

Dover District Council



Community Governance Review

Final Recommendations as agreed by Council on Wednesday 30 September 2026.

The Community Governance Review

Councillors requested a Community Governance Review (CGR) be held for the Dover local authority area during 2026, to ensure any changes made would be in force in time for the next Town and Parish elections due in 2027.

CGR's were introduced in 2011, with an expected timeframe to hold one within a 10-15 year period. As the boundary reviews run by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) during 2016/17 and 2018/19 restricted some changes for a period of 5 years each, 2026 provided the best opportunity to hold the CGR. It kept the CGR within the 15 year timeframe and without previous boundary review restrictions; it also enabled changes to be made in time for the 2027 local elections.

However, with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) on the horizon, there were still some changes (such as boundary changes, mergers etc) that if made as part of the CGR could be over-ridden by the implementation of LGR.

The Council considered the Terms of Reference for the CGR at its meeting held on 28 January 2026 and resolved to run the CGR based upon the number of councillors currently allocated to each town/parish council, as this would be unaffected by any LGR decisions.

In undertaking the Review, the Council was guided by

- Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972
- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010
- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008
- Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008

Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to publish its Terms of Reference in a Review. This document has been published on the Community Governance Review webpage at www.dover.gov.uk/elections . It is also available to view at **Appendix 1** at the end of this document.

An on-line form was created to enable responses to the review which was placed on the Community Governance Review webpage as well as a document showing electorate estimates (shown at **Appendix 2** to this document). The link and further information on the CGR were emailed out via our 'Keep Me Posted' service to the general public and posted on Dover District Council's (DDC's) social media pages. It was also emailed to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the Local Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC), the MP's whose constituencies cover the Dover local authority area, Kent County Council (KCC), KCC councillors, DDC Councillors, and all Town and Parish Clerks that fall within DDC's local authority area. The Town and Parish Clerks also received additional reminders to respond during both stages of consultation.

The results of the Stage One consultation and the Draft Recommendations set by Council were emailed to all respondents as well as the consultees mentioned previously, along with a link to another on-line form to allow them to respond to the Draft Recommendations as part of Stage Two of the consultation. The link to the on-line response form and details of Stage Two of the consultation were also on the CGR webpage, posted on DDC's social media pages and emailed using the 'Keep Me Posted' service. The responses to Stage One and the subsequent Draft Recommendations can be viewed at **Appendix 3** of this document.

The Final Recommendations were based on the responses received to Stage Two of the Review and were approved by Council on Wednesday 30 September 2026. The responses received and the reasoning for the Final Recommendations can be seen at **Appendix 4** of this document. A summary of the changes can be found under 'Final Recommendations for Change' later in this document. Details of the Final Recommendations approved by Council will be emailed to all respondents and consultees.

Background information

The information published as part of the Review to assist with decision making included current electorate figures, electorate forecast estimates and how those estimates would compare to the elector to councillor ratio currently in place.

Democratic engagement – i.e. the number of elections called and/or contested over the years – were also considered.

NALC’s guidance showing recommended councillor numbers based on electorate size was also included in the Terms of Reference to help the consultees and the Council with their recommendations. Although NALC were not consulted as part of this review, Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) (the equivalent local counterpart to NALC) were among the consultees as they work closely with all of the town and parish councils in this area and provide support, training, resources and representation to help them serve their communities effectively.

The responses received to the consultation and the NALC recommended numbers heavily influenced the decisions made at all stages of the Review.

Weight was given to responses received from Town and Parish Councils, as they were considered to be in the best position to comment on what would and would not work in their area given their workload and responsibilities. Where they did not comment, public recommendations alone influenced the decisions.

Of the 107 responses received at Stage One of the CGR, many wanted to abolish or merge councils, or reduce the number of councillors to a point that would make running the council untenable. Mergers and abolitions were not considered as part of this particular CGR but the strength of feeling has been noted for the CGR due to take place after LGR / before the Town & Parish elections due in 2031.

Although there were less than half the number of respondents to Stage Two of the Review than there were at Stage One (50 responses in total), the strength of feeling towards some of the suggested changes was no less enthusiastic. In particular, the reduction of councillors in two areas received the majority of comments, with 14 responses against making the changes suggested and only 2 in favour.

As a result of the responses to the Draft Recommendations, the Final Recommendations were altered accordingly and agreed by Electoral Matters Committee and then Council on Wednesday 30 September 2026.

On the following page you will find a table showing the current list of town and parish councils with their wards and the number of councillors allocated to each. The effect of the final recommendations can be seen in the table towards the end of this document before the appendices.

For ease of reference, the final recommendations have been grouped into those proposing change and those proposing no change.

All responses and reasonings can be found in the appendices at the end of this document.

The current councillor numbers for each parish are as follows:

Town or Parish Council	Councillor numbers:	Town or Parish Council	Councillor numbers:	Town or Parish Council	Councillor numbers:
Alkham	7	Great Mongeham	7	St Margaret`s-At-Cliffe	9
Ash	11	Guston	7	Staple	7
Aylesham	9	Hougham Without	7	Stourmouth	5
Capel-Le-Ferne	9	Langdon	7	Sutton	7
Deal (Middle Deal Ward)	5	Lydden	9	Temple Ewell	12
Deal (Mill Hill Ward)	5	Nonington	7	Tilmanstone	5
Deal (North Deal Ward)	5	Northbourne	7	Walmer (Gladstone Ward)	2
Denton with Wootton	5	Preston	7	Walmer (Lower Walmer, St Saviour`s Ward)	3
Dover (Buckland Ward)	4	Ringwould with Kingsdown	9	Walmer (Lower Walmer, Wellington Ward)	5
Dover (Maxton and Elms Vale Ward)	2	Ripple	5	Walmer (Upper Walmer Ward)	5
Dover (Rokesley Ward)	1	River	10	Whitfield	14
Dover (St Radigund`s Ward)	4	Sandwich (Sandwich North Ward)	8	Wingham	9
Dover (Tower Hamlets Ward)	2	Sandwich (Sandwich South Ward)	8	Woodnesborough	9
Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	5	Shepherdswell with Coldred (Coldred Ward)	3	Worth (Sandwich Bay Ward)	2
Eastry	11	Shepherdswell with Coldred (Shepherdswell Ward)	9	Worth (Worth Village Ward)	5
Eythorne (Barfrestone Ward)	1	Sholden (Hyton Ward)	2		
Eythorne (Eythorne Ward)	10	Sholden (Sholden Ward)	4		
Goodnestone	5	Sholden (Tenants Hill Ward)	1		

