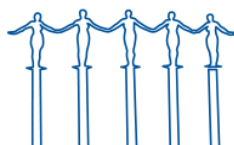


North Somerset Council

Community Governance Review 2025

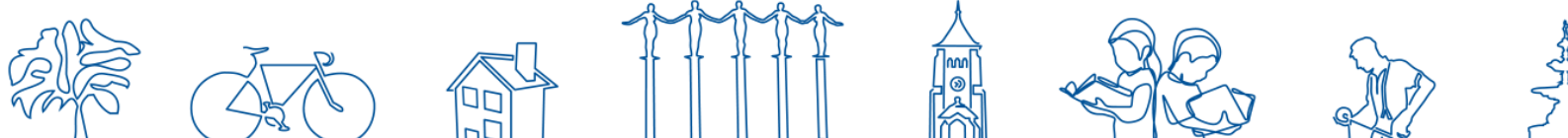
Draft Recommendations (as amended)

July 2025



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Background

Principal councils have a statutory duty to undertake a CGR every 10 to 15 years. A CGR enables the Council to ensure that community governance arrangements continue to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and that they are both effective and convenient.

The primary focus of a Community Governance Review is to consider parish boundaries and electoral arrangements. It provides the statutory mechanism through which amendments to parish boundaries, the number of parish councillors, and other related electoral matters may be proposed and, where appropriate, implemented.

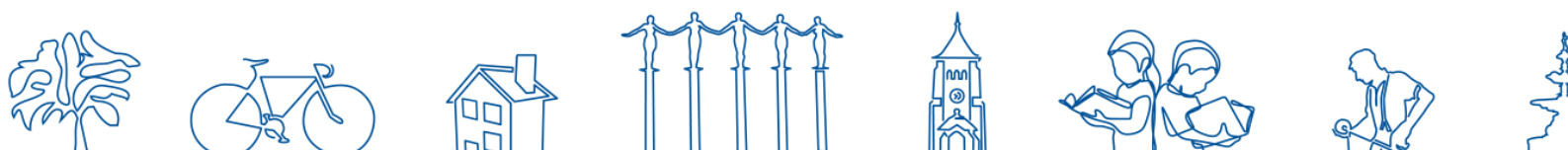
The publication of the Terms of Reference for this review, as approved by the Planning and Regulatory Committee (to whom the decision making for all electoral matters is delegated by the Council) on Wednesday 19 February, formally commenced the first stage of public consultation.

Over an eight-week period, residents of North Somerset, together with parish and town councils and other relevant stakeholders, were invited to take part in a consultation on the current electoral arrangements for all parishes within the district. The consultation ran from Friday 28 February to Wednesday 30 April, with responses accepted both online and via paper questionnaires.

The draft recommendations within this document were approved by the Planning and Regulatory Committee at their July meeting.

The original officer report and minutes from the meeting can be found on our website here: <https://n-somerset.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=149&MId=1289&Ver=4>

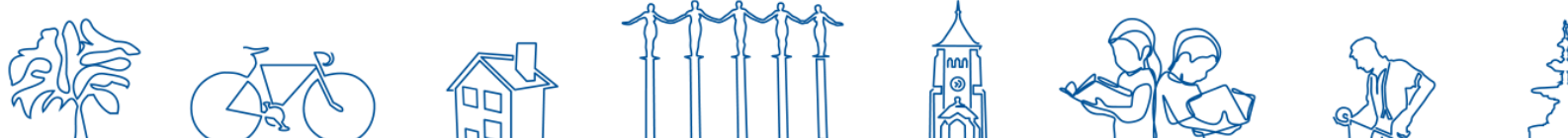
For ease of reference, the draft recommendations have been grouped into those proposing change (draft recommendations 1-8) and those proposing no change (draft recommendations 9-23).



Draft recommendations by parish.

The table below details the draft recommendations relevant to each parish.

PARISH	Draft Recommendation Reference	PARISH	Draft Recommendation Reference
Abbots Leigh	9	Locking	1.9, 11.4, 12.5
Backwell	1.8, 2.1, 2.2, 7, 12.4	Long Ashton	1.4, 9, 12.3
Banwell	11.1, 11.4	Loxton	None
Barrow Gurney	12.3	Nailsea	2.2, 7, 10, 12.4, 14.3, 17, 21.3
Blagdon	1.1, 12.2	Pill & Easton-in-Gordano	13.1
Bleadon	11.2, 12.5	Portbury	3, 19
Brockley	2.1, 7	Portishead	1.6, 3, 13.6, 19, 21.4
Burrington	1.5, 12.2	Puxton	None
Butcombe	12.2	St Georges	12.6, 13.3, 14.4
Churchill	1.2	Tickenham	13.5
Clapton-in-Gordano	None	Walton-in-Gordano	None
Cleeve	12.1, 14.1	Weston-in-Gordano	None
Clevedon	1.12, 21.2	Weston-super-Mare	1.11, 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2, 12.5, 12.6, 13.7, 13.8, 15, 16, 18, 21.1, 21.5
Congresbury	12.1, 13.4, 14.5	Wick St Lawrence	18, 21.5
Dundry	None	Winford	None
Flax Bourton	11.3, 22	Winscombe & Sandford	1.7, 4
Hutton	6.2, 11.4, 12.5, 13.2, 14.2	Wraxall & Failand	1.10, 10, 12.3
Kenn	None	Wroughton	1.3
Kewstoke	6.1, 16	Yatton	8, 12.1, 13.9
Kingston Seymour	20		



DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

Draft recommendation 1: That the parish council sizes be amended where current representation does not align with the National Association of Local Council's recommended councillor numbers.

See Appendix A for NALC's guidance on recommended number of council size and Appendix B for the 5-year forecast electorate for each parish.

1.1: Reduce Blagdon parish council to 8 seats (currently 11).

Proposed by three first-stage consultation submissions: two from residents and one from a parish councillor.

1.2: Reduce Churchill parish council to 10 seats (currently 13).

Proposed by one first-stage consultation submission from a resident.

1.3: Reduce Wrington parish council to 10 seats (currently 16), **allocating 2 to the Northeast ward and 8 to the Southwest ward.**

A first-stage consultation submission from a parish councillor proposed reducing the number of seats to 12 (10 in SW Ward and 2 in NE Ward). North Somerset Council's draft recommendation goes further, suggesting 10 seats to align with NALC guidance.

1.4: Reduce Long Ashton parish council to 14 seats (currently 21).

Proposed by one first-stage consultation submission from a resident, supported by NSC officers.

1.5: Increase Burrington parish council to 7 seats (currently 5).

Proposed by one first-stage consultation submission from a parish councillor.

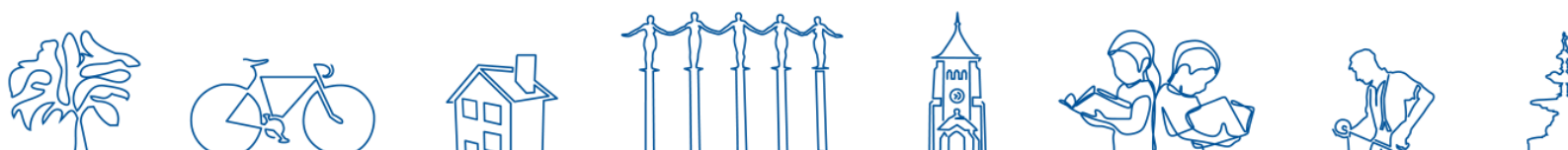
1.6: Increase Portishead Town council to 18 seats (currently 14).

Proposed by four first-stage consultation submissions: three from residents and one from a parish councillor.

Note that the proposal of 18 seats came from the consultation responses. There is scope to increase the council size to up to 23 seats to align with NALC's recommended number.

1.7: Reduce Winscombe and Sandford parish council to 13 seats (currently 15).

Proposed by one first-stage consultation submission from a resident.



1.8: Reduce Backwell parish council to 12 seats (currently 15).

Proposed by one first-stage consultation submission from a resident.

1.9: Reduce Locking parish council to 13 seats (currently 15).

Proposed by one first-stage consultation submission from a resident.

1.10: Reduce Wraxall and Failand parish council to 9 seats (currently 11).

Proposed by two first-stage consultation submissions from residents.

1.11: Reduce Weston-super-Mare Town council to 29 seats (currently 31).

Several submissions were received proposing a reduction in the council size.

It has been identified that the number and distribution of councillors across the Weston-super-Mare wards is uneven (see Appendix C). Accordingly, it is recommended that the number of councillors representing the Weston-super-Mare South Worle ward and the Weston-super-Mare Milton ward be reduced from four to three to align with the other wards, based on current electorate figures.

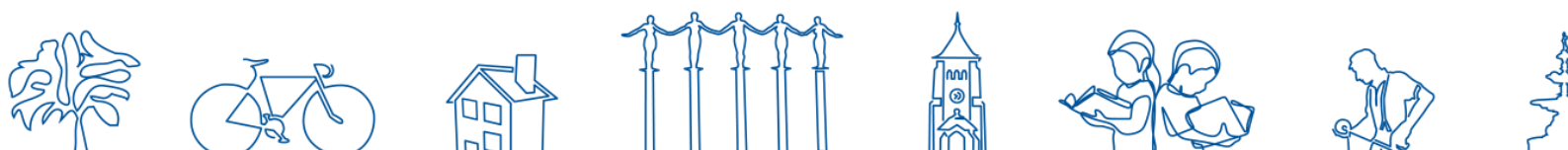
This adjustment would reduce the overall council size of Weston-super-Mare by two, which would align more closely with NALC's recommended size and would ensure a fairer distribution of representation across all wards.

1.12: Reduce Clevedon Town Council to 20 seats (currently 21).

Several submissions were received proposing a reduction in the council size to 15 members due to recruitment challenges, which often result in uncontested elections. However, it is noted that such a reduction would cause the number of seats to fall well below the level recommended by the NALC. Therefore, a significant decrease in council size is not considered an appropriate or viable solution to this issue.

It has been identified, however, that the number and distribution of councillors across the Clevedon wards is uneven (see Appendix D). Accordingly, it is recommended that the number of councillors representing the Clevedon Walton ward be reduced from five to four to align with the other wards, based on current electorate figures.

This adjustment would reduce the overall council size of Clevedon by one. While this would not precisely match NALC's recommended size of 21 councillors—based on a projected electorate of 18,889, it would ensure a fairer distribution of representation across all wards.



Draft recommendation 2: That the boundary of Backwell parish be amended to reflect residential development with planning permission already obtained.

Current Arrangements

Two small sections of the Backwell parish boundary run through areas of residential developments where planning permission has been obtained.

Recommendation

2.1 That the Backwell boundary be extended to include all proposed housing at Grove Farm within the parish of Backwell.

2.2 That the Backwell boundary with Nailsea be amended to ensure any proposed residential development and Nailsea is sited within Nailsea's boundary.

See Appendix E for maps illustrating both these amendments.

Rationale

Proposed by two first-stage consultation submissions, one from Backwell Parish Council and one from a resident highlighting the need to ensure that all planned residential development remains within the appropriate parish boundary.

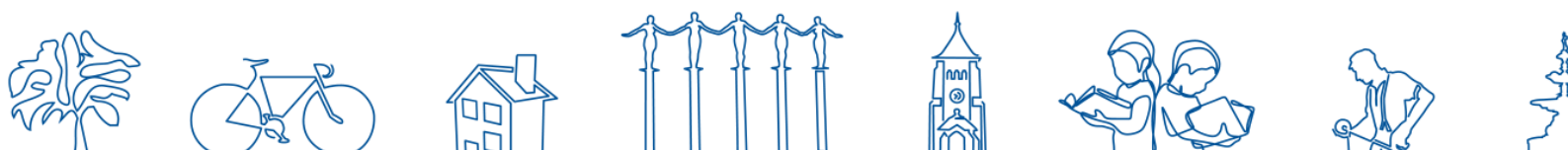
Comments from planning: We would support these changes from a planning perspective as it means that proposed development that now has a resolution to grant consent at Grove Farm sits solely within one ward. It would only affect two current residential properties, Old Barton, Chelvey Road and Old Field House, Chelvey Road. These properties are currently within Brockley parish but would be in Backwell parish if the change went ahead. The south Nailsea one seems negligible and does not appear to affect any existing properties.

