

GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSE TO BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSAL

Due to the recent decision to amalgamate Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) authorities, HM Government has instructed the Boundary Commission (BC) to examine the ward structure and number of councillors in the conurbation.

The first decision was to reduce the number of councillors to 76 (from 110) across BCP, and then to consult on how to change ward boundaries to accommodate the lower number of councillors.

The consultation takes 3 steps: -

1. The local Shadow Authority is asked to recommend changes. The recommendations were made by a joint working party of the three councils and presented to the BC earlier this year.
2. The BC then studied these recommendations and made their own plans which we received in mid-July. We were given until the 27 August to make representations to the BC, suggesting changes and improvements. The Conservative Group on Poole Council appointed a working party, who presented their findings to the group on 2 August and they were approved.
3. The three parliamentary constituencies, through their Conservative associations, then agreed on similar submissions and the chairs were tasked with writing to the BC requesting detailed changes.

Below is the response that the chairs of PCA, BWCA and MDNPCA agreed to forward to the BC. These recommendations are based on the BC's own criteria relating to and respecting local community ties and natural boundaries (such as major roads and rivers). Also, they agreed with the findings of the Conservative Group working party as presented on 2 August.

You can contact the BC at this site or write a letter to:

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
London SW1P 4QP

These changes differ from those of the Shadow Joint Authority submitted in May. Our new proposals combine the best of both.

The cross-border responsibilities of councillors in Alderney, Talbot and Branksome Wood, and Bear Wood and Kinson South will help ensure a smooth transition after the amalgamation next year. We have concerns over the changes in Oakdale, Parkstone, Newtown, and Creekmoor. We are recommending changes to the BC proposal in these areas.

Here are our suggested changes to the BC proposals:

CREEKMOOR/BROADSTONE

Para 77: The LGBCE proposes the inclusion of Twin Oaks, Pinesprings, and Edwina Drive area into Creekmoor. This caused considerable consternation during the 2014 review, and the residents in this area strongly object. They use the shops, facilities, clubs and leisure centre in Broadstone High Street rather than those in Creekmoor. The imbalance in the councillor/elector ratio in Creekmoor (+11%) also indicates this area should remain in Broadstone.

CREEKMOOR/OAKDALE

Para 77: The LGBCE proposes that the A350 mark the southern boundary of Creekmoor. The Creekmoor and Oakdale councillors agree that Upton Country Park has a very strong attachment to Creekmoor, with good road and community links. Oakdale has no direct road links and has a natural border comprising the Poole to Broadstone bypass beside Holes Bay. This would have no effect on the councillor/ elector ratio and would maintain the status quo.

OAKDALE/NEWTOWN and OAKDALE/PARKSTONE

We suggest leaving the boundaries of Oakdale unchanged and hence reducing the number of councillors from 3 to 2. We suggest increasing the size of Parkstone and hence increasing the number of councillors from 2 to 3.

Paras 70, 71 and 72: The LGBCE proposes that the area including Fernside Road, Constitution Hill as far as North Road, and the area from Tatnam Road to Poole Park cricket ground become part of Oakdale. There are insufficient grounds to support this proposal. These roads comprise a natural community around Poole Park and its lake. There are strong resident associations representing this area. Its natural centre of gravity is Ashley Cross and the parade of shops adjacent to the Civic Centre. The area has limited links with Oakdale. In Oakdale, the centre of gravity is the library, the Oakdale park and play area, ORCA community centre and the parade of shops on Wimborne Road. The southern boundary of the ward is clearly defined by Ringwood Road. Due to its location, Newtown has strong connections to Haymoor Road and the Foxholes area. It matches the social mix well. All local councillors in Newtown and Oakdale believe these streets belong in Newtown.

All the local councillors in Newtown, Parkstone, and Oakdale support these changes. The strong community ties and the different centres of activity and facilities are best served by this configuration.

ALDERNEY/CANFORD CLIFFS

Para 50: The LGBCE proposes to include Lindsay Road in the Talbot and Branksome Woods ward. This side of the A35 considers itself very much part of Branksome Park, the rest of which is all within Canford Cliffs ward. We believe Poole Road (the A35) forms a stronger and more coherent boundary.

PENN HILL/ PARKSTONE

Para 72: The LGBCE proposes to place Salterns Marina in a peninsula to Penn Hill. This area has a closer connection to Parkstone and hence is part of the Sandbanks Road area overlooking the harbour. If the BC proposal were adopted, the residents in houses where adjacent properties on one side are in Canford Cliffs and on the other side in Parkstone would be confused. This is an opinion and not critical, but goes back to the Shadow Authority's original recommendation.

These suggested changes will strengthen the new configuration of wards. We hope they are helpful and will give you the facts for your letter to the BC. Contact details are attached. For further help, please do not hesitate to contact Peter Adams, Ann Stribley, Judy Butt, or John Challinor, who will be delighted to assist.