271
Transactional Finance (766)	233	9	0	17	10	0	269	-2	267
Accountancy (780)	328	4	3	11	67	0	413	-26	387
Internal Health and Safety (822)	137	4	3	18	9	0	171	0	171
Hsg Maint - Shared Support Hub	526	44	6	16	80	0	672	0	672
Hsg Maint - Operations Management	508	49	39	11	32	0	639	0	639
Site Officers (960)	101	8	0	1	23	0	133	0	133
Central Procurement (964)	196	4	1	13	46	0	260	-1	259
Valuers (970)	335	7	3	20	59	0	424	-104	320
Property Services (976)	200	6	3	5	100	0	314	0	314
Building Cleaning - Offices	72	0	0	2	19	0	93	0	93
	5,864	301	86	2,138	1,142	0	9,531	-274	9,257

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-2024

GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET -
MOVEMENT IN RESERVES

	Contribution From(-) / To Reserves in 2019/20	Reserve Transfers not required in 2020/21	Contribution From(-) / To Reserves for 2020/21	Use of (-) / Contributions to reserves in 2020/21
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
Contribution from Reserves				
Asset Maintenance Project Rephasing			-28	-28
Community Housing Fund	-34		-10	-44
Local Plan				0
Open space Maintenance	-56			-56
District Council Elections	-175	175		0
Lymington STP	-172			-172
	-437	175	-38	-300
Contribution to Reserves				
District Council Elections			44	44
ICT Equipment	90	-90		0
	90	-90	44	44
Budget Equilisation Reserves				
Budget Stabilisation	748		314	1,062
Pension Adjustment 2019 Valuation			1,250	1,250
	748	0	1,564	2,312
Total Contribution from (-) / to reserves	401	85	1,570	2,056

MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2019-2024

CAPITAL PROJECTS REQUIREMENTS WITH FINANCING

Portfolio	PROJECT REQUIREMENTS £			2020/21 PROJECT FINANCING £				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	NFDC Resources / Loan	TBC	Better Care Fund	Grant	DC / CIL
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000			1,200,000		
Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring (15-21)	1,495,000						1,495,000	
Barton Drainage Test (19-21)	50,000						50,000	
Public Convenience Modernisation Programme	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000				
Public Convenience Additional Enhancements	75,000			75,000				
Lymington Sea Wall	400,000				400,000			
New Depot Site	3,000,000	2,000,000		3,000,000				
V&P; Replacement Programme	1,682,000	2,000,000	1,500,000	1,682,000				
Smarter Working; Future Delivery	500,000	500,000		500,000				
Open Space Schemes	292,000	200,000	200,000					292,000
Transport Schemes	265,000	175,000	175,000					265,000
Mitigation Schemes	635,000	500,000	500,000					635,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME	9,894,000	6,875,000	3,875,000	5,557,000	400,000	1,200,000	1,545,000	1,192,000
								9,894,000
LOAN FINANCED				-1,682,000				
RESIDUAL NFDC RESOURCES				3,875,000				

CABINET – 19 FEBRUARY 2020

**PORTFOLIO: HOUSING
SERVICES**

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET AND HOUSING PUBLIC SECTOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROGRAMME 2020/21

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Cabinet be asked to approve the proposed planned maintenance and improvement works programme for 2020/21 – 2022/2023, as set out in Appendix 2.
- 1.2 That the Cabinet be asked to recommend to the Council that;
 - i) the HRA budget as set out in Appendix 1, of this report be agreed,
 - ii) from 05 April 2020, an increase in rents of 2.7% from the 2019/20 weekly rent level, in accordance with Government guidelines, be agreed,
 - iii) from 05 April 2020, an increase in service charges of 1.7% from the 2019/20 weekly service charge level, be agreed,
 - iii) from 05 April 2020, an increase of 30p per week (plus VAT where applicable) in garage rents be agreed; and
 - iv) a Housing Capital Programme to 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 3, be agreed.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report sets out the proposed Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget, the proposed rent levels and other charges, the maintenance programme and a proposed Housing Public Sector Capital Programme for 2020/21 – 2022/23.
- 2.2 The proposed budgets for 2020/21 were considered by tenants at the Tenant Involvement Group Day on 10 January 2020 and by Housing Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 15 January. Their comments are set out in Sections 11 and 12.
- 2.3 The proposed HRA budget is attached as Appendix 1, and the proposed Capital programme at Appendix 3. Cabinet are required to recommend budgets for consideration at Council on 24 February 2020.

3. KEY ISSUES

3.1 Housing Rents

3.1.1 The report identifies a proposed social rent increase of 2.7%, in line with the Government's current recommendation. It is the first increase for 4 years, following the social rent reduction programme. Current indications are that annual increases of CPI +1% may be applied for a 5 year period from 2020/21.

3.1.2 Following the rent increase, average weekly rents will be £100.57 for 2020/21. The actual increase will vary by property but will amount to an average increase of £2.64 per week.

3.2 Service Charges – Hostels & Older Persons Accommodation

3.2.1 The primary aim when reviewing and setting service charges is to ensure that relevant costs are fully recovered from those who benefit from additional services provided. A major review of service charges was carried out for 2019/20 and the impact of the changes made will be assessed at the year end when a full year's figures are available. In light of this, it is proposed to simply increase charges for 2020/21 by an inflationary level of 1.7% but note that service charges for some properties will increase by this inflationary increase and up to a further £2 per week, due to the gradual withdrawal of protections in place from the 2019/20 review.

3.3 Garage Rents

3.3.1 It is proposed that rents are increased by 30p per week (2.9%) to £10.70 per week, plus VAT where applicable.

3.4 Planned Maintenance & Improvement Works

3.4.1 The report proposes total budgetary provision of £7.137 million for planned maintenance and improvement works to houses and estates. Details of the proposed works for 2020/21 and an indication of proposals for the following two years are set out in **Appendix 2**.

4. HRA INCOME 2020/21

4.1 Estimated total income for 2020/21 is £323,000 higher than the original budget for 2019/20. The income variations from the 2019/20 approved budget are set out below:

	£000	Paragraph
Dwelling Rents	(391)	4.2
Non Dwelling Rents	22	4.3
Service Charges	24	4.4
Other Income	22	4.5
Total	(323)	

- 4.2 **Dwelling Rents (£391,000 increase)** – The proposed budget for 2020/21 includes the benefits of £706,000 arising from the proposed 2.7% rent increase and £250,000 from a net gain in stock numbers but these are offset by a reduction of £507,000 due to the removal of the 2019/20 53 rent week position and £58,000 from increased void levels. A cross service project group is already working on reducing void times over the next year.
- 4.3 **Non Dwelling Rents £22,000** – This income is derived from garages and rents of other housing land. The overall decrease reflects the impact of the removal of £15,000 additional income regarding the 2019/20 53 week rent debit year and £29,000 from reduced lettings due to voids and anticipated development opportunities on garage sites, offset by £22,000 additional income from the proposed rental increase.
- 4.4 **Service Charges £24,000** – Anticipated income will reduce by £13,000 due to the removal of the 53 week impact and by £23,000 to reflect increased voids and 2019/20 revised actual income following the service charge review, but the impact is offset by £12,000 arising from the proposed 1.7% increase. A further review will also be carried out in 2020/21 to assess whether additional charges are required.
- 4.5 **Other Income £22,000** – Anticipated interest earnings have reduced by £31,000 following the utilisation of capital receipts and the Acquisitions and Development Reserve to part fund the capital programme but this is partially offset by an additional shared amenities contribution towards increased grounds maintenance costs included in special services.

