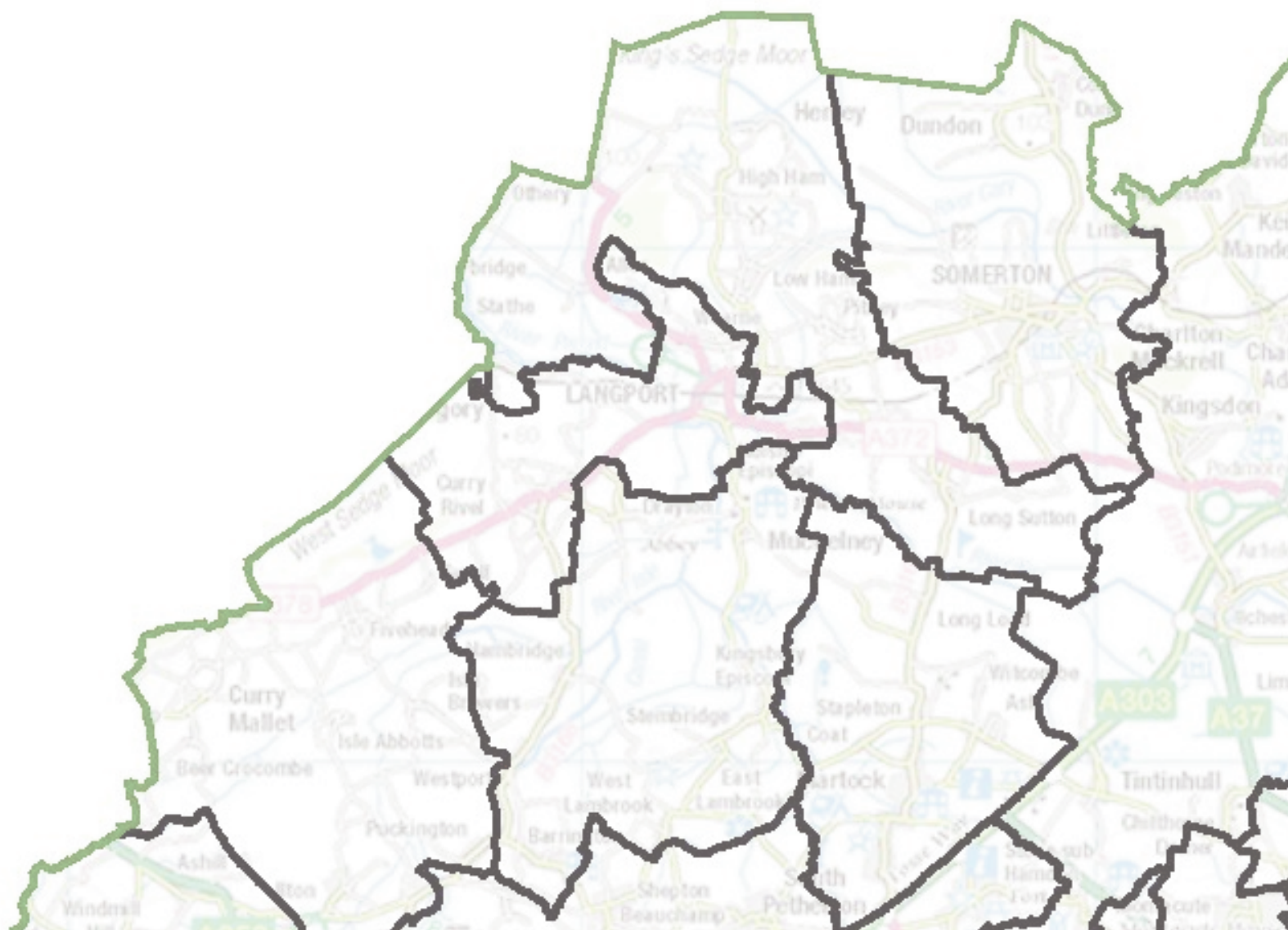


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



**New electoral arrangements for
South Somerset District Council
Final recommendations**

May 2018

Translations and other formats

For information on obtaining this publication in another language or in a large-print or Braille version, please contact the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

Tel: 0330 500 1525

Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

2 Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

3 An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed
- How many wards or electoral divisions should there be, where are their boundaries and what should they be called
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division

Why South Somerset?

4 We are conducting a review of South Somerset as the value of each vote in district council elections varies depending on where you live in South Somerset. Some councillors currently represent many more or fewer voters than others. This is 'electoral inequality'. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal.

Our proposals for South Somerset

- South Somerset should be represented by 60 councillors, the same number as there are now.
- South Somerset should have 35 wards, four fewer than there are now.
- The boundaries of 11 wards will stay the same, the rest should change.

5 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for South Somerset.**

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

6 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

7 The members of the Commission are:

- Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
- Susan Johnson OBE
- Peter Maddison QPM
- Steve Robinson
- Andrew Scallan CBE

- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

1 Introduction

8 This electoral review was carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in South Somerset are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively.
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

What is an electoral review?

9 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

10 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

11 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for South Somerset. We then held two periods of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft and final recommendations.

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
15 August 2017	Number of councillors decided
22 August 2017	Start of consultation seeking views on new wards
30 October 2017	End of consultation, we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations
9 January 2018	Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation
19 March 2018	End of consultation, we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
8 May 2018	Publication of final recommendations

How will the recommendations affect you?

13 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in, which other communities are in that ward, and, in some cases, which parish or town council ward you vote in. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

15 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

16 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

	2017	2023
Electorate of South Somerset	131,767	138,221
Number of councillors	60	60
Average number of electors per councillor	2,196	2,304

17 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'good electoral equality'. All but two of our proposed wards for South Somerset will have good electoral equality by 2023.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the district or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

19 See Appendix C for details of the submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

20 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2023, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2018. These forecasts were broken down to polling district level and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 5% by 2023. This increase is due to a number of developments taking place in Yeovil and Brympton.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

21 During our consultation on ward boundaries, we received two submissions from a ward councillor for Brympton that stated that the electorate forecast had been underestimated, particularly with regard to developments taking place around Yeovil. We visited one of these developments on our tour of the area and agreed with the councillor that the development may have progressed more quickly than had been estimated in our forecast. After further dialogue with the Council, we updated our forecast to reflect progress on the developments in this area. All proposals made to the Commission have been reviewed using these amended figures.

22 We are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our final recommendations.

Number of councillors

23 South Somerset District Council currently has 60 councillors. We looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that keeping this number the same will make sure the Council can carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

24 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 60 councillors – for example, 60 one-councillor wards, 10 three-councillor wards, or a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards.

25 We received one submission about the number of councillors in response to our consultation on warding patterns. The submission suggested that the number of councillors for South Somerset should be reduced, but did not provide an alternative proposal. We have therefore based our draft and final recommendations on a 60-member council.

Ward boundaries consultation

26 We received 49 submissions from respondents to our consultation on ward boundaries. These included one detailed district-wide proposal from the officers of the Council. We also received alternative proposals for Ilminster, Crewkerne, Yeovil and Chard.

27 The district-wide schemes we received each provided for a mixed pattern of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for South Somerset. We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries would have good levels of electoral equality. We also considered that they generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

28 Our draft recommendations were primarily based on the officers' proposals with some modifications to better reflect our statutory criteria. Our recommendations provided for 15 one-councillor, 12 two-councillor and seven three-councillor wards. We considered that our draft recommendations provided for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests.

Draft recommendations consultation

29 We received submissions from 130 different respondents during the consultation on our draft recommendations. These included a response from the officers of the Council, the South Somerset Green Party and a full scheme from the Conservative Group on the Council. The submission from the South Somerset Green Party did not propose any ward boundaries and argued in favour of more single-councillor wards across the district. The majority of the other submissions focussed on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Tower & Wincanton, Cary, Camelot, Blackmoor Vale and Coker.

30 Our final recommendations are based in part on our draft recommendations with modifications to the wards in central South Somerset and the eastern part of the district in particular. We have also made minor modifications to the ward boundaries in Brympton and Yeovil Without.

Final recommendations

31 Pages 8–33 detail our final recommendations for each area of South Somerset. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory criteria⁴ of:

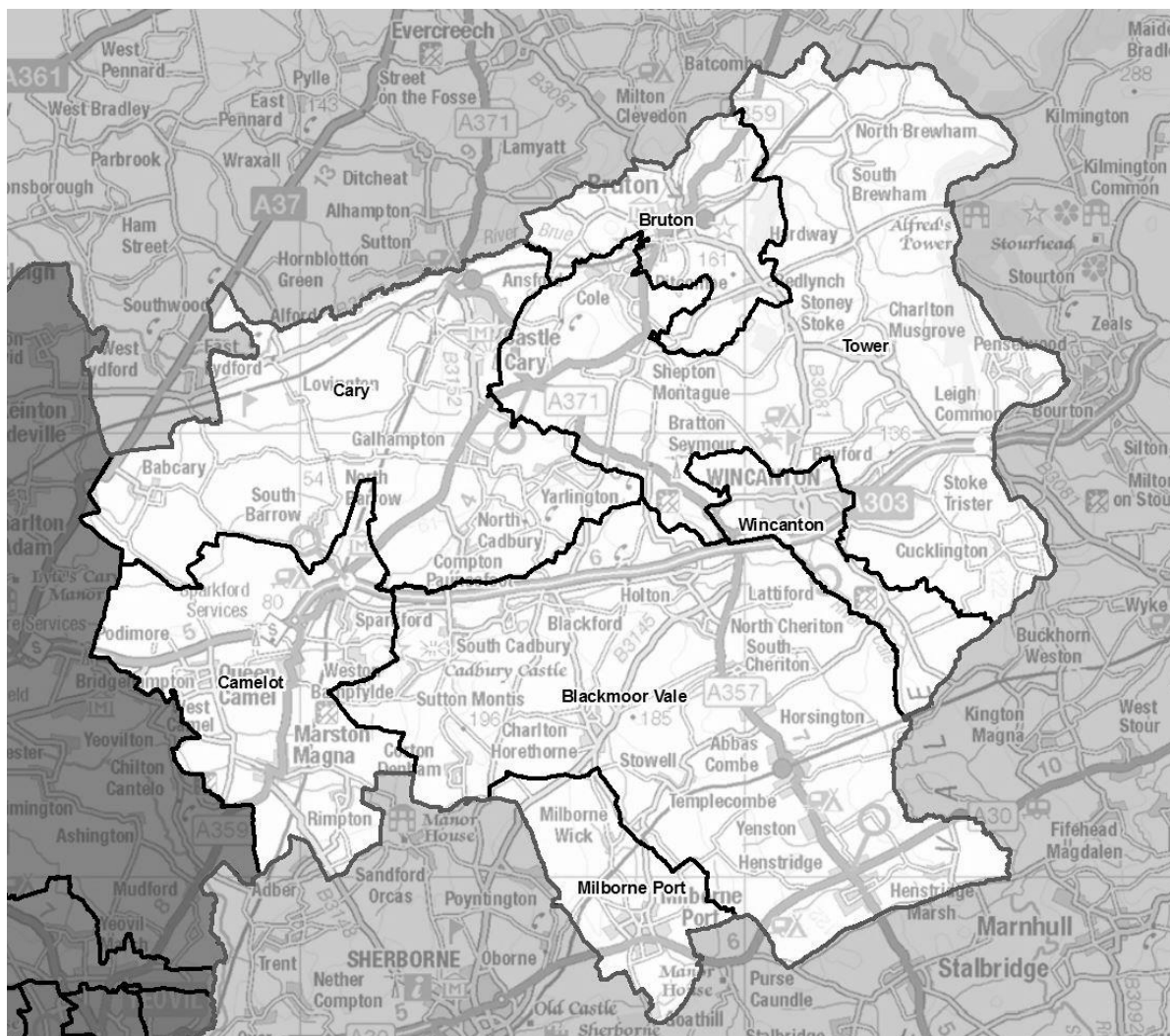
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

32 Our final recommendations are for seven three-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and 17 one-councillor wards. We consider that our final recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

33 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 38–40 and on the large map accompanying this report.

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

East South Somerset



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Blackmoor Vale	2	8%
Bruton	1	-6%
Camelot	1	4%
Cary	2	9%
Milborne Port	1	6%
Tower	1	-12%
Wincanton	2	8%

Blackmoor Vale and Milborne Port

34 Our draft recommendations for this area were based on the scheme submitted by the officers of the Council. We received 33 submissions objecting to our proposals for Blackmoor Vale and Milborne Port. These were from the Conservative Group on the Council, a ward councillor, five parish councils and 26 local residents. The submissions, including an alternative proposal from the Conservatives, broadly argued that the existing ward boundaries in this area should be retained.

35 Twenty-three of the submissions concerned the parish of Corton Denham, which we had proposed be moved into Ivelchester ward. The submissions argued that Corton Denham has no transport or community links with the other villages in our proposed Ivelchester ward. They also argued that Corton Denham is small and rural and has close ties with the parishes that form the existing Blackmoor Vale ward. The parishes are relatively isolated communities and have very similar issues. The respondents argued that our draft recommendations did not reflect the local community in this area and placing Corton Denham in the Blackmoor Vale ward would help promote effective and convenient local government more so than warding it with Ivelchester.

36 We received detailed submissions from Henstridge and Charlton Horethorne Parish Councils that argued they should remain in Blackmoor Vale ward, rather than in Milborne Port as we proposed under our draft recommendations. The submissions also argued that the parish councils that comprise the current Blackmoor Vale ward have similar interests, community links and rural-specific concerns and they would be better served by being warded within the same group of parishes.

37 Having carefully considered the submissions received, we were persuaded by the evidence submitted that the parish of Corton Denham should be included within Blackmoor Vale ward. Additionally, we consider the arguments put forward with regard to Henstridge and Charlton Horethorne to be strong. We are therefore proposing a Blackmoor Vale ward based on the current ward boundaries in this area, with the addition of the parish of South Cadbury & Sutton Montis to improve electoral equality in the adjoining Cary ward. This is explained in further detail in paragraphs 41–45. This would also result in the ward boundary following division boundaries in this area which we consider will provide for effective and convenient local government. Our recommended Blackmoor Vale and Milborne Port wards will both have good electoral equality by 2023.

Bruton

38 Our draft Bruton ward was based on current ward boundaries in this area and was supported by the Conservative Group. We have decided to confirm our draft Bruton ward as final. Bruton will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Camelot and Cary

39 Our draft recommendations for Camelot and Cary wards were based on the officers' proposals for the area. We received 25 submissions from three ward councillors, five parish councils and 17 local residents. The respondents objected to our recommendations for these wards, specifically concerning our proposal to move the parish of Yarlinton from Cary into Tower & Wincanton ward.

40 The submissions argued that North Cadbury and Yarlington are linked together through both community identity and local government considerations. In particular, they stressed that they act as a grouped parish council. Respondents also argued that residents had shared facilities and amenities, including schools and churches. It was argued that Yarlington is a rural community which would not benefit from being included within a larger ward with the urban settlement of Wincanton.

41 We received a submission from South Cadbury & Sutton Montis Parish Council that stated their preference to remain in the same ward as North Cadbury as they have links with the parish. The Conservative Group submission originally proposed that the parish of South Cadbury & Sutton Montis should move into Blackmoor Vale ward to make the boundary coterminous with the county division boundary.

42 We were persuaded by the evidence received that the grouped parish of North Cadbury & Yarlington should remain together in the same ward. We also note that retaining the parish of Babcary in Cary ward was supported by the Conservative Group, two town councillors and a local resident. A ward based on the existing boundaries in Cary would have an electoral variance of 14% by 2023. We consider this to be too high and have therefore looked at alternative boundaries to provide better electoral equality in Cary. We considered moving the parish of South Barrow into Camelot ward; however, this would not achieve good electoral equality as Cary ward would have an electoral variance of 11% by 2023.

43 In light of the above, our final recommendations for Cary are based on the existing ward boundaries in the area, with the exception of South Cadbury & Sutton Montis parish, which will move into the neighbouring ward of Blackmoor Vale. We are unable to accommodate South Cadbury in a ward with North Cadbury and achieve good levels of electoral equality. However, placing South Cadbury in the Blackmoor Vale ward mirrors the county division boundary, and supports the Conservative's argument of preserving community stability in the area. We believe, on balance that this provides for the best balance of the statutory criteria for this area. Cary will have good electoral equality by 2023.

44 We received objections to our proposal to move the parish of Rimpton from Camelot into our proposed Ivelchester ward. A submission from Rimpton Parish Council argued strongly that our draft recommendations went against the grain of local service provision and infrastructure and cut across community ties. It was argued that Rimpton is too small to provide many local services and is therefore reliant on the nearby village of Queen Camel for a medical centre, primary school, Post Office and supply stores. It was argued that the pattern of social and cultural life associated with redrawing the boundary here would change if Rimpton were to move into Ivelchester ward and Queen Camel were to remain in Camelot ward, as proposed under our draft recommendations. We felt the evidence provided in this submission was significant and therefore adopted this alternative in our final recommendations.

45 Based on the entirety of the evidence received, our final recommendations for Camelot are based on the existing ward in this area. Camelot will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Tower and Wincanton

46 Our draft recommendations for Tower and Wincanton were to combine the two existing wards into a three-member ward to improve electoral equality.

