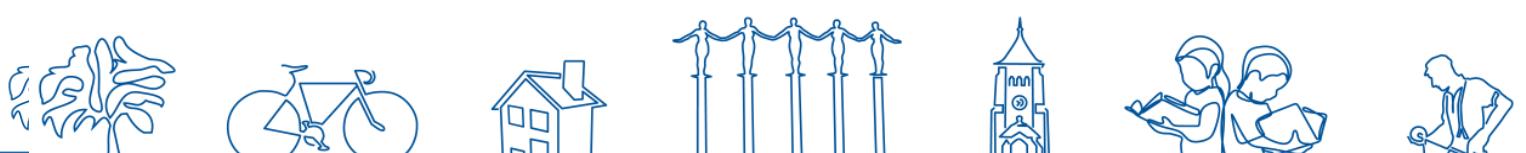


North Somerset Council

Community Governance Review 2025

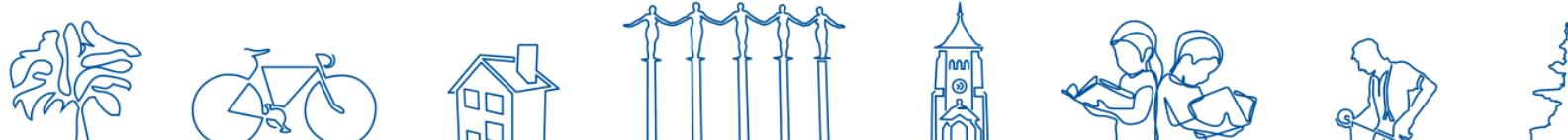
Final Recommendations

December 2025



Contents

Background	Pg. 3
Final Recommendations for change	Pg. 4
Final Recommendations for no change	Pgs. 5-8
Next steps	Pg. 9
Background papers	Pg. 9
Appendix	Pgs. 10-11



Background

Principal councils have a statutory duty to conduct a CGR every 10 to 15 years. The purpose of a CGR is to ensure that community governance arrangements continue to reflect the identities and interests of local communities, while remaining effective and convenient.

The review primarily considers parish boundaries and electoral arrangements. It provides the statutory framework for proposing, and where appropriate implementing, changes to parish boundaries, the number of parish councillors, and other related electoral matters.

Responsibility for decisions on electoral matters is delegated by the Council to P&R.

The review formally commenced with the publication of the Terms of Reference, approved by P&R on Wednesday 19 February 2025, initiating the first stage of public consultation. Following this, draft recommendations informed by the consultation feedback were agreed by P&R in July and released for a second consultation to gather comments on the proposed changes.

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>

The final recommendations have been informed by the feedback received during the second consultation.

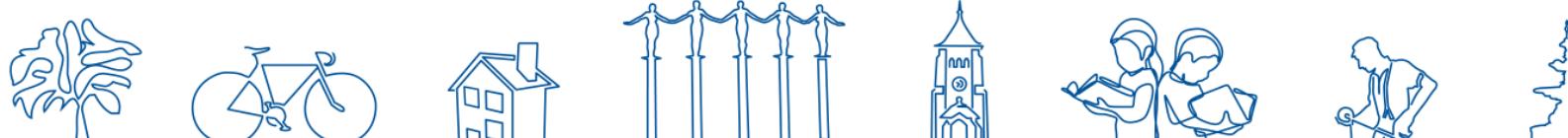
For ease of reference, the final recommendations have been grouped into those proposing change (final recommendations 1-5) and those proposing no change (final recommendations 6-23).

A recommendation is classified as a “change” when a draft proposal for change received support during the second consultation.

A “no change” recommendation is put forward when either:

- A draft proposal for no change was supported during the second-stage consultation, or
- A draft proposal for change did not receive sufficient support during the second-stage consultation.

This structure ensures transparency by showing where action is required, where existing arrangements remain appropriate, and where proposed changes were not supported through consultation or further analysis.



FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGE

Final recommendation 1: That parish council sizes be revised to closer align with the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) recommended councillor numbers, where supported through the second-stage consultation.

- 1.1 Reduce Wrington parish council to 12 seats (currently 16), allocating 2 to the Northeast ward and 10 to the Southwest ward.
- 1.2 Reduce Long Ashton parish council to 14 seats (currently 21), allocating 2 to the Leigh Woods ward and 12 to the Long Ashton ward.
- 1.3 Reduce Blagdon parish council to 8 seats (currently 11).
- 1.4 Increase Burrington parish council to 7 seats (currently 5).
- 1.5 Increase Portishead town council to 15 seats (currently 14), allocating 5 to the West ward, 5 to the East ward, 3 to the North ward and 2 to the South ward.
- 1.6 Reduce Weston-super-Mare town council to 29 seats (currently 31), to be achieved by reducing representation in the South Worle and Milton wards from four councillors to three each
- 1.7 Reduce Clevedon town council to 20 seats (currently 21) to be achieved by reducing representation in the Clevedon Walton ward from five councillors to four

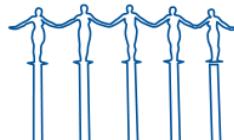
Final recommendation 2: That the Parish of Yatton be renamed Yatton and Claverham.