5. HRA EXPENDITURE 2020/21

- 5.1 Budgeted operating expenditure for 2020/21 is £1.075 million higher than the approved budget for 2019/20 but this gets offset by a reduction of £752,000 in the contribution to the capital programme, as detailed in paragraph 5.7. The major variations are set out below:

	£000	Paragraph
Cyclical/Reactive Maintenance	641	5.2
General Management	386	5.3
Special Services/Homeless Assistance	41	5.4
Rents, Rates, Taxes and other charges	15	5.5
Capital Financing Costs	(8)	5.6
Operating Expenditure	1,075	
Contribution to Capital - Supporting Housing Strategy	(752)	5.7
Total	323	

- 5.2 **Cyclical/Reactive Maintenance £641,000** – Increased maintenance budgets are due principally to pay and prices increases of £160,000, £266,000 for the costs of the staffing review approved in July 2019 and £200,000 for the costs of the enhanced voids programme dealt with as a policy change through the overview and scrutiny panel.
- 5.3 **General Management £386,000** - Supervision and Management budgets will increase due to pay and prices increases of £218,000, £268,000 for the costs of the maintenance staffing review approved in July 2019, additional corporate cost allocations of £88,000 (principally reflecting increased staff allocations to Housing Revenue Account Services and the drive towards Smarter Working and the enabling of remote and flexible working) and various other staff allocations and budget variations of £79,000, offset by savings of £267,000 due to changes in pension contribution arrangements.
- 5.4 **Special Services/Homeless Assistance £41,000** – An increase in budgets of £41,000 is due to pay and prices increases, which are largely offset by an increase in the shared amenities contribution and in service charge income.
- 5.5 **Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges £15,000** – Additional costs are principally due to the inclusion of new budgets for Pentagon Court that were not included in 19/20 and to an increase in the amount of Council Tax payments on void properties.
- 5.6 **Capital Financing Costs (£8,000)** – Interest costs have reduced by £80,000 due to the repayment of the next £4.1 million instalment of the settlement loan in March 2020 but these have been offset by a new £72,000 principal allowance repayment amount on internal borrowing for the proposed capital programme set out in Section 6 of this report.
- 5.7 **Contribution to Capital - Supporting Housing Strategy (£752,000)** – Any operating surplus is invested into the Housing Capital Programme. For 2020/21 this contribution is estimated at £8.473 million, a reduction of £752,000 from 2019/20. The reduction balances all of the other budget movements detailed earlier in this report to produce a break-even Housing Revenue Account budget.

6. HRA RESERVE BALANCE

- 6.1 The HRA Reserve balance as at 1 April 2019 was £1 million. This is considered to be a prudent level.

- 6.2 The original 2019/20 HRA budget showed a break-even position for the year. During 2019/20 the following net budget additions totalling £230,000 have occurred or are forecast. In accordance with current policy these will be funded from the Acquisitions and Development Reserve.

	£000
Reactive Maintenance (Cabinet December 2019)	500
Cyclical Maintenance (Cabinet December 2019)	(300)
Dwelling Rent Income (Cabinet December 2019)	(250)
Supervision & Management (Cabinet Sept.2019)	280
Total	<u>230</u>

- 6.3 The proposed HRA budget for 2020/21 currently shows a break-even position, resulting in no change to the reserve balance. The estimated Housing Revenue Account balance at 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021 will therefore be £1 million.

7. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

- 7.1 The proposed Housing Public Sector capital expenditure programme for 2020/21 totals £15.800 million. The detailed programme and anticipated funding is set out below:

	Original 2019/20 £000	Latest 2019/20 £000	Original 2020/21 £000
Proposed Expenditure			
Planned Maintenance & Improvements	6,415	6,415	5,600
Environmental Enhancements	300	300	0
Estate Improvements	0	0	200
Disabled Facilities Adaptations	700	1,100	1,000
Development Strategy	11,850	13,438	9,000
Property Extensions	150	150	0
TOTAL	<u>19,415</u>	<u>21,403</u>	<u>15,800</u>
Funded by			
Revenue	9,225	9,225	8,473
Capital Receipts	3,000	3,000	2,000
Acquisitions and Dev. Reserve	6,510	8,928	827
Government Grant	680	250	900
Internal Borrowing	0	0	3,600
TOTAL	<u>19,415</u>	<u>21,403</u>	<u>15,800</u>

- 7.2 The Planned Maintenance and Improvements budget for 2019/20 included unspent balances brought forward from 2018/19 and therefore the programme for 2020/21 has been reduced back to a more regular annual level.
- 7.3 The proposed capital programme for 2020/21 budgets £9.000 million to be invested in additional homes. This is expected to markedly increase over the period post 2020/21 through to 2025/26, in line with the Council's new Housing Strategy, as covered in more detail in paragraph 7.4. Appendix 3 shows the proposed capital programme to 2022/23.
- 7.4 The Council's new Housing Strategy targets the delivery of at least 600 new homes covering the period 2018 - 2026. The delivery of the Housing Strategy to 2026 will seek to ensure ring-fenced Housing Revenue Account (HRA) resources are maximised to their full potential. The recent removal of the borrowing cap gives Local Authorities enhanced flexibilities in terms of playing a key part in the delivery of new affordable homes across the Country. Whilst modelling suggests that limited borrowing may be required to achieve the objectives set out within the strategy, it will be necessary to monitor progress over time. The Council should be prepared to consider any opportunities that arise, and the potential should be there to fund the delivery of new homes through borrowing as long as a sound financial viability appraisal confirms it is suitable to do so. The Council has a sound financial platform to build upon and the delivery of the Housing Strategy to 2026 will seek to further enhance the financial performance of the existing HRA. By venturing into new tenures, the financial performance of the HRA will improve, as additional rental income is made available for the essential maintenance and management of the Council's overall Portfolio and to fund more new affordable homes.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All products used in the repair, maintenance and improvement of Council homes are selected to ensure the minimum impact upon the environment and at the same time balance the need to improve the energy efficiency of tenants' homes in order to meet the requirement for thermal efficiency under the Decent Homes Standard.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Many aspects of work identified in this report will improve the security of tenants' homes.

10. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 All equality and diversity implications will be considered at every stage of the process of commissioning and carrying out planned maintenance, improvement and cyclical maintenance works. In addition, any contractor used for works will have been assessed, as part of the process in becoming an approved NFDC contractor, in respect of their adherence to equality and diversity principles.

11. TENANTS VIEWS

- 11.1 This is a well-balanced report, everything seems to have been accounted for and it is clear and understandable.

The Tenant Involvement Group support plans to provide more social housing and the proposed borrowing plans seem sensible. Going forwards we feel the Council could take advantage of Government lifting the borrowing cap, if appropriate.

Even though there is a rent increase, we feel tenants are being treated fairly and are still getting good value for money.

We give the HRA budget and capital expenditure programme for 2020/21 our full support.

12. HOUSING OVERVIEW SCUTINY PANEL COMMENTS

- 12.1 The Panel noted the report and endorsed the recommendations to Cabinet and Council.

13. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 13.1 I am pleased to be able to present this report, which sets out the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget for 2020/21, together with the anticipated planned maintenance and capital programmes covering the period to March 2023.
- 13.2 Through this budget, this Council has not only made a commitment to invest in the upkeep of its current stock, with maintenance spend in 2020/21 budgeted to be in excess of £11m, but is also committing to provide new, additional homes, with anticipated spending of £45m forecast over the three years to March 2023.
- 13.3 I am pleased that the tenants are so supportive of the report and that the Housing Panel endorse the recommendations.
- 13.4 The Council is investing in its ability to deliver good quality homes within our district to those in greatest need, and I continue to be incredibly proud to play a part in it.
- 13.5 I fully support the recommendations as laid out in section 1.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers:

Published documents as referred to within this report.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET

	2019/20 £'000	2020/21 £'000	Variation £'000	Para
INCOME				
Dwelling Rents	-25,963	-26,354	-391	4.2
Non Dwelling Rents	-808	-786	22	4.3
Charges for Services & Facilities	-684	-660	24	4.4
Contributions towards Expenditure	-64	-64	0	4.5
Interest Receivable	-109	-78	31	4.5
Sales Administration Recharge	-32	-32	0	4.5
Shared Amenities Contribution	-216	-225	-9	4.5
TOTAL INCOME	-27,876	-28,199	-323	
EXPENDITURE				
Repairs & Maintenance				
Cyclical Maintenance	1,380	1,337	-43	5.2
Reactive Maintenance	2,672	3,356	684	5.2
Supervision & Management				
General Management	4,709	5,095	386	5.3
Special Services	1,183	1,222	39	5.4
Homeless Assistance	62	64	2	5.4
Rents, Rates, Taxes and Other Charges	39	54	15	5.5
Provision for Bad Debt	150	150	0	
Capital Financing Costs	8,456	8,448	-8	5.6
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	18,651	19,726	1,075	
HRA OPERATING SURPLUS(-)	-9,225	-8,473	752	
Contribution to Capital - supporting Housing Strategy	9,225	8,473	-752	5.7
Transfer to Acquisitions/Development reserve	0	0	0	

	2020/21 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2022/23 £'000
PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS			
Kitchen Modernisations	700	800	900
Bathroom Modernisations	800	835	835
Heating – boiler replacements gas/oil/electric	700	700	725
Electrical Works	200	200	207
EPC improvements	100	120	150
Roofing	610	635	673
Structural Repairs	200	207	207
Entrance fire doors and windows	1,200	1,203	1,203
Asbestos Removal and Low Maintenance Eaves	250	200	200
Improvements to communal areas	400	400	400
Lighting upgrades	100	100	100
Miscellaneous works, including fire audit work, etc.	340	400	400
TOTAL: PLANNED MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS	5,600	5,800	6,000
CYCLICAL MAINTENANCE			
Appliance servicing (inc. gas, solid fuel, oil, smoke detectors)	758	900	900
Fire alarm servicing/upgrading	55	60	60
Lift servicing/upgrading	54	97	97
Portable appliance testing	4	4	4
Legionella checks	10	11	11
External redecorations (inc. gutter cleaning)	407	435	435
Elderly persons internal redecoration	25	26	26
Servicing automatic doors	3	3	3
Window Cleaning	16	17	17
Servicing air source heat pumps	1	1	1
Miscellaneous	5	5	5
TOTAL: CYCLICAL MAINTENANCE	1,337	1,559	1,559
ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS			
Provision of estate works and paving	200	200	200
TOTAL: ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS	200	200	200
TOTAL FORECAST MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURE	7,137	7,559	7,759

CAPITAL PROJECTS REQUIREMENTS WITH FINANCING - PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

	PROJECT REQUIREMENTS £			2020/21 PROJECT FINANCING £				
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Grants & Conts.	Cap Receipts / DC's	Internal Borrowing	HRA	HRA Reserves
HRA - Major Repairs	5,600,000	5,800,000	6,000,000				5,600,000	
Estate Improvements	200,000	200,000	200,000				200,000	
Council Dwellings - Strategy Delivery	9,000,000	16,000,000	20,000,000	900,000	2,000,000	3,600,000	1,673,000	827,000
Disabled Facilities Grants	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000				1,000,000	
	15,800,000	23,000,000	27,200,000	900,000	2,000,000	3,600,000	8,473,000	827,000
								15,800,000

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ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL – WARDING PATTERN PROPOSALS

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet recommends to Full Council that:-

- (a) the attached “Warding Patterns Proposal – Electoral Review” (Appendix 1) be approved and submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) as the Council’s official response to the LGBCE consultation; and
- (b) authority be delegated to the Executive Head of Governance and Housing, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make further editing changes, corrections and updates to the document and maps prior to submission.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND DETAIL

