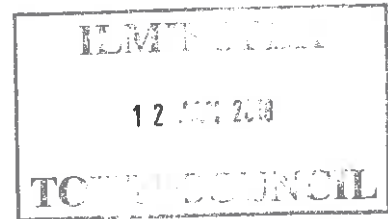


Mrs Joy Norris
Ilminster Town Council
Council Offices
North Street
Ilminster
Somerset
TA19 0DG



9 January 2018

Dear Mrs Norris,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH SOMERSET: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for South Somerset District Council. Today is the start of a 10 week public consultation on the Commission's draft recommendations on new ward boundaries across South Somerset District Council.

The consultation closes on **19 March 2018**.

View the draft recommendations

You can view the Commission's draft recommendations at www.lgbce.org.uk, where you can find interactive maps, a report and guidance on how to have your say. The Commission has not finalised its conclusions and now invites representations on the draft recommendations.

Enclosed with this letter is a summary outlining the Commission's draft recommendations. An interactive map of the Commission's recommendations for South Somerset District Council, electorate figures and guidance on how to propose new wards is available on the consultation portal at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>. Further information about the review and the Commission's work is also published on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Have your say

We encourage everyone who has a view on the draft recommendations to contact us, whether you support them or whether you wish to propose alternative arrangements.

Before finalising the recommendations, the Commission will consider every representation received during consultation, whether it is submitted by an individual, a local group or an organisation. We will weigh each submission against the criteria the Commission must follow when drawing up electoral arrangements:

- To deliver electoral equality where each district councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the district.
- That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

It is important that you take account of the criteria if you are suggesting an alternative pattern of wards. You can find additional guidance and information about previous electoral reviews on our website to help you or your organisation make a submission.

Get in touch

The Commission welcomes comments on the recommendations report by **19 March 2018**. Representations should be made:

- Through our interactive consultation portal where you can explore the maps of the recommendations, draw your own boundaries and supply comments, at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>.
- By email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk.
- Or in writing to:
Review Officer (South Somerset)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

The Commission aims to publish every response it receives during phases of consultation. If you do not want all or any part of your response or name to be made public, you must state this clearly in the response. Any such request should explain why confidentiality is necessary. All responses may be subject to publication or disclosure as required by law (in particular, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000).

This is the last opportunity to influence the Commission's recommendations before they are finalised. We therefore encourage local people to get in touch with us and have their say.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Laura Taylor
Review Officer
Reviews@lgbce.org.uk
0330 500 1276

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

Tel: 0330 500 1525; Fax: 0330 500 1526; reviews@lgbce.org.uk; www.lgbce.org.uk

Summary of our recommendations

We have considered all the representations received in response to our request for warding proposals.

Our draft recommendations propose that South Somerset District Council's 60 councillors should represent 15 single-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and seven three-councillor wards across the council area.

An outline of the proposals is shown in the map to the right. A detailed report on the recommendations and interactive mapping is available on our website at: www.lgbce.org.uk.

The Commission welcomes comments on these draft recommendations, whether you support the proposals or wish to put forward alternative arrangements. In particular, the Commission welcomes proposals for alternative boundaries or ward names which meet the criteria we must follow as part of electoral reviews and which are described in more detail over the page.

Have your say at 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.

Stage of review	Description
22 August - 30 October 2017	Public consultation on new ward boundaries
9 January - 19 March 2018	Public consultation on draft recommendations
8 May 2018	Publication of final recommendations
May 2019	Subject to parliamentary approval - implementation of new arrangements at local elections

