



Christchurch Borough Community Governance Review

Draft Recommendations



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1 Introduction

1.1 Christchurch Borough Council, at its meeting on Tuesday 16 November 2017 resolved that a Community Governance Review be conducted for the whole borough of Christchurch, as defined in the published terms of reference, in accordance with Part 4 Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. The Council is required to have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

2 The Review

2.1 This Review commenced on 20 November 2017, when the Council published a Terms of Reference document and invited initial submissions from individuals or organisations who had an interest in the Review. In the Terms of Reference, the Council published a timetable for the Review.

2.2 The formal consultation period, inviting interested parties to make initial submissions, commenced on 2 January and closed on 23 February 2018. The consultation was published on the Council's web site and public notice boards, but more targeted engagement was sent to:-

- Relevant parish council clerks;
- Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Chief Executive;
- Dorset County Council Chief Executive and local County Councillors;
- Christchurch Member of Parliament;
- Chambers of Trade, Commerce and Industry;
- Relevant Residents' and Community Associations;
- Housing Associations;
- Citizens Advice Bureaux;
- Local Libraries;

2.3 A copy of the consultation papers were also sent to each Member of Christchurch Borough Council.

2.4 To oversee the community governance review and to consider representations received during the initial submission phase, the Council appointed a Community Governance Review Task and Finish Group.

2.5 In preparing these Draft Proposals, the Council has been mindful of the initial submissions that have been received, which are referenced in this document and attached as an appendix to these draft recommendations. The Council also has the role of balancing these submissions against the wider requirements and duties that are placed upon it in the 2007 Act. In particular, the Council has a duty to ensure that community governance within its area under review reflects

the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient.

2.6 In assessing this criteria, the community governance review is required to take into account:-

(a) The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and

(b) The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

2.7 The aim of the review is to bring about improved and stronger community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services; ensuring electors across the whole borough are treated equitably and fairly.

3 Existing Parish Arrangements

3.1 Christchurch Borough Council currently has two existing parishes of Burton and Hurn each with their own Parish Council of the same name. The remainder of the Borough shown in white on the map below is unparished. The whole of the borough falls within the parliamentary constituency of Christchurch.



4 Parish and Town Council Functions

4.1 The Task and Finish Group recognises the important role that parish and town councils play at a local community level serving as a key representational voice and often acting as the eyes and ears for other tiers of local government, public agencies and other organisations to raise local concerns. This role could become more important following the establishment of a new unitary for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

4.2 Councillors for parish and town councils are elected to office every four years where sufficient candidates are nominated. The next elections are scheduled for

May 2019. Further information on parish and town councils can be obtained from the National Association of Local Councils website, www.nalc.gov.uk

- 4.3 Parish and town councils are a statutory consultee on planning, highways and other regulatory matters, and may deliver or support other local services. Depending upon the size and capacity of the council, parish and town councils will typically provide a range of services that may include cemeteries, relevant allotments, village and community halls, provision of grant aid to support local community groups, rights of way liaison, community transport schemes, public conveniences, street lighting, litter picking, recreation areas and playing fields, play areas/equipment, noticeboards, signs and local newsletters.
- 4.4 The level of council tax is not a determining factor for a community governance review, however, it is acknowledged that residents will be curious to understand the likely cost if parish and town councils are established. The average Band D Council tax charge nationally for parish and town councils is £45.24, with many not charging a precept and the highest charging over £360.
- 4.5 The existing parishes of Hurn and Burton charge £27.78 and £13.08 respectively. It is anticipated that if new parish and/or town councils are established in Christchurch, the Band D Council Tax charge would be similar to the two existing parishes. This will depend, however, on the services ultimately delivered.

5 Parish and Ward Boundary Changes

- 5.1 Reference is made in this paper to parish and parish ward boundaries being coterminous with other borough, county or parliamentary boundaries. Extending parish or parish ward boundaries to break the coterminous arrangements would require the creation of additional parish wards as no parish or parish ward may straddle a principal boundary.
- 5.2 The alternative to breaking the coterminous relationship is to seek consent from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a related alteration to redraw the principal council boundary. Regard must be had to the effect and impact of such related alterations on the electoral equality of the principal council wards and/or divisions. Where such alterations are recommended in this paper, an assessment as to the likely success of alterations has been considered.
- 5.3 Throughout the process due regard will be required to any changes to warding arrangements arising from the review of local government in Dorset. The draft warding arrangements for the proposed Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council were not known during the initial consideration of this review process and as a consequence, existing polling district areas were used to construct the draft recommendations.

