Community Governance Review 2025

Current & recommended council sizes and previous contested election data



The current projections below cover the immediate five-year period and anticipate delivery of sites that already have planning permissions, or allocation status in an adopted plan.

As work progresses on identifying the new longer term growth areas colleagues in planning will work with democratic services to firm up electorate populations for future years.

Recommended number of councillors

National Association of Local Councils (NALC) NALC published guidance in 1988 on the suggested number of parish councillors to be allocated depending on the size of the population being represented. NALC recommended a council of no more than the legal minimum of five members is inconveniently small and it considers the practical minimum should be seven. It considered local council business does not usually require a large body of councillors, and business convenience makes it appropriate to suggest the practical maximum should be 25.

Within those minimum and maximum limits, the following allocations were recommended by NALC:

- Up to 900 electors: 7 councillors
- 901 1,400 electors: 8 councillors
- 1,401 2,000 electors: 9 councillors
- 2,001 2,700 electors: 10 councillors
- 2,701 3,500 electors: 11 councillors
- 3,501 4,400 electors: 12 councillors
- 4,401 5,400 electors: 13 councillors
- 5,401 6,500 electors: 14 councillors
- 6,501 7,700: 15 councillors
- 7,701 9,000: 16 councillors

- 9,001 10,400 electors: 17 councillors
- 10,401 -11,900 electors: 18 councillors
- 11,901 13,500 electors: 19 councillors
- 13,501 15,200 electors: 20 councillors
- 15,201 17,000 electors: 21 councillors
- 17,001 18,900 electors: 22 councillors
- 18,901 20,900 electors: 23 councillors
- 20,901 23,000 electors: 24 councillors
- Over 23,000 electors: 25 councillors

Please note, in rural authorities with sparsity of population, this table may not be appropriate. Page | 1

Community Governance Review 2025



	Baselin	e February 2025	Projected 5-year forecast		
Parish	Electorate	Current no. of seats	Estimated population (inc. 16- & 17-year-olds)	NALC recommended no. of Councillors for projected electorate	
Abbots Leigh	667	5	688	7	
Backwell	3,754	15	4,151	12	
Banwell	3,278	12	4,688	13	
Barrow Gurney	426	7	586	7	
Blagdon	885	11	1,037	8	
Bleadon	998	9	1,191	8	
Brockley	226	6	241	7	
Burrington	435	5	461	7	
Butcombe	190	5	247	7	
Churchill	2,134	13	2,528	10	
Clapton-in-Gordano	289	6	300	7	
Cleeve	731	7	795	7	
Clevedon	16,885	21	18,889	22	
Congresbury	3008	12	3,511	12	
Dundry	730	10	798	7	
Flax Bourton	586	7	613	7	
Hutton	2,395	10	2,693	10	
Kenn	384	7	435	7	

Community Governance Review 2025



	Baselin	e February 2025		Projected 5-year forecast		
Parish	Electorate (as per register)	Current number of seats	Estimated population (inc. 16- & 17- year-olds)	NALC recommended number of Councillors for projected electorate		
Kewstoke	1,486	11	1,754	9		
Kingston Seymour	335	7	333	7		
Locking	3,417	15	5,539	14		
Long Ashton	5,098	21	5,430	14		
Loxton	178	5	191	7		
Nailsea	12,984	20	15,580	21		
Pill and Easton-in-Gordano	3,939	15	4,250	12		
Portbury	757	8	797	7		
Portishead	20,385	14	22,467	24		
Puxton	315	7	361	7		
St Georges	2,445	9	2,757	11		
Tickenham	891	11	1,016	8		
Walton-in-Gordano	302	5	310	7		
Weston-in-Gordano	275	7	263	7		
Weston-super-Mare	62,605	31	75,177	25		
Wick St Lawrence	1,093	10	1,181	8		
Winford	1,874	12	2,089	10		
Winscombe and Sandford	4,087	15	4,880	13		
Wraxall and Failand	1,965	11	2,115	10		
Wrington	2,313	16	2,573	10		
Yatton	6,725	18	7,773	16		

Community Governance Review 2025

Current & recommended council sizes and previous contested election data

Election results in the past 5 years

The table below shows the number of candidates who have stood in each local government election in the past 5 years. Those in green show elections that were contested (i.e. enough candidates put themselves forward for there to be a poll).

