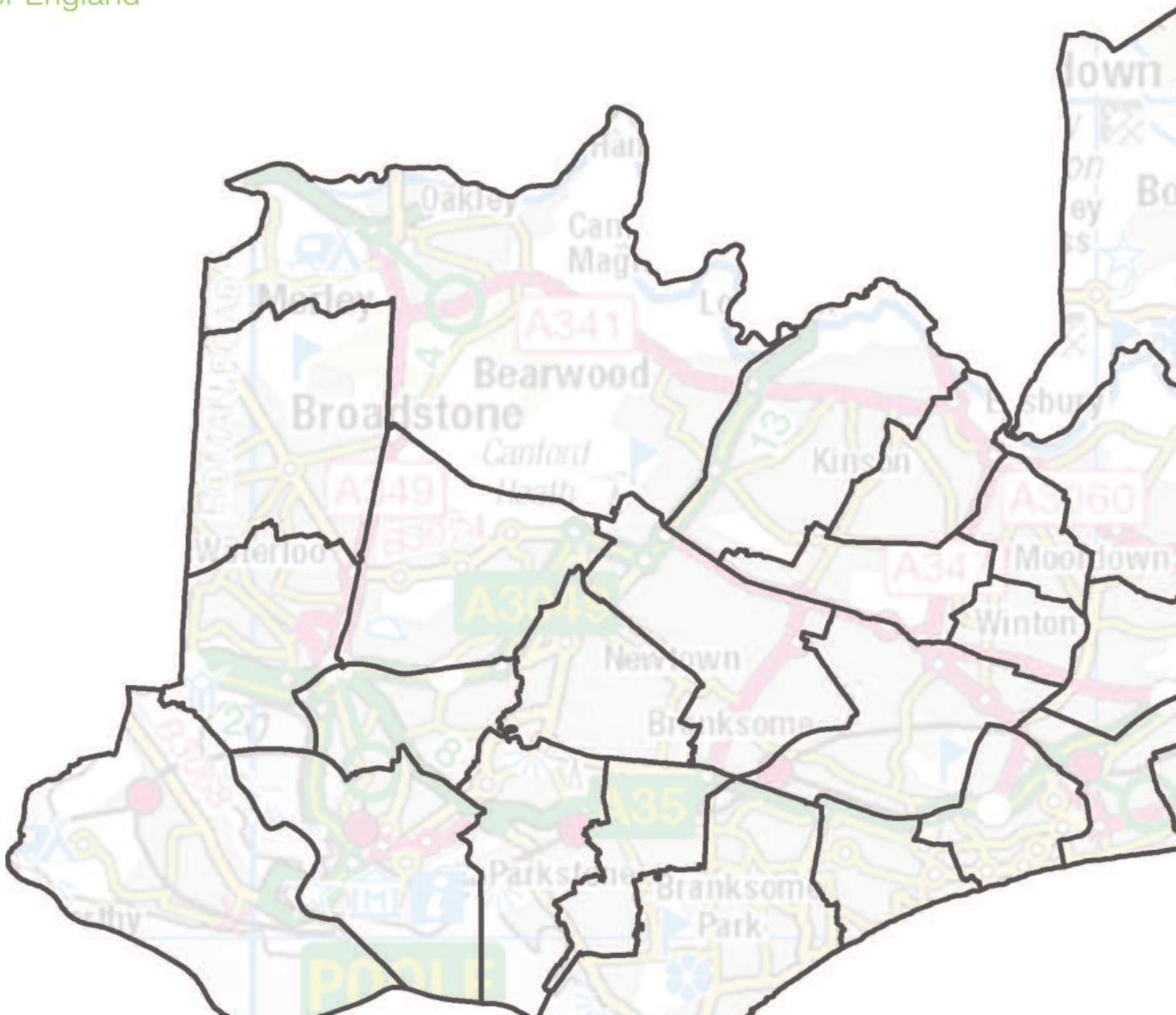


The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



New electoral arrangements for
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Final recommendations

October 2018

Translations and other formats

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Table of Contents

Summary	1
Who we are and what we do	1
Electoral review	1
Why Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole?	1
Our proposals for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	1
What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?	2
1 Introduction	3
What is an electoral review?	3
How will the recommendations affect you?	4
2 Analysis and final recommendations	5
Submissions received	5
Electorate figures	6
Number of councillors	6
Draft recommendations and consultation	7
Final recommendations	8
Bournemouth east	10
Bournemouth west	12
Christchurch	16
Poole Bay east	20
Poole Bay west	22
Poole harbour and town	24
Poole north	26
Conclusions	29
Summary of electoral arrangements	29
3 What happens next?	30
Equalities	30
Appendix A	31
Final recommendations for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	31
Appendix B	34
Outline map	34
Appendix C	36
Submissions received	36
Appendix D	38
Glossary and abbreviations	38

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 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole?

4 The Secretary of State has decided to create a new authority of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. We have conducted a review of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to ensure that the new unitary council has appropriate electoral arrangements. Our aim is to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal. We also seek to ensure that wards reflect local communities and ensure effective and convenient local government.

Our proposals for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole should be represented by 76 councillors.
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole should have 33 wards.

5 **We have now finalised our recommendations for electoral arrangements for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.**

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
 - Amanda Nobbs OBE
 - Steve Robinson
 - Andrew Scallan CBE
-
- Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

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

1 Introduction

8 In February 2018, the Government agreed in principle to the establishment of a new unitary council to take over the responsibility for all local government services which were formerly provided by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Borough Councils and, in Christchurch, also by Dorset County Council. A Structural Changes Order² was subsequently approved by Parliament on 25 May 2018, establishing a new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole unitary authority from 1 April 2019. It is the view of the Commission that an electoral review of the area was appropriate at the earliest opportunity. This will ensure the new council has electoral arrangements that reflect its functions and responsibilities in time for its first elections in May 2019.

9 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole 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?

10 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

11 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

12 This review was conducted as follows:

Stage starts	Description
24 May 2018	Existing local authorities submit proposals for warding arrangements and the number of councillors
19 June 2018	Commission agrees its draft recommendations
3 July 2018	Publication of draft recommendations; start of consultation
27 August 2018	End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations
23 October 2018	Publication of final recommendations

² The Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole (Structural Changes) Order 2018 (S.I 2018/648).

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 and which other communities are in that ward. Your ward name may also change.

2 Analysis and final recommendations

14 Legislation³ states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors⁴ 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.

	2018	2023
Electorate of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole	301,183	309,792
Number of councillors	76	76
Average number of electors per councillor	3,963	4,076

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 of our proposed wards for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole will have good electoral equality by 2023.

18 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the new council – these have been decided by Parliament and we cannot amend them. Our recommendations will not 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 warding submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices by appointment, or on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

³ Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

⁴ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Electorate figures

20 The Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Joint Committee ('the Joint Committee') 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 3% by 2023.

21 We considered the information provided and 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

22 In January 2018, representatives of the existing councils in the area submitted a proposal to The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government that the new Council have 76 councillors. In developing its proposal, the new authority was encouraged by the Ministry to follow our Guidance in developing its proposals. The Secretary of State subsequently laid a Structural Changes Order⁵ in Parliament to create the new authority with 76 councillors.

23 As part of its submission on warding arrangements, the Joint Committee confirmed its preference for a council size of 76. We noted that the proposal for a 76-member council for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole would constitute a reduction of 39% in terms of the overall number of councillors representing the area to be covered by the new authority. We looked at evidence provided by the Joint Committee and concluded that the proposed number of councillors will make sure the Council can carry out its new roles and responsibilities effectively.

24 It is open to the Commission to amend the total number of councillors by one or two if we consider it will facilitate a better warding pattern. However, in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, we considered that 76 councillors would provide a warding pattern that would meet the statutory criteria and we therefore developed our draft recommendations based on a 76-member council. During consultation on our draft recommendations, we received a number of comments on the proposed number of councillors. Whilst there was some support for the reduction in the overall number of councillors, four respondents suggested that there should be a greater reduction. Those objectors offered no indication of how councillor roles of decision-making, scrutiny and representation would be discharged with a reduced number of councillors. One respondent proposed specifically that the new council should have 66 councillors, with two councillors representing each ward proposed in our draft recommendations. The effect of this proposal would be, however, high levels of electoral inequality in 22 of our 33 wards.

25 Having considered the evidence received throughout the review we have decided to confirm our proposed council size of 76 as final.

⁵ The Bournemouth, Dorset & Poole (Structural Changes) Order 2018 (S.I 2018/648).

Draft recommendations and consultation

26 Prior to developing our draft recommendations, we received a submission on ward boundaries for the new council from the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Joint Committee. The submitted scheme provided for a pattern of 29 two-councillor wards and six three-councillor wards. The scheme proposed ward boundaries which would cross the current boundary between Bournemouth and Poole boroughs. Proposed boundaries closely followed the current boundary between Bournemouth and Christchurch boroughs which is defined by the River Stour. Our draft recommendations were based on the Joint Committee's proposal. However, for some areas of the district, we considered that the proposal did not provide for the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries.

