

**Dorset Council**  
**Community Governance Review**  
**Draft Recommendations**

**Recommendations:**

1. That the proposals set out in this Appendix be adopted by the Council as Draft Recommendations for the purposes of the Community Governance Review.
2. That, save as set out in the Draft Recommendations, the existing parishes in the Dorset Council area, and the names, boundaries, council size, groupings, and other parish governance arrangements in respect of those parishes, remain unchanged.
3. That the Draft Recommendations be published for consultation purposes for a period of 12 weeks from 28 February 2022 to 23 May 2022.
4. That the results of the consultation be reported to Full Council on 14 July 2022.

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## Section 1: Introduction

Dorset Council is undertaking a Community Governance Review of all the parishes within the Council area. In this review, the Council will be guided by the relevant legislation in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the [Guidance](#) on Community Governance Reviews that the government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have issued (the Guidance), and [the Terms of Reference](#) for the review that were adopted by Full Council on 15 July 2021, and amended by Full Council on 14 December 2021.

This Review relates to the whole of the Dorset Council area and gives consideration to changes to parish areas and parish electoral arrangements. These changes include the alteration, merging, creation and abolishing of parishes; the naming of parishes, and the adoption of an alternative style for new parishes. They may also involve changes to the council size (the number of councillors to be elected to the council), and whether to divide the parishes into wards for the purposes of elections. The general principles for the proposals that the Council is making along with the different types of recommendations are outlined below.

Town and parish councils are the first tier of local government and they are statutory bodies. They serve their electorates; they are independently elected by their local government electors, and they raise their own precept. Town and parish councils work towards providing local services and improving community well-being. The National Association of Local Councils describes their activities as falling into three main categories: representing the local community; delivering services to meet local needs, and striving to improve the quality of life and community well-being within their areas.

Dorset Council is responsible for community governance arrangements within the Council area, and it is considered good practice to review community governance every 10-15 years. This is the first review carried out by Dorset Council, and at the commencement of the review, there were 153 parishes in the area, with 1400+ parish councillors. The electoral quota (the ratio of electors to parish councillors) varies widely across the area and in some parishes electoral equality is no longer achieved as a result of development over previous years.

On 5 August 2021, the Council commenced a 12-week period of consultation requesting initial submissions from the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils, Members of Parliament, existing parish councils, local residents and other interested organisations – the consultation closed on 28 October 2021. The Review was widely publicised through the Council's website, social media, residents' newsletters, press releases and advertisements in local libraries as well as through the parish councils themselves.

The Group Leaders and their deputies met as a working group and have given careful consideration to all submissions received. They have also taken into consideration the analytical work undertaken to determine where electoral equality is no longer met, or will not be met in 2026 (the period that has to be taken into account for the purpose of the review) and have considered obvious boundary anomalies that need resolving.

The working group has made the following Draft Recommendations that comprise a series of proposals, but do not reference parishes where no changes were proposed during the consultation period and where the working group consider that no changes are required to facilitate improved community governance.

Following the resolution of Full Council, a period of 12 weeks' consultation will be undertaken between 28 February 2022 and 23 May 2022. This consultation stage provides parish councils, electors and other interested persons or bodies with an opportunity to make the case for alternative proposals to those now recommended to Full Council.

If an alternative case is submitted, this must demonstrate that any alternative proposals are in line with the general principles of a Community Governance Review, as they are laid down in the legislation and the Guidance. The Council will endeavour to make decisions that are based on the analysis of all the evidence that is received or further information that it collects. It is therefore very important that submissions are well argued and backed by credible evidence. The Council will give careful consideration to all submissions and alternative proposals that it receives. They will be balanced against the legislation, the Guidance and the Council's Terms of Reference.

On 14 July 2022, Full Council will consider its Final Recommendations in this Review, which will form the basis of a new Dorset Council (Parish Areas and Electoral Arrangements) Order. The Council intends that this order will be in place in good time for the next ordinary elections for the parish councils scheduled for 2024.

The Community Governance Review does not include the electoral arrangements for Dorset Council or Parliamentary seats. This would be the responsibility of central government through the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Boundary Commission for England, respectively.

## **Section 2: General principles and types of recommendation**

### **Parish areas and their boundaries**

The Council has begun its review by giving consideration to the parish areas and their boundaries. In particular, the Council has sought to ensure that each parish:

- reflects the identities and interests of the different communities in the area. The Council considers that this is a 'community of identity' test, which is especially applicable to the new developments that presently cross parish boundaries.
- is effective and convenient. The Council considers that this is a 'viability' test, and the Council is keen to ensure that parishes are viable and are able to actively and effectively promote the well-being of their residents and to contribute to the real provision of services in their areas in an economic and efficient manner.

- takes into account any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area that reinforce the ‘community of identity’ test.

### **Names and styles**

By and large, in these Draft Recommendations, the Council has sought to defer to local views with regard to the names of any new parishes and the names of any new or altered parish wards, taking account of history, local connections or the preservation of local ties making a pressing case for the retention of distinctive traditional names.

A number of parishes have historically used the title of ‘town’ in accordance with the Local Government Act. This is a matter over which this review has no remit, and it will lie at the discretion of the council of the parish as to whether it would wish to adopt the name of ‘town’ in accordance with Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **Parish grouping and electoral arrangements**

The Council has considered submissions in respect of grouped parishes, of which there are 36 in the Dorset Council area, and their electoral arrangements, considering whether grouping arrangements are appropriate for some of the smaller parishes, and whether the alternative of merging parishes under a single unwarded or a warded parish council would be more readily understood.

The Council has also considered the electoral arrangements of each parish. The term ‘electoral arrangements’ covers the way in which a council is constituted for the parish, including:

- the number of councillors to be elected to the council;
- the division (or not) of the parish into wards for the purpose of electing councillors;
- the number and boundaries of any such wards;
- the number of councillors to be elected for any such ward;
- the name of any such ward.

The Council is required by law to consider any change in the number or distribution of the local government electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the Review started. The Draft Recommendations take into account the electorate as the Council has projected it to 2026. Analysis of the present sizes of parish councils in the area together with the 5 year projected electorate can be found in [the Consultation Paper](#).

The Council has also given careful consideration to representations made in respect of the current warding arrangements of the parish councils. In considering whether a parish should be divided into wards for the purposes of elections to the parish council, the Council is required by legislation to consider the following:

- whether the number, or distribution, of the local government electors for the parish would make a single election of councillors impracticable or inconvenient;

- whether it is desirable that any area or areas of the parish should be separately represented on the council.

It is important that warding arrangements should be clearly and readily understood by, and should have relevance for the electorate in a parish; they should reflect clear physical and social differences within a parish, whether urban or rural: one parish but comprising different parts. In addition, ward arrangements should have merit - not only should they meet the two tests laid down in the legislation, but they should also be in the interests of effective and convenient local government. The additional costs of multiple ward elections should not be wasteful of a parish's resources.

In allocating parish councillors to parish wards, the Council has been particularly mindful of the government's Guidance that "it is an important democratic principle that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the elections of councillors" to a parish council. While there is no provision in legislation that each parish ward councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors, the Council concurs with the Guidance that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards. The Council has therefore attempted to ensure that the ratio of electors to councillors across the different wards of a parish is equitable insofar as that is practical.

### **Section 3: Evidence**

In undertaking the Review, Dorset Council has taken into account key data for each parish and parish ward. The range of data used is as follows:

**Electorate size and housing development data:** Analysis of the present sizes of parish councils in the area together with the 5 year projected electorate, details of which can be found in [the Consultation Paper](#). The 5 year projected electorate has been calculated using information about the scale and exact locations of expected future housing developments within the Council area. It is also based on the Council's housing development plans as set out in the Local Plan.

**May 2019 Elections data:** The Council has used the Returning Officer's data on the number of nominations at the last ordinary elections for the parishes in May 2019 relative to the number of seats, including the numbers of parish councillors that did not go through the process of nomination and election and who were therefore co-opted to the parish council to fill vacancies that remained unfilled at those elections.

**Responses to the Initial Submissions consultation:** the Council has considered responses to the consultation between 5 August 2021 and 28 October 2021 (the first of two public consultations planned for the Community Governance Review). All responses received can be viewed on the Community Governance Review page of the Council's website [here](#).

**Responses to these Draft Recommendations:** Responses to the proposals contained in these Draft Recommendations in a consultation period that will run from 28 February 2022 to 23 May 2022 will be carefully considered.

Council size: The legal minimum number of parish councillors for each council is five (Section 16, Local Government Act 1972). The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) considers that a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small, and it considers that a practical working minimum should be seven (NALC Circular 1126/1988). The government's Guidance makes the point that "the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors" (Guidance, paragraph 157).

There is no requirement in legislation that the number of councillors should be proportional to electorate size. The view given in the Guidance is as follows: "In considering the issue of council size, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities. Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, it should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes. This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government." (Guidance, paragraph 156).

With regard to parish wards, the Guidance adds another consideration, which is that the levels of representation and the ratios of electors to parish councillors should be broadly equitable. This report has already noted the emphasis in the Guidance "that each person's vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimate competing factors, when it comes to the election of councillors" (Guidance, paragraph 166).

It should be noted that a number of submissions were received that would result in unwarded parishes or parish wards being divided by a Dorset Council ward boundary and the Guidance is clear that this should be avoided as far as reasonably practicable. To achieve some of the proposals submitted would require a significant change to the warding arrangements for Dorset Council. These were only recently established on the creation of Dorset Council in April 2019 and it isn't considered appropriate to seek a review of the Dorset Council wards at the current time. Therefore, any submissions that would require a significant Dorset Council ward boundary change that will impact on a large number of properties/electors will be held on file and considered when Dorset Council boundaries are next reviewed.

## **Section 4: Final assessment and draft recommendations**

### **Recommendation 1 - Arne**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance arrangements.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation, to include Stoborough and Worgret Parish within Arne Parish Council name but Dorset Council has not received any substantial evidence to support this suggestion but would welcome further feedback on the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 2 - Bere Regis**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance arrangements.



Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council to increase councillor numbers from 11 to 13. The National Association of Local Council (NALC) guidance and the 2026 predicted electorate do not support an increase in councillor numbers.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 3 - Blandford Forum Town Council ([Map](#))**

The current governance arrangements for Blandford Forum Town Council are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Badbury Heights	1	900	887	887
Blandford Central	6	3297	3343	557
Hilltop	2	727	822	411
Langton St Leonards	4	1578	1556	389
Old Town	3	1624	1639	546

The current governance arrangements do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to the warding pattern as shown on Map Recommendation No.3 and councillor numbers as follows:

Parish Ward	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Badbury Heights	2	556
Blandford Central	6	522
Hilltop	2	470
Langton St Leonards	3	519
Old Town	3	503

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that any other community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Blandford Forum Town Council to change the parish boundaries to include a number of existing parishes, or part thereof, to bring these within the Blandford Forum parish boundary. The full submission can be seen [here](#) .

Dorset Council received submissions from Blandford St Mary Parish Council, Bryanston Parish Council, Pimperne Parish Council, Tarrant Monkton and Launceston Parish Council and Langton Long Parish Meeting against the proposal from Blandford Forum Town Council demonstrating how each of the parishes had clearly defined and well-established working arrangements, taking responsibility for a number of projects within their communities. These submissions can be seen [here](#) .

Responses were also received from 3 individuals against the proposals by Blandford Forum Town Council which can also be seen in the responses document [here](#).

Dorset Council were not convinced that the changes proposed by Blandford Forum Town Council would improve community governance and were not persuaded by the limited arguments put forward by the Town Council that there would be an improvement to community cohesion or more convenient governance of the area. Whilst the submission set out the changes being sought, detailed arguments were not presented in respect of all the changes as to how these would facilitate better community engagement and improved community cohesion. Dorset Council was also disappointed to note that prior to making their submission, the Town Council had not sought to collaborate with those parishes affected in drawing up proposals for new governance arrangements. However, it is noted that the Town Council have now been in contact with the affected parishes. Dorset Council felt that the parishes affected by the proposals from the Town Council had demonstrated good community engagement and cohesion with many community initiatives and collaboration in place. It was also noted that the proposals would result in a significant number of parish wards being split by Dorset Council ward boundaries, something which the Guidance says should be avoided wherever reasonably practicable. Dorset Council has therefore suggested that any changes would be better considered as part of a future review of Dorset Council warding arrangements.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council draft recommendation is to make no change to the current arrangements except to councillor numbers and warding arrangements as shown in Map Recommendation No. 3.

