

Dorset

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Comment text:

Related subject: Whole council area

Dear Jonathan

Please find attached Dorset Council's warding submission agreed by Full Council on 14 May 2026 in respect of the electoral review.

If you wish to watch the Full Council debate, this starts in the recording of the meeting at about 57 minutes. Full Council meeting papers and recording - 14 May 2026

Please do let me know if you require anything further from me.

Kind regards

Jacqui

Attached Documents:

- [appendix-a---proposed-warding-information-from-dorset-council.xlsx](#)

- [appendix-b---proposed-ward-map.pdf](#)
- [dorset-council-warding-submission.docx](#)

Dorset Council - Proposed Warding Submission

18 May 2026

On 10 July 2025, Full Council agreed that a cross-party task and finish group be established to make recommendations to Full Council on various submissions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE). The task and finish group has the following membership:

- 3 Liberal Democrat councillors
- 2 Conservative councillors
- The group leader or deputy group leader of the Green, Independent and Labour political groups or their nominated substitute.

Following agreement to the council's submission on council size agreed at Full Council on 10 February 2026, the LGBCE published its minded-to proposal for council size (82 councillors).

As part of the initial data required by the Commission, officers generated forecasts of future electorate numbers up to 2032. The data showed that the councillor:elector ratio for 82 councillors should be 3931 to achieve electoral.

The task and finish group met on 31 March, 16 April and 29 April 2026 to consider officer advice informed by available data and projected electoral figures to 2032. The group also received and considered a number of representations from individual councillors, which informed the development of the warding proposal presented to Full Council.

In developing its recommendations, the member group had regard to the following principles:

- The new ward arrangements should, in so far as is possible, result in electoral equality based on the projected electorate for 2032. This is a mandatory requirement of the Commission.
- Wards should, as far as possible, reflect established community interests and identities, and have clearly identifiable boundaries.
- Warding arrangements should facilitate effective and convenient local government.
- 'Natural' barriers, such as rivers and railway lines, should be taken into account when developing warding proposals.
- Wards must be contiguous ie sharing a common border – 'island' and 'donut' wards are not permitted.

During detailed consideration of warding options, it became apparent that achieving good electoral equality with a council size of 82 members would require the division of several well-established communities. By increasing the proposed council size to 84 members, the group was able to develop a model that delivers strong electoral equality while also respecting long-standing community ties.

Based on a council size of 84 members, the councillor:elector ratio for the projected 2032 electorate is 3,837. The task and finish group's proposal meets the Commission's $\pm 10\%$ tolerance in all but six, as set out below:

Portland: -14%
Lyme Regis and Charmouth: +10.92%
Blandford: +12.50%
St Leonards and St Ives: -10.16%
Corfe Mullen: +10.15%
Piddle and Bere Valley: +10.56%

In each of these cases, the group concluded that there was no practical way to further improve electoral variance without undermining effective community governance or dividing well-established communities.

The task and finish group's proposals were considered by Full Council at its meeting on 14 May 2026, and it was resolved that the proposals attached at Appendix A including the recommended name of each proposed ward be submitted to the Commission as Dorset Council's formal submission in respect of warding for Dorset Council. Appendix B sets out a map illustrating the proposed warding arrangements.

The proposals submitted by Dorset Council are as follows:

