

# **NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **WARDING PATTERN PROPOSALS ELECTORAL REVIEW**

**February 2020**

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## **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 Trotts 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%