Final Recommendations for change

The Final Recommendations for change are as follows:

Increased councillor numbers:

- **Aylesham Parish Council – to increase from 9 to 14 councillors**
14 is the number recommended by NALC for the electorate at Aylesham, and the majority of respondents at Stage One requested an increase. There were only 2 Stage Two responses, one for and one against the proposal so no majority view. It was decided to keep the change, in line with NALC numbers and the forecast housing growth in the area.
- **Denton with Wootton Parish Council – to increase from 5 to 7 councillors**
Only 1 response received at Stage One requesting an increase, which would bring it in line with NALC recommended numbers. No responses were received at Stage Two, so it was decided to keep the change as it is in line with NALC recommended numbers.
- **Stourmouth Parish Council – to increase from 5 to 7 councillors**
Only 1 response received at Stage One, from the Parish Council requesting an increase from 5 to 7 councillors. No responses were received at Stage Two. It was decided to keep the change, as it is in line with NALC recommended numbers and was a request from the Parish Council.

Decreased councillor numbers:

- **Lydden Parish Council – to decrease from 9 to 7 councillors**
No response was received to Stage One of the CGR. However, the NALC recommended number for councillors for the parish council's electorate is 7, and they have been operating with vacant seats for a while. This would suggest difficulty in attracting councillors, so it was decided to reduce the number in line with the NALC recommended figures. The only response to Stage Two was from Lydden Parish Council in agreement with the decrease in numbers.
- **Temple Ewell Parish Council – to decrease from 12 to 9 councillors.**
The majority of responses to the Stage One consultation on Temple Ewell Parish Council requested for the number of councillors to be reduced, including a response from Temple Ewell Parish Council itself. It was decided to reduce the figure from 12 to 9, in line with NALC recommended numbers for the council's electorate. No responses were received to the suggested change at Stage Two of the consultation, so the change was kept in line with the parish council's request

Final Recommendations for no change

The Final Recommendations for 'No Change' to councillor numbers are as follows:

- **Alkham Parish Council** – No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses at Stage 2.

- **Ash Parish Council** – No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Capel-Le-Ferne Parish Council** – No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Deal Town Council (Middle Deal Ward, Mill Hill Ward, North Deal Ward)** – No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Dover Town Council (Buckland Ward, Maxton and Elms Vale Ward, Rokesley Ward, St Radigund`s Ward, Tower Hamlets Ward, Town and Castle Ward)** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only two responses received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Eastry Parish Council** – No change recommended at Stage 1 and the majority of the three responses received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Eythorne (Barfreestone Ward, Eythorne Ward) Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only two responses received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Goodnestone Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Great Mongeham Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Guston Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Hougham Without Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **Langdon Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **Nonington Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **Northbourne Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **Preston Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **Ringwould with Kingsdown Parish Council**- No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Ripple Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **River Parish Council**- No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Sandwich Town Council (Sandwich North Ward, Sandwich South Ward)** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and eight of the nine responses received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish Council (Coldred Ward, Shepherdswell Ward)** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no majority for or against the recommendation received at Stage 2.