#### **Recommendation 4 - Bridport Town Council ([Map 1](#)) ([Map2](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that community governance changes would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Bridport Town Council to change the parish boundaries to include a number of existing parishes, or part thereof, to bring these within the Bridport parish boundary. The full submission can be seen as part of the responses document [here](#).

Dorset Council received 86 individual responses, and 126 responses via a leaflet published by Bridport Town Council supporting the proposals, all of which can be viewed in the responses document [here](#).

Dorset Council received 78 individual responses objecting to the proposals on the grounds that their parishes had a distinct identity and this would be lost if merged with Bridport Town Council. All the responses can be viewed in the responses document [here](#).

Responses were also received from the affected parishes as follows:

- Allington Parish Council
- Symondsburry Parish Council
- Bothenhampton and Walditch Parish Council
- Bradpole Parish Council
- Burton Bradstock Parish Council

A full copy of the submissions can be found in the responses document [here](#).

Members of a Community Governance Review Working Group, made up of Group Leaders and their deputies, considered all the responses received and also undertook a site visit to Bridport and surrounding parishes on 15 December 2021. The Working Group also invited all the parishes affected to address the Working Group on 20 December 2021 and 26 January 2022 to make

their case for or against the proposals by Bridport Town Council, and in respect of any other changes to community governance arrangements they might wish to propose.

Following consideration of all the submissions received, Dorset Council is of the view that the Option 1 proposal put forward by Bridport Town Council would

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Dorset Council is persuaded by the arguments set out in the submission from Bridport Town Council that include:

- There is little separation between parishes, creating a sense of a single larger parish.
- A large number of services provided by the Town Council are enjoyed by residents of the wider area including the use of the community bus service, provision of community spaces and buildings etc.
- The Town Council manage a number of facilities/services that are outside of the town boundary.
- The designated area for the Bridport Neighbourhood Plan replicates the area proposed for the new Bridport parish.
- There is a strong sense of community cohesion with examples of residents across the area working together for a common goal e.g., the recent support network established to help residents during the coronavirus pandemic.
- The proposed warding arrangements will enable local centres to retain an identity of their own as is currently the case with West Bay which sits largely within the current Bridport parish.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make the changes to the current governance arrangements as set out in Map Recommendation No. 4 and 4A. The draft recommendation in respect of Councillor numbers and Ward names for Bridport Town Council, and Symondsburry Parish Council are as follows:

## Bridport Town Council

Town Council Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Allington & West Bridport	5	3168	3168	634
Bothenhampton & Walditch	3	1843	1801	601
Bradpole	5	2614	2627	525
Central Bridport	5	2635	3149	629
West Bay	2	1038	1014	507

## Symondsburry Parish Council

The draft recommendation incorporates the remaining parts of Symondsburry and Allington Parishes that are not being included within the proposed Bridport Parish. The draft recommendation is for the proposed Symondsburry Parish to be represented by 7 councillors.

Parish Council Ward	Current Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Pine View	1	155	N/A	N/A
Symondsburry	5	548	789	113 (7 councillors)
West Cliff	2	192	N/A	N/A

### **Recommendation 5 - Broadmayne and West Knighton ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council highlighting some boundary anomalies as a result of previous development in the parish where properties in the same road fell in 2 different parishes and also where a parish boundary runs through the site of individual properties.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change the parish boundary to resolve these anomalies, as identified in Map Recommendation 5.

### **Recommendation 6 - Cerne Valley**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council seeking a change to the electoral arrangement to the Grouped Parish Council whereby electors from all 4 parishes could vote across the Grouped Parish rather than voting for a candidate representing their individual parish. S.19 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires each parish in a grouped parish council to return at least one councillor. Therefore, the only way to achieve the outcome sought would be to abolish the 4 existing parishes that form the Grouped Parish Council and create a single parish.

Dorset Council do not believe that this is what is being sought so recommend that no change is made. However, Dorset Council would welcome views from the parishes and local residents on whether this is a change that they would like to be considered.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

**Recommendation 7 - Char Valley ([Map 1](#)) ([Map 2](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council highlighting some boundary anomalies.

Dorset Council supports the move of "Hazy View, Ryall Road, DT6 6EG from Chideock Parish to Whitchurch Canonorum. See Map Recommendation 7a.

There was a further request to move Newlands Holiday Park, Stonebarrow Manor and other properties from Whitchurch Canonorum to Charmouth. However, as a number of properties are involved and this will necessitate a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to amend Dorset Council ward boundaries, this change is not supported. However, this request will remain on file and will be considered at such time as the Dorset Council boundaries are reviewed.

Dorset Council supports Catherston Leweston becoming part of the Char Valley Grouped Parish Council subject to the parish arranging for a parish meeting of the residents of Catherston Leweston resolving to join.

Dorset Council supports moving the northern most boundary of Stanton St Gabriel to run along the A35. See Map Recommendation No.7b.

The current governance arrangements for Char Valley are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Stanton St Gabriel	1	64	62	62
Whitchurch Canonorum (North)	4	310	302	76
Whitchurch Carnonorum (South)	4	284	280	70
Wootton Fitzpaine	3	275	271	90

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Catherston Leweston	1	32
Stanton St Gabriel	1	62
Whitchurch Canonorum (North)	4	76
Whitchurch Carnonorum (South)	4	70
Wootton Fitzpaine	4	69

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change the parish boundary to resolve the anomalies, as identified in Map Recommendation 7a and 7b, and to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.



### Recommendation 8 - Charminster

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Charminster are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Charminster North	6	1148	1147	191
Charminster South	7	1318	1608	230

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Charminster North	5	230
Charminster South	7	230

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

### **Recommendation 9 - Charmouth**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council seeking a boundary change which is support by the businesses affected and also by the Parish Council where the businesses are currently situated.

However, as this proposed change would necessitate a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to amend Dorset Council ward boundaries, this change is not supported. However, this request will remain on file and will be considered at such time as the Dorset Council ward boundaries are reviewed.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 10 - Chesil Bank**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Dorset Council do not believe that the boundary changes suggested by the Parish Council will lead to an improvement in Community Governance so recommend that the boundaries remain unchanged. However, Dorset Council would welcome further evidence setting out the perceived benefits of the proposals put forward by the Parish Council.

The current governance arrangements for Chesil Bank are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Abbotsbury	4	378	367	92
Fleet	2	75	72	36
Langton Herring	2	133	132	66
Portesham	6	629	609	102

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Abbotsbury	4	92
Fleet	1	72
Langton Herring	2	66
Portesham	7	87

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

### **Recommendation 11 - Chetnole and Stockwood**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Dorset Council do not believe that the boundary changes suggested by the Parish Council will lead to an improvement in Community Governance so recommend that the boundaries remain unchanged. However, Dorset Council would welcome further evidence setting out the perceived benefits of the proposals put forward by the Parish Council.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 12 - Chickerell**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Chickerell are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Charlestown & Littlesea	4	1726	1780	445
Chickerell Village	6	3194	4379	697

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Taking into account the recommendations affecting Chickerell set out under Recommendation No. 47 Weymouth, Dorset Council recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Charlestown & Littlesea	2	708	708	354
Chickerell Village	11	3194	4379	398

It should be noted that the electorate figures in the proposed councillor numbers reflect the impact of the proposals for Weymouth Town Council. Dorset Council would welcome views on whether Chickerell parish should remain warded.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

### **Recommendation 13 – Chideock ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

During the consultation survey, a representation was received from the Parish Council to move 2 individual properties from Chideock Parish to Whitchurch Canonorum and Symondsburry parishes as the properties had no near neighbours in the Chideock Parish.

In regard to Hazy View, please see reference under Char Valley (Map Recommendation No. 7a).

In regard to Turnpike Cottage, Downside Cottage and Sundown Cottage these are split by the Parish and Dorset Council ward boundary. It is necessary to correct this boundary anomaly as the properties are currently split. Whilst Dorset Council supports this change in principle, it will be necessary to make an application to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a very minor boundary change to the Dorset Council ward boundary. (Map Recommendation No. 13). This recommendation will not proceed to Final Recommendations unless the Dorset Council ward boundary change can be assured as, otherwise, it would necessitate the warding of the parish and the need to return an additional councillor for very few electors.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change the parish boundary to resolve the anomalies, as identified in Map Recommendation No.7a and Map Recommendation No.13.

#### **Recommendation 14 - Colehill and Holt ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received 37 representations, including submissions from both Colehill and Holt Parish Councils with varying views about possible changes to community governance arrangements across the parishes.

Dorset Council noted that the former East Dorset District Council carried out a review concluded in 2018 and for some of the proposals submitted as part of this review, Dorset Council could find no compelling evidence of any change in these communities that would support a change to community governance in these areas.

However, Dorset Council notes the more rural nature of Furzehill and is persuaded by the arguments that Furzehill shares clearer local identity with Holt. Dorset Council notes that Holt Parish Council are supportive of Furzehill moving within the Holt parish which was not the case when East Dorset District Council considered the proposal in 2018. Dorset Council is recommending that the whole of Furzehill moves from the parish of Colehill to the Parish of Holt as identified in Map recommendation No. 14. This would necessitate the warding of Holt Parish Council.

In addition, Colehill Parish Council sought the removal of their current warding arrangements. However, this is not possible as the parish is split by a Parliamentary constituency boundary. However, it was noted that warding arrangements would need to be revised due to the removal of Furzehill.

The following warding arrangements are proposed for Colehill and Holt:

Colehill - Parish Ward	No. of Councillors	2021 Electorate	2026 Electorate	Avg per councillor 2026
Colehill (polling districts COM1 & COM3)	13	5064	4998	385
Colehill Hayes (polling district COM2)	3	1015	1032	344

Holt - Parish Ward	No. of Councillors	2021 Electorate	2026 Electorate	Avg per councillor 2026
Furzehill	2	204	214	107
Holt	9	1118	1156	128

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council’s draft recommendation is to make a change to the current governance arrangements to move “the Lobe” of Furzehill currently in the parish of Colehill to the parish of Holt, and also to change warding arrangements for Colehill and Holt. See Map Recommendation No. 14.

**Recommendation 15 - Compton Abbas**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current Governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation, to include Twyford (currently in Compton Abbas parish) within the parish of Fontmell Magna on the basis that the main residential part of both Fontmell Magna and Twyford are on the same side of the A350. There was also a suggestion that Compton Abbas and Melbury Abbas parishes should be merged. The Parish Councils affected by this proposal have not submitted any proposed changes to the current governance arrangements. Dorset Council has not received any substantial evidence to support this suggestion but would welcome further feedback on the perceived benefits and impacts of this option, particularly from the parish councils.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

#### **Recommendation 16 - Corfe Mullen**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation to ward the parish of Corfe Mullen. Historically the parish was warded but these governance arrangements were removed in 2014 at the request of the Parish Council. There has been no other submissions in respect of this suggestion, and the parish council are not seeking changes to current governance arrangements. Dorset Council has not received any substantial evidence to support the warding suggestion but would welcome further feedback on the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.



### **Recommendation 17 - Dorchester**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current Governance arrangements.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation to reduce the number of councillors elected to the Town Council which currently stands at 20 councillors. In 2026 the area covered by the Town Council is predicted to have 18,249 electors and NALC guidance in Circulate 1126/1988 suggests a council size of 21-22 councillors for this size electorate. The Town Council are not seeking any changes to current governance arrangements.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 18 - Evershot**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current Governance arrangements.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation to amend the parish boundaries to include the community of Holywell into the parish of Evershot. There was also a suggestion to change the name of Evershot Parish Council to Evershot and Holywell Parish Council.

Such a change would result in the parish straddling Dorset Council ward boundaries resulting in possible confusion for the local electorate. The Parish Council are not seeking any changes to current governance arrangements.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

**Recommendation 19 - Frome Valley**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Frome Valley are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Cattistock	7	383	389	56
Chilfrome	2	49	51	26
Frome St Quintin	3	143	143	48

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Cattistock	7	56
Chilfrome	1	51
Frome St Quintin	3	48

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

**Recommendation re Holt – see Recommendation No.14 Colehill & Holt**

**Recommendation 20 – Gillingham ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Dorset Council believe that the change to the boundary with East Stour Parish proposed by the Town Council will improve community governance in the area when the proposed development is built.

The current governance arrangements for Gillingham are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Ham	2	1212	1870	935
Milton on Stour	1	347	358	358
Rural	1	192	198	198
Town	9	4701	5356	595
Wyke	4	2551	2527	632

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers and revised warding arrangements as shown in Map Recommendation No.20 as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Ham	3	1212	1870	623
Milton on Stour	1	347	358	358
Rural	1	192	198	198
Town North	6	4701	3614	602
Town South	3		1733	578
Wyke	4	2551	2536	634

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality, and to make changes to the parish boundary and warding arrangements, as identified in Map Recommendation No. 20.

