CABINET

Report subject	**Community Governance Review - Final Recommendations**
Meeting date	1 October 2025
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Part 4) devolved power from the Secretary of State to principal councils to carry out community governance reviews and put in place or make changes to local community governance arrangements. The Council commenced a review following the Council decision in October 2024 at which the terms of reference and timetable were approved. The Task and Finish Group has considered the response to the consultation, taking into account all relevant factors, engaged with local ward councillors and existing parish councils before determining these recommendations. Cabinet is asked to consider the final recommendations of the Task and Finish Group and to make a recommendation to Council.
Recommendations	**It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet recommend to Council that:** **(a) the Task and Finish Group community governance review final recommendations, as set out in paragraphs 49, 62, 74, 92, 104, 117, 128, 140, 152, 166 and 181 of this report be approved;** **(b) the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to make all necessary reorganisation of community governance orders to implement the changes agreed by Council;** **(c) the Task and Finish Group continue to consider the transfer of civic and ceremonial assets, statutory services and precept requirements for year 1, for each new parish, on the basis of minimal transfer and precept, and a report be presented to full Council in due course.**
Reason for recommendations	The Task and Finish Group considered the responses to the consultation received during the third stage of the review process and considered all material factors in developing these final proposals. The views of these representations received, along with representations from councillors and advice on what counts as effective and convenient, have helped shape the final recommendations

Task and Finish Group Chair	Councillor Oliver Walters (Chair of the Task and Finish Group)
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn (Chief Executive)
Report Author	Richard Jones (Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

Background

1. The Council, at its meeting on 15 October 2024, resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review for the whole of the BCP Council area. A politically balanced Task and Finish Group of ten councillors was appointed to oversee the review and to make draft and then final recommendations.
2. The Councillors on the Task and Finish Group were Councillors Walters (Chair), Aitkenhead, Beesley, Bull, Dedman, Hanna, Le Poidevin, Rice, Trent and Wright. Councillors Beesley and Wright replaced other conservative councillors (Broadhead, Dove and T Slade) who were unable to continue to serve on the Group for the duration of the year.
3. Draft recommendations were approved by Council on 5 March 2025 for publication and consultation with interested parties.
4. Consultation took place between 31 March and 22 June 2025.
5. To assist in the deliberations, the Task and Finish Group requested that the written comments made by respondents were analysed and coded into theme-based categories. An analysis report was produced for each proposal area to help provide greater insight into issues and concerns and to identify potential mitigations. A copy of the analysis reports have been published on the Council's web site and are appended to this report.

Community Governance Review Criteria

6. Members are reminded that a Community Governance Review offers the opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries and to remove anomalous parish boundaries. It can consider one or more of the following:-

   (a) Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;

   (b) The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;

   (c) The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size; the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding); and

   (d) Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes (if they existed).

7. The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient.

8. In doing so the community governance review is required to take into account:-

    - The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
    - The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

9. The aim of the review is to consider and bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and efficient, more effective and convenient delivery of local services and ensure electors across the whole area will be treated equitably and fairly.

10. These criteria were considered by the Task and Finish Group in reaching their recommendations.

Constraints

11. The Council may not alter the external boundary of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area or any other principal council, and may not alter any parliamentary constituency boundaries. However, the review may make consequential electoral arrangement recommendations to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) regarding the Electoral Wards of BCP Council where there is sufficient evidence that this would be desirable and result in more convenient electoral arrangements.

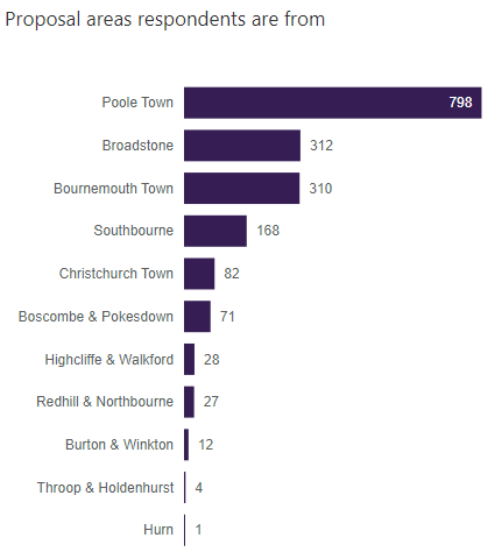
Consultation Responses

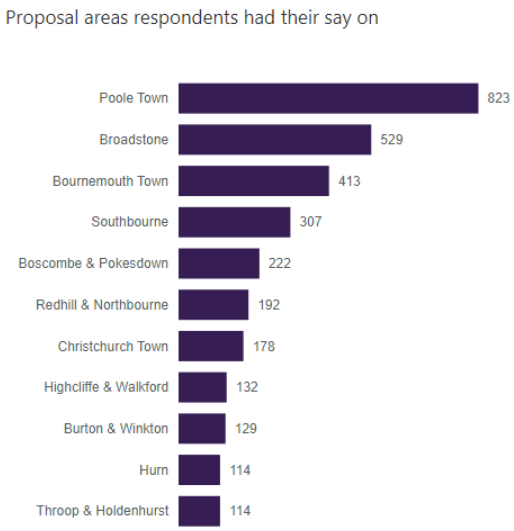
12. The draft recommendations were published on the Council's web site. A summary document and questionnaire, approved by the Task and Finish Group, were also produced to assist consultees to respond. Paper copies were made available at all local libraries and HUBs. Additional copies were dispatched by post upon request. A full copy of the draft recommendations were provided to key stakeholders and a copy provided to all Councillors.

13. There were 1,866 responses received to the consultation using the electronic or paper form and a further 123 written responses which are referenced in Appendix 3.

14. An interactive dashboard providing the detailed response data for each area was provided to each member of the Task and Finish Group for consideration. The dashboard was also provided to all councillors ahead of a series of engagements sessions held on 29 August, 1 September and 5 September 2025. The interactive dashboard has been made available for the public from 22 September on the Council's consultation web site.

15. The vast majority of responses, 98%, were residents of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, with the majority of respondents residing within the proposal areas of Poole, Broadstone and Bournemouth, as illustrated in the first chart below.





16. Respondents were permitted to respond to one or more proposal area and not just the area in which they resided. In some instances, there was a significantly greater number of responses from outside the proposal area than within. This is illustrated in the second table above.

17. A full summary report produced by the Research and Consultation Team includes a more detailed summary of the consultation process, methodology, engagement statistics, demographic analysis and the results by area. This report appears as Appendix 1 to this report.

Holistic Approach to Community Governance Review

18. While public consultation is a vital component of any Community Governance Review (CGR) or public consultation in general to help inform decision-makers, it should not be the sole determinant in shaping final recommendations. A robust and equitable review process must incorporate a range of additional factors to ensure that outcomes are not only democratically informed but also practically sound and strategically beneficial for the community as a whole.

19. Consultation responses are valuable but are not definitive and should not be confused with a formal vote by referendum. The purpose of consultation is to gauge public sentiment and identify local priorities, issues and concerns; recognising, however, that open consultations have limitations, whereby responses may be unrepresentative due to low participation, influenced by coordinated campaigns, or demographic imbalances.

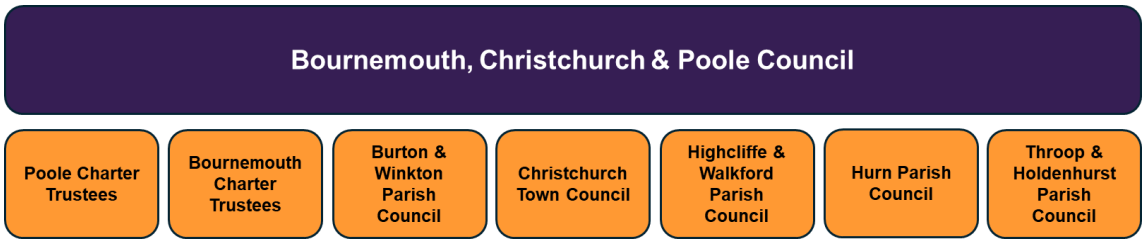
General Misunderstandings

20. In considering the consultation responses, and particularly the written comments made by respondents, it was evident that there were a number of general views based on inaccurate information or assumptions.

Additional Layers of Local Government and Bureaucracy

21. There were a number of respondents suggesting that the area proposals for both the existing parish and town councils and the proposed new town and community councils would be adding an additional layer of local government to the existing arrangements.

22. The existing arrangements are illustrated below, but in summary comprises two existing layers of local authority for the whole of the BCP Council area. BCP Council provides core services to all residents and businesses across the whole area, and either Town and Parish Council's or the Charter Trustees exist as a second tier of local government for their respective areas. The functions and responsibilities of the Charter Trustees and Parish and Town Council's differ but both set a budget and precept, funding for which is raised predominantly through council tax.



23. The draft proposals as outlined in the consultation document would have resulted in the Charter Trustees for both Bournemouth and Poole being replaced with new town or community councils. This would have resulted in the same number of tiers in all areas.

The Role and Responsibilities of Charter Trustees and Parish and Town Councils

24. Charter Trustees and Parish or Town Councils serve distinct roles within local governance, each with unique responsibilities and functions. Charter Trustees are established in areas where a borough council has been abolished, and no successor parish exists. Their responsibility is to preserve the civic and ceremonial traditions of the former borough, such as maintaining the mayoralty and safeguarding historic regalia. Charter Trustees do not possess the powers to deliver any local services, support local initiatives or enact local policies; rather, they focus solely on promoting the office of the Mayor and upholding civic traditions, although they have discretion on how this is achieved.

25. In contrast, Parish and Town Councils functions extend far beyond ceremonial duties; they are empowered to provide a wide range of local services and amenities. The only statutory service is the management of allotments, but Parish and Town Councils have discretion and greater freedoms to provide local services including, but not limited to, the management of parks, community facilities and public spaces and supporting local groups and initiatives. Parish and Town Councils also have a role in influencing planning decisions and promoting community well-being.

26. Whilst both Charter Trustees and Parish and Town Councils have statutory powers to raise funds through a precept on the council tax, the wide remit for parish and town councils enables them to respond to local needs and priorities directly. In essence, while Charter Trustees protect civic customs, Parish and Town Councils may actively shape and deliver the everyday services that support their communities.

27. Except for civic events, historic regalia and allotments, ownership of which must be transferred to parish and town councils upon establishment, no other services or functions are to be transferred to existing or new parish and town councils. The decision whether to deliver or support any additional activities or initiatives, will be

for the respective new councils to determine within their future budgeting processes in future years.

Reversing Local Government Reorganisation in 2019

28. There were a number of responses suggesting that this review was seeking to reverse local government reorganisation (LGR) in 2019. The LGR process in 2019 sought to amalgamate the upper tier local authorities across Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset by establishing two new unitary councils named 'Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council' and 'Dorset Council'.

29. The establishment of BCP Council abolished the former principal councils of Bournemouth Borough Council, the Borough of Poole and Christchurch Borough Council.

30. Although the 2019 review did not seek to alter parish and town council arrangements, some new town and parish councils were established across both the BCP and Dorset areas. This review is exploring the possibility of establishing additional councils at this lower-tier level and replacing the Charter Trustees.

Capping does not apply to the new Councils

31. Whilst it is accurate that there is currently no council tax capping regime in place for town and parish councils, this applies equally to the Charter Trustees. The parish and town councils and charter trustees within this lower tier of local government are separate legal entities and may set their own budget, council tax precept requirement and consequently council tax charge. The lack of a council tax capping regime applies equally to the existing arrangements and any new arrangements which may be put in place.

32. **Lack of information on the level of Council Tax for new councils**

33. A number of respondents felt there was a lack of information regarding the potential level of council tax and that BCP Council should have set out what the future charges would be. As explained above, parish and town councils are separate legal entities and set their own priorities, budgets and council tax charge. It would therefore be inappropriate for BCP Council to determine what a future council may charge.

34. However, to assist and to provide some insight, the consultation document included a schedule of the council tax charges for the existing parish and town councils within BCP as well as the average and highest charge across the whole of Dorset and BCP. The latest charges are shown below. There are over 10,000 parish and town councils in England. The charges for each of these councils is available from the government web site for comparison.

	Annual Band D Council Tax 2025/26
Bournemouth Charter Trustees	£2.24
Burton and Winkton Parish Council	£17.66
Christchurch Town Council	£72.35
Highcliffe and Walkford Parish Council	£32.86

	Annual Band D Council Tax 2025/26
Hurn Parish Council	£34.89
Poole Charter Trustees	£2.14
Throop and Holdenhurst Parish Council	£38.73
Lowest parish-level precepting charge within Dorset and BCP	£2.14
Average parish-level charge within Dorset and BCP (of 269)	£44.78
Highest parish-level charge within Dorset and BCP	£272.90

Increased Councillor Allowances and Pensions

35. Whilst parish and town councils may seek to pay their councillors allowances it is extremely rare. Where there is a desire to pay allowances to councillors this must be considered and recommended by an independent remuneration panel. Councillor allowances are not pensionable at any level of local government and for the avoidance of doubt the pension scheme is not available to councillors.

Potential Candidate Interest

36. Respondents were asked to indicate whether they would consider standing for election as a local councillor. This is particularly important in ascertaining whether there would be sufficient candidates to fill the seats upon any new councils established. The number responding to this question is detailed in the respective section of this report for each proposed area.

Stage 4 Final Recommendations

37. The following sections of this report detail the background information, draft recommendations (which were subject to consultation), a summary of representations received, the task and finish group conclusions and final recommendations for each existing parish or proposed parish. The sections are prefixed with the letter A to K which corresponds with the structure of the draft recommendations and consultation documents for ease of reference.

38. A summary of the responses received in response to the draft recommendations is provided by area. A schedule of all responses received is included as appendices to this report.

39. The comments provided in the final section of the questionnaire asking, 'Is there anything else that you would like to say about the Community Governance Review?' are also included within the separate pack referred to above.

A – BURTON AND WINKTON

Background

40. The background information provided in the consultation questionnaire was:-

    (a) The current parish of Burton and Winkton is unwarded, has 10 elected representative seats and falls entirely within the BCP electoral ward of Burton and Grange.

(b) Contested elections were held in Burton and Winkton in May 2019, although there were no contested elections in May 2023. The projected elector-to-councillor ratio is 338:1

Draft Recommendations

41. The draft recommendations approved by Council were that:-

(a) the parish of Burton and Winkton should not be abolished

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Burton and Winkton

(c) the name of the parish of Burton and Winkton should not be altered

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council

(e) the name of the parish council should not be altered

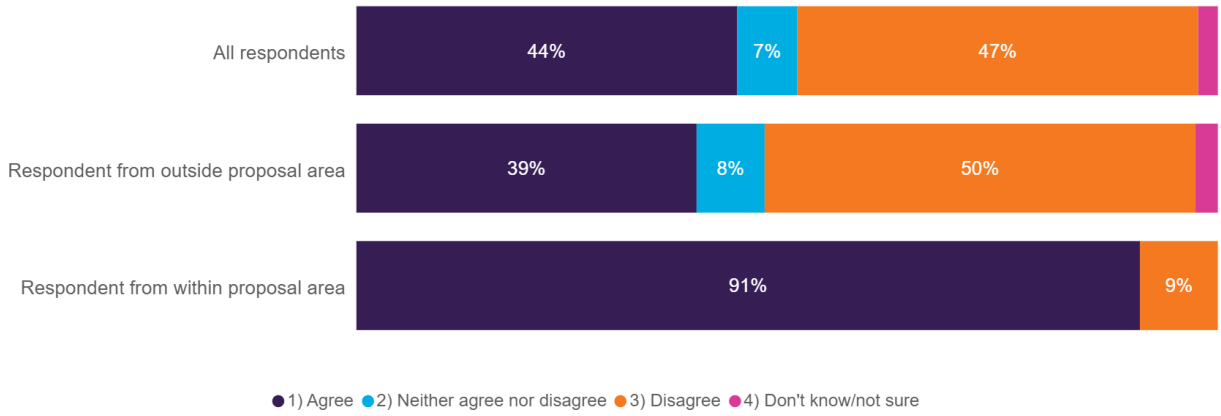
(f) the parish council for Burton and Winkton shall consist of ten councillors.

Summary of Representations Received

42. There was a total of 129 responses received in relation to the parish of Burton and Winkton although, of these, only 12 were from respondents within the parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

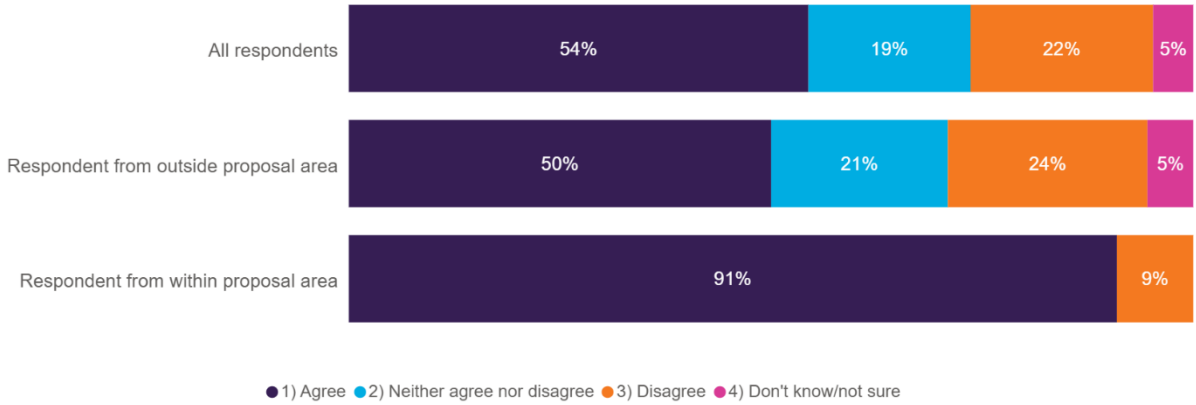
43. It can be seen from the data, that there was a significant variance between the views of those commenting from outside the parish boundary when compared to those living within the parish. Representatives of the existing town and parish councils were concerned that this may indicate that respondents to the consultation may have little or no understanding of the role and functions of parish and town councils and the benefits they can bring to local communities.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish of Burton and Winkton should not be abolished?



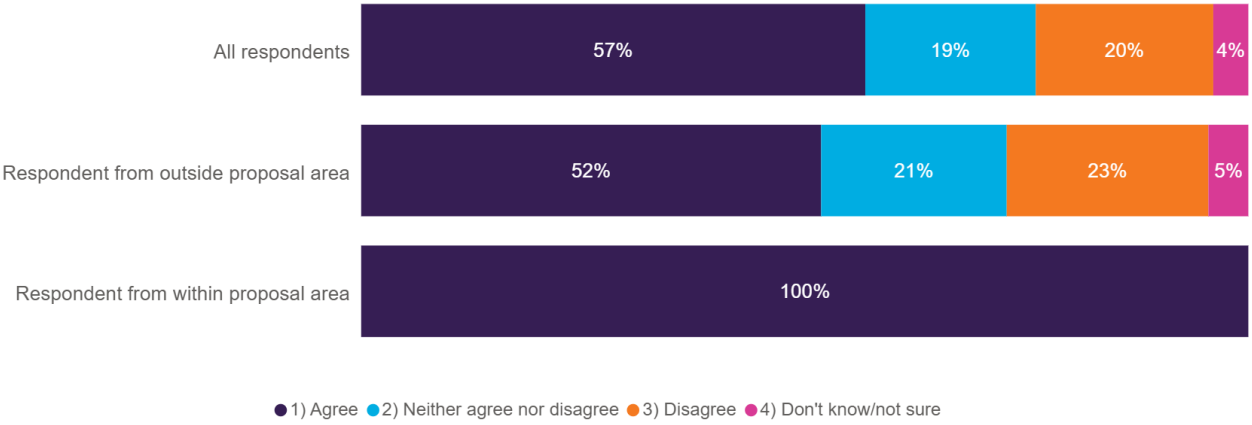
Bases: All respondents – 129; Respondents from outside proposal area – 114; Respondents within proposal area – 11.

Qb. To what extent do you agree or disagree that no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Burton and Winkton?



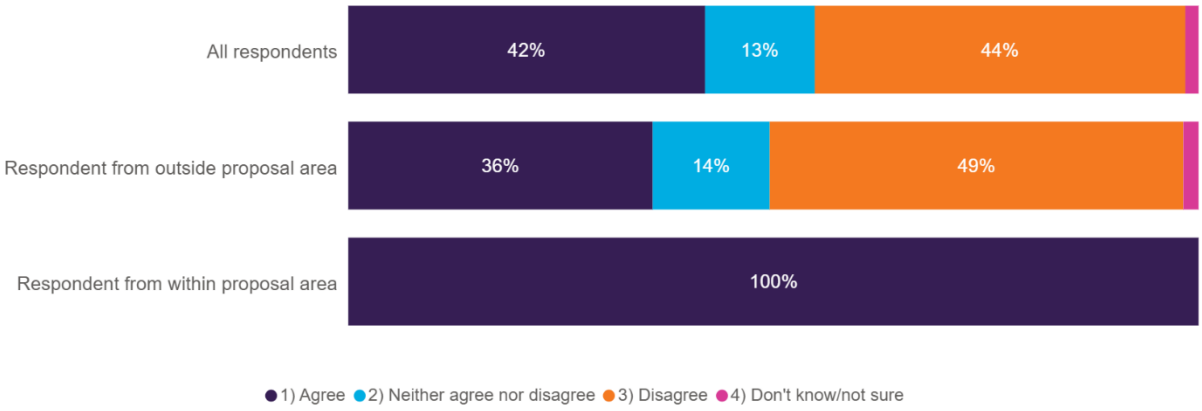
Bases: All respondents – 125; Respondents from outside proposal area – 110; Respondents within proposal area – 11.

Qc. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the parish of Burton and Winkton should not be altered?



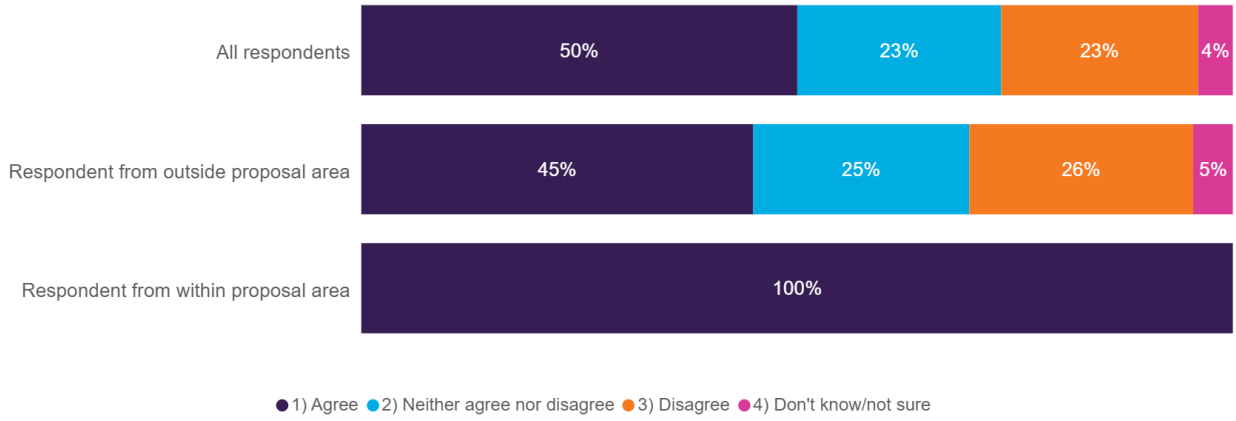
Bases: All respondents – 125; Respondents from outside proposal area – 110; Respondents within proposal area – 11.

Qd. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish of Burton and Winkton should continue to have a parish council?



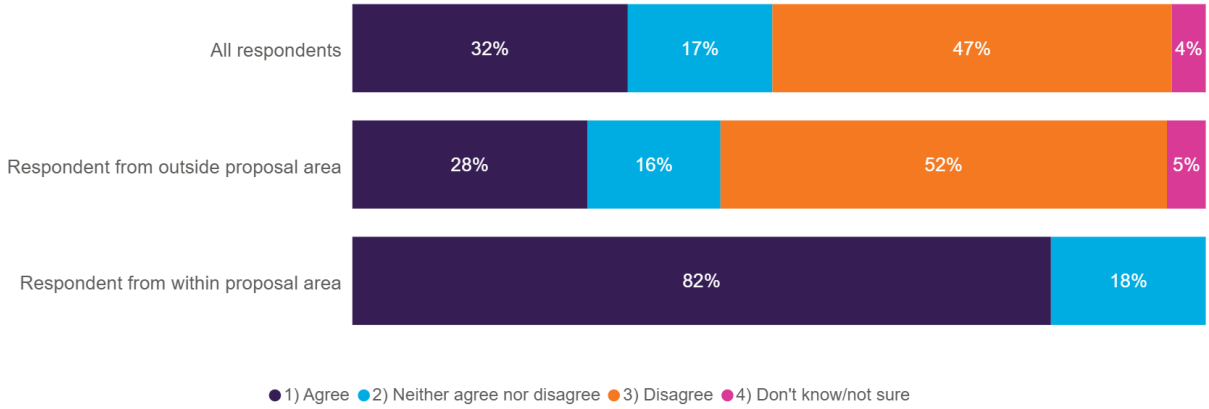
Bases: All respondents – 124; Respondents from outside proposal area – 109; Respondents within proposal area – 11.

Qe. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the parish council should not be altered?



Bases: All respondents – 124; Respondents from outside proposal area – 109; Respondents within proposal area – 11.

Qf. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish council for Burton and Winkton shall consist of 10 councillors?



Bases: All respondents – 124; Respondents from outside proposal area – 109; Respondents within proposal area – 11.

44. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 143 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(A1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(A2) to this report.

45. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the parish boundary that felt the parish should be abolished, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general and did not appear to recognise that this parish already existed.

46. Arguments against the continuation of Burton & Winkton parish included a belief that parish councils added an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and administrative costs, which could be better utilised by BCP Council. Many felt that the creation of parish councils would lead to increased council tax and financial burdens on residents without providing any tangible benefits. Additionally, some respondents argued that the functions and services provided by parish councils were already covered by BCP Council, making parish councils redundant. There were also

concerns about the potential for fragmentation and lack of accountability, as well as the inefficiency of having multiple layers of local government. Overall, the respondents felt that the existing structure of the BCP Council was sufficient and that adding parish councils would only complicate governance and increase costs.

47. Conversely, the respondents from within Burton & Winkton who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt that the parish should continue unchanged for several reasons. They appreciated the strong sense of community and the village feel that Burton & Winkton offers, which they believed would be lost if the parish were abolished or merged with Christchurch. They also valued the effective work of the parish council in maintaining local democracy, community representation, and addressing local issues. Additionally, they felt that the current structure of the parish council was essential for preserving local identity and ensuring that the unique needs of the area were met. Overall, the respondents believed that the existing arrangements provided stability and continuity, which were important for the well-being of the community.

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

48. The Task and Finish group considered the above representations and concluded that the support for Burton and Winkton Parish was sufficient to recommend that the parish continue unchanged. Finally, the Task and Finish Group considered the level of representation on the Parish Council. Although it was recognised that there were no contested elections in 2023, there was insufficient justification to reduce the elected representation.

Final Recommendations

49. It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements for the parish of Burton & Winkton be approved:-

(a) the parish of Burton and Winkton should not be abolished;

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Burton and Winkton;

(c) the name of the parish of Burton and Winkton should not be altered;

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;

(e) the name of the parish council should not be altered;

(f) the parish council for Burton and Winkton consist of ten councillors.

B – HURN

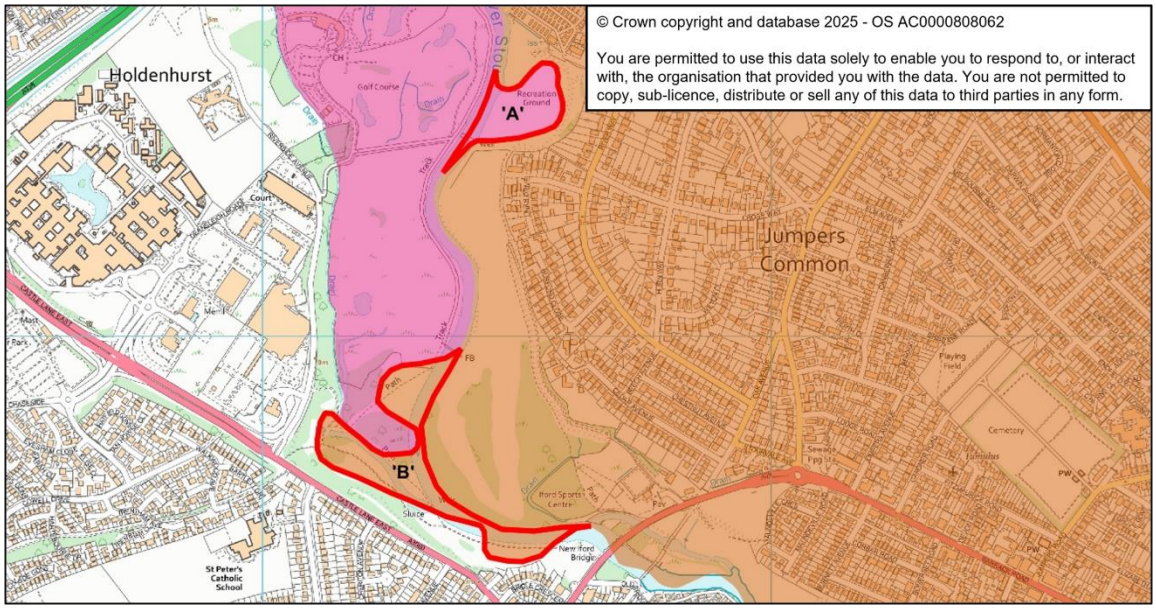
Background

50. The background information provided in the consultation questionnaire was:-

(a) The current parish of Hurn is unwarded, has 6 elected representative seats and falls entirely within the BCP electoral ward of Commons.