27 In response to our consultation on our draft recommendations, we received around 600 submissions. These included large numbers of submissions regarding our proposals for Broadstone, Creekmoor, Oakdale and Parkstone. Our proposal to include the Pinesprings Drive and Twin Oaks Close areas in Creekmoor ward was the trigger for the largest concentration of objections which totalled nearly 300. The draft recommendation to include Constitution Hill Road, Danecourt Road and Harbour View Road in Oakdale ward brought over 70 objections whilst our suggestion that Upton House and Country Park be included in Oakdale attracted nearly 50 objections. The majority of the other submissions focused on specific areas, particularly our proposals in Bearwood, Canford Cliffs, Christchurch, Kinson, Merley and parts of Bournemouth. We received support for some aspects of our proposals, particularly in the area between Bournemouth and Christchurch town centres. Having received the representations in response to our consultation, we visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of the area helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

28 Some respondents to our consultation expressed their dissatisfaction with the creation of a new council to replace existing borough councils whilst others proposed that the new council's area be extended to include, in particular, Corfe Mullen or Wimborne Minster. We have no remit as part of this review to prevent the creation of the new council or to alter the extent of its area. We are therefore unable to make any recommendation which would address those objections.

29 One respondent proposed that we provide for single-councillor wards across the whole of the new council's area but didn't suggest where the boundaries of those wards should be. Another proposed a scheme of single-councillor and two-councillor wards for the Poole area which, whilst providing for electoral equality would not reflect the community identities described in the many other submissions we received from Poole. This approach contrasted with that of the Poole Flag Trust, which argued that the Poole area should be represented in single-councillor wards. Whilst the Trust didn't suggest where ward boundaries might be, it said that boundaries should reflect community identities rather than electoral equality.

30 We endeavour to balance considerations of electoral equality, community identity and effective and convenient local government, rather than disregard or give undue weight to any one of those considerations. However, we have considered all

of the representations made in response to our draft recommendations. We recognise that some respondents supported our draft recommendations in whole or in part whilst others objected to them. We also recognise that for some areas, we have received a number of very different warding proposals. In these circumstances, we rely on the accompanying evidence as well as the observations we made for ourselves when we visited the area to look at the proposals and counter-proposals on the ground.

31 Our final recommendations are based on the draft recommendations with a modification to the wards in Broadstone, Kinson, Oakdale, Parkstone, Westbourne, West Cliff, and the Jumpers area of Christchurch based on the submissions received. We also make minor modifications to the boundaries between Mundeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe, Burton & Grange and Highcliffe & Walkford wards, and at Talbot Drive between our Talbot & Branksome Woods and Alderney wards.

32 On 17 September 2018, Christchurch Borough Council made three Reorganisation of Community Governance (ROCG) Orders following its conduct of a community governance review. The review and the subsequent orders were concerned with arrangements for civil parishes in the borough. Civil parishes are regarded as the most localised areas of local government for which a parish council may be elected.

33 The ROCG Orders make provisions for the creation of a Christchurch parish and Town Council, a Highcliffe and Walkford parish and Neighbourhood Council and an adjustment to the boundary of Hurn parish. The new parishes and the adjustment of existing parishes will not come into effect until April 2019, six months after the publication of our final recommendations and the completion of this electoral review.

34 Given the overlap in timing, we are unable to take account of these changes. This creates a situation which some may find anomalous. Our final recommendations reflect the parish boundaries and electoral arrangements at the time of the completion of our review. In May 2019, however, the new Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council must conduct local elections on the basis of parish and parish ward boundaries which come into effect in April 2019 and district ward boundaries which come into effect on election day. It may be possible, if considered desirable by the new authority, to resolve anomalous boundaries in the future by way of a further community governance review and a request to us to make related alterations to the district wards concerned.

Final recommendations

35 Pages 10–28 detail our final recommendations for each area of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁶ criteria of:

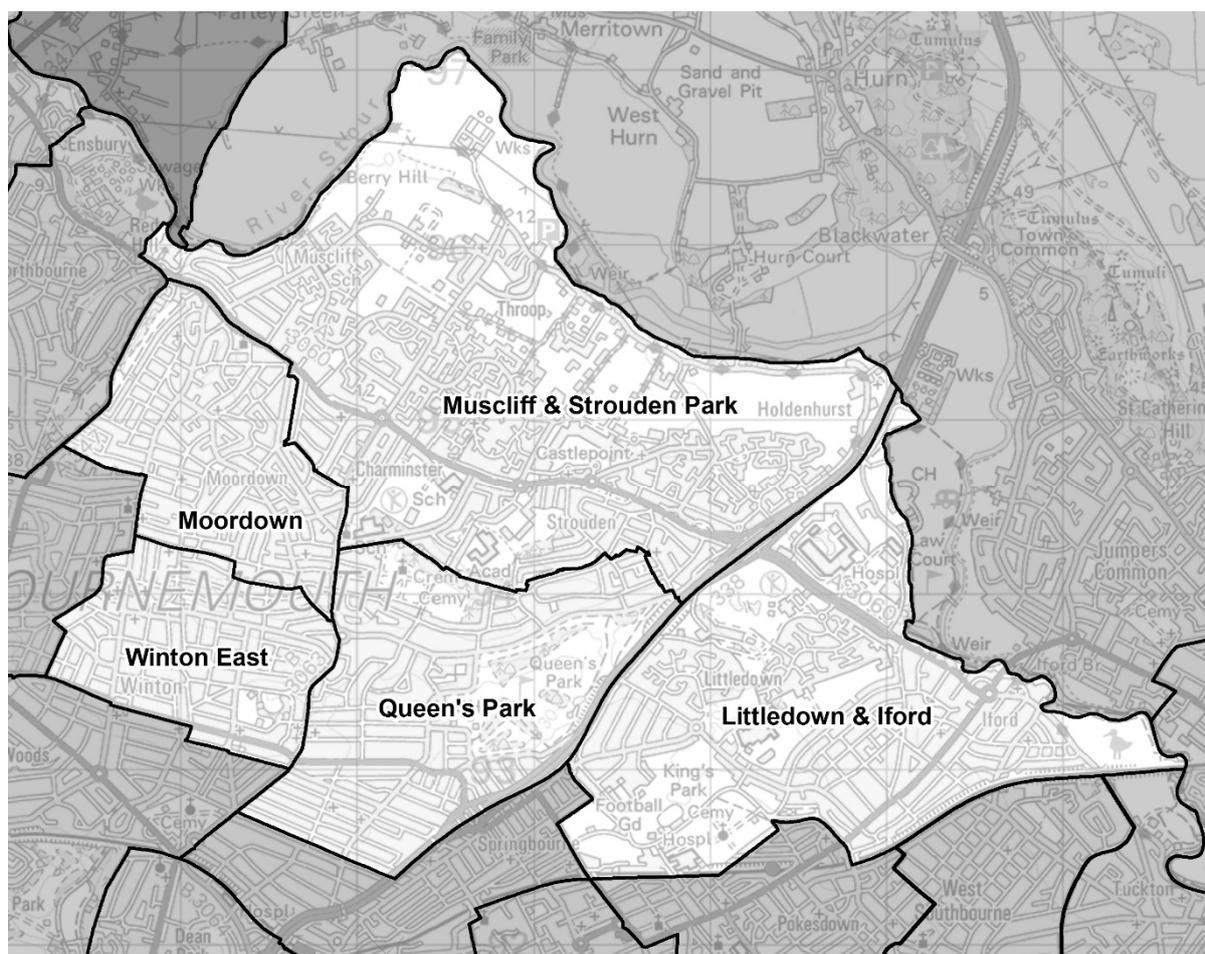
- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

⁶ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

36 Our final recommendations are for 10 three-councillor wards and 23 two-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.

37 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in the table on pages 31 - 33 and on the large map accompanying this report.

Bournemouth east



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Littledown & Iford	2	-7%
Moordown	2	-6%
Muscliff & Strouden Park	3	5%
Queen's Park	2	2%
Winton East	2	-5%

Littledown & Iford, Moordown and Winton East

38 The Joint Committee proposed that the Bournemouth borough wards of Littledown & Iford, Moordown and Winton East be replicated. We included Littledown & Iford and Winton East, as suggested by the Joint Committee, in our draft recommendations. We proposed a minor change to the boundary of the Joint Committee's Moordown ward by including 43 Haverstock Road in Muscliff & Strouden Park ward. The northern boundary of our Moordown ward is Castle Lane West. The western edge runs along Redhill Avenue and Wimborne Road whilst to the east, the ward goes as far as Charminster Road. To the south, Moordown ward adjoins our Winton East ward.

39 We received no objections to our draft recommendations for these wards and therefore confirm them as final.

Muscliff & Strouden Park and Queen's Park

40 The Joint Committee proposed a Muscliff, Strouden & Throop ward which would combine the current Throop & Muscliff ward with the northern part of Strouden Park ward. The part of Strouden Park ward which lies immediately to the north of Queen's Park Avenue would then be combined with current Queen's Park ward. We based our draft recommendations on the Joint Committee's proposal but proposed to include North Cemetery and the lodge which stands at its southern entrance in Queen's Park ward. We proposed that all of the properties on Mount Pleasant Drive be included in our Muscliff & Strouden Park ward to better reflect the road layout of the area.