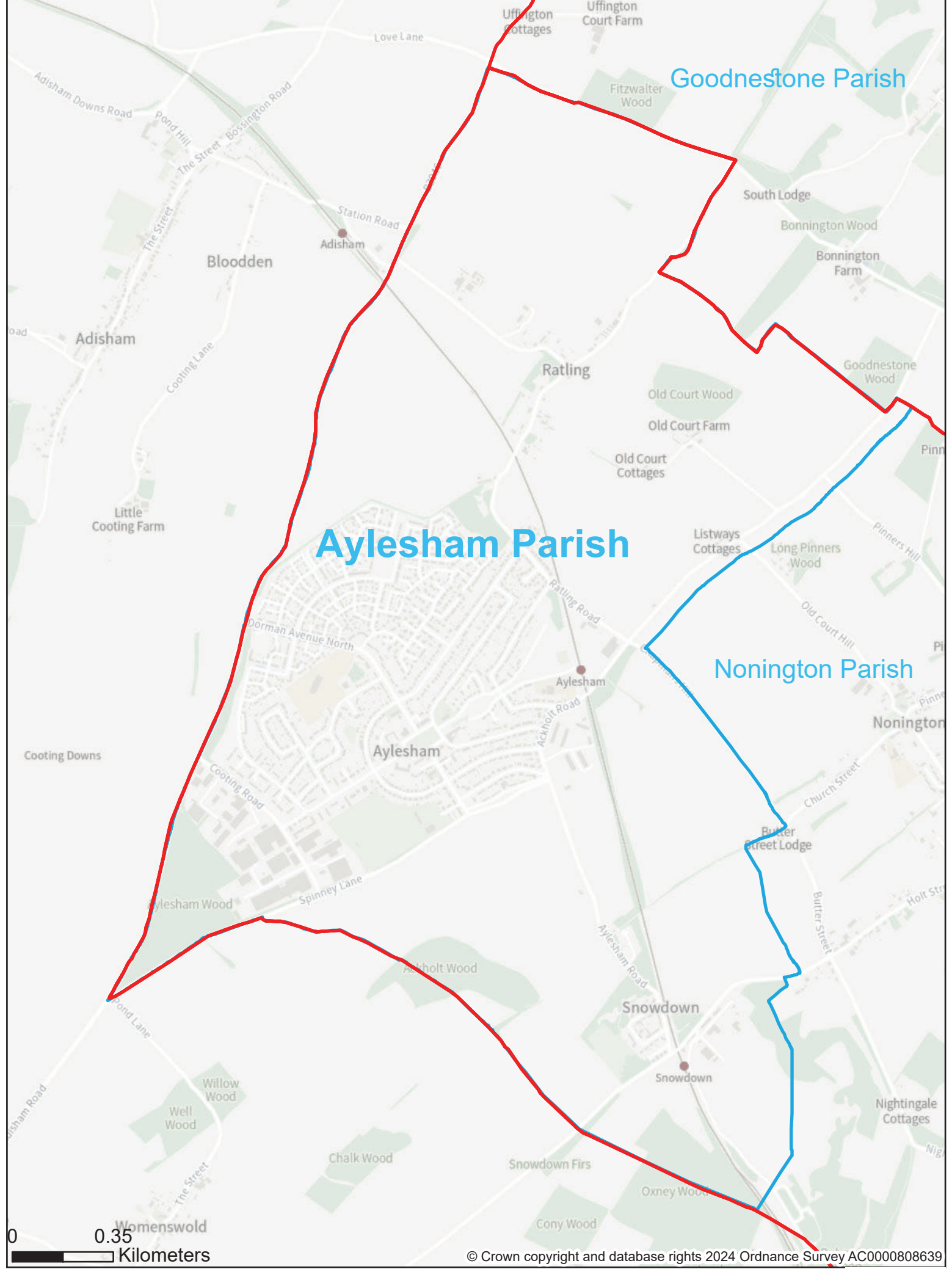
- **Sholden Parish Council (Hyton Ward, Sholden Ward, Tenants Hill Ward)** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **St Margaret`s-At-Cliffe Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **Staple Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **Sutton Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **Tilmanstone Parish Council**- No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Walmer Town Council (Gladstone Ward, Lower Walmer, St Saviour`s Ward, Lower Walmer, Wellington Ward, Upper Walmer Ward)** – A reduction of councillors from 15 to 12 was recommended at Stage 1, due to the majority public response to the consultation asking for a reduction. At Stage 2, nine of the eleven responses received were strongly against the changes to be made, including the Town Council. The councillor numbers have therefore been amended back to their original number.
- **Whitfield Parish Council** – A reduction of councillors from 14 to 11 was recommended at Stage 1, due to the majority public response to the consultation asking for a reduction, the lack of elections since 1979 and they had been operating with only 11 councillors for some time. At Stage 2, all 5 responses received were strongly against the changes to be made, including the Parish Council. The councillor numbers have therefore been amended back to their original number.
- **Wingham Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and no responses received at Stage 2.
- **Woodnesborough Parish Council** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.
- **Worth Parish Council (Sandwich Bay Ward, Worth Village Ward)** - No change recommended at Stage 1 and the only response received at Stage 2 agreed with the recommendation.

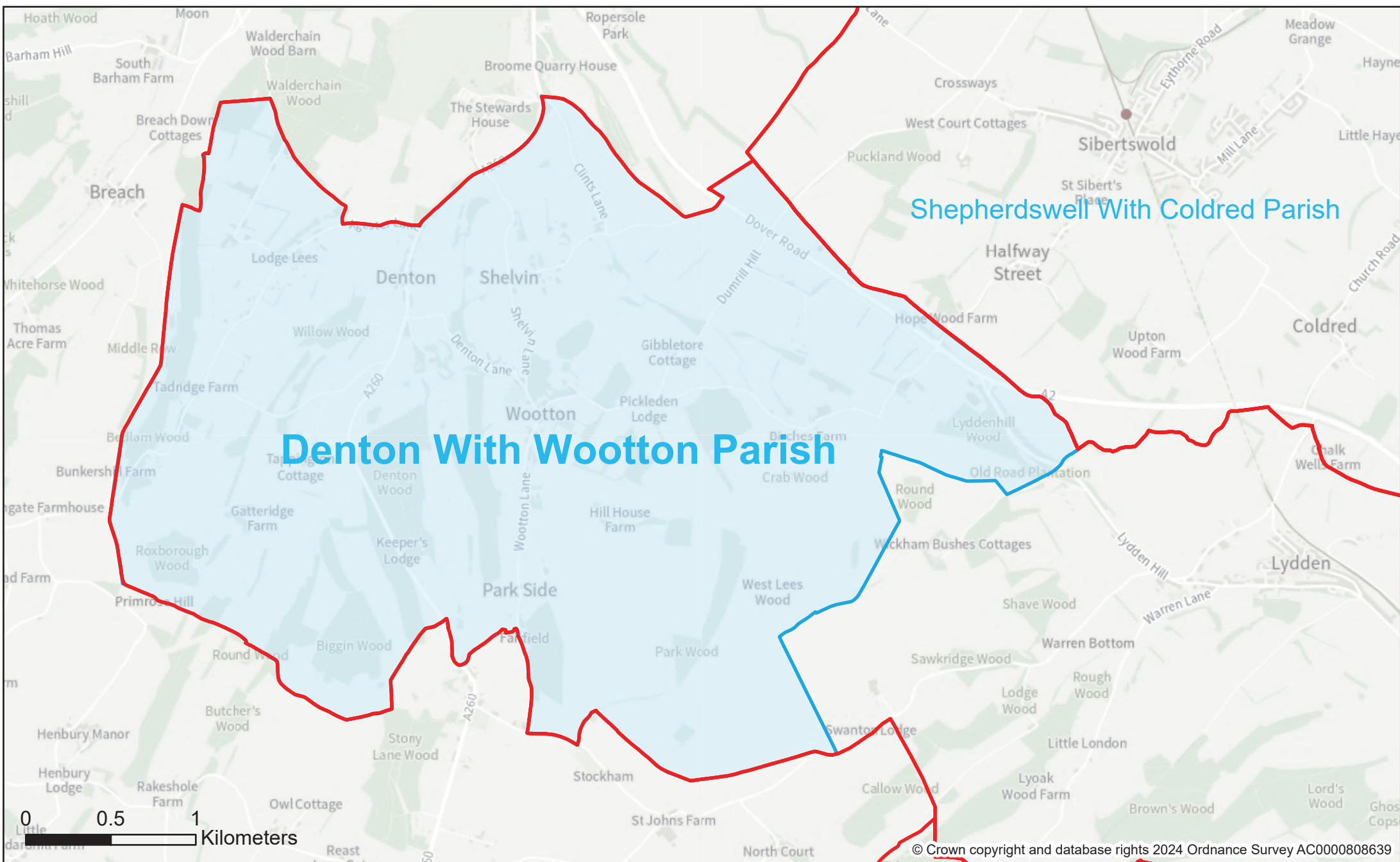
All reasonings and responses received are listed on Appendix 3 (Draft Recommendations) and Appendix 4 (Final Recommendations). All changes will commence on 1 April 2027 for administrative and financial purposes. Elections to all town / parish council seats will take place on Thursday 6 May 2027 and all current seats will remain valid until the new term of office starts on Monday 10 May 2027.