(b) Contested elections were held in Hurn in May 2019, although there were no contested elections in May 2023. The projected elector-to-councillor ratio is 99:1

51. Although no boundary changes were suggested by Hurn Parish Council, Christchurch Town Council made a representation requesting a change to the boundary between the two parishes. The request was to change the current boundary where it crosses over the river so as to align with the line of the river. The proposed changes are shown on the map below where the area marked 'A' would transfer from Hurn Parish to Christchurch Town, and the area marked 'B' would transfer from Christchurch Town to Hurn Parish. There are no properties within these areas and therefore no change to the electorate. There would be no transfer of property or responsibility as a consequence of this change.



52. Hurn Parish Council raised no objection to the above change.

Draft Recommendations

53. The draft recommendations approved by Council were that:-

    (a) the parish of Hurn should not be abolished

    (b) the boundary of the existing parish of Hurn be altered as shown on the plan at paragraph 51 above

    (c) the name of the parish of Hurn should not be altered

    (d) the parish should continue to have a parish council

    (e) the name of the parish council should not be altered

    (f) the parish council for Hurn shall consist of six councillors.

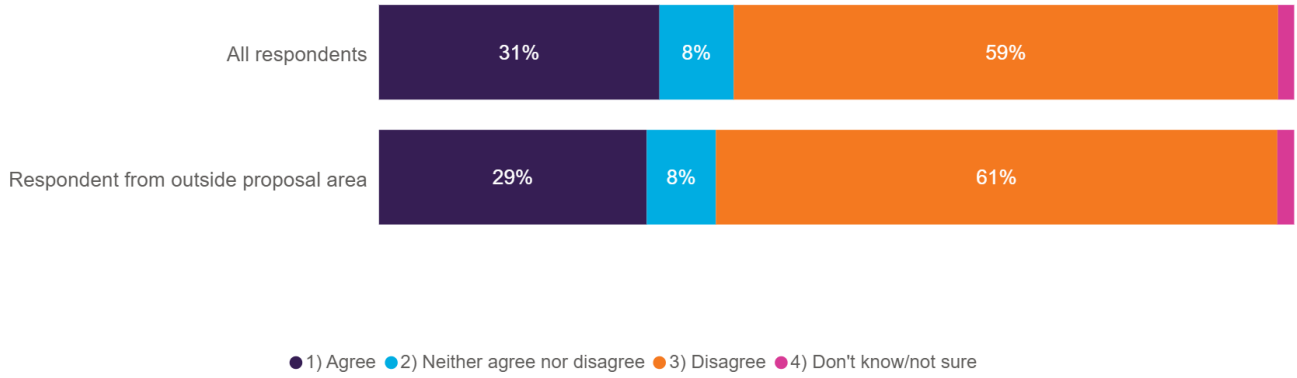
Summary of Representations Received

54. There was a total of 114 responses received in relation to the parish of Hurn although, of these, none were from respondents within the parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents and by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area.

55. Representatives of the existing town and parish councils were concerned that the results were based on feedback from non-parishioners only which could give rise to questioning the existence of the parish council. It was felt that this would not be a true reflection of public opinion locally.

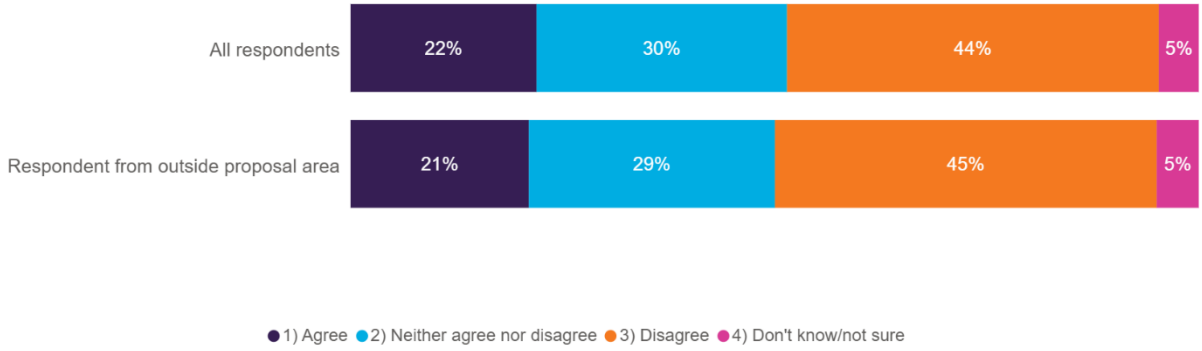
56. The parish council were of the opinion that the parish council was well respected locally and there was no justification to consider abolishing the parish based on the views of respondents who appear to be objecting to the principle of parish and town councils and who may have little or no understanding of the role, functions and benefits that parish councils bring to local communities.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish of Hurn should not be abolished?



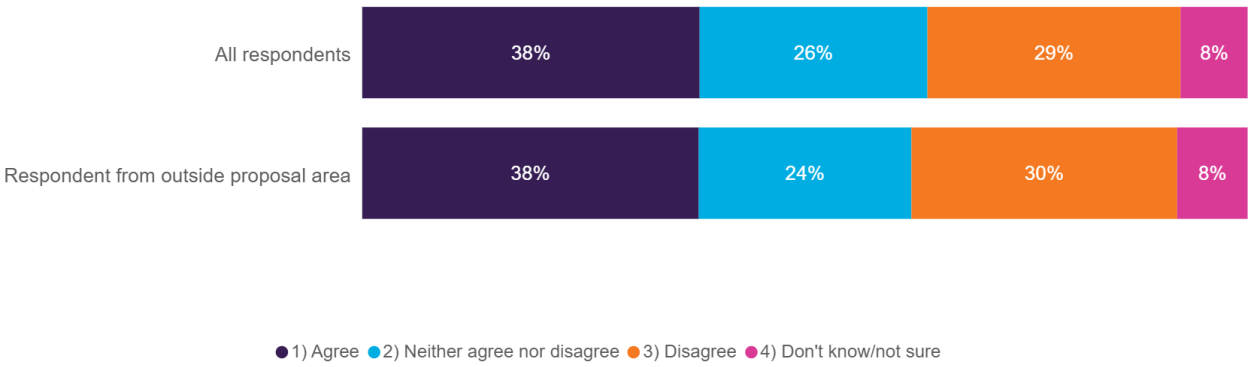
Bases: All respondents – 111; Respondents from outside proposal area – 106; Respondents within proposal area – 0.

Qb. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the boundary of the existing parish of Hurn be altered as shown on the plan above?



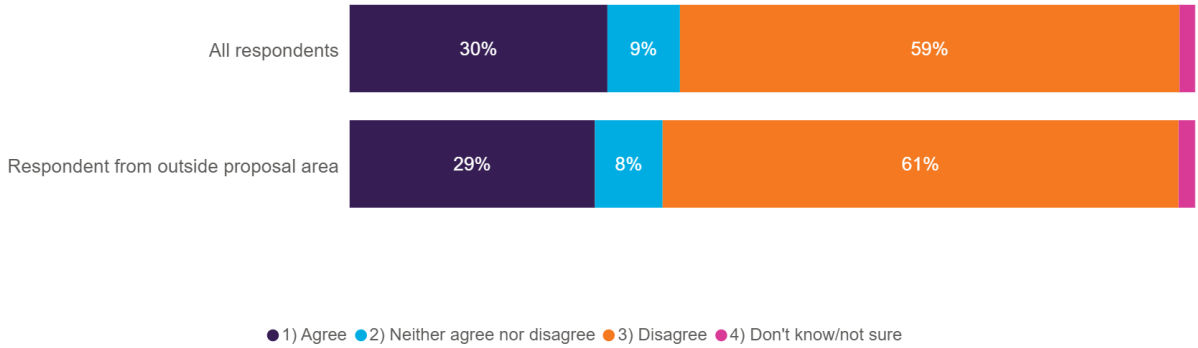
Bases: All respondents – 105; Respondents from outside proposal area – 100; Respondents within proposal area – 0.

Qc. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the parish of Hurn should not be altered?



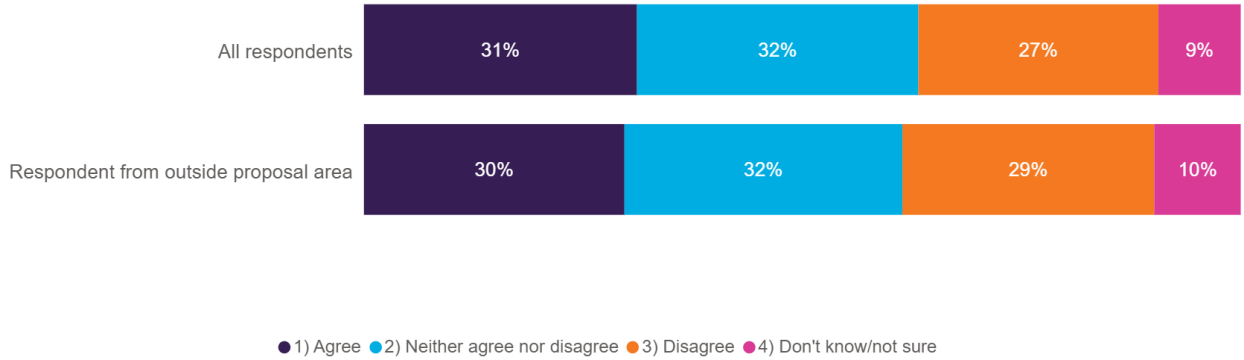
Bases: All respondents – 105; Respondents from outside proposal area – 100; Respondents within proposal area – 0.

Qd. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish of Hurn should continue to have a parish council?



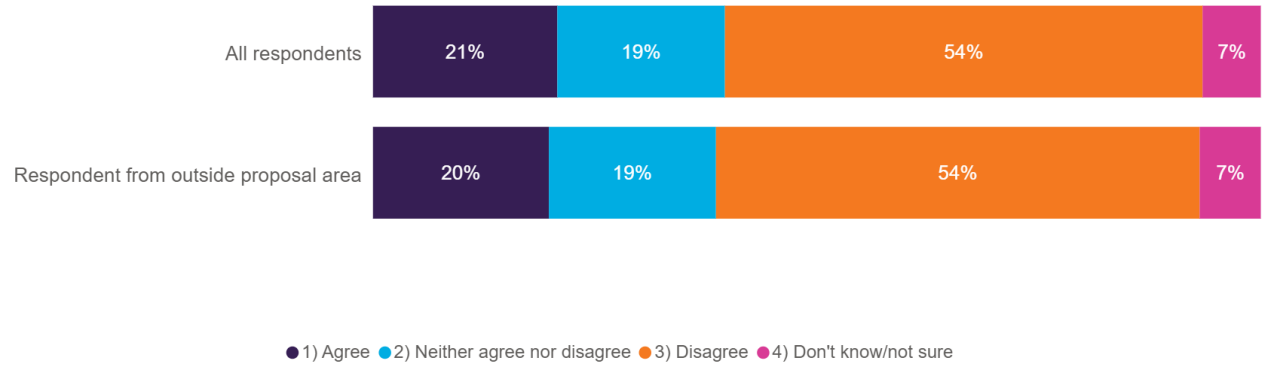
Bases: All respondents – 105; Respondents from outside proposal area – 100; Respondents within proposal area – 0.

Qe. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the parish council should not be altered?



Bases: All respondents – 106; Respondents from outside proposal area – 101; Respondents within proposal area – 0.

Qf. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish council for Hurn shall consist of six councillors?



Bases: All respondents – 106; Respondents from outside proposal area – 101; Respondents within proposal area – 0.

57. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 127 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(B1) to this report. It should be noted again, that none of these comments were from existing parishioners of Hurn. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(B2) to this report.

58. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the parish boundary that felt the parish should be abolished, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general and did not appear to recognise that this parish already existed.

59. Arguments against the continuation of Hurn parish included a belief that parish councils are an unnecessary extra layer of bureaucracy that adds additional costs without providing significant benefits. Many argued that the services provided by parish councils could be more effectively managed by the unitary authority, which has the necessary expertise and resources. Some respondents felt that the current structure leads to duplication of efforts and increased administrative costs, which could be better utilised elsewhere. Others mentioned that the creation of parish councils undermines the arguments for the creation of the BCP unitary authority, which was intended to reduce administrative overhead and improve efficiency. Additionally, there were concerns about the disproportionate number of councillors for the small population, which was seen as inefficient and unnecessary.

60. Many of these points were addressed in the general misunderstanding section of the report and the views are not considered by the parish council to be shared by local parishioners. The parish of Hurn is an ancient parish established in 1894.

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

61. The Task and Finish group considered the above representations and concluded that the support for Hurn Parish was sufficient to recommend that the parish continue with a modification to the boundary detailed above. Finally, the Task and Finish Group considered the level of representation on the Parish Council. Although it was recognised that there were no contested elections in 2023, there was insufficient justification to reduce the elected representation. There are only six councillors on Hurn Parish Council and the minimum permitted number is five.

Final Recommendations

62. It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements for the parish of Hurn be approved:-

(a) the parish of Hurn should not be abolished;

(b) the boundary of the existing parish of Hurn be altered as shown on the plan at paragraph 51 above;

(c) the name of the parish of Hurn should not be altered;

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council;

(e) the name of the parish council should not be altered;

(f) the parish council for Hurn consist of six councillors.

(g) a Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2027 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2027.

C – HIGHCLIFFE AND WALKFORD

Background

63. The background information provided in the consultation questionnaire was:-

(a) The current parish of Highcliffe and Walkford is warded, has 11 elected representative seats and falls within the BCP electoral ward of Highcliffe and Walkford and part of the Mudeford, Stanpit and West Highcliffe ward. The Parish Council was established in 2019.

(b) Contested elections were held in Hurn in May 2019, although there were no contested elections in May 2023. The projected elector-to-councillor ratio is 1,086:1

Draft Recommendations

64. The draft recommendations approved by Council were that:-

(a) the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford should not be abolished

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Highcliffe and Walkford

(c) the name of the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford should not be altered

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council

(e) the name of the parish council should not be altered

(f) the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford continue to be divided into three parish wards without modification and those wards named respectively:

(i) Highcliffe

(ii) North Highcliffe and Walkford

(iii) West Highcliffe

(g) the parish council for Highcliffe and Walkford shall consist of 11 councillors.

(h) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:

(i) Highcliffe - three councillors

(ii) North Highcliffe and Walkford – three councillors

(iii) West Highcliffe - five councillors

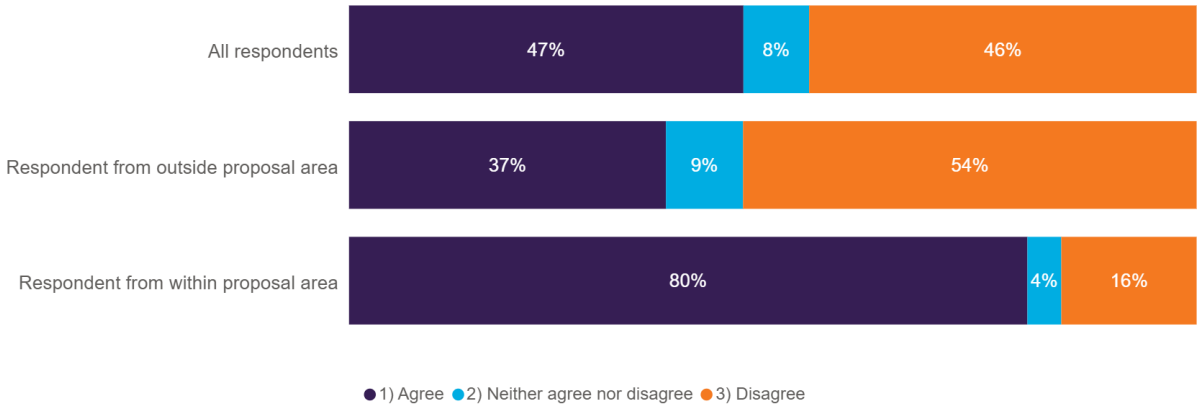
Summary of Representations Received

65. There were no suggested parish boundary changes received from the parish council however, the council have requested an alteration to the internal wards to effectively combine the existing wards of Highcliffe and North Highcliffe & Walkford. The proposed name for the combined parish ward is East Highcliffe and Walkford, which would be represented by six councillors.

66. There was a total of 132 responses received in relation to the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford although, of these, only 25 were from respondents within the parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

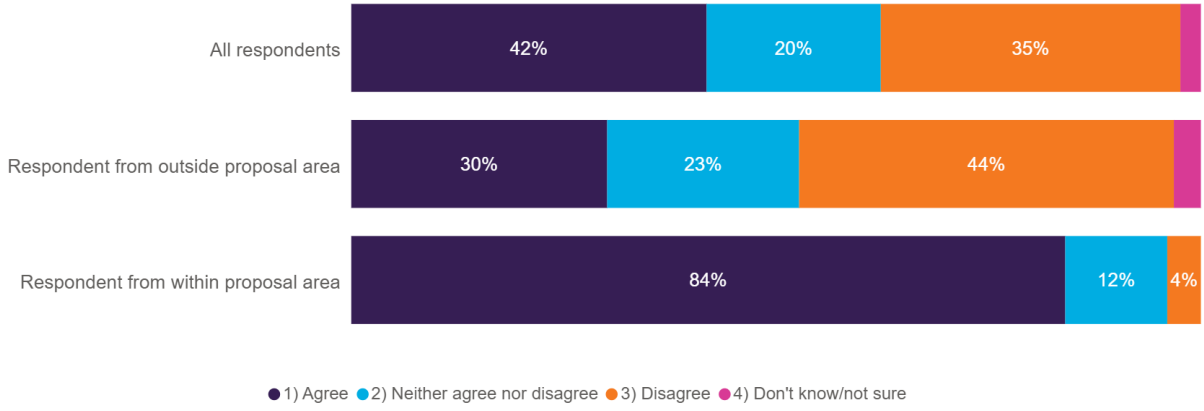
67. It can be seen from the data, that there was a significant variance between the views of those commenting from outside the parish boundary when compared to those living within the parish. Representatives of the existing town and parish councils were concerned that this may indicate that respondents to the consultation may have little or no understanding of the role and functions of parish and town councils and the benefits they can bring to local communities.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford should not be abolished?



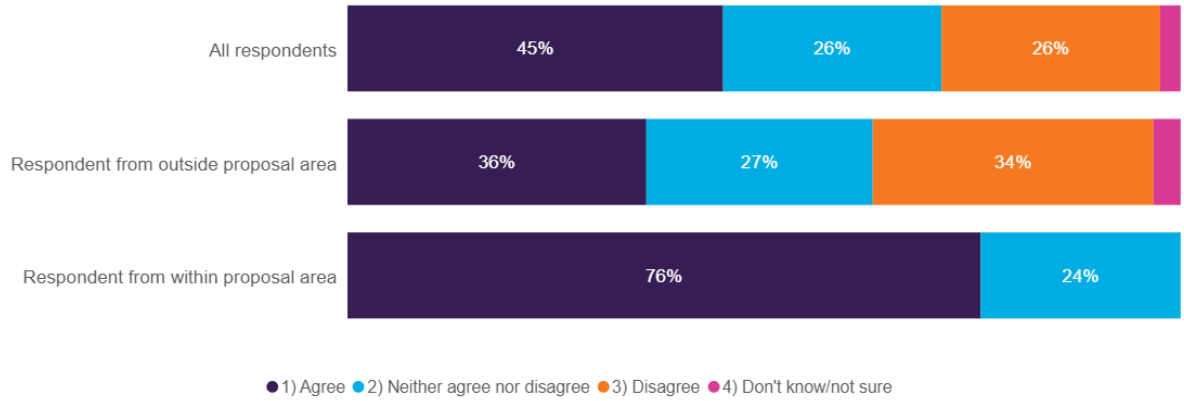
Bases: All respondents – 129; Respondents from outside proposal area – 99; Respondents within proposal area – 25.

Qb. To what extent do you agree or disagree that no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Highcliffe and Walkford?



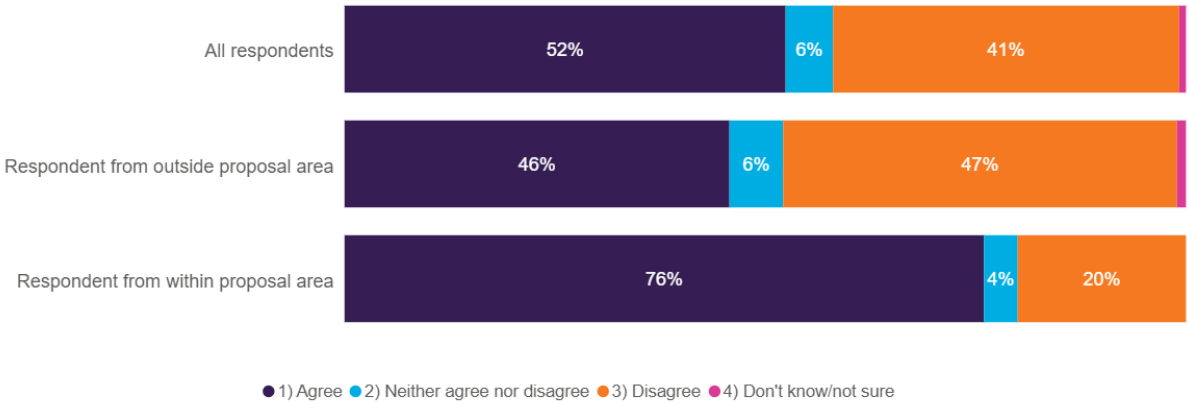
Bases: All respondents – 122; Respondents from outside proposal area – 93; Respondents within proposal area – 25.

Qc. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford should not be altered?



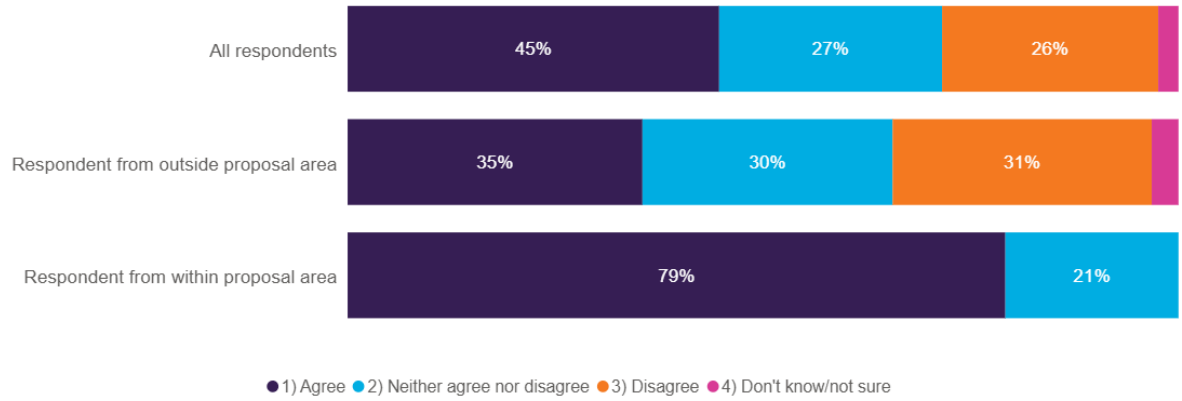
Bases: All respondents – 122; Respondents from outside proposal area – 92; Respondents within proposal area – 25.

Qd. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford should continue to have a parish council?



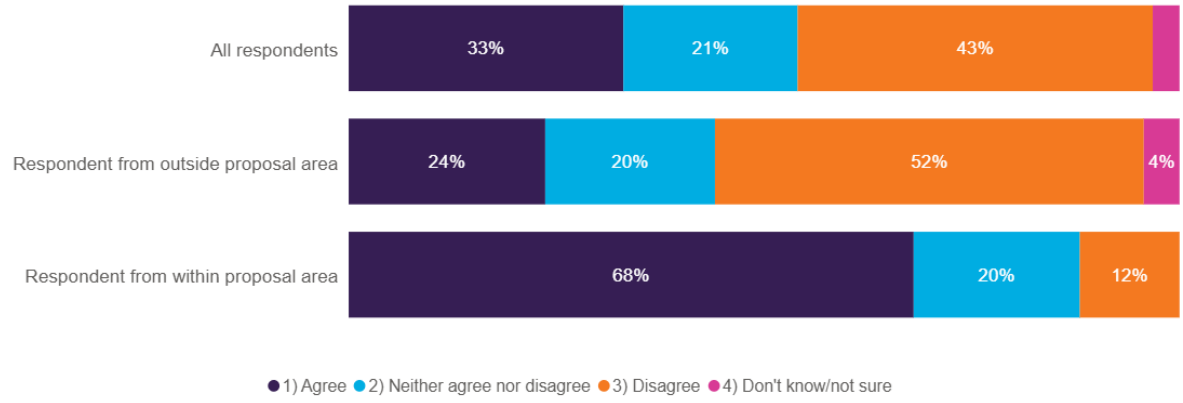
Bases: All respondents – 124; Respondents from outside proposal area – 84; Respondents within proposal area – 25.

Qe. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the parish council should not be altered?



Bases: All respondents – 123; Respondents from outside proposal area – 93; Respondents within proposal area – 24.

Qf. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish council for Highcliffe and Walkford consist of 11 councillors?



Bases: All respondents – 124; Respondents from outside proposal area – 93; Respondents within proposal area – 25.

68. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 157 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(C1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(C2) to this report.

69. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the parish boundary that felt the parish should be abolished, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general and did not appear to recognise that this parish already existed.

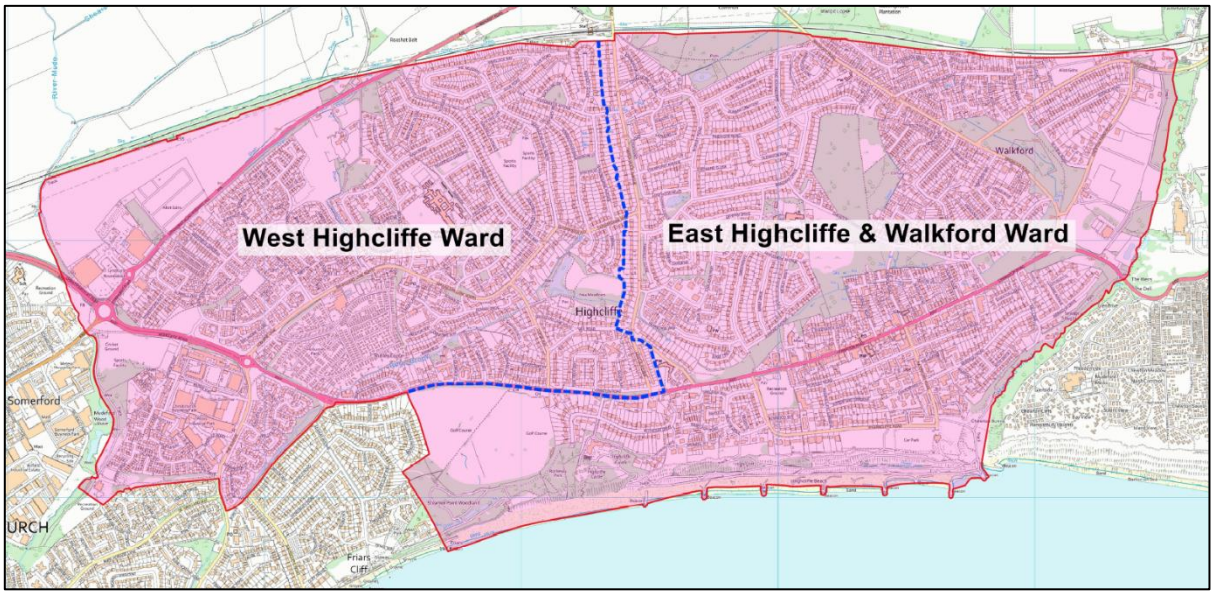
70. Arguments against the continuation of Highcliffe and Walkford parish included a belief that the creation of parish councils added an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and administrative costs without providing clear benefits to residents. Some felt that the existing BCP Council should handle all local governance to avoid duplication of efforts and reduce overall expenses. Others argued that parish councils could lead to fragmentation and inefficiencies in local governance, making it harder to address broader community issues effectively. Additionally, there were concerns about the potential for increased council tax and the lack of tangible improvements in services provided by parish councils.