Key impacts

Electorate

Would move the following two residential properties from Brockley to Backwell.

- Old Field House, Chelvey Road, Brockley, BS48 4AD – two electors.
- Old Barton, Chelvey Road, Brockley, BS48 4AD – two electors.



Financial implications

Council tax: (see Appendix F for full breakdown).

Brockley parish council – potential precept decrease of -2.0%.

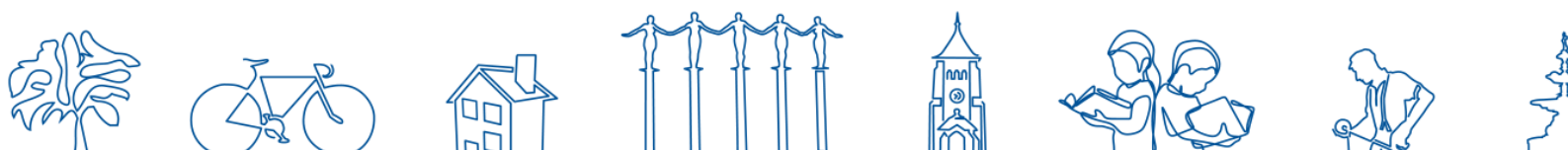
Backwell parish council – potential precept increase of 0.1%.

Old Field House residents – potential increase in council tax of £64.34.

Old Barton residents – potential increase in council tax of £47.18.

District ward boundaries

Under current arrangements, the two properties are within the Wrington district ward. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England will review ward boundaries in 2025/2026 and may move these properties into the Backwell district ward.



Draft recommendation 3: That the boundary of Portishead be extended to include the residential dwellings in Moor Gate.

Current Arrangements

The Moor Gate cul-de-sac comprises 58 dwellings, accommodating approximately 86 residents, and is situated within the parish of Portbury, adjacent to its shared boundary with the parish of Portishead.

Recommendation

Extend the Portishead boundary to the east to include those 58 Moor Gate dwellings, which would join the Portishead East ward of Portishead (See Appendix G).

Rationale

Proposed by one first-stage consultation submissions from Portishead Town Council citing:

- Shared identity
- Proximity – The dwellings are linked to Portishead rather than the village of Portbury which is a few miles away.

Comments from planning: Change appears to make sense from an 'on the ground' perspective noting that Portbury Parish council would lose 58 properties to Portishead.

Key impacts

Electorate

An increase for Portishead (East ward) from 5831 to 5971.

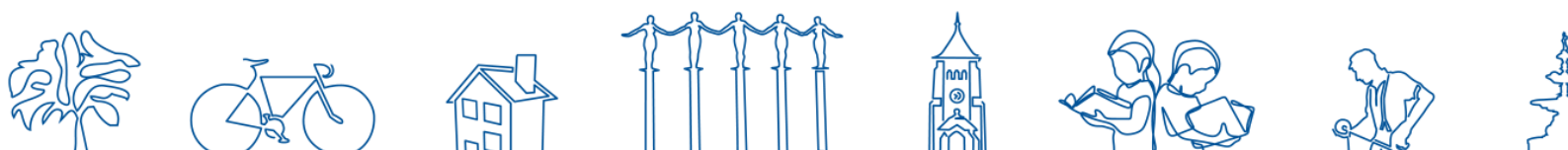
A decrease for Portbury from 757 to 671.

Financial implications

Council tax: (see Appendix H for full breakdown).

Portbury parish council – potential precept decrease of -13.1%.

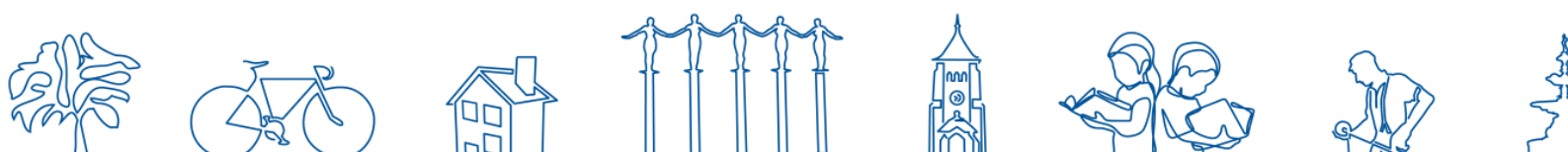
Portishead Town council – potential precept increase of 0.6%.



Moor Gate residents – potential increase in council tax of £71.24 (Band D).

District ward boundaries

The Moor Gate dwellings currently lie within the Gordano Valley district ward. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England will review ward boundaries in 2026 and may move these properties into the Portishead East ward.



Draft recommendation 4: That the parish of Winscombe and Sandford be divided into two wards for the purpose of electing councillors.

Current Arrangements

The parish of Winscombe and Sandford is unwarded.

Recommendation

That the parish be divided into two separate wards to reflect the identity of each of the villages:

- Winscombe ward
- Sandford ward

The proposed ward boundary to follow the already established polling district boundaries for Winscombe and Sandford. (see Appendix I).

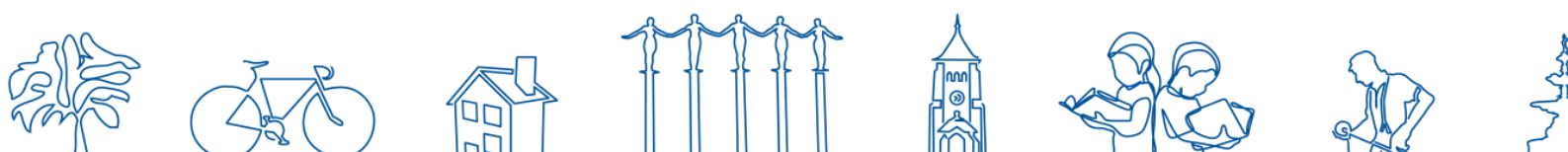
Based on elector distribution, 10 seats to be allocated to the Winscombe ward and 3 seats to be allocated to the Sandford ward (note that this is providing the council size is reduced to 13 seats as per draft recommendation 1.7).

Rationale

Warding is offered as an alternative suggestion to separating Winscombe and Sandford to create two new parishes as proposed in one First Stage Consultation submission.

Key impacts

This recommendation has no impact on current electorate sizes, council tax or district ward boundaries.



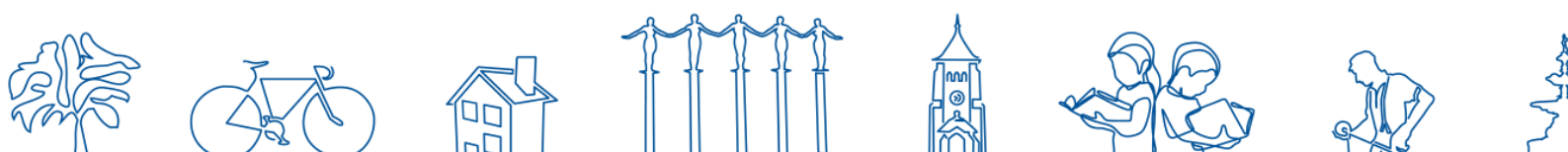
Draft recommendation 5: That the ward names in Weston-super-Mare be updated where they do not currently reflect the community identity.

5.1: That the Weston-super-Mare Bournville ward be renamed Weston-super-Mare South ward.

This would align the parish ward name with the district ward name.

5.2: That the Weston-super-Mare Worlebury ward be renamed Weston-super-Mare Worle West & Worlebury ward.

Under current arrangements, the Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke district ward is made up of the Weston-super-Mare Worlebury parish ward and the parish of Kewstoke. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England may seek to review the district ward name as part of their 2025/2026 review if this draft recommendation is implemented.



Draft recommendation 6: That the Weston-super-Mare boundary be amended to reflect completed residential development.

Current Arrangements

The current Weston-super-Mare boundary runs through housing developments in the Eastern end of Kewstoke and Hutton around Woodside.

Recommendation

6.1: That the Weston-super-Mare boundary be extended to include housing in the Eastern end of Kewstoke around Anson Road (see Appendix J).

This area is made up of 106 properties containing 221 electors.

6.2: That the Weston-super-Mare boundary be extended to include a section of Hutton around Woodside which is an extension of Oldmixon (see Appendix J).

This area is made up of 406 properties containing 629 electors.

Rationale

Recent housing developments have caused residential areas to spill over parish boundary lines. Amendments in these areas will ensure that the dwellings in situated within the parish they seem more aligned to.

Key impacts

Electorate

6.1

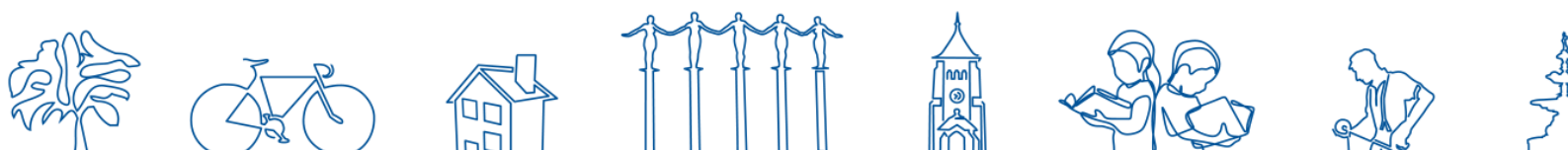
An increase for Weston-super-Mare from 62,605 to 62,826.

A decrease for Kewstoke from 1486 to 1265.

6.2

An increase for Weston-super-Mare from 62,605 to 63,234.

A decrease for Hutton from 2395 to 1,766.



Financial implications

Council tax: (see Appendix K for full breakdown).

6.1

Kewstoke parish council – potential precept decrease of -14.9%.

Weston-super-Mare Town council – potential precept increase of 0.4%.

Residents – potential increase in council tax of £79.90 (Band D).

6.2

parish council – potential precept decrease of -30.8%.

Weston-super-Mare Town council – potential precept increase of 1.4%.

Residents – potential increase in council tax of £23.36 (Band D).

District ward boundaries

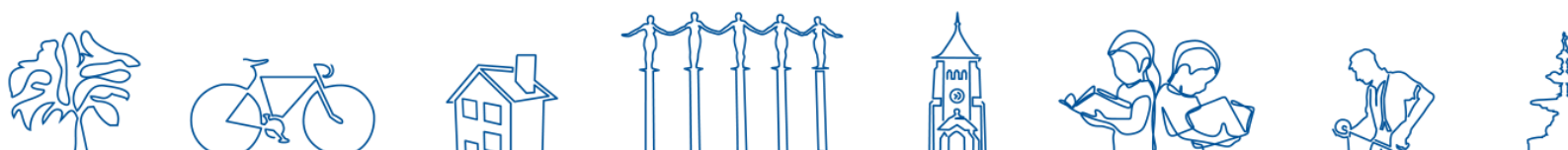
6.1 The 106 properties currently sit within the Weston-super-Mare Kewstoke district ward. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England will review ward boundaries in 2025/2026 and may move these properties to make the district ward boundaries and the Parish ward boundaries coterminous.

6.2 The 406 properties currently sit within the Hutton & Locking district ward. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England will review ward boundaries in 2025/2026 and may move these properties to make the district ward boundaries and the Parish ward boundaries coterminous.