Council size: 84 councillors
Average electorate: 3837

Single Member Wards: 39
2 Member Wards: 15
3 Member Wards: 5

Ward Name	Parish	Electorate 2032	No Cllrs	Electorate per Cllr	+/- of average electorate
Beacon	Ashmore Parish				
	Cann Parish				
	Compton Abbas Parish				
	East Orchard Parish				
	Fontmell Magna Parish				
	Iwerne Minster Parish				
	Margaret Marsh Parish				
	Melbury Abbas Parish				
	Sutton Waldron Parish				
	Shaftesbury Parish (part)				
	Motcombe Parish				
	West Orchard Parish	4144	1	4144	8.00%
Beaminster	Beaminster Town Council				
	Netherbury Parish	3946	1	3946	2.84%
Blackmore Vale	Child Okeford Parish				
	Hammoon Parish				
	Ibberton Parish				
	Lydlinch Parish				
	Manston Parish				
	Okeford Fitzpaine Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Fifehead Neville				
	Parish Meeting of Hanford				
	Parish Meeting of Turnworth				
	Shillingstone Parish	3830	1	3830	-0.18%
Blandford	Blandford Forum Town Council	8633	2	4317	12.50%
Blandford St Mary	Blandford St Mary Parish				
	Bryanston Parish				
	Charlton Marshall Parish				
	Spetisbury Parish	4104	1	4104	6.96%
Bridport	Bridport Town Council	12130	3	4043	5.38%
Broadmayne and Winterborne Vale	Bincombe Parish (part)				
	Broadmayne Parish				
	Osmington Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Poxwell				
	Parish Meeting of Warmwell				
	Tincton Parish				
	West Knighton Parish				
	West Stafford Parish				
	Whitcombe Parish				
	Winterborne Came Parish				
	Winterborne Herringston Parish				
	Winterborne Monkton Parish				
	Winterborne St Martin Parish				
	Winterbourne Abbas Parish				
	Winterbourne Steepleton Parish				
	Woodsford Parish	4133	1	4133	7.71%
Broadwindsor	Broadwindsor Parish				
	Burstock Parish				
	Chedington Parish				
	Corscombe Parish				
	East Chelborough Parish				
	Halstock Parish				

