

## Test Valley District

### Personal Details:

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### Comment text:

North West Hampshire Liberal Democrats welcome the boundary review. The current boundaries do not reflect population changes which leave residents in urban Andover underrepresented in comparison to the rural parts of the borough. We also welcome the proposed reduction in borough councillors to 43 although we feel a still smaller number would be viable. We believe the projected population numbers justify an increase in councillors for urban Andover and a reduction in councillors for the rural parts of Test Valley. In the accompanying document we outline our views on the allocation of councillors based on the existing polling districts and projected numbers. In the case of urban Andover changes will be required to the existing polling districts. We await the commission's recommendations and will make further comment at that stage.

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## NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

### TVBC BOUNDARY REVIEW

North West Hampshire Liberal Democrats welcome the boundary review. The current boundaries do not reflect population changes which leave residents in urban Andover underrepresented in comparison to the rural parts of the borough. We also welcome the proposed reduction in borough councillors to 43 although we feel a still smaller number would be viable. The proposed number of councillors represents a target of one councillor for every 2411 voters (based on 2022 figures).

Analysis of expected voter numbers suggest the wards in North West Hampshire should be represented by 21 councillors, 16 of these for urban Andover, the remainder for the surrounding rural areas. These should be allocated as follows

#### **Andover Town:**

The current five wards Andover Alamein, Andover Harroway, Andover Millway, Andover St Mary's and Andover Winton plus Burghclere Down (polling district VK) should be redrawn into eight two member wards. This brings all of the urban areas within the same borough wards. Historically the rural polling districts of Enham Alamein (polling district SD) and Smannell (polling district UN) have been included in Andover Alamein ward. These would be better transferred to a new rural ward.

Polling districts SE, SF, TD, TE, TU, TV, TW, UP, UQ, UR, US, VD, VE, VJ, VK, VL, VM, VN, VO, VR, VY, VZ, WE:

Voters 2022	38088	Councillors	16	Variance	1.27%
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#### **Bourne Valley:**

The parishes of Bourne Valley are currently over-represented on TVBC. Addition of the rural polling districts of Enham Alamein and Smannell parishes would increase voters to the required target number.

Polling districts SW, TG, TL, UW, UZ plus SD and UN:

Voters 2022	2524	Councillors	1	Variance	4.69%
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#### **Charlton, Penton Bellinger:**

Charlton ward is also over represented. We propose this parish is included in a new two member ward with all the parishes of Penton Bellinger ward except Thruxton.

Polling districts SJ, SY, TH, UF, UG, UM plus TC

Voters 2022	4792	Councillors	2	Variance	-0.62%
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### **Amport and Anna:**

We propose a new two member ward to include Thruxton (above), the existing Amport ward and the existing Anna ward except Burghclere Down (above) and Goodworth Clatford (below).

Polling districts UX plus SI, TB, TX, UH plus SC, UY and UK

Voters 2022	4681	Councillors	2	Variance	-2.92%
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### **Harewood:**

We note the current Harewood ward (which is in the Romsey constituency) is also over represented. The transfer of Goodworth Clatford to this ward would give the target number of voters for a new ward.

Polling districts SL, SQ, TP, VC plus TA

Voters 2022	2340	Councillors	1	Variance	-2.94%
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### **Elections:**

We believe the current system of “all-up” elections every four years produces un-representative councils. Voters tend to be influenced by national or international factors and generally vote en-bloc for party candidates. This results in a council which is dominated by the largest minority group and in which independent and smaller party candidates tend to be excluded. This is particularly prevalent in three member wards where all three seats usually go to the largest political group who in many cases have the support of less than 40% of the electorate.

For these reasons we would prefer to see one or two member wards with elections by thirds. We note this arrangement works well in our neighbouring borough of Basingstoke and Deane.

Len Gates

Chair NW Hampshire Liberal Democrats

25 March 2017