

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

Cllr M Wade will move, Cllr Dowd will second:-

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

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 and Dibden & Hythe

7.2.1 Whilst the draft recommendations adopt much of the Council's proposals for these wards, local ward councillors have reviewed the ward pattern based on a Council Size of 48.

7.2.2 Following this review, an alternative warding pattern is proposed in the Hythe & Dibden Parish area. The proposals and supporting evidence are outlined at section 8 below. If adopted, the proposals would not require any adjustment in other areas of the District warding pattern.

7.3 Fawley, Blackfield, Calshot & Langley

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

7.4 Hardley, Holbury & North Blackfield

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.

8. HYTHE & DIBDEN PROPOSALS

8.1 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
Hythe South	2	5,812	-5%
Hythe Central	2	5,548	-10%

Dibden & Dibden Purlieu	2	5,560	-10%
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8.2 Hythe South

8.2.1 This ward is in effect a suburb of Hythe and focuses around a number of large estates on the southern boundary of the community and makes a logical geographical ward covering the southern portion of Hythe and Dibden. It comprises polling districts HJ and HO, and the majority of polling districts HK1 and HN. In this ward, minor adjustments have been made where polling district HN meets HP, and where polling district HK1 meets HI and HM, to ensure electoral equality is achieved across the three wards in Hythe & Dibden. Further supporting evidence for this ward is noted below:-

- In ecclesiastical terms the St John's church of Hythe with its satellite place of worship in St Anne's, on Netley View, caters for the spiritual needs of the ward. Whilst for Dibden Purlieu and Dibden, it is St Andrew's church, in Dibden Purlieu, with its secondary church All Saints in Dibden. So the Hythe South ward is aligned within the spiritual boundary of St John's Church.
- Waterside Primary school, on Langdown estate, serves the eastern portion of the ward, whilst Wildground, located in Butts Ash, serves the western half of the ward, both schools' catchment areas are focused in this ward leaving Hythe primary to serve Hythe and the two Orchard schools to serve Dibden and Dibden Purlieu.
- The grouping of the larger older estates of Langdown, Netley View, Roseberry Avenue and Furzedown have a strong commonality in social make up, which in turn leads to a mutual set of community needs, which differ from other parts of the village.
- There are 3 Public Houses, which serve as social focal points in the ward and are used for the most part by locals within walking distance whilst other establishments serve the other parts of the community in both Hythe and Dibden/Dibden Purlieu.
- The shopping in this ward is done predominantly in Hythe, whilst in Dibden and Dibden Purlieu most of it is done in Tesco at Dibden or Dibden Purlieu centre. Netley View has its own Post Office and convenience store, which serves the northern section of the ward
- The play area facilities on the "Navy Fields", Blue Bell on the Birds estate and Forest Front plus the Skate Park on Forest Front are again mainly used by the children and youth of the adjoining estates.

8.3 Hythe Central

8.3.1 This ward comprises polling districts HI, HK2, HL, HM, and a small number of electors from HK1, south east of Langdown Lawn and South Street. Further supporting evidence for this ward is noted below:-

- It makes sense for Hythe to be unified and to avoid the confusing current boundaries, particularly at South Street.

- In ecclesiastical terms the St John's church of Hythe is located in the centre although most of its parish is in Hythe South. The other churches, which serve Hythe are Cornerstone, Saint Michael's Catholic Church and the Family Church.
- Hythe Primary School serves this ward and its catchment area is Hythe itself.
- This ward has a number of retirement homes and newer developments than in Hythe South, particularly on the water front, mixed with older 1960s developments, which were the beginning of Hythe's expansion.
- The community is served by two supermarkets, health centres, a Community Centre, cafés, pubs, restaurants, two NFDC car parks, transport links via bus and ferry, garages and MOT centres and a shopping centre with pedestrian zone which contains a high number of independent traders.
- The Tuesday market attracts a good mix of local and visiting shoppers.
- There is no real understanding of the arbitrary division into Hythe East and West and this proposal would make sense to residents in unifying the village to reflect the community. This falls mainly within the SO45 5 area.
- It has the largest play area in Ewart Recreation ground as well as the base for the village cricket team.

8.4 Dibden & Dibden Purlieu

8.4.1 This ward comprises polling districts HG, HH, HP and a small number of electors from HN, as previously mentioned taking the boundary with Hythe South marginally south. Further supporting evidence for this ward is noted below:-

- Dibden Purlieu and Dibden is a distinct community with Orchard Infant and Junior schools, Noadswood and Applemore Secondary Schools along with Oaklodge and Greenwood Schools.
- In ecclesiastical terms St Andrew's church, in Dibden Purlieu, with its sister church All Saints in Dibden.
- Dibden Purlieu centre has the community hall (WI hall), medical centre (Forestsideside) , pub (Heath), garage (Tesco Express, Shawfix and Balmer Lawn, Dibden Purlieu) and viable independent shops (including a Butcher, Pharmacy, café, DIY store, hairdressers, Post Office etc.).
- Dibden has the Tesco super store, which is used by people from across the community however more so from those living outside Hythe Centre.
- The local Leisure Centre is in Dibden widely used and appreciated by the whole community.
- The housing developments in Dibden are newer than those in the other two proposed Hythe wards giving them a distinct community identity.
- There is a number of retirement homes in the Dibden Purlieu area.
- The two play areas, Fletcher Close and Orchard Wild Garden, both in Dibden are individually different from those in other areas reflecting the developmental design of their time.
- The golf course is one of the main social hubs within this ward, reflective of its more rural aspect than the other two proposed wards.

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 %
Butts Ash, Dibden Purlieu, Furzedown & Langdown	<i>See alternative proposals below</i>	3	8,403	-9%
Dibden & Hythe	<i>See alternative proposals below</i>	3	8,517	-8%

Alternative warding pattern proposals

Ward Name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2025)	Variance from average %
Hythe South	2	5,812	-5%
Hythe Central	2	5,548	-10%
Dibden & Dibden Purlieu	2	5,560	-10%