### **Recommendation 21 - High Stoy**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation to retain the current arrangements. The Parish Council are not seeking arrange changes to current governance arrangements.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 22 - Hilton**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council to form a new Grouped Parish Council of Hilton, Stoke Wake and Melcombe Horsey. Whilst, in principle, Dorset Council supports this proposal, in order for this to be included in the final recommendations, the parish must arrange for a resolution of a parish meeting of residents from the parishes affected to this effect and provide confirmation to Dorset Council that this has been supported.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to create a new Grouped Parish Council of Hilton, Ansty, Melcombe Bingham and Stoke Wake, subject to a resolution of parish meetings of residents of all parishes affected supporting this change.

### Recommendation 23 - Iwerne Courtney and Steepleton

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Iwerne Courtney and Steepleton are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Iwerne Courtney	7	333	341	49
Iwerne Steepleton	2	16	16	8

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Iwerne Courtney	7	49
Iwerne Steepleton	1	16

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

### Recommendation 24 - Knightsford

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Knightsford are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Tingleton	2	141	137	69
West Knighton	4	304	308	77
West Stafford	4	246	238	60
Woodsford	2	62	60	30

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Tingleton	2	69
West Knighton	5	62
West Stafford	4	60
Woodsford	1	60

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

### **Recommendation 25 - Long Bredy and Kingston Russell ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Parish Council seeking a change to the electoral arrangements to the Grouped Parish Council to create a single parish council whereby electors from all parishes could vote across the parish council area rather than voting for candidate representing their individual parish. S.19 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 required each parish in a grouped parish council to return at least one councillor. Therefore, the only way to achieve the outcome sought would be to abolish the 2 existing parishes that form the Grouped Parish Council and create a single parish. The Parish Council have resolved to make this request as part of the community governance review.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to abolish the parishes of Long Bredy and Kingston Russell to create a single parish with the same outer boundary and taking the name from both existing parishes calling the new parish Long Bredy and Kingston Russell, as identified in Map Recommendation No.25.

### **Recommendation 26 - Lower Winterborne Grouped Parish**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from the Lower Winterborne Parish Council seeking a change to the Grouped Parish Council to remove Winterborne Zelston from the Grouped arrangements. This was supported by a small majority of residents responding to a parish survey issued by the Parish Council.



**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to remove Winterborne Zelston from the Lower Winterborne Grouped Parish Council. The new Grouped Parish Council will retain its existing electoral arrangements and existing parish boundaries with the exclusion of Winterborne Zelston ie 1 councillor representing Anderson and 7 councillors representing Winterborne Kingston. Residents of Winterborne Zelston can, if they wish, establish a parish meeting.

### **Recommendation 27 - Lyme Regis**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received 13 individual representation from local residents expressing concern about the effectiveness of the Town Council and the number of councillors. S.94 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 says that if a parish has more than 1000 electors then the Review must recommend that the parish should have a council. The parish of Lyme Regis is predicted to have an electorate of 3,080 electors in 2026 and therefore a parish council must be in place.

Dorset Council considered the recommendations of NALC which indicates a recommended council size of 10-11 councillors for the electorate of Lyme Regis. The Town Council currently has 14 councillors. In May 2019 and in a by-election in August 2019, the seats were filled by election, rather than co-option.

The Town Council have not sought any changes as part of the Review.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 28 - Maiden Newton and Frome Vauchurch ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received 5 individual responses and also a response from Frome Vauchurch Parish meeting and Maiden Newton Parish Council supporting the creation of a Grouped Parish Council. Dorset Council supports the amendment to the Frome Vauchurch Parish boundary as this will lead to a clearer and more easily identifiable geographical point. Dorset Council also supports the submission by Frome Vauchurch Parish Meeting and Maiden Newton Parish Council to form a grouped parish council. However, this will only be included in the final recommendations once Maiden Newton have obtained a resolution of a parish meeting of their residents supporting this, and confirming to Dorset Council that this has been done.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to create a grouped parish council and amend the boundary of the parish of Frome Vauchurch as identified in Map Recommendation No.28.

### **Recommendation 29 – Netherbury ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

A request has been received from Netherbury Parish Council, supported by Symondsburry Parish Council, to make a minor change to the boundary to move 2 properties from its parish to the parish of Symondsburry. The property owners have been consulted and feel they would be better represented by Symondsburry Parish Council and feel geographically closer to Symondsburry. Whilst Dorset Council supports this change in principle, it will be necessary to make an application to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a very minor boundary change to the Dorset Council ward boundary. This recommendation will not proceed to Final Recommendations unless the Dorset Council ward boundary change can be assured as, otherwise, it would necessitate the warding of the parish and the need to return an additional councillor for very few electors.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change the parish boundary to move 2 properties, as identified in Map Recommendation No.29.

### **Recommendation 30 - Owermoigne and Osmington**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received 10 individual representations in favour of maintaining the status quo. No formal proposal has been received to make changes to the current arrangements.

Neither Osmington Parish Council nor Owermoigne Parish Council have made submissions to change the current governance arrangements.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 31 - Portland**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received 2 individual representations from local residents. One submission expressed concern about the effectiveness of the Town Council and suggested that it should be abolished. S.94 of The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 says that if a parish has more than 1000 electors then the Review must recommend that

the parish should have a council. The parish of Portland is predicted to have an electorate of 10,475 electors in 2026 and therefore a parish council must be in place. The second submission suggested a merge of wards and a reduction in the number of councillors.

Portland Town Council have not sought any changes to the current governance arrangements.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 32 - Puddletown**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Puddletown Parish Council has sought changes to the current governance arrangements, retaining the current Grouped Parish Council but merging the parishes of Athelhampton and Puddletown and also to merge the parishes of Burleston and Tolpuddle. Dorset Council recognised that electoral equality is not achieved with the current arrangements. The Parish Council undertook a survey of local residents and the majority of those who responded were in favour of the proposals of the Parish Council.

Dorset Council is recommending the changes proposed by the Grouped Parish Council.

**Recommendation:** To merge the parishes of Athelhampton and Puddletown (returning 9 councillors) and merging Burleston and Tolpuddle (returning 3 councillors), as identified in Map Recommendation No. 32.

### Recommendation 33 - Queen Thorne

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Queen Thorne Parish Council are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Nether Compton	4	239	241	60
Over Compton	2	147	146	73
Sandford Orcas	3	151	150	50
Trent	4	252	250	63

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Nether Compton	4	60
Over Compton	3	49
Sandford Orcas	3	50
Trent	4	63

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

### Recommendation 34 - Shaftesbury

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Shaftesbury are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Shaftesbury East	6	3689	4103	684
Shaftesbury West	6	3143	3358	576

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have

significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Shaftesbury East	8	513
Shaftesbury West	7	479

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

### **Recommendation 35 - Shipton Gorge ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Two individual responses were received from householders whose properties are in the parish of Loders, but they feel more connected to Shipton Gorge. Both Shipton Gorge and Loders Parish Council recognise this anomaly and support a parish boundary change to move the properties identified in the submission.

On inspecting parish maps, there are other properties that are affected in the same way. Whilst Dorset Council supports this change in principle, it will be necessary to make an application to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a very minor boundary change to the Dorset Council ward boundary. This recommendation will not proceed to Final Recommendations unless the Dorset Council ward boundary change can be assured as, otherwise, it would necessitate the warding of the parish and the need to return an additional councillor for very few electors.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to alter parish boundaries in accordance with Map Recommendation No. 35.

### Recommendation 36 - South Tarrant Valley

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for South Tarrant Valley are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Tarrant Crawford	1	22	23	23
Tarrant Keyneston	5	282	289	56
Tarrant Rawston	2	39	40	20
Tarrant Rushton	3	73	75	25

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Tarrant Crawford	1	23
Tarrant Keyneston	5	56
Tarrant Rawston	1	40
Tarrant Rushton	2	38

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.



### Recommendation 37 - St Leonards and St Ives

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for St Leonards & St Ives are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
East	6	3245	3099	516
South	3	1106	1112	371
West	4	2143	2050	513

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
East	6	516
South	2	556
West	4	513

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

### Recommendation 38 - The Comptons, Toller and Wynford

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for The Comptons, Toller and Wynford are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Compton Valence	2	55	55	28
Toller Fratrum	2	13	13	7
West Compton	2	42	42	21
Wynford Eagle	2	44	44	22

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Compton Valence	2	28
Toller Fratrum	1	13
West Compton	2	21
Wynford Eagle	2	22

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

### Recommendation 39 - The Orchards and Margaret Marsh

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for The Orchards and Margaret Marsh are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
East Orchard	3	115	119	40
Margaret Marsh	1	31	32	32
West Orchard	1	59	60	60

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
East Orchard	4	30
Margaret Marsh	1	32
West Orchard	2	30

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

**Recommendation re Pamphill and Shapwick – see Recommendation No.48**

### Recommendation 40 - The Stours

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for The Stours are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
East Stour	7	474	479	68
Stour Provost	7	487	486	69
Todber	3	132	136	45
West Stour	3	170	170	57

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
East Stour	7	68
Stour Provost	7	69
Todber	2	68
West Stour	3	57

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

### **Recommendation 41 - Thornhackett**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Thornhackett are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Beer Hackett	3	83	82	27
Thornford	7	670	724	103

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Beer Hackett	1	82
Thornford	8	91

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

### **Recommendation 42 - Upper Marshwood Vale**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Upper Marshwood Vale are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Bettiscombe	2	48	48	24
Marshwood	5	250	285	57
Pilsdon	2	29	28	14
Stoke Abbott	3	186	181	60

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Bettiscombe	1	48
Marshwood	5	57
Pilsdon	1	28
Stoke Abbott	3	60

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

#### **Recommendation 43 - Vale of Allen**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The Parish Council have submitted a number of proposals for boundary changes. Dorset Council do not believe that any of the proposals would lead to improved community governance. However, Dorset Council would be pleased to hear from local residents

and the parishes that fall within the Vale of Allen in respect of any improvements to community governance that they believe would be achieved by changing the parish boundaries.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no changes to community governance arrangements.

#### **Recommendation 44 - Verwood**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Verwood are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Dewlands North	2	697	1030	515
Dewlands South	8	5208	5238	655
Stephen's Castle	7	4856	4841	692
Three Cross	1	1220	1233	1233

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Dewlands North	2	697	1030	515
Dewlands South	8	5208	5238	655
Stephen's Castle	7	4856	4841	692
Three Cross	2	1220	1233	617

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to improve electoral equality.

#### **Recommendation 45 - West Moors**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation suggesting that the name West Moors Town Council should be changed to West Moors Parish Council. A number of parishes have historically used the title of 'town' in accordance with the Local Government Act. This is a matter over which this review has no remit, and it will lie at the discretion of the council of the parish as to whether it would wish to adopt the name of 'town' in accordance with Section 245 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.



### **Recommendation 46 - West Parley**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received 6 individual representations opposing the merging of West Moors into the parish of West Parley. However, there have been no submissions seeking to include the parish of West Moors into the parish of West Parley.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

### **Recommendation 47 – Weymouth ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

A representation was received from Weymouth Town Council setting out a number of proposals for changes to community governance arrangements in terms of councillor numbers, warding arrangements and changes to the parish boundaries. The submission from the Town Council can be viewed [here](#). A representation was also received from a resident of Winterborne Farringdon parish which would impact on the boundaries of the Weymouth parish. Again, this submission can be viewed [here](#)

The proposals put forward by the Town Council in respect of the north of the parish would impact on the boundaries of Dorset Council wards. Dorset Council has therefore suggested that any changes would be better considered as part of a future review of Dorset Council warding arrangements.

Dorset Council largely supported the proposals submitted by the Town Council in respect of changes to the south of the parish. The proposed new boundaries were recognised as better reflecting the communities that live there, provide clearer boundary definition using geographical features, and also seek to address some historic anomalies where this was not previously possible due to the prior need to change a principle council area boundary which was outside the remit of a community governance review.

Whilst considering each of the proposals in detail, Dorset Council noted that the suggested new wards put forward by the Town Council resulted in a significant number of parish wards being split by Dorset Council ward boundaries, something which the Guidance says should be avoided wherever reasonably practicable. It was recognised that the existing parish ward boundaries are also split by Dorset Council ward boundaries, but this was as a result of the creation of Weymouth Town Council at the same time as the creation of Dorset Council when the ward boundaries of each were not known. In order to rectify this, Dorset Council has included a revised warding proposal for consultation, basing wards on the existing Dorset Council wards and recommending councillor numbers based closely on the recommendation from NALC (NALC recommendation for this size electorate would be 25 councillors. Dorset Council's recommendation is for 24 councillors).