71. Conversely, the respondents from within Highcliffe and Walkford who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt that the existing boundary and title should be kept due to the importance of history and the effective functioning of the parish council. Respondents also highlighted that the parish had been run very well so far and that local involvement in issues affecting the community had increased since the establishment of the parish council. They appreciated the local representation and the ability of parish councillors to listen to local views and react to local issues specifically. Additionally, some felt that the current governance structure was fit for purpose and that the existing councillors and areas worked extremely well. Overall, there was a strong sentiment that the parish council provided effective local governance and representation, and there was no need for any changes.

72. There were a number of respondents who suggested that Friars Cliff should be included within the Highcliffe and Walkford parish. They felt that this would better align with the community's geographical, social, and environmental characteristics, and lead to improved representation and governance. However, when asked which of the existing or proposed council areas respondents felt most closely associated with, respondents from the Friars Cliff area were divided between Christchurch town and Highcliffe and Walkford parish.

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

73. The Task and Finish group considered the above representations and concluded that the support for Highcliffe and Walkford Parish was sufficient to recommend that the parish continue subject to the alteration of the wards as set out below. Finally, the Task and Finish Group considered the level of representation on the Parish Council. Although it was recognised that there were no contested elections in 2023, there was insufficient justification to reduce the overall elected representation but did support the requested change to the warding arrangements requested by the parish council as shown on the map below.



Final Recommendations

74. It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements for the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford be approved:-

(a) the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford should not be abolished

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Highcliffe and Walkford

(c) the name of the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford should not be altered

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council

(e) the name of the parish council should not be altered

(f) the parish of Highcliffe and Walkford be divided into two parish wards , comprising the area designated on the map shown in paragraph 73 above, and those wards named respectively:

(i) East Highcliffe and Walkford

(ii) West Highcliffe

(g) the parish council for Highcliffe and Walkford shall consist of 11 councillors.

(h) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:

(i) East Highcliffe and Walkford – six councillors

(ii) West Highcliffe - five councillors

(i) a Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2027 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2027.

D – CHRISTCHURCH

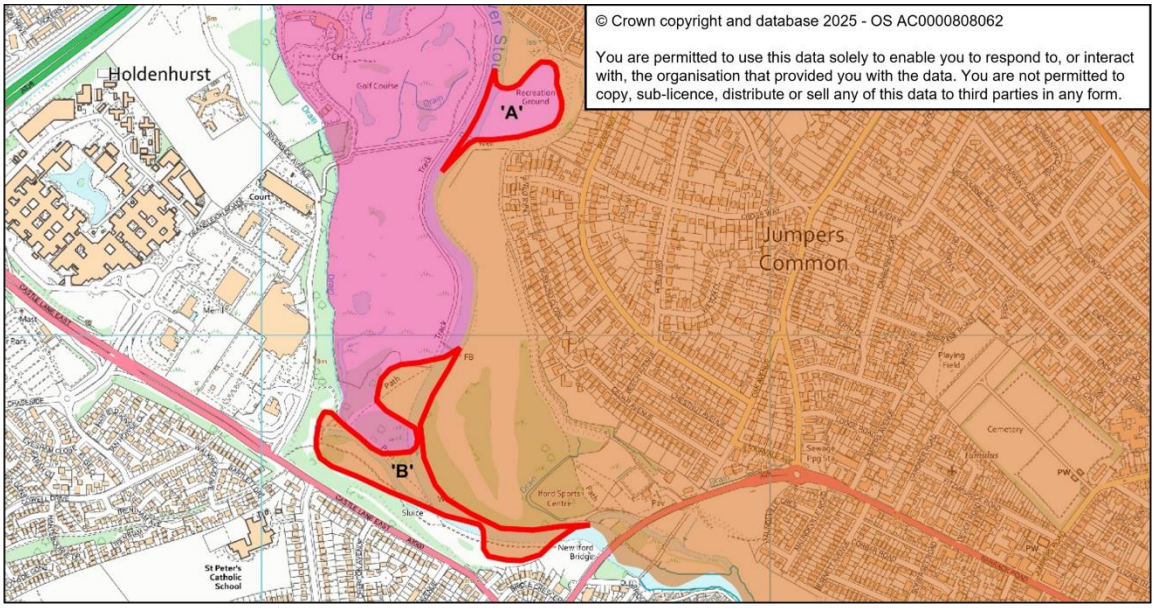
Background

75. The background information provided in the consultation questionnaire was:-

(a) The current parish of Christchurch is warded, has the alternative style of 'Town' and has 19 elected representative seats. The parish falls within the BCP electoral ward of Christchurch Town and part of the BCP wards of Commons, Burton and Grange and Mudeford, Stanpit and West Highcliffe. The Town Council was established in 2019.

(b) Contested elections were held for all seats in May 2019, although there were only contested elections within the Grange ward in May 2023. The projected elector-to-councillor ratio is 1,332:1

76. Christchurch Town Council made a representation requesting a series of changes. These included a change to the boundary between Christchurch and Hurn which is also detailed in section B of this report above. The request was to change the current boundary where it crosses over the river so as to align with the line of the river. The proposed changes are shown on the map below where the area marked 'A' would transfer from Hurn Parish to Christchurch Town, and the area marked 'B' would transfer from Christchurch Town to Hurn Parish. There are no properties within these areas and therefore no change to the electorate. There would be no transfer of property or responsibility as a consequence of this change.

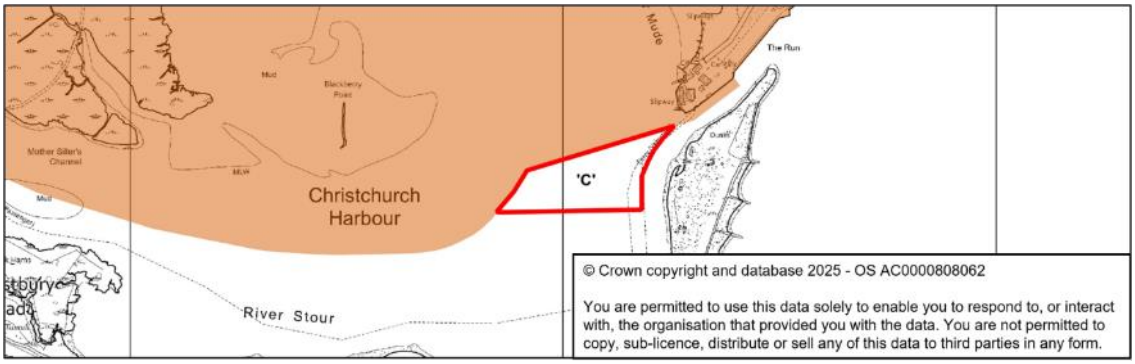


77. Hurn Parish Council raised no objection to the above change.

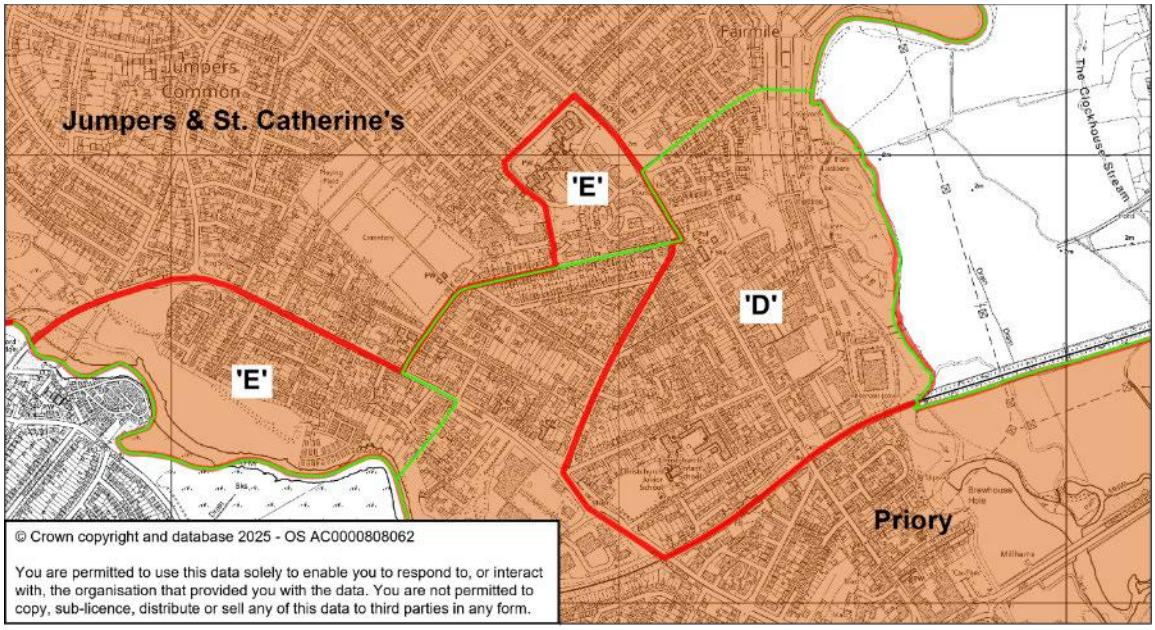
78. The Town Council further highlighted an issue with the boundary within the Christchurch harbour entrance. This issue was a result of boundary changes arising from local government re-organisation in 2019 and, whilst there is no impact on the electorate, it is considered an appropriate opportunity to rectify the issue.

79. The proposed change is shown on the map below where the area marked 'C' would be included within the Christchurch parish boundary. There are no properties within these areas and therefore no change to the electorate. There would be no transfer of property or responsibility as a consequence of this change.

80. The Task and Finish Group supported the request to alter the boundary of the Town Council, and the Mudeford and Stanpit parish ward. The revised boundary would be coterminous with the BCP ward boundary between the wards of Mudeford, Stanpit & West Highcliffe and East Southbourne & Tuckton.



81. The Town Council's final request was to alter the boundary between the parish wards of Jumpers & St. Catherine's and Priory to be coterminous with the BCP Council ward boundary between the wards of Christchurch Town and Commons. The map below shows the existing parish ward boundary in red, and the BCP ward boundary in green. The impact of the proposed change would be to transfer the area marked 'D' from the Jumpers & St. Catherine's ward into the Priory ward and to transfer the areas marked 'E' from Priory ward into the Jumpers & St. Catherine's ward.



82. The warding changes required a revision to the electorate numbers per ward but these are considered to be within the acceptable tolerance as detailed in the draft consultation documentation.

Draft Recommendations

83. The draft recommendations approved by Council were that:-

(a) the parish of Christchurch Town should not be abolished

(b) the boundary of the existing parish of Christchurch Town be altered as shown on the plans at paragraph 76 and 80 above

(c) the name of the parish of Christchurch Town should not be altered

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council in the style of a town council

(e) the name of the town council should not be altered

(f) the parish of Christchurch Town continue to be divided into five parish wards, with those areas remaining unchanged except for the changes arising from the boundary changes referred to in paragraph 81 above and those wards named respectively:

(i) Friars Cliff

(ii) Grange

(iii) Jumpers & St. Catherine's

(iv) Mudeford & Stanpit

(v) Priory

(g) the parish council for Christchurch Town shall consist of 19 councillors

(h) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:

(i) Friars Cliff - two councillors

(ii) Grange – three councillors

(iii) Jumpers & St. Catherine's – six councillors

(iv) Mudeford & Stanpit – two councillors

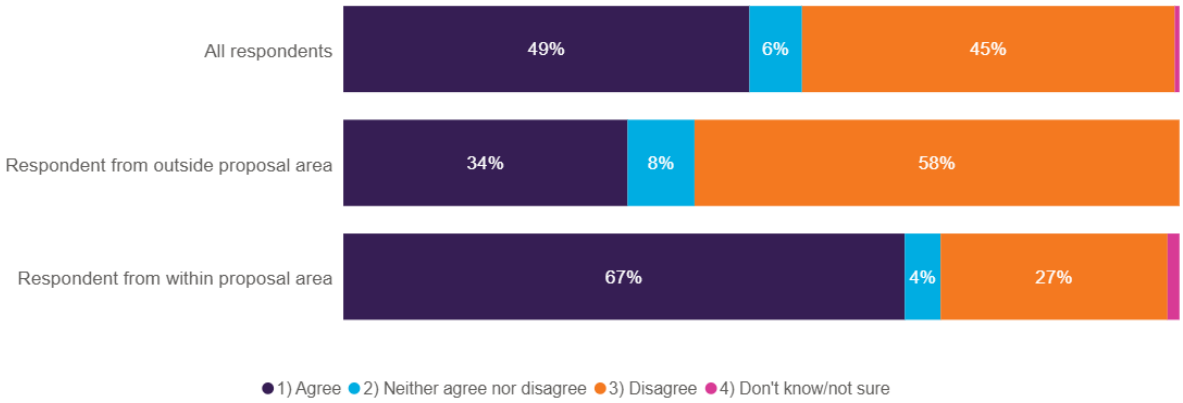
(v) Priory – six councillors.

Summary of Representations Received

84. There was a total of 178 responses received in relation to the parish of Christchurch although, of these, 70 were from respondents within the parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

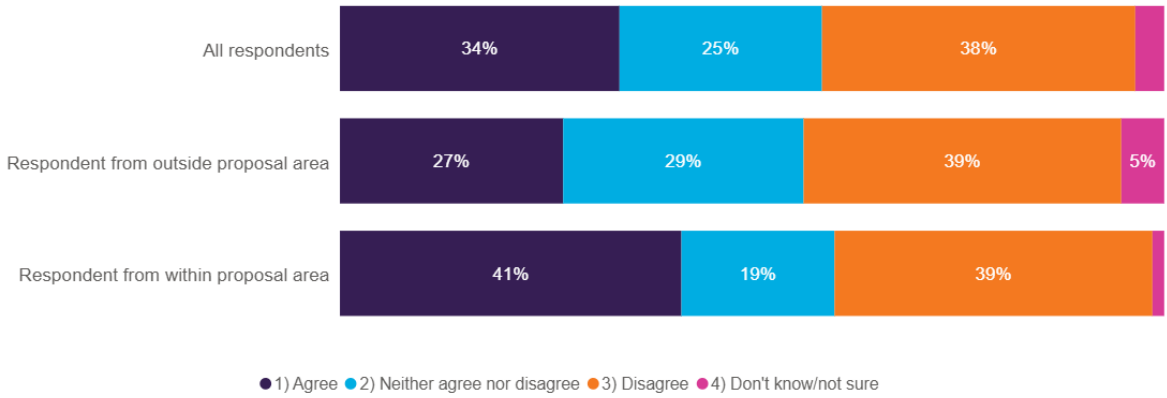
85. As with other existing parishes, it can be seen from the data, that there was a significant variance between the views of those commenting from outside the parish boundary when compared to those living within the parish. Representatives of the existing town and parish councils were concerned that this may indicate that respondents to the consultation may have little or no understanding of the role and functions of parish and town councils and the benefits they can bring to local communities.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish of Christchurch Town should not be abolished?



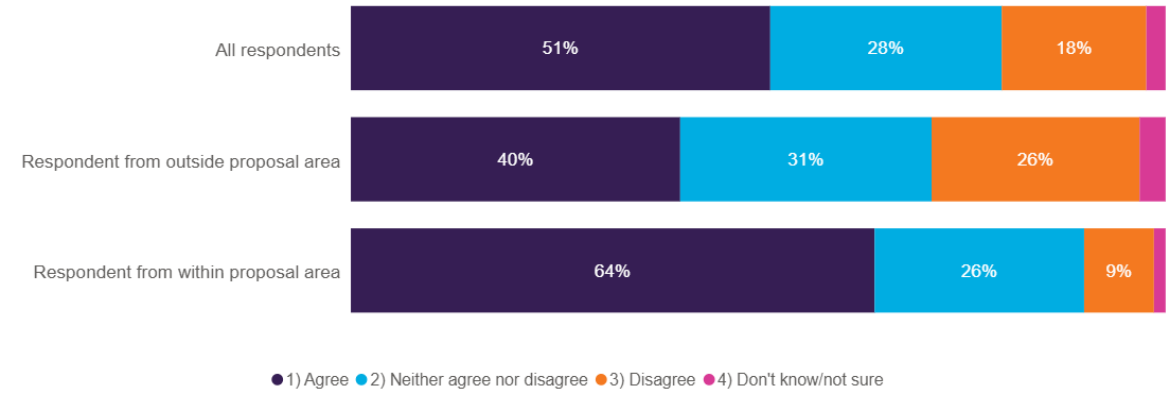
Bases: All respondents – 175; Respondents from outside proposal area – 100; Respondents within proposal area – 70.

Qb. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the boundary of the existing parish of Christchurch be altered as shown on the plans?



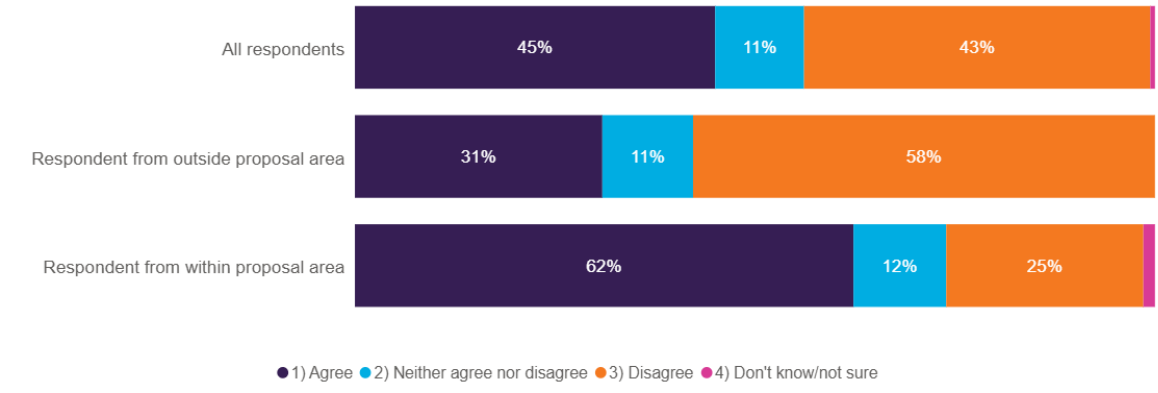
Bases: All respondents – 171; Respondents from outside proposal area – 96; Respondents within proposal area – 70.

Qc. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the parish of Christchurch Town should not be altered?



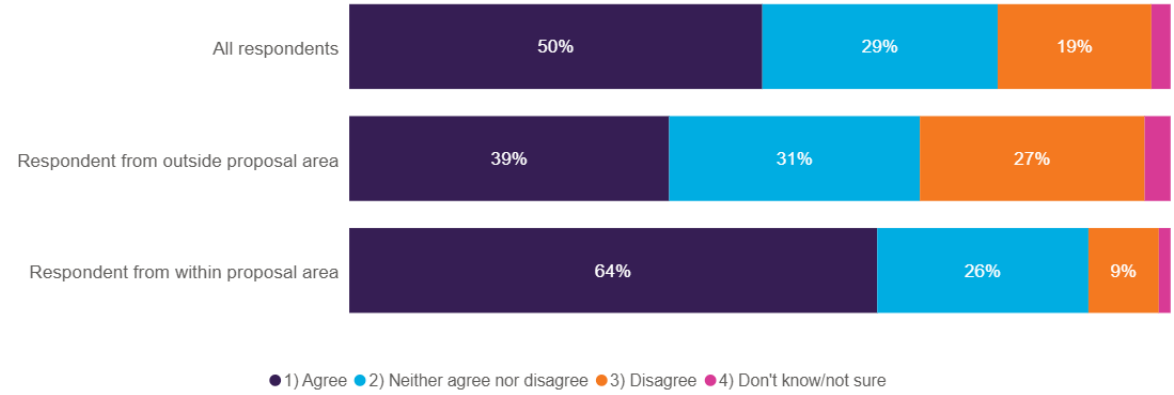
Bases: All respondents – 169; Respondents from outside proposal area – 94; Respondents within proposal area – 70.

Qd. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish should continue to have a parish council in the style of a town council?



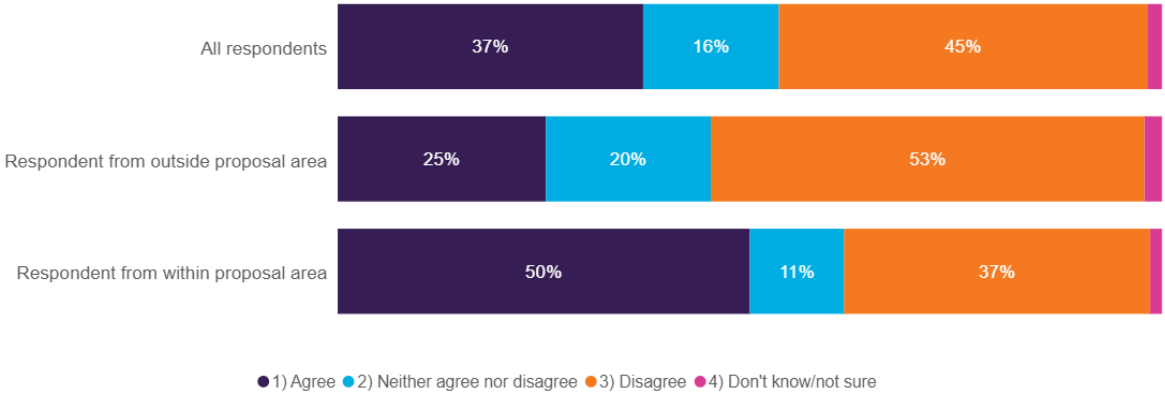
Bases: All respondents – 171; Respondents from outside proposal area – 97; Respondents within proposal area – 69.

Qe. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the town council should not be altered?



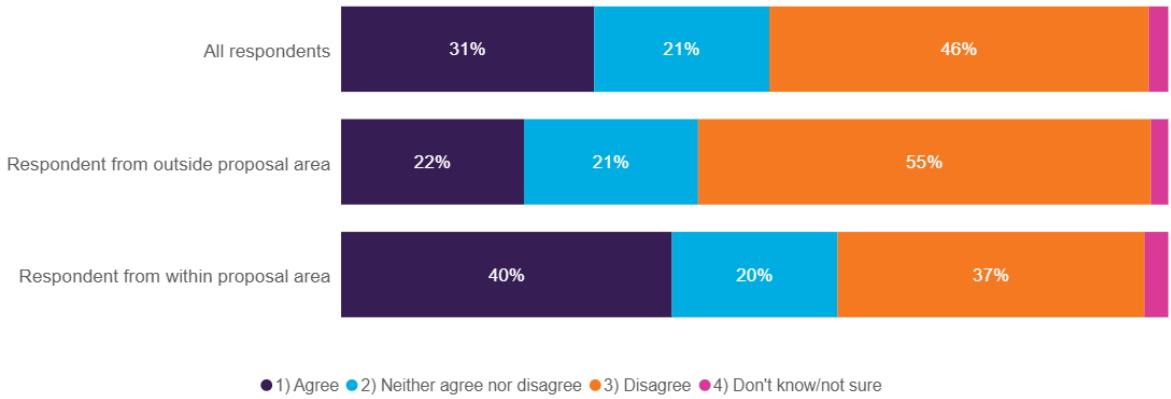
Bases: All respondents – 171; Respondents from outside proposal area – 95; Respondents within proposal area – 70.

Qf To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish of Christchurch Town continue to be divided into 5 parish wards.



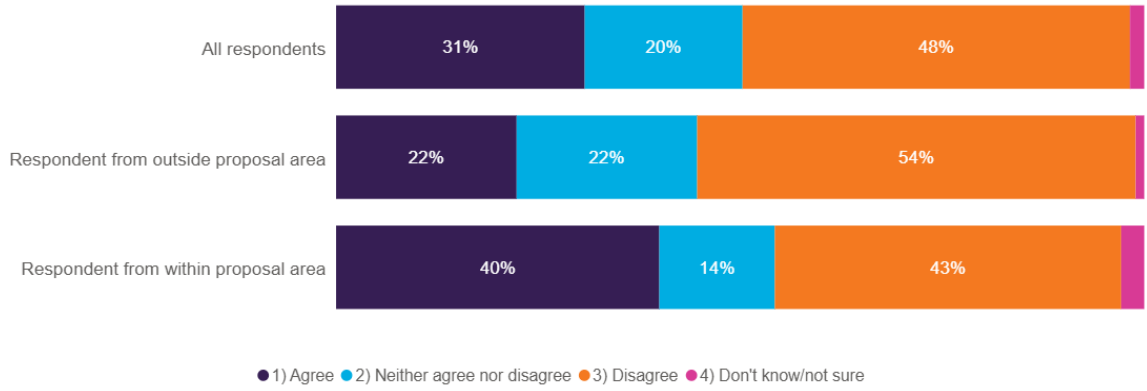
Bases: All respondents – 170; Respondents from outside proposal area – 95; Respondents within proposal area – 70.

Qg. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish council for Christchurch Town shall consist of 19 councillors?



Bases: All respondents – 170; Respondents from outside proposal area – 95; Respondents within proposal area – 70.

QH To what extent do you agree or disagree the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows: Friars Cliff - 2 councillors; Grange - 3 councillors; Jumpers & St. Catherine's - 6 councillors; Mudeford & Stanpit - 2 councillors; Priory - 6 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 169; Respondents from outside proposal area – 94; Respondents within proposal area – 70.

86. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 201 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(D1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(D2) to this report.

87. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the parish boundary that felt the parish should be abolished, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general and did not appear to recognise that this parish already existed.

88. Arguments against the continuation of Christchurch Town Council included a belief that the town council added an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and costs, which could be better managed by the existing BCP Council. They argued that the town council was ineffective, did not provide value for money, and duplicated services already offered by the BCP Council. Additionally, some felt that the town council was not representative of the broader community and that its existence led to fragmented governance and inconsistent representation. Overall, they saw the town council as an outdated and redundant structure that hindered efficient local governance.

89. Conversely, the respondents from within Christchurch Town who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt that Christchurch Town Council remains a vital democratic structure in preserving local identity, civic heritage, and accountability, and that its abolition would leave a significant gap in representation and contradict the localist principles underpinning the 2007 Act. They also felt that the proposed changes to boundaries were technically sound which was welcomed. Additionally, the name of the parish and its council reflects civic history and identity, and any alteration would dilute this well-established recognition both within the community and externally. Some respondents mentioned that the council's continued existence is supported in principle, though its governance has been undermined by persistent behavioural issues among some Councillors. Overall, the

respondents emphasised the importance of local representation, community identity, and effective governance in their support for the town council's continued existence.

90. There were a number of respondents who suggested that Friars Cliff should be included within the Highcliffe and Walkford parish and not Christchurch. They felt that this would better align with the community's geographical, social, and environmental characteristics, and lead to improved representation and governance. However, when asked which of the existing or proposed council areas respondents felt most closely associated with, respondents from the Friars Cliff area were divided between Christchurch town and Highcliffe and Walford parish.

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

91. The Task and Finish group considered the above representations and concluded that the support for Christchurch Town was sufficient to recommend that the parish continue. Finally, the Task and Finish Group considered the level of representation on the Parish Council. Although it was recognised that there were no contested elections in 2023, and the views of respondents were finely balanced, the Task and Finish Group concluded that there was insufficient justification to reduce the overall elected representation. The requested change to the warding arrangements as outlined above were supported.

Final Recommendations

92. It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements for the parish of Christchurch be approved:-

(a) the parish of Christchurch Town should not be abolished

(b) the boundary of the existing parish of Christchurch Town be altered as shown on the plans at paragraph 76 and 80 above

(c) the name of the parish of Christchurch Town should not be altered

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council in the style of a town council

(e) the name of the town council should not be altered

(f) the parish of Christchurch Town continue to be divided into five parish wards, with those areas remaining unchanged except for the changes arising from the boundary changes referred to in paragraph 81 above and those wards named respectively:

(i) Friars Cliff

(ii) Grange

(iii) Jumpers & St. Catherine's

(iv) Mudeford & Stanpit

(v) Priory

(g) the parish council for Christchurch Town shall consist of 19 councillors

(h) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:

(i) Friars Cliff - two councillors

(ii) Grange – three councillors

(iii) Jumpers & St. Catherine's – six councillors

(iv) Mudeford & Stanpit – two councillors

(v) Priory – six councillors.

(i) a Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2027 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2027.

E – THROOP & HOLDENHURST

Background

93. The background information provided in the consultation questionnaire was:-

(a) The current parish of Throop and Holdenhurst is unwarded, has 7 elected representative seats and falls almost entirely within the BCP electoral ward of Muscliff & Strouden Park. A single property known as Wood Farm to the north-eastern tip of the parish falls within the Commons ward. The parish Council was established in 2021 following the receipt of petition.

(b) Contested elections were held in Throop and Holdenhurst in May 2021 when the parish council was established. The projected elector-to-councillor ratio is 85:1

94. The Electoral Services Team requested that the issue of Wood Farm, which falls within the parish of Throop and Holdenhurst, be fixed by making a related change for submission to the Boundary Commission for England. The alteration would seek to change the BCP Council ward boundary between Muscliff & Strouden Park and Commons so it is coterminous with the parish boundary. This was included within the consultation document and forms part of these final recommendations.