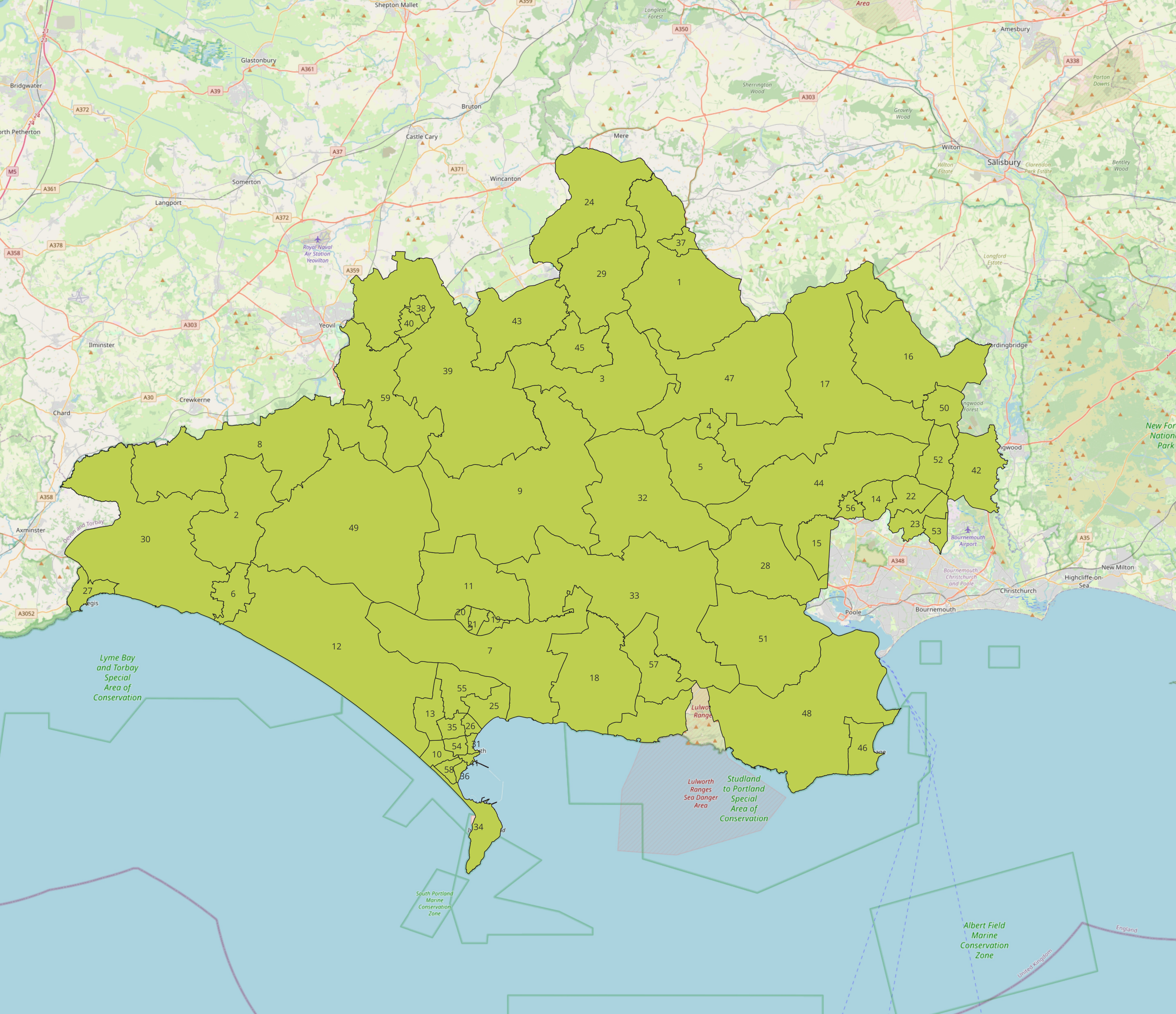
	Melbury Osmond Parish				
	Mosterton Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Melbury Bubb				
	Parish Meeting of Melbury Sampford				
	Seaborough Parish				
	South Perrott Parish				
	Stockwood Parish				
	West Chelborough Parish	3561	1	3561	-7.19%
Chalk Valleys	Alton Pancras Parish				
	Cerne Abbas Parish				
	Cheselbourne Parish				
	Dewlish Parish				
	Godmanstone Parish				
	Hazelbury Bryan Parish				
	Hilton Parish				
	Nether Cerne Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Melcombe Horsey				
	Parish Meeting of Stoke Wake				
	Parish Meeting of Woolland				
	Piddlehinton Parish				
	Piddletrenthide Parish				
	Up Cerne Parish	3988	1	3988	3.94%
Charlestown and Lanehouse	Chickerell Town Council (part)				
	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3706	1	3706	-3.41%
Charminster St Mary's	Bradford Peverell Parish				
	Charminster Parish				
	Stinsford Parish				
	Stratton Parish	3866	1	3866	0.76%
Chesil	Abbotsbury Parish				
	Burton Bradstock Parish				
	Fleet Parish				
	Langton Herring Parish				
	Litton Cheney Parish				
	Loders Parish				
	Long Bredy and Kingston Russell Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Askerswell				
	Parish Meeting of Chilcombe				
	Parish Meeting of Littlebredy				
	Portesham Parish				
	Puncknowle Parish				
	Shipton Gorge Parish				
	Swyre Parish	4087	1	4087	6.52%
Chickerell	Chickerell Town Council (part)	3968	1	3968	3.40%
Colehill and Wimborne Minster East	Colehill Parish				
	Wimborne Minster Town Council (part)	7244	2	3622	-5.60%
Corfe Mullen	Corfe Mullen Town Council	8453	2	4227	10.15%
Cranborne and Alderholt	Alderholt Parish				
	Cranborne Parish				
	Edmondsham Parish				
	Wimborne St Giles Parish	3885	1	3885	1.25%
Cranborne Chase	Chalbury Parish				
	Crichel Parish				
	Gussage All Saints Parish				
	Gussage St Michael Parish				

	Horton Parish Parish Meeting of Langton Long Sixpenny Handley and Pentridge Parish Tarrant Crawford Parish Tarrant Keyneston Parish Tarrant Rawston Parish Tarrant Rushton Parish Witchampton Parish Woodlands Parish	3561	1	3561	-7.19%
Crossways and Lower Frome	Chaldon Herring Parish Crossways Parish Moreton Parish Owermoigne Parish Winfrith Newburgh and East Knighton Parish	4070	1	4070	6.07%
Dorchester East	Dorchester Town Council (part)	7056	2	3528	-8.05%
Dorchester Poundbury	Dorchester Town Council (part)	4032	1	4032	5.08%
Dorchester West	Dorchester Town Council (part)	7009	2	3504.5	-8.67%
Ferndown North	Ferndown Town Council (part)	7751	2	3876	1.00%
Ferndown South	Ferndown Town Council (part)	7112	2	3556	-7.32%
Gillingham	Bourton Parish Buckhorn Weston Parish Gillingham Town Council Kington Magna Parish Parish Meeting of Silton	12342	3	4114	7.22%
Littlemoor and Preston	Weymouth Town Council (part)	8319	2	4160	8.50%
Lodmoor	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3772	1	3772	-1.70%
Lyme and Charmouth	Charmouth Parish Lyme Regis Town Council	4256	1	4256	10.92%
Lytchett Matravers and Upton	Lytchett Matravers Parish (part) Lytchett Minster and Upton Town Council Morden Parish Sturminster Marshall (part)	10634	3	3545	-7.62%
Marnhull	East Stour Parish Hinton St Mary Parish Marnhull Parish Parish Meeting of Fifehead Magdalen Stour Provost Parish Todber Parish West Stour Parish	3761	1	3761	-1.98%
Marshwood Vale	Bettiscombe Parish Chideock Parish Marshwood Parish Parish Meeting of Catherston Leweston Pilsdon Parish Stanton St Gabriel Parish Stoke Abbott Parish Symondsbury Parish Thorncombe Parish Whitchurch Canonicorum Parish Wootton Fitzpaine Parish	4086	1	4086	6.49%

