

# **B&NES Liberal Democrats**

Mr David Owen  
Review officer for B&NES  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Monday, 2 October 2017

Dear Mr Owen,

## **Warding Scheme Submission by B&NES Liberal Democrats**

This submission is from the Bath and North East Somerset Liberal Democrat Party and Council Group. It draws together ideas from the 16 Liberal Democrat Councillors in B&NES as well as Party members from across B&NES. As a political party, we have activists across the whole of Bath and North East Somerset who have an in-depth understanding of the communities that make up our wards and district.

Some local Liberal Democrat branches and individual members have also made their own separate submissions. It has not been possible to include every detail of those individual submissions in a unified scheme, but this submission goes as far as possible in amalgamating views we have received.

## **Overview**

### **Number of Councillors**

As outlined in the Liberal Democrat Council Group submission of 15 June on Councillor numbers, we agreed with the position adopted by B&NES Council as a whole that a Council made up of 59 Councillors would deliver the best compromise between efficiency and workload for individuals. Hence, our warding proposal is based on a Council of 59 Councillors. We have also used the projected electorate figures [supplied](#) by B&NES Council.

### **Bath / North East Somerset boundary**

We have sought to maintain, as far as possible, the current differentiation between Bath 'city' wards and North East Somerset 'rural' / 'market town' wards. These ward boundaries happen to coincide with the Parliamentary boundaries and, although we recognise that this is not a consideration in the warding scheme, it is convenient for residents and for organisation.

The main rationale for maintaining the current Bath/North East Somerset boundary, as far as possible, is the presence of parish and town Councils covering all current North East Somerset wards. Bath has no local level of governance – the city is an island surrounded by parishes. Ideally wards should not straddle this boundary so as to prevent confusion.

Additionally, Bath residents in particular identify strongly with the city as a cohesive area in terms of history and geography. The city is clearly delineated by the World Heritage Site designation and is constrained by several planning considerations including a Green Belt. Many residents also recall

positively the former Bath City Council, which represented the city under the former two-tier system (Avon County Council).

A significant feature of Bath civic life is the Mayoralty and Charter Trustees, which are very popular amongst residents and seen as contributing to Bath's prestige and historical reputation. Please see below for an excerpt from the [Mayor of Bath's website](#), however please note that the precept raised by the Charter Trustees is minimal (£5.50 per annum on a Band D household in 2017/18 for example) and is not used for providing direct services to the public as it would be if the Charter Trustees were a normal parish or town Council.

*Before the local government re-organisation in 1996 the Mayor was the Chairman of Bath City Council. Now the Mayor is Chairman of the Charter Trustees and the Ambassador for the city. This is a non-political role promoting Bath, nationally and internationally, and supporting the local community.*

*The Charter Trustees are the 32 Councillors elected to represent the wards in the city on Bath & North East Somerset Council. There are usually four meetings each year and the Mayor is dressed formally in robe, jabot, Collar of Office and hat. As Charter Trustees the Bath Councillors maintain the traditions and functions of the Mayor and hold historic and ceremonial property, in particular Charters (the ancient documents devolving power from various monarchs over many centuries), the Insignia (Collars and Badges of Office), Civic Regalia (two Maces, City Sword, robes and City Watch Staves), and the City Plate (gold and silver collection).*

*Financially, Charter Trustees are treated as a Parish Council. They raise a precept on the Council tax payers of the City, which must be spent and accounted for in the same way as any other Council.*

*Each year the Charter Trustees of the City of Bath elect one of their number to be their Chairman and Mayor of the City of Bath and another to be Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor of the City of Bath. They also elect a Committee of seven Charter Trustees to oversee the day-to-day functions of the Mayoralty and the Charter Trustees.*

One other relevant consideration is the name of the Council, Bath **and** North East Somerset – two distinct areas.

### **Number of Councillors in Bath / North East Somerset**

The current arrangements see 32 Councillors representing 16 wards and 63,331 electors in Bath whereas in North East Somerset 33 Councillors represent 31 wards and 69,831 electors. The current average electorate per Councillor in Bath is currently 1,979 and 2,116 in North East Somerset. This is within 4% either way compared to the average electorate per Councillor of 2,049 across the whole area (see Table 1, below).