95. Hurn Parish Council and Throop and Holdenhurst Parish Council raised no objection to altering the BCP Ward boundary to resolve this anomaly.

Draft Recommendations

96. The draft recommendations approved by Council were that:-

(a) the parish of Throop and Holdenhurst should not be abolished

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Throop and Holdenhurst

(c) the name of the parish of Throop and Holdenhurst should not be altered

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council

(e) the name of the parish council should not be altered

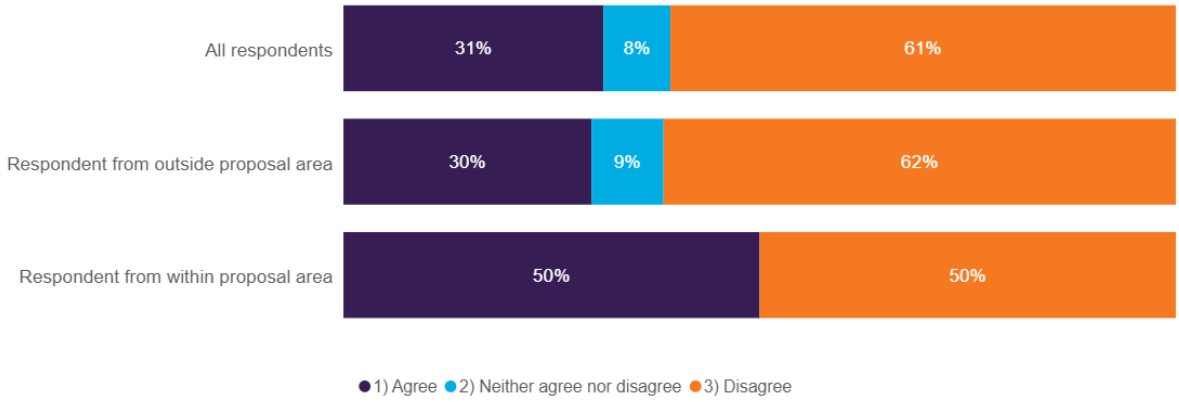
(f) the parish council for Throop and Holdenhurst shall consist of seven councillors.

Summary of Representations Received

97. There was a total of 114 responses received in relation to the parish of Throop and Holdenhurst although, of these, only 4 were from respondents within the parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

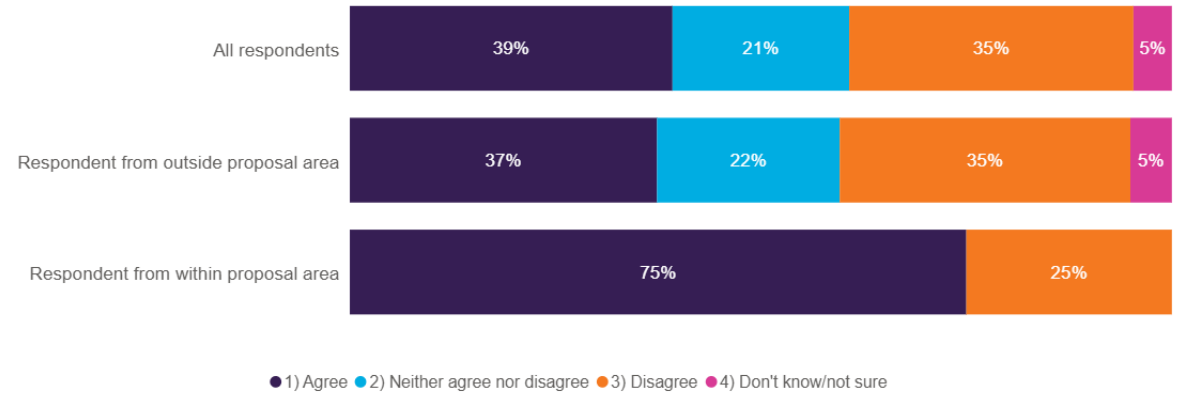
98. It can be seen from the data, that there was a significant variance between the views of those commenting from outside the parish boundary when compared to those living within the parish. Representatives of the existing town and parish councils were concerned that this may indicate that respondents to the consultation may have little or no understanding of the role and functions of parish and town councils and the benefits they can bring to local communities.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the draft recommendations for Throop and Holdenhurst the parish of Throop and Holdenhurst should not be abolished?



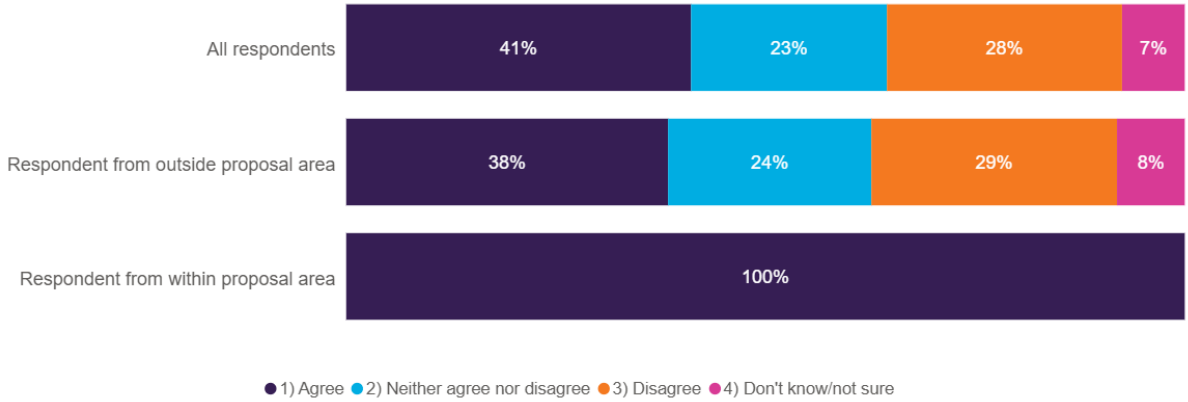
Bases: All respondents – 112; Respondents from outside proposal area – 104; Respondents within proposal area – 4

Qb. To what extent do you agree or disagree that no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Throop and Holdenhurst?



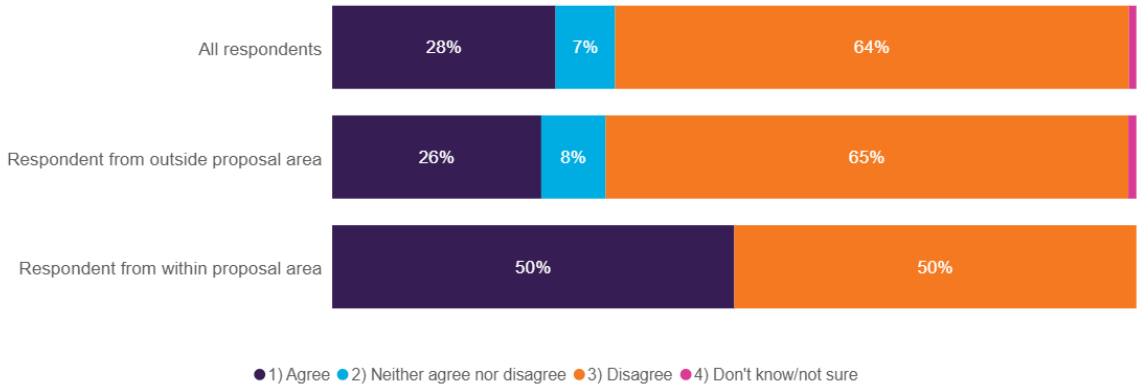
Bases: All respondents – 107; Respondents from outside proposal area – 99; Respondents within proposal area – 4.

Qc. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the parish of Throop and Holdenhurst should not be altered?



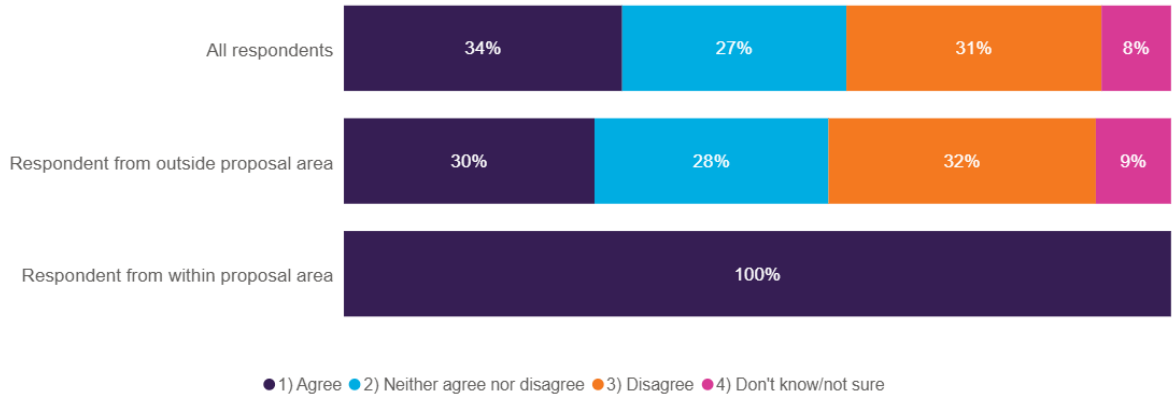
Bases: All respondents – 107; Respondents from outside proposal area – 99; Respondents within proposal area – 4.

Qd. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish should continue to have a parish council?



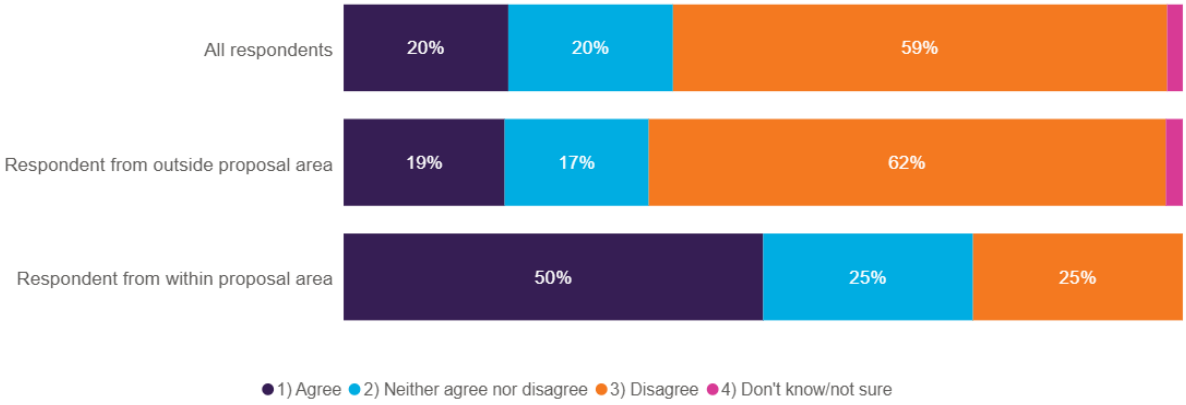
Bases: All respondents – 108; Respondents from outside proposal area – 100; Respondents within proposal area – 4.

Qe. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the name of the parish council should not be altered?



Bases: All respondents – 107; Respondents from outside proposal area – 99; Respondents within proposal area – 4.

Qf. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the parish council for Throop and Holdenhurst shall consist of 7 councillors?



Bases: All respondents – 107; Respondents from outside proposal area – 99; Respondents within proposal area – 4.

99. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 118 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(E1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(E2) to this report.

100. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the parish boundary that felt the parish should be abolished, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general and did not appear to recognise that this parish already existed.

101. Arguments against the continuation of Throop and Holdenhurst parish included a belief that that the existing parish council was ineffective, adding unnecessary bureaucracy and costs without providing tangible benefits to the community. They argued that the parish council did not communicate effectively with the community, failed to support local projects, and did not review local planning applications. Additionally, some respondents felt that the parish council was an unnecessary layer of governance that duplicated the efforts of the existing BCP councillors, leading to increased costs for residents without any added value. There were also concerns about the disproportionate number of councillors relative to the population size, which was seen as undemocratic and inefficient.

102. Conversely, the respondents from within Throop and Holdenhurst who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt that the parish should continue unchanged for several reasons. Many believed that the Parish Council had a good relationship with its parishioners and was active in promoting the good of the parish. They appreciated the quiet and lovely nature of Throop and wanted it to remain that way. Additionally, some respondents felt that the parish had historic significance and served the residents well. Overall, the sentiment was that the parish council was effective and provided value to the community, and there was no need for changes.

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

103. The Task and Finish group considered the above representations and concluded that the support for Throop and Holdenhurst Parish was sufficient to recommend that the parish continue unchanged. Finally, the Task and Finish Group considered the level of representation on the Parish Council. There was insufficient justification to reduce the elected representation. There are only seven councillors on Throop & Holdenhurst Parish Council and the minimum permitted number is five.

Final Recommendations

104. It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements for the parish of Throop and Holdenhurst be approved:-

(a) the parish of Throop and Holdenhurst should not be abolished

(b) no change be made to the boundary of the existing parish of Throop and Holdenhurst

(c) the name of the parish of Throop and Holdenhurst should not be altered

(d) the parish should continue to have a parish council

(e) the name of the parish council should not be altered

(f) the parish council for Throop and Holdenhurst shall consist of seven councillors

(g) the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be requested to make a related alteration order to alter the boundaries of the BCP Council Wards (Commons and Muscliff & Strouden Park) to be coterminous with the parish boundary between Hurn parish and Throop and Holdenhurst parish.

F – BROADSTONE

Background

105. The background document advised that the existing area is unparished, has a total projected electorate of 8,960 and falls within the area covered by the existing precepting body of The Charter Trustees for Poole. The boundary of the proposed parish is coterminous with the existing BCP ward of Broadstone.

Draft Recommendations

106. The draft recommendations approved by Council were:-

(a) To create a new parish of Broadstone with a total of 14 councillors.

(b) For the parish to be divided into four wards: Clump (4 councillors), Golf (3 councillors), Recreation (4 councillors) and Spring (3 councillors). The ratio for electoral equality being 640:1 on the projected electorate.

(c) For the style of the parish to be a Town Council.

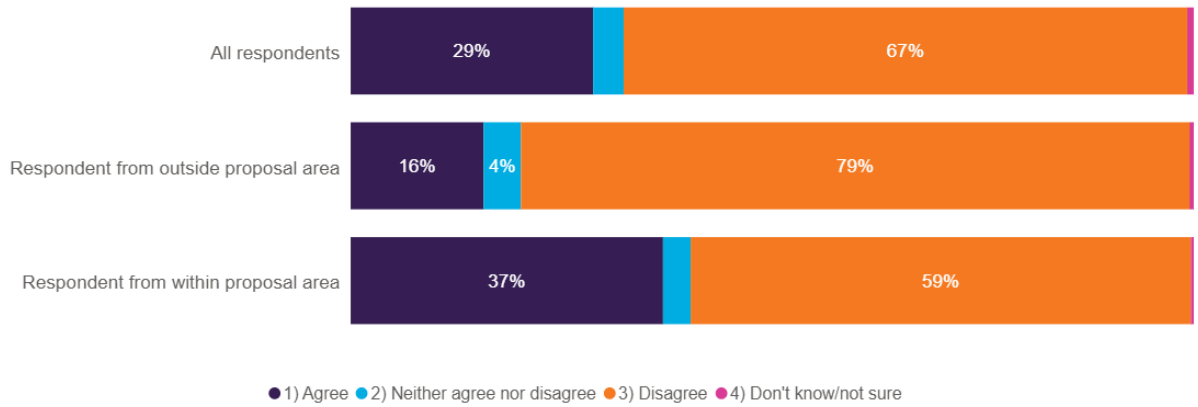
Summary of Representations Received

107. There was a total of 529 responses received in relation to the proposed parish of Broadstone although, of these, 206 were from respondents outside the proposed

parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

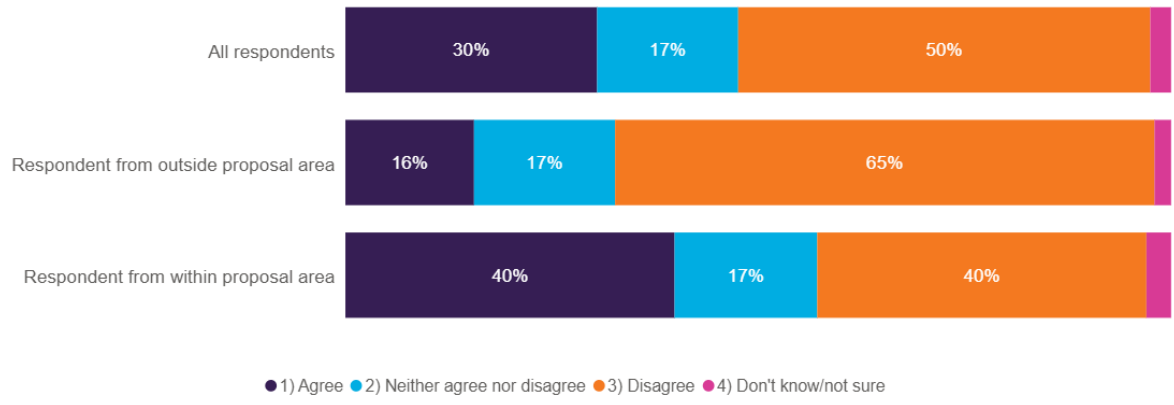
108. It can be seen from the data, that there was a variance between the views of those commenting from outside the proposed parish boundary when compared to those living within the boundary.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree a parish of Broadstone be established?



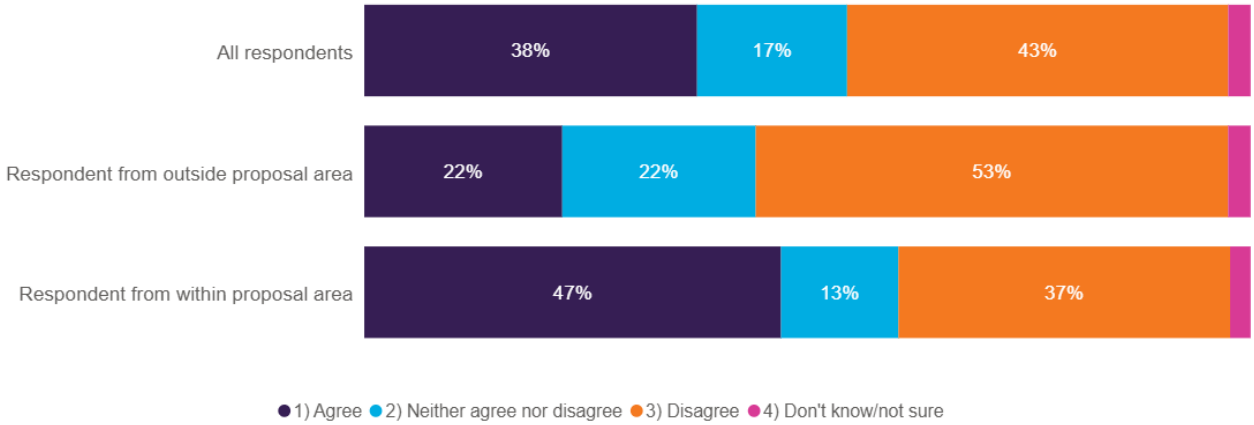
Bases: All respondents – 525; Respondents from outside proposal area – 203; Respondents within proposal area – 305.

Qb To what extent do you agree or disagree the boundary of the parish of Broadstone be drawn as outlined in red on the map above?



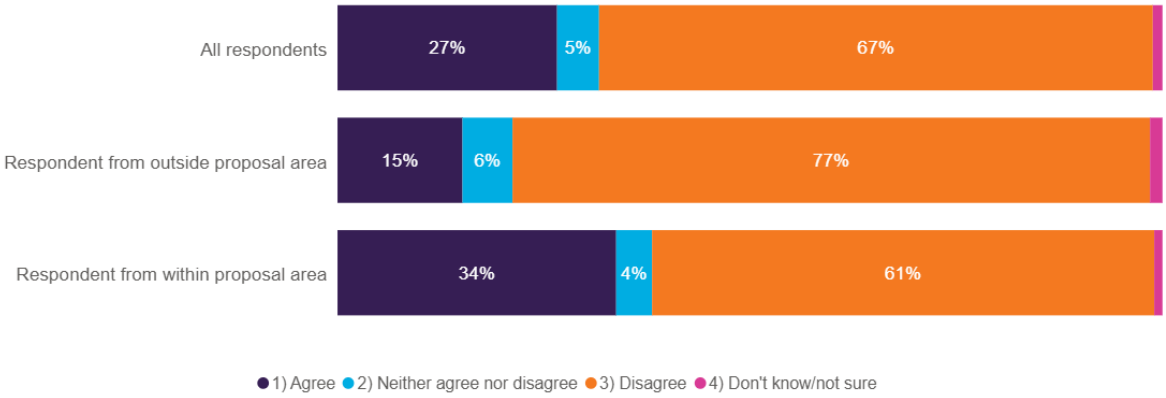
Bases: All respondents – 515; Respondents from outside proposal area – 199; Respondents within proposal area – 301.

Qc To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the established parish be Broadstone



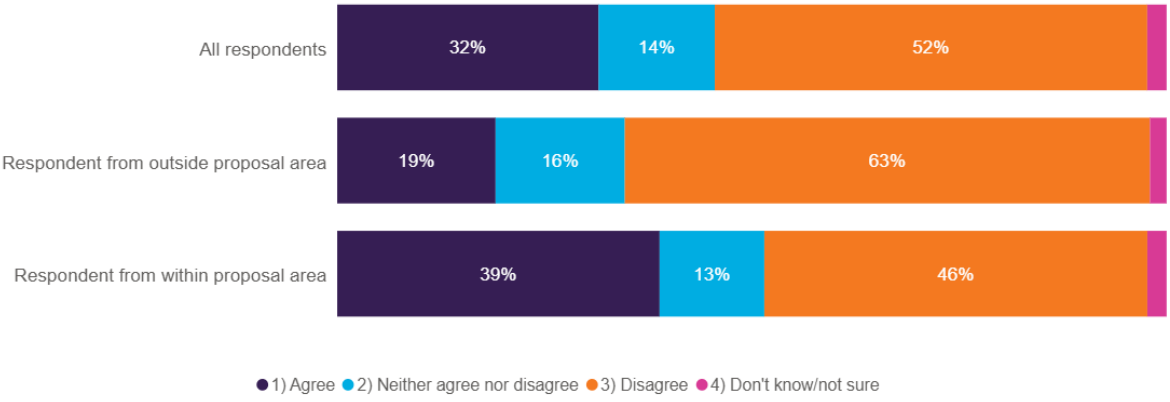
Bases: All respondents – 514; Respondents from outside proposal area – 197; Respondents within proposal area – 302.

Qd To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish should have a parish council in the style of town council



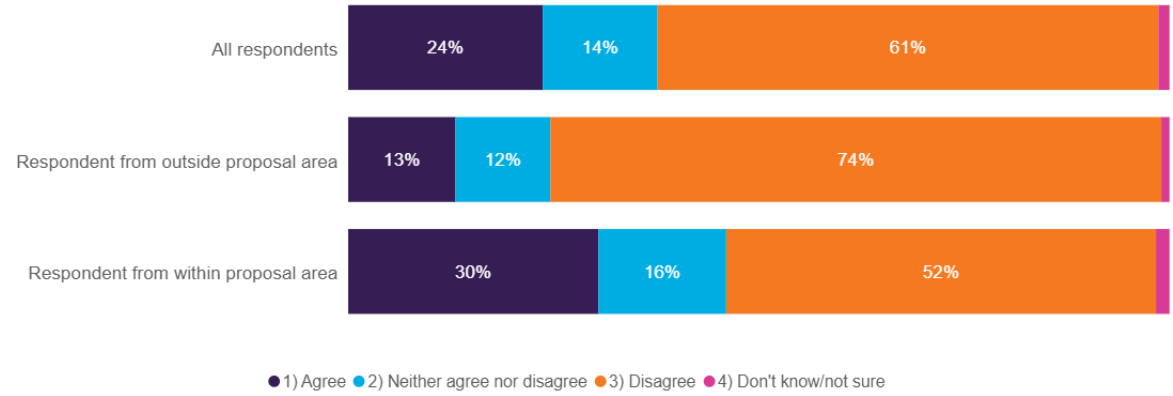
Bases: All respondents – 511; Respondents from outside proposal area – 198; Respondents within proposal area – 299.

Qe To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the town council should be Broadstone Town Council



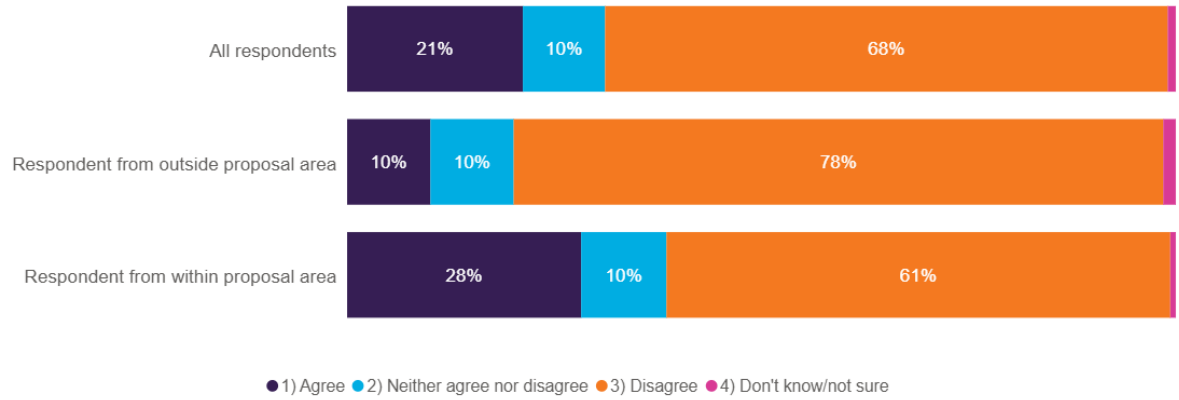
Bases: All respondents – 514; Respondents from outside proposal area – 199; Respondents within proposal area – 301.

Qf To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish of Broadstone be divided into four parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map above, and named respectively: Clump; Golf; Recreation; Spring



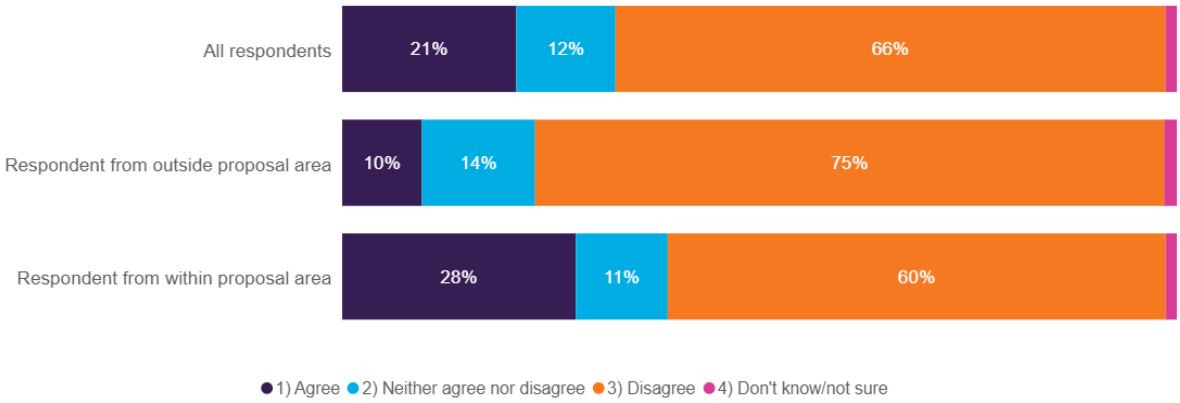
Bases: All respondents – 515; Respondents from outside proposal area – 199; Respondents within proposal area – 302.

Qg To what extent do you agree or disagree the town council shall consist of 14 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 514; Respondents from outside proposal area – 199; Respondents within proposal area – 301.

Qh To what extent do you agree or disagree the the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows: Clump - 4 councillors; Golf - 3 councillors; Recreation - 4 councillors; Spring - 3 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 513; Respondents from outside proposal area – 199; Respondents within proposal area – 300

109. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 690 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(F1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(F2) to this report.

110. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the proposed parish boundary that felt that a new parish council for Broadstone should not be established, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general.

