

Somerset

Personal Details:

Name: Mr David Mears

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Bridgwater Town Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Bridgwater including views for Somerset

Please see uploaded document.

Attached Documents:

- lgbce-electoral-review-of-somerset-council-bridgwater-town-council-response-10.1.2025.pdf

LGBCE Electoral review of Somerset Council

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL PROPOSALS

10.1.2025

Bridgwater Town Council set up a cross-Party working group and submitted the following proposal for boundary changes for the new Somerset Unitary Authority as follows.

1. **Seat/Member allocation.** We believe that divisions should be represented by between one and three members according to need and that determination is based as follows.

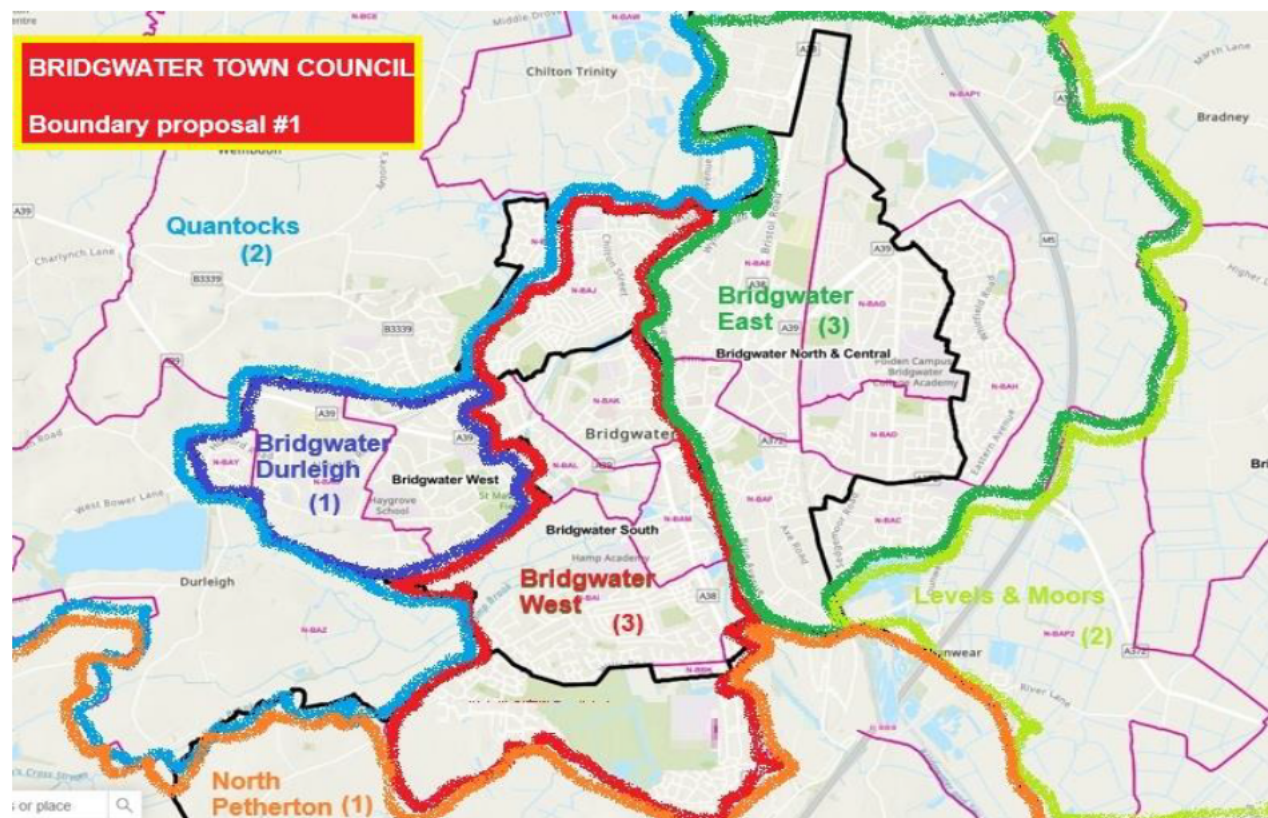
Members	Voters per member	Margin
One member	4,800	4,500-5,000
Two members	9,600	9,400-9,800
Three members	14,400	14,000-14,500

In the former Sedgemoor area, there are 103,327 voters. To give the wards approx. 4,800 per councillor the best fit is 21-23 councillors at 4,800.

