

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

ELECTORAL REVIEW - LGBCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

September 2020

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INTRODUCTION

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 On 30 June 2020, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published draft recommendations as part of the Electoral Review of New Forest District. This follows an initial consultation on warding patterns from December 2019 – March 2020. The draft recommendations indicate that:-

- New Forest District should be represented by 48 councillors, 12 fewer than there are now.
- New Forest District should have 25 wards, nine fewer than there are now, comprising:-
 - Four three-councillor wards.
 - 15 two-councillor wards.
 - Six one-councillor wards
- The full report can be viewed at the following link:-
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/hampshire/new-forest>

1.2 The Electoral Review of the District Council Task and Finish Group, established in June 2019, has maintained a collaborative dialogue with the LGBCE throughout the Review, and having considered the LGBCE draft recommendations, has now developed the consultation response outlined within this report.

1.3 The response has been developed in accordance with the following three statutory criteria set by the LGBCE:-

- Electoral Equality
- Community Interests and Identities
- Effective and Convenient Local Government

1.4 The Council welcomes the LGBCE comment that the Council's proposed warding pattern from February 2020 generally enables strong boundaries and secures good levels of electoral equality.

1.5 All councillors were consulted with a questionnaire exercise before the Electoral Review of the District Council Task and Finish Group met to develop the consultation responses outlined within this report.

1.6 The responses are contained within the following five sections of this report, aligned to the areas in the LGBCE draft recommendations report:-

- Central
- West
- South West
- North East
- South East

CONSULTATION RESPONSES

3. CENTRAL

3.1 The LG BCE draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Beaulieu, Boldre, East Boldre & Exbury & Lepe	1	3%
Brockenhurst & Denny Lodge	1	5%
Lymington Town	2	6%
Lyndhurst & Minstead	1	4%
Pennington	2	9%
Sway	1	-1%

3.2 **Beaulieu, Boldre, East Boldre & Exbury & Lepe**

3.2.1 The Council welcomes the adjustment made in other areas of the District, alongside a proposed Council Size of 48, to accommodate a ward which does not split Boldre Parish. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries as it enables good electoral equality, strong boundaries and reflects local community identities and interests.

3.2.2 Having consulted local ward councillors, including comments from Boldre Parish Council, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Forest & Solent** to reflect the rural and coastal nature of the parishes it represents.

3.3 **Brockenhurst & Denny Lodge**

3.3.1 Whilst this ward does not support a single ward for Brockenhurst as a self contained community as proposed by the Council, the parishes are neighbouring and it facilitates the warding pattern well in the remaining area. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

3.4 **Lymington Town**

3.4.1 As highlighted at 3.2.1, the Council welcomes the adjustment made in other areas of the District, alongside a proposed Council Size of 48, to accommodate a ward which does not split Boldre Parish. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundary.

3.4.2 Having consulted local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Lymington** to reflect the two ward arrangements in the Lymington and Pennington Town Council area. The removal of the Buckland ward from the current arrangements removes the need for any distinction between the “town” centre of Lymington and other areas.

3.5 **Lyndhurst & Minstead**

3.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

3.6 **Pennington**

3.6.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals for this ward, although the Eastern boundary is amended to facilitate an effective warding pattern from Lymington Town and the rural parishes further East. As the amendments are minor, the Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

3.7 **Sway**

3.7.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

4. **WEST**

4.1 The LGBC draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Bransgore, Burley & Sopley	2	-11%
Downlands & Forest North	1	-1%
Ellingham & Ringwood North	2	5%
Fordingbridge	2	1%
Ringwood Town Central	2	1%

4.2 **Bransgore, Burley & Sopley**

4.2.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name, further supporting that the -11% has facilitated a more effective warding pattern across the District to support a Council Size of 48, without splitting a further Town or Parish.

4.3 **Downlands and Forest North**

4.3.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name and further comments that it provides an excellent level of electoral equality alongside common focus, character and issues faced between constituent parishes.

4.4 **Ellingham & Ringwood North**

4.4.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries.

4.4.2 Having consulted local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Ringwood North & Ellingham** to reflect the larger area of Ringwood first in the ward name, and providing further consistency and effective and convenient local government in respect of the Hampshire County division of Ringwood.

4.5 **Fordingbridge**

4.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries as a clear reflection of the collaborative and interactive work of the community within the ward.

4.5.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Fordingbridge, Godshill & Hyde** to reflect the three unique Town and Parish identities within the ward.

