



## Extract from Minutes of East Cowes Town Council Meeting held at the Town Hall on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 6pm

### **TC0032/18 BOUNDARY CHANGES ELECTORAL REVIEW OF ISLE OF WIGHT**

Councillors discussed the preliminary review item 'Part one: council size' regarding draft recommendations of the consultation on new wards for the local authority from the paper *'Taking part in the Electoral review of Isle of Wight Council A guide for councillors'* as distributed on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

The guide points out that: *'Isle of Wight Council meets the Commission's criteria for electoral inequality with 36% of wards having a variance of greater than +/-10%, and one ward 'Whippingham and Osbourne' (sic) having a variance of greater than +20%'*

As East Cowes ward is in the +10% variance, East Cowes Town Council suggest that either of the following two proposals could make electoral equality and the supporting reasoning is listed after:

#### **First suggestion:**

That East Cowes and the Whippingham and Osbourne ward are reduced. This could be by moving some of the Osbourne and Whippingham ward to Newport North, thus creating: East Cowes; Osbourne (as separate from Whippingham); and Whippingham/North Newport. (Three IWC Cllrs from two)

#### **Second suggestion:**

That East Cowes; Osbourne and Whippingham; Newport North and Wootton wards, could have boundary changed to create a fifth ward (Five IWC Councillors from four).

Both suggestions include the addition of ONE Isle of Wight Council ward councillor. The reasoning behind this is:

- Resident identity within the area.
- Allows for future growth of the electorate.
- Sustains existing and allows for potential future plans for regeneration of the Town, which has on two sides immovable borders of the sea to the North and a river to the West. As well as limited entry/exit points of one road in/out, sea or river crossings to other towns, there is no exit out of the town to the East.

East Cowes Town Council feels that due to the reasons given that the introduction of a new councillor is the only viable option for the area.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 7.10pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Source:** Briefing document: Taking part in the Electoral review of Isle of Wight Council, A guide for councillors pg 5.