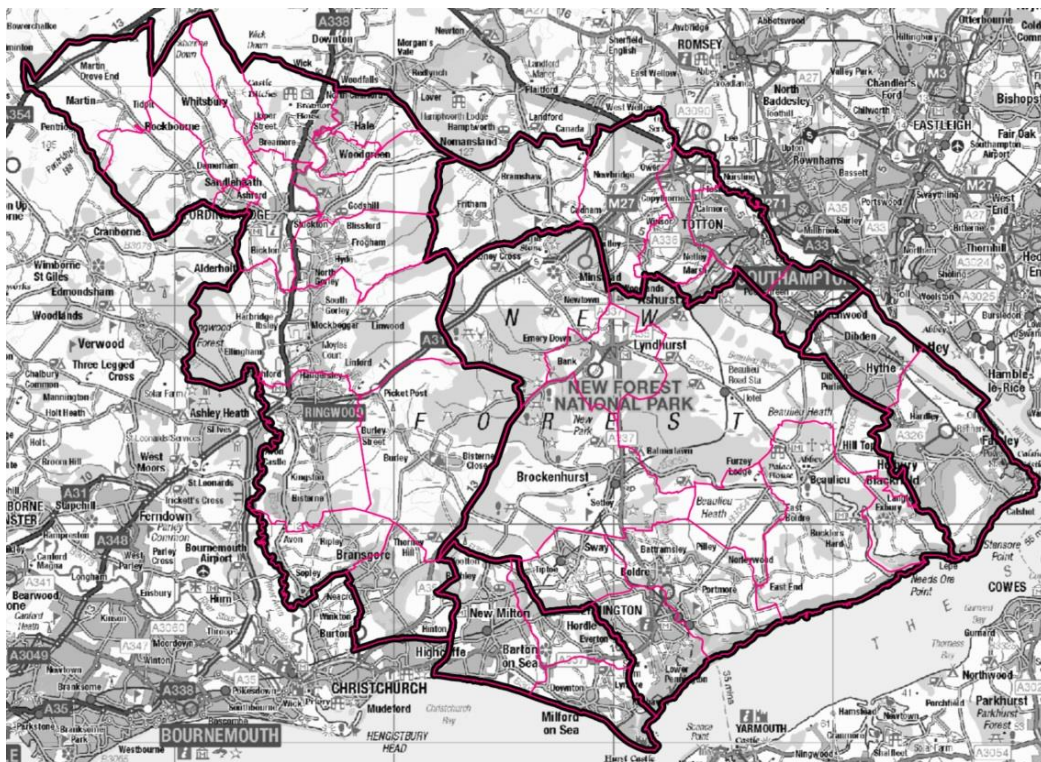
- 2.1 Following a meeting of the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) on 19 November 2019, the Council received notification from the LGBCE that it was “minded to” approve that 48 councillors should be elected to New Forest District Council from the May 2023 quadrennial elections. This is consistent with the Council’s own proposals for a Council Size of 48, agreed by Full Council at its meeting on 14 October 2019. At this stage, it was recognised that the Council Size could change by +/- 1 (47 or 49) to satisfy a viable warding pattern.
- 2.2 On 17 December 2019, the LGBCE launched a formal public consultation, seeking views on how wards could be drawn in the New Forest District. This consultation ends on 2 March 2020. To ensure that the Council’s views are adequately represented when the LGBCE meets to develop a draft warding pattern, the Council was invited to submit its own warding pattern scheme for the full District area.
- 2.3 The scope for a warding pattern includes the number of wards, the names of wards, where the boundaries between wards should lie and the number of councillors for each ward. In developing a warding pattern, the Council should have regard to the three statutory criteria applied by the LGBCE:-
 - Electoral Equality
 - Community Interests and Identities
 - Effective and Convenient Local Government

3. PROGRESS TO DATE

- 3.1 On receipt of the notification from the LGBCE that it intended to launch its initial consultation, the Electoral Review of the District Council Task and Finish Group met to agree an approach to developing warding patterns for submission by the consultation deadline of 2 March 2020.
- 3.2 The Task and Finish Group agreed to arrange the District into “zones”, representing five clearly identifiable areas within the District using the Town and Parish Councils as building blocks. Each zone achieves electoral equality, therefore allowing effective warding patterns to be developed within these zones that each achieve high levels of electoral equality and represent clear community identities, without the risk of having an impact on another area within the District. The five zones are as follows:-

- The West – comprising the parishes of Bransgore, Breamore, Burley, Damerham, Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley, Fordingbridge, Godshill, Hale, Hyde, Martin, Ringwood, Rockbourne, Sandleheath, Sopley, Whitsbury and Woodgreen.
- New Milton, Milford & Hordle – comprising the parishes of Hordle, New Milton and Milford.
- Lymington & Pennington & Rural Central – comprising the parishes of Beaulieu, Boldre, Brockenhurst, Denny Lodge, East Boldre, Exbury & Lepe, Lymington & Pennington, Lyndhurst, Minstead and Sway.
- South Waterside – comprising the parishes of Fawley and Hythe and Dibden.
- Totton & North East – comprising the parishes of Ashurst & Colbury, Bramshaw, Copythorne, Marchwood, Netley Marsh and Totton and Eling.

3.3 The map below displays the “zone” areas, alongside each of the Town and Parish Council boundaries within them, used as the building blocks for the proposed warding pattern.



3.4 The Task and Finish Group arranged a series of meetings for each of the five zones, inviting all local ward councillors to contribute towards the development of a warding pattern proposal for their zone area. A number of proposals were submitted by local ward councillors throughout the series of meetings. Having considered these proposals in conjunction with the statutory criteria, LGBCE guidance and the overriding ambition of the Council to preserve Town and Parish Council areas where possible, the Task and Finish Group resolved to develop a final warding pattern proposal to support a Council Size of 49.

3.5 A 49 councillor scheme brings about the option to avoid additional split wards across a number of parishes. Furthermore, it resolves a number of known anomalies and corrects a number of proposed wards within +/- 10% of 3,012 electors per councillor. In submitting Appendix 1 to the LGBCE, the Council invites the LGBCE to revise the Council Size from 48, to 49.

4. THE PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The 49 councillor scheme, outlined in Appendix 1, consists of 25 wards (6 one councillor wards, 14 two councillor wards and 5 three councillor wards).
- 4.2 All proposed wards, by 2025, achieve an electoral ratio within +/- 10% of perfect electoral equality for the District.
- 4.3 For each of the proposed wards contained within the report, the electoral ratio for 2025 is outlined, alongside a brief explanatory narrative, including the local factors which support community interests and identities, and effective and convenient local government.
- 4.4 A summary of the scheme is outlined below.

Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2019	Variance 2019	Electorate 2025	Variance 2025
THE WEST					
Fordingbridge	2	6006	3%	6238	4%
Downlands & Forest North	1	2917	0%	3035	1%
Bransgore, Burley & Sopley	2	5304	-9%	5460	-9%
Ellingham & Ringwood North	2	6216	7%	6430	7%
Ringwood Town Central	2	6316	8%	6458	7%
NEW MILTON, MILFORD & HORDLE					
Milford & Hordle	3	8915	2%	9234	2%
Barton & Becton	3	8966	3%	9290	3%
Milton	2	5985	3%	6146	2%
Bashley & Fernhill	2	6460	11%	6648	10%
LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON & RURAL CENTRAL					
Lyndhurst & Minstead	1	3128	7%	3212	7%
Brockenhurst	1	2854	-2%	2949	-2%
Sway	1	2916	0%	3045	1%
Buckland	1	2780	-5%	2821	-6%
Boldre & Forest South East	1	2702	-7%	2814	-7%
Lymington Town & Boldre South	2	5376	-8%	5568	-8%
Pennington	2	5267	-10%	5422	-10%
TOTTON & NORTH EAST					
Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh	2	6263	8%	6496	8%
Totton North	3	8585	-2%	8916	-1%
Totton Central	2	5808	0%	6025	0%
Totton South	2	6312	8%	6550	9%
Eling & Marchwood	2	6332	9%	6543	9%
SOUTH WATERSIDE					
Dibden & Hythe	3	7845	-10%	8133	-10%
Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown	3	8515	-3%	8787	-3%
Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield	2	5480	-6%	5670	-6%
Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley	2	5469	-6%	5701	-5%