Dorset Council would welcome views on the proposed warding pattern and, in particular, whether these wards should be split into smaller areas but within the proposed wards.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council’s draft recommendation is to revise parish and ward boundaries as identified in Map Recommendation No. 47 and to recommend councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Chickerell (views on name of ward welcomed)	1	2171	2199	2199
Littlemoor & Preston	4	7788	8029	2007
Melcombe Regis	2	3548	3970	1985
Nottingham	1	177	498	498
Radipole	4	7541	7276	1819
Rodwell & Wyke	6	10974	11615	1936
Upwey & Broadway	2	3846	3930	1965
Westham	4	6901	7570	1893

**Recommendation 48 - Wimborne Minster (including Pamphill and Shapwick) ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

A number of proposals were received from Wimborne Minster Town Council as follows:

Bringing the area of Pamphill South within the Wimborne Minster parish. Pamphill parish were largely supportive of this but suggested that the Almshouses should remain in Pamphill. However, Dorset Council were not persuaded by the argument that this small group of properties would be better served in terms of governance by remaining within Pamphill.

Bringing the area known as “Wimborne Showground” within the Wimborne Minster parish. Dorset Council were persuaded by the argument that this area is more geographically aligned to the parish of Wimborne Minster.

Removing the warding arrangements for Wimborne Minster parish. Dorset Council recognised that it was not possible to remove the warding arrangements as the parish is split by 2 Dorset Council wards.

The current governance arrangements for Pamphill and Shapwick are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Pamphill North	5	336	340	68
Pamphill South	3	215	230	77
Shapwick	3	149	151	50

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Pamphill	7	336	340	49
Shapwick	3	149	151	51

The current governance arrangements for Wimborne Minster are as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
East	2	912	1777	889
Town	12	5631	6906	576

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, taking into account the changes set out in the draft recommendation, and it is the Government’s Guidance that “it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards”. Dorset Council therefore recommends an increase to councillor numbers in line with NALC recommendations as follows:

Parish Ward	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Wimborne East (polling district COM4)	3	912	1777	593
Wimborne Town (polling districts WIM1, WIM2 and WIM3)	13	5846	7136	548

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council’s draft recommendation is to make a change to the current governance arrangements to move parts of the parish of Pamphill to Wimborne Minster parish, and also to change warding arrangements for Pamphill, Shapwick and Wimborne Minster. See Map Recommendation No. 48.

**Recommendation 49 - Winterbourne Abbas and Winterbourne Steepleton**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Winterbourne Abbas and Winterbourne Steepleton are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Winterbourne Abbas	3	294	348	116
Winterbourne Steepleton	3	220	215	72

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Winterbourne Abbas	4	87
Winterbourne Steepleton	3	72

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

### **Recommendation 50 - Winterborne Farringdon**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

The current governance arrangements for Winterborne Farringdon are as follows:

Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Bincombe	3	435	843	281
Whitcombe	2	20	19	10
Winterborne Came	3	37	36	12
Winterborne Herringston	2	23	22	11
Winterborne Monkton	3	58	61	20

The current governance arrangements for the Grouped Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Bincombe	5	167
Whitcombe	1	19
Winterborne Came	1	36
Winterborne Herringston	1	22
Winterborne Monkton	1	61

An individual representation was received to change the boundary of Winterborne Farringdon. However, it was noted that the proposal would result in a significant change to the Dorset Council ward boundaries, something which the Guidance says should be avoided wherever reasonably practicable. Dorset Council has therefore suggested that any changes would be better considered as part of a future review of Dorset Council warding arrangements.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.

### **Recommendation 51- Winterborne St Martin ([Map](#))**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

Through the consultation survey the Council received a representation from Winterborne St Martin Parish Council seeking a slight change of boundary to incorporate land at Monkeys Jump roundabout into the parish. The Parish Council has been working hard to manage the land as it directly affects residents in the parish. This change does not affect any properties.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change the parish boundary as identified in Map Recommendation No. 51.



### **Recommendation 52 - Wool and Bovington**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- NOT help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- NOT help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

In addition, the current and forecasted size, population and current boundaries support the recommendation to maintain the current governance.

Through the consultation survey the Council received an individual representation, to separate Bovington from Wool Parish Council. No changes were sought from the Parish Council, and Dorset Council has not received any substantial evidence to support this suggestion but would welcome further feedback on the perceived benefits and impacts of this option.

**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to make no change to the current governance arrangements.

**Recommendation 53 - Yetminster and Ryme Intrinsic**

Based upon the evidence currently available, Dorset Council, on balance, considers that a community governance change would:

- help to better reflect the local identities and interests of the community;
- help to secure a more effective and convenient governance of the area.

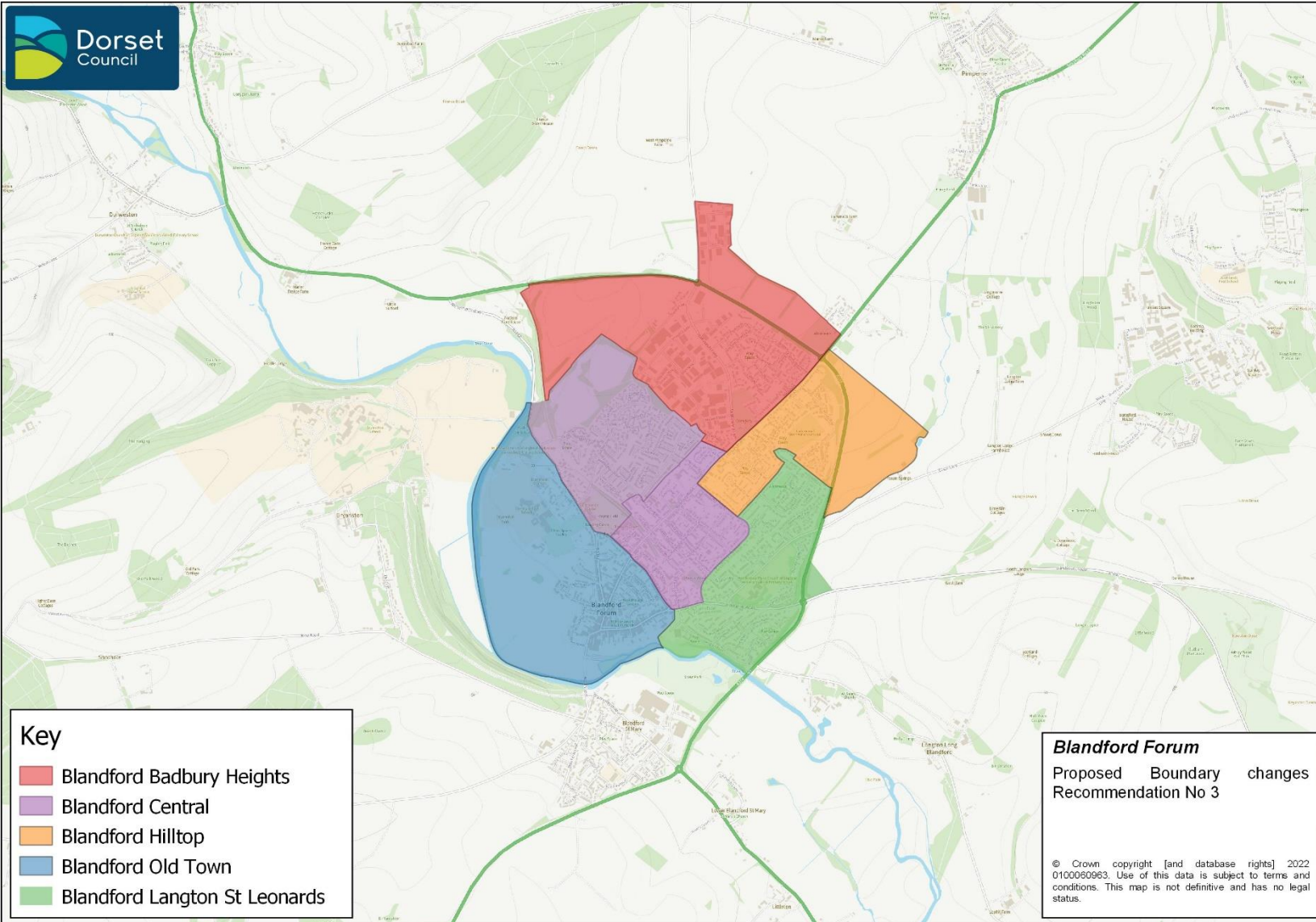
The current governance arrangements for Yetminster and Ryme Intrinsic are as follows:

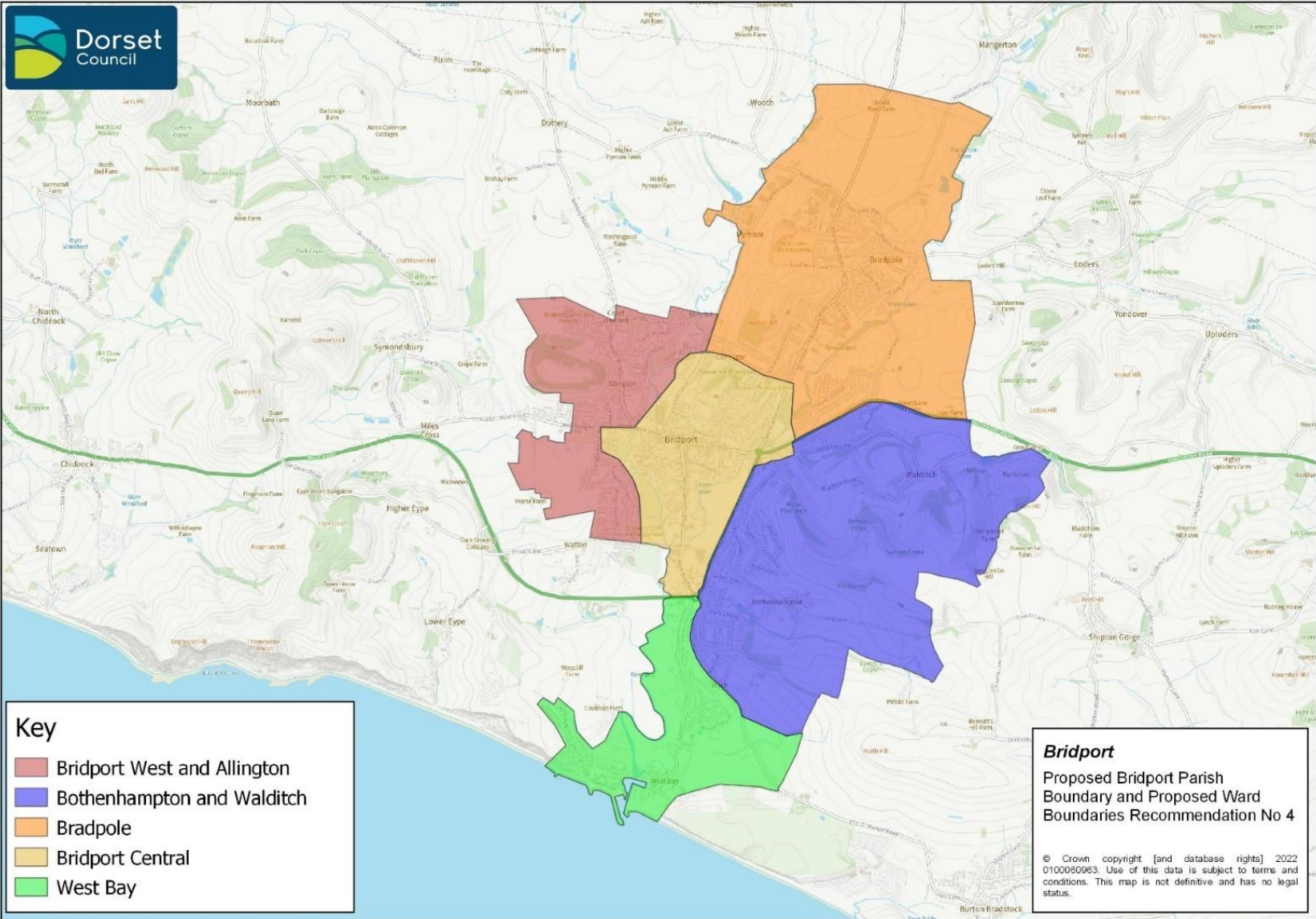
Parish	Number of councillors	Electorate 2021	Electorate 2026	Electors per councillor 2026
Ryme Intrinsic	3	110	111	37
Yetminster	9	957	1056	117