2. **Bridgwater is a growing town** and expanding into neighbouring parishes making traditional boundaries unrepresentative. In the future this needs to be reflected by the Boundary Commission with a boundary review for the Town Council parished area recognising this.
3. Currently areas in key **neighbouring parishes** adjoin Bridgwater and to all intents and purposes are part of the town yet do not pay into the town's precepts for services. This is particularly the case in Polling districts BBN (Stockmoor) BAP1 +BAP2 (Bridgwater Without & Kingsdown)
4. **Bridgwater is an industrial working town** with considerable amounts of social housing and high levels of deprivation. The central areas of the town are particularly relevant in this respect and therefore we believe larger three member wards are important for what are essentially inner-city type wards, where multi wards are common.
5. We would propose that a **general standard across the county** be that interlinked urban wards of larger towns be three member wards and that smaller towns be two member wards whilst rural parishes and easily identified urban areas be grouped into single or double member depending on commonality of community/parish.

PROPOSAL ONE MULTI MEMBER WARDS (Preferred option)

This uses the principles identified above and urges two times three member wards in central Bridgwater naturally divided East/West by the river. It also includes the expansion into relevant neighbouring parishes where the Town will naturally develop.



Multi	Wards	Town Wards	Current County wards	POP	CLLRS	NAME
N-BAK	Bridgwater	Westover 1	Bridgwater South	1,794		
N-BAL	Bridgwater	Westover 2	Bridgwater South	1,180		
N-BAI	Bridgwater	Hamp	Bridgwater South	3,522	14,984	3
N-BAM	Bridgwater	Westover 3	Bridgwater South	1,332		
N-BAJ	Bridgwater	Victoria	Bridgwater West	3,119		
N-BBN	North Petherton	North Petherton 2	North Petherton	3,809		
N-BBK	North Petherton	Hamp Bridge	Bridgwater South	228		
N-BAG	Bridgwater	Fairfax West	Bridgwater North & Central	1,715	15,720	3
N-BAC	Bridgwater	Dunwear South	Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	1,568		
N-BAH	Bridgwater	Fairfax East	Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	3,472		
N-BAF	Bridgwater	Eastover 2	Bridgwater North & Central	1,726		
N-BAE	Bridgwater	Eastover 1	Bridgwater North & Central	1,860		
N-BAD	Bridgwater	Dunwear North	Bridgwater North & Central	1,926		
N-BAP1	Bridgwater W'out		Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	3,453		