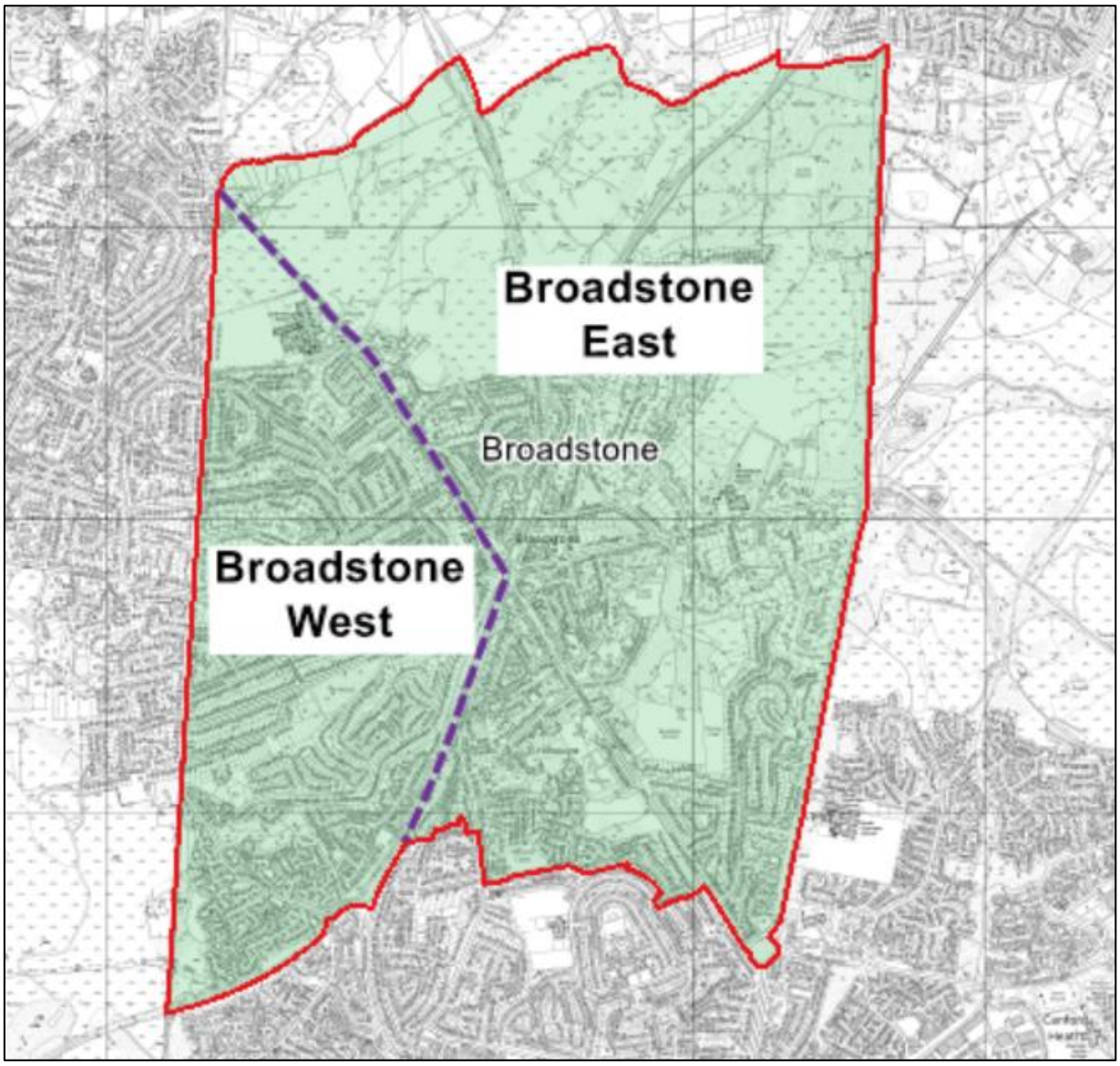
111. Arguments against the establishment of a new parish council in Broadstone included views that establishing a parish of Broadstone would introduce unnecessary bureaucracy and additional costs without providing significant benefits. Respondents were concerned that this new layer of local government would lead to confusion over responsibilities, inefficiencies, and potential increases in council tax. Many believed that the existing BCP Council should be sufficient to manage local issues and that creating a parish council would only complicate governance and add financial burdens to residents. There was also scepticism about the effectiveness and necessity of having more councillors and the potential for political agendas to influence decisions. Overall, the sentiment was that the current system should be improved rather than adding another layer of administration.

112. Conversely, the respondents from within Broadstone who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt that establishing a new parish would give residents more control over local decisions and services. They believed that a parish council would better address the unique needs and identity of Broadstone, allowing for more tailored and effective management of community resources. Many supporters highlighted the potential for improved local amenities, such as parks and community events, and felt that a parish council would enhance community engagement and pride. They also saw it as a way to ensure that funds raised locally would be spent directly on local priorities, rather than being absorbed into broader council budgets. Overall, the sentiment was that a parish council would bring governance closer to the people, fostering a stronger sense of community and better addressing local issues.

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

113. The Task and Finish Group considered the level of representation on the proposed council. Respondents had mixed feelings about the number of wards, the names of the wards, and the number of councillors proposed. Many felt that having four wards was unnecessary and would add to bureaucracy, while others believed it would ensure fair representation. The names of the wards, particularly "Clump," were criticised for being unappealing. As for the number of councillors, there was a general consensus that 14 councillors were too many for the area.

114. As a consequence of the feedback and views expressed, the Task and Finish Group reviewed the warding arrangement and number of councillors and are now recommending dividing the parish into two wards with 4 councillors representing each ward. The map below shows the proposed arrangements.



115. As this proposal was seeking to establish a new council, it is important to ascertain whether there would be sufficient interest locally to fill the number of seats proposed and therefore support the viability of the council. Respondents were asked, without any obligation, if they would consider standing for election as a local councillor for Broadstone. 30 respondents who live within the proposal area said they would consider standing for election and as a consequence the Task and Finish Group were satisfied that the council would be viable in this regard.

116. The final recommendations below were not agreed unanimously at the Task and Finish Group but was supported by a vote of 6 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Final Recommendations

117. It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements for the parish of Broadstone be approved:-

(a) a parish of Broadstone be established

(b) the boundary of the parish of Broadstone be drawn to include the existing polling districts of BS1 - Broadstone 1, BS2 - Broadstone 2, BS3

- Broadstone 3 and BS4 - Broadstone 4, as outlined in red on the map in paragraph 114 above

(c) the name of the established parish be Broadstone

(d) the style of the parish of Broadstone be set as a town

(e) the parish should have a parish council in the style of town council

(f) the name of the town council should be Broadstone Town Council

(g) the parish of Broadstone be divided into two parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map in paragraph 114 above, and named respectively:

(i) Broadstone East

(ii) Broadstone West

(h) the town council for Broadstone shall consist of 8 councillors

(i) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:

(i) Broadstone East – four councillors

(ii) Broadstone West – four councillors

(j) a Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2026 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2026.

G – REDHILL AND NORTHBOURNE

Background

118. The background document advised that the existing area is unparished, has a total projected electorate of 7,734 and falls within the area covered by the existing precepting body of The Charter Trustees for Bournemouth. The boundary of the proposed parish was largely coterminous with the existing BCP ward of Redhill & Northbourne but extended to the east of Redhill Avenue to include the non-residential woodland area.

Draft Recommendations

119. The draft recommendations approved by Council were:-

(a) To create a new parish of Redhill and Northbourne with a total of nine councillors.

(b) For the parish to be divided into three wards: Ensbury Park (3 councillors), Northbourne (3 councillors) and Redhill Park (3 councillors). The ratio for electoral equality being 859:1 on the projected electorate.

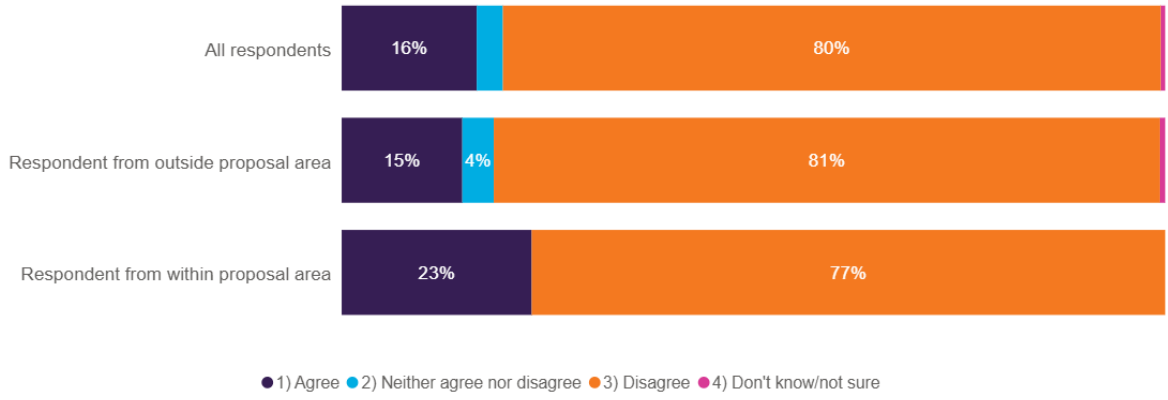
(c) For the style of the parish to be a Community Council.

Summary of Representations Received

120. There was a total of 192 responses received in relation to the proposed parish of Redhill & Northbourne although, of these, only 26 were from respondents within the proposed parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

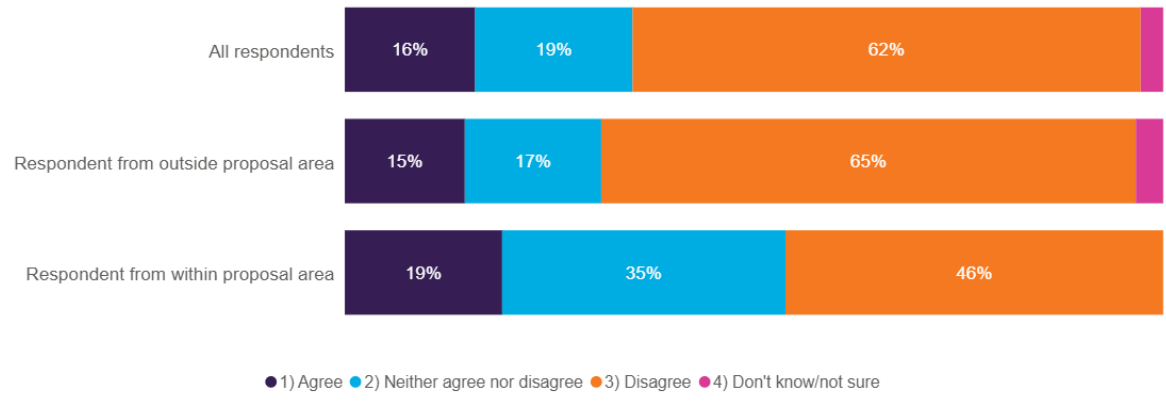
121. It can be seen from the data, that there was a variance between the views of those commenting from outside the proposed parish boundary when compared to those living within the boundary.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree a parish of Redhill and Northbourne be established?



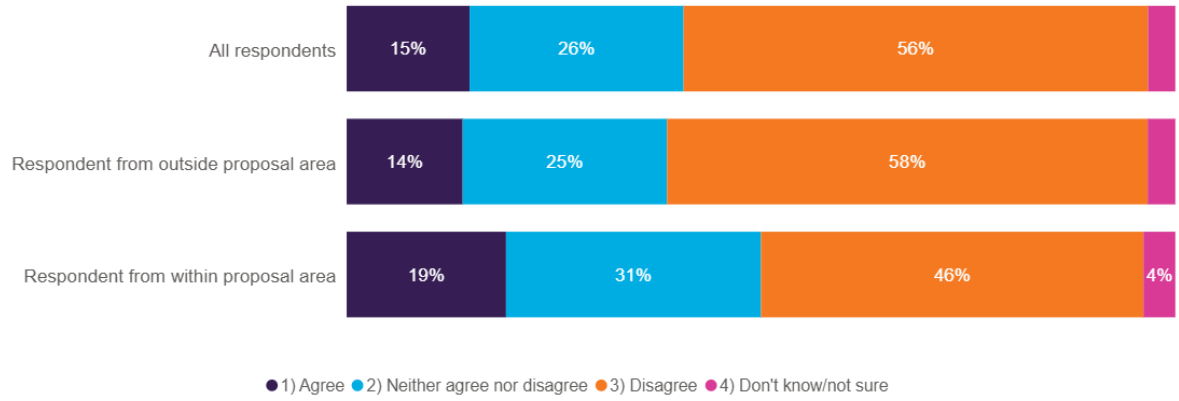
Bases: All respondents – 189; Respondents from outside proposal area – 157; Respondents within proposal area – 26

Qb To what extent do you agree or disagree the boundary of the parish of Redhill and Northbourne be drawn as outlined in red on the map above?



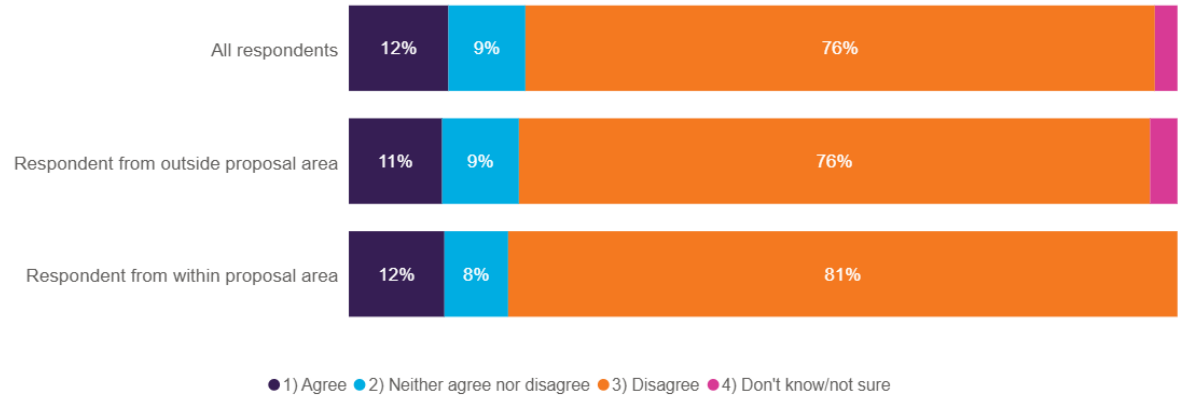
Bases: All respondents – 182; Respondents from outside proposal area – 150; Respondents within proposal area – 26

Qc To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the established parish be Redhill and Northbourne



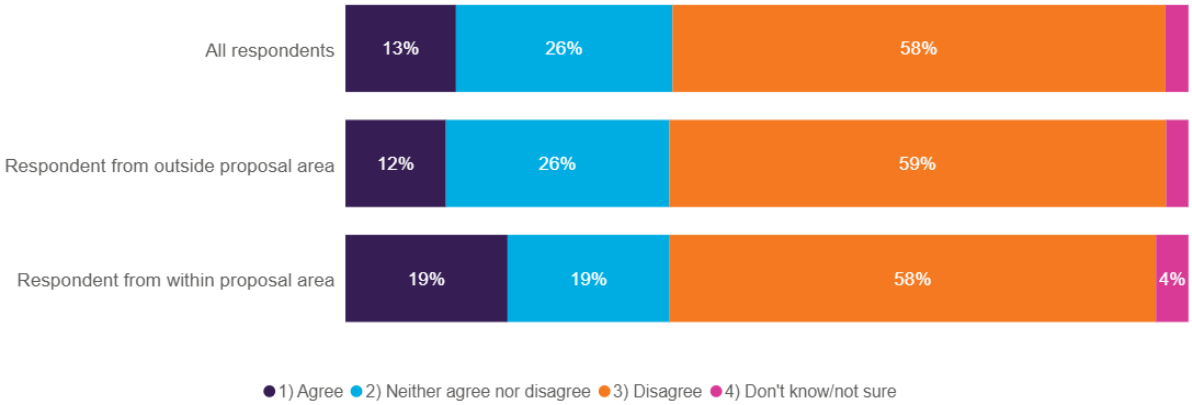
Bases: All respondents – 182; Respondents from outside proposal area – 150; Respondents within proposal area – 26

Qd To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish should have a parish council in the style of community council



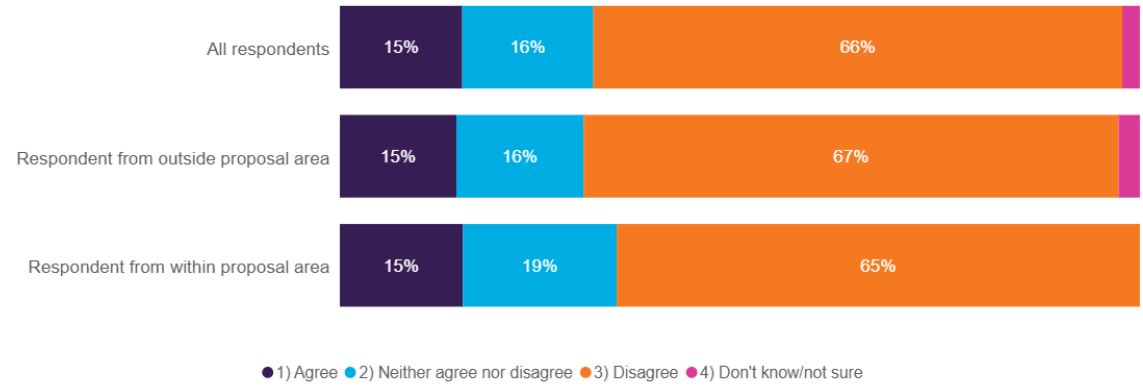
Bases: All respondents – 183; Respondents from outside proposal area – 151; Respondents within proposal area – 26

Qe To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the community council should be Redhill and Northbourne Community Council



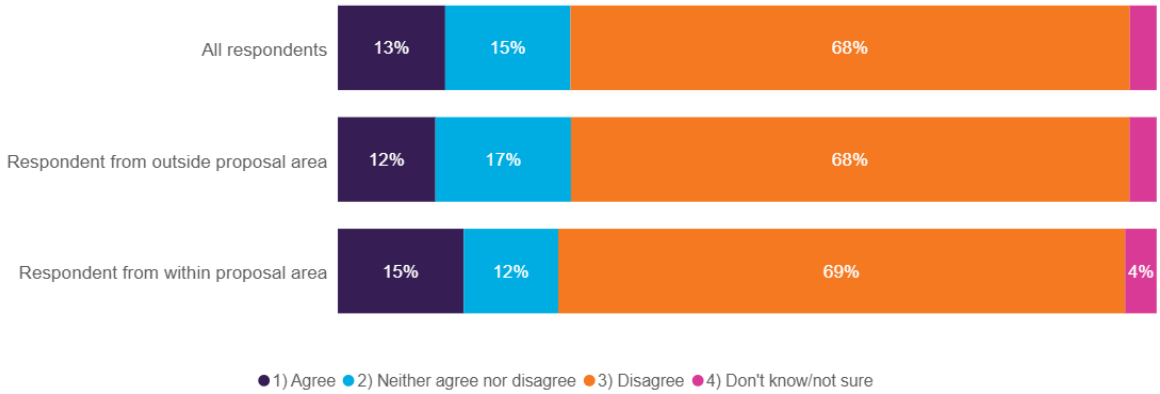
Bases: All respondents – 183; Respondents from outside proposal area – 151; Respondents within proposal area – 26

Qf To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish of Redhill and Northbourne be divided into three parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map above, and named respectively: Ensbury Park; Northbourne; Redhill Park



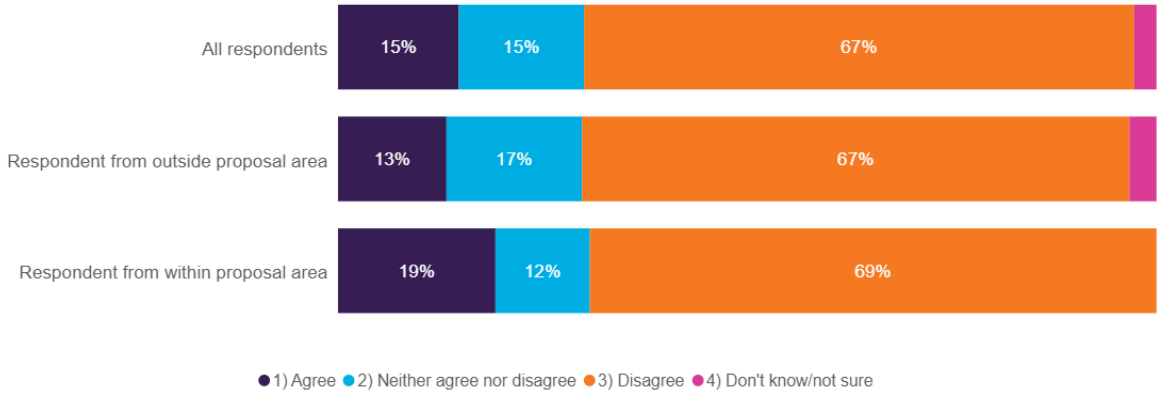
Bases: All respondents – 183; Respondents from outside proposal area – 151; Respondents within proposal area – 26

Qg To what extent do you agree or disagree the town council shall consist of 9 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 183; Respondents from outside proposal area – 151; Respondents within proposal area – 26

Qh To what extent do you agree or disagree the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows: Ensbury Park - 3 councillors; Northbourne - 3 councillors; Redhill Park - 3 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 183; Respondents from outside proposal area – 151; Respondents within proposal area – 26

122. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 237 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(G1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(G2) to this report.

123. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the proposed parish boundary that felt that a new parish council for Redhill and Northbourne should not be established, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general.

124. Arguments against the establishment of a new parish council in Redhill and Northbourne included views that establishing a parish for Redhill & Northbourne would add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and increase costs without providing clear benefits. They believed that the existing council structure was sufficient and that creating a new parish council would lead to confusion, inefficiency, and higher council tax for residents. Additionally, they felt that the proposal contradicted the original aim of unifying the area under BCP Council to streamline services and reduce administrative overhead. Many respondents expressed a view that this area should be merged with a Town Council for Bournemouth. Overall, they saw the move as a step backward that would complicate governance and place an additional financial burden on the community.

125. Conversely, the respondents from within Redhill & Northbourne who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt establishing a new parish would empower the local community by giving residents a greater say in local matters and decisions. They believed that a parish council would enhance the sense of community, improve local services, and address specific needs and priorities of the area. Some respondents also felt that a parish council would provide better representation and ensure that the unique identity and interests of Redhill & Northbourne were preserved and promoted.

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

126. The Task and Finish Group considered the level of representation on the proposed council. As this proposal was seeking to establish a new council, it is important to ascertain whether there would be sufficient interest locally to fill the number of seats proposed and therefore support the viability of the council. Respondents were asked, without any obligation, if they would consider standing for election as a local councillor for Redhill and Northbourne. Only three respondents who live within the proposal area said they would consider standing for election.

127. Whilst the rationale expressed by some respondents for the establishment of a local community council for Redhill and Northbourne was recognised, the concerns expressed regarding the potential impact of a small local council, the financial burden for the local area and the limited interest in standing as a councillor, the Task and Finish Group were of the view that the establishment of a new council for Redhill and Northbourne would not be viable and should not be progressed as a stand-alone council at this time.

Final Recommendations

128. It is RECOMMENDED that, in light of the above, the draft proposal to establish a new parish for Redhill and Northbourne is not supported.

H – BOSCOMBE AND POKESDOWN

Background

129. The background document advised that the existing area is unparished, has a total projected electorate of 16,471 and falls within the area covered by the existing precepting body of The Charter Trustees for Bournemouth. The boundary of the proposed parish was largely coterminous with the existing BCP wards of Boscombe West and Boscombe East & Pokesdown, but extended to the west to include Boscombe Chine Gardens, whilst excluded Fisherman's Walk to the east.

Draft Recommendations

130. The draft recommendations approved by Council were:-

(a) To create a new parish of Boscombe & Pokesdown with a total of 14 councillors.

(b) For the parish to be divided into four wards: Boscombe Spa & Shelley Manor (4 councillors), St Clements & Boscombe Hospital (3 councillors), Portman Manor & Pokesdown Central (3 councillors) and Boscombe North & Pokesdown Hill (4 councillors). The ratio for electoral equality being 1,177:1 on the projected electorate.

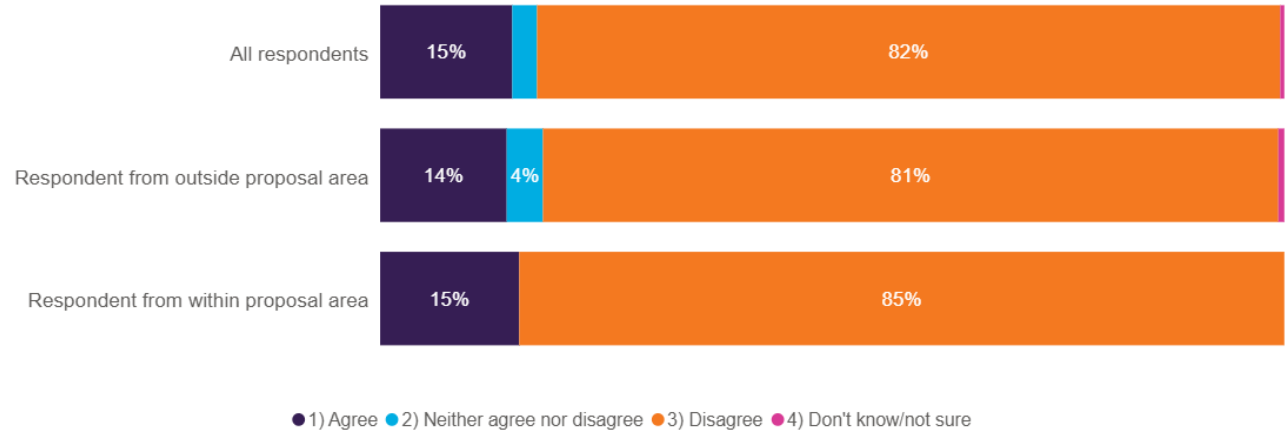
(c) For the style of the parish to be a Community Council.

Summary of Representations Received

131. There was a total of 222 responses received in relation to the proposed parish of Boscombe & Pokesdown although, of these, only 65 were from respondents within the proposed parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

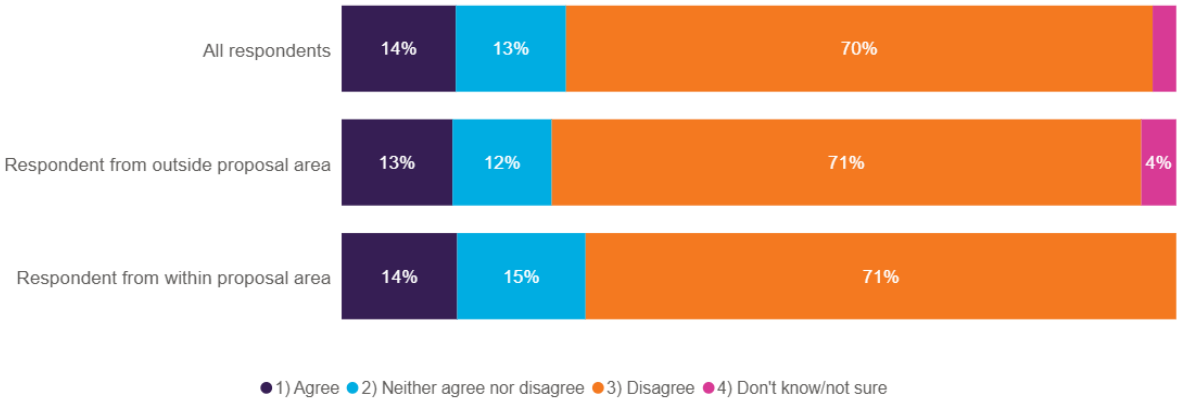
132. In this instance there was very little variance between the views of those commenting from outside the proposed parish boundary when compared to those living within the boundary.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree a parish of Boscombe and Pokesdown be established?



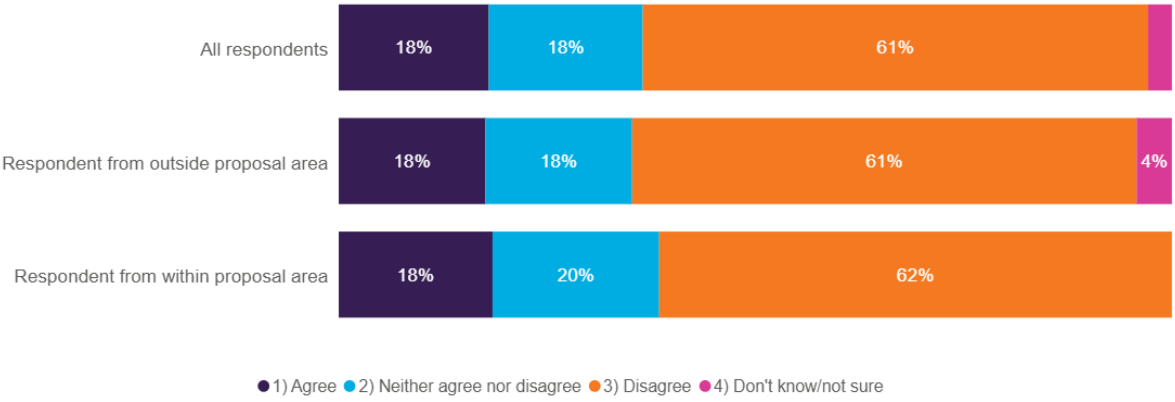
Bases: All respondents – 219; Respondents from outside proposal area – 150; Respondents within proposal area – 65.

Qb To what extent do you agree or disagree the boundary of the parish of Boscombe and Pokesdown be drawn as outlined in red on the map above?



