

Proposed amendment to the Report of the Cabinet – 2 September 2020 – Item 6 – Electoral Review of New Forest District Council – Draft Recommendations – Consultation Response – Lymington and Pennington Wards

Cllr Corbridge will move, Cllr Dunning will second:-

To replace the Central section of the draft consultation response with the following:-

3. CENTRAL

3.1 The LGBC 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 & Pennington

3.4.1 As highlighted at 3.1.2, 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. However, local ward councillors have not reviewed the proposed ward pattern based on a Council Size of 48 and the removal of the Buckland ward.

3.4.2 Following this review, an alternative warding pattern is proposed in the Lymington & Pennington Town area. The proposals and supporting evidence are outlined at section 4 below. If adopted, the proposals would not require any adjustment in other areas of the District warding pattern. Furthermore,

the Council requests that the ward name be amended to **Lymington** to reflect the two ward arrangements. 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 **Sway**

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

4. **LYMINGTON & PENNINGTON PROPOSALS**

4.1 The Council’s proposals for this area in response to the LGBCE draft recommendations are as follows:-

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Variance 2025
Lymington	2	6,639	8%
Pennington	2	6,560	7%

4.2 **Lymington & Pennington**

4.2.1 The proposed boundary changes accommodate the loss of Buckland ward and approximately divides equally the electorate between Lymington and Pennington wards, within parameters. Pennington ward remains a broad mix of rural and semi urban electorate spread between the coast and hinterland including some New Forest National Park designated area.

4.2.2 Lymington remains principally a ward for the town of Lymington. The boundary to the south of the A337 at Stanford Hill remains the same, moving the central section east to the clearly defined geographical linear feature of the A337. This enables the incorporation of the majority of the current Buckland ward into the proposed Lymington ward. The northern boundary remains the same. The small section west of the A337 to be included in the Lymington ward uses the clearly defined footpath off the A337, continuing to follow this behind Woodley Gardens before re-joining the existing boundary of polling district LA. These proposals address many of the local concerns in response to the draft recommendations and secure good electoral equality.

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 %
Lymington Town	<i>See alternative proposals below</i>	2	6,512	6%
Pennington	<i>See alternative proposals below</i>	2	6,682	9%

Alternative warding pattern proposals

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Variance from average %
Lymington	2	6,639	8%
Pennington	2	6,560	7%