Other

Comments from planning:

6.1 In addition to the 106 existing properties that would be affected by the amendment to the Kewstoke boundary there are two future development sites included within the boundary change, one with planning permission and one with a resolution to grant consent subject to completion of a legal agreement. If the sites are developed the new dwellings would be within Weston-super-Mare's boundary, rather than Kewstoke where the land sits at present.



Draft recommendation 7: That the Nailsea boundary be amended to the south to follow the route of the railway line as a hard constraint.

Current Arrangements

The Nailsea boundary with the neighbouring parishes Brockley and Backwell for most parts follows the River Kenn.

Recommendation

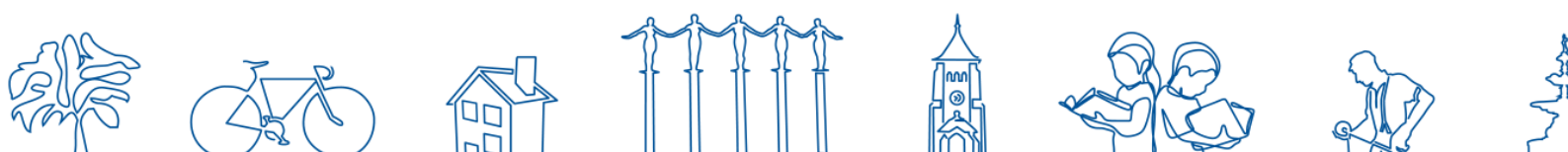
That the southern boundary of Nailsea should be amended to follow the route of the railway line as a hard constraint. Altering this boundary would add additional land to the Parish of Backwell and add and subtract land from the Parish of Brockley (See Appendix L).

Rationale

To ensure that the parish boundary aligns with another natural feature that is more clearly defined.

Key impacts

As there are no residential dwellings situated on the land being impacted by the proposed changes there will be no impact on current electorate sizes, council tax or district ward boundaries.



Draft recommendation 8: That the Parish of Yatton be renamed Yatton and Claverham to better reflect local identity.

Rationale

Proposed by one submission from Yatton parish council:

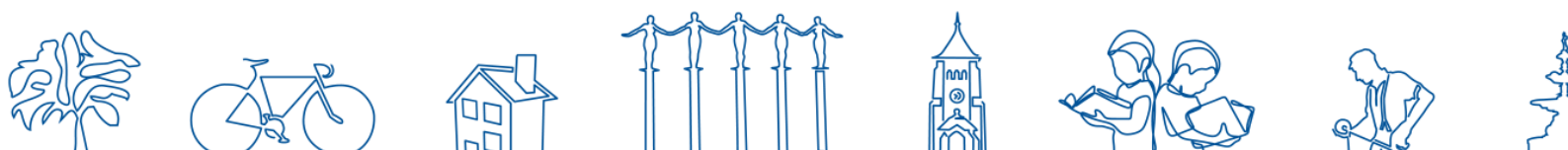
“We think that the name of the existing parish should be changed from Yatton to Yatton and Claverham. The reason for this is that Claverham is a significant community in its own right – it even has its own Neighbourhood Development Plan - and ought to be included in the name of the parish”.

Key impacts

This recommendation has no impact on current electorate sizes or council tax.

District ward boundaries

Under current arrangements, the district ward name for this area is Yatton. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England may amend this to Yatton and Claverham as part of its 2025/2026 review if this recommendation is implemented.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NO CHANGE

Draft recommendation 9 (as amended): The boundary of Abbots Leigh should not be extended, and the Leigh Woods ward should consequently remain within the parish of Long Ashton. The Stage Two consultation should acknowledge this position and seek further views from residents.

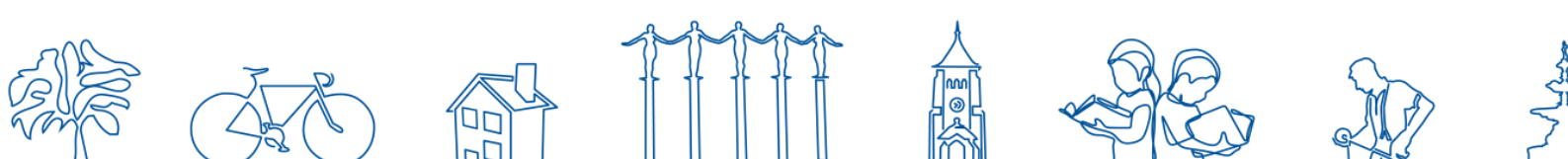
In response to a submission received from three first-stage consultation submissions, one from Abbots Leigh Parish Council and two from residents recommending that the boundary of Abbots Leigh be extended to include the Long Ashton Leigh Woods ward. See Appendix M for maps of the proposed boundary changes.

Rationale

- **Shared Identity & Issues:** Both areas are semi-rural, part of the same church parish, and face common challenges.
- **Community Use:** Residents of both communities use facilities in Abbots Leigh.
- **Governance Efficiency:** A combined council of 8 members for Abbots Leigh would improve resilience and reduce risk of inquorate meetings.
- **Focus on Growth:** Separating from Long Ashton allows it to focus on its upcoming urban expansion and associated challenges.
- **Historic Support:** Leigh Woods residents previously voted in favour of joining Abbots Leigh in the 2008/09 review.
-

Rationale for not proposing amending the boundary as a draft recommendation for change.

This was initially presented in the officer report to P&R in July as a proposal for change; however, members voted to amend it, resulting in a recommendation to maintain the current arrangements.



Draft recommendation 10: That the residential area known as The Elms and the undeveloped area to the north remains in Wraxall & Failand

In response to a submission received from Nailsea Town Council, with support from five residents and two elected members that the Nailsea boundary be extended to follow the Land Yeo (River) which wraps around the town to the North and East.

This amendment would impact the houses in “The Elms” (currently in Wraxall & Failand) which, given their proximity, would join the existing Nailsea Golden Valley parish ward.

See Appendix N for a map illustrating this change.

The rationale behind this proposal was as follows:

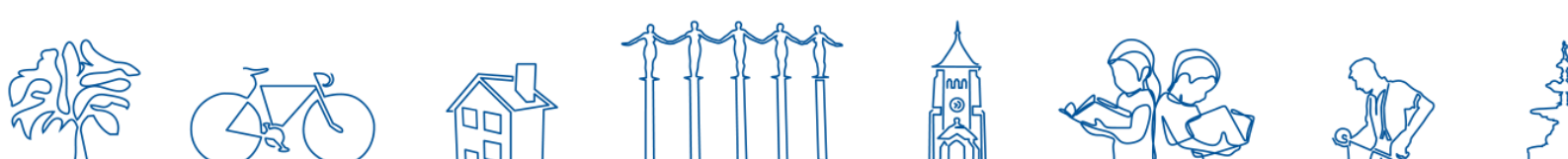
- **Natural boundaries** – clearly defined and more permanent than housing development boundaries which are likely to change over time.
- **Community use** – The Elms’ residents’ benefit from facilities in Nailsea but do not contribute to their upkeep.
- **Shared identity** – The Elms would appear to be more aligned with Nailsea than Wraxall & Failand.

Rationale for not proposing amending the boundary as a draft recommendation for change.

Opposition

Over 69% of the submissions received during the first-stage consultation related specifically to this proposal, with all respondents expressing strong opposition for the following reasons:

- **Loss of community identity.**
- A primary aim of a CGR is to ensure governance arrangements reflect the local community’s identity. Opposing submissions indicate this proposal would not align with that identity.
- **A preference of Wraxall & Failand Parish Council over Nailsea Town Council.**
- The submissions opposing this proposal indicated that the existing electoral arrangements facilitate effective and convenient community governance, which is a key objective of a CGR.
- **Concerns regarding the green belt and Nailsea’s lack of Neighbourhood Plan.**



- An important aim of a CGR is to ensure that governance arrangements serve the interests of the community. The feedback received suggests that this proposal would not do so.
- **Impact on Council tax.**
- The Elms residents would see a potential increase in council tax of £60.05 (Band D).
- **Detrimental impact on Wraxall and Failand Parish Council.**
- Under this proposal, 324 properties comprising 679 electors would be transferred from Wraxall and Failand Parish to Nailsea. This represents approximately 35% of the total electorate of Wraxall and Failand. Such a change would not only result in a potential reduction in the parish council's council tax precept of approximately -36.6% but would also significantly diminish the pool of residents eligible to stand for election as parish councillors. Arguably, both these consequential matters could be detrimental to effective community governance.
- **Historic support for The Elms to remain part of Wraxall & Failand.**
- A significant number of submissions referred to a 2009 referendum in which residents of The Elms voted to remain within the parish of Wraxall and Failand.

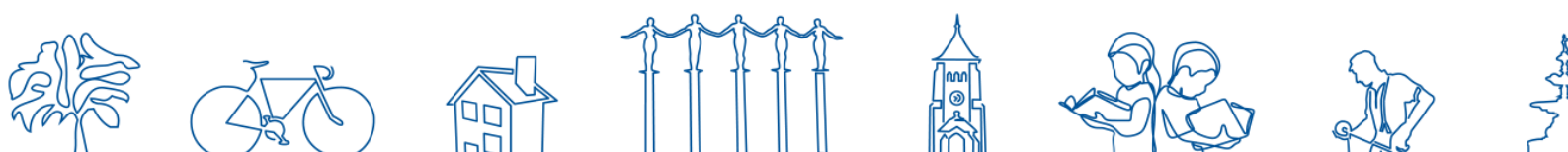
Neighbourhood plan and CIL implications

Comments from planning:

The Elms – There would be neighbourhood plan and CIL implications. Properties at the elms are currently covered by the Wraxall and Failand neighbourhood plan policies. It is our current understanding that the policies would continue to apply, but any future development within The Elms would pay CIL to Nailsea rather than Wraxall and Failand (although we don't anticipate any significant housebuilding within this area, it is already built out).

North Nailsea – This is a potential residential development in the local plan, and there is a current planning application being considered for 381 dwellings. Under current arrangements, they would be in Wraxall and Failand and would pay CIL and council tax to them. If the boundary changes the CIL and council tax would go to Nailsea.

Accordingly, North Somerset Council officers consider that no further feedback would be secured by presenting this proposal as a draft recommendation for change during the second-stage consultation



Draft recommendation 11: That no amendments be made as part of this review to parish boundaries and council sizes in areas of potential housing development that has not obtained planning consent.

11.1: That a review of proposed amendments to the Banwell parish boundary be deferred until housing development is complete.

In response to a submission received recommending the Mead Estate be removed from Banwell and the boundary is expanded up to the motorway to encompass the new Wolvershill development.

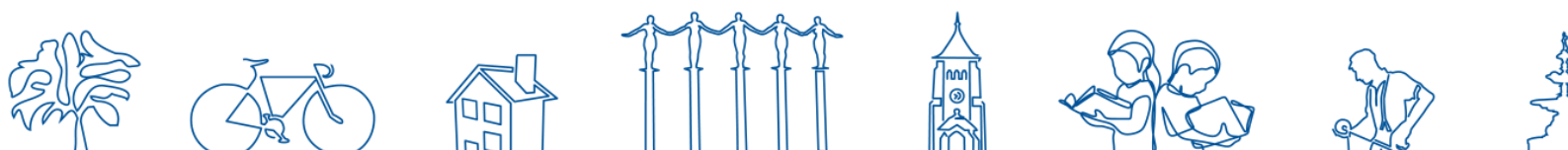
11.2: That a decision on increasing the size of Bleadon Parish Council be deferred until the Regulation 19 stage of North Somerset Council's Local Plan provides more certainty regarding proposed housing growth.

11.3: That a review of the Flax Bourton boundary be deferred until there is more certainty on the proposed development of 4000 houses south of the A370 around the A38.

11.4: That a decision on creating a new parish comprising areas from Locking and Banwell be deferred until the completion of the housing developments.