6 Draft Recommendations by Area

- 6.1 Since the Community Governance Review includes a review of various parts of Christchurch (including existing parishes), this document is divided into a series of sections and sub-sections relating to each parish area to assist the reader in following the proposed changes.
- 6.2 Each section also follows a consistent structure, including a summary of the existing boundary areas, warding, the baseline electorate (December 2017) and the projected five-year electorate forecasts, the total number of councillors, the ratio of electors per councillor and the variance of this ratio from the average (where warded). Details of any representations received have been referenced and an explanation for any proposed changes have also been included.

7 Summary of Initial Representations Received

- 7.1 During Stage One of the Community Governance Review, 12 responses were received to the invitation of initial submissions. The table below summarises the responses. The full responses have been appended to this report.

Respondent(s)	Organisation or Group (if applicable)	Summary of Response
Robert Austin	Highcliffe Residents Association (Chair of Executive Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highcliffe Community Council to be formed comprising of polling districts: HCA, HCB, NHA, NHB, WHA and WHB To retain the current parishes of Burton and Hurn
John Baker	Long term resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Jim Biggin	Jumpers & St Catherine's Residents' Association (General Secretary)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change Included survey in newsletter with 40 responses on the creation of a Parish Council in the area
Derek Chaffey	As Private Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create 3 new councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christchurch Town; Highcliffe and Friars Cliff; and West Christchurch Not opposed to single town council for whole borough area
Derek Chaffey	Stanpit & Mundeford Residents' Association (Vice-Chairman)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create 3 new councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town and Harbour (Town Centre, Purewell, Stanpit, Grange and Mundeford); Christchurch East and Beaches (Highcliffe and Friars Cliff); and Christchurch West (St Catherine's Hill, Jumpers and Portfield) Retain Burton and Hurn Not opposed to single town council for whole borough area

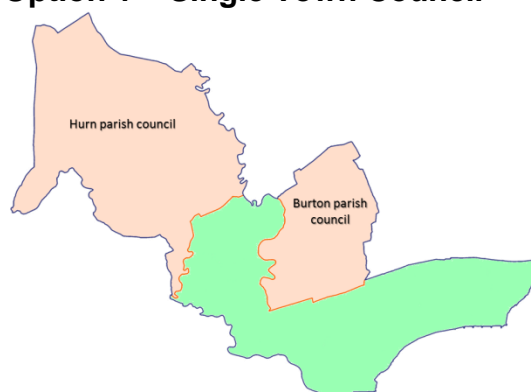
Respondent(s)	Organisation or Group (if applicable)	Summary of Response
Andrew Dunne	Christchurch Citizens' Association (Committee Member)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Town Council excluding Highcliffe, Grange and St Catherine's areas • Retain Burton and Hurn
Councillor D C Jones	On behalf of Cllrs Abbott, Geary, Hall, Jones and Mrs Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Town Council for whole of unparished area • Retain Burton and Hurn • Based on Borough wards with slight changes to St Catherine's & Hurn and Jumpers wards
Peter Lucas	Interested Individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council to be formed based on current borough boundaries • Retain Hurn parish but abolish Burton parish
Tim Mayled	Burton Parish Council (Parish Clerk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change • Change name of Parish Council to better reflect area to 'Burton & Winkton Parish Council'
Nicola Shaw	Hurn Parish Council (Clerk to the Council)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change • Hurn Parish Council to remain and not grouped with any other Parish
Simon P Smith	Winkton Residents' Association Committee (Deputy Chair of WRA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change name of Parish Council to better reflect area to 'Burton & Winkton Parish Council' • Warding of Parish into 4 parish wards, Winkton, North Burton, Mid Burton and South Burton
Hilary Trevorah	Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (Chief Executive)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In favour of creating new parish councils in areas without them

7.2 The Task and Finish Group met on three occasions to consider the initial submissions, which varied in detail but included options for no change, the establishment of a single town council and the establishment of up to three new councils.