Looking ahead to 2023, if we were to maintain the balance between Bath and North East Somerset representation and remove 3 Councillors from each area to bring the total down to 59, then we would see 29 Councillors in Bath representing 65,793 electors and 30 Councillors in North East Somerset representing 73,886. The average electorate per Councillor in Bath would be 2,269 and the average electorate per Councillor in North East Somerset would be 2,463. This slightly increases the deviation from the average electorate per Councillor of 2,367 across the whole area to more than 4% either way (as outlined in Table 1, 2023 option 1, below).

The alternative for 2023 is to remove 4 Councillors from Bath (effectively two wards, as Bath is made up of two-member wards) and two from North East Somerset. This would give us 28 Councillors in Bath representing 65,793 electors and 31 Councillors in North East Somerset representing 73,886 electors. The average electorate per Councillor in Bath would be 2,350 and the average electorate in North East Somerset would be 2,383; the deviation would be under 1% either way (see Table 1, 2023

option 2, below). This option delivers improved electoral equality between Bath and North East Somerset compared to the current situation hence we have used this option in designing our warding scheme. However, it must be recognised that this option is likely to be controversial as there is a general local perception of unfair dominance of each area over the other; this could be exacerbated if the balance of Councillors between Bath and North East Somerset shifts.

**Table 1:**

	<b>Bath</b>	<b>NES</b>	<b>B&amp;NES</b>
Number of Electors 2017	63,331*	69,831*	133,162*
Number of Councillors 2017	32	33	65
Average Electorate per Councillor 2017	1,979	2,116	2,049
Difference from average	-3.42	+3.27	0
Number of Electors 2023	65,793*	73,886*	139,679*
Number of Councillors 2023 – option 1	29	30	59
Average Electorate per Councillor 2023 – option 1	2,269	2,463	2,367
Difference from average	-4.14	+4.06	0
Number of Electors 2023	65,793*	73,886*	139,679*
Number of Councillors 2023 – option 2	28	31	59
Average Electorate per Councillor 2023 – option 2	2,350	2,383	2,367
Difference from average	-0.72	+0.68	0

**\*Table 2:**

Figures taken from the Electorate count and projections [supplied](#) by B&NES.

<b>Bath</b>	<b>2017 Electorate</b>	<b>2023 Electorate</b>	<b>NES</b>	<b>2017 Electorate</b>	<b>2023 Electorate</b>
Abbey	3879	3949	Bathavon North	5624	5537
Bathwick	3169	3349	Bathavon South	2184	2516
Combe Down	3939	4576	Bathavon West	1953	1923
Kingsmead	4078	4266	Chew Valley North	1980	1949
Lambridge	4158	4171	Chew Valley South	2106	2092
Lansdown	3242	3677	Clutton	1964	1970
Lyncombe	4274	4207	Farmborough	2110	2077
Newbridge	4321	4390	High Littleton	2344	2307
Odd Down	4120	4129	Keynsham East	4446	4746
Oldfield	3669	3612	Keynsham North	4213	5311
Southdown	4096	4032	Keynsham South	4181	4896
Twerton	3901	3840	Mendip	2143	2308
Walcot	4349	4282	Midsomer Norton North	4598	5018
Westmoreland	4454	5580	Midsomer Norton Redfield	4182	4338
Weston	4111	4124	Paulton	4443	4718
Widcombe	3571	3609	Peasedown	5022	5098
			Publow and Whitchurch	2054	2527
			Radstock	4161	4315
			Saltford	3400	3346
			Timsbury	2081	2137
			Westfield	4642	4757
<b>Total</b>	<b>63331</b>	<b>65793</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>69831</b>	<b>73886</b>

**Electorate Calculations for New Wards**

To calculate the figures behind our proposal, we began with the figures as supplied by the Council. These figures, broken down by polling district, gave us a good basis for working out expected growth figures across Bath and North East Somerset.

Across the parished areas, we were able to propose a scheme that maintains the parish boundaries, and therefore could simply take those polling district figures and use them.