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 It is anticipated that the LGBCE will publish their draft recommendations by the end of May 2020. A further consultation period will follow to allow interested parties to respond to these recommendations. The Task and Finish Group will meet shortly after the draft recommendations are published to develop a response.
- 5.2 The process will conclude with the publication of the LGBCE final recommendations in Autumn 2020, before the necessary parliamentary orders are laid and then made from late 2020 into 2021. The new electoral arrangements will be implemented from the May 2023 quadrennial district elections.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 The LGBCE will publish a set of draft recommendations, regardless of the responses made by the deadline. Therefore, whilst the Council could choose not to submit a

proposed warding pattern, it would not be in the Council's interest, as the draft recommendations could be made without regard to the Council's views on an appropriate warding pattern.

- 6.2 A number of warding pattern options were considered by the Task and Finish Group, including options to support a Council Size of 48. These alternative options have been rejected as they are not effective in meeting the overall ambition of the Task and Finish Group to use the Town and Parish Councils as the building blocks for wards and do not satisfy the statutory criteria as effectively.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

8. CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are none directly arising from this report.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are none directly arising from this report.

10. EQUALITY & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 A successful Electoral Review of the District Council will bring about more representative democracy in the New Forest, as electoral inequality would have been addressed as far as possible as part of the review. Currently, six wards have greater than +/- 10% of the average with one ward greater than +/- 20%. All wards within the proposed warding pattern at Appendix 1 have a ratio within +/- 10%.

11. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 11.1 I would like to thank the members of the Task and Finish Group for all their hard work in bringing this matter forward, alongside all district councillors who engaged in the development of wards for their local areas. I would encourage all interested parties, including Town and Parish Councils, to submit their views to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as part of their consultation, ahead of the initial deadline of 2 March 2020.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Warding Patterns Proposal – Electoral Review

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Background Papers:

[Cabinet report – 5 June 2019](#)
[Cabinet report – 2 October 2019](#)
[NFDC webpage](#)
[LGBCE webpage](#)
Task and Finish Group documents

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

WARDING PATTERN PROPOSALS ELECTORAL REVIEW

February 2020

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Appendix A - Polling District Map

Appendix B - Proposed Ward Map

INTRODUCTION

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), having confirmed that it is minded to recommend a Council Size of 48 for New Forest District Council from the May 2023 elections, has invited the Council to submit a proposed warding pattern. In developing a warding pattern, the Council has found that a Council Size of 49 supports the most effective warding pattern in accordance with the LGBCE criteria and the Council's priority for using the Town and Parish Councils as building blocks. Consequently, in submitting these warding pattern proposals, the Council invites the LGBCE to revise the Council Size to 49.
- 1.2 A Task and Finish Group was established in June 2019 to maintain a collaborative dialogue with the LGBCE throughout the Electoral Review of the District Council, and having developed a Council Size submission from June – October 2019, has now developed the warding pattern contained within this report.
- 1.3 The proposals were developed in accordance with the following three statutory criteria set by the LGBCE and the 'How to propose a warding pattern' guidance:-
- Electoral Equality
 - Community Interests and Identities
 - Effective and Convenient Local Government
- 1.4 The Task and Finish Group zoned the District into five clearly identifiable areas and engaged all 60 current District Councillors in the development of the proposals, through a series of meetings for each of the five zones.
- 1.5 Each zone meeting discussed the key questions on community interests and identity to support warding patterns within the area. Having created zones that achieved electoral equality and represented a clearly identifiable area within the District, the Task and Finish Group could work safe in the knowledge that a warding pattern could be created within each zone, with high levels of electoral equality that also represented community interests and identities.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 This submission consists of 25 wards (6 one Member wards, 14 two Member wards and 5 three Member wards).
- 2.2 For each of the proposed wards contained within the report, the electoral ratio for 2025 is outlined, alongside a brief explanatory narrative, including the local factors which support community interests and identities, and effective and convenient local government.

- 2.3 As the New Forest District is fully parished with active Town and Parish Councils, the overriding ambition of the Task and Finish Group was to use the Town and Parish Councils as building blocks, minimising the number of split parishes.
- 2.4 In developing a warding pattern to support a Council Size of 48, it became clear to the Task and Finish Group that a minor change to the proposed Council Size, from 48 to 49, would in fact bring about an option to avoid additional split wards across a number of parishes. The 49 councillor warding pattern also resolves a number of anomalies and corrects a number of proposed wards with strong community interests and identity to within +/- 10% of 3,012 electors per councillor. Consequently, this report invites the LGBCE to revise the Council Size to 49 to support this proposed warding pattern.
- 2.3 The proposals are contained within five sections of this report, aligned to the following five zones agreed by the Task and Finish Group:-
- The West
 - New Milton, Milford & Hordle
 - Lymington & Pennington & Rural Central
 - South Waterside
 - Totton & North East

PROPOSED WARDING PATTERN

3. THE WEST

- 3.1 The West zone of the District contains the parish areas of Bransgore, Breamore, Burley, Damerham, Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley, Fordingbridge, Godshill, Hale, Hyde, Martin, Ringwood, Rockbourne, Sandeheath, Sopley, Whitsbury and Woodgreen.
- 3.2 The total electorate of the zone is 27,621 and to achieve an electoral ratio of 3,069, the appropriate number of Councillors to support a Council Size of 49, is 9.
- 3.3 The proposed wards for the West are as follows:-
- 3.4 **Ward 1 – Downlands & Forest North**
- 3.4.1 This ward comprises the parishes of Breamore, Damerham, Hale, Martin, Rockbourne, Sandeheath, Whitsbury and Woodgreen.
- 3.4.2 Sandeheath parish, currently in the District ward of Fordingbridge, works with the more rural parishes to the West of Fordingbridge and in doing so seeks to create an identity separate to Fordingbridge. The parishes in the proposed ward work collaboratively on issues such as speedwatch and community fetes and share a common rurality that look towards Cranbourne and Salisbury outside of the District. The proposed ward preserves eight parish areas. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Lyndhurst & Fordingbridge.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Downlands & Forest North	3,035	1	3,035	1%

3.5 Ward 2 – Fordingbridge

3.5.1 This ward comprises the parishes of Fordingbridge, Godshill and Hyde.

3.5.2 The two parishes of Godshill and Hyde look directly West to the town of Fordingbridge, using the facilities in the town and therefore are more appropriate to be within a ward alongside Fordingbridge parish. Both parishes of Godshill and Hyde have main roads to the A338 from which Fordingbridge is accessed. The town of Fordingbridge has a small high street with a post office and a number of local and national retailers. The proposed ward preserves three parish areas. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Lyndhurst & Fordingbridge.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Fordingbridge	6,238	2	3,119	4%

3.6 Ward 3 – Ellingham & Ringwood North

3.6.1 This ward comprises the parish of Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley, and the area in the Ringwood Town Council that is North of the A31, identified as polling districts RA, RB, RC and RH.