Seats available for election from Thursday 6 May 2027, as per the Final Recommendations

(Changes from current numbers are marked in red)

Town or Parish Council	Councillor numbers:	Town or Parish Council	Councillor numbers:	Town or Parish Council	Councillor numbers:
Alkham	7	Great Mongeham	7	St Margaret`s-At-Cliffe	9
Ash	11	Guston	7	Staple	7
Aylesham	14	Hougham Without	7	Stourmouth	7
Capel-Le-Ferne	9	Langdon	7	Sutton	7
Deal (Middle Deal Ward)	5	Lydden	7	Temple Ewell	9
Deal (Mill Hill Ward)	5	Nonington	7	Tilmanstone	5
Deal (North Deal Ward)	5	Northbourne	7	Walmer (Gladstone Ward)	2
Denton with Wootton	7	Preston	7	Walmer (Lower Walmer, St Saviour`s Ward)	3
Dover (Buckland Ward)	4	Ringwould with Kingsdown	9	Walmer (Lower Walmer, Wellington Ward)	5
Dover (Maxton and Elms Vale Ward)	2	Ripple	5	Walmer (Upper Walmer Ward)	5
Dover (Rokesley Ward)	1	River	10	Whitfield	14
Dover (St Radigund`s Ward)	4	Sandwich (Sandwich North Ward)	8	Wingham	9
Dover (Tower Hamlets Ward)	2	Sandwich (Sandwich South Ward)	8	Woodnesborough	9
Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	5	Shepherdswell with Coldred (Coldred Ward)	3	Worth (Sandwich Bay Ward)	2
Eastry	11	Shepherdswell with Coldred (Shepherdswell Ward)	9	Worth (Worth Village Ward)	5
Eythorne (Barfrestone Ward)	1	Sholden (Hyton Ward)	2		
Eythorne (Eythorne Ward)	10	Sholden (Sholden Ward)	4		
Goodnestone	5	Sholden (Tenants Hill Ward)	1		





Community Governance Review 2026

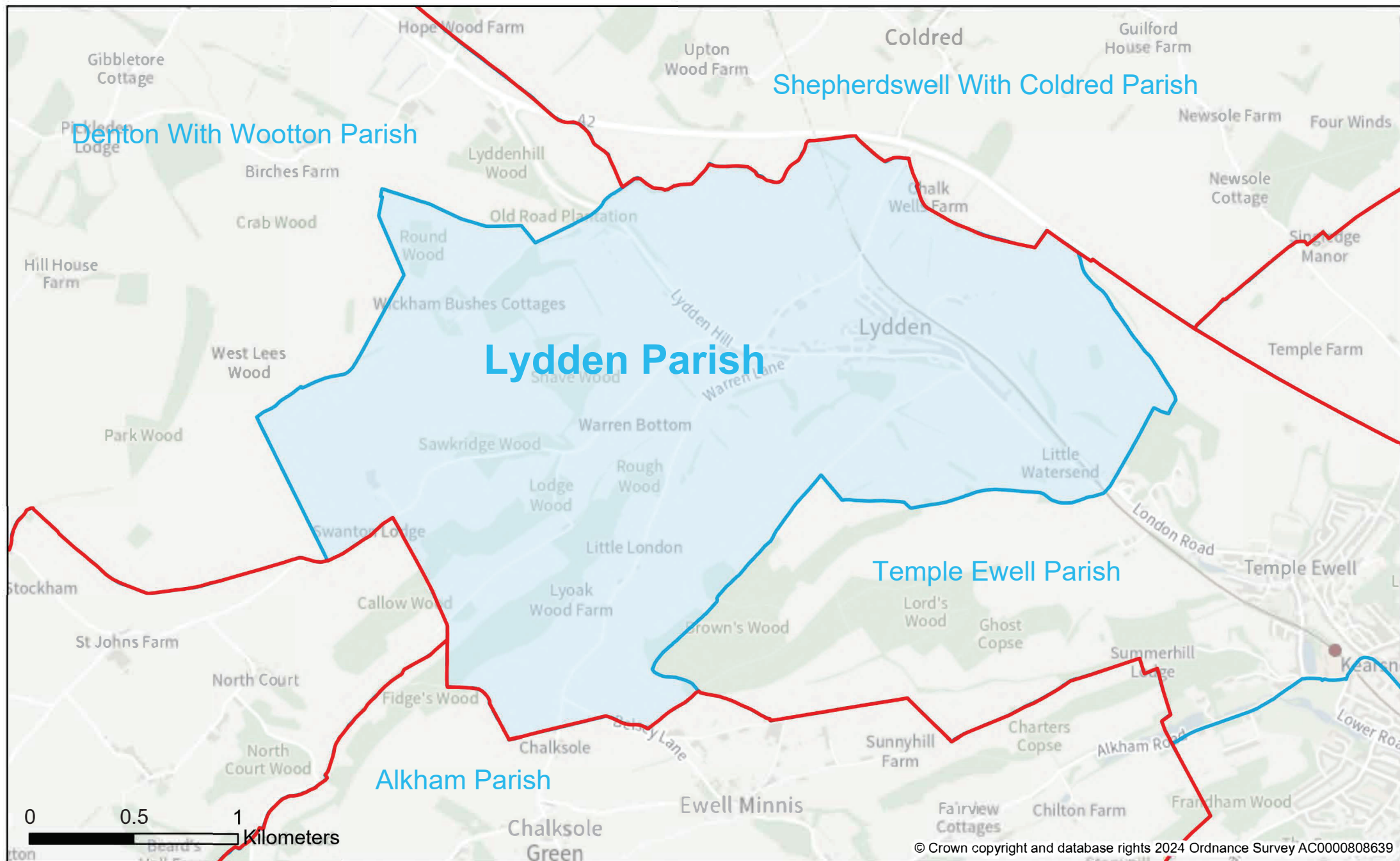
Map of Denton with Wootton Parish Boundaries