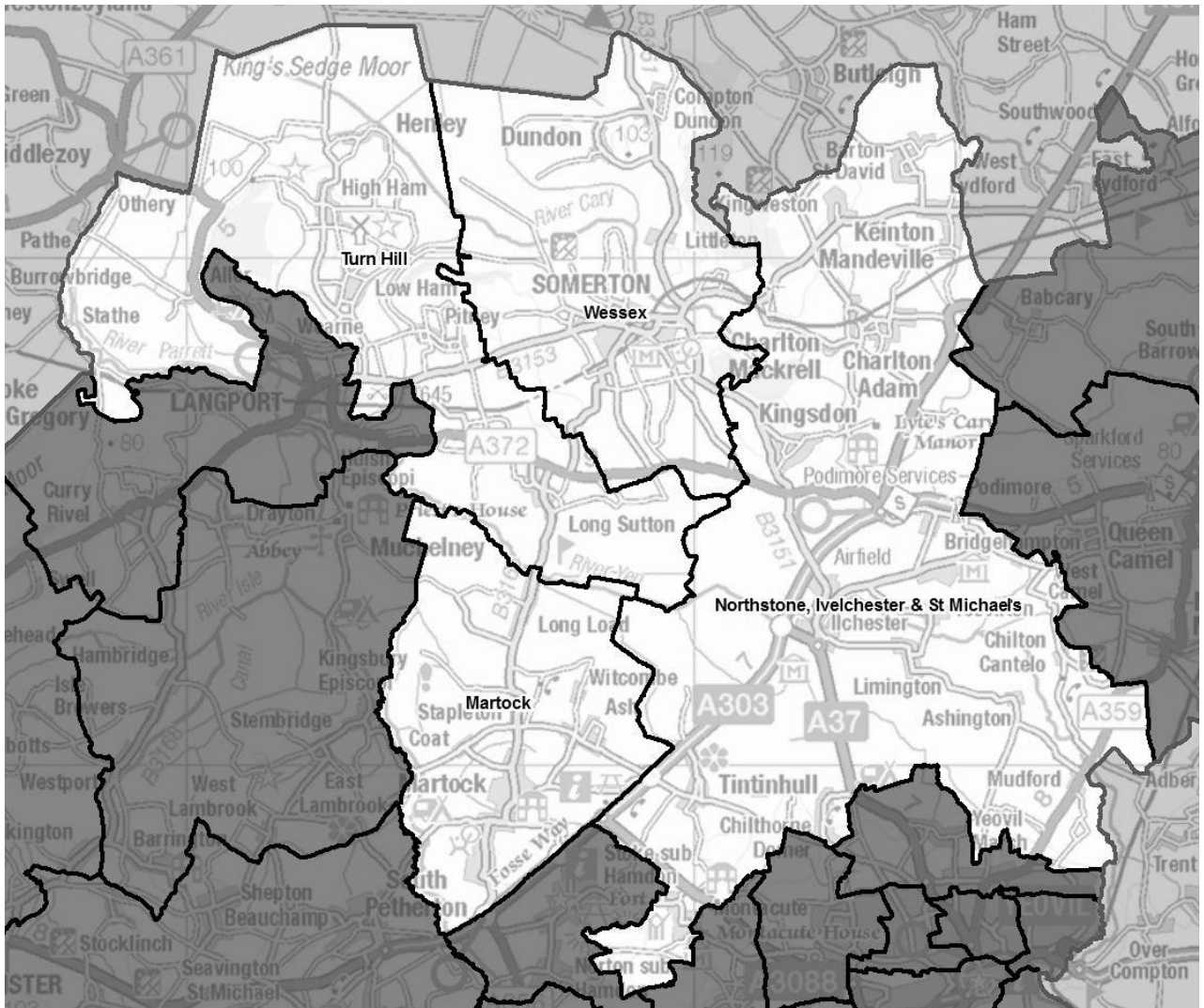
47 We received 11 submissions objecting to this proposal, including from the officers of the Council, the Conservative Group, one ward councillor, four parish councils and four local residents. We also received one submission in support of our Tower & Wincanton ward from one of the current ward councillors for Wincanton.

48 The respondents who objected to our proposal argued that the rural parishes that comprise the existing Tower ward are inherently different communities to the more urban Wincanton. In addition, the geographical size of the ward, as well as balancing the differing needs of an urban community against the needs of rural parishes, would hinder the delivery of effective and convenient local government. The respondents stated that the existing warding arrangements better reflected the make-up of the area and that representation of a group of rural parishes by one ward councillor was highly effective.

49 The submission from Councillor Winder argued that as the current Tower ward was designated as a deprived rural area for services such as public transport, schools and shops it would not promote effective or convenient local government to link this ward with a more urban area.

50 We have carefully considered the submissions received and note that respondents have provided good evidence in support of their proposals. While we recognise that the electoral variance for an amended Tower ward would be relatively high, the ward would better reflect the identities and interests of the communities in Tower ward and Wincanton town. We are therefore recommending a one-councillor Tower ward and a two-councillor Wincanton ward based on the existing ward boundaries. Although Tower ward will have an electoral variance of 12% less than the average for South Somerset by 2023, we believe this offers the best balance of our statutory criteria. Furthermore, Wincanton will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Central South Somerset



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Martock	2	6%
Northstone, Ivelchester & St Michael's	3	9%
Turn Hill	1	-6%
Wessex	2	5%

Northstone, Ivelchester & St Michael's

51 Our draft recommendations for central South Somerset were based on the officers' proposal for a two-councillor Northstone ward and a one-councillor Ivelchester ward. We received 31 submissions objecting to our proposals in this area, from four parish councils and 26 local residents.

52 The majority of the respondents objected to our proposal to include the parishes of Corton Denham and Rimpleton in our draft Ivelchester ward. Based on the evidence provided we are persuaded that including these parishes in an Ivelchester ward would not adequately reflect community identity and would serve to cut some communities off from their natural centres.

53 Reverting to the existing ward boundaries in Camelot, Cary and Blackmoor Vale, as discussed in the preceding section, would result in an Ivelchester ward with an electoral variance of -32%. We therefore looked at alternative ward boundaries for this area.

54 We received two submissions from Yeovilton Parish Council and Ilchester Parish Council that argued in favour of being placed in the same ward, on the basis that the parishes have a close relationship and work together on a number of projects. Yeovilton Parish Council stated that residents in this area relied heavily on Ilchester for local amenities, such as the Post Office and doctor's surgery, and that Ilchester was the focal point for their community. The submission from Ilchester Parish Council argued that they felt they had little in common with the other parishes in our proposed Northstone ward and that our draft recommendations would split the united benefice that they are part of, along with Limington and Yeovilton.

55 The Conservative Group submission proposed a single-councillor Ivelchester ward comprising the parishes of Ivelchester, Yeovilton and Kingsdon which would allow for any potential future growth in the area of Podimore. As the Garden Town development would be inhabited more than five years after the end of this review, we are unable to take this into account. The submission also proposed that the parishes of Mudford, Limington and Chilton Cantelo be moved into the ward of Yeovil Without. However, we also received a strong evidence-based submission from Yeovil Without Parish Council (detailed in paragraphs 104–109), which did not support a warding pattern that would cross its existing parish boundary. Having considered the evidence received, we are not persuaded that a ward comprising Yeovil Without, Mudford, Chilton Cantelo and Limington parishes would provide for effective and convenient local government or reflect community identities. We have therefore not adopted this proposal in our final recommendations.

56 Combining the remaining parishes that comprised our proposed Ivelchester and Northstone wards (Mudford, Chilton Cantelo, Limington, Yeovilton, Ilchester, Kingsdon, The Charltons, Keinton Mandeville, Kingweston and Barton St David) would not result in good electoral equality by 2023 (a two-councillor ward with a variance of 24% or a three-councillor ward with a variance of -17%).

57 Taking all of the above into account, we have decided to recommend a three-councillor Northstone, Ivelchester & St Michael's ward based on the above parishes and the parishes comprising the existing St Michael's ward, with the exception of the

Stanchester parish ward of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, which will move into the neighbouring ward of Hamdon, as proposed by the officers.

58 While geographically large, this ward will be well connected throughout by the A303 and A37. We acknowledge that some of the communities within this ward may feel that they have little in common. However, we will always endeavour to keep communities together and avoid splitting any parishes wherever possible. The Commission will, on occasion, place seemingly disparate communities within the same ward if necessary to achieve what we consider to be the best balance of our statutory criteria. The only other option would have been to create smaller district wards but divide parishes between them in order to secure good electoral equality. We also acknowledge that there has been a preference throughout the review for one- or two-councillor wards wherever possible. However, we consider that a three-councillor ward in this area provides the best balance of our statutory criteria, based on the evidence received and taking into account the boundaries of the surrounding wards.

59 Northstone, Ivelchester & St Michael's will have good electoral equality by 2023.

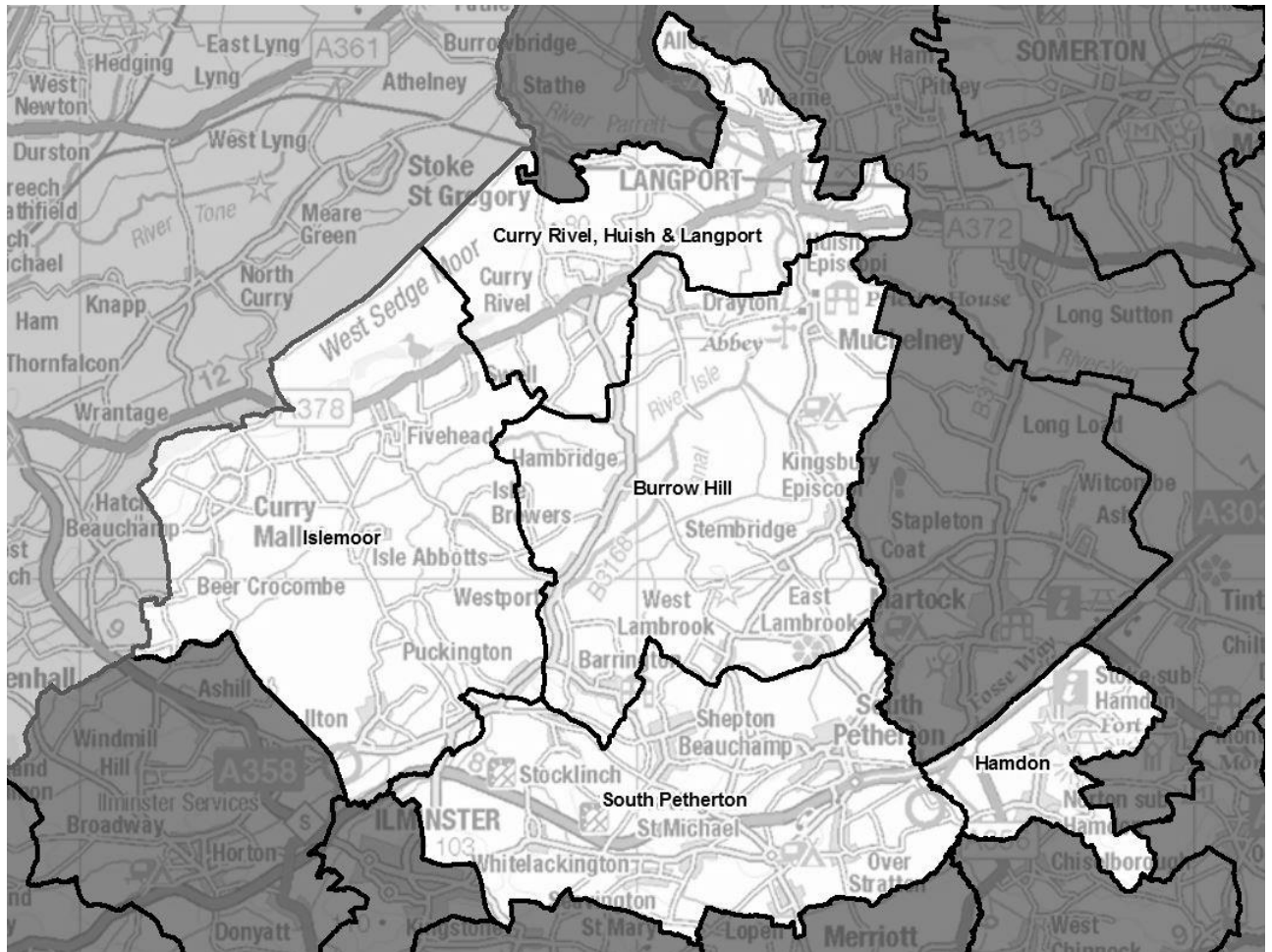
Martock

60 We received no submissions that related directly to our proposed Martock ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

Turn Hill and Wessex

61 We received one submission from a local resident requesting a change to the boundary between Wessex and Turn Hill in the parish of Somerton. The suggested change would require us to create a parish ward with less than 100 electors, which we consider to be unviable and not provide for effective and convenient local government at parish level. We received no other submissions that related directly to Turn Hill or Wessex. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for these wards as final.