3.6.2 The parish of Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley shares more with Poulner in the South than it does with Fordingbridge in the North, using the medical centre in Poulner and sharing community policing. Poulner schools' catchment areas use the A31 as a clear identifiable boundary, working up towards the parish boundary of Ellingham, Harbridge and Ibsley, mirroring the proposed ward. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Ringwood.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Ellingham & Ringwood North	6,430	2	3,215	7%

3.7 Ward 4 – Ringwood Town Central

3.7.1 This ward comprises the remaining Ringwood Town Council area, south of the A31, identified as polling districts RD, RE, RF and RI.

3.7.2 The community South of the A31 has a strong identity within the centre of Ringwood. Ringwood is a busy market town with many leisure, retail and

social facilities and the external parish boundaries with the rural parishes of Bransgore, Burley and Sopley are enhanced by the proposed ward, reflecting the centrality of Ringwood more prominently. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Ringwood.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Ringwood Town Central	6,458	2	3,229	7%

3.8 Ward 5 – Bransgore, Burley & Sopley

3.8.1 This ward comprises the parishes of Bransgore, Burley & Sopley.

3.8.2 The ward has a distinct rurality away from the market town of Ringwood and housing development is very much integrated between Bransgore and Sopley. Independent shops and facilities in Bransgore, located centrally in the ward are used by the community in Burley to the North East and Sopley to the South West. The proposed ward preserves three parish areas.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Bransgore, Burley & Sopley	5,460	2	2,730	-9%

4. NEW MILTON, MILFORD & HORDLE

4.1 The New Milton, Milford & Hordle zone of the District contains the parish areas of New Milton, Milford and Hordle.

4.2 The total electorate of the zone is 31,318 and to achieve an electoral ratio of 3,131, the appropriate number of Councillors to support a Council Size of 49, is 10.

4.3 The proposed wards for New Milton, Milford & Hordle are as follows:-

4.4 Ward 6 – Bashley & Fernhill

4.4.1 This ward comprises the polling districts NF, NG, NI, NJ and NK and brings some of the more rural communities of Bashley together with Fernhill, North of the railway line.

4.4.2 The ward uses the identifiable barrier of the railway line as its main boundary with neighbouring wards and is home to its own health centre and a small number of distinct shops around the Manor Road entrance to Station Road. The proposed ward works within the New Milton Town Council area which is in the advanced stages of developing a detailed neighbourhood development plan.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Bashley & Fernhill	6,648	2	3,324	10%

4.5 Ward 7 – Milton

4.5.1 This ward comprises the polling districts NH, NO, NP, NQ.

4.5.2 Polling district NH, north of the railway line in this ward is a defined estate with a clear connection to the shops and facilities south of the railway line via either Stem Lane by car or the pedestrian bridge over the railway line accessed from Carisbrooke Court. South of the railway line, Station Road runs through the centre of the ward and is a busy high street used by residents coming from both East and West within the ward. The proposed ward works within the New Milton Town Council area which is in the advanced stages of developing a detailed neighbourhood development plan.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Milton	6,146	2	3,073	2%

4.6 Ward 8 – Barton & Becton

4.6.1 This ward comprises the polling districts NC, ND, NL, NM, NP.

4.6.2 The current areas of Barton and Becton sit between New Milton and the coast with a distinct community working together on common issues and have clearly recognised connection locally. The coastal area brings visitors to the area for the various holiday parks, hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation. The proposed ward works within the New Milton Town Council area which is in the advanced stages of developing a detailed neighbourhood development plan. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of New Milton.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Barton & Becton	9,290	3	3,097	3%

4.7 Ward 9 – Milford & Hordle

4.7.1 This ward comprises the parishes of Milford and Hordle.

4.7.2 A known anomaly in the current arrangements is resolved via this proposal by bringing the two parish areas together and not splitting the community of Everton, some of which is currently in the District ward of Milford despite being in the parish of Hordle. The proposed ward preserves two parish areas.

The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of New Milton North, Milford & Hordle.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Milford & Hordle	9,234	3	3,078	2%

5. LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON & RURAL CENTRAL

5.1 The Lymington & Pennington & Rural Central zone of the District contains the parish areas of Beaulieu, Boldre, Brockenhurst, Denny Lodge, East Boldre, Exbury & Lepe, Lymington & Pennington, Lyndhurst, Minstead and Sway.

5.2 The total electorate of the zone is 26,837 and to achieve an electoral ratio of 2,982, the appropriate number of Councillors to support a Council Size of 49, is 9.

5.3 The proposed wards for Lymington & Pennington & Rural Central are as follows:-

5.4 Ward 10 – Lymington Town & Boldre South

5.4.1 This ward comprises the polling districts LC, LD and BD, alongside the majority of electors from polling district LE and a small area in the south of polling district BC. The boundary to the north of the ward follows the main B3054, but also includes the villages of Portmore and Walhampton. To the West, the new proposed boundary with Pennington continues further up the main A337 Stamford Hill before turning left along the middle of Highfield and right to run up behind the houses on the east side of Southern Road.

5.4.2 The coastal villages within the parish of Boldre look towards Lymington as the closest town with their local facilities. Walhampton in particular is locally referred to as “Walhampton, Lymington.” The existing boundary to the West with Pennington is considered to be arbitrary by local councillors and therefore to balance electoral equality within the wards in Lymington and Pennington, the proposed boundary follows the main A337 road, turning left into Highfield to include the properties on this road, but excluding the properties turning right into Southern Road which are proposed to be in the Pennington ward. Lymington Town is served by a port with ferry connections to the Isle of Wight. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Lymington & Boldre.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Lymington Town & Boldre South	5,568	2	2,784	-8%

5.5 Ward 11 – Pennington

- 5.5.1 This ward comprises the polling districts LF, LG, LH and a small number of electors from polling district LE, from Rowan’s Park, St Anne’s Gardens, the remaining area on Highfield Avenue, Leigh Park and Southern Road.
- 5.5.2 Local councillors consider the current ward boundary to the East to be arbitrary. In order to preserve and enhance Pennington, which has a strong community identity with the focal point being the village centre, it is proposed that the boundary to the East includes a small number of electors from polling district LE. The arbitrary boundary from existing arrangements has been moved further East to include properties both South and West of Highfield, including properties both sides of Southern Road. No significant transport links affect the ward boundaries. The entire ward sits within the Lymington and Pennington Town Council area and the Hampshire County division of Lymington & Boldre.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Pennington	5,422	2	2,711	-10%