Parish / Town Council	Wards (if warded)	No. of seats	No. of candidates in 2015 election	No. of candidates in 2019 election	No. of candidates in 2023 election
Abbots Leigh Parish Council		5	3	4	6
Backwell Parish Council		15	14	13	11
Banwell Parish Council		12	6	9	9
Barrow Gurney Parish Council		7	5	4	6
Blagdon Parish Council		11	8	8	7
Bleadon Parish Council		9	4	8	5
Brockley Parish Council		6	5	6	5
Burrington Parish Council		5	4	5	4
Butcombe Parish Council		5	4	4	4
Churchill Parish Council		13	12	9	9
Clapton-in-Gordano Parish Council		6	4	4	3
Cleeve Parish Council		7	4	6	7
	East Ward	4	4	6	5
	South Ward	4	4	3	3
Clevedon Town Council	Walton Ward	5	7	2	2
	West Ward	4	4	3	3
	Yeo Ward	4	4	4	4
Congresbury Parish Council		12	6	7	6
Dundry Parish Council		10	9	4	3

North Somerset Council

Page | 4

Community Governance Review 2025



Parish / Town Council	Wards (if warded)	No. of seats	No. of candidates in 2015 election	No. of candidates in 2019 election	No. of candidates in 2023 election
Flax Bourton Parish Council		7	7	4	5
Hutton Parish Council		10	8	9	5
Kenn Parish Council		7	6	6	5
Kewstoke Parish Council		11	10	11	10
Kingston Seymour Parish Council		7	5	7	7
Locking Parish Council		15	9	7	9
Long Ashton Dorich Council	Long Ashton Ward	19	14	10	8
Long Ashton Parish Council	Leigh Woods Ward	2	2	2	0
Loxton Parish Council		5	4	3	4
	Golden Valley Ward	5	5	6	3
Nailsea Town Council	West End Ward	5	5	3	4
Nalisea Town Council	Yeo Ward	5	6	3	6
	Youngwood Ward	5	5	5	4
Pill and Easton-in-Gordano Parish	Easton in Gordano Ward	4	3	3	3
Council	Pill Ward	11	7	5	12
Portbury Parish Council		8	8	5	5
	East Ward	5	7	10	5
Portishead Town Council	North Ward	2	6	4	3
Ponishead Town Council	South Ward	2	5	4	3
	West Ward	5	7	11	7
Puxton Parish Council		7	3	5	8
St Georges Parish Council		9	10	7	6
Tickenham Parish Council		11	10	8	6

Community Governance Review 2025



Parish / Town Council	Wards (if warded)	No. of seats	No. of candidates in 2015 election	No. of candidates in 2019 election	No. of candidates in 2023 election
Walton-in-Gordano Parish Council		5	3	4	5
Weston-in-Gordano Parish Council		7	6	4	4
	Bournville Ward	3	8	6	4
·	Central Ward	3	9	10	9
	Hillside Ward	3	11	10	7
	Mid Worle Ward	2	7	5	6
Wester our Mars Town Coursil	Milton Ward	4	9	10	8
Weston-super-Mare Town Council	North Worle Ward	3	10	9	8
	South Worle Ward	4	10	8	10
	Uphill Ward	3	8	7	10
	Winterstoke Ward	3	10	6	8
	Worlebury Ward	3	9	7	8
Mish Othersener Devict Ocurai	East Wick Ward	5	5	5	5
Wick St Lawrence Parish Council	West Wick Ward	5	2	3	3
	Winford Ward	5	4	5	3
Winford Parish Council	Felton Ward	5	3	5	2
	Regil Ward	2	2	2	1
Winscombe and Sandford Parish Council		15	14	14	12
Wraxall and Failand Parish Council		11	9	12	10
Wrington Parish Council	Northeast Ward	4	1	0	0
	Southwest Ward	12	9	12	7

Community Governance Review 2025



Parish / Town Council	Wards (if warded)	No. of seats	No. of candidates in 2015 election	No. of candidates in 2019 election	No. of candidates in 2023 election
Yatton Parish Council	Claverham Ward	3	1	2	2
	Horsecastle Ward	5	4	6	3
	North Ward	5	5	3	5
	South Ward	5	6	4	3