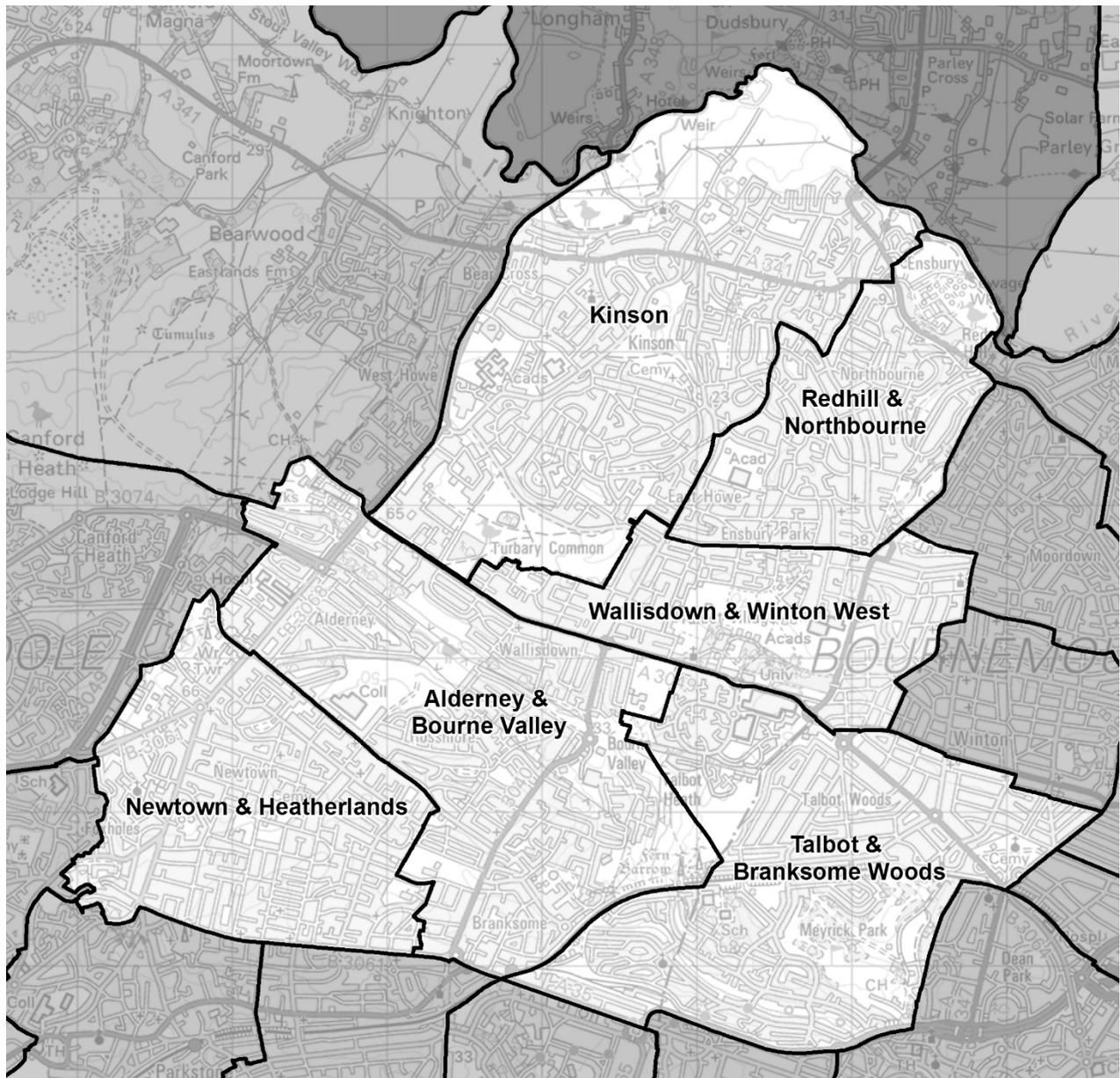
41 During consultation, we received support for our proposed Muscliff & Strouden Park and Queen's Park wards from Councillor Borthwick and two residents. Another resident, who was broadly supportive of our draft recommendations proposed that all properties on Lowther Road be included in one ward. We consider this to offer a reasonable reflection of the community's identity and therefore propose to include properties on both the north and south sides of Lowther Road in our East Cliff & Springbourne ward. Another resident proposed that we include the Wellington Road area in Queen's Park ward (see paragraph 80). Whilst we recognise the geographic logic of that proposal, it would result in Queen's Park having 26% more electors per councillor than the average for the authority by 2023 and East Cliff & Springbourne ward having 19% fewer. This disparity represents a very high level of electoral inequality which we are not prepared to recommend.

42 Councillor Weinhonig opposed the division of the Strouden Park area adding that the merging of Strouden Park and Throop & Muscliff would require four councillors. We take the view that wards or divisions returning more than three councillors result in a dilution of accountability to the electorate and we will not normally recommend a number above that figure. Furthermore, a four-councillor ward would present a higher level of electoral inequality than we are normally prepared to recommend.

43 One resident proposed that our Muscliff & Strouden Park ward be split in two, using Broadway Lane as a boundary. We do not consider, however, that this would reflect community identities along the length of Broadway Lane. We therefore confirm as final our draft recommendation for Muscliff & Strouden Park and to modify our draft recommendation for Queen's Park at Lowther Road.

44 Finally, we initially noted the Joint Committee's proposal to include Wood Farm, off Holdenhurst Village Road in the same ward as Holdenhurst Village. Wood Farm lies in Hurn parish, however, and the Joint Committee's proposal would require the creation of a Hurn parish ward consisting only of Wood Farm. Whilst the results of Christchurch Borough Council's electoral review will mean that from April 2019 Wood Farm will no longer be part of Hurn parish, we consider that we must complete our review in the context of parish arrangements that exist at the current time.

Bournemouth west



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Alderney & Bourne Valley	3	-2%
Kinson	3	8%
Newtown & Heatherlands	3	8%
Redhill & Northbourne	2	-4%
Talbot & Branksome Woods	3	-9%
Wallisdown & Winton West	2	-5%

Alderney & Bourne Valley, Newtown & Heatherlands and Talbot & Branksome Woods

45 The Joint Committee proposed that the existing Bournemouth borough wards of Branksome East and Branksome West be combined, with the addition of the area between Poole Road and Lindsay Road, to form a three-councillor ward. They also proposed that the borough wards of Alderney, Newtown and Talbot & Branksome Woods be largely replicated as two-councillor wards in the arrangements for the new council.

46 Notwithstanding the current ward boundaries, we considered that the proposed Branksome ward would both combine disparate areas and split identifiable communities. We proposed that this Branksome ward be divided into four parts, and that each part be added to the proposed Alderney, Newtown and Talbot & Branksome Woods wards to provide three three-councillor wards for this area.

47 We received a number of representations about this area from current councillors, several expressing a preference for the Joint Committee's proposed wards but accepting the draft recommendations as broadly acceptable, in particular the inclusion of Talbot Heath in the proposed Talbot & Branksome Woods ward. All objected to the proposed boundary between Talbot & Branksome Woods and Canford Cliffs wards and asserted that Poole Road should form the boundary. This objection was also made by a number of residents. We visited Poole Road and Lindsay Road and concluded that Poole Road would indeed present a more appropriate ward boundary and have modified our draft recommendations accordingly (see paragraph 78).

48 Similarly, we received objections to the inclusion of the area which lies between Wessex Way and Poole Road in Talbot & Branksome Woods ward. Whilst we recognise that Queens Road offers access between areas to the north and south of Wessex Way, after visiting the area, we have concluded that those areas are markedly different in character and identity and have again modified our draft recommendations. We propose that Wessex Way form the boundary between Talbot & Branksome Woods and Westbourne & West Cliff wards (see paragraph 77).

49 The Talbot & Branksome Woods Residents' Association objected to the use of the name 'Talbot & Branksome Woods' for our proposed ward. The Association argued that as the ward would cover a larger area than the Association, the use of its name would be inappropriate. However, it did not suggest any alternative ward name. In the absence of an alternative, we are not persuaded that we should change our proposed ward name and therefore confirm it as final.

50 We received objections to the inclusion of an area to the south of Ashley Road in our Alderney & Bourne Valley ward. It was proposed that this area, which includes Langley Road and Doyne Road, should be included in Canford Cliffs ward. Having visited this area, we agree that this area should not be included in Alderney & Bourne Valley, but disagree with the suggestion that it should form part of Canford Cliffs ward. We consider that having regard to its road access and characteristics, the area should form part of Penn Hill ward. We consider that the railway line and Poole Road present strong and clear ward boundaries in this area.

51 Councillor Le Poidevin proposed that all properties on Library Road, to the north of Gwynne Road, be included in our Newtown & Heatherlands ward. Having visited this area we consider that the housing on the east side of Library Road has more in common with that in the Gloucester Road/Binnie Road area than with the area west of Library Road. We therefore confirm our recommendation that the boundary between Alderney & Bourne Valley and Newtown & Heatherlands wards should run along Library Road.