In response to a submission received which recommended creating a new parish "Locking Parklands & Mead Fields" by combining the Locking Parklands, Mead Fields, and Keepmoat developments (currently in Locking) and the Wolvershill development (currently in Banwell).

Further suggestion for combining the remaining area of Locking with Hutton.



Draft recommendation 12: That no parish mergers be made as part of this review where such changes would compromise or diminish distinct community identities.

The following sub-recommendations have been developed in response to submissions requesting specific mergers.

12.1: That Yatton, Claverham, Congresbury and Cleeve remain as separate parishes.

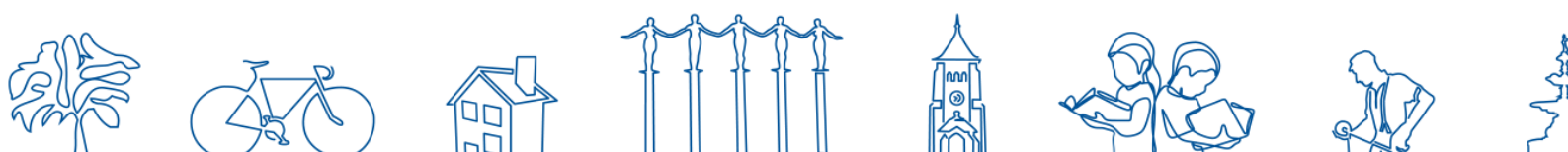
12.2: That Blagdon, Butcombe and Burrington remain as separate parishes.

12.3: That Long Ashton, Wraxall & Failand and Barrow Gurney remain as separate parishes.

12.4: That Nailsea and Backwell remain as separate parishes.

12.5: That Weston-super-Mare does not extend its boundary to incorporate Bleadon, Hutton and Locking (and specifically Locking Parklands).

12.6: That Weston-super-Mare does not extend its boundary to incorporate St Georges.



Draft recommendation 13: That no amendments be made to existing warding arrangements as part of this review where current arrangements support effective elections.

13.1: That the parish of Pill and Easton in Gordano remain unwarded.

In response to a suggestion to merge the two wards of Pill and Easton in Gordano to make the parish unwarded.

It is to be noted that these are two separate communities, and the running of a single election may be impractical or inconvenient.

13.2: That the parish of Hutton remain unwarded.

In response to a suggestion to divide Hutton into three separate wards: Hutton, Elborough, Woodside.

No evidence to suggest why the number and distribution of electors in Hutton make a single election of councillors impractical / inconvenient and that it would be desirable that these three areas of the parish should be separately represented.

13.3: That the parish of St Georges remain unwarded.

In response to a suggestion to divide St Georges into two separate wards: old St Georges & new St Georges.

No evidence to suggest why the number and distribution of electors in St Georges make a single election of councillors impractical / inconvenient and that it would be desirable that these two areas of the parish should be separately represented.

13.4: That the parish of Congresbury remain unwarded.

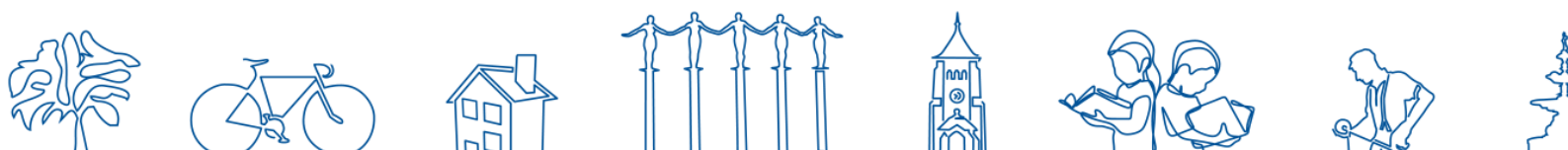
In response to a suggestion to split Congresbury into two separate wards using the river as a natural ward boundary line.

No evidence to suggest why the number and distribution of electors in Congresbury make a single election of councillors impractical / inconvenient and that it would be desirable that these two areas of the parish should be separately represented.

13.5: That the parish of Tickenham remain unwarded.

In response to a suggestion to split Tickenham into two separate wards.

No evidence to suggest why the number and distribution of electors in Tickenham make a single election of councillors impractical / inconvenient and



that it would be desirable that these any area of the parish separately represented.

13.6: That the current ward boundaries of the Portishead East ward and the Portishead West ward remain as they are.

In response to a suggestion to split the East and West wards into two each, resulting in six wards in total for Portishead.

Officers were unable to identify where the boundary line for each ward would be nor why the current electoral arrangements do not work.

13.7: That the current boundaries of Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle ward, Weston-super-Mare North Worle ward and Weston-super-Mare South Worle ward remain as they are.

In response to one First Stage Consultation suggestion to abolish the Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle ward and split between the Weston-super-Mare North Worle ward and Weston-super-Mare South Worle ward.

Officers were unable to identify where the boundary line for each ward would be nor why the current electoral arrangements do not work

13.8: That the current boundary of the Weston-super-Mare Uphill ward remain as it is.

In response to a single suggestion received during the First Stage Consultation proposing that the Oldmixon and Coronation housing estates be separated from the Weston-super-Mare Uphill ward on the grounds that those elected do not adequately represent both communities.

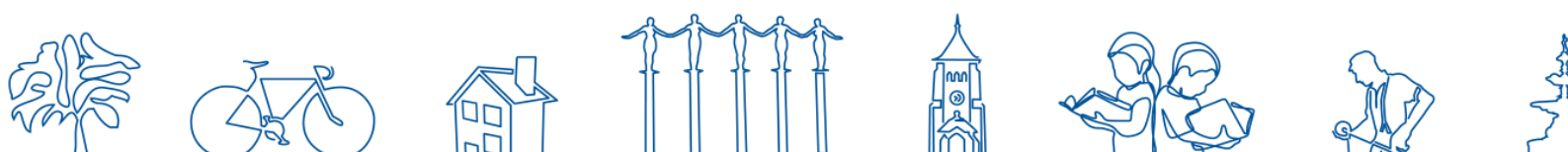
It is considered that creating a separate ward for these housing estates would not be an appropriate solution. Residents are already able to stand for election themselves should

they feel their communities are not being sufficiently represented.

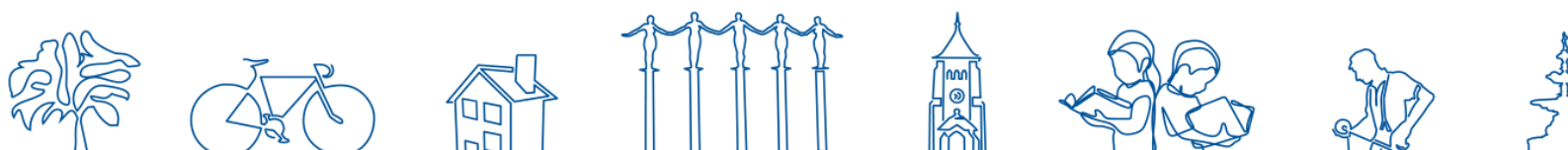
13.9: That the number of wards in the parish of Yatton remain at four.

In response to one First Stage Consultation suggestion from Yatton parish council to reduce to two wards (Yatton and Claverham, see Appendix O) citing:

“These divisions make little geographical or social sense and merely serve to create problems during local elections. In the past we have had to spend money holding an election despite having more vacancies than councillors, simply because one ward had a surfeit of candidates whilst all others had a dearth. This is an unnecessary waste of resources”.



Officers were unable to identify why the current electoral arrangements do not work and would suggest putting this out as a no change recommendation to invite further feedback before P&R make a final decision.



Draft recommendation 14: That the sizes of parish councils remain unchanged where they are consistent with the councillor numbers recommended by the National Association of Local Councils based on forecast electorate sizes.

In response to multiple submissions proposing various changes to council sizes without providing supporting justification.

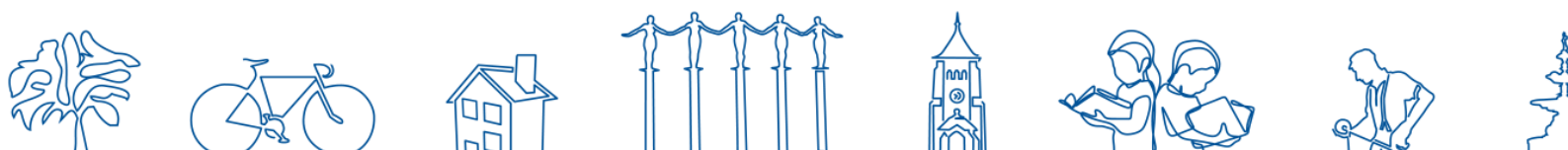
14.1: That the council size of Cleeve remains 7.

14.2: That the council size of Hutton remains 10.

14.3: That the council size of Nailsea remains 20.

14.4: That the council size of St Georges remains 9.

14.5: That the council size of Congresbury remains 12.



Draft recommendation 15: That the area of Worle remains in Weston-super-Mare and does not become its own parish.

In response to two submissions proposing that the area of Worle become a separate parish independent from Weston-super-Mare.

Given the potentially significant implications of such a proposal, and the overall level of demand for this change remains unclear, it would be more appropriate to consider this matter through a dedicated review at a future stage if demand requires and when adequate resources are available.

Draft recommendation 16: That the Weston-super-Mare Worlebury ward remains in Weston-super-Mare and is not transferred to Kewstoke.

In response to one submission proposing that the Weston-super-Mare boundary be reduced to exclude the Worlebury ward which would be transferred to the parish of Kewstoke.

Planning have observed that this would be impractical as in functional terms Worlebury is split from Kewstoke due to its topography, and there are no obvious boundaries.

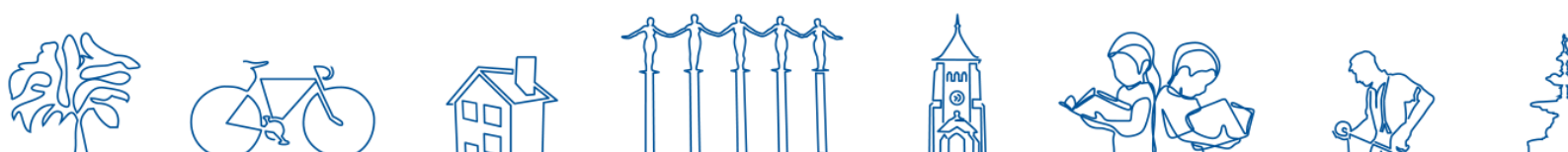
Draft recommendation 17: That the parish of Nailsea is not renamed Failand

In response to a submission proposing that the parish of Nailsea be renamed Failand, it is considered that such a change would adversely affect the identity of Nailsea.

Draft recommendation 18: That the developments off Ebdon Road remain in Wick St. Lawrence and are not transferred to Weston-super-Mare.

In response to a submission proposing the extension of the Weston-super-Mare boundary to incorporate developments off Ebdon Road, which are currently within Wick St Lawrence.

If enacted, this change would result in West Wick parish losing approximately 85% of its electorate and 84% of its properties, thereby significantly undermining the effectiveness and efficiency of its community governance arrangements.



Draft recommendation 19: That the Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve remains in Portbury

In response to a submission proposing that the Portishead boundary be extended to incorporate the Portbury Wharf nature reserve, which is currently within Portbury, it is noted that this area contains no residential properties nor is it suitable for future housing development. As such, the proposal has no implications for electoral arrangements and, therefore, should not be considered as part of this review.

Draft recommendation 20: That no amendments be made to the Kingston Seymour boundary.

In response to a submission recommending the extension of the Kingston Seymour boundary to incorporate properties on Lampley Road, which are currently within Yatton. Officers have been unable to identify a clear boundary that would accommodate this proposal, nor have they identified a rationale for the change. Presenting this as a no-change recommendation may encourage further feedback.