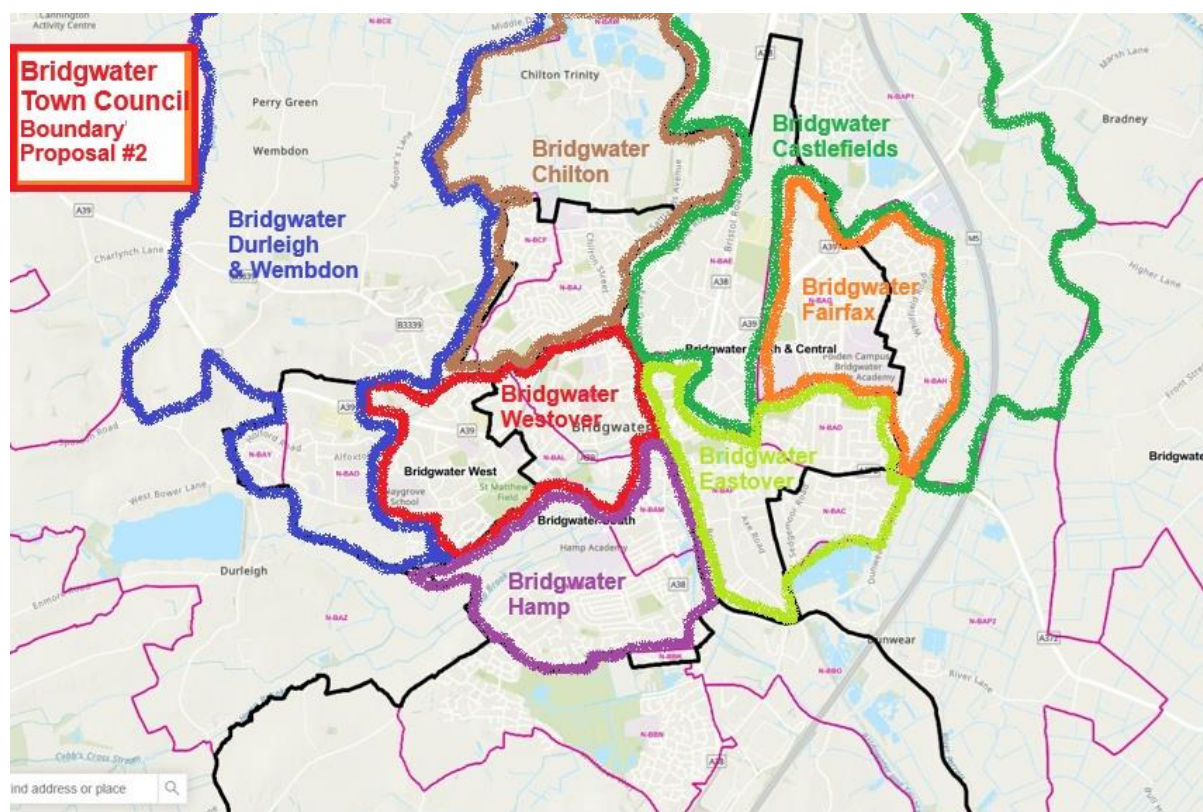
N-BAO	Bridgwater	Wyndham 2	Bridgwater West	2,323			
N-BAN	Bridgwater	Wyndham 1	Bridgwater West	2,034	4,713	1	Bridgwater Durleigh
N-BAY	Durleigh	Durleigh, Wyndham	Bridgwater West	356			
N-BCE	Wembdon	Wembdon	Cannington	2,167	9,888	2	Quantocks
N-BCF	Wembdon	Wembdon Victoria	Bridgwater West	989			
N-BAW	Chilton Trinity		Cannington	388			
N-BAS	Cannington		Cannington	2,095			
N-BBJ	Nether Stowey		Cannington	1,492			
N-BBU	Over Stowey		Cannington	287			
N-BBZ	Spaxton	Aisholt and Merridge	Cannington	110			
N-BBD	Fiddington		Cannington	217			
N-BBR	Otterhampton	Otterhampton and Combwich	Cannington	604			
N-BAZ	Durleigh	Durleigh	Cannington	481			
N-BBS	Otterhampton	Stear	Cannington	26			
N-BBT	Stockland Bristol		Cannington	135			
N-BCA	Spaxton	Charlinch	Cannington	40			
N-BBC	Enmore		Cannington	191			
N-BCB	Spaxton	Spaxton	Cannington	666			
N-BBM	North Petherton	North Petherton 1	North Petherton	4,422	4,897	1	North Petherton
N-BBE	Goathurst		Cannington	157			
N-BAQ	Broomfield		North Petherton	189			
N-BCD	Thurloxtan		North Petherton	129			
N-BCI	Westonzoyland		Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	1,443			
N-BBO	North Petherton	Northmoor Green	North Petherton	88			
N-BBL	North Petherton	North Newton	North Petherton	605			
N-BBP	North Petherton	Northmoor Green	North Petherton	304			
N-BBF	Lyng		North Petherton	261	7,851	2	Levels & Moors
N-BBQ	Othery		King Alfred	521			
N-BBH	Greinton		King Alfred	111			
N-BBI	Moorlinch		King Alfred	202			
N-BAB	Bawdrip		Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	464			
N-BAP2	Bridgwater Without		Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	482			
N-BAU	Chedzoy		Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	339			
N-BBG	Middlezoy		King Alfred	655			
N-BAV	Chilton Polden		Huntspill	593			
N-BAR	Burtle		King Alfred	328			
N-BCC	Stawell		King Alfred	334			
N-BAT	Catcott		King Alfred	424			
N-BBY	Shapwick		King Alfred	387			
N-BBB	Edington		King Alfred	310			
N-BCJ	Woolavington	North	Huntspill	1,211			