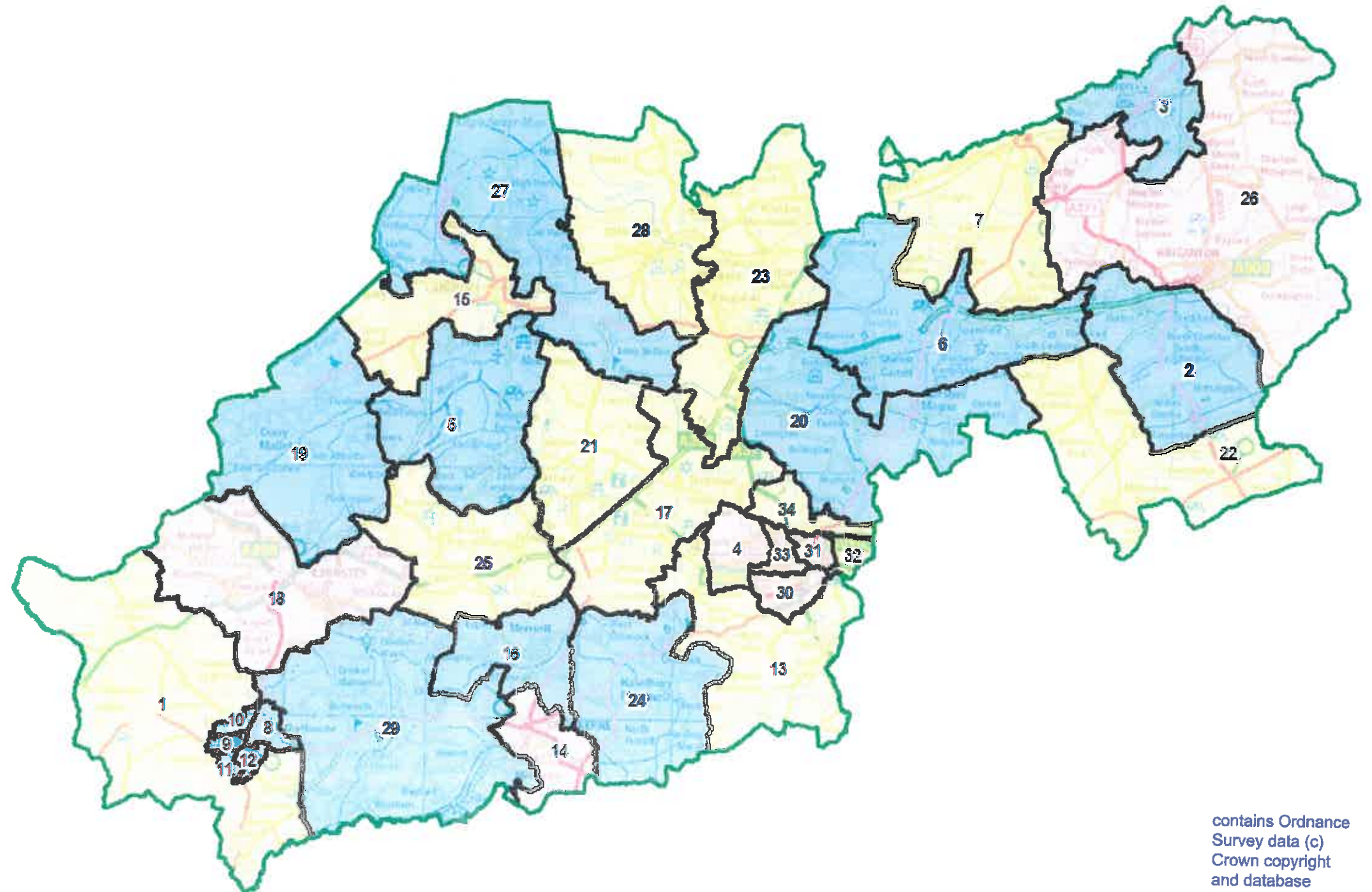
Overview of draft recommendations for South Somerset District Council

View this map online and draw your own boundaries: consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Follow the review on Twitter: [@LGBCE](https://twitter.com/LGBCE)

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

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



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Have your say:

We are now consulting local people on a new pattern of wards for South Somerset District Council. The Commission has an open mind about its final recommendations and will consider every piece of evidence it receives from local groups and people, regardless of whom it is from or whether it relates to the whole council area or a part of it.

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

South Somerset District Council

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements

The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for South Somerset District Council 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 wards 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.

- **Facilities:** does your pattern of wards 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 wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards 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 consultation.lgbce.org.uk.
- We publish all submissions we receive on our website. Go to: www.lgbce.org.uk

Electoral equality:

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

Community identity:

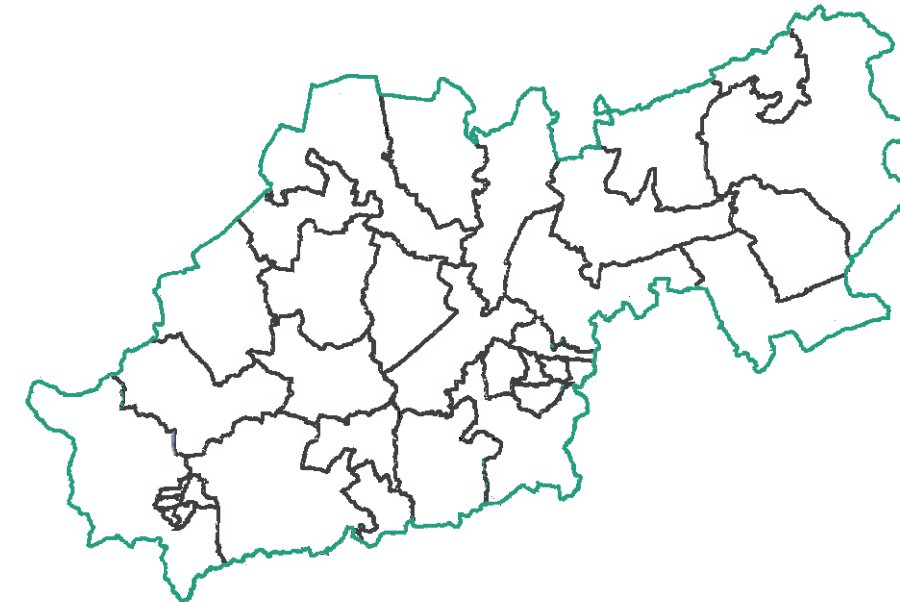
- **Transport links:** are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?
- **Community groups:** is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?

Write to:

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

Our consultation area:

consultation.lgbce.org.uk
Email:
reviews@lgbce.org.uk
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, including:
- 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 for each ward or division.

Why South Somerset?

- South Somerset currently has high levels of electoral inequality: some councillors represent many more - or many fewer - voters than others.
- Therefore the value of your vote, in district council elections, varies depending on where you live in South Somerset.

Our proposals:

- South Somerset District Council currently has 60 councillors.
- We propose that the council should have 60 councillors in future, representing 7 three-councillor wards, 12 two-councillor wards and 15 one-councillor wards across the council area.

You have until 19 March 2018 to have your say on the recommendations