Draft recommendation 21: That no new parishes be created through the separation of existing parishes where current arrangements support effective and efficient community governance.

The following sub-recommendations address submissions advocating for the specific creation of new parishes.

21.1: That the parish of Weston-super-Mare is not subdivided to create smaller parishes.

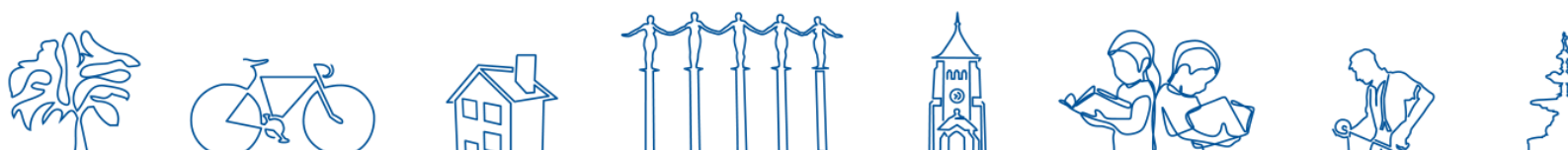
21.2: That the parish of Clevedon is not subdivided to create smaller parishes.

21.3: That the parish of Nailsea is not subdivided to create smaller parishes.

21.4: That the parish of Portishead is not subdivided to create smaller parishes.

21.5: That Wick St Lawrence West Wick ward remains in Wick St Lawrence and Locking Castle remains in Weston-super-Mare.

In response to a submission proposing the two areas form a new parish.

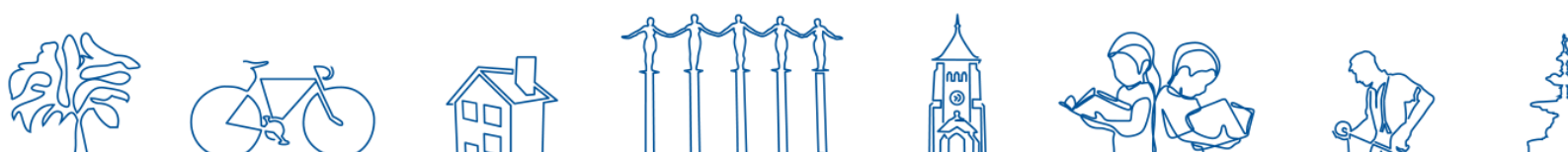


Draft recommendation 22: That no amendments be made to the Flax Bourton boundary

In response to a submission proposing a review of the parish boundary between Flax Bourton and Long Ashton, due to its course through Flax Bourton Station yard causing potential confusion in relation to planning applications. As this issue does not affect the electoral arrangements of the parishes, it is considered to fall outside the scope of a Community Governance Review.

Draft recommendation 23: That any proposals received during the first-stage consultation that are beyond the scope of a CGR do not progress to the second-stage consultation.

In response to all other submissions proposing changes that fall outside the scope of a Community Governance Review.



Next steps.

These Draft Recommendations will be published on Friday, 29 August, formally commencing an eight-week second-stage consultation.

During this period, feedback will be sought on the specific proposals to help inform the Final Recommendations, which will be presented to the P&R Committee at its meeting in December.

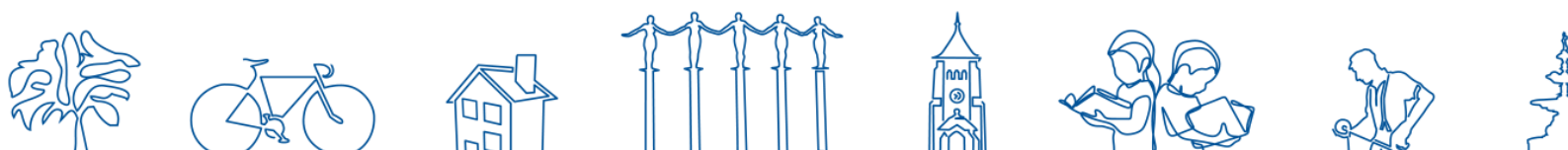
Should any changes to existing electoral arrangements be agreed, the necessary Reorganisation Order will be made to ensure that the revised arrangements are in place for the 2027 Local Government elections.

Background papers

[Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007](#)

[Terms of Reference](#)

[First Stage Consultation – Supporting Comments](#)



Appendices

Appendix A – The National Association of Local Councils guidance of council sizes

Appendix B – Projected 5-year forecast electorate

Appendix C – Weston-super-Mare Town Council allocation of seats per ward

Appendix D – Clevedon Town Council allocation of seats per ward

Appendix E – Maps illustrating the proposed boundary changes to Backwell (Draft Recommendation 2).

Appendix F – Council tax impact of boundary amendment to Backwell. (Draft recommendation 2).

Appendix G – Map illustrating the proposed boundary changes to Portishead and Portbury (Draft Recommendation 3).

Appendix H – Council tax impact of boundary amendment to Portishead and Portbury. (Draft recommendation 3).

Appendix I – Map illustrating the proposed ward boundary for Winscombe and Sandford (Draft Recommendation 4).

Appendix J – Maps illustrating the proposed boundary changes to Weston-super-Mare (Draft Recommendation 6).

Appendix K – Council tax impact of boundary amendment to Weston-super-Mare. (Draft recommendation 6).

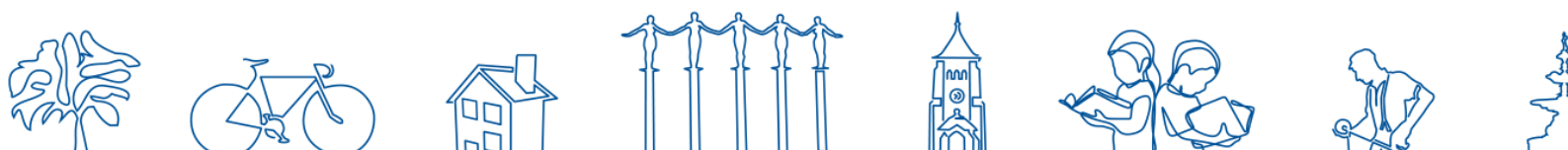
Appendix L – Map illustrating the proposed boundary change to Nailsea (Draft Recommendation 7).

Appendix M – Maps illustrating the proposed boundary changes to Abbots Leigh and

Long Ashton (Draft recommendation 9)

Appendix N – Map illustrating the suggested boundary change to Nailsea (Draft Recommendation 10).

Appendix O - Map illustrating the suggested ward boundary change to Yatton (Draft Recommendation 13.9).



Appendix A

The National Association of Local Councils Guidance of council sizes

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.

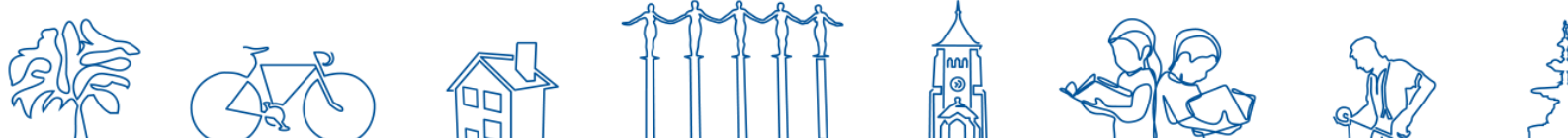
It is considered the local council business does not usually require a large body of councillors, and business convenience makes it appropriate to suggest the practical maximum should be 25.

The point that “the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors” is reiterated by the government.

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

Electors	Councillors	Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7	10,400	17
1,400	8	11,900	18
2,000	9	13,500	19
2,700	10	15,200	20
3,500	11	17,000	21
4,400	12	18,900	22
5,400	13	20,900	23
6,500	14	23,000	24
7,700	15	Over 23,500	25
9,000	16		

It should be noted however, that in rural authorities with sparsity of population, even this table may not be appropriate.



Appendix B

Projected 5-year forecast electorate

	Baseline February 2025		Projected 5-year forecast	
	Electorate	Seats	Electorate	Seats (NALC)
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
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



Appendix C

Weston-super-Mare Town Council allocation of seats per ward (Draft recommendation 1.11)

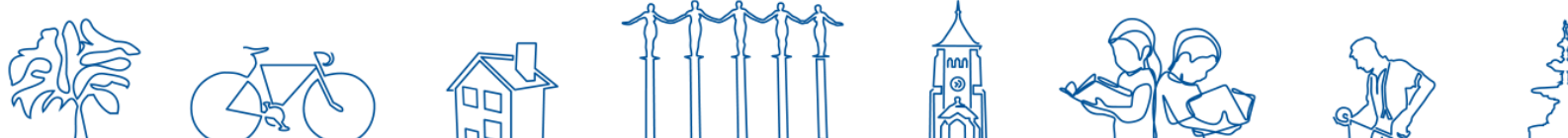
Ward	Electorate	Current seat allocation	Current electors per councillor	Proposed seat allocation	Electors per councillor
Weston-super-Mare Bournville Ward	6298	3	2099	3	2099
Weston-super-Mare Central Ward	6911	3	2304	3	2304
Weston-super-Mare Hillside Ward	6810	3	2270	3	2270
Weston-super-Mare Mid Worle Ward	3209	2	1605	2	1605
Weston-super-Mare Milton Ward	7114	4	1779	3	2371
Weston-super-Mare North Worle Ward	6156	3	2052	3	2052
Weston-super-Mare South Worle Ward	6904	4	1726	3	2301
Weston-super-Mare Uphill Ward	6609	3	2203	3	2203
Weston-super-Mare Winterstoke Ward	6798	3	2266	3	2266
Weston-super-Mare Worlebury Ward	5387	3	1796	3	1796



Appendix D

Clevedon Town Council allocation of seats per ward (Draft recommendation 1.12)