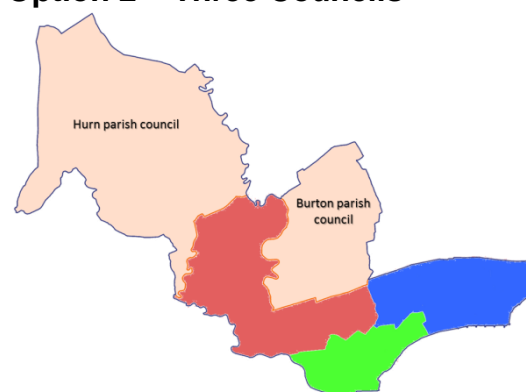
7.3 The Task and Finish Group were satisfied that there was sufficient interest to recommend the establishment of new parish governance arrangements in Christchurch, whilst retaining the existing arrangements for Hurn and Burton.

7.4 In developing these draft recommendations, the Task and Finish Group analysed modelling options for both a single council option and a new three council option for the unparished area of Christchurch. These options are illustrated in the following table.

Option 1 – Single Town Council



Option 2 – Three Councils



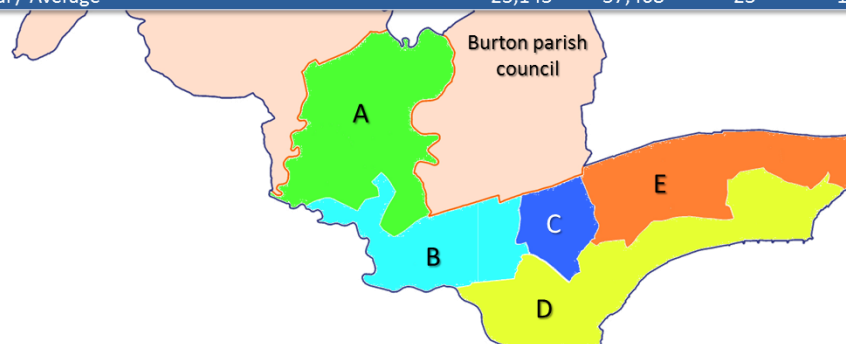
- (a) Option 1 – Single Town Council covering whole of unparished area of existing borough
- (b) Option 2 – Establishment of three councils covering whole of unparished area
 - (i) Highcliffe and Walkford
 - (ii) Mudford, Friars Cliff and Stanpit
 - (iii) Christchurch Town (remainder of the unparished area)

7.5 Option 1 – Single Town Council

7.6 The respondents who proposed forming a Town Council suggested using the current borough wards as a basis for the new parish wards. This was investigated but due to exclusion of the parishes of Hurn and Burton and having regard to other electoral arrangements, this was not possible without resulting in an unacceptable electoral equality balance.

7.7 A warding pattern option for a single Town Council is set out below which provides electoral equality, along with community cohesion and identity throughout the suggested area:

Ward	Projected 5 year Forecast		Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	% from average
	Properties	Electorate			
A Commons (JUA, JUB, POB, POC, SCB & SCC)	4456	8176	5	1635	+0.4%
B Christchurch Central (POA, PSA, TCA & TCB)	5377	8061	5	1612	-1.0%
C Grange (GRA, GRB & MFC)	2968	4697	3	1566	-3.9%
D Mudeford & Highcliffe (HCA, HCB, MFA, MFB & PSB)	5558	8219	5	1644	+0.9%
E Walkford (NHA, NHB, WHA & WHB)	4784	8315	5	1663	+2.1%
Total / Average	23,143	37,468	23	1629	



7.8 Option 2 – Three New Parish Councils

7.9 The second option explored by the Task and Finish Group was for three new separate parish councils to be formed for the areas of Highcliffe and Walkford, Mudeford, Friars Cliff and Stanpit and the remainder of the unparished borough as a town council. These are shown in the diagram at paragraph 7.4 above.

7.10 The Task and Finish Group concluded that there was sufficient separate community identity, cohesion and interest in the Highcliffe, Walkford, Mudeford, Friars Cliff and Stanpit areas (in addition to the Town) to justify a multi-parish arrangement and as a consequence makes a series of recommendations based on Option 2 (Three Councils) model, as outlined in Sections C to E to this document.

8 Next steps - Representations

8.1 All residents and any other persons or organisations wishing to make representations on the draft recommendations may do so by completing the online response form or by email to cgr@christchurchandeastdorset.gov.uk

Representations may also be returned to:

Electoral Services
 Christchurch Borough Council
 Civic Offices
 Bridge Street
 Christchurch
 Dorset BH23 1AZ

Please entitle your response '*Christchurch Community Governance Review 2018 – Response to Draft Recommendations*'.