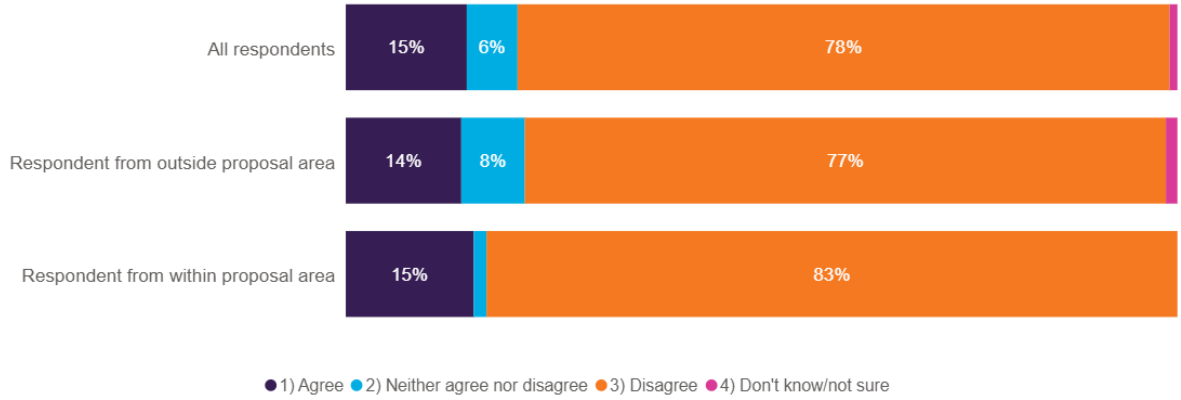
Bases: All respondents – 212; Respondents from outside proposal area – 143; Respondents within proposal area – 65.

Qc To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the established parish be Boscombe and Pokesdown



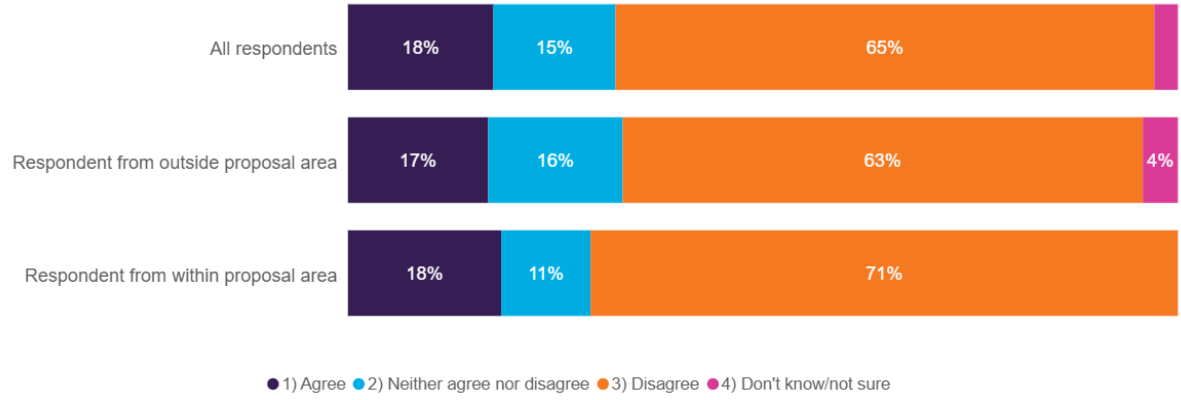
Bases: All respondents – 211; Respondents from outside proposal area – 142; Respondents within proposal area – 65.

Qd To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish should have a parish council in the style of community council



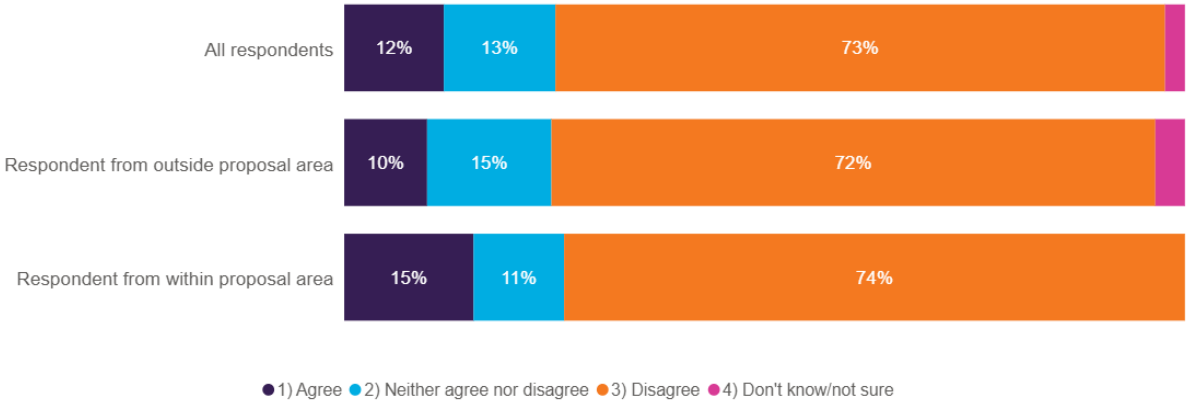
Bases: All respondents – 213; Respondents from outside proposal area – 144; Respondents within proposal area – 65.

Qe To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the community council should be Boscombe and Pokesdown Community Council



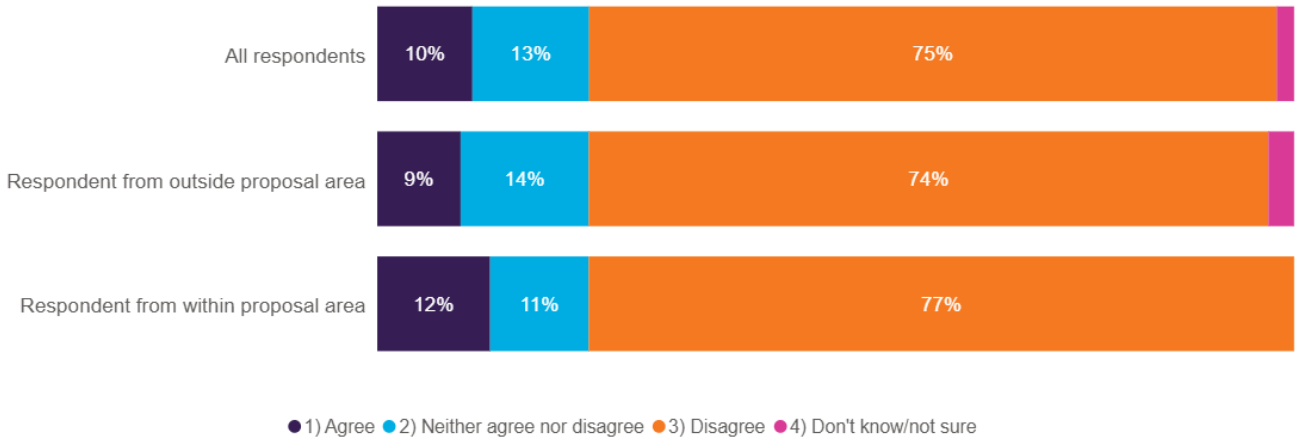
Bases: All respondents – 211; Respondents from outside proposal area – 142; Respondents within proposal area – 65.

Qf To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish of Boscombe & Pokesdown be divided into four parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map above, and named Boscombe Spa & Shelley Manor; St Clements & Boscombe Hospital; Portman Manor & Pokesdown Central; Boscombe North & Pokesdown Hill



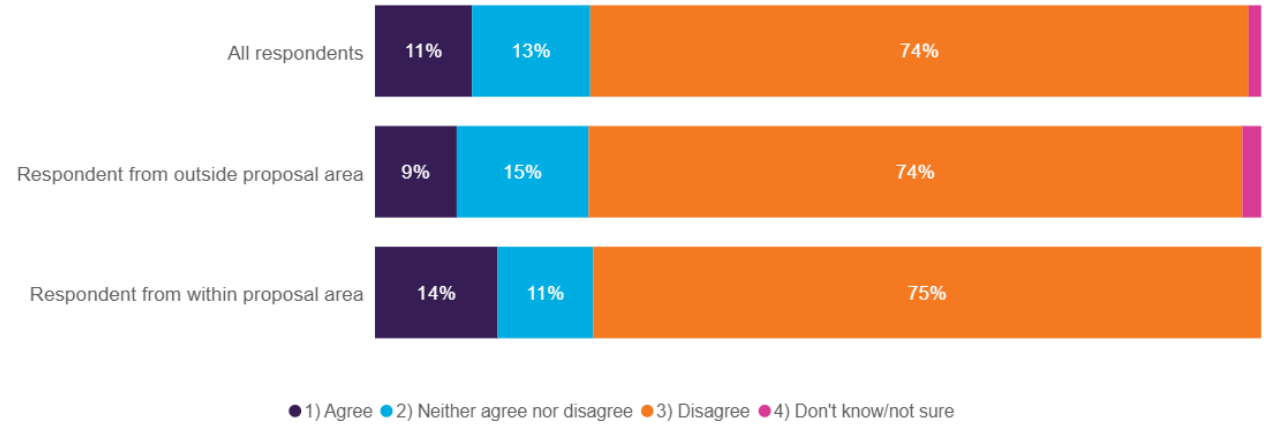
Bases: All respondents – 211; Respondents from outside proposal area – 142; Respondents within proposal area – 65.

Qg To what extent do you agree or disagree the community council shall consist of 14 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 212; Respondents from outside proposal area – 143; Respondents within proposal area – 65.

Qh To what extent do you agree or disagree the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows: Boscombe Spa & Shelley Manor – 4 councillors; St Clements & Boscombe Hospital – 3 councillors; Portman Manor & Pokesdown Central – 3 councillors; Boscombe North & Pokesdown Hill – 4 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 210; Respondents from outside proposal area – 141; Respondents within proposal area – 65.

133. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 297 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(H1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(H2) to this report.

134. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the proposed parish boundary that felt that a new parish council for Boscombe and Pokesdown should not be established, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general.

135. Arguments against the establishment of a new parish council in Boscombe and Pokesdown primarily revolve around concerns about increased bureaucracy and

costs. Many felt that creating an additional layer of local government would lead to unnecessary administrative expenses and confusion over responsibilities. There were also worries that the new parish council would impose higher council taxes on residents, which would be particularly burdensome for those already struggling with the cost of living. Additionally, some respondents believed that the existing BCP Council should focus on improving its services rather than creating new councils, which they felt would not add significant value. Others expressed concerns about the potential for increased inequality and division within the community, as well as the risk of creating a fragmented and less cohesive local governance structure. Overall, the sentiment was that the current system should be maintained and improved rather than adding another layer of governance.

136. Conversely, the respondents from within Boscombe and Pokesdown who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt that it would bring positive changes and benefits to the community. They believed that a community council could effectively manage local issues, provide better representation, and improve the area through targeted initiatives and funding. Many expressed hope that despite a slight increase in council tax, the benefits of having a dedicated local council would outweigh the costs. They also felt that the current BCP Council was overstretched and that a local council would be more responsive to the needs and aspirations of the residents. Overall, the sentiment was that a new parish council would empower the community, enhance local governance, and foster a sense of pride and ownership among the residents.

137. Respondents had mixed feelings about the boundary of the proposed area, with some agreeing that it was logical and well-defined, while many others felt it was arbitrary and did not reflect the true community boundaries. There were concerns that the boundary changes would create divisions within the community and lead to confusion over which council was responsible for certain areas. Regarding the number of wards, some respondents appreciated the division into smaller areas, believing it would allow for better representation and attention to local issues. However, others felt that the number of wards was excessive and would lead to unnecessary bureaucracy. The names of the wards were generally seen as appropriate, though a few respondents suggested changes to better reflect local landmarks and history. The proposed number of councillors was a point of contention, with some feeling that it was too high and would result in increased costs and inefficiency, while others believed it was necessary to ensure adequate representation for all areas. Overall, the feedback highlighted a desire for clear, logical boundaries and efficient governance that would not overburden residents with additional costs or complexity.

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

138. The Task and Finish Group considered the level of representation on the proposed council. As this proposal was seeking to establish a new council, it is important to ascertain whether there would be sufficient interest locally to fill the number of seats proposed and therefore support the viability of the council. Respondents were asked, without any obligation, if they would consider standing for election as a local councillor for Boscombe and Pokesdown. Only eight respondents who live within the proposal area said they would consider standing for election.

139. Whilst the rationale expressed by some respondents for the establishment of a local community council for Boscombe and Pokesdown was recognised, the concerns expressed regarding the boundary and potential impact on community cohesion with neighbouring areas, the number of councillors and the limited interest in standing as a councillor, the Task and Finish Group were of the view that the establishment of a new council for Boscombe and Pokesdown would not be viable and should not be progressed as a stand-alone council at this time.

Final Recommendations

140. It is RECOMMENDED that, in light of the above, the draft proposal to establish a new parish for Boscombe & Pokesdown is not supported.

I – SOUTHBOURNE

Background

141. The background document advised that the existing area is unparished, has a total projected electorate of 15,220 and falls within the area covered by the existing precepting body of The Charter Trustees for Bournemouth. The boundary of the proposed parish was largely coterminous with the existing BCP wards of East Southbourne & Tuckton and West Southbourne, but extended to the west to include Fisherman's Walk.

Draft Recommendations

142. The draft recommendations approved by Council were:-

(a) To create a new parish of Southbourne with a total of 12 councillors.

(b) For the parish to be divided into three wards: Tuckton, Hengistbury Head and Wick (4 councillors), Beaufort (4 councillors) and Southbourne Overcliff (4 councillors). The ratio for electoral equality being 1,268:1 on the projected electorate.

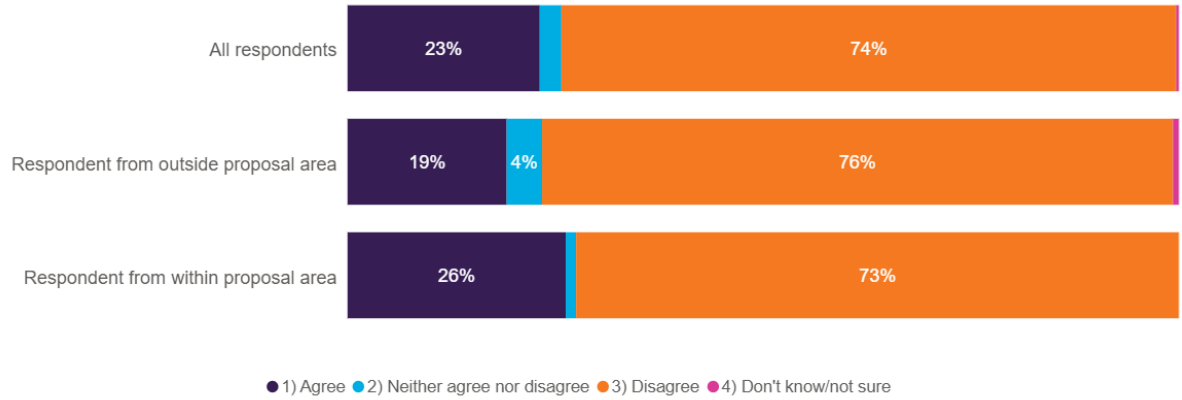
(c) For the style of the parish to be a Community Council.

Summary of Representations Received

143. There was a total of 307 responses received in relation to the proposed parish of Southbourne, of which 160 were from respondents within the proposed parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

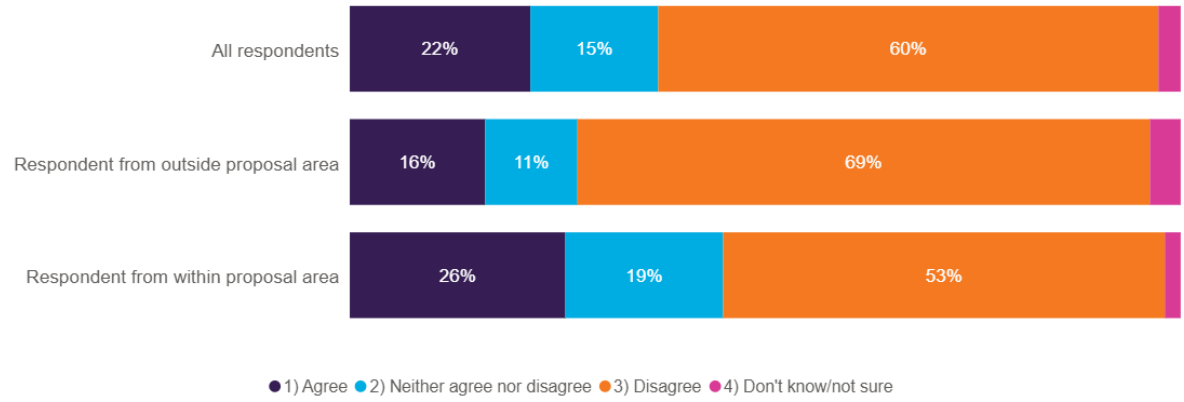
144. It can be seen from the data, that there was a variance between the views of those commenting from outside the proposed parish boundary when compared to those living within the boundary.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree a parish of Southbourne be established?



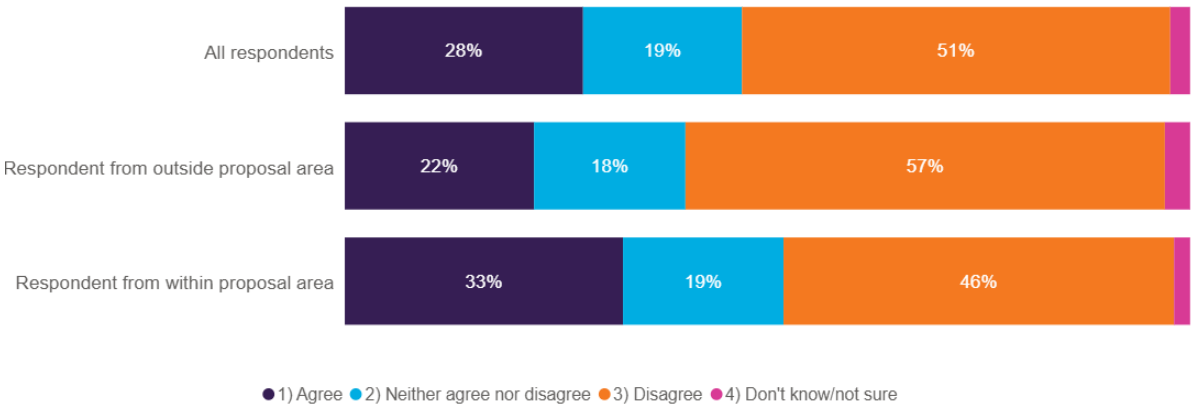
Bases: All respondents – 307; Respondents from outside proposal area – 141; Respondents within proposal area – 160

Qb To what extent do you agree or disagree the boundary of the parish of Southbourne be drawn as outlined in red on the map above?



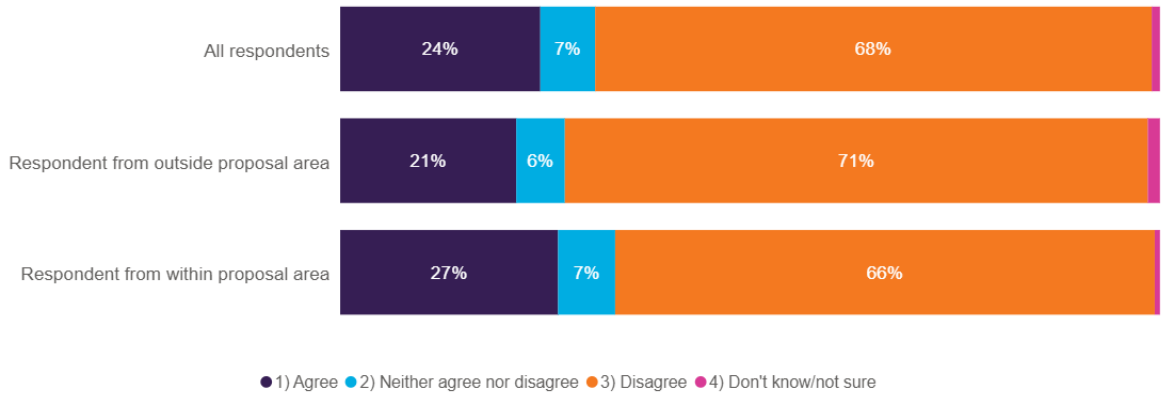
Bases: All respondents – 299; Respondents from outside proposal area – 135; Respondents within proposal area – 158

Qc To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the established parish be Southbourne



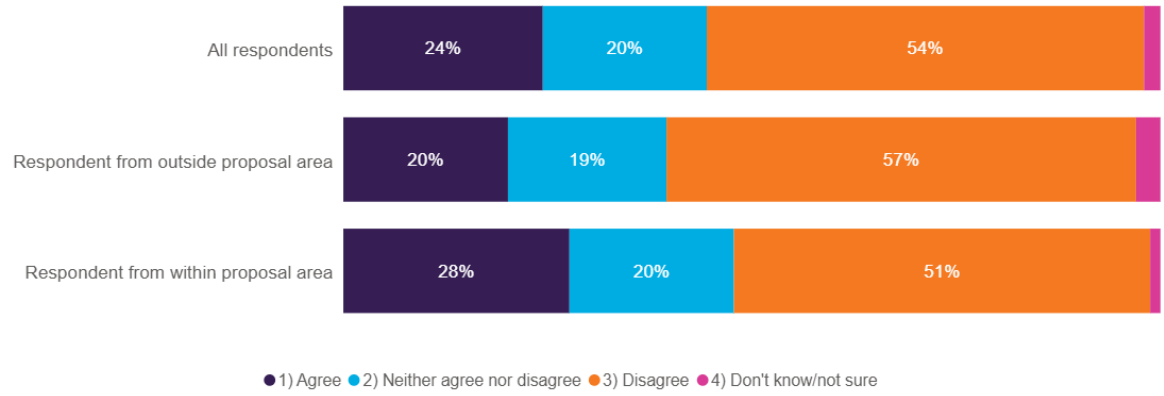
Bases: All respondents – 298; Respondents from outside proposal area – 134; Respondents within proposal area – 158

Qd To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish should have a parish council in the style of community council



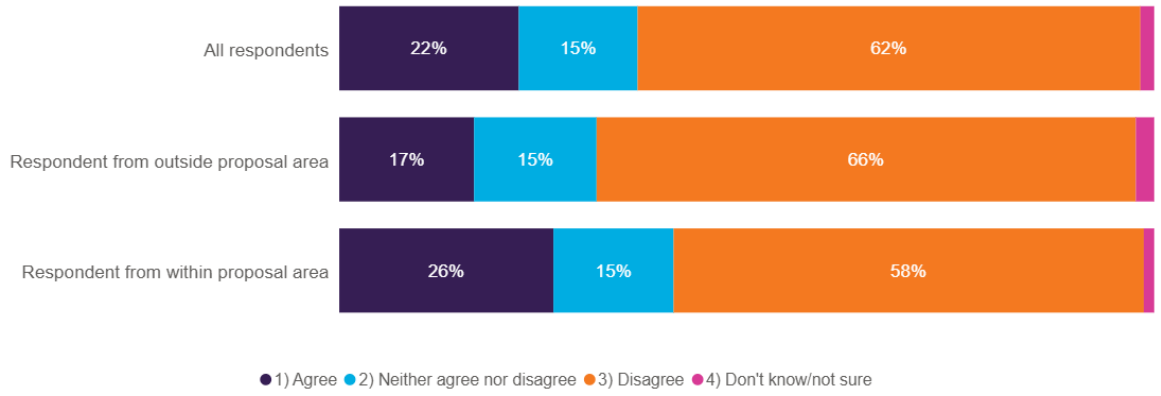
Bases: All respondents – 299; Respondents from outside proposal area – 135; Respondents within proposal area – 158

Qe To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the community council should be Southbourne Community Council



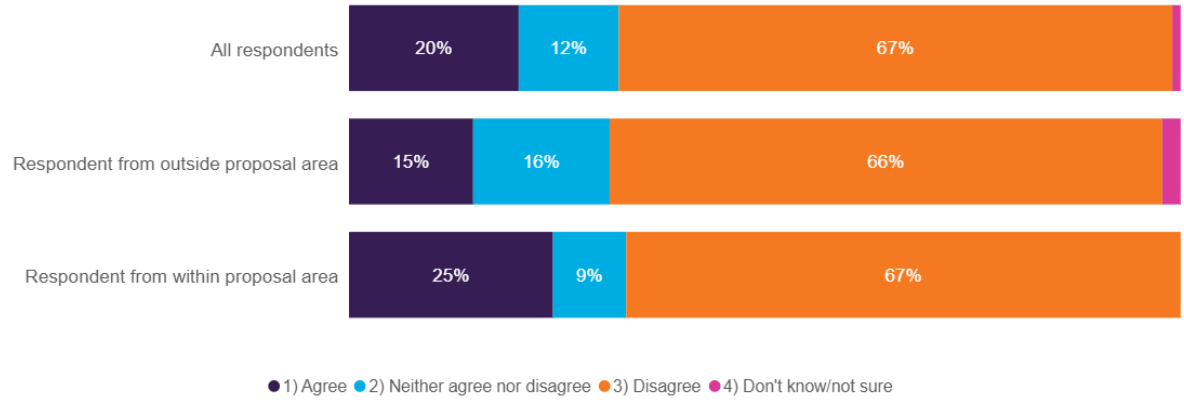
Bases: All respondents – 299; Respondents from outside proposal area – 134; Respondents within proposal area – 159

Qf To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish of Southbourne be divided into four parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map above, and named respectively: Tuckton, Hengistbury Head and Wick; Beaufort; Southbourne Overcliff



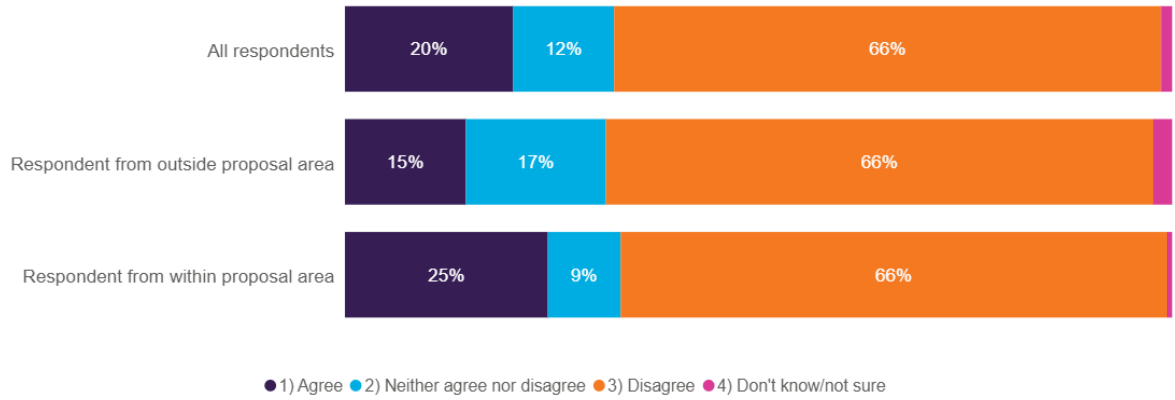
Bases: All respondents – 295; Respondents from outside proposal area – 133; Respondents within proposal area – 156

Qg To what extent do you agree or disagree the community council shall consist of 12 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 299; Respondents from outside proposal area – 134; Respondents within proposal area – 159

Qh To what extent do you agree or disagree the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows: Tuckton, Hengistbury Head and Wick – 4 councillors; Beaufort – 4 councillors; Southbourne Overcliff – 4 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 295; Respondents from outside proposal area – 130; Respondents within proposal area – 159.

145. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 407 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(I1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(I2) to this report.

146. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the proposed parish boundary that felt that a new parish council for Southbourne should not be established, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general.

147. Arguments against the establishment of a new parish council in Southbourne included views that creating a new parish council would add an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy, leading to increased administrative costs and potential confusion over responsibilities. They were worried about the financial burden on residents, particularly the impact of higher council tax bills. Additionally, they believed that the

existing local government structure was sufficient and that a new parish council would duplicate efforts and create inefficiencies. There were also concerns about the potential for unequal service provision, with more affluent areas benefiting more than less affluent ones. Overall, they felt that the current system worked well and that the proposed changes would not bring significant benefits.

148. Conversely, the respondents from within Southbourne who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt that it would enhance local governance and community engagement. They believed that a parish council would provide a more direct and accountable voice on local issues, allowing residents to have greater influence over decisions affecting their community. Many felt that the current local government structure was too remote and that a parish council would be more responsive to the specific needs and priorities of Southbourne residents. They also highlighted the strong sense of community and identity within Southbourne, which they felt would be better supported and preserved through a dedicated parish council. Additionally, they saw the potential for improved local services and amenities, as well as the ability to raise funds through a precept to address local issues more effectively. Overall, they believed that a parish council would empower residents and enhance the quality of life in Southbourne

149. Respondents had mixed feelings about the number of wards, the names of the wards, and the number of councillors proposed. There was a general consensus that the number of councillors proposed seemed excessive, with many suggesting that fewer councillors would be more appropriate for the area. The names of the wards were generally accepted, though some felt that they did not accurately reflect the distinct identities of the areas they represented.