The current governance arrangements for the Parish Council do not achieve electoral equality, and it is the Government's Guidance that "it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government either for voters or councillors, to have significant difference in levels of representation between different parish wards". Dorset Council therefore recommends a change to councillor numbers as follows:

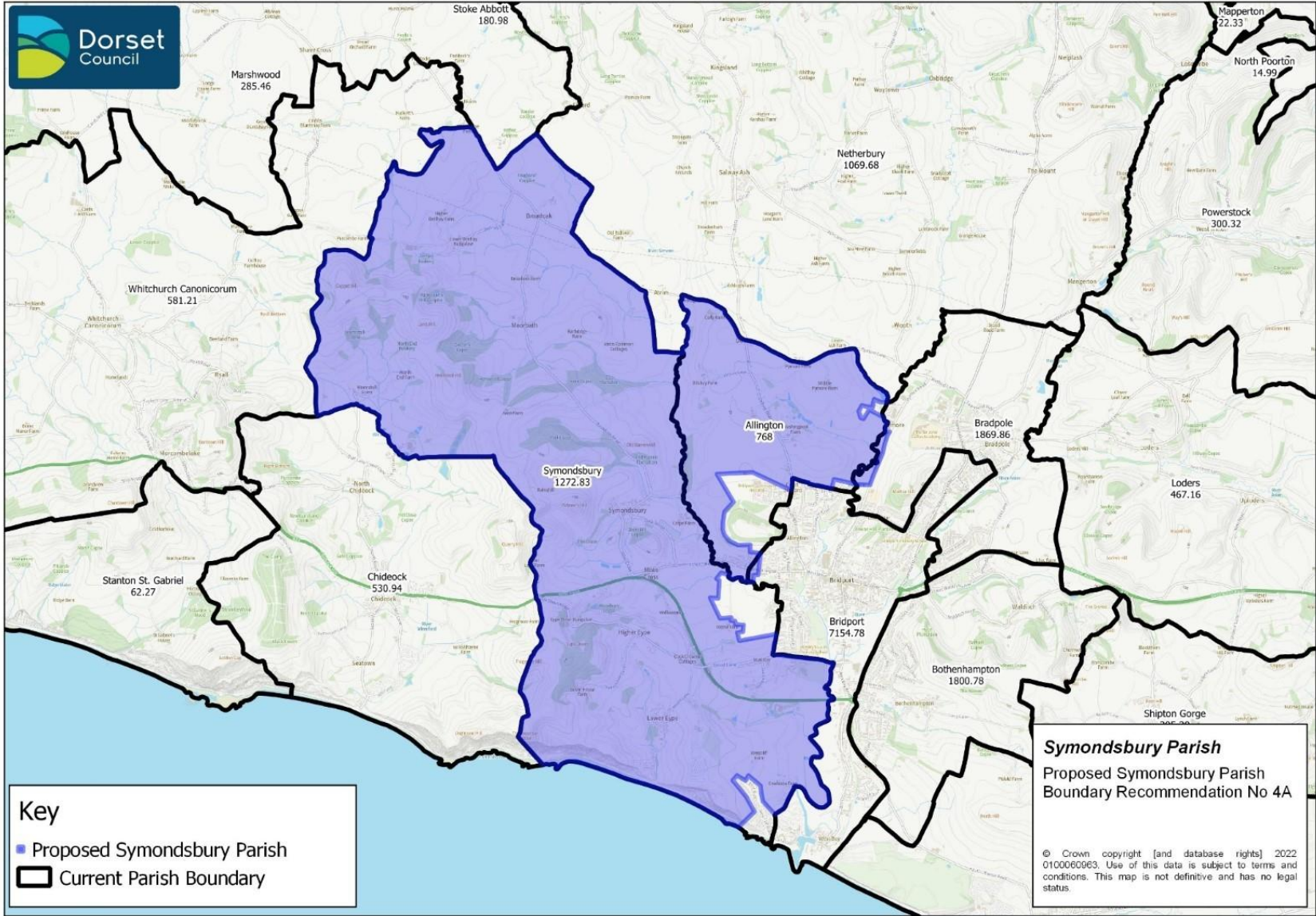
Parish	Revised number of councillors	Electors per councillor in 2026
Ryme Intrinsic	1	111
Yetminster	9	117

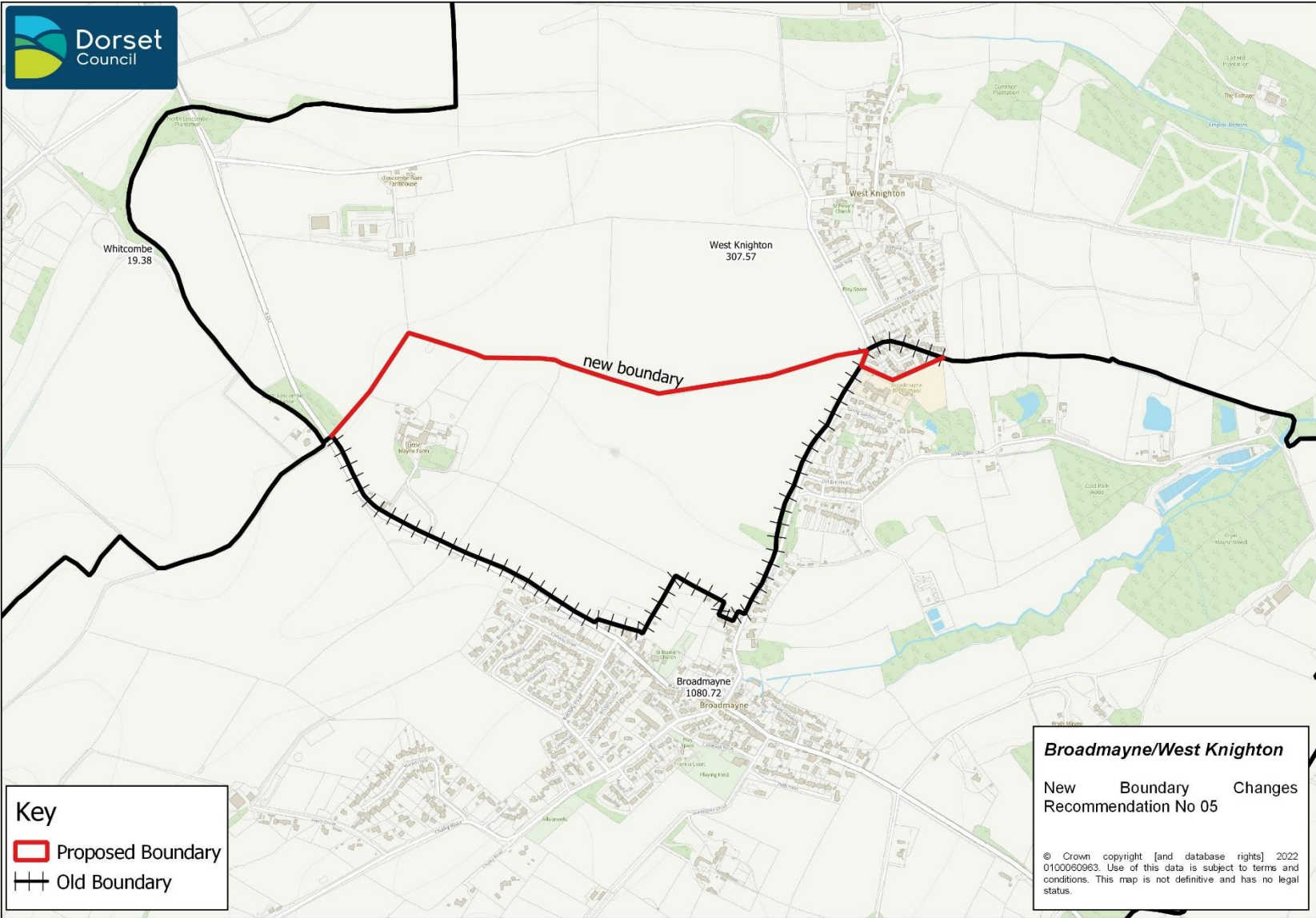
**Recommendation:** Dorset Council's draft recommendation is to change councillor numbers to achieve electoral equality.



