



BOUNDARY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 26/19

11 MARCH 2019

The purpose of this Report is to inform Members of the latest proposals from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for the new Isle of Wight Council electoral boundaries for the Ventnor/Wroxall area and related proposals for the adjustment of the town's Ward boundaries and their representation.

NO. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published its initial proposals following its Review of the Island's Electoral Arrangements aiming to create 'electoral equality', where votes are as equal as possible, ideally within 10% of being exactly equal in July 2018 for consultation ending on 12 November 2018.
- b) The Town Council considered its response to the proposals for the Ventnor/Wroxall area at its meeting of 12 November and resolved, in Minute 124/18, to support the Isle of Wight Council's response to reject the proposed two-Member constituency for the area in favour of two electoral divisions each represented by a one Member.
- c) By the same Minute, the Town Council agreed to recommend the inclusion of Wroxall with Bonchurch rather than St Lawrence as in the Isle of Wight Council's proposal.
- d) The LGBCE has now confirmed that it supports both the two one-Member Electoral divisions of the Ventnor/Wroxall area and the rearrangement of the Wards linking Wroxall and Bonchurch.
- e) A copy of its letter to the Isle of Wight Council setting out the LGBCE's reasoning is attached to this Report.

2) ELECTORAL DIVISIONS

- a) The LGBCE's map for their proposed division of the Ventnor/Wroxall area is attached to this Report.
- b) Each of the two proposed Electoral Divisions – Ventnor East & Wroxall and Ventnor West – will have one County Councillor each.

3) WARD BOUNDARIES AND COUNCILLORS

- a) The re-arrangement of the Electoral Divisions requires a related adjustment of the Ward Boundaries and their Town Councillor representation.
- b) The map of the LGBCE's proposed new boundaries is attached to this Report.
- c) It is proposed to retain the current total number of Town Councillors at the present 11 with their spread between the new Wards as set out in the following table:

WARD	NUMBER
Bonchurch	1
Lowtherville	2
St Lawrence	1
Ventnor East	1
Ventnor West	6

4) CONSULTATION

The consultation on these proposed changes is open until 1 April 2019

Mr John Metcalfe
Isle of Wight Council
County Hall
High Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD

5 March 2019

Dear Mr Metcalfe,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT: FURTHER LIMITED CONSULTATION

Following our consultation on the draft recommendations for the Isle of Wight, I am writing to inform you of the Commission's decision to hold a period of further limited consultation prior to publication of its final recommendations. This will involve our proposals for divisions in three areas, namely Freshwater and Totland, part of Ryde, and the Ventnor/Wroxall area. The Commission believes it has received sufficient evidence in relation to the rest of the island. Therefore, this period of further limited consultation focuses on these three areas only.

Freshwater and Totland

We received four submissions for this area. The submissions from the Council, Freshwater Parish Council and a local resident all proposed to transfer the shopping area around Avenue Road from our proposed Totland division to a Freshwater division, as they considered this area is a fundamental part of Freshwater rather than Totland.

We also received representations to include the Colwell area of Freshwater parish in the Totland division, as this area has closer links to Totland than to the rest of Freshwater parish.

The Commission has been persuaded to transfer the shopping area around Avenue Road into the Freshwater North division and transfer Colwell, including the area north of Colwell Lane and Silcombe Lane, into the Totland division. We are proposing to rename this division Totland & Colwell.

We have also revised the boundary between Freshwater South division and Totland division in the Middleton area, and propose to use the parish boundary as the division boundary. We note that there was support from the Freshwater Bay Residents Association for our draft division here, as it unites residents on both sides of Middleton Road in the same division. However, because of our decision to transfer the shopping

area into the Freshwater North division, it is necessary to retain the use of the parish boundary in order to provide for an acceptable level of electoral equality. We also note that this will avoid the need for a parish ward in this area. Furthermore, both the Council and a local resident argued for the current boundary to be retained in that area.

In addition to these changes, the Council proposed including the area north of Silcombe Lane into Freshwater North & Yarmouth division and at the same time moving the area around Golden Ridge and Collards Close from Freshwater North into Freshwater South division. However, this would result in variances of -11% in Freshwater North & Yarmouth division and more significantly, 19% in Freshwater South division, and we were therefore not persuaded to adopt the additional changes.

A summary of the divisions we propose in Freshwater and Totland are shown in the table below:

Division Name	No. of Councillors	Electorate 2018	Variance 2018	Electorate 2023	Variance 2023
Freshwater North & Yarmouth	1	2,621	-8%	2,656	-10%
Freshwater South	1	3,127	9%	3,168	7%
Totland & Colwell	1	3,221	13%	3,279	11%

Although the Commission supports these revised divisions, the proposed pattern is markedly different from that published as part of our original draft recommendations. Accordingly, the Commission has decided there should be a period of further limited consultation to seek the views of residents and locally interested parties regarding whether we should adopt the alternative warding pattern.

Ryde

We received 10 submissions in relation to our proposed Ryde Central, Ryde North East and Ryde South East divisions.

During the initial warding pattern consultation, Councillor Lilley submitted a proposal which included using St Johns Hill as a boundary between his proposed Ryde North and Ryde South divisions. Our draft recommendations were based on his proposal with a number of amendments, one of which was to extend the northern boundary of his Ryde South division to run along West Hill Road and Park Road, instead of along St Johns Hill. We renamed the divisions as Ryde North East and Ryde South East.

However, in error, we published two different maps on our webpage. The portal (which is our online consultation tool) showed St Johns Hill as the boundary reflecting Councillor Lilley's original proposal while the pdf map on our website showed the boundary that the Commission intended should form the division boundary.