In the City of Bath this was more challenging as moving whole polling districts often moved too many people to allow a complete scheme. Therefore we had to approach it community by community, and occasionally street by street. This required a more detailed breakdown of the numbers than was provided by the council and so we took the current figures on the electoral register and applied a growth factor to them equivalent to their current electoral box.

Obviously, this method assumes uniform growth across each electoral box and that means that these figures are estimates only, however we felt there was no way of providing figures more accurately.

## **Warding Scheme Bath**

The warding scheme in Bath has been designed to use the natural boundaries of the River Avon and the railway. Major roads have been used as boundaries between different areas, where possible, however in residential areas, boundaries which run between back-to-back gardens have been preferred to those which run down the middle of a residential road.

The scheme creates 17 wards; 11 two-member wards and 6 single member wards. The suggested names are mostly drawn from the current ward names.

This scheme is illustrated using the online web portal on the LGBCE consultation website.

<b>Ward 1</b>	<b>NEWBRIDGE</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4967
+/- average	+5%

Newbridge is bounded by the river to the South and by Locksbrook Cemetery to the East. It takes in the entire Royal United Hospital site and follows Penn Hill Road to the North and Oldfield School/open green space to the West until it meets the parish boundaries beyond the City of Bath. The community is very much seen as the Western gateway to the city; Kelston Road (the A431) and Newbridge Road (the A4) are two of the main routes if you are travelling in from the West.

Little change is proposed to the boundaries of this natural community. Some additional territory to the East is required to boost the electorate total in the ward and this also means both sides of the local shopping area of Chelsea Road are included along with the area through to Windsor Bridge.

<b>Ward 2</b>	<b>TWERTON</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	5179
+/- average	+9%

Twerton Ward has its natural boundary to the north along the river. The heart of the ward is the old Twerton Village high street and so it takes in houses that see this as the community centre. On the east side it is bound in by the Linear Park, which follows the line of the old railway and divides Twerton from Oldfield Park. The ward boundary then cuts in to include Innox Park and run up the Hollow. The boundary has shifted slightly to move the houses between Innox Park and Brickfields into Southdown. This means that the large green space which previously split this area from the rest of the ward now forms its boundary. Bath City Farm remains in Twerton Ward and is an important amenity for the community. The boundary between Twerton and Southdown is maintained around Haycombe Drive.

Minimal changes were required to this natural community. Some additional houses were added on the eastern boundary but this broadly corrects an artificial splitting of the community during the last rewording.

<b>Ward 3</b>	<b>SOUTHDOWN</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	5141
+/- average	+9%

Southdown is characterised by post-war through to late 20<sup>th</sup> century housing stock. Mass housing arranged in estates was built on former market gardens and nurseries. The area has a clear 'South of the river, higher ground than Oldfield Park or Twerton' identity.

Important thoroughfares are The Hollow, Mount Road, Whiteway Road, Lymore Avenue and Southdown Road. These are the main access roads for moving about the ward and for accessing the purely residential streets and estates such as Haycombe Drive and Rosewarn Close. Mount Road, The Hollow and Whiteway Road have local services including the local shops (Mount Road, which would be seen as the centre of the community), churches, access to schools and bus routes.

The current Southdown boundaries are slightly adjusted to include additional housing areas and boost the electorate. Haycombe Crematorium is included as the entrance road is off Whiteway Road and it is very much seen as 'belonging' to Southdown. The boundary around Haycombe Drive is maintained along with the natural boundary of Bath City Farm; however to the West of Bath City Farm a small area of housing between Innox Park and Brickfields Park is added. To the East of the ward, the natural boundary of Englishcombe Lane is used (a main lateral route) with the loss of part of Kingsway to Odd Down.

The community on Coronation Avenue probably ‘feel’ more like they are Oldfield Park than Southdown, however, due to the numbers involved, it wasn’t possible to include this in Oldfield Park. The residents on Coronation Avenue are just as likely to use the Tesco on Englishcombe Lane, the Mount Road shops or Moorland Road and so, from an amenity point of view, it is not unreasonable to place them in Southdown.

