Have your say on new council ward boundaries for Dorset

The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking local people to comment on plans for council ward boundaries across the new Dorset Council.

In May, the government confirmed that local government in Dorset should change with the county and all other councils replaced by two new councils. This includes a new Dorset Council.

The Commission’s consultation proposes ward boundaries to be used to elect councillors in the new authority. The Commission is asking for local views on the proposals before it finalises them in October. A consultation is taking place at the same time on new ward boundaries for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council.

The consultation runs until 27 August 2018 and is open to anyone who is interested how Dorset will be represented.

The Commission proposes that the council should have 82 councillors in total. The plans propose thirty one-councillor wards, fourteen two-councillor wards and eight three-councillor wards.

The boundaries will come into effect at the first election for the authority in May 2019.

Professor Colin Mellors, Chair of the Commission, said: “This is a chance for local people to have their say on how they will be represented by the new Dorset Council.

“We want to build wards that make sense to local people and mean something to them. That is why we want to hear as much local evidence as possible before we finalise the plans in October.”

The full recommendations and detailed interactive maps are available on the Commission’s website at consultation.lgbce.org.uk and www.lgbce.org.uk. Hard copies of the Commission’s report and maps will also be available to view at council buildings.
The Commission wants to hear as much evidence as possible to develop final recommendations. Anyone wishing to make a submission to the Commission should write or email by 27 August 2018.

By post:

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Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Give us your views online: consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter @LGBCE

For further information contact:
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Ends

Key to map:

1. Avon Heath & Moors Valley
2. Badbury & Allen Vale
3. Beacon
4. Beaminster
5. Bere Regis & Bovington
6. Blackmore Vale
7. Blandford
8. Bridport
9. Chalk Valleys
10. Charminster St Mary's
11. Chesil Bank
12. Chickrell
13. Colehill East
14. Corfe Mullen
15. Cranborne & Alderholt
16. Cranborne Chase
17. Crossways
18. Dorchester East
19. Dorchester West
20. Eggar don
21. Ferndown North
22. Ferndown South
23. Gillingham
24. Hill Forts & Upper Tarrants
25. Isle of Purbeck
26. Lyme & Charmouth

27. Lytchett Matravers & Morden
28. Lytchett Minster & Upton
29. Marshwood Vale
30. Portland
31. Preston & Radipole
32. Puddletown & Lower Winterborne
33. Rodwell & Wyke
34. Shaftesbury Town
35. Sherborne East
36. Sherborne Rural
37. Sherborne West
38. South West Purbeck
39. Stalbridge
40. Sturminster Newton
41. Swanage
42. Upwey & Broadway
43. Verwood
44. Wareham
45. West Moors South
46. West Parley
47. Westham
48. Weymouth Town
49. Wimborne Minster & Colehill West
50. Winterborne & Broadmayne
51. Winterborne North
52. Yetminster
Notes to editors:

1. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is responsible for reviewing local authority electoral arrangements, defining boundaries for local elections and the number of councillors to be elected, as well as conducting reviews of local government external boundaries and structures.

2. The types of questions the Commission is asking residents at this stage are:
   - Do the proposed wards reflect local communities?
   - How do you think the proposals can be improved whilst maintaining electoral equality?
   - Are the names of the proposed wards right?

3. Residents have from 3 July 2018 until 27 August 2018 to have their say about where ward boundaries for Dorset Council should be drawn. The Commission will consider all submissions and aims to publish its final recommendations in October 2018. Once the Commission agrees its final recommendations it will lay a draft order in both Houses of Parliament. Parliament will then have 40 days in which to consider the recommendations. If both Houses are satisfied with the recommendations, the draft order will be ‘made’ and the new wards will come into effect at the council elections in May 2019.