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- 8.2 Representations that are received will be taken into account by judging them against the criteria in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- 8.3 The deadline for receipt of comments is midnight on 20 July 2018.
- 8.4 It would be helpful if you could make clear in your response whether you represent an organisation or group, and in what capacity you are responding.
- 8.5 An electronic version of this consultation paper is available to download from our web site. Visit www.dorsetforyou.com/426005 or scan the QR code on the front of this paper.

9 Publication of responses – confidentiality and data protection

- 9.1 Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published, or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes.
- 9.2 If you want any information you provide to be treated as confidential, you should be aware that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply, and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.
- 9.3 If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give any assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by IT systems will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Council.
- 9.4 Christchurch Borough Council will process your personal data in accordance with the Data Protection legislation and in the majority of circumstances, this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

A. BURTON PARISH

1 Background

Parish	Electorate 2017	Electorate 2022	Seats	Elector Ratio	Variance from average
Burton	3,439	3,548	10	355	N/A

- 1.1 Burton parish is unwarded and has 10 elected representative seats on the Council.
- 1.2 The entire length of the parish boundary is coterminous with the existing borough ward and with the exception of part of the southern boundary is also coterminous with the county division.
- 1.3 The projected electorate growth over 5 years is 3.2%.
- 1.4 There have been no recent contested elections in Burton including by-elections and the projected elector to councillor ratio is 355:1
- 1.5 Burton Parish Council has submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions, requesting that no changes be made to the parish area or electoral arrangements. The parish have, however, requested that the name of the parish council be changed to Burton and Winkton Parish Council to better reflect the settlement areas.
- 1.6 Winkton Residents' Association Committee made the same suggestion to change the name of the parish council but also suggested that the parish be divided into 4 parish wards: Winkton, North Burton, Mid Burton and South Burton.
- 1.7 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 election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parish wards. There is a risk that where one parish ward is over-represented by councillors, the residents of that parish ward (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.
- 1.8 Guidance further recommends that the elector to councillor ratio variance should be within +/-10%. Analysis of the projected electorate for the suggested four wards referred to in the submission would necessitate an increase in the number of councillors for the parish council from 10 to 16 to achieve electoral equality. It was evident from the history of uncontested elections for the parish that this level of increase in councillor numbers would be inappropriate.

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- 1.9 Other representations were received, in the main, suggesting the retention of the parish, however, one representation was received which recommended the parish be abolished.
- 1.10 The Task and Finish Group considered the representations received and make the following draft recommendations.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of Christchurch, under the terms of reference published on 20 November 2017, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Burton:

2.2 That:

- (a) the parish of Burton should not be abolished;
- (b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Burton;
- (c) the name of the parish of Burton should be altered to Burton and Winkton;
- (d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;
- (e) the name of the parish council should be altered to Burton and Winkton Parish Council;
- (f) the parish council for Burton and Winkton consist of 10 councillors.

B. HURN PARISH

1 Background

Parish	Electorate 2017	Electorate 2022	Seats	Elector Ratio	Variance from average
Hurn	529	529	6	88	N/A

- 1.1 Hurn parish is unwarded and has 6 elected representative seats on the Council. The minimum number of seats permitted on a parish council is 5.
- 1.2 The majority of the parish boundary is coterminous with the principal council boundary which cannot be altered. The boundary to the south of the parish is independent of other delineations and may, as a consequence, be altered.
- 1.3 There is no projected electorate growth over 5 years.
- 1.4 There have been no recent contested elections in Hurn including by-elections and the projected elector to councillor ratio is 88:1
- 1.5 Hurn Parish Council has submitted a response to the invitation of initial submissions, requesting that no changes be made to the parish area or electoral arrangements. All other representations, which made reference to Hurn, suggested the parish should remain.
- 1.6 The Task and Finish Group considered the representations received and make the following draft recommendations.

2 Draft Recommendations

- 2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of Christchurch, under the terms of reference published on 20 November 2017, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the parish of Hurn:
- 2.2 That:
 - (a) the parish of Hurn should not be abolished;
 - (b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Hurn;
 - (c) the name of the parish of Hurn should not be altered;
 - (d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;
 - (e) the name of the parish council should not be altered;
 - (f) the parish council for Hurn consist of 6 councillors.