<b>Ward 4</b>	<b>ODD DOWN</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4743
+/- average	+0%

Odd Down ward follows the boundary of the city to the south, taking in the Sulis Meadows development, Sainsbury’s and the schools, then coming back along the Old Frome Road. The boundary then takes in Odd Down Sports Ground, correcting an anomaly that resulted in it being in Lyncombe previously. It then includes areas of previously in Oldfield Park and Southdown to bring the community of Kingsway back together where previously they had been split. The ward follows Englishcombe Lane as its boundary, making the distinction clearer.

There is new housing planned for the Southstoke Plateau south and east of Sulis Meadows, outside the city boundary, with access through this area of Odd Down and so it was felt important to maintain these boundaries.

This ward is broadly unchanged, but with some changes to address anomalies like the artificial splitting of Kingsway and the housing area around Odd Down Sports Ground.

<b>Ward 5</b>	<b>BLOOMFIELD</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4494
+/- average	-5%

Bloomfield Ward is made up of 3 distinct communities which should not be split down. These three communities share some characteristics and amenities, but this ward is a chance to bring together some of the smaller communities. The boundary takes in all of Bear Flat and Poets’ Corner up to Alexandra Park. The boundary then follows the current line between Lyncombe and Widcombe and Lyncombe and Combe Down taking in the community around Entry Hill.

It then follows the back garden line of Southstoke Road and runs along Old Frome Road and skirts around Odd Down Sports Ground. It then takes in the site of planned future development behind Englishcombe Lane, the Oval and the remainder of the Englishcombe Lane area.

<b>Ward 6</b>	<b>COMBE DOWN</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4585
+/- average	-3%

Combe Down Ward maintains the natural boundaries of Combe Down village. The ward boundaries are largely unchanged, given the amount of development planned for the old MOD site at Foxhill. Prior Park is brought into the ward as the access is from Ralph Allen Drive.

There is a lack of clear natural boundaries in Combe Down but the village and the historic parish boundaries create a good line to follow. The community centres on the row of shops in Combe Down village and the ward runs along North Road and Claverton Down Road.

<b>Ward 7</b>	<b>BATHWICK</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	3973
+/- average	-16%

Bathwick Ward follows the boundary on the University of Bath and the parish boundaries beyond to its north and east. It then follows the river, taking in the Bathwick Estate, previously in Walcot Ward, runs down Bathwick Street and Pulteney Road, follows the Railway back towards Bathwick Hill, then runs along the canal and up the hill, bringing the houses at the very top of Widcombe hill in to Bathwick, where they more naturally belong. It then follows the existing and sensible boundary between Bathwick and Combe Down.

This proposed boundary corrects a number of anomalies, like the Bathwick Estate being in a ward on the wrong side of the river and an unnatural division of Horseshoe Walk and the new Lime Gardens housing development.

Clearly at only 3973 electors, this ward looks a little bit light. There are two reasons why we believe this should still be considered.

1. Bathwick is a distinct community with its own feel. Artificially enlarging it would not be appropriate, but there is no natural way to divide it up to provide a single member ward either.
2. We believe that there was an undercounting of students studying at the university. The count was taken in a non-election year and we know that the figures swell during an election year. There is additional accommodation planned, on top of the 4000 students currently

resident at the university. Roughly three quarters of those students are British nationals, and so even if half of them chose to remain registered at their parent's house, this would still indicate a severe underrepresentation.

<b>Ward 8</b>	<b>WALCOT</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4339
+/- average	-8%

Walcot Ward take in the stretch of housing that runs north of the River out of the city centre along the Paragon, London Street and London Road. The community here looks to the city centre as its main amenity but it does not feel like it is city centre. Even as far as Grosvenor Buildings and Ringswell Gardens, residents look towards the city centre rather than Larkhall because the London Road presents a significant traffic obstacle.

The ward boundary therefore runs along the river from Cattle Market, bringing Walcot Street into Walcot Ward, and on over to the A46 and back down London Road to Upper East Hayes; then up the hill to run south of Fairfield Park along the back garden line of Camden Road. These areas, currently in Walcot Ward, form a clear community that should not be divided up. The Snow Hill flats, with surrounding streets, form an obviously distinct community of shared housing type and shared interest. Camden Road and Camden Crescent provide the main arterial route for the north of the ward and so should be in Walcot Ward.