North West South Somerset



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Burrow Hill	1	7%
Curry Rivel, Huish & Langport	2	6%
Hamdon	1	3%
Islemoor	1	-9%
South Petherton	2	-1%

Hamdon

62 Our draft recommendations in this area were to combine the existing wards of Hamdon and St Michael's, with the addition of Chiselborough parish from the neighbouring ward of Parrett. As discussed earlier, we have recommended including the area covered by the existing ward of St Michael's in a separate ward. We received one submission relating to the boundaries of the Hamdon ward, from the officers of the Council. They requested that the whole of Stoke-sub-Hamdon parish be included within one ward.

63 Our final recommendations are therefore to retain the existing ward of Hamdon, with the addition of the Stanchester parish ward of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, as discussed in paragraph 57. Hamdon will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Curry Rivel, Huish & Langport

64 We received five submissions in support of the boundaries of our draft Curry Rivel & Langport ward. However, these submissions suggested that the ward name should reflect the presence of the parish of Huish Episcopi. The Conservative Group proposed the name Curry Rivel, Huish & Langport, which we have accepted.

65 We received one submission from a local resident which argued that Curry Rivel and the parish of Drayton should be in the same ward, as under the current arrangements. While such a ward would have good electoral equality at -4%, this would lead to a Langport & Huish ward with poor electoral equality at 19%. Including the parish of Drayton in a ward with Curry Rivel, Langport and Huish Episcopi would also lead to a high electoral variance of 13%.

66 We received a submission from Aller Parish Council requesting that the hamlet of Oath be moved into Curry Rivel, Huish & Langport ward as it has better road access into this ward and is cut off from the rest of the parish by the railway line and the River Parrett. However, as the hamlet of Oath has 14 registered electors, we are unable to move this area as to do so would create an unviable parish ward with too few electors to provide for effective and convenient local government.

67 We therefore confirm our draft Curry Rivel, Huish & Langport ward as final, subject to the change of ward name.

Burrow Hill and South Petherton

68 Our draft recommendations for Islemoor, Burrow Hill and South Petherton wards were based on the officers' proposals for the area.

69 We received five submissions regarding our proposal to move the parishes of Stocklinch and Barrington into South Petherton ward from both the parish councils here and three councillors. The respondents cited the difference in parliamentary constituencies here and argued that being in the ward of South Petherton would not be within the best interests of Stocklinch or Barrington parishes. Including both parishes in our Burrow Hill ward would result in poor electoral equality at 12%. To move the parish of Stocklinch into Burrow Hill would mean that the parish would be cut off from the rest of the Burrow Hill ward because of its location. We are therefore proposing to move the parish of Barrington into Burrow Hill, with Stocklinch

remaining in South Petherton ward. This was supported in the Conservative Group's proposal.

70 We received a proposal from the Conservative Group that suggested the parish of Lopen should be moved from South Petherton to Eggwood ward to improve electoral equality. We received strong opposition to this proposal during our consultation on warding arrangements from Lopen Parish Council. We considered that the evidence provided by Lopen Parish Council had merit and we are therefore not adopting the Conservative Group proposal here.

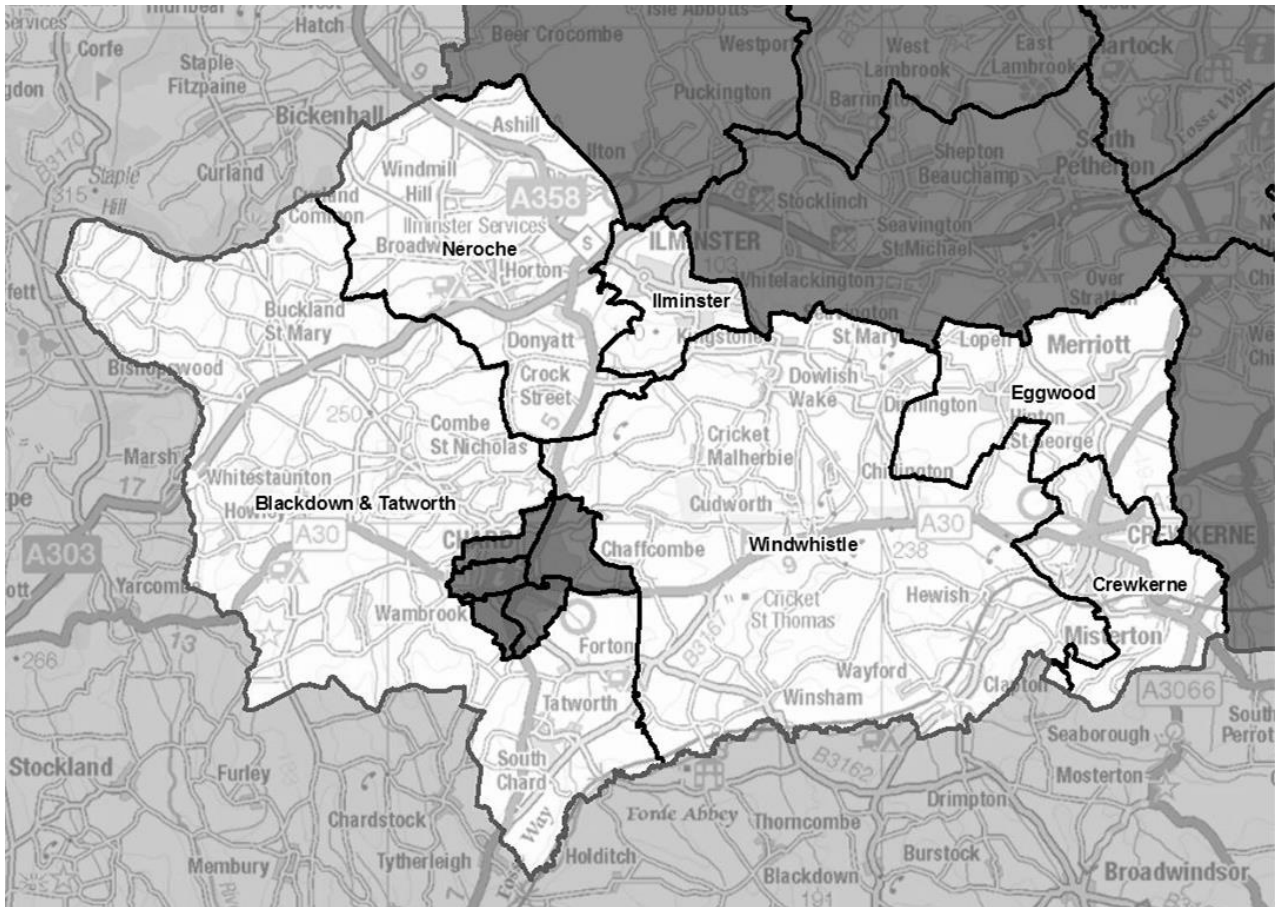
71 The Conservative Group also proposed that we move the more rural parish of Whitelackington into South Petherton ward in order to improve electoral equality in the neighbouring ward of Ilminster. We have accepted this proposed amendment.

72 Burrow Hill and South Petherton wards will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Islemoor

73 We did not receive any submissions relating directly to our proposed Islemoor ward. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations here as final. Islemoor will have good electoral equality by 2023.

South West South Somerset



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Blackdown & Tatworth	2	-2%
Crewkerne	3	3%
Eggwood	1	-7%
Ilminster	2	9%
Neroche	1	-7%
Windwhistle	1	-9%

Blackdown & Tatworth

74 We received three submissions objecting to our draft proposals for a two-councillor Blackdown & Tatworth ward from a local resident, a ward councillor and the Conservative Group. The respondents argued that the communities in the current wards of Blackdown and Tatworth & Forton were not naturally linked and that the existing ward boundaries should be retained. While Tatworth & Forton would have good electoral equality at 9%, Blackdown would have poor electoral equality at -12%.

75 We did not consider that the evidence received for this area was persuasive enough to recommend a ward with a variance of -12%. We therefore confirm our draft recommendations in this area as final. Blackdown & Tatworth will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Crewkerne

76 We based our draft recommendations for this area on the current three-councillor Crewkerne ward. We received two submissions arguing in favour of single-councillor wards here, from a local resident and the Conservative Group.