52 The name 'Newtown & Heatherlands' was proposed by a resident of the area. We recognise that our proposed ward contains a large area to the west of the existing Bournemouth borough ward of Newtown. We are persuaded that providing a name for our recommended ward which reflects the change from existing ward boundaries is, in this instance, appropriate. We consider the name suggested is appropriate and note that Heatherlands Primary School forms part of our recommended ward.

53 In our draft recommendations, we proposed that Haymoor Road, Hythe Road, Hambleton Road and cul-de-sacs off those roads be included in Oakdale ward. We received objections, proposing that they be included in Newtown & Heatherlands ward. If we were to make the change suggested, then Newtown & Heatherlands ward would have 11% more electors per councillor than the average for the authority by 2023. Whilst we are not prepared to recommend such a level of electoral inequality, having visited the area, we recognise that Haymoor Road and its cul-de-sacs, together with Ringwood Road as far as its junction with Dale Road, appears to be better related to the Newtown area than to Oakdale. We therefore propose to include Haymoor Road and Ringwood Road in Newtown & Heatherlands ward. We note that Hythe Road, Hamble Road and Dunstons Lane connect with Foxholes Road and Dale Road which lead into Oakdale. We have therefore decided that they should remain in our proposed Oakdale ward.

Kinson

54 The Joint Committee proposed two-councillor Bearwood & Kinson South and Kinson North wards. We considered that the proposal may have divided the Bearwood area unsatisfactorily. We also considered that housing development sites on the western edge of Bearwood, which were reflected in the agreed electoral forecast, will give rise to a significant increase in the size of the community in Bearwood. Coupled with our recommendations for Broadstone and Merley, we proposed to include the area around King John Avenue and the new development sites in a three-councillor Bearwood & Kinson South ward. We also proposed a relatively small modification to the Joint Committee's proposed Kinson North ward at South Kinson Drive.

55 We received strong objections coupled with detailed evidence in respect of Bearwood, Broadstone, Kinson and Merley. Whilst close to 300 representations related particularly to Broadstone, other representations prompted us to carefully examine our recommendations and visit the area.

56 Objectors argued that the Merley community connects more closely with Bearwood than with Broadstone. Our decisions regarding Broadstone facilitate the coupling of Merley with Bearwood in a ward.

57 We were also persuaded by objections to our draft recommendations which argued that the northern and southern parts of Kinson should be combined to form a three-member ward. The evidence describing the physical, social and economic characteristics of Kinson was supported by the impressions we formed during our visit to the area. Objectors said that the A348 Ringwood Road forms a strong marker between Bearwood and Kinson as well as a substantial physical barrier. We agree with that description and so include it as a ward boundary in our final recommendations.

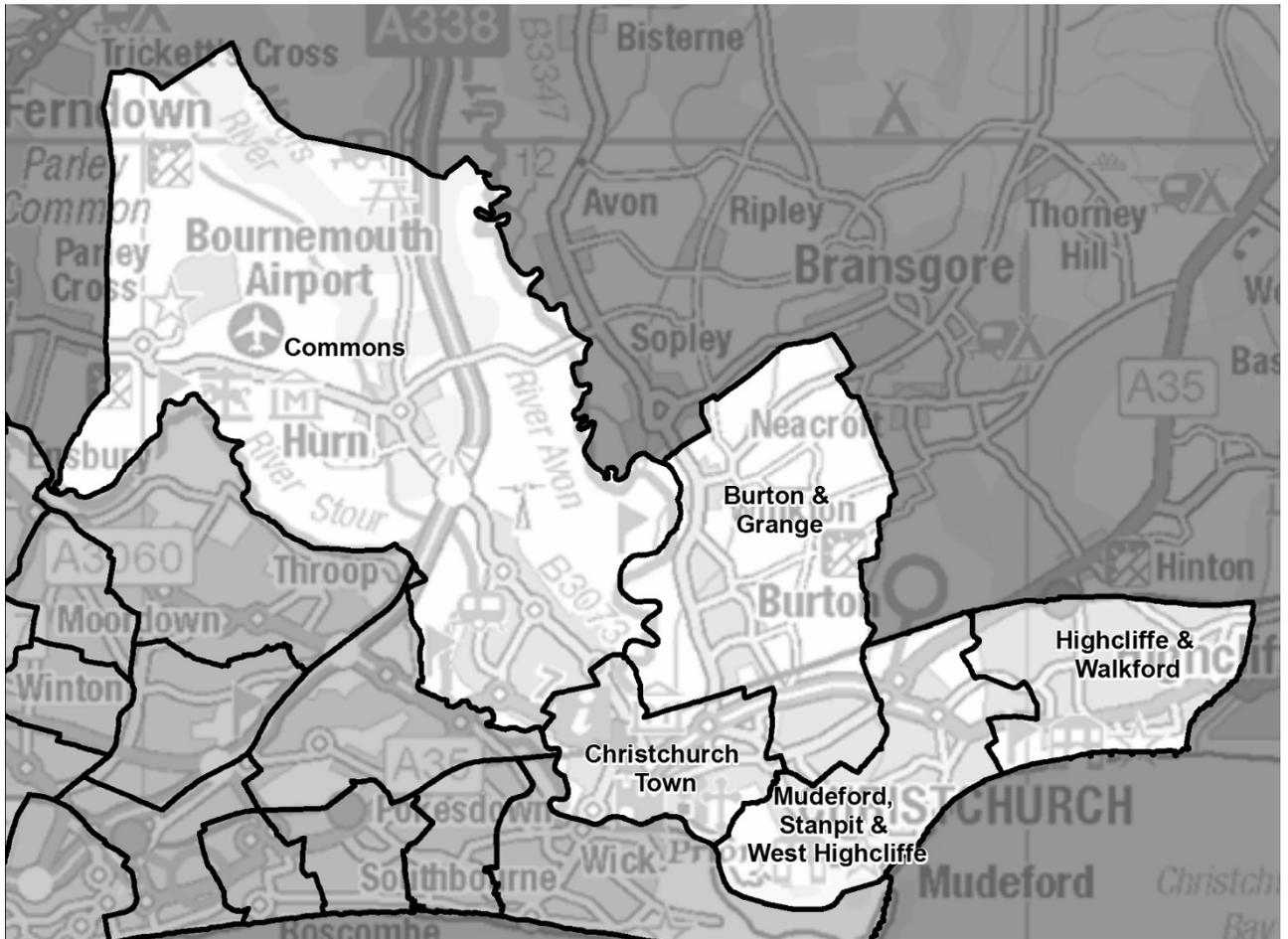
58 Therefore, our final recommendation is for a three-councillor Kinson ward.

Redhill & Northbourne and Wallisdown & Winton West

59 The Joint Committee proposed modest changes to the Bournemouth borough ward of Redhill & Northbourne and proposed that the Wallisdown & Winton West ward be replicated in the new Council's arrangements. We agreed with the Joint Committee's proposal for Wallisdown & Winton West and included it as part of our draft recommendations. However, we recommended a minor alteration to the Joint Committee's proposal for Redhill & Northbourne by including Cherry Tree Nursery given its access from Northbourne Roundabout.

60 We received support for our draft recommendations for these wards and confirm them as final.

Christchurch



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Burton & Grange	2	-5%
Christchurch Town	2	5%
Commons	2	1%
Highcliffe & Walkford	2	7%
Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe	2	4%

Burton & Grange, Commons, Christchurch Town, Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe and Highcliffe & Walkford

61 The Joint Committee proposed a pattern of five two-councillor wards which were almost wholly contained within the existing borough of Christchurch. In our draft recommendations, we similarly proposed five two-councillor wards, but with some significant boundary differences.

62 Since we prepared our draft recommendations, Christchurch Borough Council has completed a community governance review which dealt with the establishment of new civil parishes and modifications to existing parishes and their councils. That review has been followed up with local orders called Reorganisation of Community Governance orders. These will provide for new parish boundaries to come into effect in April 2019. They also provide for parish, town and neighbourhood council electoral arrangements, including new parish wards which will come into effect at elections in May 2019.

63 Electoral reviews conducted by the Commission have an impact on parish electoral arrangements only when the wards we recommend mean that we should alter existing parish electoral arrangements. These rules as well as the overlap in timing between the two reviews constrain us in our ability to reflect the outcomes of the community governance review in our final recommendations. In particular, our draft recommendations as they relate to Wood Farm (which is currently in Hurn parish), are confirmed as final.

64 Our draft recommendations for Commons and Christchurch Central wards matched the proposal by the Joint Committee, save that we included Wood Farm in Commons ward. However, we particularly asked for evidence of community identity and the suitability of the proposed boundary between these wards.

65 We received evidence which indicated that the area which lies immediately to the north of the railway line and Christchurch station is more closely related to the town centre than the area at the western end of Barrack Road and which includes Somerset Road and Fitzmaurice Road. We were persuaded of this view particularly when we visited the area and saw for ourselves the relationship between the area at the southern end of Fairmile Road and Bargates on either side of the railway. In particular, we noted the number of people walking between Fairmile Road and Bargates.