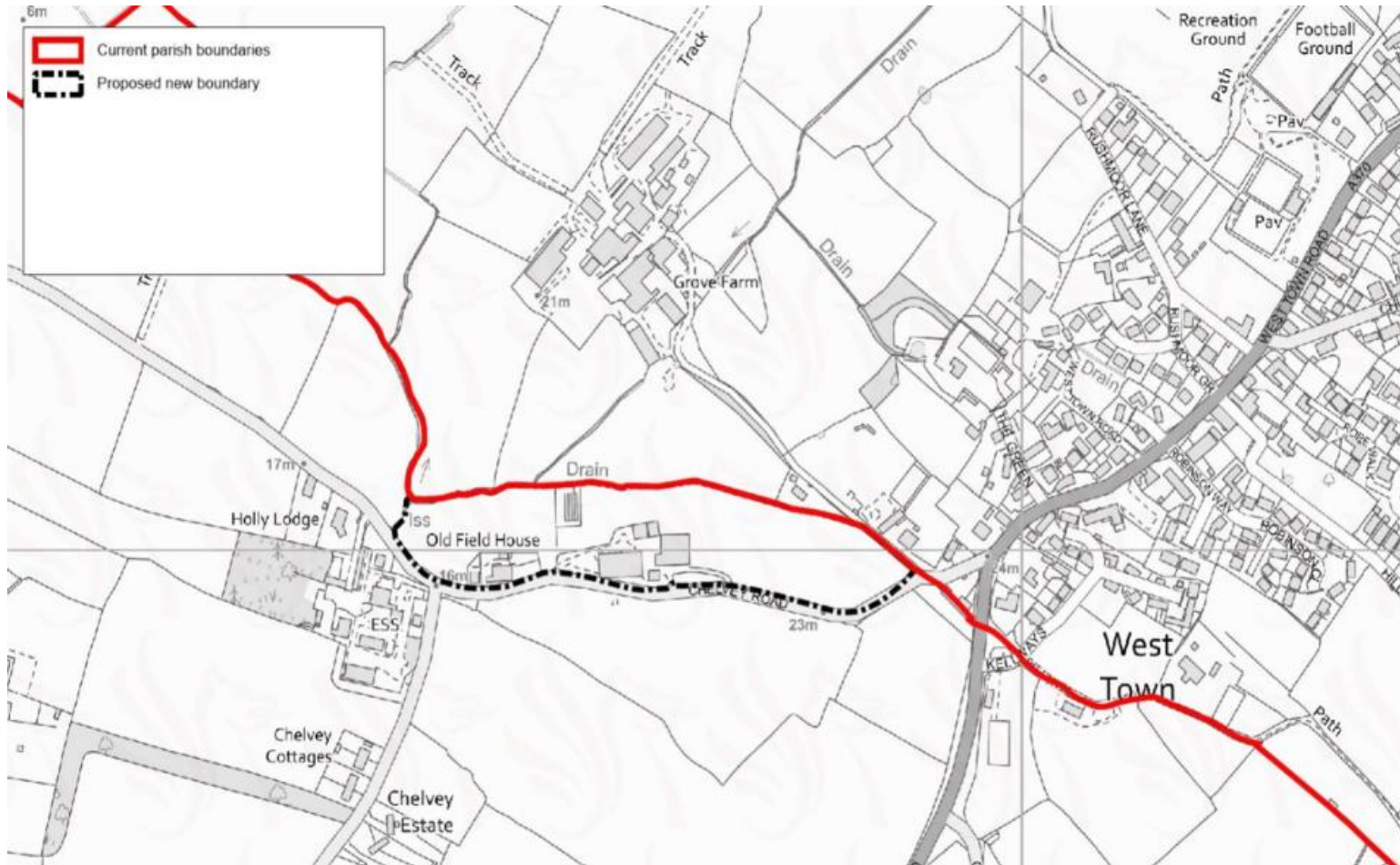
Ward	Electorate	Current seat allocation	Current electors per councillor	Proposed seat allocation	Electors per councillor
Clevedon East Ward	3444	4	861	4	861
Clevedon South Ward	3308	4	827	4	827
Clevedon Walton Ward	3491	5	698	4	873
Clevedon West Ward	3225	4	806	4	806
Clevedon Yeo Ward	3305	4	826	4	826



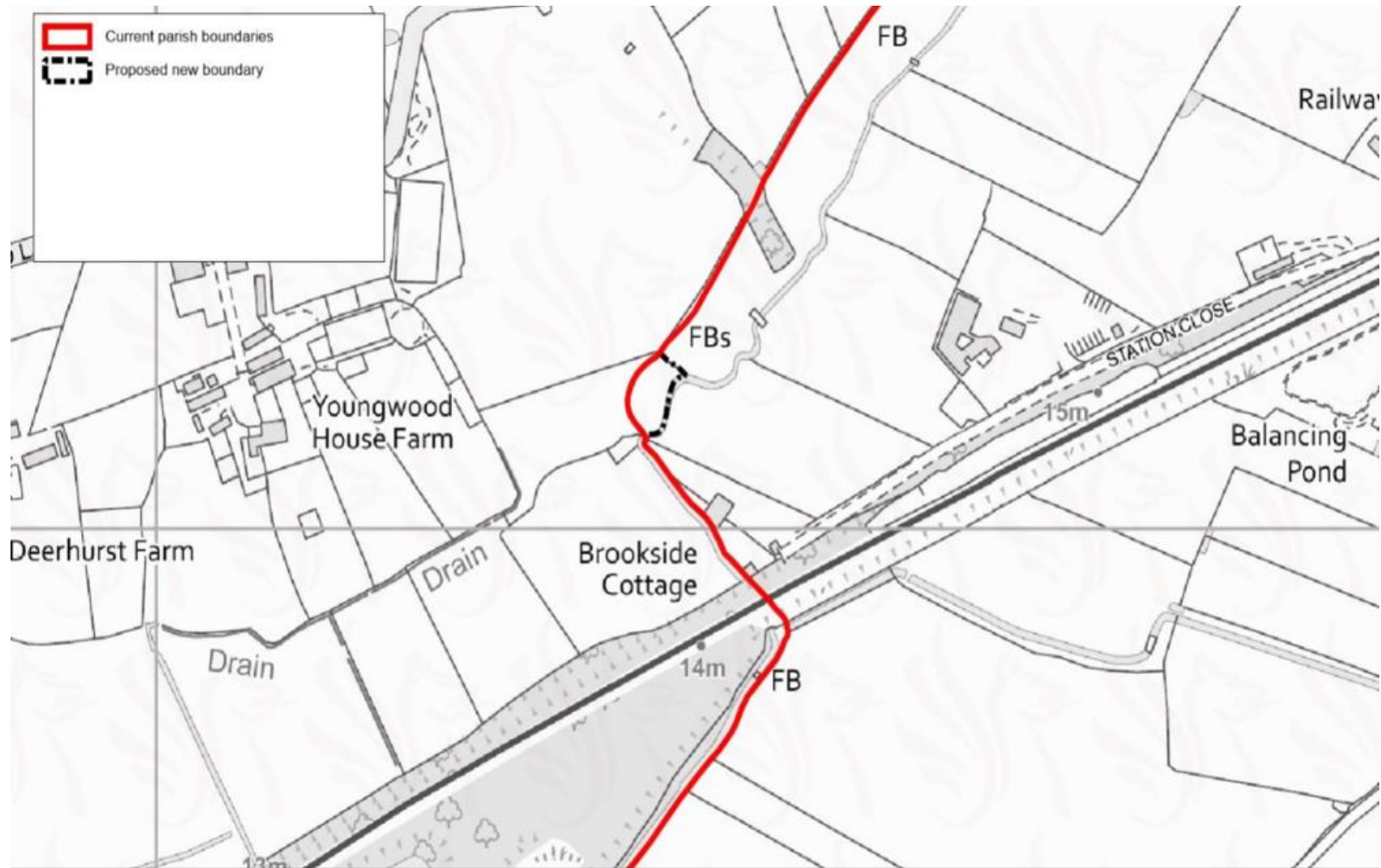
Appendix E

Maps illustrating the proposed boundary changes to Backwell (Draft Recommendation 2).

Grove Farm



Backwell / Nailsea boundary



Appendix F

Council tax impact of boundary amendment to Backwell. (Draft recommendation 2).

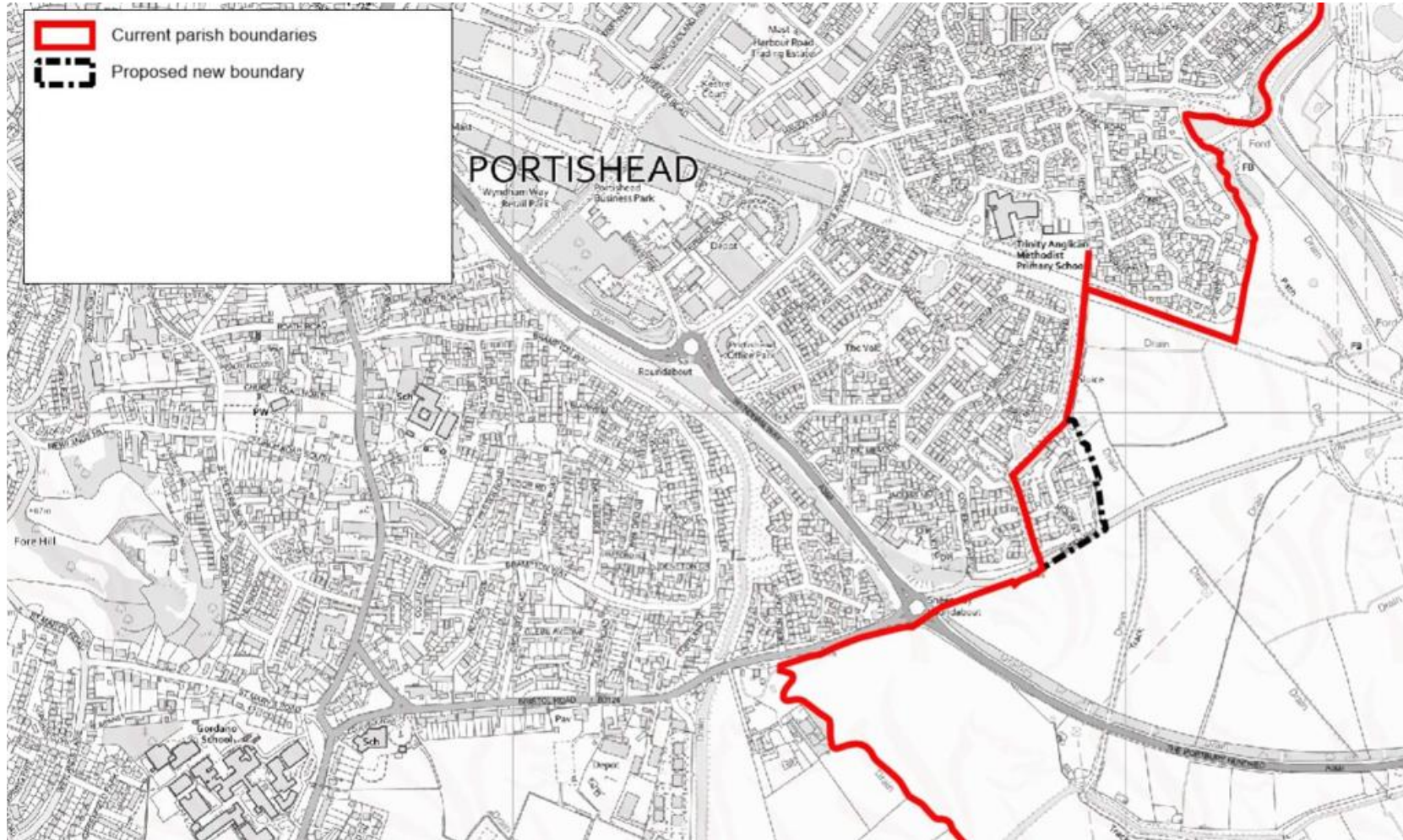
Parish precept by band in 2025/26

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	
Brockley	£30.45	£35.53	£40.60	£45.68	£55.83	£65.98	£76.13	£91.36	
Backwell	£56.19	£65.55	£74.92	£84.28	£103.01	£121.74	£140.47	£168.56	
Potential 2025/26 increase per property	£25.74	£30.02	£34.32	£38.60	£47.18	£55.76	£64.34	£77.20	
Potential properties to transfer	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Lost 2025/26 precept income for Brockley	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-55.83	£0.00	£-76.13	£0.00	Total £-131.96
Gained 2025/26 precept income for Backwell	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£103.01	£0.00	£140.47	£0.00	£243.48
Brockley 2025/26 precept	£6,482								
Brockley Potential decrease	£132	-2.0%							
Potential Revised 2025/26 precept	£6,350								
Backwell 2025/26 precept	£171,500								
Backwell Potential increase	£243	0.1%							
Potential Revised 2025/26 precept	£171,743								



Appendix G

Map illustrating the proposed boundary changes to Portishead and Portbury (Draft Recommendation 3).



Appendix H

Council tax impact of boundary amendment to Portishead and Portbury. (Draft recommendation 3).