Date: February 2026

- Parish Boundary
- District Ward Boundaries

Dover District Council
Honeywood Close
White Cliffs Business Park
Whitfield
DOVER
CT16 3PJ





Community Governance Review 2026

Map of Lydden Parish Boundaries

Date: February 2026

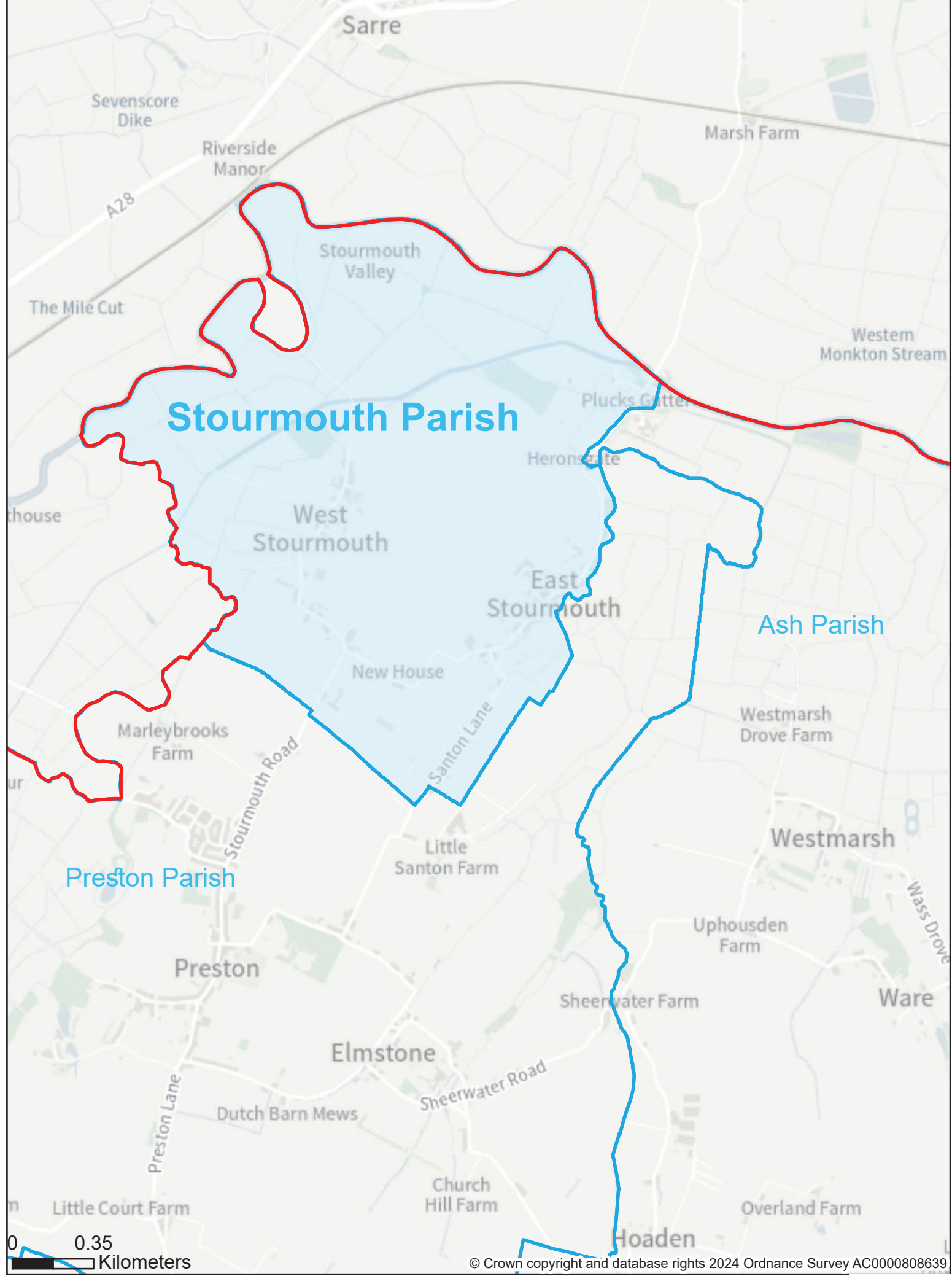
 Parish Boundary

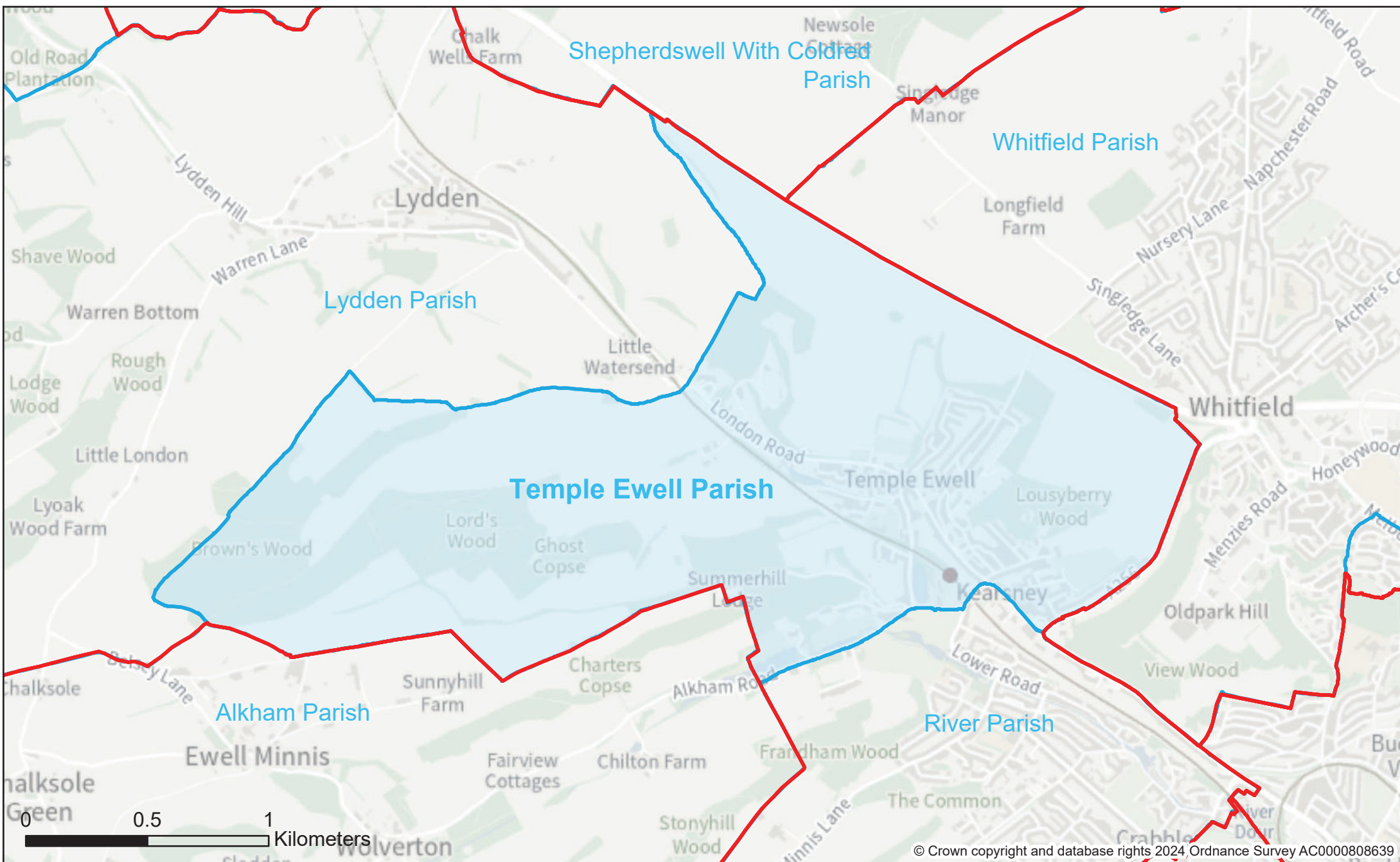
 District Ward Boundaries

© Crown copyright and database rights 2024 Ordnance Survey AC0000808639

Dover District Council
Honeywood Close
White Cliffs Business Park
Whitfield
DOVER
CT16 3PJ







Community Governance Review 2026

Map of Temple Ewell Parish Boundaries

Date: February 2026

-  Parish Boundary
-  District Ward Boundaries

Dover District Council
Honeywood Close
White Cliffs Business Park
Whitfield
DOVER
CT16 3PJ



Community Governance Review 2026

Terms of Reference

The Council has resolved to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR) of its parishes across the district.

In undertaking the Review, the Council will be guided by

- Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007
- the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972
- Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010

and the following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the Review:

- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008
- Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008

The 2007 Act has transferred powers to the principal councils which previously, under the Local Government Act 1997, had been shared with the Electoral Commission's Boundary Committee for England.

Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to publish its Terms of Reference in a Review.

This document is being published on our Community Governance Review webpage at www.dover.gov.uk/elections. It will also be available to view at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ and a copy of the document is being sent to Kent County Council.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A community governance review is the process used to consider parish arrangements. A review can cover the whole or part of the district area and can consider the following:

- 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)
- the naming of parishes
- grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes and
- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes.

The council must ensure that community governance within the review area reflects the identities and interests of the community, and is effective and convenient.

NB: Town councils are referred to as parish councils in electoral law; they will therefore also be included in this Community Governance Review as a 'parish' council.

Why is the Council undertaking a Community Governance Review at this time?