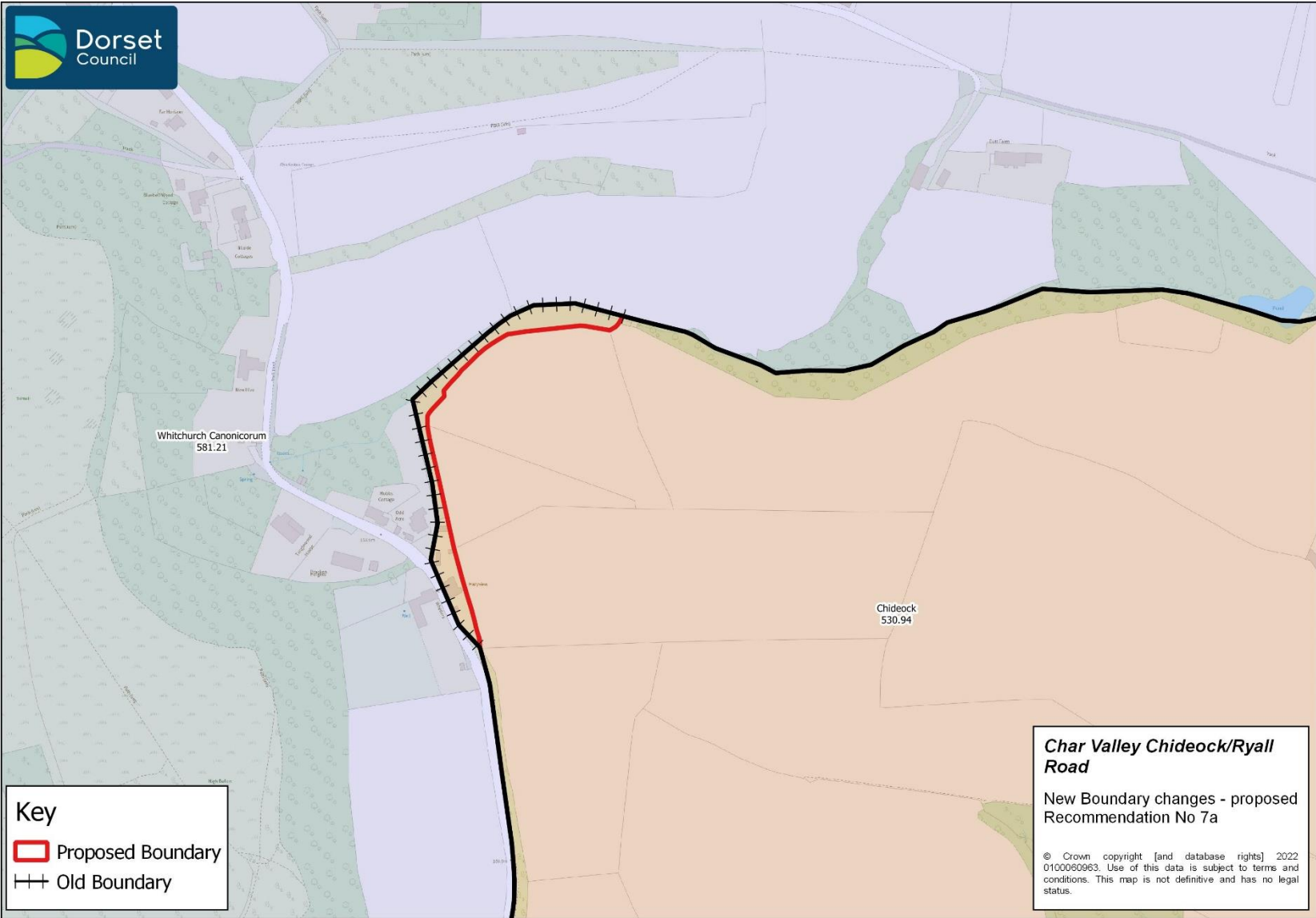


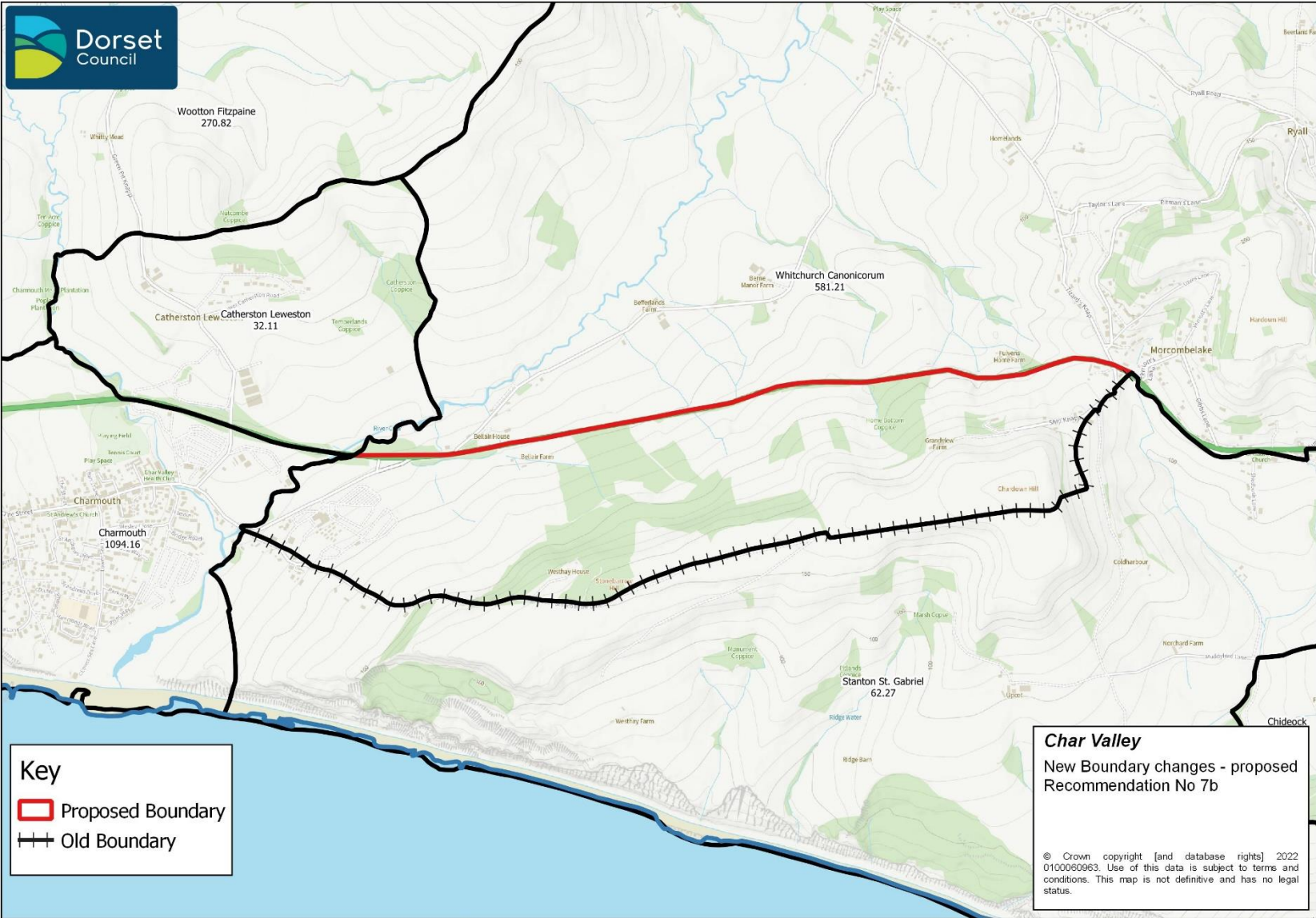




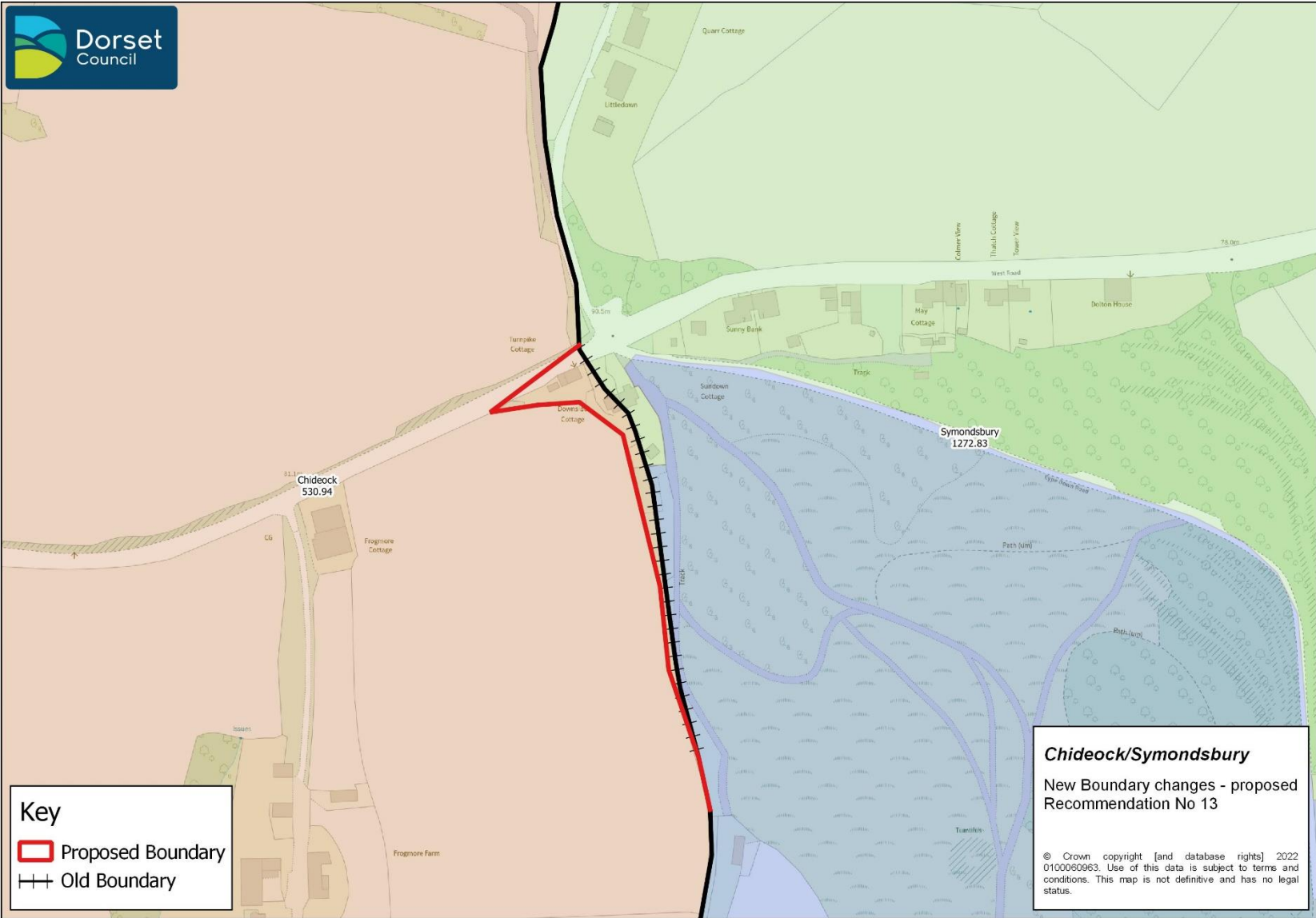


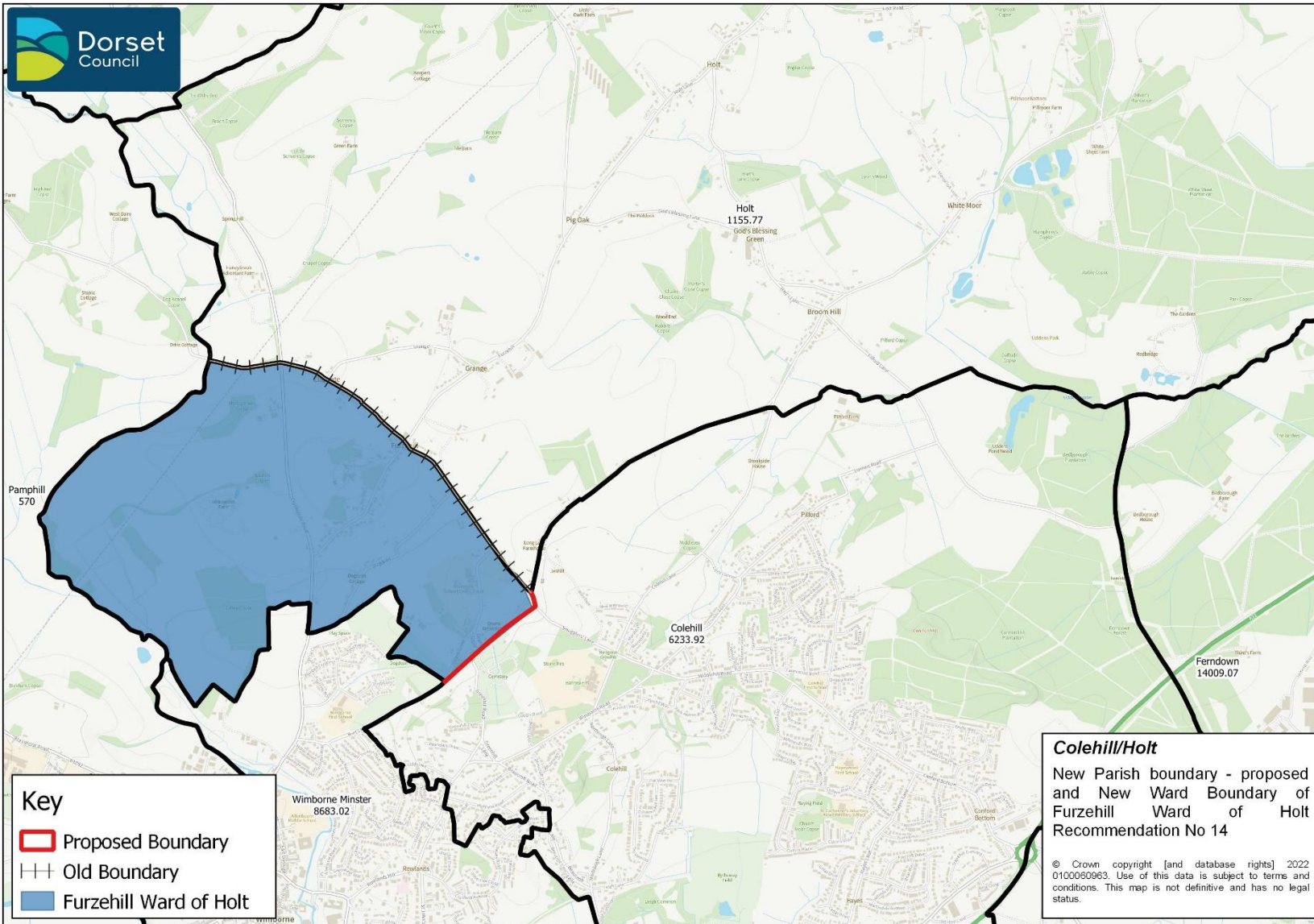




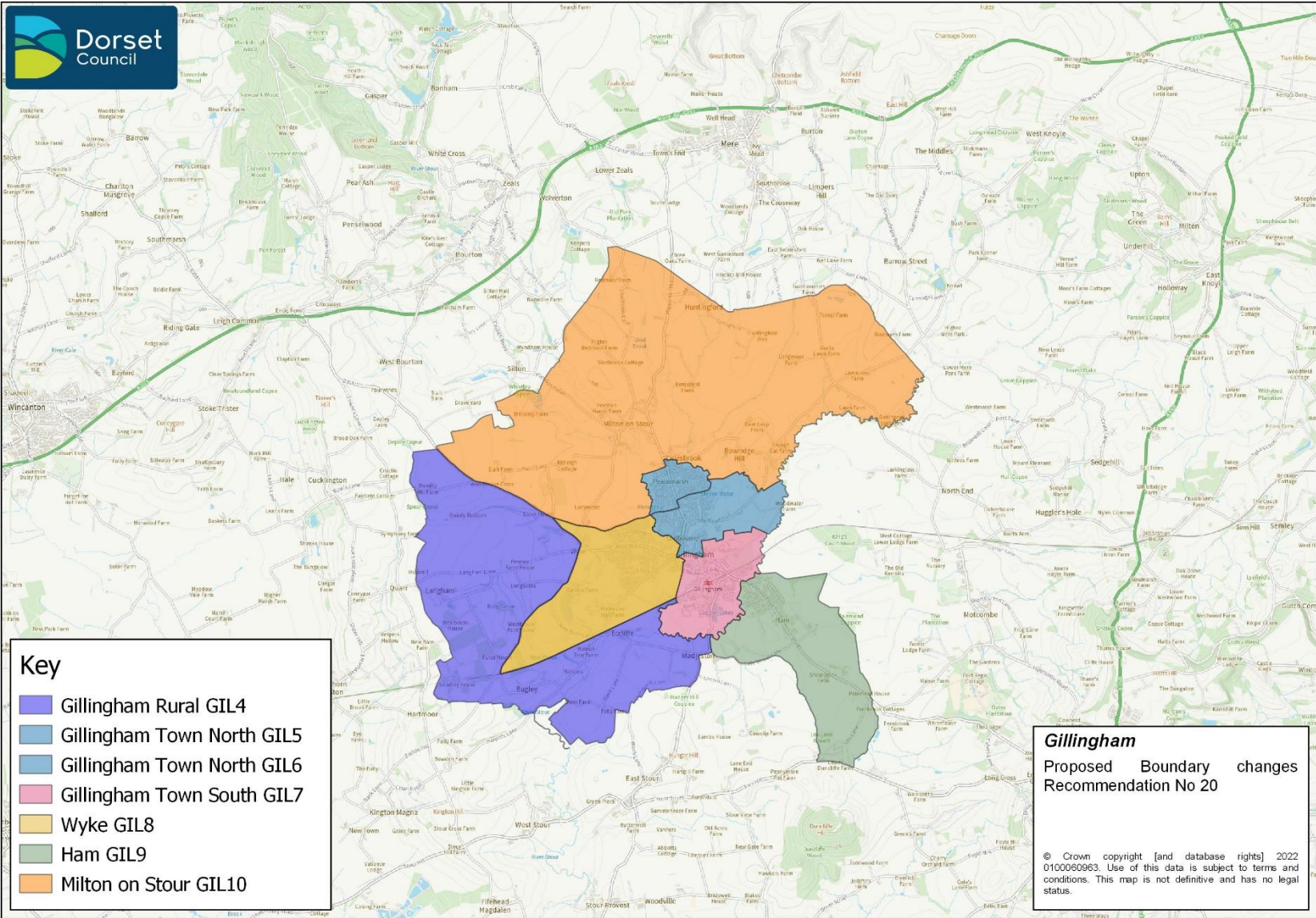












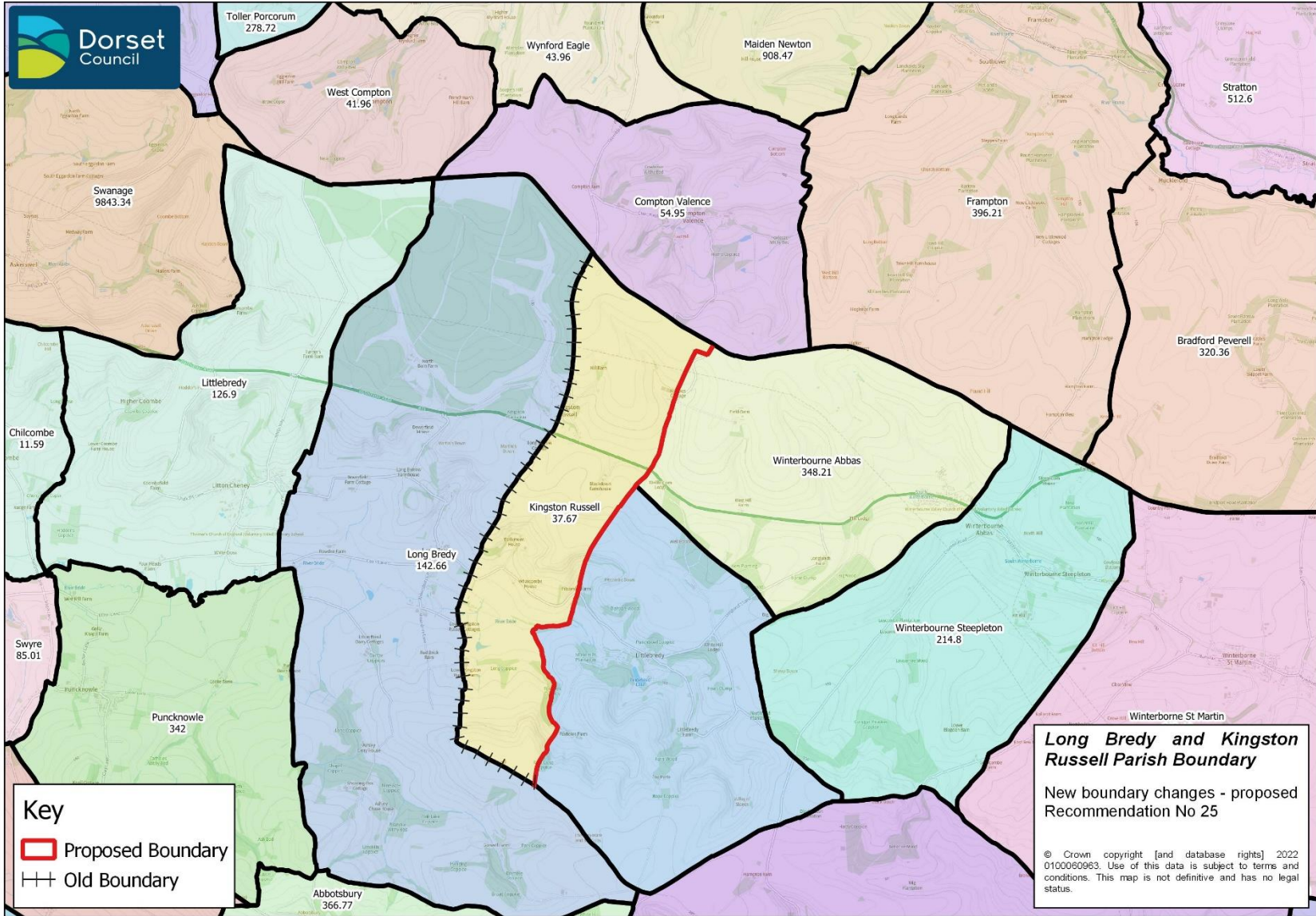