C. HIGHCLIFFE AND WALKFORD

1 Background

1.1 The area referred to in this section as Highcliffe and Walkford is unparished and comprises the polling district areas detailed in the table in paragraph 1.2 below. Maps showing the extent of the polling districts are contained in a separate annex on the Council's web site.

1.2 A summary of the polling district electorate forecast is shown in the table below:-

Polling Districts	Electorate 2017	Electorate 2022
HCA - Highcliffe No. 1	1,177	1,177
HCB - Highcliffe No. 2	1,989	2,154
NHA - North Highcliffe & Walkford No. 1	974	974
NHB - North Highcliffe & Walkford No.2	2,097	2,163
WHA - West Highcliffe No.1	2,152	2,361
WHB - West Highcliffe No.2	2,807	2,817
Total	11,196	11,646

1.3 The polling districts form the building blocks and are therefore coterminous with the borough wards and county divisions.

1.4 The projected electorate growth over 5 years is 4.0%.

1.5 Whilst there were two representations received for a single Town Council for the whole of the unparished area, four suggestions were received for a smaller town council with separate councils for the remaining area.

1.6 Of particular note is the representation received from Highcliffe Residents' Association. This highlights the strong community identities that exist in both Highcliffe and Walkford. In addition, it was considered that a style of neighbourhood council would better represent the community interests and identity.

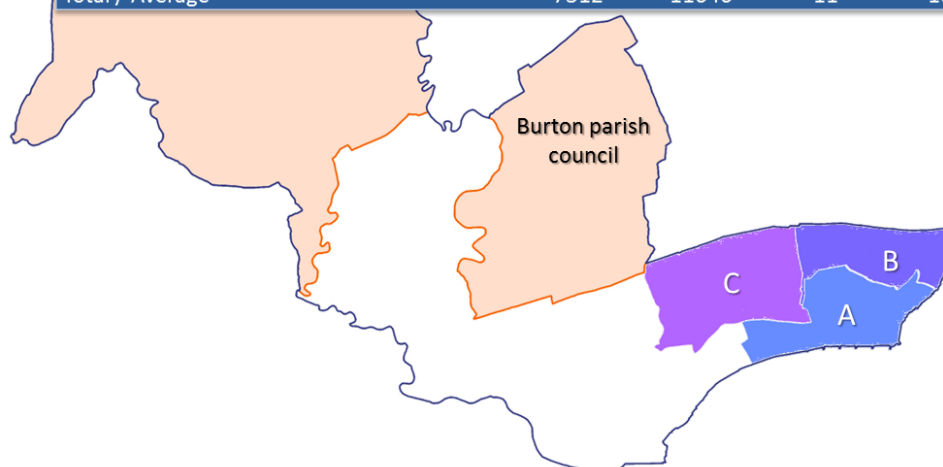
1.7 Following consideration of the representations and a number of options, the Task and Finish Group considered that a three warded parish for Highcliffe and Walkford would deliver the optimum electoral equality, be reflective of the community identities and interests and would be effective and convenient.

1.8 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 election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parish wards. There is a

risk that where one parish ward is over-represented by councillors, the residents of that parish ward (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

- 1.9 Guidance further recommends that the elector to councillor ratio variance should be within +/-10%.
- 1.10 The following warding pattern is recommended by the Task and Finish Group with a total of 11 elected representatives. The projected elector to councillor ratio under these arrangements would be 1,059:1 with the resultant variances ranging between -2.2% to +4.8%.

Ward	Projected 5 year Forecast		Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	% from average
	Properties	Electorate			
A Highcliffe (HCA & HCB)	2528	3,331	3	1110	+4.8%
B North Highcliffe & Walkford (NHA & NHB)	1705	3137	3	1046	-1.3%
C West Highcliffe (WHA & WHB)	3,079	5,178	5	1036	-2.2%
Total / Average	7312	11646	11	1059	



- 1.11 The Task and Finish Group having considered the representations received, make the following draft recommendations.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of Christchurch, under the terms of reference published on 20 November 2017, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the unparished area referred to as Highcliffe and Walkford:

2.2 That:

- (a) a parish of Highcliffe and Walkford be established;
- (b) the boundary of the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford be drawn to including the existing polling districts of HCA (Highcliffe No.1), HCB (Highcliffe No.2), NHA (North Highcliffe & Walkford No.1), NHB (North Highcliffe & Walkford No.2), WHA (West Highcliffe No.1) and WHB (West Highcliffe No.2);

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- (c) the name of the established parish be Highcliffe and Walkford;
 - (d) the style of the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford be set as a neighbourhood;
 - (e) the parish should have a parish council in the style of neighbourhood council;
 - (f) the name of the neighbourhood council should be Highcliffe and Walkford Neighbourhood Council;
 - (g) the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford be divided into three parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map in paragraph 1.10 above, and named respectively:-
 - (i) Highcliffe
 - (ii) North Highcliffe and Walkford
 - (iii) West Highcliffe
 - (h) the neighbourhood council for Highcliffe and Walkford consist of 11 councillors;
 - (i) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:-
 - (i) Highcliffe – 3 councillors
 - (ii) North Highcliffe and Walkford – 3 councillors
 - (iii) West Highcliffe – 5 councillors

D. MUDEFORD, FRIARS CLIFF AND STANPIT

1 Background

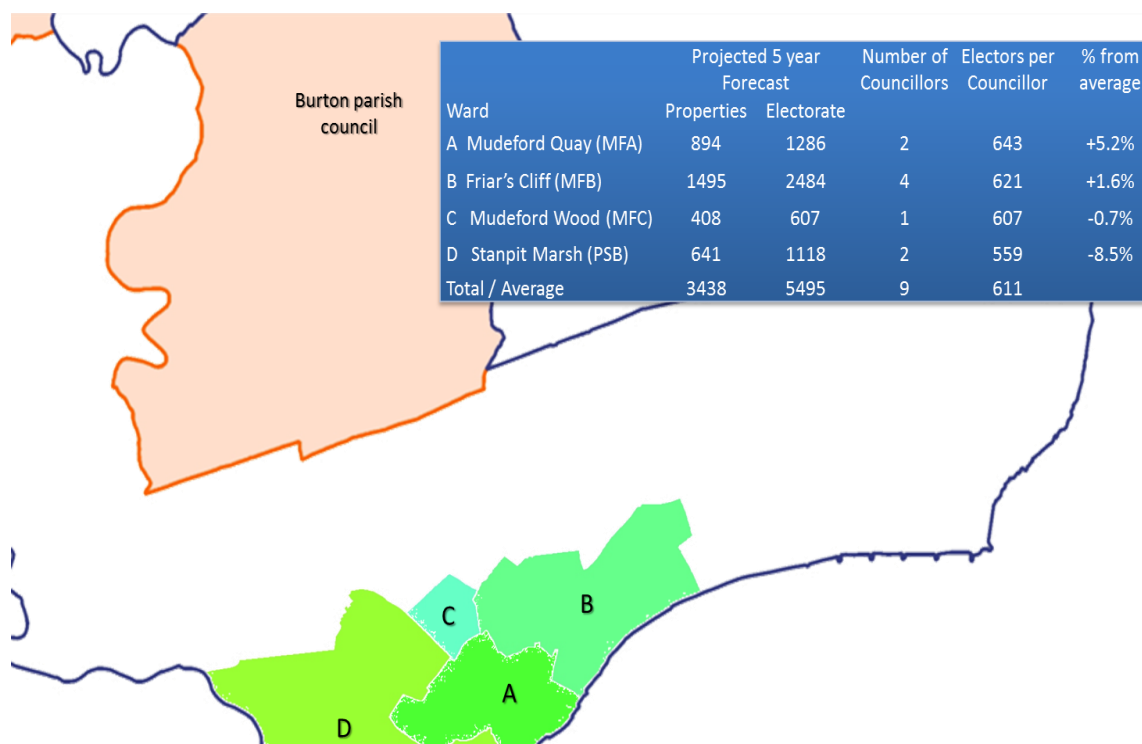
- 1.1 The area referred to in this section as Mundeford, Friars Cliff and Stanpit is unparished and comprises the polling district areas detailed in the table in paragraph 1.2 below. Maps showing the extent of the polling districts are contained in a separate annex on the Council's web site.
- 1.2 A summary of the polling district electorate forecast is shown in the table below:-