150. Respondents had varied opinions about the boundary between Southbourne and Boscombe & Pokesdown. Some felt that the boundary was clear and logical, reflecting the distinct identities of the areas. However, others believed that the boundary did not accurately represent the community ties and shared amenities between the two areas. There were concerns that the proposed boundary would create confusion and potentially disrupt the cohesion of the community. Some respondents suggested that certain areas, such as Fisherman's Walk and the car park near the Brewhouse & Kitchen, should remain within Boscombe & Pokesdown due to their historical and social connections. Overall, while some supported the boundary as proposed, many felt that adjustments were needed to better reflect the community's needs and identities

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

151. The Task and Finish Group considered the level of representation on the proposed council. As this proposal was seeking to establish a new council, it is important to ascertain whether there would be sufficient interest locally to fill the number of seats proposed and therefore support the viability of the council. Respondents were asked, without any obligation, if they would consider standing for election as a local councillor for Southbourne. 16 respondents who live within the proposal area said they would consider standing for election. Although marginally above the proposed number of seats on the council, and whilst recognising the rationale expressed by some respondents for the establishment of a local community council for Southbourne, the concerns expressed regarding the boundary and the impact on community cohesion with neighbouring areas, the number of councillors

and warding arrangements, the Task and Finish Group were of the view that the establishment of a new council for Southbourne should not be progressed as a stand-alone council at this time.

Final Recommendations

152. It is RECOMMENDED that, in light of the above, the draft proposal to establish a new parish for Southbourne is not supported.

J – POOLE

Background

153. The background document advised that the existing area is unparished, has a total projected electorate of 117,813 and falls largely within the area covered by the existing precepting body of The Charter Trustees for Poole. Due to the historic nature of the former council boundaries, areas to the east of the proposed area fall within the area covered by the existing precepting body of the Charter Trustees for Bournemouth.

Draft Recommendations

154. The draft recommendations approved by Council were:-

(a) To create a new parish of Poole with a total of 42 councillors.

(b) For the parish to be divided into 17 wards: Alderney (2 councillors), Bearwood (2 councillors), Bourne Valley & Branksome East (3 councillors), Branksome West (3 councillors), Canford Cliffs (3 councillors), Canford Heath East (2 councillors), Canford Heath West (2 councillors), Creekmoor (3 councillors), Hamworthy East (2 councillors), Hamworthy West & Turlin Moor (2 councillors), Longfleet & Sterte (2 councillors), Merley (2 councillors), Newtown (3 councillors), Oakdale (3 councillors), Old Town & Baiter (2 councillors), Parkstone (3 councillors) and Penn Hill (3 councillors). The ratio for electoral equality being 2,807:1 on the projected electorate.

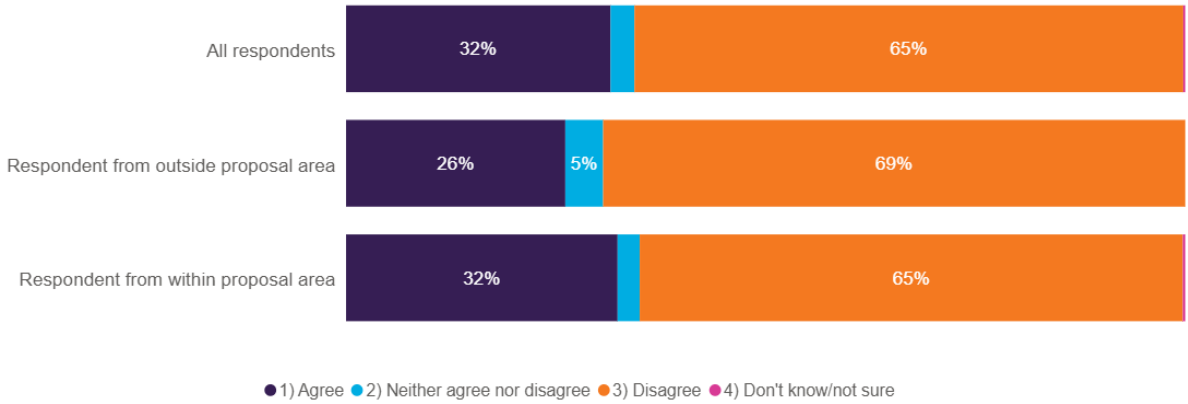
(c) For the style of the parish to be a Town Council.

Summary of Representations Received

155. There was a total of 823 responses received in relation to the proposed parish of Poole, of which 693 were from respondents within the proposed parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

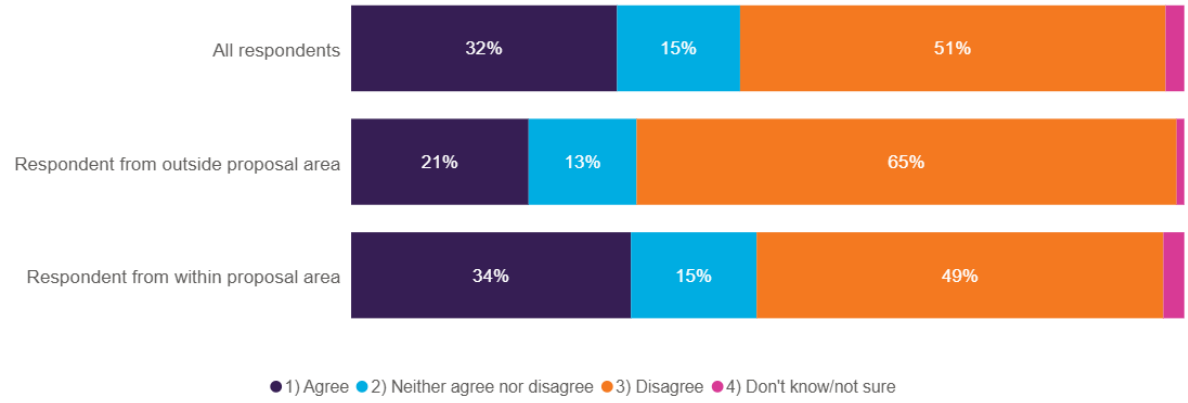
156. It can be seen from the data, that there was some variance between the views of those commenting from outside the proposed parish boundary when compared to those living within the boundary.

Qa. To what extent do you agree or disagree a parish of Poole be established?



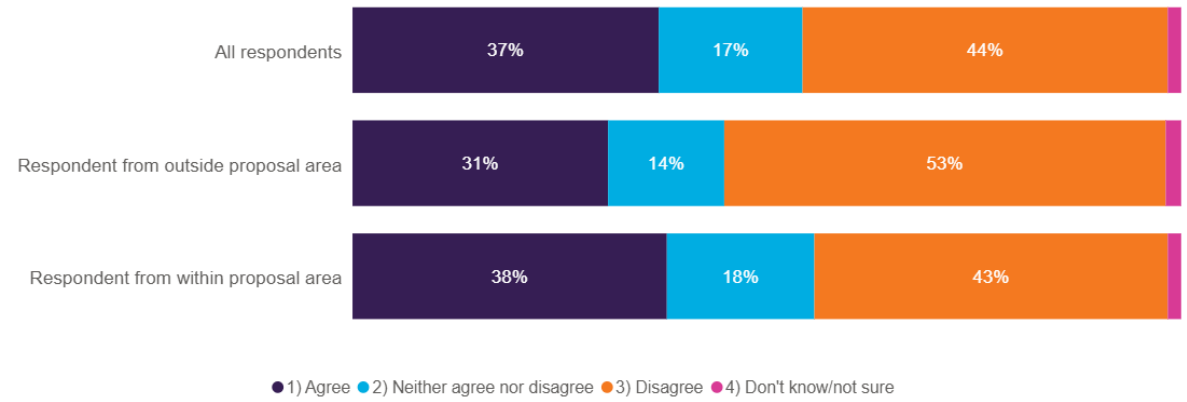
Bases: All respondents – 809; Respondents from outside proposal area – 111; Respondents within proposal area – 683

Qb To what extent do you agree or disagree the boundary of the parish of Poole be drawn as outlined in red on the map above?



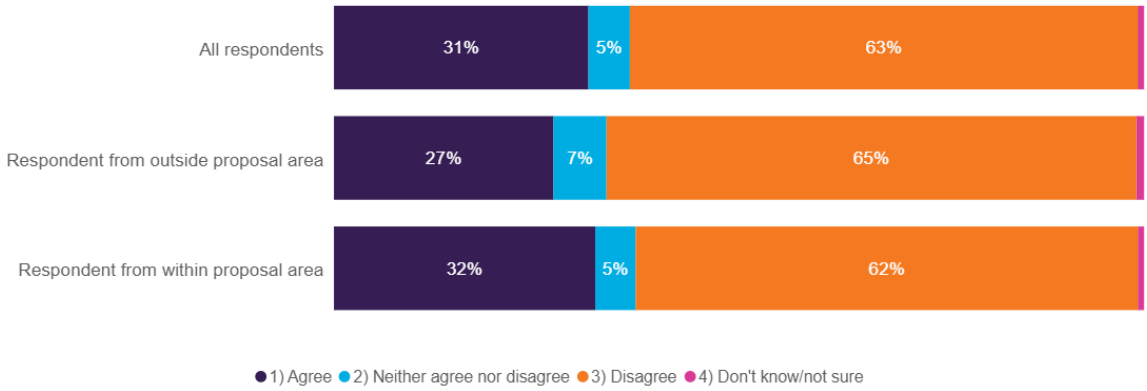
Bases: All respondents – 799; Respondents from outside proposal area – 108; Respondents within proposal area – 676

Qc To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the established parish be Poole



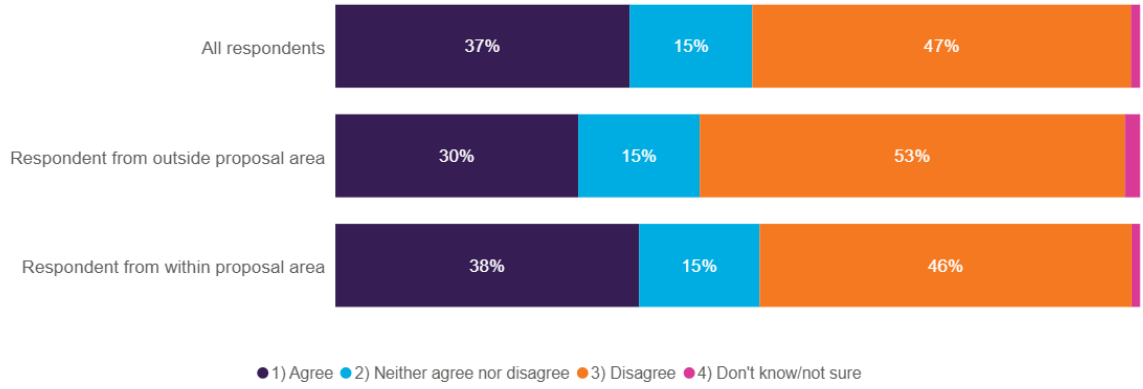
Bases: All respondents – 801; Respondents from outside proposal area – 107; Respondents within proposal area – 680

Qd To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish should have a parish council in the style of town council



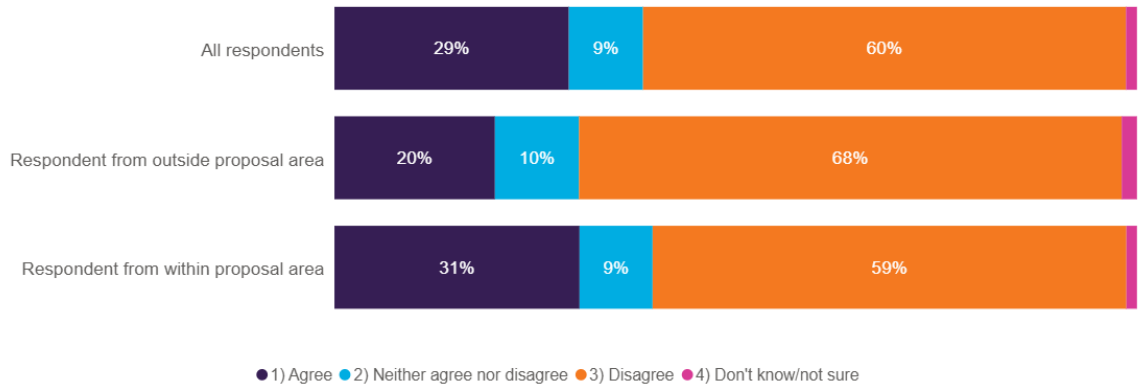
Bases: All respondents – 802; Respondents from outside proposal area – 107; Respondents within proposal area – 682

Qe To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the town council should be Poole Town Council



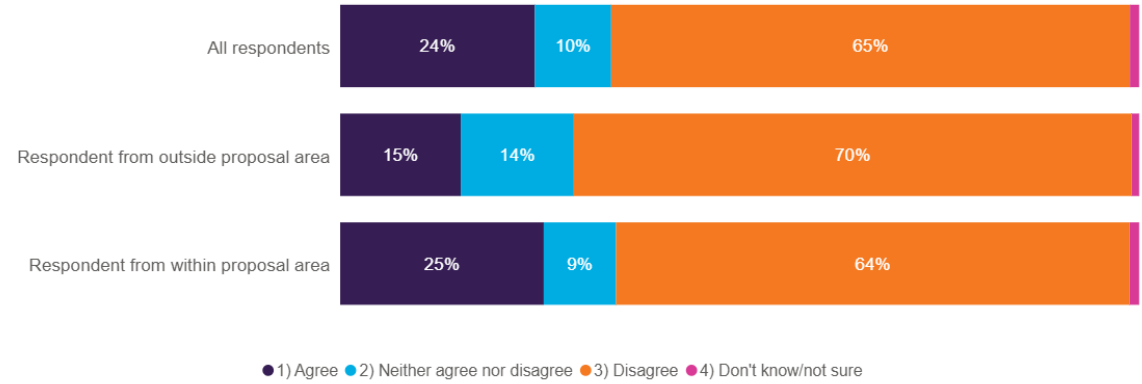
Bases: All respondents – 801; Respondents from outside proposal area – 106; Respondents within proposal area – 681

Qf To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish of Poole be divided into seventeen parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map above, and named respectively: Alderney; Bearwood; Bourne Valley & Branksome East; Branksome West; Canford Cliffs; Canford Heath East; Canford Heath West; Creekmoor; Hamworthy East; Hamworthy West & Turlin Moor; Longfleet & Sterte; Merley; Newtown; Oakdale; Old Town & Baiter; Parkstone; Penn Hill



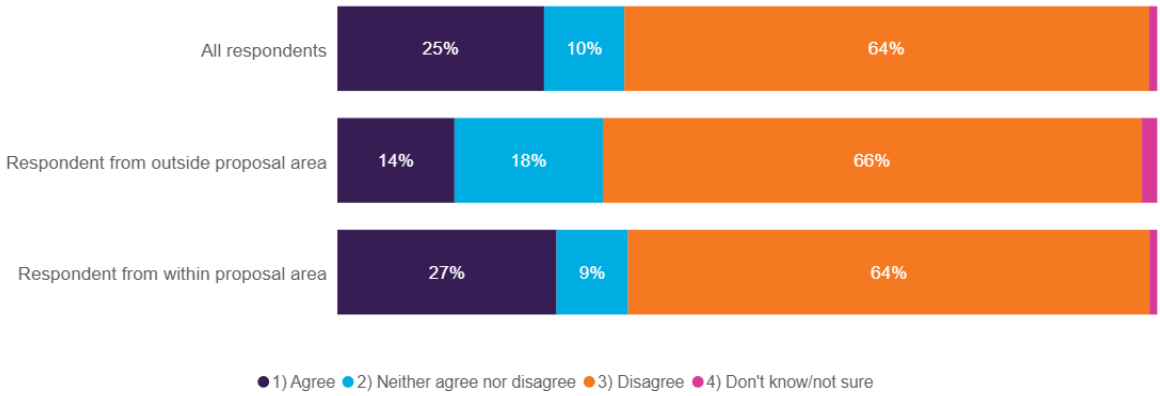
Bases: All respondents – 801; Respondents from outside proposal area – 105; Respondents within proposal area – 681

Qg To what extent do you agree or disagree the town council shall consist of 42 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 796; Respondents from outside proposal area – 106; Respondents within proposal area – 675

Qh To what extent do you agree or disagree the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows: Alderney – 2 councillors; Bearwood – 2 councillors; Bourne Valley & Branksome East – 3 councillors; Branksome West – 3 councillors; Canford Cliffs – 3 councillors; Canford Heath East – 2 councillors; Canford Heath West – 2 councillors; Creekmoor – 3 councillors; Hamworthy East – 2 councillors; Hamworthy West & Turlin Moor – 2 councillors; Longfleet & Sterte – 2 councillors; Merley – 2 councillors; Newtown – 3 councillors; Oakdale – 3 councillors; Old Town & Baiter – 2 councillors; Parkstone – 3 councillors; Penn Hill – 3 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 797; Respondents from outside proposal area – 105; Respondents within proposal area – 677

157. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 1,175 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(J1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(J2) to this report.

158. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the proposed parish boundary that felt that a new town council for Poole should not be established, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general.

159. Arguments against the establishment of a new town council in Poole included views that it would create an unnecessary additional layer of governance, leading to increased bureaucracy and costs without providing significant benefits. They were concerned that the new Town Council would duplicate services already provided by the existing BCP Council, resulting in inefficiencies and potential confusion over responsibilities. Additionally, some felt that the proposed boundaries and the number of councillors were excessive and not reflective of the local community's needs, potentially leading to unequal representation and resource allocation. Overall, they believed that the current system was sufficient and that creating a new Town Council would not enhance local governance or community engagement.

160. Conversely, the respondents from within Poole who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt that it would help restore and maintain Poole's unique identity, which they believed had been lost since the creation of BCP Council. They felt that a local parish council would provide better representation and more effective decision-making tailored to the specific needs of Poole residents. Many believed that the new town council would enhance community engagement and involvement, allowing residents to have a greater say in local matters and services. They also felt that the new council would be better positioned to address local issues, organise community events, and manage local amenities, ultimately leading to improved quality of life for Poole residents. Overall, they saw the establishment of a new parish council as a way to ensure that Poole's historic and civic identity is preserved and that the town's unique needs are met more effectively.

161. Furthermore several respondents expressed concerns about the limited powers and effectiveness of the Charter Trustees, suggesting that a Poole Town Council would provide better local representation and governance. Some respondents felt that the Charter Trustees were not well understood and lacked the ability to administer services effectively at a local level. They believed that establishing a town council would offer a clearer identity for Poole, enhance community involvement, and ensure more local decision-making. Others mentioned that the current system of Charter Trustees was insufficient and that a town council would better represent Poole's historic and civic identity.

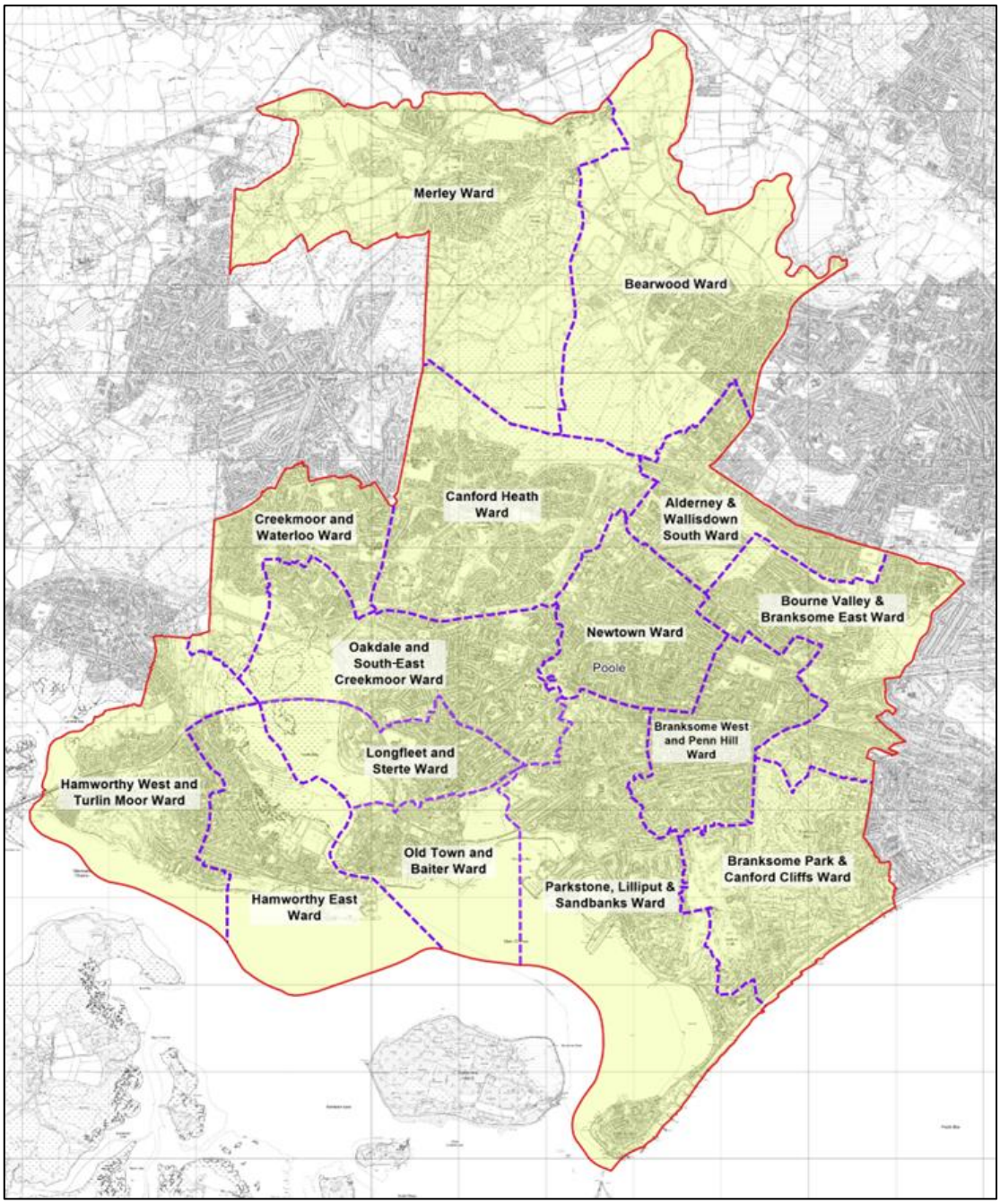
Task and Finish Group Conclusions

162. The Task and Finish Group considered the representations on the proposed council. Some respondents felt that the proposed number of 42 councillors was excessive and may lead to inefficiencies and difficulties in decision-making.

163. As a consequence of the feedback and views expressed, the Task and Finish Group reviewed the warding arrangements and the number of councillors seeking to address and mitigate many of the concerns raised. In doing so, the Task and Finish Group are now recommending dividing the parish into 15 wards with a total of 21 councillors. The table and map below show the proposed arrangements.

Parish ward	Electorate 2025	Projected Electorate 2030	Seats	Elector Ratio	Variance from average

Parish ward	Electorate 2025	Projected Electorate 2030	Seats	Elector Ratio	Variance from average
Alderney and Wallisdown South	5,796	5,819	1	5,819	+3.8%
Bearwood	5,108	5,850	1	5,850	+4.4%
Bourne Valley and Branksome East	9,806	9,948	2	5,032	-11.3%
Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs	5,176	5,380	1	5,380	-4.4%
Branksome West and Penn Hill	11,556	11,830	2	5,915	+5.5%
Canford Heath	10,748	10,832	2	5,416	-3.4%
Creekmoor and Waterloo	5,733	5,952	1	5,952	+6.2%
Hamworthy East	5,139	5,332	1	5,332	-4.9%
Hamworthy West and Turlin Moor	5,385	5,431	1	5,431	-3.1%
Longfleet and Sterte	5,268	6,153	1	6,153	+9.8%
Merley	4,787	5,453	1	5,453	-2.7%
Newtown	10,962	11,331	2	5,666	+1.1%
Oakdale and South-East Creekmoor	11,551	11,960	2	5,980	+6.7%
Old Town and Baiter	4,825	5,324	1	5,324	-5.0%
Parkstone, Lilliput and Sandbanks	10,708	11,103	2	5,552	-0.9%
Total	112,548	117,698	21		



164. As this proposal was seeking to establish a new council, it is important to ascertain whether there would be sufficient interest locally to fill the number of seats proposed and therefore support the viability of the council. Respondents were asked, without any obligation, if they would consider standing for election as a local councillor for Poole. 90 respondents who live within the proposal area said they would consider standing for election and as a consequence the Task and Finish Group were satisfied that the council would be viable in this regard.

165. The final recommendations below were not agreed unanimously at the Task and Finish Group but was supported by a vote of 6 in favour, 3 against and no abstentions. Councillors Beesley and Wright wished for their vote against to be noted.

Final Recommendations

166. It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements for the parish of Poole be approved:-

(a) a parish of Poole be established

(b) the boundary of the parish of Poole be drawn to include the area as outlined in red on the map in paragraph 163 above

(c) the name of the established parish be Poole

(d) the style of the parish of Poole be set as a town

(e) the parish should have a parish council in the style of town council

(f) the name of the town council should be Poole Town Council

(g) the parish of Poole be divided into 15 parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map in paragraph 163 above, and named respectively:

- **(i) Alderney and Wallisdown South**
- **(ii) Bearwood**
- **(iii) Bourne Valley and Branksome East**
- **(iv) Branksome West and Penn Hill**
- **(v) Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs**
- **(vi) Canford Heath**
- **(vii) Creekmoor and Waterloo**
- **(viii) Hamworthy East**
- **(ix) Hamworthy West and Turlin Moor**
- **(x) Longfleet and Sterte**
- **(xi) Merley**
- **(xii) Newtown**
- **(xiii) Oakdale and South-East Creekmoor**
- **(xiv) Old Town and Baiter**
- **(xv) Parkstone, Lilliput and Sandbanks**

(h) the town council for Poole shall consist of 21 councillors

(i) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:

- **(i) Alderney and Wallisdown South – one councillor**
- **(ii) Bearwood – one councillor**
- **(iii) Bourne Valley and Branksome East – two councillors**
- **(iv) Branksome West and Penn Hill – two councillors**
- **(v) Branksome Park and Canford Cliffs – one councillor**
- **(vi) Canford Heath – two councillors**

(vii) Creekmoor and Waterloo – one councillor

(viii) Hamworthy East – one councillor

(ix) Hamworthy West and Turlin Moor – one councillor

(x) Longfleet and Sterte – one councillor

(xi) Merley – one councillor

(xii) Newtown – two councillors

(xiii) Oakdale and South-East Creekmoor – two councillors

(xiv) Old Town and Baiter – one councillor

(xv) Parkstone, Lilliput and Sandbanks – two councillors

(j) a Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2026 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2026.

K – BOURNEMOUTH

Background

167. The background document advised that the area proposed is unparished, had a total projected electorate of 103,164 and falls largely within the area covered by the existing precepting body of The Charter Trustees for Bournemouth. Due to the historic nature of the former council boundaries, areas to the west of the proposed area fall within the area covered by the existing precepting body of the Charter Trustees for Poole.

Draft Recommendations

168. The draft recommendations approved by Council were:-

(a) To create a new parish of Bournemouth with a total of 38 councillors.

(b) For the parish to be divided into 11 wards: Bournemouth Central (4 councillors), East Cliff & Springbourne (4 councillors), Kinson (5 councillors), Littledown & Iford (3 councillors), Moordown (3 councillors), Muscliff & Strouden Park (4 councillors), Queen's Park (3 councillors), Talbot & Branksome Woods (3 councillors), Wallisdown & Winton West (3 councillors), Westbourne & West Cliff (3 councillors) and Winton East (3 councillors). The ratio for electoral equality being 2,715:1 on the projected electorate.

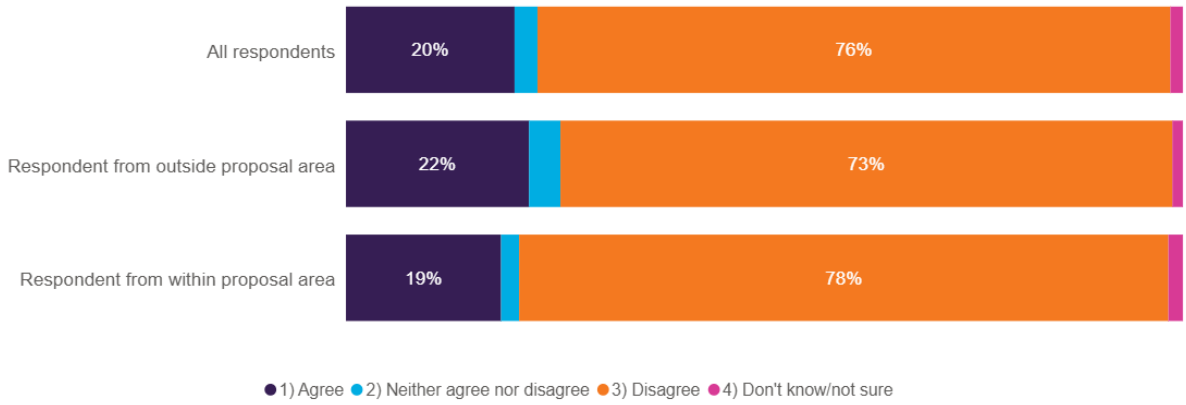
(c) For the style of the parish to be a Town Council.