66 We therefore recommend that the whole area between Jumpers Road and the railway line form part of a two-councillor Christchurch Town ward, the name having been suggested in response to our draft recommendation for this area. Commensurate with this would be a two-councillor Commons ward which combines Hurn parish with Jumpers Common and St Catherine's Hill. We received some objections to the name 'Commons' which had been proposed by the Joint Committee. This is, however, a ward covering an extensive area which includes Avon Common, East Parley Common, Jumpers Common, Sopley Common and Town Common and we therefore consider the name 'Commons' to be appropriate.

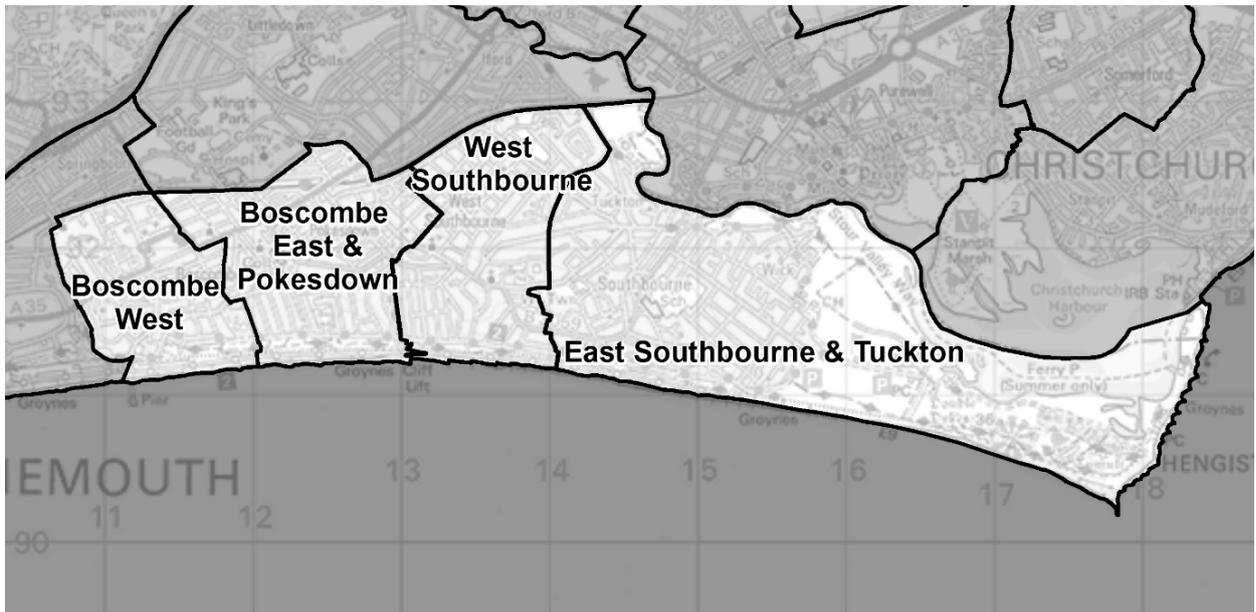
67 The Joint Committee's proposed Burton & Grange ward essentially combined the Christchurch borough wards of Burton & Winkton and Grange, but with the

addition of the Nelson Drive and Rodney Drive areas. We broadly accepted this proposal but included the whole of the development site which lies broadly to the north of Christchurch By-Pass. We note that the community governance review has resolved not to treat this development as a single entity and we have reflected that outcome in our final recommendations. We also propose to exclude from our Burton & Grange ward, Nelson Drive and Rodney Drive in order to reflect the extent of the Mudeford community.

68 The Joint Committee proposed wards which would broadly re-create the Dorset County Council electoral divisions of Walkford and Mudeford & Highcliffe. However, we considered that the area should be divided by a boundary which runs largely from north to south, rather than one which runs from east to west, reflecting more closely the pattern of borough wards. We received support for this broad approach but also suggestions that we include the Hoburne, Saulflands and Smugglers Lane areas and especially Highcliffe School in our Walkford & Highcliffe ward. The result of such a proposal would be a ward with a 30% electoral variance as a two-councillor ward or a 14% variance as a three-councillor ward. These are degrees of electoral inequality we are not prepared to recommend in this instance. However, the proposal did prompt us to visit the area to examine whether an alternative boundary to that proposed in our draft recommendations would better reflect the community. We have concluded that the inclusion of Highcliffe School and the housing which immediately surrounds it in our Highcliffe & Walkford ward would provide a fairer reflection of communities in this area while ensuring good electoral equality than would the area around Woodland Way. We have agreed with the naming of the ward suggested to us in response to our draft recommendations, one respondent having pointed out that other ward names which are compounds of local areas use the names of those areas in alphabetical order..

69 Lastly, we recommend a Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe ward choosing the name to reflect the communities in the ward.

Poole Bay east



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Boscombe East & Pokesdown	2	2%
Boscombe West	2	1%
East Southbourne & Tuckton	2	-3%
West Southbourne	2	-1%

Boscombe East & Pokesdown and Boscombe West

70 The Joint Committee proposed that the Bournemouth borough wards of Boscombe East and West should be replicated. We proposed to modify the proposed boundaries by including Byron Road and Grovely Avenue in our Boscombe West ward. We considered that this was likely to better reflect the nature of the immediate area and ensure good electoral equality in the two wards by 2023.

71 We received an objection to our draft recommendations in respect of Byron Road and Grovely Avenue. We also received a suggestion that we include properties on the west side of Chessel Avenue in Boscombe West ward. Having considered those representations and visited the area, we are not persuaded to modify the boundaries proposed in our draft recommendations in this respect.

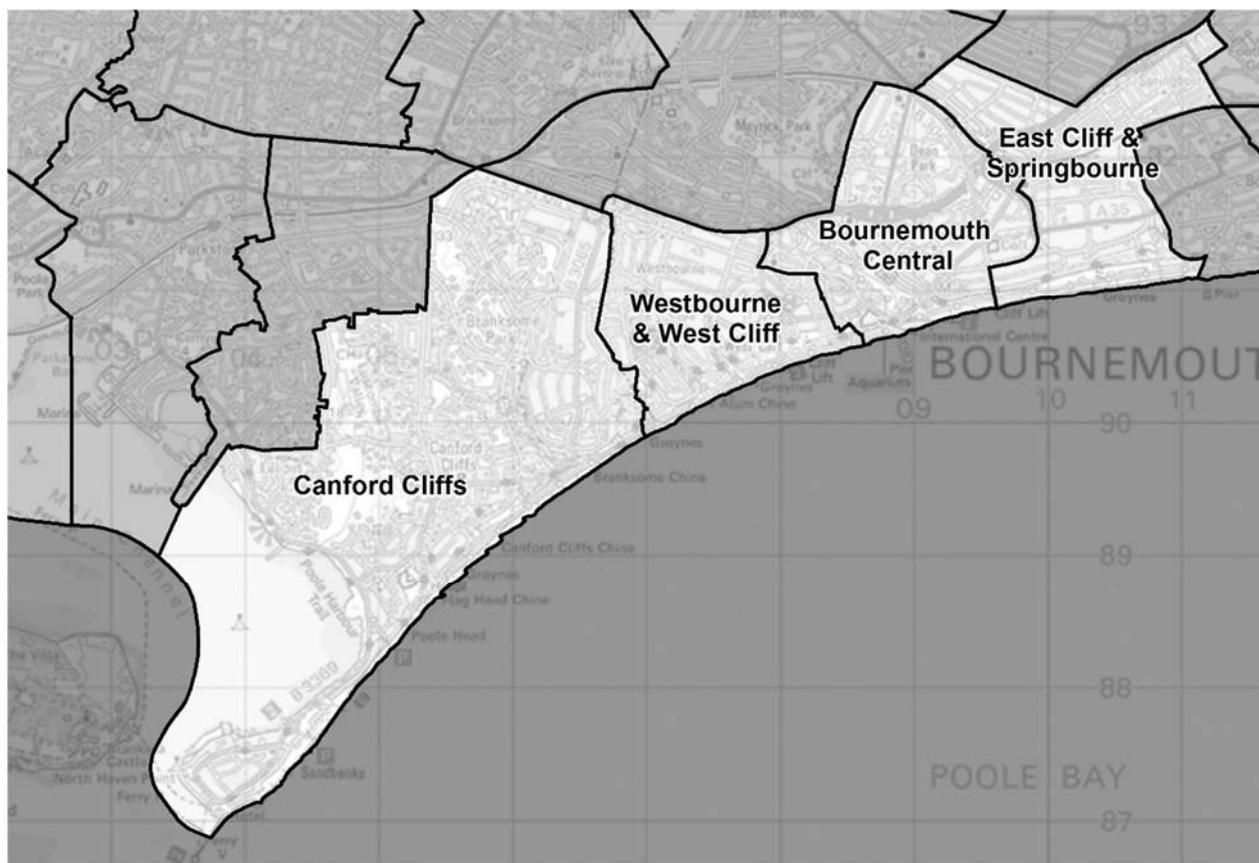
72 Three local residents proposed that our Boscombe East ward be named 'Pokesdown' whilst Councillor A. Jones suggested 'Boscombe East & Pokesdown'. Again, with the benefit of our visit to the area, we have accepted Councillor Jones' suggestion and recommend Boscombe East & Pokesdown ward accordingly.