77 The local resident, while supporting single-councillor wards, did not suggest any alternative boundaries. The Conservative Group submitted the same proposal for Crewkerne as we received from them during our warding patterns consultation. No further evidence was provided to support this proposal. We looked at this area when we visited the district and carefully considered the alternative boundaries that were proposed. While the proposed wards would have good electoral equality by 2023, we did not consider that the boundary between the proposed Crewkerne West and Crewkerne South & Misterton wards around Langmead Road and Langmead Place was strong or clearly identifiable.

78 Any split of Crewkerne into single councillor wards would require us to create new parish electoral arrangements for Crewkerne Town Council, which currently has no parish wards. We received a submission from Crewkerne Town Council which stated its support for the current arrangements. It argued that being represented by three district councillors allowed for greater flexibility and stated that the Town Council wished the parish to remain unwarded. Having considered the evidence received, we have decided to confirm our proposed three-member Crewkerne ward as final. Crewkerne will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Eggwood and Windwhistle

79 We received three submissions regarding our proposed Eggwood and Windwhistle wards from the Conservative Group, Seavington Parish Council and Winsham Parish Council. Winsham Parish Council supported our draft recommendations for the area.

80 The Conservative Group submission suggested moving the parish of Lopen from South Petherton to Eggwood ward. This was to reflect access routes into a business park which currently lies in both Eggwood and South Petherton wards but has access through Lopen parish. We received opposition to this proposal during our consultation on warding patterns and visited Lopen during our visit to the district to try and establish whether Lopen would better fit within Eggwood or South Petherton.

We considered that the argument to keep Lopen within South Petherton ward resonated more strongly. There was a clear expanse between Lopen and Merriott, and while it was apparent that Lopen has its own strong community identity, we considered there was more of a connection with South Petherton than the villages to the south in Eggwood. As there are no electors in the business park, we do not consider this to be a strong enough argument to warrant moving the parish into Eggwood ward.

81 The Conservative Group supported our proposal to move the parish of Dinnington from Eggwood to Windwhistle ward to improve electoral equality. Seavington Parish Council objected to this, arguing that moving Dinnington into Windwhistle was not necessary. Retaining Dinnington in Eggwood ward would lead to an electoral variance of -12% in Windwhistle. We are not persuaded that the evidence received is sufficient to justify this variance and therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Windwhistle ward as final.

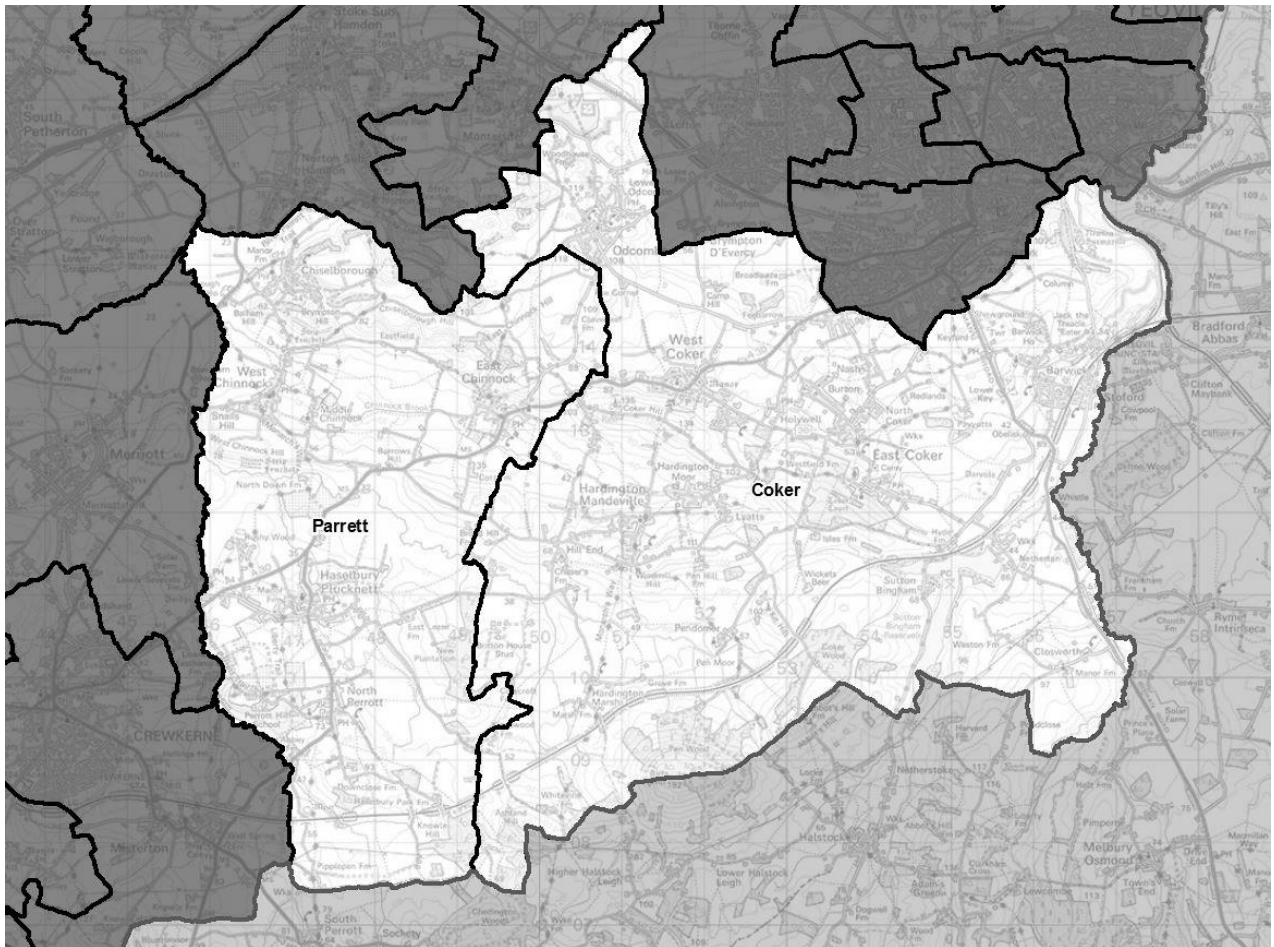
Ilminster and Neroche

82 Our draft recommendations here were based on the officers' proposal, combining the existing wards of Ilminster and Neroche to improve electoral equality in Ilminster.

83 We received eight submissions objecting to our recommendations from Donyatt, Broadway and Ashill parish councils, Ilminster Town Council, three ward councillors and one local resident. The respondents all argued that our draft recommendations combined two inherently different communities with differing requirements, needs and topography which would make effective and convenient local government more difficult. The local resident pointed out that Ilminster is a naturally self-contained ward, comprised mainly of housing and industrial areas. One of the ward councillors argued that the villages in Neroche have a separate identity and guard their individual character, which could be threatened by joining them with the more urban Ilminster. We are persuaded by the evidence received that a three-councillor Ilminster & Neroche ward will not adequately reflect community identity or achieve effective and convenient local government.

84 While a one-councillor Neroche ward based on the existing boundaries would have good electoral equality at -7%, Ilminster would have a 12% electoral variance by 2023. We have therefore decided to move the parish of Whitelackington into the neighbouring ward of South Petherton, as proposed by the Conservative Group. Ilminster and Neroche wards will both have good electoral equality by 2023.

Parrett and Coker



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Coker	2	2%
Parrett	1	-12%

Parrett and Coker

85 We received 22 submissions regarding our draft recommendations for Parrett and Coker wards. These were from the Conservative Group, a local MP, a ward councillor, West Coker, East Coker, Odcombe, Barwick & Stoford and Hardington Mandeville parish councils, Closworth & Pendomer Parish Meeting, a local organisation and 12 local residents.

86 The Conservative Group, Closworth & Pendomer Parish Meeting and the parish councils of Barwick & Stoford, West Coker and Odcombe wrote in favour of our draft recommendations. All other respondents opposed our suggested changes.

87 Thirteen of the submissions concerned the parish of Hardington Mandeville, which we had proposed move from Coker to Parrett ward to improve electoral equality in Parrett. The respondents felt strongly that Hardington Mandeville should remain within Coker ward and cited a range of strong evidence to support this. Hardington Mandeville is geographically very closely tied to the parishes of East and West Coker and has extremely close links in cultural, social and religious terms. The local church is part of Coker Ridge Benefice and there are a number of combined organisations including the cricket team of West Coker and Hardington and the Women's Institute. One local resident argued that Hardington Mandeville looks to other parishes within Coker for its social activities, shopping, employment and schools.