N-BCK	Woolavington	South	Huntspill	735			
N-BBX	Puriton		Huntspill	1,993			
N-BCG	West Huntspill	West Huntspill	Huntspill	1,348			
N-BAX	Cossington		Huntspill	544			
N-BBV	Pawlett	Pawlett	Huntspill	791			
N-BBW	Pawlett	Stretcholt	Huntspill	98	7,823	2	Huntspill
N-BBA	East Huntspill		Huntspill	1,103			
N-WEY	Mark		King Alfred	1,155			
N-WEA	Axbridge		Cheddar	1,572			
N-WEV	Compton Bishop		Brent	498			
N-WES	Chapel Allerton		Brent	311			
N-WEE	Brent Knoll		Brent	1,035			
N-WFA	Weare		Brent	521			
N-WEX	Lympsham		Brent	815			
N-WEW	East Brent		Brent	1,171			
N-WED	Brean		Brent	511			
N-WEB	Badgworth		Brent	415	8,004	2	Axbridge

N-WEU	Cheddar	Nyland	Cheddar	49			
N-WET	Cheddar	Cheddar	Cheddar	5,743			
N-WFC	Wedmore	Theale	King Alfred	413			
N-WFB	Wedmore	Blackford	King Alfred	433			
N-WEZ	Shipham		Cheddar	847			
N-WFD	Wedmore	Wedmore	King Alfred	2,032	9,516	2	Cheddar
N-WEJ	Burnham and Highbridge	Burnham North 2	Burnham-on-Sea North	1,798			
N-WEI	Burnham and Highbridge	Burnham North 1	Burnham-on-Sea North	1,121			
N-WEN	Burnham and Highbridge	Burnham Central 3	Burnham-on-Sea North	829			
N-WEM	Burnham and Highbridge	Burnham Central 2	Burnham-on-Sea North	1,397			
N-WEL	Burnham and Highbridge	Burnham Central 1	Burnham-on-Sea North	602			
N-WEF	Burnham Without	Edithmead	Brent	370			
N-WEK	Burnham and Highbridge	Burnham North 3	Burnham-on-Sea North	2,149			
N-WEC	Berrow		Brent	1,316			
N-WEG	Burnham Without	Brue	Brent	406	9,988	2	Burnham
N-WEQ	Burnham and Highbridge	Highbridge 2	Highbridge & Burnham-on-Sea South	2,969			
N-WEP	Burnham and Highbridge	Highbridge 1	Highbridge & Burnham-on-Sea South	3,144			
N-BCH	West Huntspill	Alstone	Huntspill	185			
N-WEH	Burnham Without	Highbridge	Brent	674			
N-WER	Burnham and Highbridge	Burnham Marine	Highbridge & Burnham-on-Sea South	758			
N-WEO	Burnham and Highbridge	Burnham South	Highbridge & Burnham-on-Sea South	2,212	9,942	2	Highbridge
					103327	22	

PROPOSAL TWO SINGLE MEMBER WARDS (Fall back option)

We are aware that there is an emphasis on identifying a single member ward solution across the county. We do not support this as it reduces the requirement for co-operation within wards provided by the Multi Ward solution and creates mini fiefdoms for single councillors which we believe are less democratic and provide less choice for constituents. If, however, the Multi Ward solution is rejected we have also submitted a single ward outcome.