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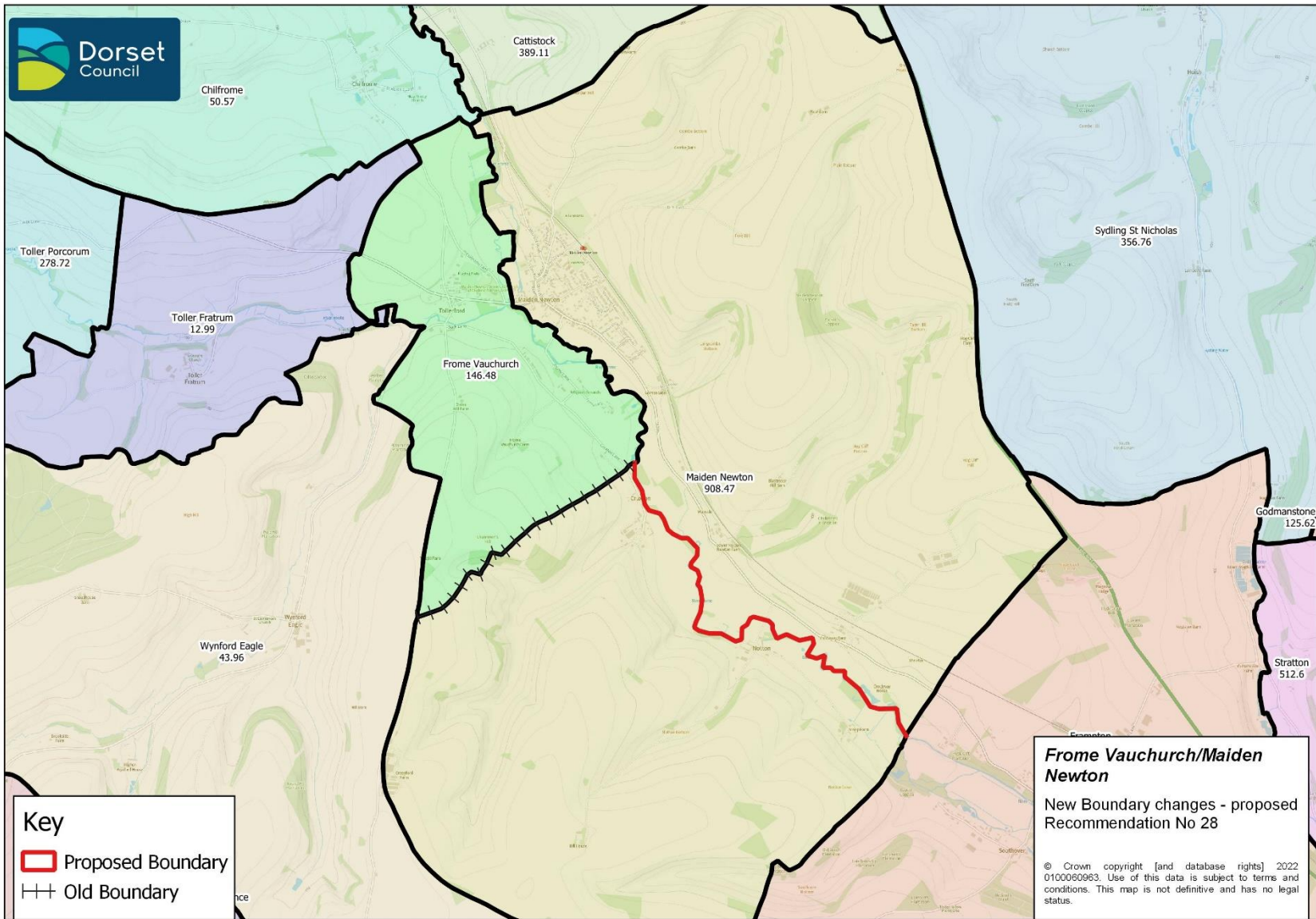
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- Gillingham Town North GIL5
- Gillingham Town North GIL6
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- Wyke GIL8
- Ham GIL9
- Milton on Stour GIL10