Final recommendation 3: That the number of wards in the parish of Yatton be reduced from four to two (Yatton ward and Claverham ward) using the boundaries in the neighbourhood plans (SEE APPENDIX A).

Final recommendation 4: That the Backwell boundary with Nailsea be amended to ensure any proposed residential development in Nailsea is sited within Nailsea's boundary. (SEE APPENDIX B).

Final recommendation 5: That the parish ward names in Weston-super-Mare are renamed to better reflect local identity.

- 5.1 That the Weston-super-Mare Bournville ward is renamed Weston-super-Mare South ward.
- 5.2 That the Weston-super-Mare Worlebury ward is renamed Weston-super-Mare Worle West & Worlebury



FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NO CHANGE

Final recommendation 6: That the boundary of Abbots Leigh is not extended, and the Leigh Woods ward consequently remains within the parish of Long Ashton.

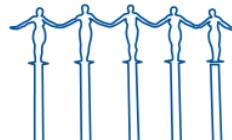
Final recommendation 7: That the residential area known as The Elms and the undeveloped area to the north remains in Wraxall & Failand.

Final recommendation 8: That no amendments are made as part of this review to parish boundaries and council sizes in areas of potential housing development that has not obtained planning consent.

- 8.1** That a review of proposed amendments to the Banwell parish boundary be deferred until housing development is complete.
- 8.2** 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.
- 8.3** 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.
- 8.4** That a decision on creating a new parish comprising areas from Locking and Banwell be deferred until the completion of the housing developments.

Final recommendation 9: That no parish mergers be made as part of this review where such changes would compromise or diminish distinct community identities.

- 9.1** That Yatton (including Claverham), Congresbury and Cleeve remain as separate parishes.
- 9.2** That Blagdon, Butcombe and Burrington remain as separate parishes.
- 9.3** That Long Ashton, Wraxall & Failand and Barrow Gurney remain as separate parishes.
- 9.4** That Nailsea and Backwell remain as separate parishes.
- 9.5** That Weston-super-Mare does not extend its boundary to incorporate Bleadon, Hutton and Locking (and specifically Locking Parklands).



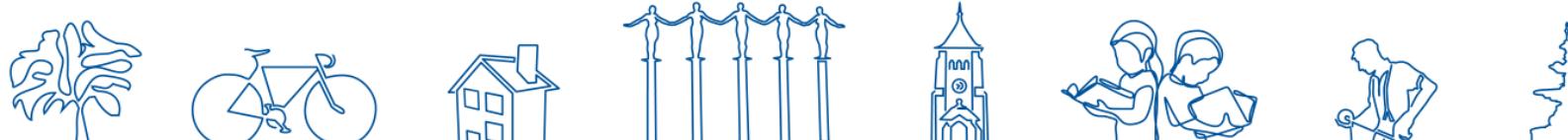
9.6 That Weston-super-Mare does not extend its boundary to incorporate St Georges.

Final recommendation 10: That no amendments be made to existing warding arrangements as part of this review where current arrangements support effective elections.

- 10.1** That the parish of Pill and Easton-in-Gordano remain warded.
- 10.2** That the parish of Hutton remain unwarded.
- 10.3** That the parish of St Georges remain unwarded.
- 10.4** That the parish of Congresbury remain unwarded.
- 10.5** That the parish of Tickenham remain unwarded.
- 10.6** That the current ward boundaries of the Portishead East ward and the Portishead West ward remain as they are.
- 10.7** 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.
- 10.8** That the current boundary of the Weston-super-Mare Uphill ward remain as it is.

Final recommendation 11: That no changes be made to the sizes of parish councils where they are consistent with NALC's recommended councillor numbers, or where they do not align but the second consultation provided no support for altering them.

- 11.1** That the council size of Cleeve remains 7.
- 11.2** That the council size of Hutton remains 10.
- 11.3** That the council size of Nailsea remains 20
- 11.4** That the council size of St Georges remains 9.
- 11.5** That the council size of Congresbury remains 12.
- 11.6** That the council size of Churchill remains 13
- 11.7** That the council size of Winscombe and Sandford remains 15
- 11.8** That the council size of Backwell remains 15
- 11.9** That the council size of Locking remains 15
- 11.10** That the council size of Wraxall & Failand remains 11



Final recommendation 12: That the area of Worle remains in Weston-super-Mare and does not become its own parish.