Rational for these divisions

WESTOVER has been a ward name since old borough and County days. Covers current part of Westover plus the linked Co-op estate.

EASTOVER includes the Eastover part of the town centre and the southeast Bridgwater wards across the Railway Bridge and along the Weston Zoyland Road to the end of town.

HAMP this restores the former Hamp ward as originally on Sedgemoor and removes the odd line currently along Rhode Lane and Taunton Road.

CHILTON by combining the Victoria ward with Chilton Trinity village this also includes the whole of Chilton Street which spans both wards hence the name change.

FAIRFAX this restores the old Sedgemoor ward by linking east and west Fairfax wards together again. This is basically north Sydenham and bower manor.

CASTLEFIELDS this is the old name for that part of town and includes the Bristol Road and the new estates of Kingsdown plus the new build around the north and east edge of the town.

DURLEIGH & WYNDHAM this part of Wyndham ward is known across town as Durleigh, however adding it to Wembdon, which it has a lot in common with, it needs to have two names to reflect the parish status of Wembdon.

SINGLE	MEMBER	Wards	Current County Wards		POP	CLLRS	NAME
N-BAG	Bridgwater	Fairfax West	Bridgwater North & Central	1,715	5,187	1	Bridgwater Fairfax
N-BAH	Bridgwater	Fairfax East	Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	3,472			
N-BAK	Bridgwater	Westover 1	Bridgwater South	1,794	5,008	1	Bridgwater Westover
N-BAL	Bridgwater	Westover 2	Bridgwater South	1,180			
N-BAN	Bridgwater	Wyndham 1	Bridgwater West	2,034			
N-BCF	Wembdon	Wembdon Victoria	Bridgwater West	989	4,496	1	Bridgwater Chilton
N-BAJ	Bridgwater	Victoria	Bridgwater West	3,119			
N-BAW	Chilton Trinity		Cannington	388			
N-BAF	Bridgwater	Eastover 2	Bridgwater North & Central	1,726	5,179	1	Bridgwater Castlefields
N-BAP1	Bridgwater Without		Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	3,453			
N-BAI	Bridgwater	Hamp	Bridgwater South	3,522	4,854	1	Bridgwater Hamp
N-BAM	Bridgwater	Westover 3	Bridgwater South	1,332			
N-BAE	Bridgwater	Eastover 1	Bridgwater North & Central	1,860	5,354	1	Bridgwater Eastover
N-BAC	Bridgwater	Dunwear South	Bridgwater East & Bawdrip	1,568			
N-BAD	Bridgwater	Dunwear North	Bridgwater North & Central	1,926			
N-BAO	Bridgwater	Wyndham 2	Bridgwater West	2,323	4,846	1	Bridgwater Durleigh & Wembdon
N-BAY	Durleigh	Durleigh, Wyndham	Bridgwater West	356			
N-BCE	Wembdon	Wembdon	Cannington	2,167			

Yours sincerely



Cllr Brian Smedley

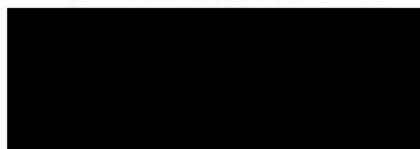
Leader

Bridgwater Town Council

Town Hall

Bridgwater TA63BL

Working Group – Councillors Smedley, Mander, Solomon, Rodrigues + CEO/Town Clerk Mears)



David Mears BA Hons FSLCC

Chief Executive and Town Clerk