

## Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Dorset County Council

Summary report

Read the full report, view detailed maps and have your say at: [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

Find out more at: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

Follow us on Twitter at: @LGBCE

### Helping you to have your say:

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of electoral divisions for Dorset. The Commission has an open mind about its final recommendations and will consider every piece of evidence we receive from local groups and people. Every representation will be considered, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole county or just a part of it.

If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Dorset, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of divisions.

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of electoral divisions for Dorset which delivers:

- **Electoral equality:** each councillor represents a similar number of voters.
- **Community identity:** reflects the identity and interests of local communities.
- **Effective and convenient local government:** helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

### A good pattern of divisions should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters.
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government.

### Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the council area?

### Community identity:

- **Transport links:** are there good links across your proposed division? Is there any form of public transport?
- **Community groups:** is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?
- **Facilities:** does your pattern of divisions reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc?
- **Interests:** what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- **Identifiable boundaries:** are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

### Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed divisions too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the electoral divisions appropriate?

### Useful tips:

- Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk).
- We publish all submissions we receive on our website so you can follow what other people and organisations have told us. Go to: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

### Have your say by writing to:

Review Officer (Dorset)  
LGBCE  
14th floor, Millbank Tower  
London  
SW1P 4QP

Through our consultation area:

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)  
or by email to: [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

The full report and interactive maps are available to view at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

Follow us on Twitter: @LGBCE

### Who we are

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

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

### Electoral review

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

- The total number of councillors representing the council's voters ('council size').
- The names, number and boundaries of wards or electoral divisions.
- The number of councillors representing each ward or division.

### Why Dorset?

14 MAY 2015

We are conducting an electoral review of Dorset County Council to deliver improved levels of electoral equality for local voters.

Dorset currently has high levels of electoral inequality where some county councillors represent many more - or many fewer - voters than others. This means that the value of your vote - in county council elections - varies depending on where you live in Dorset.

### Our proposals

Dorset County Council currently has 45 councillors. We propose that the council should have 46 councillors in future. The Commission believes that a council size of 46 members will ensure the council can discharge its roles and responsibilities effectively and provides for a division pattern that meets our statutory criteria.

### Electoral arrangements

Our draft recommendations propose that Dorset's 46 councillors should represent 34 single-member divisions and six two-member divisions across the county.

### You have until 6 July 2015 to have your say on the recommendations

Stage of review	Description
23 Sep - 1 Dec 2014	Public consultation on new division boundaries
12 May - 6 Jul 2015	Public consultation on draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements
29 Sep 2015	Publication of final recommendations by the Commission
May 2017	Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at county elections

# Overview of draft recommendations for Dorset County Council

## Summary of our recommendations

Our draft recommendations propose that Dorset's 46 county councillors should represent 34 single-member electoral divisions and six two-member electoral divisions across the county.

Before drawing up the draft recommendations, the Commission carried out a public consultation inviting proposals for a new pattern of divisions for 46 county councillors. We have considered all of the submissions we received during that phase of consultation.

The Commission believes the draft recommendations meet its obligations – which are set out in law – to:

- Deliver electoral equality for voters
- Reflect local community interests and identities
- Promote effective and convenient local government

However, the Commission welcomes local views on alternative patterns of divisions that better meets the criteria above.

You can read the full report on our website at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk).

View this map online and draw your own boundaries:

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

Follow the review on Twitter: @LGBCE

If you are viewing this page online, click on the map to go straight to our interactive consultation area

## Summary key

### Christchurch Borough

- 1 Burton Grange
- 2 Christchurch Central
- 3 Commons
- 4 Mudeford & Highcliffe
- 5 Walkford

### East Dorset District

- 6 Colehill West & Wimborne Minster
- 7 Colehill East & Stapehill
- 8 Ferndown

### North Dorset District

- 9 Shaftesbury
- 10 Blandford Forum

### West Dorset District

- 11 Dorchester
- 19 Sherborne Town

### Weymouth & Portland Borough

- 12 Broadway
- 13 Lodmoor
- 14 Portland Harbour
- 15 Portland Tophill
- 16 Rodwell
- 17 Westham
- 18 Weymouth Town



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## Have your say at

[www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk)

- view the map of our recommendations down to street level.
- draw your own boundaries online.
- zoom into the areas that interest you most.
- find more guidance on how to have your say.
- read the full report of our recommendations.
- send us your views directly.