73 One resident proposed that the area covered by these two wards be divided along an east-west axis rather than the north-south axis we put forward in our draft recommendations. In light of the responses which broadly supported the East and West wards we are not persuaded that sufficient evidence has been received to justify changing our recommendations. We therefore confirm our recommendations for these wards as final.

East Southbourne & Tuckton and West Southbourne

74 The Joint Committee proposed the two-councillor wards of East Southbourne & Tuckton and West Southbourne which would be bounded to the north by the railway line and broadly divided by Seafield Road and Fisherman's Walk Park. Both wards would have good levels of electoral equality and we included them as part of our draft recommendations. We received no objections to these wards and therefore confirm them as final.

Poole Bay west



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bournemouth Central	2	4%
Canford Cliffs	2	5%
East Cliff & Springbourne	3	-3%
Westbourne & West Cliff	2	8%

Bournemouth Central, Canford Cliffs and Westbourne & West Cliff

75 The Joint Committee proposed modest changes to the Bournemouth borough wards in order to provide three two-councillor wards in this area. We based our draft recommendations on the proposals with some modifications.

76 We received several objections from councillors and other residents to our proposal to include Exeter Crescent and Exeter Park Road in Westbourne & West Cliff ward. Developments of further housing on either side of Exeter Road are anticipated. Objectors argued that the area relates better to Bournemouth Central ward. Coupled to these objections were arguments that dividing Lower Gardens between the two wards would make management of the gardens more difficult.

77 When we visited the area, we looked closely at Exeter Crescent and Exeter Park Road. We decided to move away from our draft recommendations and include them in the Bournemouth Central ward having regard to the nature of the area and the mix of land uses. However, a further change to our proposed ward has arisen as a consequence of our decision to include the Queen's Road and Norwich Avenue

West area in Westbourne & West Cliff ward, described in paragraph 48. In order to accommodate that change without jeopardising our ability to provide reasonable levels of electoral equality, we recommend that Priory Road, Tregonwell Road and the Bournemouth International Centre be included in Bournemouth Central ward.

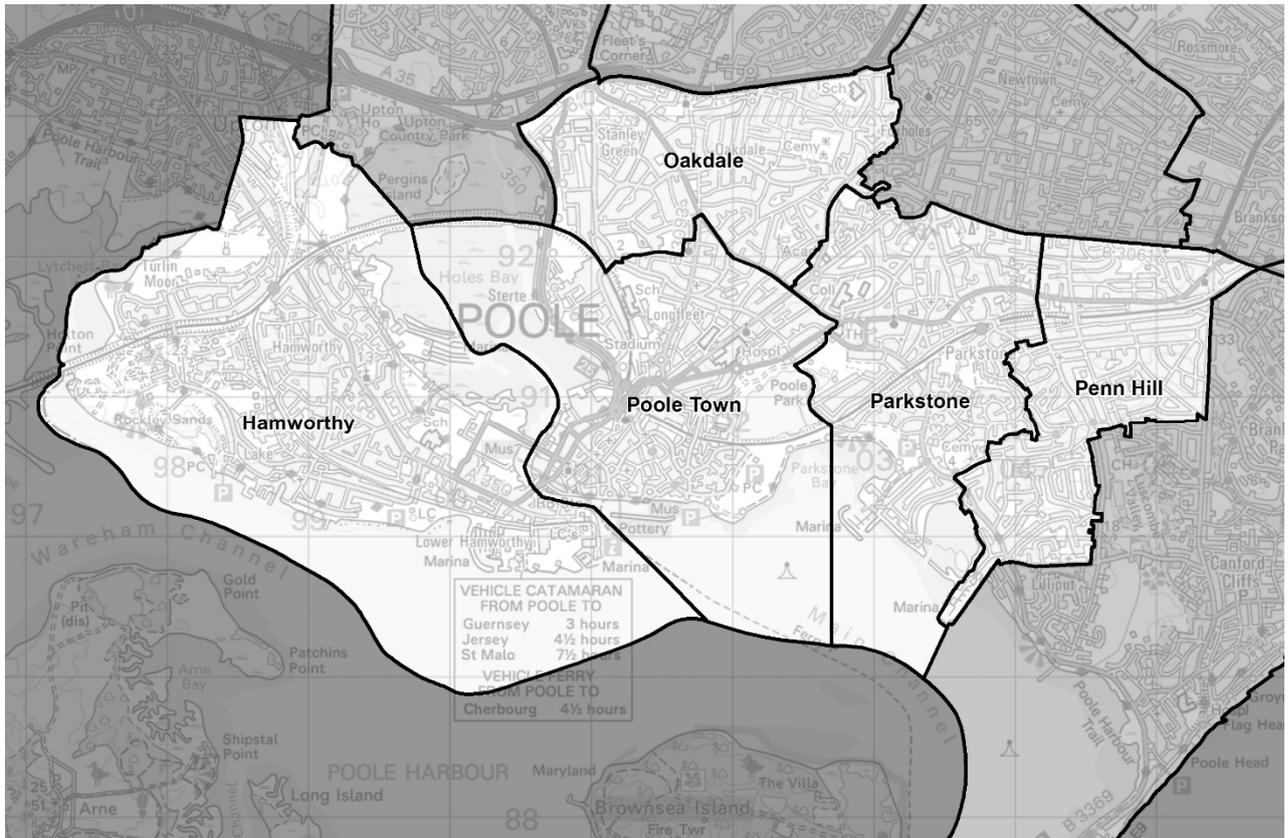
78 In our draft recommendations, we modified the Joint Committee's proposed Canford Cliffs ward by including Lagoon Road, Salterns Quay and Salterns Marina in our Penn Hill ward. We received one objection to this proposal and so visited the area in order to satisfy ourselves that we had identified appropriate ward boundaries. We found nothing in the submission or in our observations when visiting the area to persuade us to modify or draft recommendations in this respect. However, as described in paragraph 47, we have moved away from our draft recommendation so that Poole Road rather than Lindsay Road forms the ward boundary between Canford Cliffs and Talbot & Branksome Woods.

East Cliff & Springbourne

79 The Joint Committee proposed a three-councillor East Cliff & Springbourne ward. The proposed ward would include the areas between the railway and East Overcliff Drive, Wessex Way and the railway, and between the railway and Lowther Road to the north of the station. We noted that these areas could not provide a single-councillor or two-councillor ward which would offer good levels of electoral equality and that to provide for an acceptable level of electoral equality would therefore mean that we would have to split up distinct areas. We therefore included the Joint Committee's ward in our draft recommendations, recognising that it consists of distinct areas, each with their own characteristics.

80 In paragraph 41, we described an objection to our draft recommendations which proposed that the Wellington Road area be included in Queen's Park ward. We described there the negative impact of that proposal on electoral equality and our reason for not accepting that proposal. We also described the reasons why we believe that properties on the north side of Lowther Road should be included in East Cliff & Springbourne ward. Our final recommendation therefore reflects that conclusion. We received no other comments about this ward and therefore make no further alteration to our recommendations.

Poole harbour and town



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Hamworthy	3	-6%
Oakdale	2	4%
Parkstone	2	8%
Penn Hill	2	9%
Poole Town	3	-6%

Hamworthy

81 Hamworthy is a distinct area lying between Holes Bay and the western boundary of the new Council's area. It provides a three-councillor ward that has strong boundaries and good electoral equality by 2023. We received no representations which expressly commented on this ward and therefore confirm it as part of our final recommendations.

Oakdale, Parkstone and Poole Town

82 The Joint Committee proposed a pattern of ward boundaries for this area broadly based on Poole borough ward boundaries. Our draft recommendations substantially modified that scheme and attracted over 70 objections.

83 The principal cause of objection was our proposal to include Constitution Hill Road, Danecourt Road and Harbour View Road in Oakdale ward. Residents provided detailed evidence describing community identities in this area. We were persuaded by that evidence to move away from our draft recommendations by including this area in Parkstone ward.

84 Our draft recommendation to place Upton Country Park in Oakdale attracted around 50 objections. Having regard to evidence relating to the use and management of the Country Park which was contained in those objections, our final recommendation is to include it in Creekmoor ward.

85 We also received objections to the inclusion of the Foxholes area in Oakdale. Paragraph 53 describes our reasons for a limited modification of our draft recommendation in this area to include Haymoor Road in our Newtown & Heatherlands ward.