5.6 Ward 12 – Buckland

- 5.6.1 This ward comprises the polling districts LA and LB and is unchanged from the existing warding arrangements.
- 5.6.2 The ward serves the northern area in Lymington which is clearly defined by Southampton Road and B3054 Avenue Road, before reaching the town centre of Lymington. The ward is largely residential, balanced with a number of community facilities. The Lymington Infant and Junior Schools are in the ward, alongside Lymington Town Hall and Lymington Hospital. The entire ward sits within the Lymington and Pennington Town Council area and the Hampshire County division of Lymington & Boldre.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Buckland	2,821	1	2,821	-6%

5.7 Ward 13 – Lyndhurst & Minstead

- 5.7.1 This ward comprises the parishes of Lyndhurst and Minstead.
- 5.7.2 Minstead looks to Lyndhurst as the nearest village. St Michael And All Angels Church Of England Infant School in Lyndhurst has a catchment area which includes the parish of Minstead. The proposed ward preserves two parish areas. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Lyndhurst & Fordingbridge.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Lyndhurst & Minstead	3,212	1	3,212	7%

5.8 Ward 14 – Brockenhurst

5.8.1 This ward comprises the parish of Brockenhurst.

5.8.2 Brockenhurst parish is reasonably self contained, well served by a surgery, Brockenhurst College, a mainline railway station with direct connections to London and a bustling high street with independent and national retailers. The parish has its own identity and would be well served by a single councillor. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Brockenhurst.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Brockenhurst	2,949	1	2,949	-2%

5.9 Ward 15 – Sway

5.9.1 This ward comprises the parish of Sway.

5.9.2 Sway parish is reasonably self contained, well served by a surgery, youth club, primary school, a mainline railway station with direct connections to London and a number of independent businesses. The parish has its own identity and would be well served by a single councillor. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Brockenhurst.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Sway	3,045	1	3,045	1%

5.10 Ward 16 – Boldre & Forest South East

5.10.1 This ward comprises the parishes of Beaulieu, Denny Lodge, East Boldre, Exbury and Lepe and the majority of electors from polling district BC, from the northern part of the parish of Boldre.

5.10.2 The south east of the New Forest is very rural and there is a small number of electors across a vast area. There is a clear distinction between this proposed ward and the communities to the east of the neighbouring Waterside parishes of Hythe and Dibden, Marchwood and Fawley. The northern villages of Battramsley, Boldre and Pilley in the parish of Boldre are not as well connected with Lymington than those in the south and therefore work nicely within this rural forest ward. The ward contains the Beaulieu Estate area and attractions such as Beaulieu National Motor Museum, Lepe County Park and beach and a number of nature reserves along the coast.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Boldre & Forest South East	2,814	1	2,814	-7%

6. SOUTH WATERSIDE

6.1 The South Waterside zone of the District contains the parish areas of Hythe and Dibden and Fawley.

6.2 The total electorate of the zone is 28,291 and to achieve an electoral ratio of 2,829, the appropriate number of Councillors to support a Council Size of 49, is 10.

6.3 The proposed wards for South Waterside are as follows:-

6.4 Ward 17 – Dibden & Hythe

6.4.1 This ward comprises polling districts HG, HH, HI, HL and HM.

6.4.2 Hythe and Dibden Parish Council has recently adopted a detailed neighbourhood plan and it is proposed that the parish area is served by two wards, to preserve and enhance the parish. Dibden and Hythe serves the northern part of Hythe and Dibden parish, including the town centre in Hythe which is well served by a number of local and national retailers. Applemore is within the ward which has leisure facilities and a number of local schools and a college. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Dibden & Hythe.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Dibden & Hythe	8,133	3	2,711	-10%

6.5 Ward 18 – Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown

6.5.1 This ward comprises polling districts HJ, HK1, HK2, HN, HO and HP.

6.5.2 Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown serves the southern part of Hythe and Dibden parish. The ward removes the known anomaly of the current Furzedown and Hardley ward which cuts across the parish areas of both Hythe and Dibden and Fawley and serves two very distinct communities that would be better served by separate wards. Wildground Infant and Junior Schools sits within the ward, with the entire catchment areas being within the southern area of the ward.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Butts Ash, Dibden	8,787	3	2,929	-3%

Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown				
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6.6 Ward 19 – Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley

6.6.1 This ward comprises polling districts FA, FB, FD, the majority of electors from polling district FC north of Rolleston Road, and the area south east of Blackfield Road, known commonly as the Heather Road estate in polling district FE.

6.6.2 It is recognised that the current ward of Fawley, Blackfield and Langley is largely a good representation of southern part of the Fawley community. However, the Heather Road estate, south of Blackfield Road is more appropriately placed with the majority of Blackfield within this ward. Residents of Fawley Parish have their own medical centre in Blackfield. A sports and community centre is in the middle of the ward and there are a number of supermarkets throughout. There are also a variety of other small shops including Post Offices. All are in walking distance of the relevant villages. Fawley and Langley are a little further from these hubs although Fawley does have a Post Office. The entire ward sits within the Fawley Parish Council area and the Hampshire County division of South Waterside.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley	5,701	2	2,851	-5%

6.7 Ward 20 – Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield

6.7.1 This ward comprises polling districts FF, FG, FI and the area east of Hampton Lane and north of Blackfield Road, from polling district FE. The ward also includes the properties on the south side of Rolleston Road in polling district FC, with the southern boundary of the ward running behind these properties.

6.7.2 The natural boundary is behind the properties on Rolleston Road rather than along the middle of this road, as residents on both sides of the road are very much part of the Holbury community. There is an absolute boundary separating the two parishes of Hythe and Dibden and Fawley, which is clearly identified at the Hardley roundabout where the major A326 at Hardley separates Fawley Parish at Long Lane, Hardley from the Fawley Road which eventually leads to settlements in the parish of Hythe and Dibden. The area defined by Fawley Road at this point is mostly open land and forms a natural green gap between the two parishes. The entire ward sits within the Fawley Parish Council area and the Hampshire County division of South Waterside.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield	5,670	2	2,835	-6%

7. TOTTON & NORTH EAST

7.1 The Totton & North East zone of the District contains the parish areas of Bramshaw, Copythorne, Netley Marsh, Ashurst & Colbury, Totton and Eling and Marchwood.

7.2 The total electorate of the zone is 34,530 and to achieve an electoral ratio of 3,139, the appropriate number of Councillors to support a Council Size of 49, is 11.