Final recommendation 13: That the Weston-super-Mare Worlebury ward remains in Weston-super-Mare and is not transferred to Kewstoke.

Final recommendation 14: That the parish of Nailsea is not renamed Failand.

Final recommendation 15: That the developments off Ebdon Road remain in Wick St. Lawrence and are not transferred to Weston-super-Mare.

Final recommendation 16: That the Portbury Wharf Nature Reserve remains in Portbury.

Final recommendation 17: That no amendments be made to the Kingston Seymour boundary.

Final recommendation 18: That no new parishes be created through the separation of existing parishes where current arrangements support effective and efficient community governance.

- 18.1** That the parish of Weston-super-Mare is not subdivided to create smaller parishes.
- 18.2** That the parish of Clevedon is not subdivided to create smaller parishes.
- 18.3** That the parish of Nailsea is not subdivided to create smaller parishes.
- 18.4** That the parish of Portishead is not subdivided to create smaller parishes.
- 18.5** That Wick St Lawrence West Wick ward remains in Wick St Lawrence and Locking Castle remains in Weston-super-Mare.

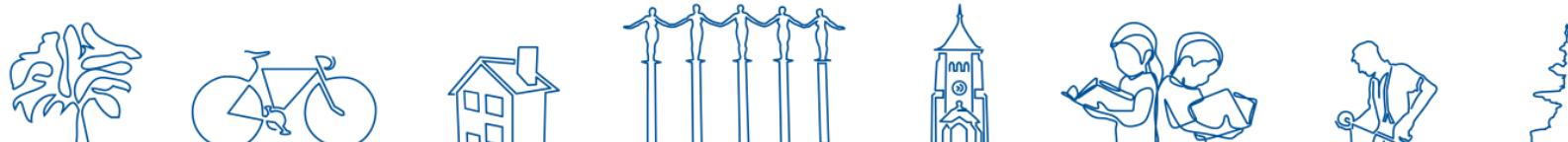
Final recommendation 19: That no amendments be made to the Flax Bourton boundary.

Final recommendation 20: That the Portishead boundary is not extended and the residential dwellings in Moor Gate remain in the parish of Portbury.

Final recommendation 21: That the parish of Winscombe & Sandford remain unwarded.

Final recommendation 22: That no amendment be made to the Weston-super-Mare parish boundary.

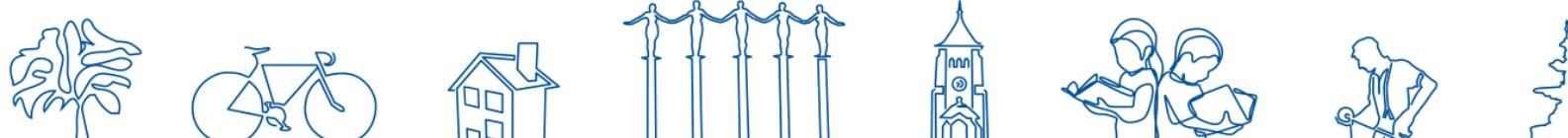
- 22.1** That the Weston-super-Mare boundary is not extended to include housing in the Eastern end of Kewstoke around Anson Road.



22.2 That the Weston-super-Mare boundary is not extended to include a section of Hutton around Woodside which is an extension of Oldmixon

Final recommendation 23: That the Nailsea boundary is not amended to the south to follow the route of the railway line as a hard constraint.

Final recommendation 24: That the Backwell boundary is not extended to include all proposed housing at Grove Farm within the parish of Backwell.



Next steps.

the agreed changes will be formally implemented through the preparation and sealing of a Reorganisation Order.

The Council will then update all relevant records, including GIS mapping, the Xpress electoral management system, and internal administrative datasets, to reflect any revised parish boundaries and electoral arrangements.

Statutory notifications will be issued to affected parish councils, residents, and organisations such as the Local Government Boundary Commission, Ordnance Survey, Royal Mail, and emergency services. Any changes to parish electoral arrangements will be incorporated into the next scheduled elections. The Council will also publish the final Order and accompanying maps on its website and ensure ongoing communication with parishes to support a smooth transition to the new governance arrangements.