The boundary then comes down Morford Street, along Julian Road, and down Lansdown Road and then Broad Street to come back round to Cattle Market. These communities naturally look down the hill to the city centre, but don't have the shops, bars and associated flats that define the city centre.

<b>Ward 9</b>	<b>LARKHALL</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4908
+/- average	+4%

The southern boundary for Larkhall runs down the London Road and while we have tried to avoid splitting roads in this manner, along the London Road it makes sense as the two sides have very individual feels. The residents of Grosvenor Place relate much more to the city centre than to Larkhall village given the obstacle that the London Road presents. At Upper East Hayes, the boundary runs up the hill to bring all of the Fairfield Park estate into Larkhall, this resolves an artificial splitting of the community. It then goes up Richmond Place and Richmond Road clear boundary dividing Fairfield Park from the Lansdown Road community, and follows the city boundary to the north.

On its north eastern edge, the boundary follows the A46. This decision move the area currently in Lambridge Ward into Bathavon North was made following representations from some of our members who very much feel more a part of Batheaston than of the City of Bath. The A46 is a significant obstacle, and makes a sensible boundary line.

<b>Ward 10</b>	<b>LANSDOWN</b>
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2303
+/- average	-3%

Lansdown has a distinct identify forming the communities at the top of the hill north of the city to the east and west of Lansdown Road.

The character of Lansdown begins St Stephen’s Church, south of this point is really part of the city centre. The boundary tracks north up Lansdown Road, cutting in front of Lansdown Crescent, down Cavendish Road and west along Weston Road (which to its east is Julian Road, a significant horizontal dividing line). Lansdown Ward takes in Cranwells Park and then heads north up Weston Park East, ensuring Weston Park is in Lower Weston Ward. The boundary then picks up the historic line of Weston parish.

The ward follows the northern boundary of the city then comes back down Richmond Road, Richmond Place and then follows the back gardens back to St Stephen’s church. This brings in the housing that shares characteristics with the rest of the ward.

<b>Ward 11</b>	<b>UPPER WESTON</b>
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2438
+/- average	+3%

Upper Weston is characterised by post war housing on the slopes above the Royal United Hospital. There is a defined community centred on the high street, with Lansdown Lane forming the main arterial route through.

To the north and west Upper Weston runs round the city boundaries, it then comes up Penn Hill Road and over up Trafalgar Road, then round the historic parish of Weston.

<b>Ward 12</b>	<b>LOWER WESTON</b>
Number of Councillors	1

Estimated electors 2023	2382
+/- average	+1%

Lower Weston is a community to the west of Royal Victoria Park and the east of RUH. It has a very different feel to Newbridge and Lansdown that neighbour it and is distinct from Upper Weston. The border runs down Park Lane in the east, then west along Upper Bristol Road, and follows the back garden line of Gainsborough Gardens and Audley Grove.

Lower Weston by itself doesn't quite have the numbers to maintain a Councillor and so it naturally brings in the West Park area. This takes the boundary along Weston Lane, then abuts Upper Weston Ward along Trafalgar Road, up and around the historic Weston parish boundary and down Weston Park East.

<b>Ward 13</b>	<b>VICTORIA</b>
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2512
+/- average	+6%

Victoria Ward centres on Royal Victoria Park. The southern boundary follows the river round from Windsor Bridge to Midland Bridge Road, then up Charles Street and skirting Queens Square to Royal Victoria Park. This area could best be described as an outer city centre, much like Walcot on the other side of the city centre. It looks to the city centre for its amenity but is definitively not part of the city centre, and not the suburbs of Lower Weston either.