Polling Districts	Electorate 2017	Electorate 2022
MFA - Mundeford & Friars Cliff No.1	1,267	1,286
MFB - Mundeford & Friars Cliff No.2	2,419	2,484
MFC - Mundeford & Friars Cliff No. 3	607	607
PSB - Purewell & Stanpit No.2	1,118	1,118
Total	5,411	5,495

- 1.3 The polling districts form the building blocks and are therefore coterminous with the borough wards and county divisions.
- 1.4 The projected electorate growth over 5 years is 1.6%.
- 1.5 Whilst there were two representations received for a single Town Council for the whole of the unparished area, a number of representations refer to the distinction between the Town Centre and the areas to the east of the Borough, including, Highcliffe, Friars Cliff, and Mundeford (referred to as the beaches).
- 1.6 Following consideration of the representations and a number of options, the Task and Finish Group considered that the areas of Mundeford, Friars Cliff and Stanpit (in particular the marshland) possessed a special character and community identity to separate it from the traditional town centre area.
- 1.7 The Task and Finish Group considered that four wards aligned to the existing polling districts would deliver the optimum electoral equality, be reflective of the community identities and interests and would be effective and convenient.
- 1.8 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 election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parish wards. There is a risk that where one parish ward is over-represented by councillors, the residents of that parish ward (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.

1.9 Guidance further recommends that the elector to councillor ratio variance should be within +/-10%.

1.10 The following warding pattern is recommended by the Task and Finish Group with a total of 9 elected representatives. The projected elector to councillor ratio under these arrangements would be 611:1 with the resultant variances ranging between -8.5% to +5.2%.



1.11 The Task and Finish Group having considered the representations received, make the following draft recommendations.

2 Draft Recommendations

2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of Christchurch, under the terms of reference published on 20 November 2017, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the unparished area referred to as Mudeford, Friars Cliff and Stanpit:

2.2 That:

- (a) a parish of Mudeford and Stanpit be established;
- (b) the boundary of the parish of Mudeford and Stanpit be drawn to including the existing polling districts of MFA (Mudeford & Friars Cliff No.1), MFB (Mudeford & Friars Cliff No.2), MFC (Mudeford & Friars Cliff No.3) and PSB (Purewell & Stanpit No.2);
- (c) the name of the established parish be Mudeford and Stanpit;
- (d) the style of the parish of Mudeford and Stanpit be set as a community;

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- (e) the parish should have a parish council in the style of community council;
 - (f) the name of the community council should be Mundeford and Stanpit Community Council;
 - (g) the parish of Mundeford and Stanpit be divided into four parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map in paragraph 1.10 above, and named respectively:-
 - (i) Mundeford Quay
 - (ii) Friars Cliff
 - (iii) Mundeford Wood
 - (iv) Stanpit Marsh
 - (h) the community council for Mundeford and Stanpit consist of 9 councillors;
 - (i) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:-
 - (i) Mundeford Quay – 2 councillors
 - (ii) Friars Cliff – 4 councillors
 - (iii) Mundeford Wood – 1 councillor
 - (iv) Stanpit Marsh – 2 councillors

E. CHRISTCHURCH TOWN

1 Background

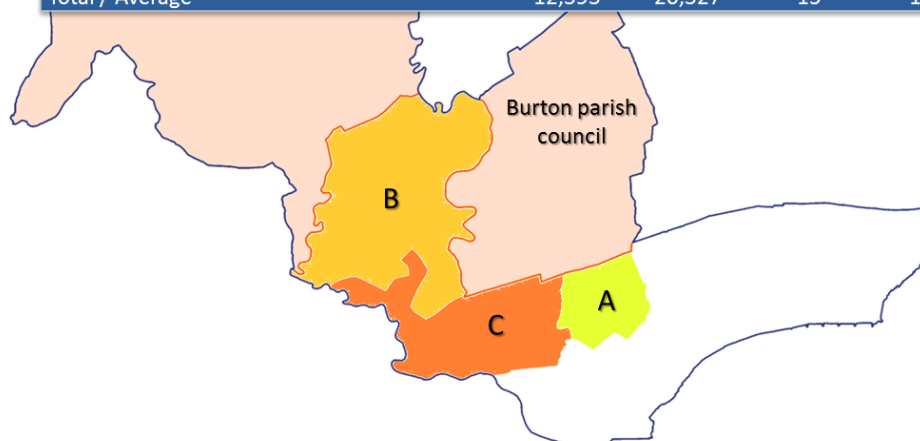
- 1.1 The area referred to in this section as Christchurch Town is unparished and comprises the polling district areas detailed in the table in paragraph 1.2 below. Maps showing the extent of the polling districts are contained in a separate annex on the Council's web site.
- 1.2 A summary of the polling district electorate forecast is shown in the table below:-