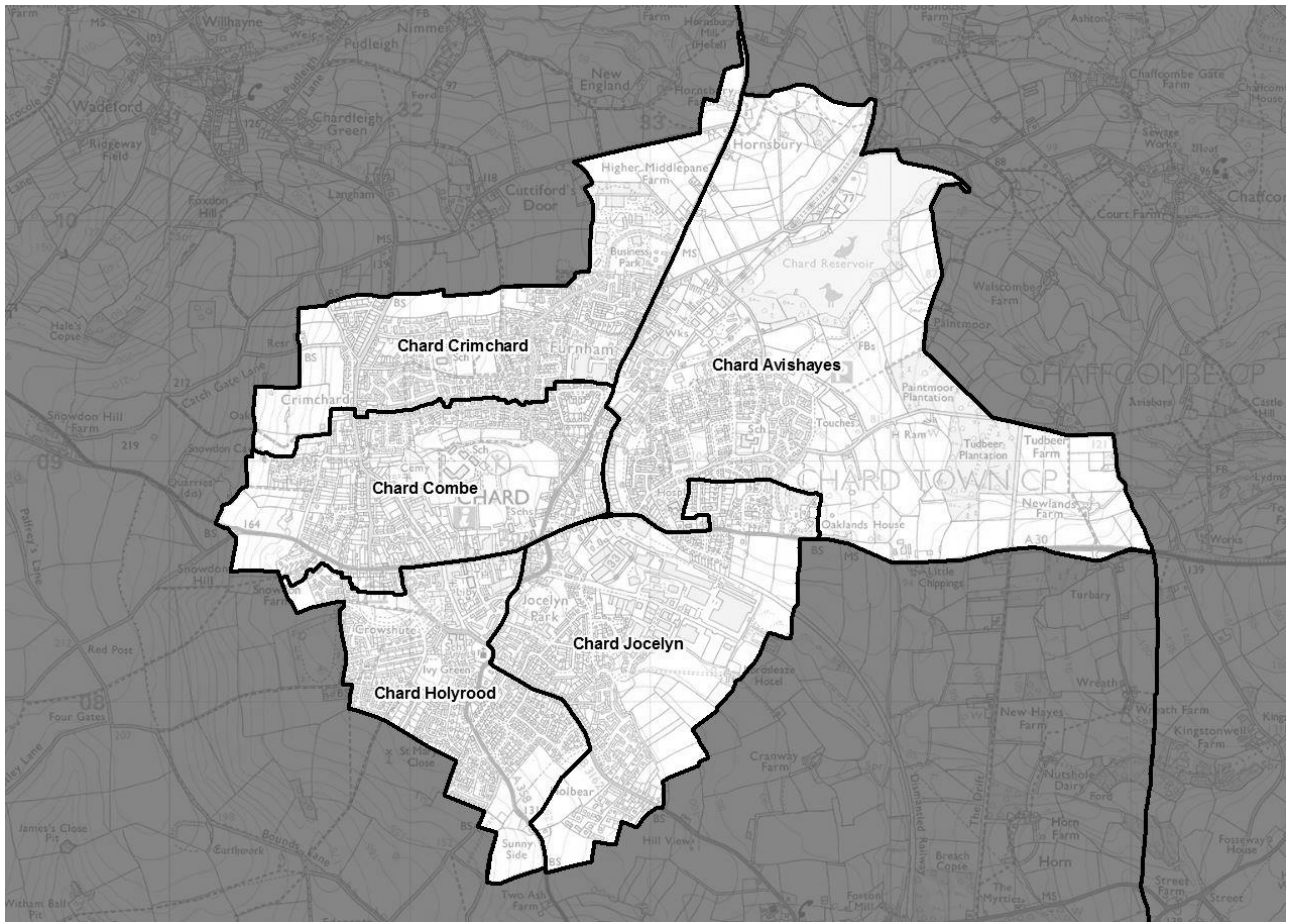
88 One local resident stated that electors in Hardington Mandeville would effectively feel like a distant outpost in a wider Parrett ward. In addition, by using the parish boundary between Hardington Mandeville and Closworth as a ward boundary, Penn Lane would be split between the wards which, it was argued, would hinder effective and convenient local government and not reflect community identity. This submission was supported by the MP for Yeovil.

89 We are persuaded by the evidence received that Hardington Mandeville has a clear sense of identity with the other parishes within Coker. We are also persuaded that our draft recommendations for this area would not help ward councillors deliver effective and convenient local government. We are therefore recommending a two-councillor Coker ward based on the existing ward boundaries and including the parish of Hardington Mandeville. Coker ward will have good electoral equality by 2023.

90 Retaining Hardington Mandeville in Coker ward does result in poor electoral equality in Parrett at -24%. We have therefore moved the parish of Chiselborough back into Parrett ward, as under the current arrangements. Our draft recommendations were based on the officers' proposal to move Chiselborough into a ward to the north to enable a community housing development that currently straddles a parish boundary to be within the same ward. Given the strength of the evidence received for the wider area, we consider that resolving this anomaly might be more appropriately dealt with by the District Council via a community governance

review. Moving Chiselborough back into Parrett would result in a ward with an electoral variance of -12%.

Chard



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Chard Avishayes	1	-5%
Chard Combe	1	-10%
Chard Crimchard	1	-9%
Chard Holyrood	1	3%
Chard Jocelyn	1	-7%

Chard Avishayes, Chard Crimchard and Chard Jocelyn

91 We received no submissions that related directly to the boundaries of Chard Jocelyn, Chard Crimchard and Chard Avishayes wards, although the Conservative Group supported our proposals for Chard overall. Our draft recommendations for these wards were based on the current ward boundaries in the area, with a small modification to the boundary between Chard Avishayes and Chard Combe to use the centre of Victoria Avenue, as suggested in the officers' submission.

92 During the formulation of our final recommendations, we discovered that the mapping data supplied by the Council did not reflect the current boundary between Chard Crimchard and Chard Combe which follows Glynswood, or between Chard Combe and Chard Avishayes around Victoria Avenue. As a consequence of this we have made a small amendment to the boundary between Chard Combe and Chard Avishayes to move the boundary line back to the existing ward boundary and improve electoral equality and retain a strong and clearly identifiable boundary. This change results in the inclusion of electors in Cary Mews and numbers 43 – 55 Victoria Avenue in the Chard Combe ward.

93 We therefore confirm our draft recommendations for Chard Jocelyn, Chard Crimchard and Chard Avishayes as final, except for the small modifications along Glynswood and Victoria Avenue referred to above. All wards will have good electoral equality by 2023.

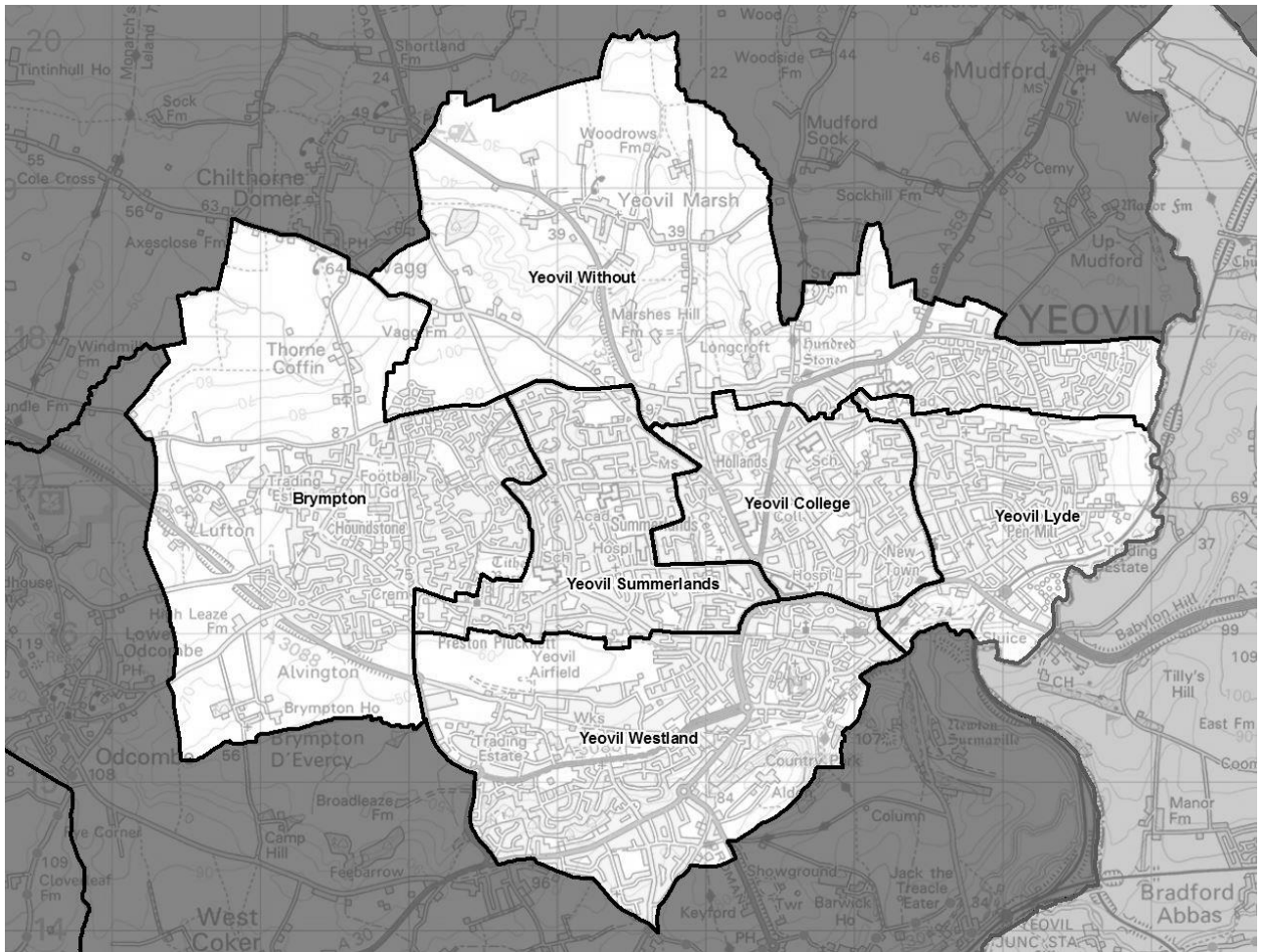
Chard Combe and Chard Holyrood

94 Our draft recommendations for Chard Combe and Chard Holyrood were based on a proposal from the officers of the Council, moving electors along Shepherd's Lane, Snowdon Heights and 35–131 High Street into Chard Combe from Chard Holyrood, which created a small parish ward in Chard Town. We received a submission from the officers during our consultation that reversed this proposal and suggested using the centre of High Street as the boundary, to mirror the county division boundary. This would prevent the creation of a small parish ward in Chard Town. Using the county division as a boundary between the two wards would result in poor electoral equality in Chard Combe at -15%. In light of this, we were unable to identify an alternative ward boundary that both delivered electoral equality by 2023 and avoided creating a small parish ward in Chard Town.