The Council believes parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at the local level. With Local Government Reorganisation coming shortly and parish elections due in 2027, the Council wants to ensure parish governance in our district continues to be robust, representative and enabled to meet the challenges that lie before it. Furthermore, it wants to ensure there is clarity and transparency to the areas that parish councils represent.

The Council wants to ensure that the electoral arrangements of parishes – the allocations of councillors – are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by their electorate.

Areas to be reviewed

The CGR will cover the entire local authority area for Dover District Council and will consider the following:

1. the allocation of councillors to each area

CGR's can cover other changes, including changing the name of parishes or wards, changing parish boundaries, grouping, ungrouping, warding, merging, creating or abolishing parishes. These will not be considered during this review due to the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation which is based on the parishes as they are currently, and not as they would be if anything were to change as part of the review. Only the allocation of councillors will be considered at this time.

Who will undertake the Review?

Dover District Council is statutorily responsible for carrying out the review. The consultations will be undertaken by the Electoral Services Team and results reported to the Council's Electoral Matters Committee.

The Electoral Matters Committee will make recommendations arising from the review to full Council, and formal decisions on those recommendations will be made by full Council in accordance with the Council's constitution.

Contact details for the review are: Electoral Services Team – 01304 872344 elections@dover.gov.uk

This 'Terms of Reference' document lays out the aims of the review and the policies the Council considers important.

Representations

The Council welcomes representations from any person or body wishing to comment or make proposals on the allocation of councillors to each area. Representations should be submitted via the Community Governance Review webpage at www.dover.gov.uk/elections, by email to elections@dover.gov.uk, or in writing to Electoral Services (CGR), Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover CT16 3PJ.

The Council will also consult by writing to Kent County Council and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, writing to all parish councils within the CGR area, publicising the review on the council's website, 'Keep Me Posted' emails and general press releases.

In accordance with the Act, representations received in connection with the Review will be considered, and steps will be taken to notify consultees of the outcome of the Review.

Electorate Forecasts

The Council has used the Register of Electors of February 2026 in providing the existing parish / parish ward electorate figures. These are presented in **Appendix 1** along with electorate forecasts.

Please see **Appendix 2** for details of contested and uncontested elections from 2019 to 2026.

Timetable

Please see timetable at the end of this document.

Parish councillors

The Council will take into account considerations of being equitable in a similar way to the allocation of councillors in warded parishes and which is described below.

What considerations cover the number of parish councillors?

The Council notes the number of parish councillors for each parish council shall not be less than five. There is no maximum number. There are no rules relating to the allocations of councillors. However, each parish grouped under a common parish council must have at least one parish councillor.

The government's guidance is "each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities," and therefore the Council is prepared to pay particular attention to:

- existing levels of representation,
- the broad pattern of existing council sizes which have stood the test of time and
- the take-up of seats at elections in its consideration of this matter.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) published guidance on the suggested number of councillors to be allocated depending on the size of the electorate (see table below). They recommend the minimum number of councillors should be 7 and the maximum 25.

Electors	Councillors	Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7	10,400	17
1,400	8	11,900	18
2,000	9	13,500	19
2,700	10	15,200	20
3,500	11	17,000	21
4,400	12	18,900	22
5,400	13	20,900	23
6,500	14	23,000	24
7,700	15	over 23,000	25
9,000	16		

In parishes where there has been a history of uncontested elections and/or the need to co-opt members to fill vacancies, the Council will consider whether the present levels of representation are appropriate or whether there is a “democratic surplus” in a parish. See Appendix 2 for records of contested elections against each parish / parish ward.

By law, the principal council must have regard to the following factors when considering the number of councillors to be elected for the parish:

- the number of local government electors for the parish
- any change in that number which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts.

The number of councillors to be elected for parish wards.

The Council has noted it is required to have regard to the following when considering the number of councillors to be elected for each ward:

- the number of local government electors for the parish
- any change in the number, or distribution, of the local government electors which is likely to occur in the period of five years beginning with the day when the review starts.

The government has advised, and this Council concurs “it is an important democratic principle that each person’s vote should be of equal weight so far as possible, having regard to other legitimated competing factors, when it comes to the elections of councillors.”

While there is no provision in legislation that each parish councillor should represent, as nearly as may be, the same number of electors, the Council considers it is not in the interests of effective and convenient local government, either for voters or councillors, to have significant differences in levels of representation between different parish wards.

The Council is likewise anxious to avoid the risk, where one or more wards of a parish are over-represented by councillors. The residents of those wards (and their councillors) could be perceived as having more influence than others on the council. During the Review process and in its consultations, the Council is committed to consistently showing the ratios of electors to councillors that would result from its proposals.

The foregoing considerations of being equitable will also guide the Council when it considers the number of councillors to be elected to a common council by each parish within a grouping arrangement.

Reorganisation of Community Governance Orders and Commencement

If any changes are made, the Review will be completed when the Council adopts the Reorganisation of Community Governance Order.

Copies of this Order, the map(s) that show the effects of the order, and the document(s) which set out the reasons for the decisions the Council has taken (including where it has decided to make no change following a Review) will be deposited at the Council’s offices, website, and contact points.

In accordance with the guidance issued by the government, the Council will issue maps to illustrate each recommendation at a scale that will not normally be smaller than 1:10,000. These maps will

be deposited with the Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and at the Council's office at Whitfield. Prints will also be supplied, in accordance with regulations, to Ordnance Survey, the Registrar General, the Land Registry, the Valuation Office Agency, the Boundary Commission for England and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Any financial and administrative provisions of the reorganisation order will be come into force on 1 April 2027.

The electoral arrangements for existing parish councils will come into force at the next local government elections, due to be held on Thursday 6 May 2027, with the new administrations taking office from Monday 10 May 2027.

