

Somerset

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Adam Boyden
Email: [REDACTED]
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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Frome and the surrounding area

Dear LGBCE,

I am focusing my response on Frome North, while considering the impact on neighbouring divisions/wards.

I would like you to consider the option of three two-member wards for the Frome area, which retain existing boundaries and community linkages. There is an argument that two (or more) member council wards can be more proportional than single member wards in a first past the post election, can promote more cooperation between councillors (and parties), and provide more resilience for councillors and residents (for example when one councillor is away or unwell).

The A36 trunk road and strategic D2/ D2X bus routes link Frome with the northern parishes with direct links through Berkley, Beckington, Rode, Tellisford and Norton St Philip. The communities in these parishes are close enough to Frome to be dependent on Frome's local services. Berkley is adjacent to Frome and the Commerce Park and Gypsy Lane developments lie on the boundary. Beckington's Family Practice GP surgery has its second GP surgery within Frome North division.

One main benefit of two member wards here is to avoid splitting the rural area of Frome North (the parishes of Berkley, Beckington, Rode, Norton St Philip, Tellisford and Lullington) away from Frome into a much larger rural single-member ward with c.5 more parishes which would seem to be required to make up the numbers. Such a large rural ward (as would be necessary were they divorced from Frome) would be very difficult to serve well by one councillor due to the travelling distances and sheer numbers of parishes (and parish council meetings) to service. I understand Rode Parish Council have also requested a two-member ward is retained as they fear a drop in service from their two councillors and that one councillor would not be able to give them the same service if we were stretched over a much larger area in future.

Frome East's population is also going to increase after 2030 due to housing developments with permission, and could expand by another 4,000 if

the major Selwood Garden Community planning application (Somerset Council ref. 2021/1675/EOUT) for 1700 homes is approved, so some room may need to be made for that.

All proposals are within the 10% average 2030 electorate for two-member wards (average = 9,736, 10% range = 8762 to 10710).

So my Proposal is:

- Frome North:

E-CR, E-CQ, E-CV, E-CW, E-CC, E-CD, E-DO, E-DP, E-DT, E-DU, E-DX, E-EB, E-CO:

electorate in 2030: 9163, or 9,711 including E-DJ Hemington

- Frome East:

E-CN, E-CP, E-CT, E-DY, E-DE, E-CU, E-CS, E-DD:

electorate in 2030: 9,048, or 9,392 including E-EC Trudoxhill.

- Frome West:

E-DB, E-DC, E-CZ, E-DZ, E-DF, E-DG, E-DH, E-DA, E-CX, E-CY:

electorate in 2030: 8,847, or 9,644 including E-DV Nunney.

Please see attached.

Thank you for your consideration.

Attached Documents:

- new-wards-frome-aboyden-lgbce.pdf

Dear LGBCE,

As one of the current two Somerset Councillors for Frome North division, I am focusing my response on Frome North, while considering the impact on neighbouring divisions/wards.

I would like you to consider the option of three **two-member** wards for the Frome area, which retain existing boundaries and community linkages.

There is an argument that two (or more) member council wards can be more proportional than single member wards in a first past the post election, can promote more cooperation between councillors (and parties), and provide more resilience for councillors and residents (for example when one councillor is away or unwell).

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- Frome North:
 - E-CR, E-CQ, E-CV, E-CW, E-CC, E-CD, E-DO, E-DP, E-DT, E-DU, E-DX, E-EB, E-CO:
 - electorate in 2030: **9163, or 9,711** including E-DJ Hemington
- Frome East:
 - E-CN, E-CP, E-CT, E-DY, E-DE, E-CU, E-CS, E-DD:
 - electorate in 2030: **9,048, or 9,392** including E-EC Trudoxhill.
- Frome West:
 - E-DB, E-DC, E-CZ, E-DZ, E-DF, E-DG, E-DH, E-DA, E-CX, E-CY:
 - electorate in 2030: **8,847, or 9,644** including E-DV Nunney.

Frome North: all existing Frome North division areas, plus Frome Berkley Down E-CO from Frome East division. Could also include Hemington:

Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing division	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2030	total
E-CR	Frome	College	Frome North	2081	2066	
E-CQ	Frome	College	Frome North	1365	1370	
E-CV	Frome	Innox	Frome North	77	116	
E-CW	Frome	Innox	Frome North	785	809	
E-CC	Beckington		Frome North	956	959	
E-CD	Berkley		Frome North	256	249	
E-DO	Lullington		Frome North	8	10	
E-DP	Lullington		Frome North	112	110	
E-DT	Norton St Philip		Frome North	57	57	
E-DU	Norton St Philip		Frome North	792	817	
E-DX	Rode		Frome North	942	939	
E-EB	Tellisford		Frome North	176	179	
E-CO	Frome	Berkley Down	Frome East	1470	1481	9,163
E-DJ	<i>Could also include:</i> Hemington		Mendip Central & East	567	548	9,711

Anomaly in Berkley Down:

N.B. The Commission should also take the opportunity to regularize the situation for Wyville Road, to include within polling district Berkley Down E-CO the houses along the northern part of Wyville Road which are currently within polling district E-CN but are surrounded by E-CO. I can only think these were developed first at the time of the last boundary review, as it does not make any sense otherwise.

Frome East: The population of Frome Keyford E-CU is growing with current planning permissions for housing on four sites. Selwood East's population would grow by 4000 if Selwood Garden Community is granted permission, which I understand would trigger Frome Town Council to request a parish boundary review to transfer the SGC development (and other potential development sites) from Selwood parish to Frome. Frome East could retain its boundary as existing except the loss of Frome Berkley Down E-CO to Frome North, and the possible inclusion of adjacent Trudoxhill:

Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing division	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2030	total
E-CN	Frome	Berkley Down	Frome East	1148	1170	
E-CP	Frome	Berkley Down	Frome East	776	776	
E-CT	Frome	Keyford	Frome East	2279	2378	
E-DY	Selwood	East	Frome East	504	474	
E-DE	Frome	Highpoint	Frome East	271	429	

Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing division	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2030	total
E-CU	Frome	Keyford	Frome East	1180	1759	
E-CS	Frome	Keyford	Frome East	1691	1679	
E-DD	Frome	Highpoint	Frome East	401	383	9,048
E-EC	<i>Could also include Trudoxhill</i>		Mendip Central & East	356	344	9,392

Frome West: Frome West could retain its boundary as existing. Could also include adjacent Nunney, which has strong cultural links with Frome, including the route of the Frome Half Marathon:

Polling district	Parish	Parish ward	Existing division	Electorate 2023	Electorate 2030	total
E-DB	Frome	Oakfield	Frome West	107	108	
E-DC	Frome	Oakfield	Frome West	1973	2165	
E-CZ	Frome	Market	Frome West	1733	1713	
E-DZ	Selwood	West	Frome West	229	221	
E-DF	Frome	Park	Frome West	1134	1129	
E-DG	Frome	Park	Frome West	1336	1342	
E-DH	Frome	Park	Frome West	664	656	
E-DA	Frome	Market	Frome West	807	1095	
E-CX	Frome	Market	Frome West	134	126	
E-CY	Frome	Market	Frome West	274	292	8,847
E-DV	<i>Could also include Nunney</i>		Mendip Central & East	777	797	9,644

Thank you for your consideration.

Best wishes,

Adam Boyden

Somerset Councillor, Frome North