The boundary then runs round the outside of Royal Victoria Park, up Upper Church Street, along Julian Road and up Morford Street. This area around The Royal Crescent, St James' Square and Marlborough Buildings all see themselves as part of a community because they 'look' down the hill and are separated from the rest of the city in that direction by the Royal Crescent lawn, Royal Avenue and Royal Victoria Park. The Royal High School is a natural boundary further up the hill and Lansdown Road to the West/RVP and the golf course to the East. The streets coming off Julian Road to the north, the Ballance Street flats and Phoenix House are included because, like the Georgian flats and townhouses, they all use the Julian Road and St James' Street shops and St Andrews' School.

<b>Ward 14</b>	<b>ABBEY</b>
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2592
+/- average	+10%

The city centre is clearly defined area with its own set of unique issues. As such it made sense to ensure that they had good representation and maintained its identity. Abbey is bound by Julian Road to its north, this road forming a clear horizontal across the north of the city. It then broadly follows the current boundary between Abbey and Kingsmead, coming down Upper Church Street and following the natural community boundary of Royal Victoria Park.

It comes down the centre of the A367 and then follows Midland Bridge Road. The characteristic of the housing to the east and west of this line are different and so this forms a sensible boundary. The city centre, and therefore the boundary line, follows the river round to the Cattlemarket. This site is part of the Enterprise Areas and so it makes sense to keep this in the city centre ward. The primary tourism and shopping area is to the west of Broad Street and Lansdown Road and so this is the logical place to put the boundary.

<b>Ward 15</b>	<b>WIDCOMBE</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4817
+/- average	+2%

Widcombe village is a clear a defined community that forms the bulk of Widcombe Ward. Widcombe village itself contains too many electors for a single member ward and so it has to take it some neighbouring areas to produce a two member ward.

Widcombe Ward follows the river extending the ward northwards as far as Bathwick Street, taking in the Pulteney Street area which is currently in Abbey Ward on the 'wrong' side of the river. The boundary then comes back down Pulteney Road, keeping those communities separate from the houses in Bathwick Ward which have a markedly different feel and aspect. The boundary latches onto the railway and then the canal forming a clear boundary. The entirety of Horseshoe Walk comes into Widcombe Ward where previously it was split.

The boundary skirts the border of Prior Park crossing Ralph Allen Drive and moving to maintain the current boundary of Widcombe and Combe Down, which mirrors the historic parish boundaries.

The boundary then crosses Greenway Lane at the same point as the current boundary, but then goes round the edge of Alexandra Park and Beechen Cliff taking that out of Widcombe Ward, given the park is only accessible from Poet's Corner, this feels like another anomaly. The boundary then takes in the Lower and Upper Oldfield Park areas. Demographically these areas share more with Wells Road and Magdalen Avenue than they do with the area north of the railway. This makes it sensible to bring the boundary along the railway to the river.

<b>Ward 16</b>	<b>OLDFIELD PARK</b>
Number of Councillors	2

Estimated electors 2023	4794
+/- average	+1%

This scheme broadly maintains the shape of previous Oldfield Ward, while making adjustments to bring in as much of the terraced community that considers itself to be Oldfield Park as possible, with Moorland Road District shopping area at its heart. The Ward is renamed accordingly to Oldfield Park. As a result the southern, non-terraced, edge of the Ward needs to be adjusted with areas moved to three of the adjacent Wards.

Continuing the already established natural community divider of the railway line, the new Ward boundary continues along the track to Linear Park taking in areas of the former Westmoreland Ward polling district WM1 in an arc following Linear Park. The northern part of the former Westmoreland Ward polling district WM2 is also added to the new Oldfield Park Ward. This area of addition is bounded by Linear Park to the North, and the previous polling district boundary WM3 / WM2 to the West. The southern boundary is to the South of the properties and houses of Lymore Avenue (including Lymore Close). Oldfield Park Junior School and grounds is also transferred into the new Oldfield Park Ward. The Ward boundary then continues along the previous WM2 and OF1 polling district boundary south until Elm Grove.

To the North East boundary of the Ward, the anomaly of two houses on Bloomfield Avenue should be resolved by transferring them into the re-named Bloomfield Ward. The northern side properties on both Junction Road and Oldfield Road, until its junction with Bloomfield Avenue, currently in Widcombe Ward should transfer into Oldfield Park Ward with the new boundary now at the rear of those properties' gardens. Thus the majority of the B3111 is within a single Ward and the traffic and parking issues faced by the community could be dealt with by a single pair of Councillors.