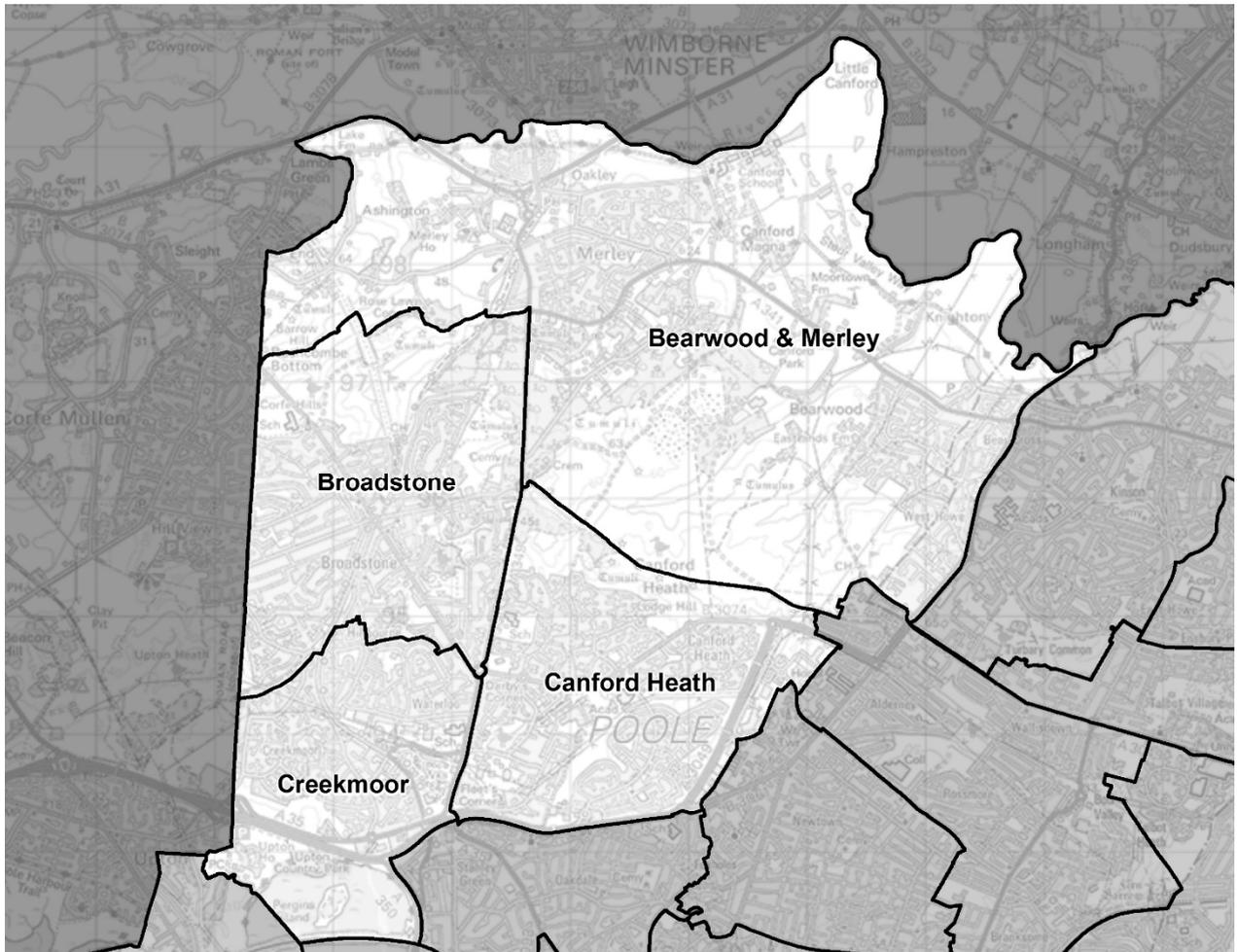
86 Whilst we agreed with the Joint Committee that the Longfleet area should be represented in a single ward, we took the view that it would be likely to relate better to Oakdale than to Parkstone. This proposal attracted opposition, however, and a local resident argued that Longfleet would be better placed in Poole Town ward.

87 We looked at the Longfleet area during our visit to the area and have concluded that it should be included in Poole Town ward; much of Longfleet is currently included in the Poole borough ward of that name. As a consequence, our proposed Poole Town ward would be a three-councillor ward.

Penn Hill

88 Our draft recommendation for Penn Hill received relatively little comment. One resident queried the inclusion of Salterns Quay in Penn Hill ward. However, as described in paragraph 78, our visit to the area confirmed our view with regard to Salterns Quay. However, we have decided to move away from our draft recommendation for Penn Hill at Langley Road and Doyne Road, as described in paragraph 49. On the basis of our analysis of the evidence and the observations made on tour, we propose as part of our final recommendations to include the Langley Road area in our Penn Hill ward.

Poole north



Ward name	Number of Cllrs	Variance 2023
Bearwood & Merley	3	-1%
Broadstone	2	8%
Canford Heath	3	-10%
Creekmoor	2	-10%

Broadstone and Creekmoor

89 The Joint Committee proposed two two-councillor wards for this area. We proposed, however, in our draft recommendations that Merley be combined with Broadstone to form a three-councillor ward and modified the Joint Committee's Creekmoor ward by including the Lytham Road and Edwina Drive areas. We also proposed the A350 road as the southern boundary of our proposed Creekmoor ward.

90 These proposals resulted in over half of the objections we received during consultation. Many objections to our proposed Creekmoor ward cited perceptions of adverse impact on house prices in the north of our proposed ward and on the ability to gain places for residents' children at particular schools. There is no evidence to demonstrate the location of ward boundaries have this effect and we cannot base our recommendations on those arguments. However, respondents also submitted substantial and detailed evidence of community linkages between the Pinesprings Drive, Twin Oaks Close and Edwina Drive areas to the wider Broadstone community. On this basis, we are persuaded to amend our recommendations for this area.

91 As part of our final recommendations, we propose a two-member Broadstone ward which includes the Pinesprings Drive, Twin Oaks Close and Edwina Drive areas. We end our Broadstone ward to the north of Mission Road and the footpath opposite Mission Road, and to the north of Hillbourne Road. Whilst we received objections to the draft recommendations which asked us to place the Broadstone boundary much further to the south, the consequences of such a boundary would be a high level of electoral inequality which we are not prepared to recommend. Furthermore, having taken a close look at suggested boundaries when we visited the area, we believe our proposed Broadstone boundary provides the best balance of our statutory criteria.

92 These final recommendations mean that we cannot combine Merley with Broadstone without further compromising electoral equality and we therefore propose that Merley and Bearwood be combined in a ward.

93 Our proposal to place Upton Country Park in Oakdale prompted a large number of objections. As described in Paragraph 84, the evidence related to the use and management of the Country Park has persuaded us to include it in Creekmoor ward.

Bearwood & Merley

94 In our draft recommendations, we could not provide a ward consisting solely of Merley and the area immediately surrounding it without causing high levels of electoral inequality. We therefore proposed to combine Merley with the Joint Committee's proposed Broadstone ward to form a three-councillor ward which embraces both communities.

95 We received one submission supporting our draft recommendation but 11 specifically opposing the combination of Merley and Broadstone in a ward. Objectors expressed a preference for placing Merley and Bearwood in a single ward.

96 We have described, in paragraph 92, our conclusion that we should not combine Merley with Broadstone and in paragraph 57 our reasons for concluding that the A348 should be regarded as a ward boundary. Therefore, our final

recommendation is for a three-councillor Bearwood & Merley ward which includes an area where a substantial amount of new housing is expected.

Canford Heath

97 The Joint Committee proposed a three-councillor Canford Heath ward which would include Johnston Road and Kenyon Road, both of which lie to the south of Dorset Way. We consider these areas are likely to have strong community linkages with the adjoining Oakdale area. We also consider that Dorset Way presents a strong ward boundary and better reflects the extent of communities. Additionally, we proposed that Canford Heath ward include the housing, retail and leisure facilities at Yarrow Road.

98 We received only support for our draft recommendation for this ward and therefore confirm it as final.

Conclusions

99 The table below shows the impact of our final recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2018 and 2023 electorate figures.