The submissions we received relating to this area appeared to be based on the incorrect mapping. Respondents stated that they supported the boundaries as identified in Councillor Lilley's original submission as shown on the portal mapping. However, to adopt St John's Hill as a boundary would result in a -18% variance for Ryde North East division.

Having visited the area twice, we are content that the boundary of West Hill and Park Road that we previously identified and had intended to publish across all maps will provide for the best reflection of the statutory criteria. While we note Councillor Lilley's use of St John's Hill as a boundary, we are not persuaded to adopt it as it provides for a variance of -18% which we do not consider is justified. Given the error in the mapping, we are re-publishing the draft recommendations for consultation. We apologise for this error and welcome further comments in relation to the boundary in this area.

In addition to clarifying the boundary along West Hill and Park Road, we are making minor amendments to the boundary between Ryde North East and Ryde Central as proposed by the Council. These amendments, which do not affect any electors, ensure all the railway buildings are in the same division and also bring together the floodplain area into one division.

A number of submissions requested that we rename Ryde Central after the Monkton Brook in one way or another. The Council proposed the name Ryde Monktonmead and we are adopting this division name as part of our further draft recommendations.

Division Name	No. of Councillors	Electorate 2018	Variance 2018	Electorate 2023	Variance 2023
Ryde Monktonmead	1	3,086	8%	3,103	5%
Ryde North East	1	2,975	4%	3,107	5%
Ryde South East	1	1,737	-39%	3,093	5%

Ventnor & Wroxall

We received 30 submissions that referred to our proposed Ventnor & Wroxall division, none of which supported our creation of a two-member division and most of which opposed our decision to include Wroxall parish in a division with Ventnor.

Wroxall, Godshill and Rookley Parish Councils and most residents expressed a desire for all three parishes to be included in the same division. They argued that Wroxall parish should not be included in the same division as Ventnor, as this would not reflect community identities. Some residents also expressed concern that Wroxall residents would be marginalised in such a large division.

Having visited the area twice and considered all the submissions, we acknowledge that Wroxall and Ventnor do not share strong community interests. However, we consider it is necessary to include Wroxall parish with at least part of Ventnor parish to achieve an acceptable level of electoral equality in the Ventnor area; without including Wroxall parish, Ventnor would have a variance of -17%, which we do not consider is acceptable. We did consider alternative areas to include with Ventnor but could not identify any other parishes that would be more suited to be included with the town. Accordingly, we propose to maintain the inclusion of Wroxall parish in a division with Ventnor. However, the Commission has been persuaded to adopt two single-member Ventnor divisions (Ventnor East & Wroxall and Ventnor West) in place of the two-member division that was outlined in our original draft recommendations.

We received two alternative proposals which divided our two-member division into two single-member divisions. We received one from Isle of Wight Council, which was

supported by Ventnor Town Council, and one from Councillor Bond of Ventnor Town Council. Both proposals broadly used the existing parish wards as the building blocks of the divisions.

Councillor Bond considered that Bonchurch parish ward in the east of Ventnor should be included in the same division as Ventnor Town, due to both historical and contemporary connections, and to their close proximity. He considered that St Lawrence parish ward in the west of Ventnor, together with Lowtherville parish ward, should be included with Wroxall parish in another division.

The Council, however, included Bonchurch parish ward and Lowtherville parish ward in the same division as Wroxall parish.

We considered both proposals carefully on our second tour of the area. We were persuaded that the Council's proposals, as supported by Ventnor Town Council, were likely to better reflect the communities than Councillor Bond's proposal. We were not persuaded that the area of St Lawrence should be included with Wroxall given its distance, and considered that it was more appropriate to include Bonchurch with Wroxall. Accordingly, the further draft recommendations are based on the Council's proposal, with a slight modification to include the properties north of Ocean View Road in Ventnor West division to improve electoral equality. We have also included the property behind Holy Trinity Church in Ventnor West division. We welcome further views on the precise location of this boundary.

A summary of the divisions we propose in the Ventnor and Wroxall area is shown in the table below:

Division Name	No. of Councillors	Electorate 2018	Variance 2018	Electorate 2023	Variance 2023
Ventnor East & Wroxall	1	3,178	11%	3,186	8%
Ventnor West	1	3,090	8%	3,150	7%

Maps of our revised recommendations can be seen on the Commission's website at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/isle-of-wight/isle-of-wight>

This period of further limited consultation commences today, **5 March 2019**, and closes on **1 April 2019**. During this period, the Commission welcomes comments and supporting evidence on its revised recommendations for Freshwater, Ryde (3 divisions) and Ventnor and Wroxall.

The Commission's final recommendations for the Isle of Wight will now be published on **4 June 2019**.

The Commission would like to hear whether people support its proposed changes and the reasons for their views. We therefore encourage those who have a view on these revised proposals to write to us, whether they agree with them or not.

All representations received during the consultation period will be taken into account and the Commission will then consider the evidence received prior to the publication of its final recommendations.

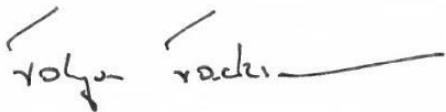
Representations should be made in writing to reviews@lgbce.org.uk or:

Review Officer (Isle of Wight)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

Following the conclusion of this further consultation, the Commission will consider any further evidence received and prepare its final recommendations for the Isle of Wight.

If you have any queries, please contact Yemi Fagun, the Review Officer responsible for the review: yemi.fagun@lgbce.org.uk or 0330 500 1278.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jolyon Jackson', followed by a long horizontal line.

Jolyon Jackson CBE
Chief Executive
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0330 500 1525