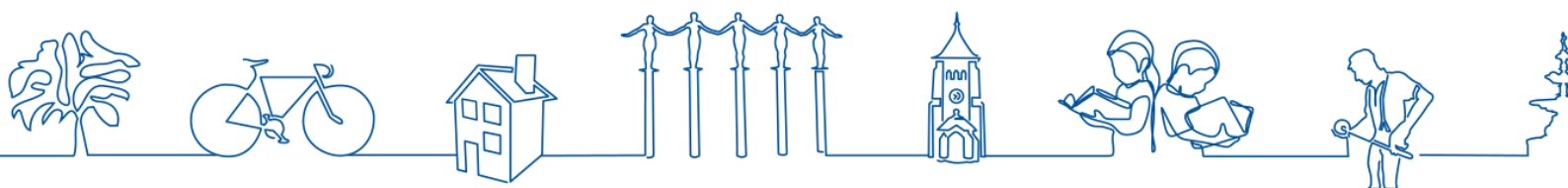
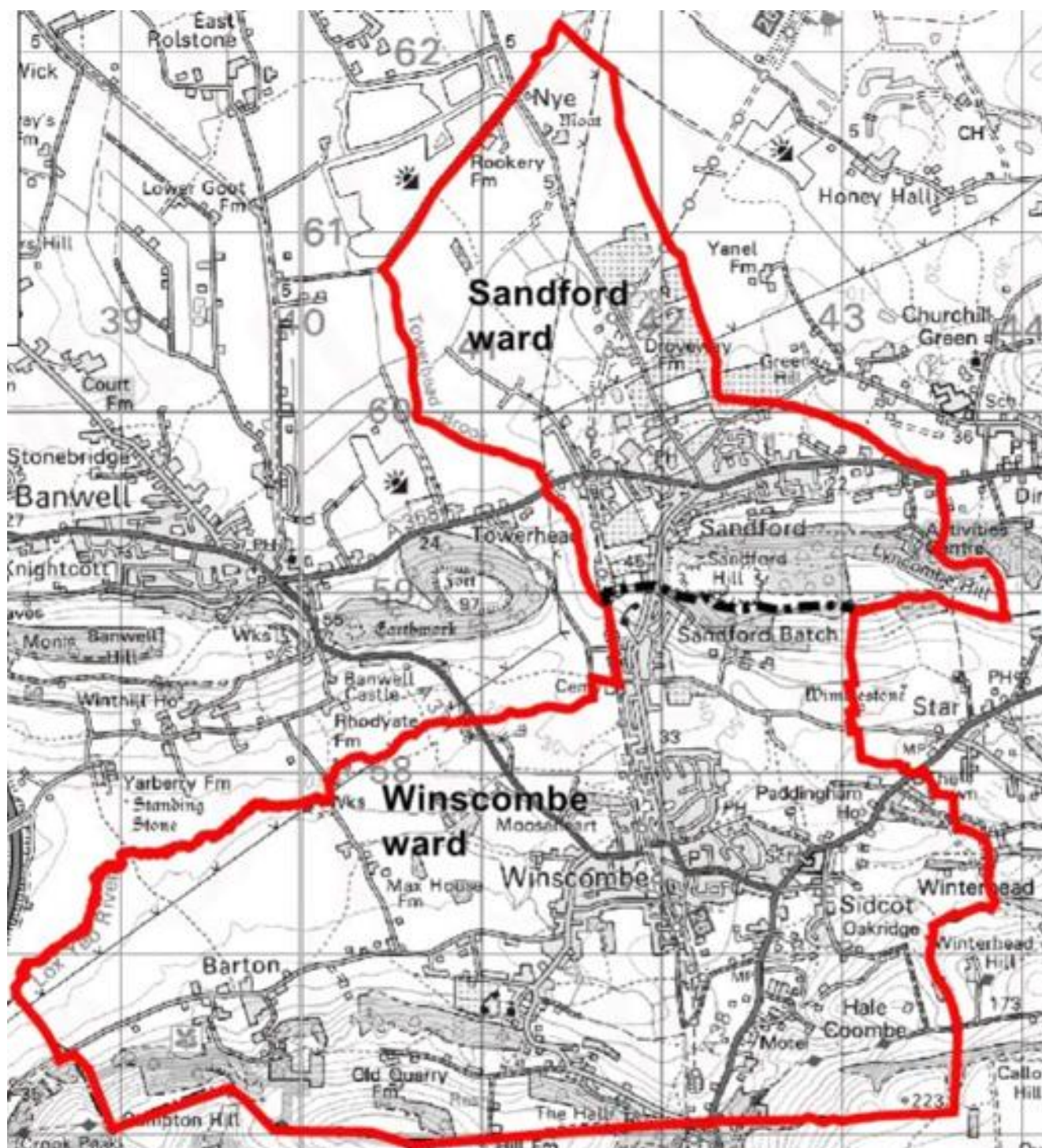
Parish precept by band in 2025/26

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	
Portbury	£49.34	£57.56	£65.79	£74.01	£90.46	£106.90	£123.35	£148.02	
Portishead	£96.83	£112.97	£129.11	£145.25	£177.53	£209.80	£242.08	£290.50	
Potential 2025/26 increase per property	£47.49	£55.41	£63.32	£71.24	£87.07	£102.90	£118.73	£142.48	
Potential properties to transfer	0	22	5	13	10	7	1	0	58
									Total
Lost 2025/26 precept income for Portbury	£0.00	-£1,266.32	-£328.95	-£962.13	-£904.60	-£748.30	-£123.35	£0.00	-£4,333.65
Gained 2025/26 precept income for Portishead	£0.00	£2,485.34	£645.55	£1,888.25	£1,775.30	£1,468.60	£242.08	£0.00	£8,505.12
Portbury 2025/26 precept	£33,045								
Portbury Potential decrease	-£4,334	-13.1%							
Potential Revised 2025/26 precept	£28,711								
Portishead 2025/26 precept	£1,484,085								
Portishead Potential increase	£8,505	0.6%							
Potential Revised 2025/26 precept	£1,492,590								



Appendix I

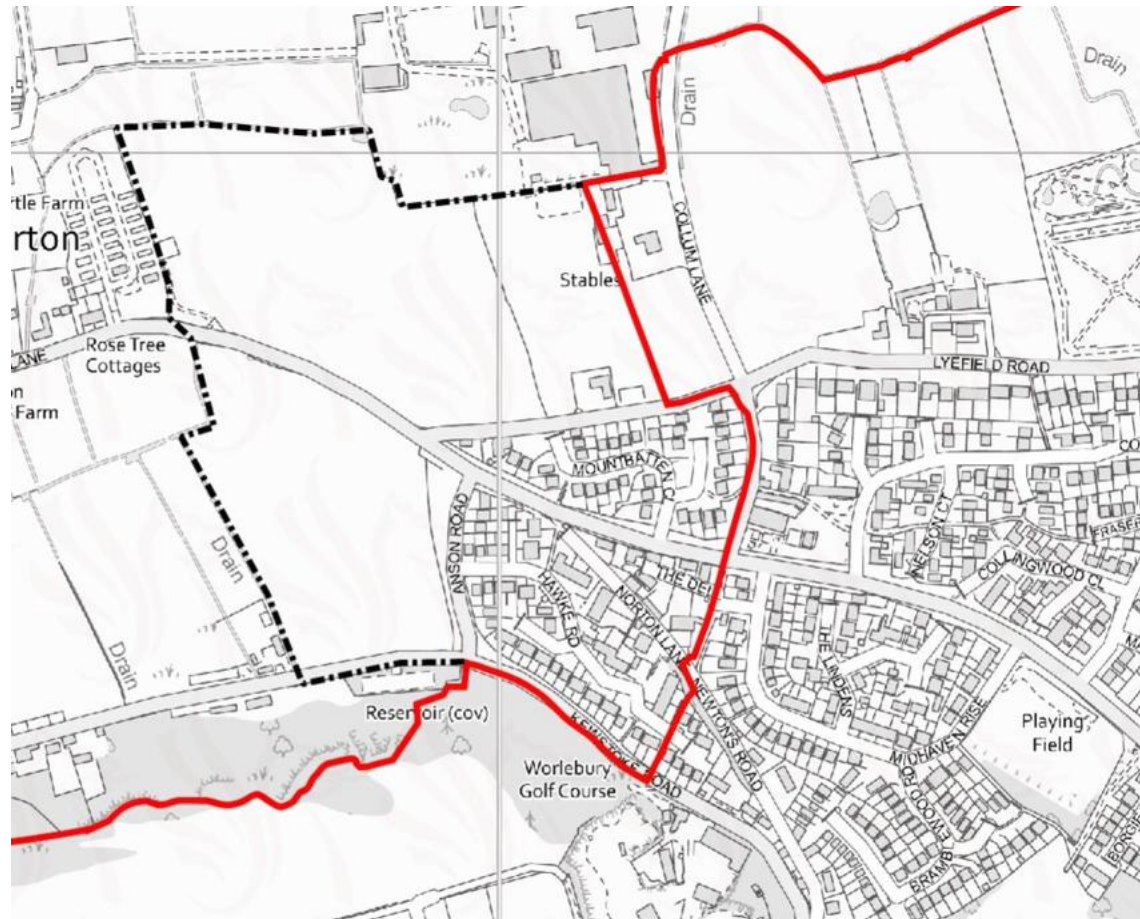
Map illustrating the proposed ward boundary for Winscombe and Sandford (Draft Recommendation 4).



Appendix J

Maps illustrating the proposed boundary changes to Weston-super-Mare (Draft Recommendation 6).

6.1 Housing in the Eastern end of Kewstoke around Anson Road



6.2 Section of Hutton around Woodside which is an extension of Oldmixon



Appendix K

Council tax impact of boundary amendment to Weston-super-Mare. (Draft recommendation 6).

6.1 Weston-super-Mare and Kewstoke

Parish precept by band in 2025/26

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	
Kewstoke	£56.05	£65.40	£74.74	£84.08	£102.76	£121.45	£140.13	£168.16	
WSM	£109.32	£127.54	£145.76	£163.98	£200.42	£236.86	£273.30	£327.96	
Potential 2025/26 increase per property	£53.27	£62.14	£71.02	£79.90	£97.66	£115.41	£133.17	£159.80	
Potential properties to transfer	25	0	0	64	13	3	1	0	106
									Total
Lost 2025/26 precept income for Kewstoke	-£1,401.25	£0.00	£0.00	-£5,381.12	£1,335.88	-£364.35	-£140.13	£0.00	-£8,622.73
Gained 2025/26 precept income for WSM	£2,733.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,494.72	£2,605.46	£710.58	£273.30	£0.00	£16,817.06
Kewstoke 2025/26 precept	£58,000								
Kewstoke Potential decrease	-£8,623	-14.9%							
Potential Revised 2025/26 precept	£49,377								
WSM 2025/26 precept	£4,450,668								
WSM Potential increase	£16,817	0.4%							
Potential Revised 2025/26 precept	£4,467,485								