Melcombe Regis	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3955	1	3955	3.10%
Milborne and the Winterbornes	Anderson Parish				
	Milborne St Andrew Parish				
	Milton Abbas Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Winterborne Clenston				
	Parish Meeting of Winterborne Zelston				
	Winterborne Houghton Parish				
	Winterborne Kingston Parish				
	Winterborne Stickland Parish				
	Winterborne Whitechurch Parish	3645	1	3645	-5.00%
Pimperne and the Tarrants	Chettle Parish				
	Durweston Parish				
	Farnham Parish				
	Iwerne Courtney (Shroton) Parish				
	Iwerne Stepleton Parish				
	Pimperne Parish				
	Stourpaine Parish				
	Tarrant Gunville Parish				
	Tarrant Hinton Parish				
	Tarrant Launceston Parish				
	Tarrant Monkton Parish	3778	1	3778	-1.54%
Piddle and Bere Valley	Affpuddle and Turnerspudde Parish				
	Athelhampton and Puddletown Parish				
	Bere Regis Parish				
	Burleston and Tolpuddle Parish				
	East Holme				
	East Stoke				
	Parish Meeting of Bloxworth	44242	1	4242	10.56%
Portland	Portland Town Council	9899	3	3300	-14.00%
Purbeck	Church Knowle				
	Corfe Castle				
	East Lulworth				
	Harmans Cross				
	Kimmeridge				
	Kingston				
	Langton Matravers				
	Steeple with Tyneham				
	Studland				
	West Lulworth				
	Worth Matravers	3897	1	3897	1.56%
Radipole and Southill	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3679	1	3679	-4.12%
Rodwell & Wyke	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3689	1	3689	-3.86%
Shaftesbury	Shaftesbury Town Council (part)	7377	2	3689	-3.87%
Sherborne East	Sherborne Town Council (part)	3961	1	3961	3.23%
Sherborne Rural	Buckland Newton Parish				
	Castleton Parish				
	Folke Parish				
	Goathill Parish				
	Holnest Parish				
	Holwell Parish				
	Leweston Parish				
	Lillington Parish				