The addition of the terraced housing West of the previous Ward boundary between Oldfield and Westmoreland, as outlined above, ends the artificial division of Moorland Rd District Shopping Centre. This adjustment requires the movement of part of the South of the old Oldfield Ward (small part of polling district OF1 (Elm Grove, Hazel Grove, and 1-11 Chanty Mead.) and all of polling district OF3 into neighbouring Wards.

It is proposed that Elm Grove and Hazel Grove (both polling district OF1) transfer alongside The Oval area, Englishcombe Lane (including the land to the South currently allocated for housing), Englishcombe Court, Englishcombe Way (including Baskervilles Gymnastics and Fitness Centre), the Moorfield Rec, to the junction with Kingsway (all polling district OF3) transfers to the new Bloomfield Ward. Both parts of the Moorlands Schools Federation remain in the new Oldfield Park Ward. The Eastern properties on Chanty Mead to the junction with the Junior School entrance transfer from the previous polling district LY1 to the new Oldfield Park Ward.

The community on Sladebrook Avenue (polling district OF3) probably 'feel' more like they are Oldfield Park than Southdown, however, due to the numbers involved, it wasn't possible to include this in Oldfield Park Ward. The residents on Sladebrook Avenue are just as likely to use the Tesco on Englishcombe Lane, the Mount Road shops or Moorland Road and so, from an amenity point of view, it is not unreasonable to place them in Southdown.

Kingway (the road), Stirlingale Road and Avenue (polling district OF3) all move into the Odd Down Ward. This area is naturally part of the community of Kingsway and in this scheme this whole community is placed in the Odd Down Ward.

<b>Ward 17</b>	<b>RIVERSIDE</b>
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2561
+/- average	+8%

The Bath Western Riverside housing development on the old Stothert and Pitt crane yard is a distinct community with its own individual feel and this area forms the back bone of Riverside Ward. Riverside is bounded by River Avon to the north and the railway to the south. The railway forms a very obvious boundary on the eastern side where the housing moves from tightly packed terraced housing north of the rail line to the large detached houses south of it.

Linear Park forms its western boundary which divides the housing that more naturally looks towards Twerton from Riverside which looks towards the city centre and Sainsbury's.

This is the only single member ward south of the river but this discrete ward has community characteristics that define it from the areas surrounding it. It also ensures a better division of Councillors north and south of the river maintaining roughly similar numbers of electors per Councillor.

### **Warding Scheme North East Somerset**

The warding scheme in North East Somerset has been designed using parish and town boundaries as far as possible. Following the logic that parishes and towns can be seen as distinct and individual communities, it is not possible to build larger wards which represent a cohesive community. The ward scheme outlined below uses parishes and towns as ready-made 'building blocks' in order to create 'best fit' wards based on geographical proximity, electoral equality and working around large, natural features, such as Chew Valley Lake.

The proposed scheme creates 19 wards; 12 two-member wards and 7 single member wards. The suggested names are mostly drawn from the current ward names.

<b>Ward 18</b>	<b>BATHAVON NORTH</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4693
+/- average	-1%

**Parishes included:** Bathford, Batheaston, Swainswick, Charlcombe, North Stoke, Kelston, St Catherine

Bathavon North takes in the parishes that surround Bath to the North. It is then further bound by the River Avon which keeps it separate from Saltford to the west, and from Bathampton and Claverton in the West. Bathavon North also takes in the small piece of the City of Bath which strays over the A46. This significant barrier splits these houses from Bath and naturally means their main amenities are those in Batheaston.

As the only three-member ward in B&NES, Bathavon North is currently an anomaly which creates a higher-than-average workload for ward councillors attending meetings of the parish councils. For councillors from different political parties, who do not have colleague(s) with whom to take turns, this is quite a challenge and reducing the size of the ward would allow councillors more scope to effectively represent their constituents.