**Gillingham**  
 Proposed Boundary changes  
 Recommendation No 20

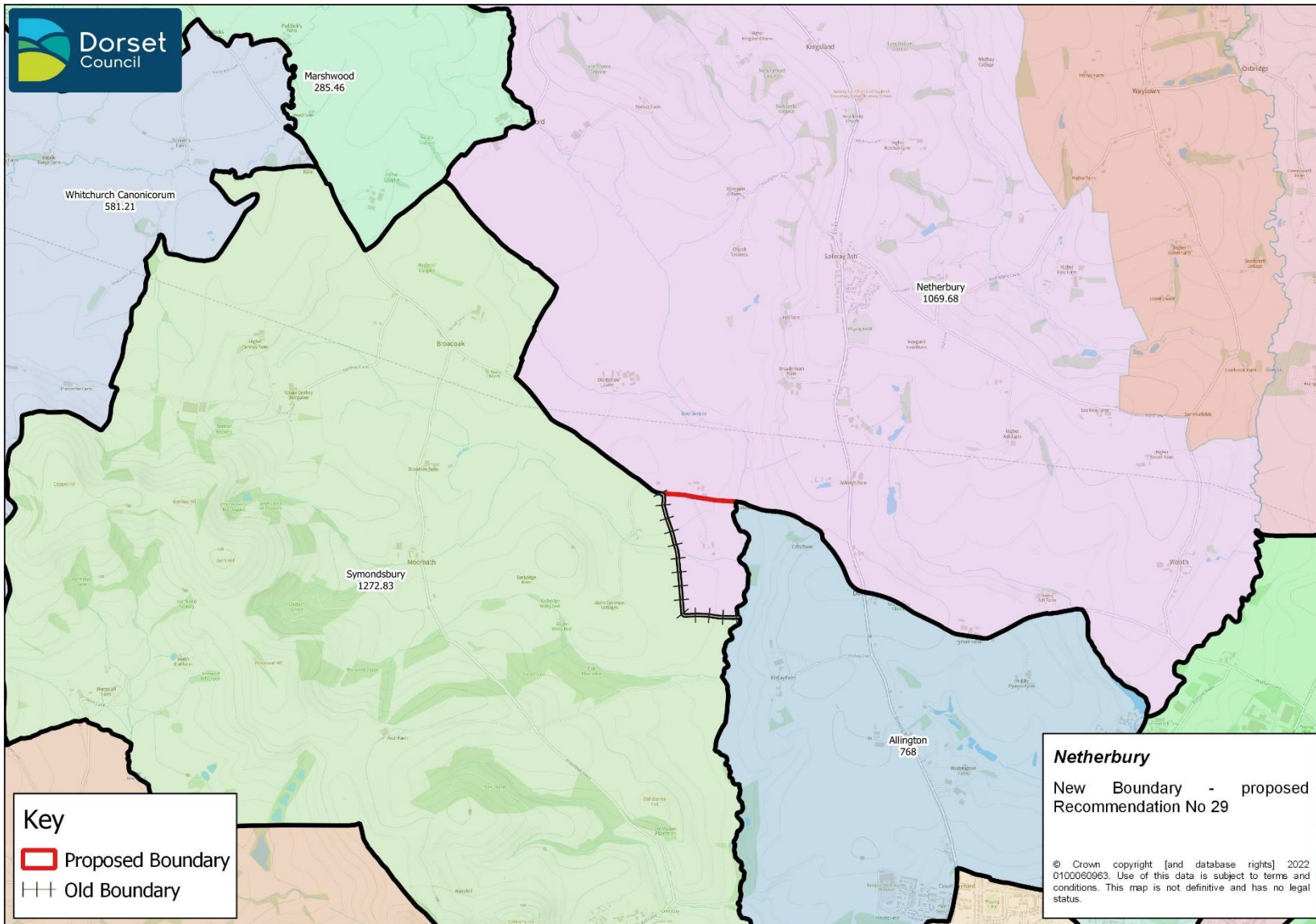
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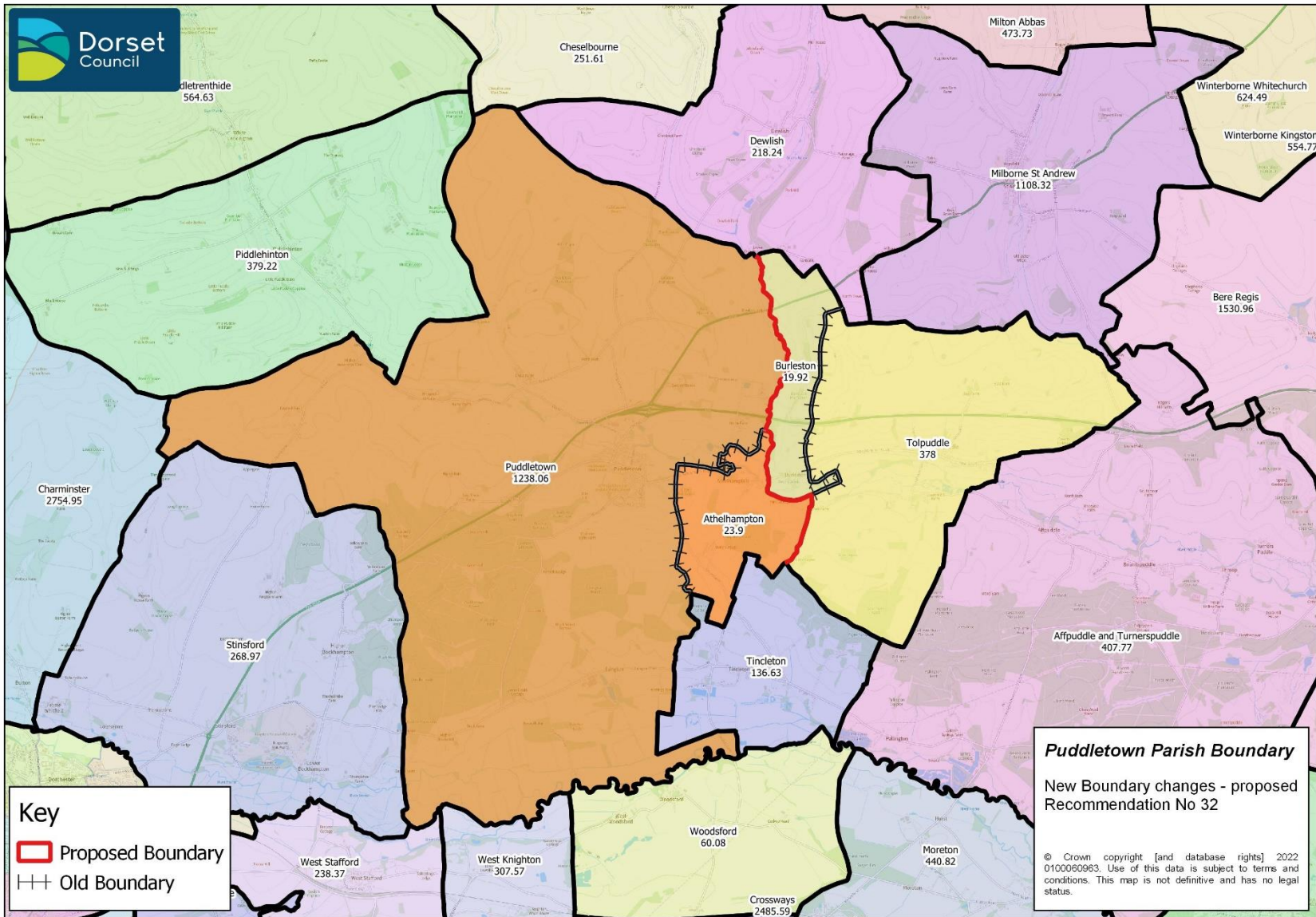




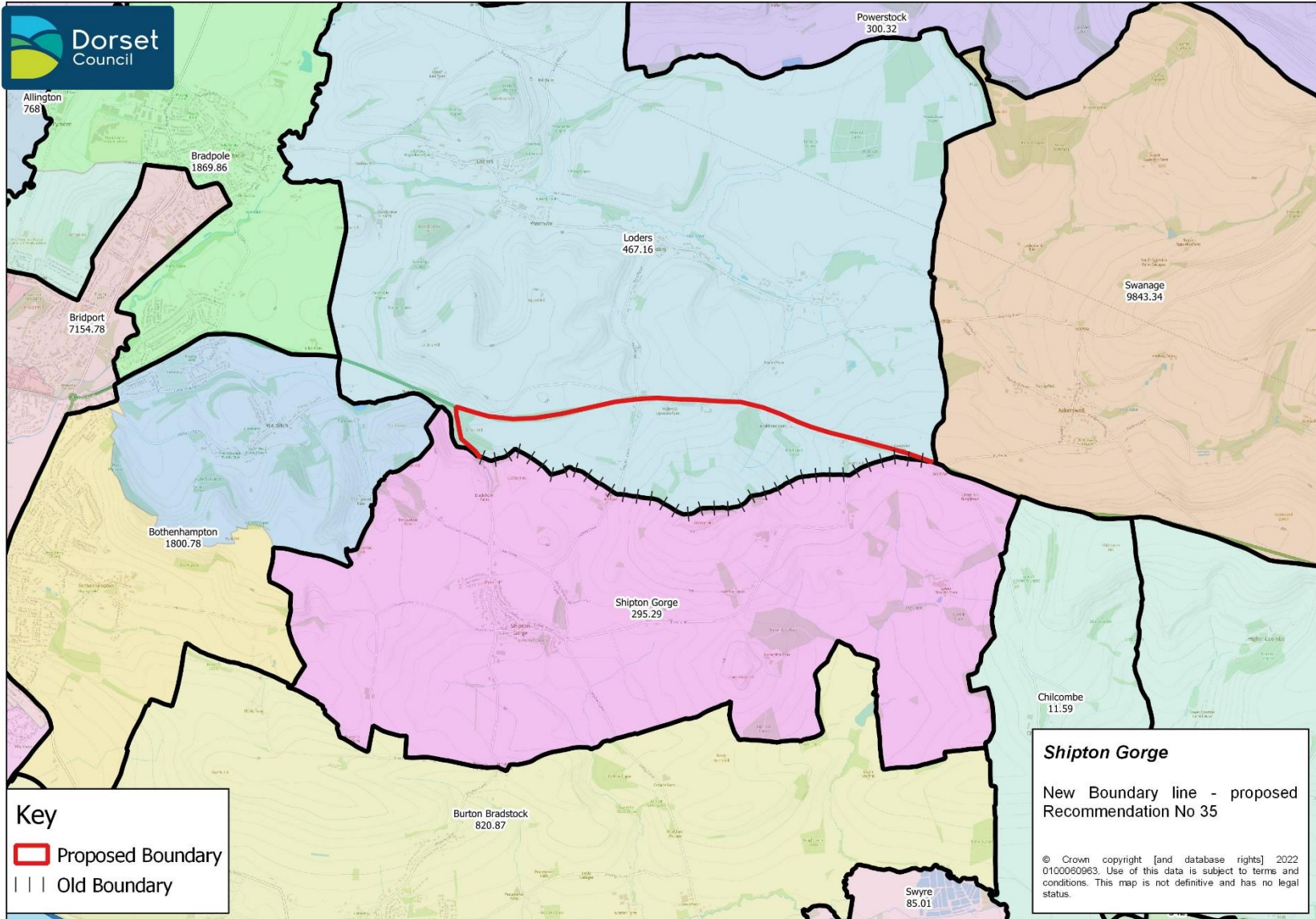




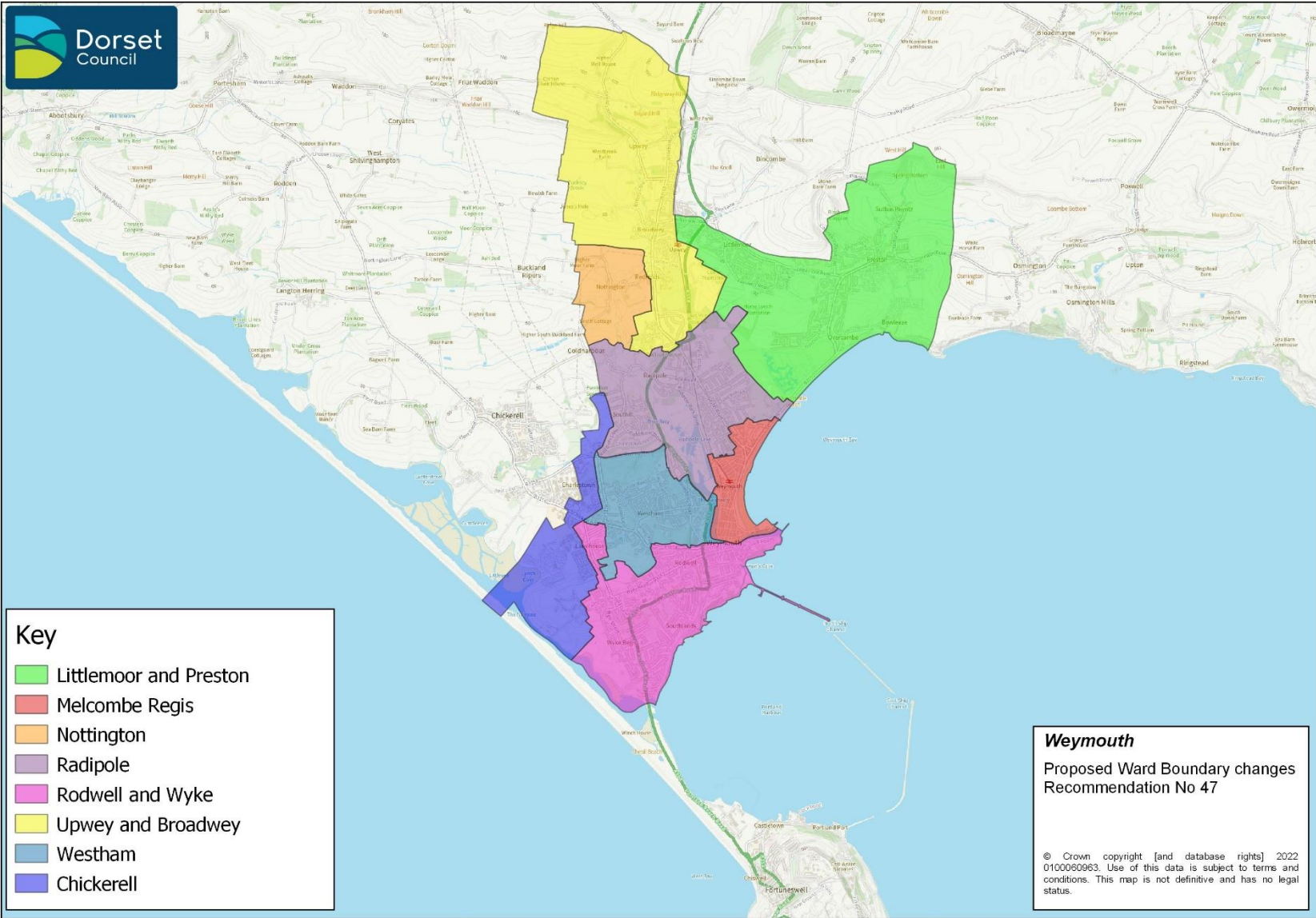












**Key**

- Littlemoor and Preston
- Melcombe Regis
- Nottingham
- Radipole
- Rodwell and Wyke
- Upwey and Broadway
- Westham
- Chickerell

**Weymouth**  
Proposed Ward Boundary changes  
Recommendation No 47

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