Summary of electoral arrangements

	Final recommendations	
	2018	2023
Number of councillors	76	76
Number of electoral wards	33	33
Average number of electors per councillor	3,963	4,076
Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average	5	0
Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average	0	0

Final recommendation

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council should be made up of 76 councillors serving 33 wards representing 23 two-councillor wards and 10 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 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

You can also view our final recommendations for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>

3 What happens next?

100 We have now completed our review of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole. 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

101 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 Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Alderney & Bourne Valley	3	11,812	3,937	-1%	11,951	3,984	-2%
2	Bearwood & Merley	3	10,905	3,635	-8%	12,086	4,029	-1%
3	Boscombe East & Pokesdown	2	8,314	4,157	5%	8,331	4,166	2%
4	Boscombe West	2	7,975	3,988	1%	8,238	4,119	1%
5	Bournemouth Central	2	8,302	4,151	5%	8,477	4,239	4%
6	Broadstone	2	8,707	4,354	10%	8,834	4,417	8%
7	Burton & Grange	2	6,966	3,483	-12%	7,726	3,863	-5%
8	Canford Cliffs	2	7,884	3,942	-1%	8,551	4,276	5%
9	Canford Heath	3	10,844	3,615	-9%	10,947	3,649	-10%
10	Christchurch Town	2	8,098	4,049	2%	8,541	4,271	5%
11	Commons	2	7,836	3,918	-1%	8,194	4,097	1%
12	Creekmoor	2	7,290	3,645	-8%	7,298	3,649	-10%

	Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
13	East Cliff & Springbourne	3	12,123	4,041	2%	11,853	3,951	-3%
14	East Southbourne & Tuckton	2	7,818	3,909	-1%	7,915	3,958	-3%
15	Hamworthy	3	10,314	3,438	-13%	11,478	3,826	-6%
16	Highcliffe & Walkford	2	8,431	4,216	6%	8,726	4,363	7%
17	Kinson	3	13,482	4,494	13%	13,206	4,402	8%
18	Littledown & Iford	2	7,776	3,888	-2%	7,601	3,801	-7%
19	Moordown	2	7,817	3,909	-1%	7,657	3,829	-6%
20	Mundeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe	2	8,105	4,053	2%	8,505	4,253	4%
21	Muscliff & Strouden Park	3	13,071	4,357	10%	12,851	4,284	5%
22	Newtown & Heatherlands	3	13,107	4,369	10%	13,207	4,402	8%
23	Oakdale	2	8,442	4,221	7%	8,515	4,258	4%
24	Parkstone	2	8,101	4,051	2%	8,838	4,419	8%
25	Penn Hill	2	8,393	4,197	6%	8,869	4,435	9%
26	Poole Town	3	9,812	3,271	-17%	11,519	3,840	-6%

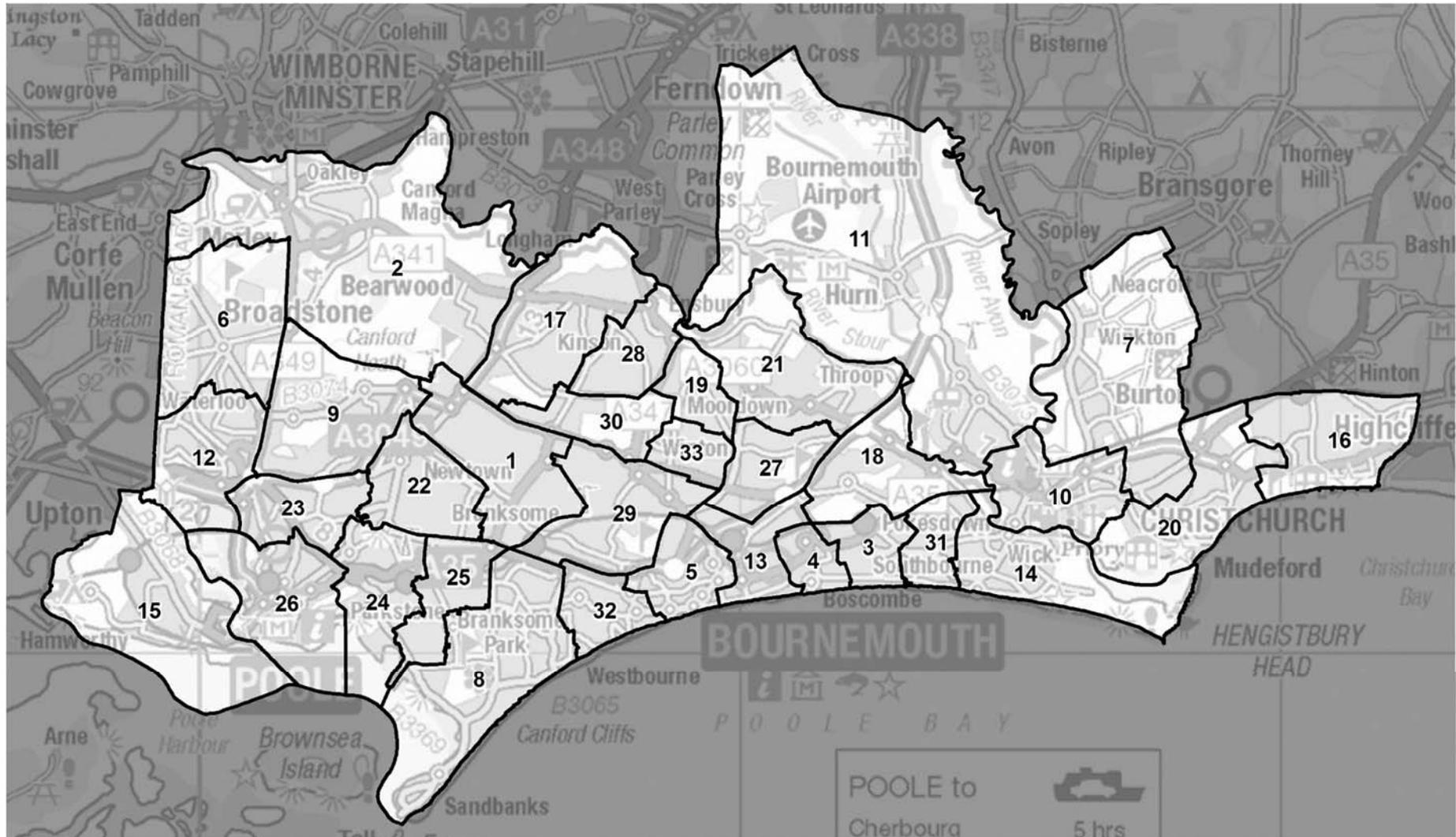
Ward name	Number of councillors	Electorate (2018)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %	Electorate (2023)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
27 Queen's Park	2	8,282	4,141	4%	8,352	4,176	2%
28 Redhill & Northbourne	2	7,833	3,917	-1%	7,851	3,926	-4%
29 Talbot & Branksome Woods	3	10,606	3,535	-11%	11,180	3,727	-9%
30 Wallisdown & Winton West	2	7,923	3,962	0%	7,784	3,892	-5%
31 West Southbourne	2	8,088	4,044	2%	8,101	4,051	-1%
32 Westbourne & West Cliff	2	8,713	4,357	10%	8,830	4,415	8%
33 Winton East	2	8,013	4,007	1%	7,780	3,890	-5%
Totals	76	301,183	-	-	309,792	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,963	-	-	4,076	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Joint Committee.

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



Key

1. Alderney & Bourne Valley
2. Bearwood & Merley
3. Boscombe East & Pokesdown
4. Boscombe West
5. Bournemouth Central
6. Broadstone
7. Burton & Grange
8. Canford Cliffs
9. Canford Heath
10. Christchurch Town
11. Commons
12. Creekmoor
13. East Cliff & Springbourne
14. East Southbourne & Tuckton
15. Hamworthy
16. Highcliffe & Walkford
17. Kinson
18. Littledown & Iford
19. Moordown
20. Mundeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe
21. Muscliff & Strouden Park
22. Newtown & Heatherlands
23. Oakdale
24. Parkstone
25. Penn Hill
26. Poole Town
27. Queen's Park
28. Redhill & Northbourne
29. Talbot & Branksome Woods
30. Wallisdown & Winton West
31. West Southbourne
32. Westbourne & West Cliff
33. Winton East

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/dorset/bournemouth-christchurch-and-poole>

Appendix C

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-west/dorset/bournemouth-christchurch-and-poole>

Political Groups

- Bournemouth Council Conservative Group
- Bournemouth West Conservative Association
- Christchurch & East Dorset Liberal Democrats
- Mid Dorset & North Poole Conservative Association
- The Party for Poole Ltd
- Poole Conservative Association

Councillors

- Councillor C. Bath (Christchurch Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Battistini (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Borthwick (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Broadhead (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Brooke (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Brown (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillors J. Butt, L. Burden and J. Rampton (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Challinor (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Chapman (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor B. Crawford (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor D. d'Orton-Gibson (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Gabriel (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Greene (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor N. Greene (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Haines (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor N. Hedges (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor C. Johnson (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Jones (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillors Mr D. Jones, J. Abbott, L. Dedman, P. Jamieson and Mrs D. Jones (Christchurch Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Le Poidevin (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Marley (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Mellor (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Moore (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor A. Morgan (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor J. Newell (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor P. Oakley (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Parker (Poole Borough Council)

- Councillor J. Perkins (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor S. Phillips (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Pope (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor L. Price (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor K. Rampton (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor N. Rose (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor V. Slade (Poole Borough Council)
- Councillor D. Smith (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor R. Stollard (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor M. Weinhonig (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor L. Williams (Bournemouth Borough Council)
- Councillor L. Wilson (Poole Borough Council)

Member of Parliament

- Michael Tomlinson MP (Mid Dorset and North Poole)

Local Organisations

- Creekmoor Community Association
- North Bournemouth Area Forum
- Poole Flag Trust
- The Society for Poole
- Talbot & Branksome Woods Residents' Association
- Viewpoint Residents' Association and Neighbourhood Watch

Local Residents

- 546 local residents

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve on a council
Electoral Change Order	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Structural Changes Order	A legal document which implements changes to the local government structure of an area.
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.

Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
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Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Online: www.lgbce.org.uk or
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Twitter: @LGBCE