7.3 The proposed wards for Totton & North East are as follows:-

7.4 Ward 21 – Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh

7.4.1 This ward comprises the parishes of Ashurst and Colbury, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh.

7.4.2 The rural parishes in the North East of the District share a common rurality away from Totton and would be well served within the same ward by two councillors. The proposed ward removes a known anomaly whereby Copythorne Parish Council area is split across two District wards.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh	6,496	2	3,248	8%

7.5 Ward 22 – Eling & Marchwood

7.5.1 This ward comprises the parish of Marchwood in addition to polling district TI and the southern area from polling district TE, with the northern boundary of the ward being the railway line in Totton.

7.5.2 Residents in Marchwood use the cycle path to the north of the parish to reach Eling to use the local facilities such as retail and the church on Eling Hill. The areas of Eling and Marchwood are set to become more integrated in the future as housing development increases along Trots Lane, narrowing the gap between the two areas. The polling district of TI ends at the Totton bypass, however the bypass has a large underpass at Eling Lane which removes the bypass as a clear boundary within the proposed ward, up to the

railway line. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Totton South & Marchwood.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Eling & Marchwood	6,543	2	3,272	9%

7.6 Ward 23 – Totton North

7.6.1 This ward comprises polling districts TG, TH, TK and TL.

7.6.2 Local ward councillors consider the ward boundaries within Totton to be largely arbitrary and support an arrangement whereby clear boundaries can be created within Totton using main roads and the railway line. It is acknowledged that all wards within the Totton area will work together and serve the wider Totton community. This ward serves the northern community of Totton, including Calmore which has a Junior School. The southern boundary uses the main A336 Ringwood Road which is a current known boundary. The entire ward sits within the Hampshire County division of Totton North & Netley Marsh.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Totton North	8,916	3	2,972	-1%

7.7 Ward 24 – Totton Central

7.7.1 This ward comprises polling districts TC and TD, a small area from polling district TA and the northern area of polling district TE above the railway line.

7.7.2 The ward is built around the main town centre of Totton, working up from the railway line from the south to include the library, town council buildings, community facilities and main shopping areas around Commercial Road, which include several retail parks. The boundary in the west continues along the main A336 Ringwood Road and therefore the ward includes Abbotswood Junior School and the properties to the North of the school which are in the school's catchment area.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Totton Central	6,025	2	3,013	0%

7.8 Ward 25 – Totton South

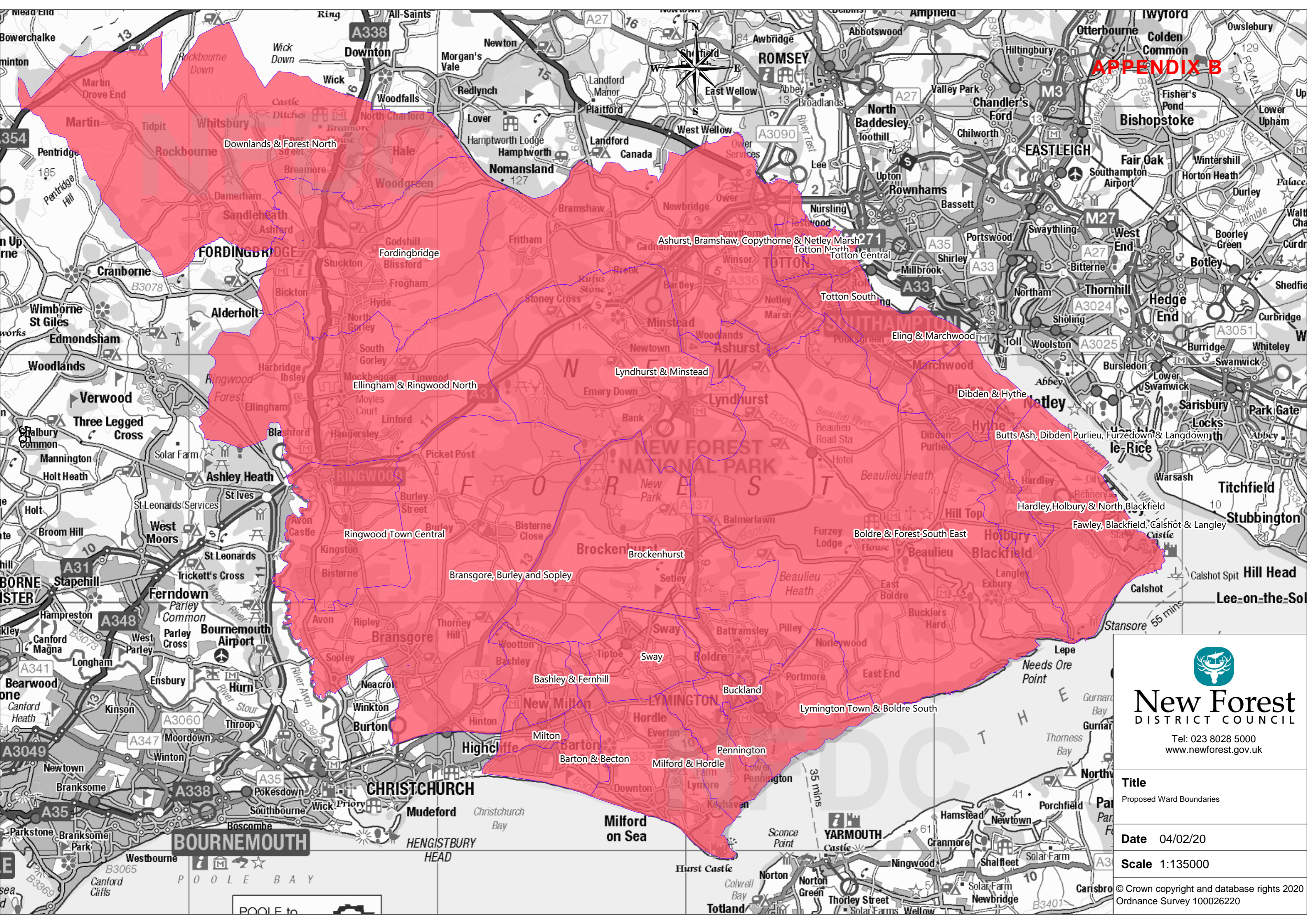
7.8.1 This ward comprises polling districts TB, TJ and TK, and the majority of electors from polling district TA.

7.8.2 The ward works south from the main A336 Ringwood Road to include the residential estates of Testbourne, Hounslow and Rushington. Pedestrians use the pathway across both the railway line and Bartley Water within the ward in the west.

Ward	Total 2025 Electorate	Number of Councillors	Electoral Ratio	+/-
Totton South	6,550	2	3,275	9%



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Title
Proposed Ward Boundaries

Date 04/02/20

Scale 1:135000

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