Polling Districts	Electorate 2017	Electorate 2022
GRA - Grange No. 1	2,642	3,172
GRB - Grange No. 2	901	918
JUA - Jumpers No. 1	1,771	1,785
JUB - Jumpers No.2	1,647	1,877
POA - Portfield No.1	1,773	1,893
POB - Portfield No.2	1,292	1,315
POC - Portfield No. 3	282	348
PSA - Purewell & Stanpit No.1	2,335	2,340
SCB - St Catherine's & Hurn No.2	1,332	1,336
SCC - St Catherine's & Hurn No.3	1,496	1,515
TCA - Town Centre No.1	2,267	2,515
TCB - Town Centre No.2	1,287	1,313
Total	19,025	20,327

- 1.3 The polling districts form the building blocks and are therefore coterminous with the borough wards and county divisions.
- 1.4 The projected electorate growth over 5 years is 6.8%.
- 1.5 The previous two sections recommend the establishment of two separate parishes to the east of the existing borough. The Task and Finish Group considered it desirable for the whole of the existing borough to be parished and as such are making a recommendation to this effect to establish a town council. It was felt that the proposed area does demonstrate a sense of community cohesion as a single parish and those residents within the area possess an identity and community interest with the town centre.
- 1.6 The Task and Finish Group considered that three wards aligned to the existing polling districts would deliver the optimum electoral equality, be reflective of the community identities and interests and would be effective and convenient.

- 1.7 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 election of councillors. Guidance suggests that it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government to have significant variances in levels of representation between different parish wards. There is a risk that where one parish ward is over-represented by councillors, the residents of that parish ward (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council.
- 1.8 Guidance further recommends that the elector to councillor ratio variance should be within +/-10%.
- 1.9 The following warding pattern is recommended by the Task and Finish Group with a total of 15 elected representatives. The projected elector to councillor ratio under these arrangements would be 1,355:1 with the resultant variances ranging between -0.8% to +0.6%.

Ward	Projected 5 year Forecast		Number of Councillors	Electors per Councillor	% from average
	Properties	Electorate			
A Grange (GRA & GRB)	2560	4090	3	1363	+0.6%
B Jumpers and St. Catherine's (JUA, JUB, POB, POC, SCB & SCC)	4456	8176	6	1363	+0.6%
C Priory (TCA, TCB, POA & PSA)	5377	8061	6	1344	-0.8%
Total / Average	12,393	20,327	15	1355	



- 1.10 The Task and Finish Group having considered the representations received, make the following draft recommendations.

2 Draft Recommendations

- 2.1 As part of the current Community Governance Review of Christchurch, under the terms of reference published on 20 November 2017, the Council has made the following draft recommendations in relation to the unparished area referred to as Christchurch Town:

- 2.2 That:

- (a) a parish of Christchurch be established;

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- (b) the boundary of the parish of Christchurch be drawn to including the existing polling districts of GRA (Grange No. 1), GRB (Grange No. 2), JUA (Jumpers No. 1), JUB (Jumpers No.2), POA (Portfield No.1), POB (Portfield No.2), POC (Portfield No.3), PSA (Purewell & Stanpit No.1), SCB (St Catherine's & Hurn No.2), SCC (St Catherine's & Hurn No.3), TCA (Town Centre No.1) and TCB (Town Centre No.2);
 - (c) the name of the established parish be Christchurch;
 - (d) the style of the parish of Christchurch be set as a town;
 - (e) the parish should have a parish council in the style of town council;
 - (f) the name of the town council should be Christchurch Town Council;
 - (g) the parish of Christchurch be divided into three parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map in paragraph 1.9 above, and named respectively:-
 - (i) Grange
 - (ii) Jumpers and St. Catherine's
 - (iii) Priory
 - (h) the town council for Christchurch consist of 15 councillors;
 - (i) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:-
 - (i) Grange – 3 councillors
 - (ii) St. Catherine's – 6 councillors
 - (iii) Priory – 6 councillors