Summary of Representations Received

169. There was a total of 413 responses received in relation to the proposed parish of Bournemouth, of which 235 were from respondents within the proposed parish boundary. The tables provided below show the responses to each question asked by all respondents, by BCP respondents but from outside the proposal area and by BCP respondents from within the proposal area.

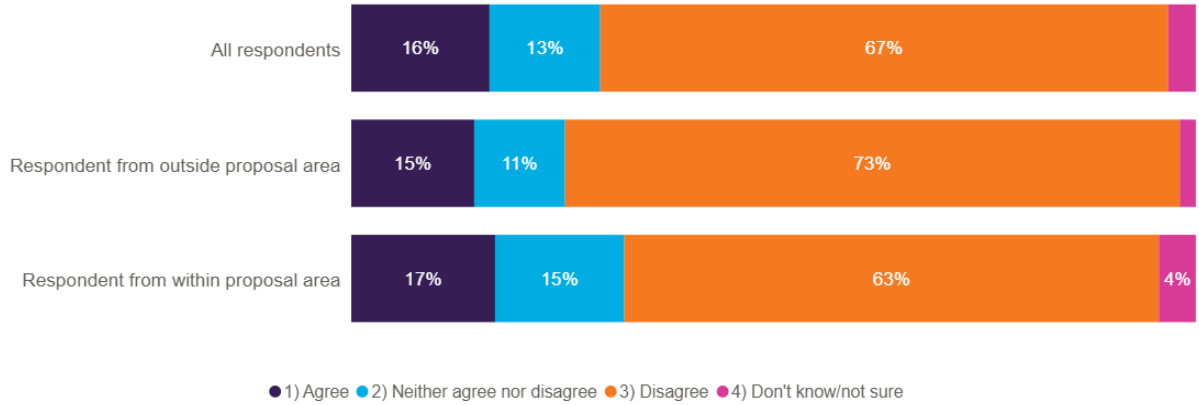
170. It can be seen from the data, that there only a small variance between the views of those commenting from outside the proposed parish boundary when compared to those living within the boundary.

Qa To what extent do you agree or disagree a parish of Bournemouth be established?



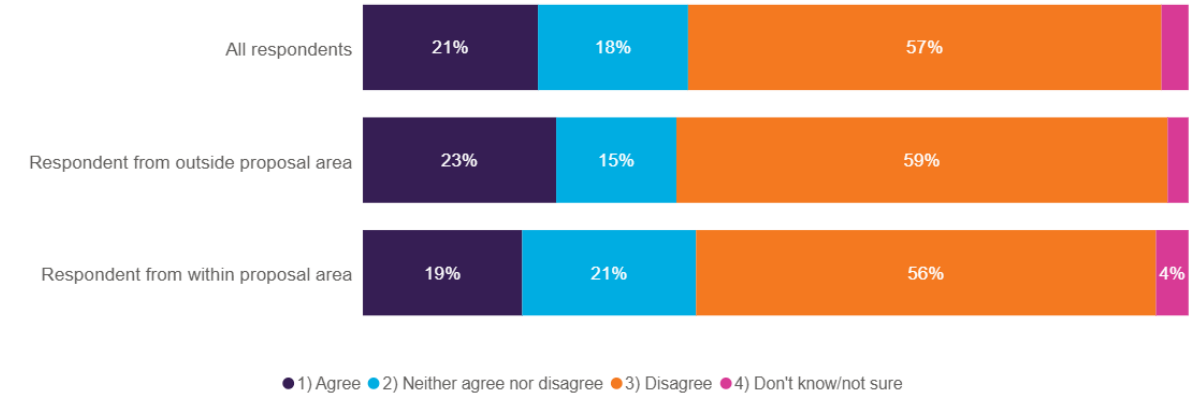
Bases: All respondents – 402; Respondents from outside proposal area – 160; Respondents within proposal area – 232

Qb To what extent do you agree or disagree the boundary of the parish of Bournemouth be drawn as outlined in red on the map above?



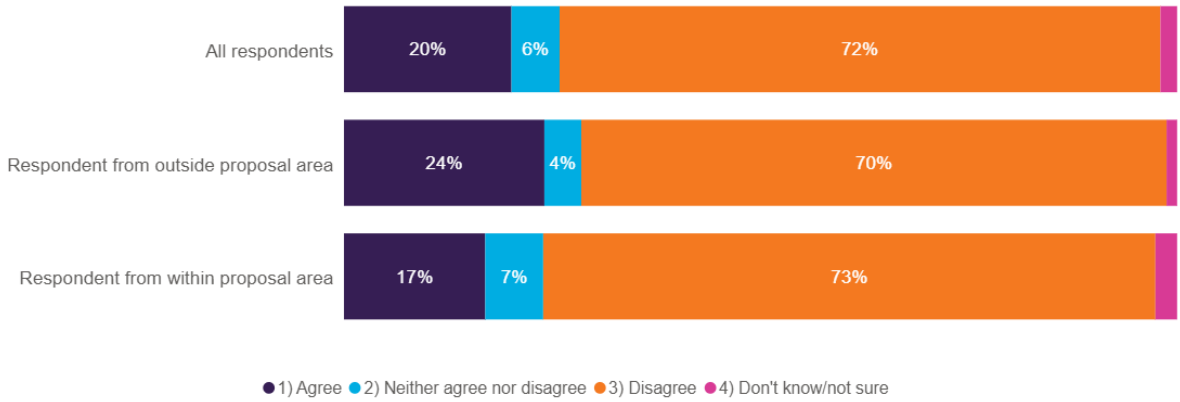
Bases: All respondents – 397; Respondents from outside proposal area – 158; Respondents within proposal area – 229

Qc To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the established parish be Bournemouth



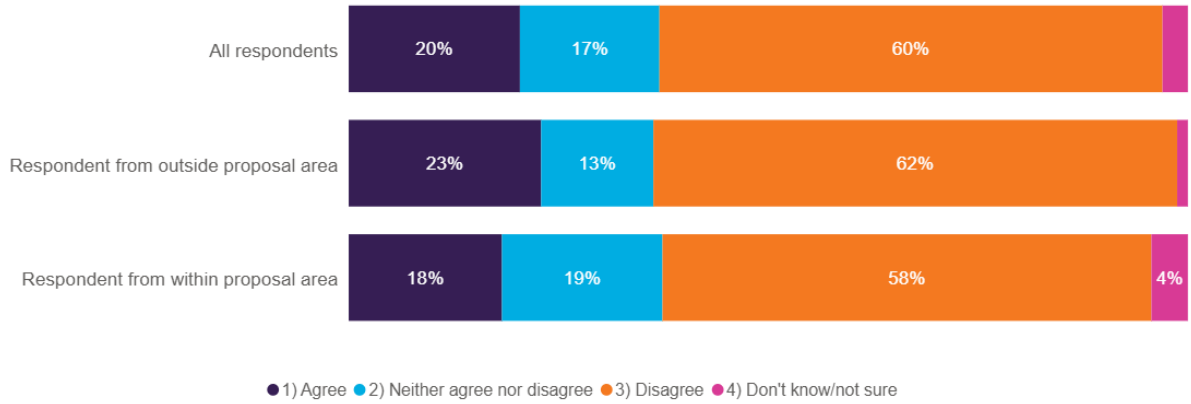
Bases: All respondents – 396; Respondents from outside proposal area – 158; Respondents within proposal area – 228

Qd To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish should have a parish council in the style of town council



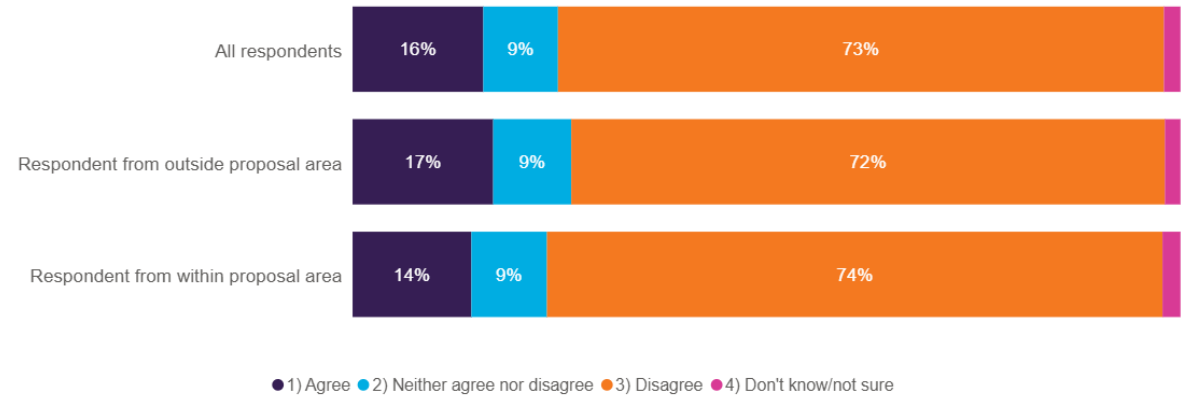
Bases: All respondents – 398; Respondents from outside proposal area – 158; Respondents within proposal area – 230

Qe To what extent do you agree or disagree the name of the town council should be Bournemouth Town Council



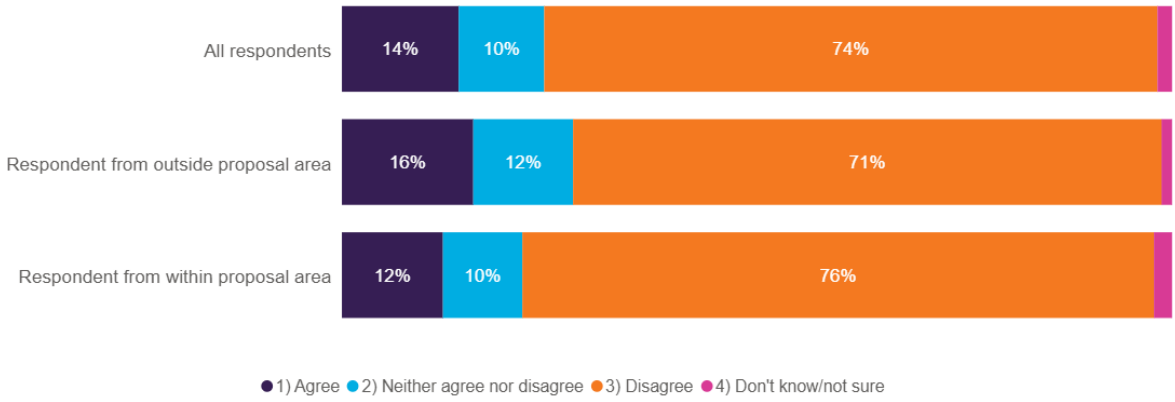
Bases: All respondents – 397; Respondents from outside proposal area – 157; Respondents within proposal area – 230

Qf To what extent do you agree or disagree the parish of Bournemouth be divided into 11 parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map above, and named respectively: Bournemouth Central; East Cliff & Springbourne; Kinson; Littledown & Iford; Moordown; Muscliff & Strouden Park; Queen's Park; Talbot & Branksome Woods; Wallisdown & Winton West; Westbourne & West Cliff; Winton East



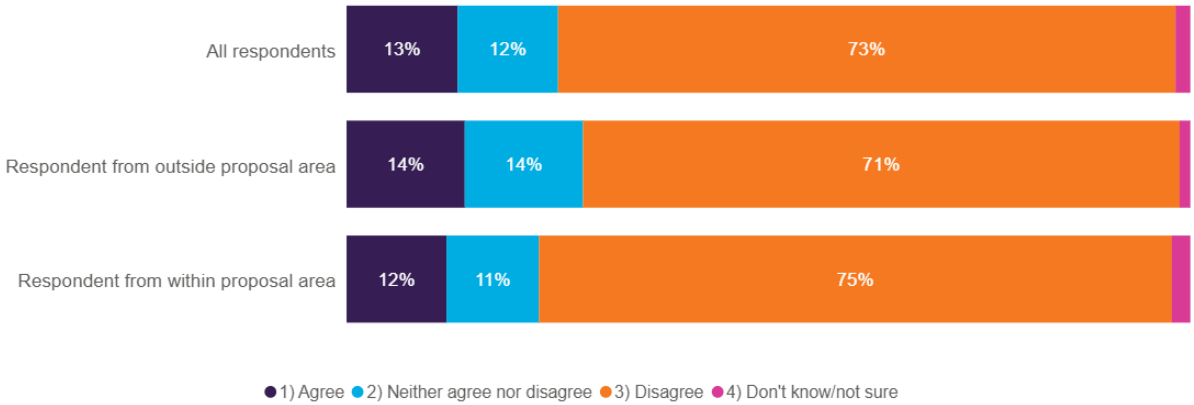
Bases: All respondents – 399; Respondents from outside proposal area – 159; Respondents within proposal area – 230

Qg To what extent do you agree or disagree the town council shall consist of 38 councillors



Bases: All respondents – 398; Respondents from outside proposal area – 158; Respondents within proposal area – 230

Qh To what extent do you agree or disagree the the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows: Bournemouth Central – four councillors; East Cliff & Springbourne – four councillors; Kinson – five councillors; Littledown & Iford – three councillors; Moordown – three councillors; Muscliff & Strouden Park – four councillors; Queen's Park – three councillors; Talbot & Branksome Woods – three councillors; Wallisdown & Winton West – three councillors; Westbourne & West Cliff – three councillors



Bases: All respondents – 395; Respondents from outside proposal area – 157; Respondents within proposal area – 228

171. Finally, each respondent was asked to give reasons for their answers and provided an opportunity to add any other comments about the draft recommendations. There were a total of 550 comments in response and these are set out in full in Appendix 2(K1) to this report. A full analysis of these responses was undertaken and a report produced for the Task and Finish Group. A copy of the analysis report is set out in Appendix 2(K2) to this report.

172. Whilst there was a significant number of respondents from outside the proposed parish boundary that felt that a new town council for Bournemouth should not be established, many of these respondents appeared to be against the principle of parish and town councils in general.

173. Arguments against the establishment of a new town council in Bournemouth included views that it would introduce unnecessary bureaucracy and additional costs without providing significant benefits. They argued that the recent

amalgamation into BCP was intended to create efficiencies and cost savings, and establishing a new council would contradict this goal. Concerns were also raised about the potential for increased council tax, the duplication of responsibilities, and the confusion over which council would handle specific issues. Additionally, some respondents felt that the proposed council would not adequately represent the diverse needs of different areas within Bournemouth and that the existing ward system already provided sufficient local representation. Overall, the sentiment was that the creation of a Town Council would complicate governance and impose financial burdens on residents without delivering clear advantages.

174. Although smaller in number, the respondents from within Bournemouth who expressed agreement with the draft recommendations felt that it would provide more localised and effective governance. They believed that a town council would allow for better representation of local interests and more direct accountability to residents. Supporters argued that a town council could focus on specific local issues, such as maintaining public amenities, improving community services, and addressing neighbourhood concerns more efficiently than the larger BCP Council. They also felt that having a dedicated local council would enhance community identity and cohesion, ensuring that the unique needs of different areas within Bournemouth Town were met. Overall, the sentiment was that a new town council would bring decision-making closer to the residents, leading to more responsive and tailored governance.

Task and Finish Group Conclusions

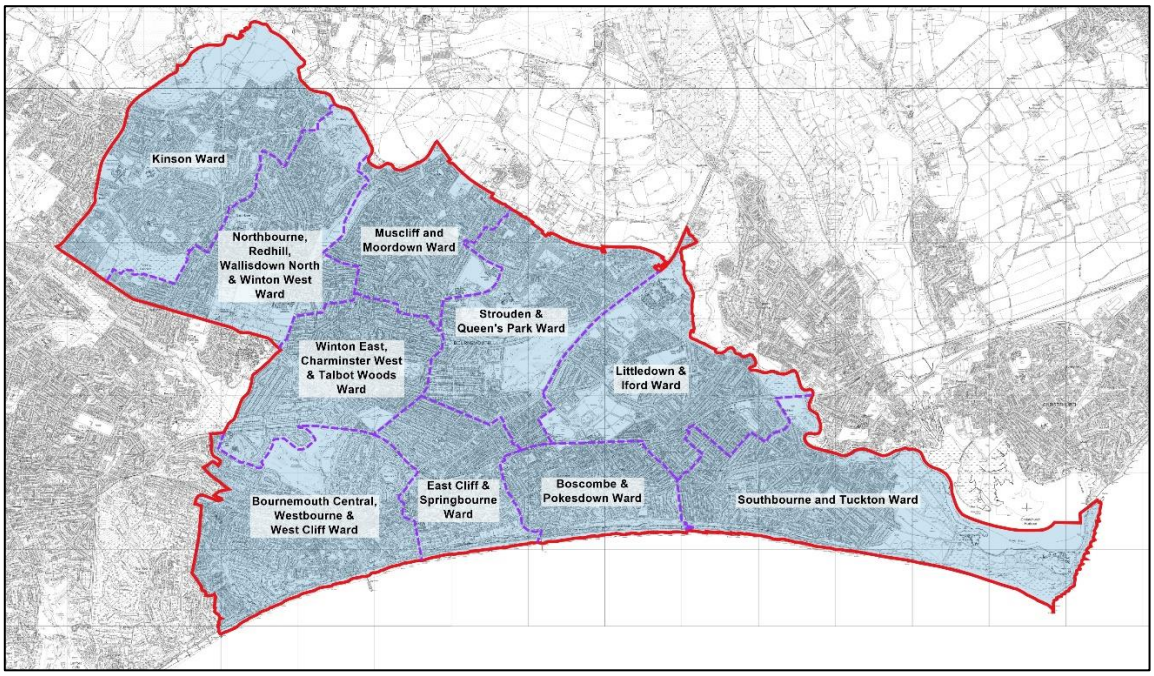
175. The Task and Finish Group considered the representations on the proposed council. Respondents felt that having 38 councillors would be excessive and lead to unnecessary costs, making it more difficult to reach decisions efficiently. They argued that the large number of councillors would complicate governance and increase expenses without providing significant benefits. Some suggested that reducing the number of councillors would save costs and make it easier to fill vacancies.

176. As outlined earlier in this report, whilst recognising the rationale expressed by some respondents, the Task and Finish Group are not recommending the establishment of new local community councils in Redhill & Northbourne, Boscombe & Pokesdown and Southbourne for the reasons stated. However, the thoughts of those members who supported the proposal were that it would be fair and equitable for all areas of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to be served by local parish or town councils, and as a consequence are recommending the establishment of a town council for Bournemouth, including the areas of Redhill & Northbourne, Boscombe & Pokesdown and Southbourne.

177. The approval of the final recommendations in this report would abolish the existing Charter Trustees for Poole, allow the continuation of the historic civic and ceremonial traditions whilst providing potential scope for the town councils of Broadstone, Poole and Bournemouth to enhance community engagement and involvement, respond to local issues, organise community events, and manage local amenities, ultimately leading to improved quality of life for residents. These will be decisions for the respective town councils to determine.

178. As a consequence of the feedback and views expressed, the Task and Finish Group reviewed the warding arrangements and the number of councillors seeking to address and mitigate many of the concerns raised. In doing so, the Task and Finish Group are recommending dividing the parish into 10 wards but with fewer councillors. The proposed number of councillors is 21. The table and map below show the proposed arrangements.

Parish ward	Electorate 2025	Projected Electorate 2030	Seats	Elector Ratio	Variance from average
Boscombe & Pokesdown	13,396	13,771	2	6,886	+1.3%
Bournemouth Central, Westbourne and West Cliff	18,962	21,022	3	6,969	+3.1%
East Cliff & Springbourne	13,365	13,965	2	6,983	+2.8%
Kinson	12,880	13,011	2	6,506	-4.3%
Littledown & Iford	12,615	12,721	2	6,361	-6.4%
Muscliff and Moordown	13,168	13,305	2	6,653	-2.1%
Northbourne, Redhill, Wallisdown North & Winton West	13,782	13,946	2	6,973	+2.6%
Southbourne and Tuckton	12,607	12,822	2	6,411	-5.7%
Strouden & Queen's Park	14,219	14,388	2	7,194	+5.7%
Winton East, Charminster West & Talbot Woods	13,491	13,753	2	6,877	+1.2%
Total	138,485	142,704	21		



179. As this proposal was seeking to establish a new council, it is important to ascertain whether there would be sufficient interest locally to fill the number of seats proposed and therefore support the viability of the council. Respondents were asked, without any obligation, if they would consider standing for election as a local councillor for Bournemouth. 49 respondents who live within the proposal area said they would consider standing for election and as a consequence the Task and Finish Group were satisfied that the council would be viable in this regard.

180. The final recommendation to establish a town council for Bournemouth was not agreed unanimously at the Task and Finish Group, but was supported by a vote of 4 in favour, 4 against and the chair voted in favour using his casting vote.

Final Recommendations

181. It is RECOMMENDED that the following community governance and electoral arrangements for the parish of Bournemouth be approved:-

(a) a parish of Bournemouth be established

(b) the boundary of the parish of Bournemouth be drawn to include the area as outlined in red on the map in paragraph 178 above

(c) the name of the established parish be Bournemouth

(d) the style of the parish of Bournemouth be set as a town

(e) the parish should have a parish council in the style of town council

(f) the name of the town council should be Bournemouth Town Council

(g) the parish of Bournemouth be divided into 10 parish wards, comprising the area designated on the map in paragraph 178 above, and named respectively:

(i) Boscombe & Pokesdown

(ii) Bournemouth Central, Westbourne and West Cliff

(iii) East Cliff & Springbourne

(iv) Kinson

(v) Littledown & Iford

(vi) Muscliff and Moordown

(vii) Northbourne, Redhill, Wallisdown North & Winton West

(viii) Southbourne and Tuckton

(ix) Strouden & Queen's Park

(x) Winton East, Charminster West & Talbot Woods

(h) the town council for Bournemouth shall consist of 21 councillors

(i) the number of councillors elected to each of the respective wards be as follows:

(i) Boscombe & Pokesdown – two councillors

(ii) Bournemouth Central, Westbourne and West Cliff – three councillors

(iii) East Cliff & Springbourne – two councillors

(iv) Kinson – two councillors

(v) Littledown & Iford – two councillors

(vi) Muscliff and Moordown – two councillors

(vii) Northbourne, Redhill, Wallisdown North & Winton West – two councillors

(viii) Southbourne and Tuckton – two councillors

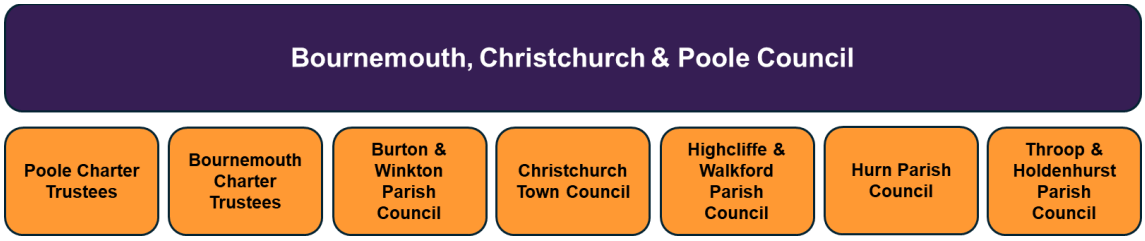
(ix) Strouden & Queen's Park – two councillors

(x) Winton East, Charminster West & Talbot Woods – two councillors

(j) a Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council (Reorganisation of Community Governance) Order be prepared in accordance with the above recommendations and that the Order be effective from 1st April 2026 save for those recommendations relating to parish electoral arrangements which shall come into force on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2026.

Summary of Final Proposals

182. The existing arrangements are illustrated below, but in summary comprises two existing layers of local authority for the whole of the BCP Council area with Charter Trustees for Poole and Bournemouth and five existing parish and town councils acting as the second tier.



183. The outcome of the decisions in this report are reflected in the chart below, with the two Charter Trustee bodies being replaced with three town councils. This will result in the same number of tiers in all areas.

Functions and Precept Requirements

184. If the Council approves the establishment of the proposed new local councils, it will be necessary to determine the schedule of historic and ceremonial assets and statutory services (which is limited to allotments) to be transferred to the respective councils. It will also be necessary to determine the anticipated budget requirement for each of the new councils for the first year. There is a clear message from the consultation responses that this should be kept to a minimum. It is proposed that the Task and Finish Group continue to work with officers to discuss these issues and to bring a report be brought back to full Council in due course.

185. If Council approves the recommendations contained in this report and the whole of the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area is served by parish and town councils, the existing Charter Trustees for Bournemouth and Poole will be abolished on 31 March 2026. This will eliminate the risk of any double taxation which would apply if the Charter Trustees remain.

186. In the event that Poole is approved and either Bournemouth or Broadstone is not, or if Bournemouth is approved and Poole is not, it will be necessary to alter the boundary of the approved town council(s) to ensure the Charter Trustees for that area can be abolished.

187. For avoidance of doubt, if Broadstone Town Council is established and Poole Town Council is not, the Charter Trustees for Poole will continue to exist and the residents of Broadstone will be liable for two charges, one for Broadstone Town Council and one for Poole Charter Trustees.

188. Unless all areas are parished, there will be additional areas along the historic boundary between Bournemouth and Poole that will also be subject to a double council tax charge.

Options Appraisal

189. The Task and Finish Group have considered various options in developing these final recommendations. Ward councillors and representatives of the existing parish and town councils have been invited to submit written representations and to attend and address the group.

190. Council approved the terms of reference for the review which set out the timetable and included the whole of the BCP Council area within the scope of the review. Council must now consider the recommendations and may reject or approve the recommendations, with or without modification.

Summary of financial implications

191. A budget contingency has been set aside to undertake the community governance review process. The approval of these final recommendations will require system and service changes to recognise the new councils and will require internal organisational support to implement these changes. The budget underspend on this project to date is to be released. Any external costs required to support the implementation will need to be drawn down from the councils unearmarked reserves.

192. It will be necessary to determine the council tax precept requirements for each new town council by the end of January 2026 which will flow into the Council Tax calculations in February. It is envisaged that these requirements will be presented to Council at its meeting on 9 December 2025. If this is not possible, it may be necessary to convene an additional meeting of Council in January 2026.

Summary of legal implications

193. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (Part 4) devolved power from the Secretary of State to principal councils to carry out community governance reviews and put in place or make changes to local community governance arrangements. The Community Governance Review has be undertaken in accordance with this Act.

194. To implement the outcome of the Review, the Council will be required to draw up a series of Re-organisation Orders with accompanying maps, and widely publish these changes.

Summary of human resources implications

195. There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report, however, the outcome of the review will include the transfer of historic and ceremonial assets and allotment sites to new town councils. Depending upon the scale of any such changes, these may require the transfer of BCP Council staff under the TUPE regulations. If applicable, these will be considered in consultation with affected employees and will be conducted in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.

Summary of sustainability impact

196. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

197. There are no public health implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

198. There are no direct equality implications arising from this report. The consultation and engagement processes included appropriate accessible channels to ensure all interested parties could respond.

Summary of risk assessment

199. It is vital that the Governance Review is undertaken in accordance with the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the guidance

produced by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. Failure to adhere to these could result in the Review being open to challenge and judicial review.

200. If any new parish or town councils are established all operational costs will be borne by the relevant parish or town council through an appropriate precept.

Background papers

Published works

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Research and Consultation Team – Summary Report
Appendix 2(A1) – Individual Responses for Burton & Winkton
Appendix 2(A2) – Analysis Report for Burton & Winkton
Appendix 2(B1) – Individual Responses for Hurn
Appendix 2(B2) – Analysis Report for Hurn
Appendix 2(C1) – Individual Responses for Highcliffe & Walkford
Appendix 2(C2) – Analysis Report for Highcliffe & Walkford
Appendix 2(D1) – Individual Responses for Christchurch
Appendix 2(D2) – Analysis Report for Christchurch
Appendix 2(E1) – Individual Responses for Throop & Holdenhurst
Appendix 2(E2) – Analysis Report for Throop & Holdenhurst
Appendix 2(F1) – Individual Responses for Broadstone
Appendix 2(F2) – Analysis Report for Broadstone
Appendix 2(G1) – Individual Responses for Redhill & Northbourne
Appendix 2(G2) – Analysis Report for Redhill & Northbourne
Appendix 2(H1) – Individual Responses for Boscombe & Pokesdown
Appendix 2(H2) – Analysis Report for Boscombe & Pokesdown
Appendix 2(I1) – Individual Responses for Southbourne
Appendix 2(I2) – Analysis Report for Southbourne
Appendix 2(J1) – Individual Responses for Poole
Appendix 2(J2) – Analysis Report for Poole
Appendix 2(K1) – Individual Responses for Bournemouth
Appendix 2(K2) – Analysis Report for Bournemouth
Appendix 2(X1) – Individual Responses – General Comments
Appendix 2(X2) – Analysis Report – General Comments
Appendix 3 – Additional written responses to consultation
Appendix 4 – Councillor Representations to Analysis