	Longburton Parish				
	Minterne Magna Parish				
	Nether Compton Parish				
	Oborne Parish				
	Over Compton Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Caundle Marsh				
	Parish Meeting of Glanvilles Wootton				
	Parish Meeting of Haydon				
	Parish Meeting of Mappowder				
	Parish Meeting of North Wootton				
	Parish Meeting of Pulham				
	Poyntington Parish				
	Sandford Orcas Parish				
	Trent Parish	3911	1	3911	1.93%
Sherborne West	Sherborne Town Council (part)	3931	1	3931	2.45%
South Harbourside	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3746	1	3746	-2.37%
St Leonards and St Ives	St Leonards and St Ives Parish	6894	2	3447	-10.16%
Stalbridge	Bishop`s Caundle Parish				
	Purse Caundle Parish				
	Stalbridge Town Council				
	Stourton Caundle Parish	3752	1	3752	-2.22%
Stour and Allen Vale	Hinton Parish				
	Holt Parish				
	Lytchett Minster and Upton (part)				
	Pamphill Parish				
	Shapwick Parish				
	Sturminster Marshall Parish (part)	3725	1	3725	-2.92%
Sturminster Newton	Sturminster Newton Town Council	3994	1	3994	4.09%
Swanage	Swanage Town Council	8297	2	4149	8.12%
Upper Frome and Asker	Cattistock Parish				
	Chilfrome Parish				
	Compton Valence Parish				
	Evershot				
	Frampton Parish				
	Frome St Quintin Parish				
	Frome Vauchurch Parish				
	Maiden Newton Parish				
	North Poorton Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Hooke				
	Parish Meeting of Mapperton				
	Parish Meeting of Wraxall				
	Powerstock Parish				
	Rampisham				
	Sydling St Nicholas Parish				
	Toller Fratrum Parish				
	Toller Porcorum Parish				
	West Compton Parish				
	Wynford Eagle Parish	3648	1	3648	-4.93%
Verwood	Verwood Town Council (part)	11482	3	3827	-0.25%
Wareham Ward	Arne Parish				
	Wareham St Martin Parish				
	Wareham Town Council	8250	2	4125	7.51%

West Moors and Three Legged	Verwood Town Council (part)				
	West Moors Town Council	7792	2	3896	1.54%
West Parley	West Parley Parish	3692	1	3692	-3.78%
Westham	Weymouth Town Council (part)	7311	2	3655	-4.80%
Weymouth North	Bincombe Parish (part)				
	Weymouth Town Council (part)	4009	1	4009	4.50%
Wimborne Minster	Wimborne Minster Town Council	7284	2	3642	-5.08%
Wool and Bovington	Coombe Keynes Parish				
	Wool Parish	3824	1	3824	-0.34%
Wyke Regis	Weymouth Town Council (part)	3649	1	3649	-4.90%
Yetminster and Yeo Valley	Batcombe Parish				
	Beer Hackett Parish				
	Bradford Abbas Parish				
	Chetnole Parish				
	Hermitage Parish				
	Hilfield Parish				
	Leigh Parish				
	Parish Meeting of Clifton Maybank				
	Ryme Intrinseca Parish				
	Thornford Parish				
	Yetminster Parish	3871	1	3871	0.89%



- 1 - Beacon
- 2 - Beaminster
- 3 - Blackmore Vale
- 4 - Blandford
- 5 - Blandford St Mary's
- 6 - Bridport
- 7 - Broadmayne and Winterborne Vale
- 8 - Broadwindsor
- 9 - Chalk Valleys
- 10 - Charlestown and Lanehouse
- 11 - Charminster St Mary's
- 12 - Chesil
- 13 - Chickereil
- 14 - Colehill and Wimborne Minster East
- 15 - Corfe Mullen
- 16 - Cranborne and Alderholt
- 17 - Cranborne Chase
- 18 - Crossways and Lower Frome
- 19 - Dorchester East
- 20 - Dorchester Poundbury
- 21 - Dorchester West
- 22 - Ferndown North
- 23 - Ferndown South
- 24 - Gillingham
- 25 - Littlemoor and Preston
- 26 - Lodmoor
- 27 - Lyme and Charmouth
- 28 - Lytchett Matravers and Upton
- 29 - Marnhull
- 30 - Marshwood Vale
- 31 - Melcombe Regis
- 32 - Milborne and the Winterbornes
- 33 - Piddle and Bere Valley
- 34 - Portland
- 35 - Radipole and Southill
- 36 - Rodwell and Wyke
- 37 - Shaftesbury
- 38 - Sherborne East
- 39 - Sherborne Rural
- 40 - Sherborne West
- 41 - South Harbourside
- 42 - St Leonards & St Ives
- 43 - Stalbridge
- 44 - Stour and Allen Vale
- 45 - Sturminster Newton
- 46 - Swanage
- 47 - Tarrant's and Hill Forts
- 48 - The Purbecks
- 49 - Upper Frome and Asker
- 50 - Verwood
- 51 - Wareham
- 52 - West Moors and Three Legged Cross
- 53 - West Parley
- 54 - Westham
- 55 - Weymouth North
- 56 - Wimborne Minster
- 57 - Wool and Bovington
- 58 - Wyke Regis
- 59 - Yetminster and Yeo Valley