4.6 **Ringwood Town Central**

4.6.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

5. **SOUTH WEST**

5.1 The LG BCE draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Ashley & New Milton North East	2	9%
Barton	2	4%
Milford & Hordle	3	0%
Milton	2	-6%
New Milton North West	1	5%

5.2 **Ashley & New Milton North East**

5.2.1 Although differing from the Council's proposals, the Council is supportive of the proposed ward boundaries in reflecting local views that Ashley should not be split across wards.

5.2.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Ashley, Bashley and Fernhill**. Place names are of social importance locally and this amendment would take into consideration the well established place name heritage of Bashley and Fernhill.

5.3 **Barton**

5.3.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals, differing in the ward boundaries in the North East only. The Council is supportive of the proposed ward boundaries in maintaining the well established areas of Barton and Becton in a single ward.

5.3.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Barton & Becton**. Place names are of social importance locally and this amendment would take into consideration the well established place name heritage of both Barton on Sea and Becton Bunny.

5.4 **Milford & Hordle**

5.4.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

5.5 **Milton**

5.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals, differing in adjusting boundaries further south and using the railway line as a hard boundary in the north. The Council is supportive of the proposed ward boundaries and name, which strengthen the boundary and improve electoral equality and viability of the other wards in New Milton.

5.6 **New Milton North West**

5.6.1 Although differing from the Council's proposals, the Council is supportive of the proposed ward boundaries in reflecting local views and balancing the other proposed arrangements in New Milton. The boundary in the south is strong, using the railway line.

5.6.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Ballard**. Place names are of social importance locally and this amendment would take into consideration the well established place name heritage of Ballard and Ballard Lake.

6. **NORTH EAST**

6.1 The LGBCE draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh	2	6%
Eling & Marchwood	2	6%
Totton Central	2	-2%
Totton North	3	-3%
Totton South	2	7%

6.2 **Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh**

6.2.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name as a clear reflection of the collaborative and interactive work of the community.

6.3 **Eling & Marchwood**

6.3.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries.

6.3.2 Having consulted with local ward councillors, the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Marchwood & Eling** to reflect the larger area of Marchwood first in the ward name.

6.4 **Totton Central**

6.4.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

6.5 **Totton North**

6.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

6.6 **Totton South**

6.6.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

7. **SOUTH EAST**

7.1 The LGBCE draft recommendations identify the following wards for this area:-

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown	3	-9%
Dibden & Hythe	3	-8%
Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley	2	-7%
Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield	2	-8%

7.2 Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown

7.2.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals for this ward, with minor amendments to satisfy electoral equality for a Council Size of 48. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

7.3 Dibden & Hythe

7.3.1 The draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals for this ward, with minor amendments to satisfy electoral equality for a Council Size of 48. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

7.4 Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley

7.4.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

7.5 Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield

7.5.1 The draft recommendations adopt the Council's proposals for this ward without amendment. The Council confirms its support for the ward boundaries and name.

Summary

Ward Name – Draft Recommendations	Ward Name – Council Proposal (Bold & <i>Italic</i> where alternative is proposed)	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Variance from average %
Ashley & New Milton North East	Ashley, Bashley & Fernhill	2	6,679	9%
Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh	Ashurst, Bramshaw, Copythorne & Netley Marsh	2	6,496	6%
Barton	Barton & Becton	2	6,385	4%
Beaulieu, Boldre, East Boldre & Exbury & Lepe	Forest & Solent	1	3,158	3%
Bransgore, Burley & Sopley	Bransgore, Burley & Sopley	2	5,460	-11%
Brockenhurst & Denny Lodge	Brockenhurst & Denny Lodge	1	3,222	5%
Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown	Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown	3	8,403	-9%
Dibden & Hythe	Dibden & Hythe	3	8,517	-8%
Downlands & Forest North	Downlands & Forest North	1	3,035	-1%
Eling & Marchwood	Marchwood & Eling	2	6,543	6%
Ellingham & Ringwood North	Ringwood North & Ellingham	2	6,430	5%
Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley	Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley	2	5,701	-7%
Fordingbridge	Fordingbridge, Godshill & Hyde	2	6,238	1%
Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield	Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield	2	5,670	-8%
Lymington Town	Lymington	2	6,512	6%
Lyndhurst & Minstead	Lyndhurst & Minstead	1	3,212	4%
Milford & Hordle	Milford & Hordle	3	9,234	0%
Milton	Milton	2	5,799	-6%
New Milton North West	Ballard	1	3,222	5%
Pennington	Pennington	2	6,682	9%
Ringwood Town Central	Ringwood Town Central	2	6,458	5%
Sway	Sway	1	3,045	-1%
Totton Central	Totton Central	2	6,025	-2%
Totton North	Totton North	3	8,916	-3%
Totton South	Totton South	2	6,550	7%