95 We received one other submission regarding Chard Holyrood from the ward councillor. It suggested moving Snowdon Park from Blackdown & Tatworth ward into Chard Holyrood. As Snowdon Park forms part of the parish of Tatworth & Forton, moving this area into Chard Holyrood would create an unviable parish ward. As such, we are not able to adopt this proposal.

96 We therefore confirm our draft Chard Combe and Chard Holyrood wards as final. Both will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Yeovil and Brympton



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Brympton	3	-7%
Yeovil College	3	-4%
Yeovil Lyde	2	5%
Yeovil Summerlands	3	5%
Yeovil Westland	3	-7%
Yeovil Without	3	-10%

97 During our consultation on warding patterns we received schemes for Yeovil, from the Conservative Group, the Liberal Democrat Group and the officers of the Council. We did not consider that the schemes we received for Yeovil and Brympton offered the best balance of our statutory criteria. We therefore recommended alternative boundaries based on the evidence we received during consultation.

98 In response to our consultation on the draft recommendations, the Conservative Group re-submitted its proposal for Yeovil which provided for a mixture of single- and two-councillor wards covering the area of Yeovil and Brympton. Three of these wards would have poor electoral equality (Yeovil Central -14%, Preston & Long Mead -11% and Yeovil West -14%). No further community-based evidence to support the proposed boundaries in Yeovil was supplied. The submission stated that the Group did not agree with three-councillor wards in Yeovil and this was supported by a Somerset county councillor.

99 We are not persuaded that we have received sufficient evidence that would justify the creation of three wards in the area with such high electoral variances. We therefore sought to identify alternative ward boundaries for the area.

Yeovil Lyde and Yeovil Westland

100 We received no submissions that related directly the boundaries of our proposed Yeovil St Johns and Yeovil Forest Hill wards; however, we did receive two submissions that suggested alternative names for the wards from the officers of the Council and a county councillor.

101 Both submissions suggested Yeovil Westland as alternative name for Yeovil Forest Hill, on the basis that this ward now incorporates Westland Airfield. We have decided to adopt the proposed ward name. Subject to this, we have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final.

102 The submission from the officers suggested Yeovil Lyde as an alternative name for Yeovil St Johns, on the basis that this ward now takes in a large part of the Lyde Road housing development and therefore the name Lyde would be more appropriate. We have accepted this and therefore confirm our draft recommendations for this ward as final, subject to the change in ward name to Yeovil Lyde.

Brympton and Yeovil Without

103 Our draft recommendations for Brympton were based on the current ward boundaries for the area, with the addition of part of the Brimsmore development along Thorne Lane and Larkhill Road to improve electoral equality in Yeovil Without ward, given the expected increase in electorate.

104 Our draft recommendations for Yeovil Without were based on the current ward boundaries, with the exception of electors in the Brimsmore development and electors in the areas of High Lea, Combe Park, Alastair Drive, and electors along Elliotts Drive northwards to Thorne Lane and the surrounding roads. We received five submissions from a ward councillor, a county councillor, Yeovil Without Parish Council and two local residents that objected to our draft recommendations. The respondents argued that our recommendations would split the planned community of

Brimsmore. One of the local residents argued that Brimsmore is designed to be a complete community with a focussed centre including a planned health centre, primary school, care home, community hall and sports ground along with other businesses. It was argued that our proposed boundary of Larkhill Road would separate one part of that community from the other.

105 Yeovil Without Parish Council objected strongly to our draft recommendations. It argued that the number of parish wards created when the county division boundaries were taken into account frustrated the provision of effective and convenient local government. It also argued that our proposals did not reflect community interests, with reference to the Brimsmore development, and that Yeovil Without has been a historically distinct entity since the 19th century and the Parish Council has worked hard to develop community facilities and ties within the area.

106 The Parish Council proposed that Yeovil Without should be a three-councillor ward based on its current boundaries, with some minor modifications to the southern boundary in the area of Stiby Road, St Patrick's Road and Coronation Avenue. The modifications along the southern boundary would require us to create a small parish ward in Yeovil Without, which the submission argued strongly against.

107 We have carefully considered the evidence received during consultation. In our draft recommendations, we made a small alteration to the boundaries of Brympton to include electors on Bowleaze and Long Close. This was to improve electoral equality and reflect access routes in this area. This was supported by a ward councillor for Brympton. We received a submission from a ward councillor for Yeovil West that suggested also including electors in Abbots Way and the northern end of Monks Dale in Yeovil Summerlands to take account of access routes for electors on these roads. We are persuaded by this proposal and have adopted it in our final recommendations.

108 During our consultation on warding patterns we also received submissions that stated the importance of keeping the Westfield estate together. We therefore placed the roads between Stiby Road and Thorne Lane in our proposed Yeovil Summerlands ward. This was supported by a county councillor, who disagreed with the Yeovil Without Parish Council's assertion that the Westfield estate ended at Stiby Road. The submission from the county councillor for Brympton refers to the residents living south of Thorne Lane as living in the Westfield area. Based on this evidence and the Parish Council's desire to avoid small parish wards, we are not adopting this proposal.

109 We are persuaded by the evidence received that the Brimsmore development should remain wholly within one ward and therefore looked at alternative proposals for the area. We have decided to recommend a three-member Yeovil Without ward based on the existing arrangements, with the exception of the south-western boundary, which will run along Thorne Lane. This is to allow the entire Westfield estate to remain within one ward. Furthermore, the entire Brimsmore development will lie in Yeovil Without ward, along with electors in High Lea and Combe Park to avoid the creation of relatively small parish wards that would have been necessary under the draft recommendations. Our proposed wards will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Yeovil College and Yeovil Summerlands

110 We have decided to confirm our draft recommendations for Yeovil Summerlands ward as final, subject to an amendment to ensure the whole of the Brimsmore development lies in Yeovil Without ward, as discussed above. We have also made a small modification to the boundary between Yeovil Summerlands and Yeovil College, to include electors in Legion Road and Willow Road in our proposed Yeovil College ward. This ward boundary will improve electoral equality in Yeovil Summerlands and will be coterminous with the Yeovil Central county division boundary, therefore avoiding the creation of a small parish ward in Yeovil Town.

111 The submission from the officers suggested renaming Yeovil Summerlands ward 'Yeovil Westfield' to reflect community identity here. However, we felt that the similarity in the name to the neighbouring Yeovil Westland ward may cause confusion. In addition, we received a submission from a local resident that supported the name of Yeovil Summerlands.

112 The officers' submission suggested changing the name of our proposed Yeovil Milford ward to Yeovil College. We have accepted this change of ward name in our final recommendations.

113 Our final recommendations will ensure both Yeovil Summerlands and Yeovil College wards will have good electoral equality by 2023.

Conclusions

114 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2017 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2017	2023
Number of councillors	60	60
Number of electoral wards	35	35
Average number of electors per councillor	2,196	2,304
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	4	2
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

South Somerset District Council should be made up of 60 councillors serving 35 wards representing 17 single-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and seven three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Appendix A and illustrated on the large map accompanying this report.

Mapping

Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for South Somerset.

You can also view our final recommendations for South Somerset on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

Parish electoral arrangements

115 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

116 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, South Somerset District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

117 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Brympton Parish, Chard Town, Yeovil Town and Yeovil Without Parish.

118 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Brympton parish.

Final recommendation	
Brympton Parish Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brympton	11
Abbey Manor North	1

119 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Chard Town.

Final recommendation	
Chard Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing six wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Chard Avishayes	3
Chard Combe	2
Chard Crimchard	3
Chard Holyrood	3
Chard Jocelyn	3
Shepherd's Lane	1

120 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Yeovil Town.

Final recommendation	
Yeovil Town Council should comprise 24 councillors, as at present, representing eight wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Abbey Manor South	1
Crofton Park	1
Grove Avenue	1
Wyndham Hill	1
Yeovil College	6

Yeovil Lyde	4
Yeovil Summerlands	5
Yeovil Westland	5

121 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Yeovil Without parish.

Final recommendation	
Yeovil Without Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing four wards:	
Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Brimsmore	2
Combe	3
Lyde	7
Summerlands	3

3 What happens next?

122 We have now completed our review of South Somerset District Council. The recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2019.

Equalities

123 The Commission has looked at how it carries out reviews under the guidelines set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. It has made best endeavours to ensure that people with protected characteristics can participate in the review process and is sufficiently satisfied that no adverse equality impacts will arise as a result of the outcome of the review.