Background papers

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

[Terms of Reference](#)

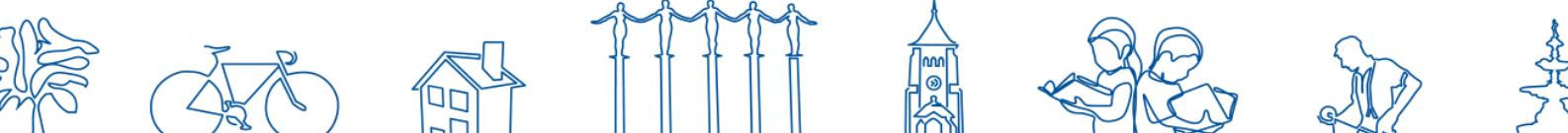
[First Stage Consultation – Supporting Comments](#)

[Report to P&R: Wednesday 16 July 2025](#)

[Minutes from P&R meeting: Wednesday 16 July 2025](#)

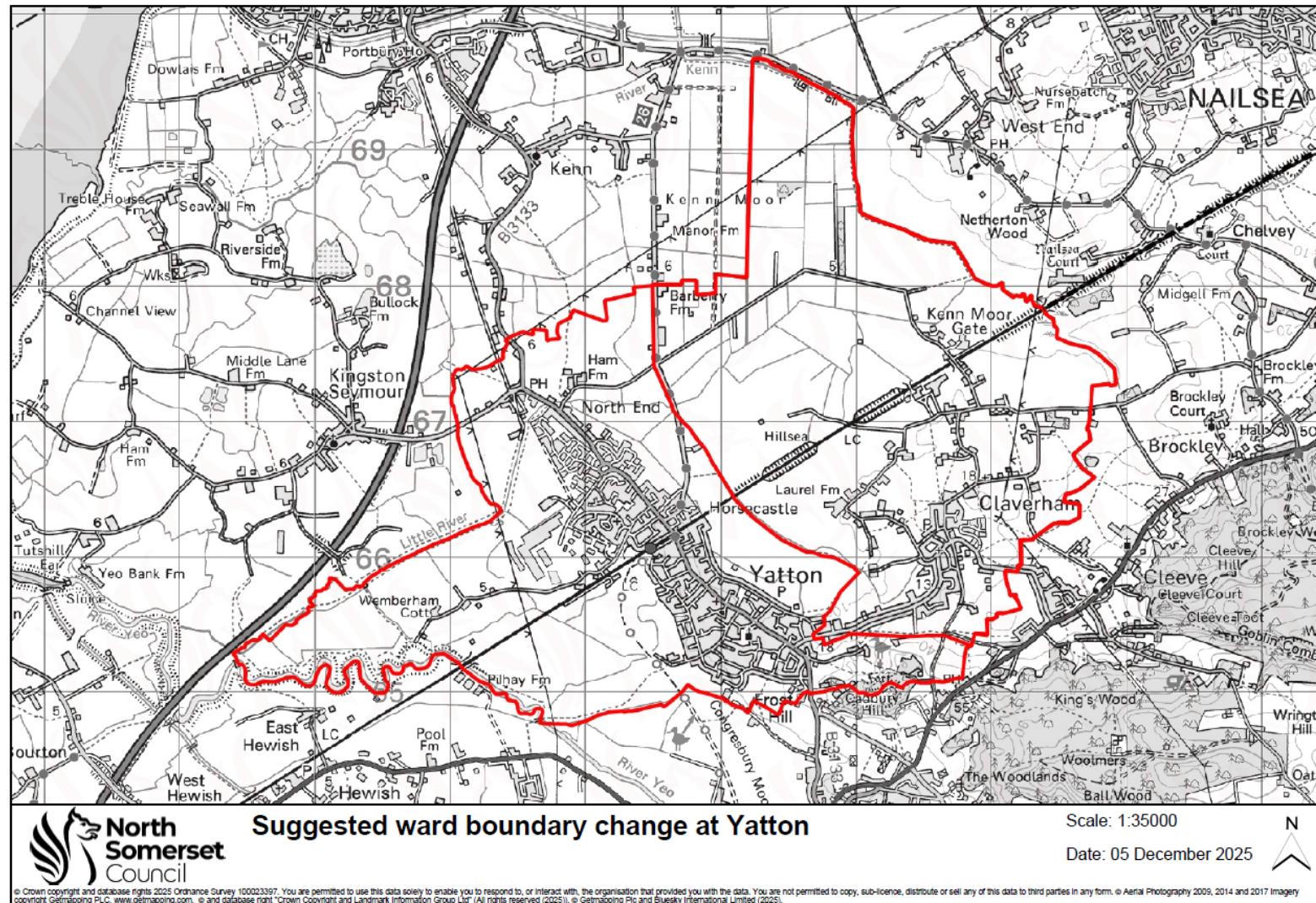
[Draft recommendations](#)

[Second stage consultation – Supporting comments](#)



APPENDIX A

Map illustrating the suggested ward boundary change to Yatton (Final Recommendation 3).



APPENDIX B

Map illustrating the boundary change to Backwell (Final Recommendation 4).