6.2 Weston-super-Mare and Hutton

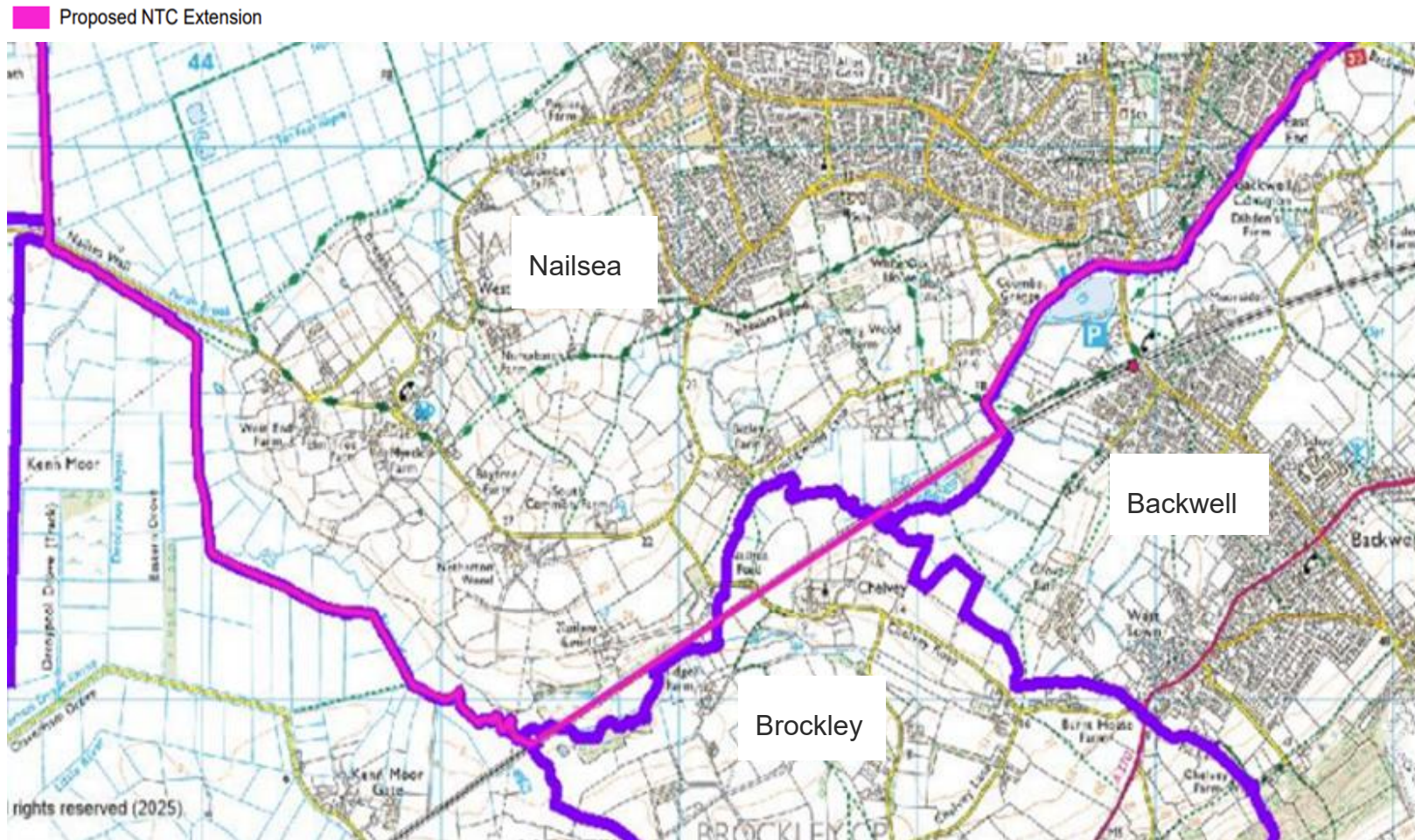
Parish precept by band in 2025/26

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H	
Hutton	£93.75	£109.37	£125.00	£140.62	£171.87	£203.12	£234.37	£281.24	
WSM	£109.32	£127.54	£145.76	£163.98	£200.42	£236.86	£273.30	£327.96	
Potential 2025/26 increase per property	£15.57	£18.17	£20.76	£23.36	£28.55	£33.74	£38.93	£46.72	
Potential properties to transfer	25	119	119	104	37	2	0	0	406
									Total
Lost 2025/26 precept income for Hutton	-£2,343.75	£13,015.03	£14,875.00	£14,624.48	-£6,359.19	-£406.24	£0.00	£0.00	£51,623.69
Gained 2025/26 precept income for WSM	£2,733.00	£15,177.26	£17,345.44	£17,053.92	£7,415.54	£473.72	£0.00	£0.00	£60,198.88
Hutton 2025/26 precept	£167,516								
Hutton Potential decrease	-£51,624	-30.8%							
Potential Revised 2025/26 precept	£115,892								
WSM 2025/26 precept	£4,450,668								
WSM Potential increase	£60,199	1.4%							
Potential Revised 2025/26 precept	£4,510,867								



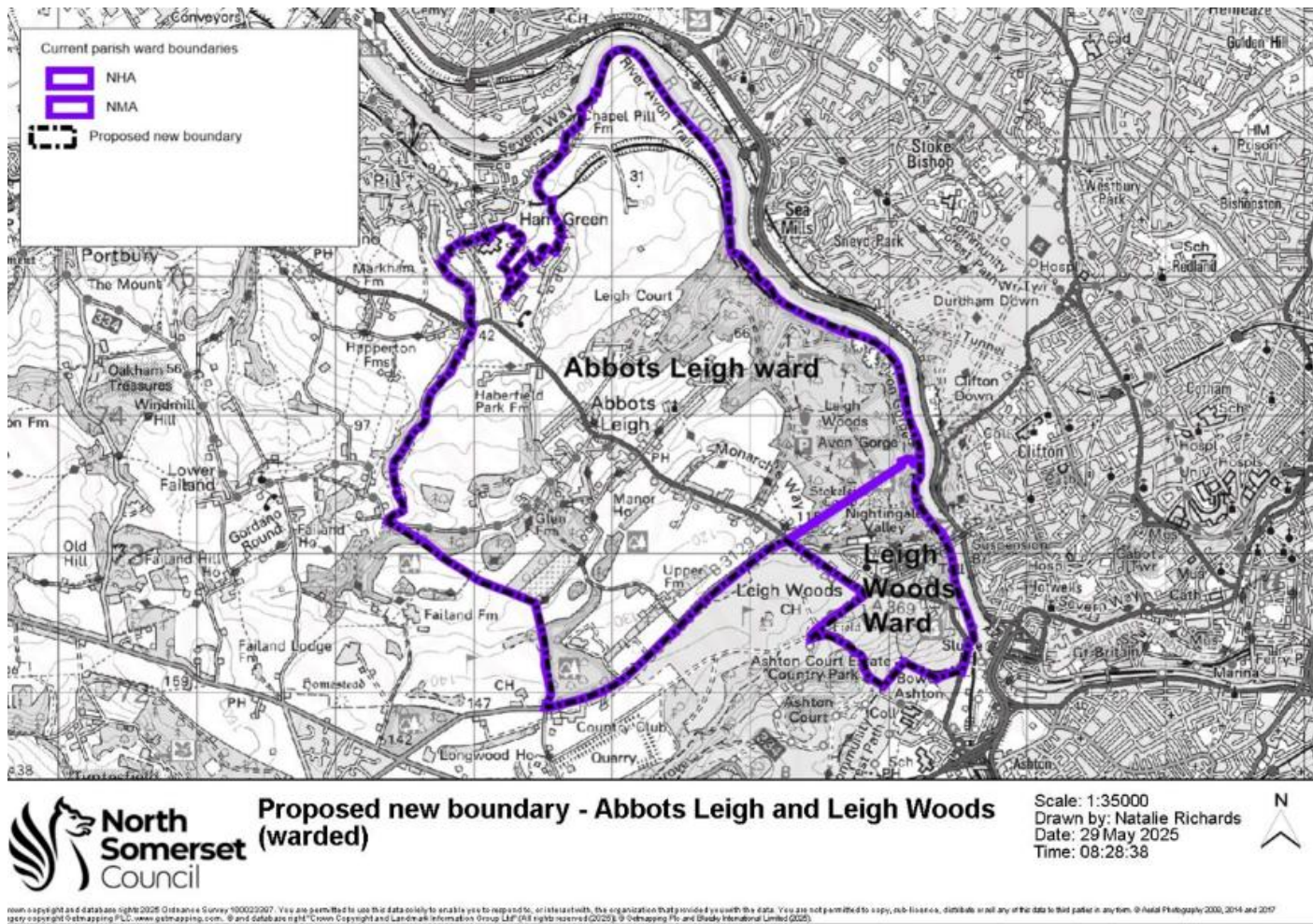
Appendix L

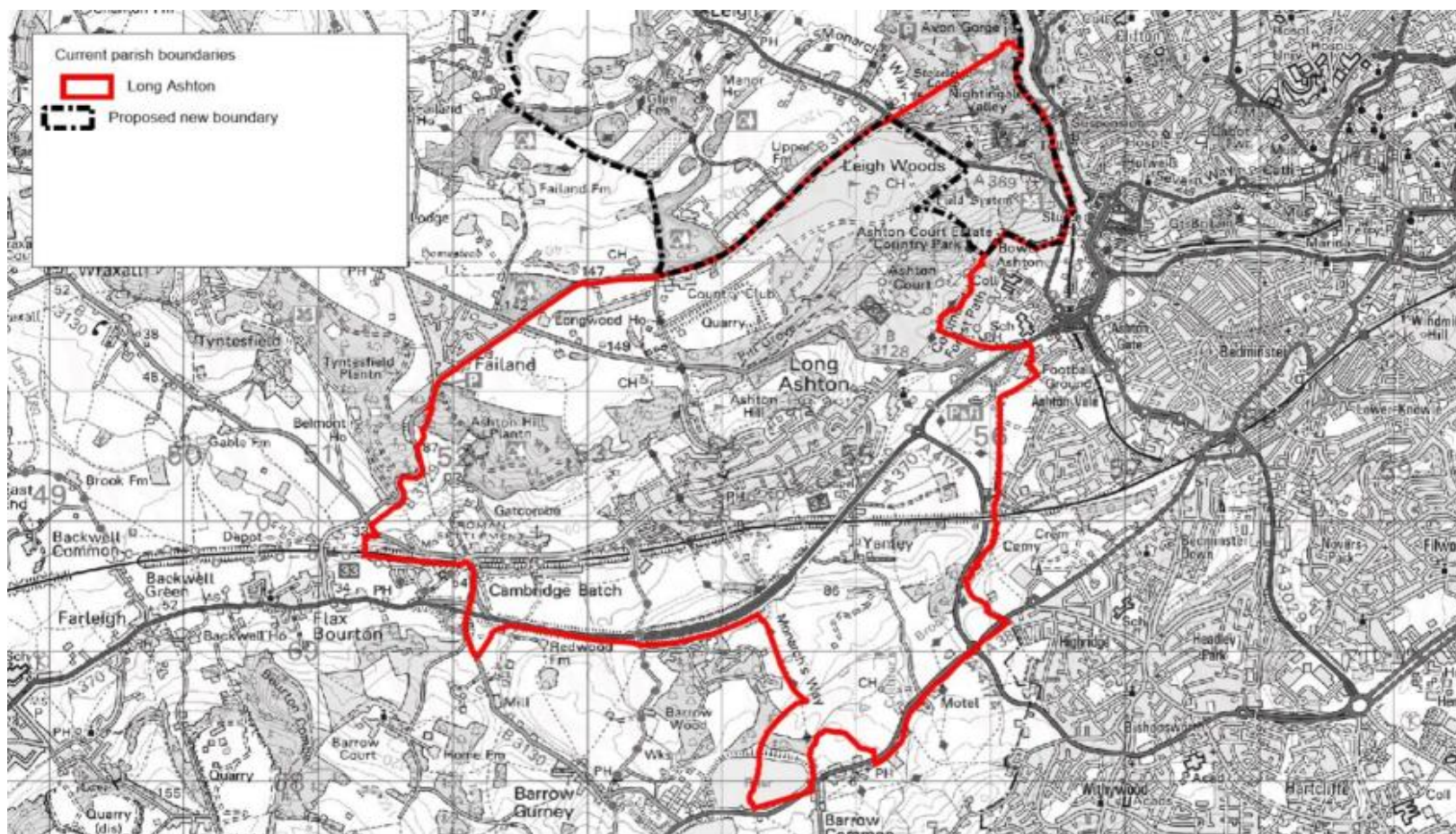
Map illustrating the proposed boundary change to Nailsea (Draft Recommendation 7).



Appendix M

Maps illustrating the proposed boundary changes to Abbots Leigh and Long Ashton (Draft recommendation 9)





North Somerset
Council

Proposed amendment to Long Ashton parish boundary to exclude Leigh Woods

Scale: 1:40000
 Drawn by: Natalie Richards
 Date: 29 May 2025
 Time: 08:33:55



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Appendix N

Map illustrating the suggested boundary change to Nailsea (Draft Recommendation 10).



Appendix O

Map illustrating the suggested ward boundary change to Yatton (Draft Recommendation 13.9).