Appendix A

Final recommendations for South Somerset

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Blackdown & Tatworth	2	4,260	2,130	-3%	4,520	2,260	-2%
2	Blackmoor Vale	2	4,795	2,398	9%	4,968	2,484	8%
3	Bruton	1	2,063	2,063	-6%	2,165	2,165	-6%
4	Brympton	3	6,057	2,019	-8%	6,415	2,138	-7%
5	Burrow Hill	1	2,455	2,455	12%	2,467	2,467	7%
6	Camelot	1	2,282	2,282	4%	2,400	2,400	4%
7	Cary	2	4,399	2,200	0%	5,008	2,504	9%
8	Chard Avishayes	1	2,057	2,057	-6%	2,180	2,180	-5%
9	Chard Combe	1	2,025	2,025	-8%	2,063	2,063	-10%
10	Chard Crimchard	1	2,072	2,072	-6%	2,091	2,091	-9%
11	Chard Holyrood	1	2,380	2,380	8%	2,380	2,380	3%
12	Chard Jocelyn	1	1,949	1,949	-11%	2,132	2,132	-7%

Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13 Coker	2	4,400	2,200	0%	4,695	2,348	2%
14 Crewkerne	3	6,633	2,211	1%	7,128	2,376	3%
15 Curry Rivel, Huish & Langport	2	4,700	2,350	7%	4,874	2,437	6%
16 Eggwood	1	2,020	2,020	-8%	2,148	2,148	-7%
17 Hamdon	1	2,285	2,285	4%	2,377	2,377	3%
18 Ilminster	2	4,732	2,366	8%	5,011	2,506	9%
19 Islemoor	1	1,992	1,992	-9%	2,103	2,103	-9%
20 Martock	2	4,702	2,351	7%	4,884	2,442	6%
21 Milborne Port	1	2,460	2,460	12%	2,435	2,435	6%
22 Neroche	1	2,111	2,111	-4%	2,146	2,146	-7%
23 Northstone, Ivelchester & St Michael's	3	6,985	2,328	6%	7,560	2,520	9%
24 Parrett	1	2,029	2,029	-8%	2,028	2,028	-12%
25 South Petherton	2	4,555	2,278	4%	4,570	2,285	-1%
26 Tower	1	2,036	2,036	-7%	2,027	2,027	-12%
27 Turn Hill	1	2,169	2,169	-1%	2,175	2,175	-6%

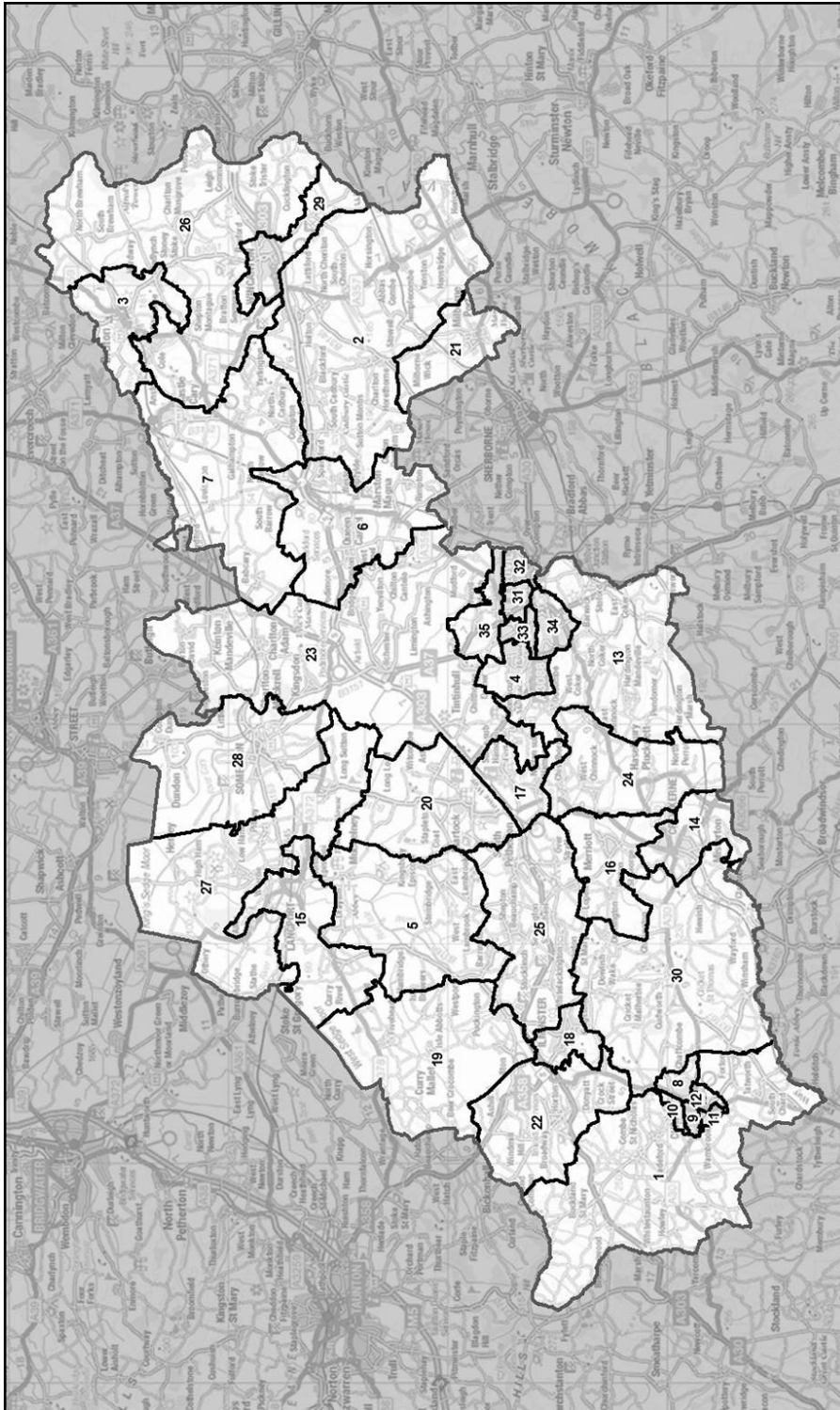
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2017)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
28 Wessex	2	4,393	2,197	0%	4,829	2,415	5%
29 Wincanton	2	4,707	2,354	7%	4,994	2,497	8%
30 Windwhistle	1	2,074	2,074	-6%	2,087	2,087	-9%
31 Yeovil College	3	6,496	2,165	-1%	6,613	2,204	-4%
32 Yeovil Lyde	2	4,825	2,413	10%	4,826	2,413	5%
33 Yeovil Summerlands	3	7,188	2,396	9%	7,239	2,413	5%
34 Yeovil Westland	3	6,202	2,067	-6%	6,456	2,152	-7%
35 Yeovil Without	3	5,279	1,760	-20%	6,227	2,076	-10%
Totals	60	131,767	-	-	138,221	-	-
Averages	-	-	2,196	-	-	2,304	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by South Somerset District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the large map accompanying this report, or on our website: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/somerset/south-somerset>

Key

- 1 Blackdown & Tatworth
- 2 Blackmoor Vale
- 3 Bruton
- 4 Brympton
- 5 Burrow Hill
- 6 Camelot
- 7 Cary
- 8 Chard Avishayes
- 9 Chard Combe
- 10 Chard Crimchard
- 11 Chard Holyrood
- 12 Chard Jocelyn
- 13 Coker
- 14 Crewkerne
- 15 Curry Rivel, Huish & Langport
- 16 Eggwood
- 17 Hamdon
- 18 Ilminster
- 19 Islemoor
- 20 Martock
- 21 Milborne Port
- 22 Neroche
- 23 Northstone, Ivelchester & St Michael's
- 24 Parrett
- 25 South Petherton
- 26 Tower
- 27 Turn Hill
- 28 Wessex
- 29 Wincanton
- 30 Windwhistle
- 31 Yeovil College
- 32 Yeovil Lyde
- 33 Yeovil Summerlands
- 34 Yeovil Westland
- 35 Yeovil Without

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/somerset/south-somerset>

Local Authority

- South Somerset District Council

Political Groups

- Conservative Group South Somerset District Council
- South Somerset Green Party

Councillors

- Parish Councillor N. Young (Corton Denham)
- Somerset County Councillor F. Purbrick (Yeovil South)
- Somerset County Councillor G. Verdon (Chard South)
- Somerset County Councillor J. Williams (Brympton)
- South Somerset District Councillor A. Dance (South Petherton)
- South Somerset District Councillor J. Baker (Chard Holyrood)
- South Somerset District Councillor J. Clark (Yeovil West)
- South Somerset District Councillor N. Colbert (Wincanton)
- South Somerset District Councillor C. Goodall (Ilminster Town)
- South Somerset District Councillor B. Hayward (Blackmoor Vale)
- South Somerset District Councillor H. Hobhouse (Cary)
- South Somerset District Councillor C. Raikes (South Petherton)
- South Somerset District Councillor G. Seaton (Coker)
- South Somerset District Councillor P. Seib (Brympton)
- South Somerset District Councillor L. Vijeh (Neroche)
- South Somerset District Councillor M. Wale (Blackdown)
- South Somerset District Councillor N. Weeks (Cary)
- South Somerset District Councillor C. Winder (Wincanton)
- South Somerset District Councillor D. Yeomans (Burrow Hill)
- Town Councillor E. Jones (Bruton)
- Town Councillor S. Snooks (Castle Cary)

Member of Parliament

- Marcus Fysh MP (Yeovil)

Local Organisation

- Hardington & West Coker Cricket Club

Parish and Town Councils

- Aller Parish Council
- Ashill Parish Council
- Barrington Parish Council
- Barwick & Stoford Parish Council
- Broadway Parish Council
- Charlton Horethorne Parish Council
- Charlton Musgrove Parish Council
- Closworth & Pendomer Parish Meeting
- Compton Pauncefoot & Blackford Parish Meeting
- Corton Denham Parish Council
- Donyatt Parish Council
- East Coker Parish Council
- Hardington Mandeville Parish Council
- Henstridge Parish Council
- Huish Episcopi Parish Council
- Ilchester Parish Council
- Ilminster Town Council
- North Cadbury & Yarlinton Grouped Parish Council
- North Vale Parish Council
- Odcombe Parish Council
- Pen Selwood Parish Council
- Pitcombe Parish Council
- Rimpton Parish Council
- Seavington Parish Council
- Shepton Montague Parish Council
- South Cadbury & Sutton Montis Parish Council
- Stocklinch Parish Council
- West Coker Parish Council
- Winsham Parish Council
- Yeovil Without Parish Council
- Yeovilton Parish Council

Local Residents

- 73 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's
Electoral inequality	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average

Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council'
Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
Town council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average

Ward

A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was set up by Parliament, independent of Government and political parties. It is directly accountable to Parliament through a committee chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons. It is responsible for conducting boundary, electoral and structural reviews of local government areas.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
14th floor, Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

Telephone: 0330 500 1525
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk or
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Twitter: @LGBCE