Ward 19	BATHAVON EAST
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2282
+/- average	-4%

**Parishes included:** Bathampton, Claverton, Monkton Combe, South Stoke

Bathavon East continues to take in the ring of parishes around Bath, starting on the other side of the river from Bathavon North. The ward follows the A36 round through Monkton Combe, and then takes in South Stoke. South Stoke is expected to see a significant amount of development with its access through Odd Down. This ward therefore maintains a strong connection with the City of Bath with a porous boundary between the two.

Ward 20	BATHAVON SOUTH
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2522
+/- average	7%

**Parishes included:** Combe Hay, Englishcombe, Priston, Shoscombe, Wellow, Hinton Charterhouse, Freshford, Dunkerton and Tunley

Ward 21	PEASEDOWN
Number of Councillors	2

Estimated electors 2023	5098
+/- average	+8%

**Parishes included:** Peasedown St John

<b>Ward 22</b>	<b>RADSTOCK</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4315
+/- average	-9%

**Parishes included:** Radstock

<b>Ward 23</b>	<b>WESTFIELD</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4693
+/- average	-1%

**Parishes included:** Westfield

<b>Ward 24</b>	<b>PAULTON</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4718
+/- average	-0%

**Parishes included:** Paulton

<b>Ward 25</b>	<b>MENDIP</b>
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2610
+/- average	+10%

**Parishes included:** Cameley, East Harptree, Hinton Blewett, Farrington Gurney

<b>Ward 26</b>	<b>CHEW VALLEY SOUTH</b>
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2474
+/- average	+5%

**Parishes included:** Compton Martin, Nempnett Thrubwell, Stowey Sutton, Ubley, West Harptree

<b>Ward 27</b>	<b>CHEW VALLEY NORTH</b>
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2574
+/- average	+9%

**Parishes included:** Chew Magna, Chew Stoke, Norton Malreward, Stanton Drew

<b>Ward 28</b>	<b>PUBLOW AND WHITCHURCH</b>
Number of Councillors	1
Estimated electors 2023	2527
+/- average	+7%

**Parishes included:** Publow with Pensford, Whitchurch Village

<b>Ward 29</b>	<b>SALTFORD</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4641
+/- average	-2%

**Parishes included:** Saltford, Corston, Newton St Loe, Compton Dando

<b>Ward 30</b>	<b>FARMBOROUGH</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	2564

+/- average	+8%
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**Parishes included:** Clutton, Chelwood, Farmborough, Marksbury

<b>Ward 31</b>	<b>TIMSBURY</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4681
+/- average	-1%

**Parishes included:** Timsbury, High Littleton, Camerton

### **Midsomer Norton**

While the two Midsomer Norton Wards do fit within a 10% tolerance based on 2023 electorate figures, Midsomer Norton North would be +6% and Midsomer Norton Redfield would be -8% it is therefore proposed to move the area south of Wellow Brook and west of Northmead Road from Midsomer Norton North to Midsomer Norton Redfield. This gives the approximate figures below.

Unfortunately it was not possible to illustrate this on the map due to the restriction on objects on the map.

<b>Ward 32</b>	<b>MIDSOMER NORTON NORTH</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4568
+/- average	-3%

<b>Ward 33</b>	<b>MIDSOMER NORTON REDFIELD</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	4788
+/- average	+1%

### **Keynsham**

The existing area of Keynsham has enough electors to support their current 6 Councillors, however they are not distributed evenly. Keynsham North and South are going to carry the bulk of the development in the coming years and consequently Keynsham North ends up on +12%.

The adjustments made to Keynsham move the High Street area from Keynsham North to Keynsham East as well as a number of other tweaks to the boundary. They are illustrated on the map attached to this submission. This gives the figures below.

<b>Ward 34</b>	<b>KEYNSHAM SOUTH</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	5077
+/- average	+7%

<b>Ward 35</b>	<b>KEYNSHAM EAST</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	5128
+/- average	+8%

<b>Ward 36</b>	<b>KEYNSHAM NORTH</b>
Number of Councillors	2
Estimated electors 2023	5000
+/- average	+8%

I hope that the proposals above are clear; please find below contact details in case any clarification is required.

Yours sincerely,

**Ben Stevens**

Chair of Bath and North East Somerset Liberal Democrats