Timetable (meeting dates provisional and subject to change) (**Changes in red**)

Stage	What happens?	Timescales	Potential Meeting Dates
Pre-Consultation Stage	Terms of Reference to Full Council to be agreed & powers given to EMC to deal with the CGR (if required)		28 January 2026
Commencement	Terms of Reference are published		9 February 2026
Stage 1	Initial submissions are invited	8 weeks 9 Feb to 2 April	
Stage 2	Consideration of submissions received. Draft proposals are prepared for EMC to debate and recommend to full Council.	5 weeks 7 April to 15 May	EMC meetings – 13, 20 & 27 April, 5 May Full Council – 13 May 2026
Stage 3	Draft Recommendations are published, and consultation begins	12 weeks 18 May – 7 August	
Stage 4	Consideration of submissions received – Final Recommendations are debated by EMC and passed on to Full Council to vote on. Council resolves to make the Community Governance Reorganisation Order a month after the Final Recommendations are published.	~~10 weeks~~ ~~10 August – 16 October~~ 4 weeks 10 August to 14 September	EMC meetings – ~~7, 14, 28~~ 15 September , 5, 12 October Full Council – ~~21 October 2026~~ 30 September 2026
	Final Recommendations are published, concluding the review	~~22 October 2026~~	
Stage 5	~~Council Resolves to make the Community Governance Reorganisation Order.~~ Order to be completed, sealed and signed and sent to relevant agencies, including LGBCE.	At least one month after Final Recommendations are published.	~~Additional Full Council meeting~~ 25 November 2026
	Publish 2027 Register of Electors based on existing arrangements.	1 December 2026	
Stage 6	Elections to all parish councils under existing and new arrangements where necessary.	6 May 2027	
	Councillors elected on 6 May 2027 take office.	10 May 2027	

DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THESE TERMS OF REFERENCE

~~MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2026~~ **FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER 2026**

Parish (Parish Ward)	Electorate Feb 2021	Electorate Feb 2026	% increase from 2021 - 2026		Electorate estimate 2031 based on same % increase	Number of new dwellings due to be built by 2031	Expected electorate increase based on average per property per area	Total estimated electorate by 2031 (Column F + Column H)	Current number of council seats	Electors per Councillor (Column I figures for 2031 estimate)	Electorate estimate for 2031 for whole council = total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor.	Number of council seats recommended* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor (Column I figures for 2031 estimate)
Alkham	594	631		6%	670	30	57	727	7	104		7	104
Ash	2662	2780		4%	2,903	167	301	3,204	11	291		11	291
Aylesham	4258	4892		15%	5,620	403	685	6,306	9	701		14	450
Capel-Le-Ferne	1688	1652		-2%	1,617	133	209	1,826	9	203		9	203
Deal (Middle Deal Ward)	4933	5057		3%	5,184	145	236	5,420	5	1,084	Total electorate: 16,622 = no more than 21 cllrs	7	774
Deal (Mill Hill Ward)	5940	5938		0%	5,936	266	444	6,380	5	1,276		8	798
Deal (North Deal Ward)	4957	4856		-2%	4,757	52	64	4,822	5	964		6	804
Denton with Wootton	306	294		-4%	282	12	22	305	5	61		7	44
Dover (Buckland Ward)	5387	5206		-3%	5,031	181	282	5,313	4	1,328	Total electorate: 22,490 = no more than 24 cllrs	6	886
Dover (Maxton and Elms Vale Ward)	2959	2900		-2%	2,842	31	54	2,896	2	1,448		3	965
Dover (Rokesley Ward)	485	469		-3%	454	0	0	454	1	454		1	454
Dover (St Radigund`s Ward)	4551	4571		0%	4,591	309	436	5,027	4	1,257		5	1,005
Dover (Tower Hamlets Ward)	2864	2813		-2%	2,763	34	48	2,811	2	1,405		3	937
Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	5762	5755		0%	5,748	185	241	5,989	5	1,198		6	998
Eastry	1985	1924		-3%	1,865	162	277	2,142	11	195		10	214
Eythorne (Barfrestone Ward)	48	41		-15%	35	0	0	35	1	35	Total electorate: 1,979 =	1	35

Parish (Parish Ward)	Electorate Feb 2021	Electorate Feb 2026	% increase from 2021 - 2026	Electorate estimate 2031 based on same % increase	Number of new dwellings due to be built by 2031	Expected electorate increase based on average per property per area	Total estimated electorate by 2031 (Column F + Column H)	Current number of council seats	Electors per Councillor (Column I figures for 2031 estimate)	Electorate estimate for 2031 for whole council = total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councilor.	Number of council seats recommended* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor (Column I figures for 2031 estimate)
Eythorne (Eythorne Ward)	1924	1915	0%	1,906	21	38	1,944	10	194	no more than 9 cllrs	8	243
Goodnestone	301	309	3%	317	12	20	337	5	67		7	48
Great Mongeham	583	588	1%	593	46	81	674	7	96		7	96
Guston	677	677	0%	677	366	458	1,135	7	162		8	142
Hougham Without	406	390	-4%	375	3	5	380	7	54		7	54
Langdon	501	487	-3%	473	13	23	497	7	71		7	71
Lydden	588	635	8%	686	3	6	691	9	77		7	99
Nonington	698	705	1%	712	30	61	773	7	110		7	110
Northbourne	578	558	-3%	539	172	304	843	7	120		7	120
Preston	737	741	1%	745	21	39	784	7	112		7	112
Ringwould with Kingsdown	1660	1709	3%	1,759	4	6	1,766	9	196		9	196
Ripple	306	289	-6%	273	6	10	283	5	57		7	40
River	3091	3002	-3%	2,916	3	5	2,921	10	292		11	266
Sandwich (Sandwich North Ward)	2107	2177	3%	2,249	329	474	2,723	8	340	Total electorate: 5,306 = no more than 13 cllrs	6	454
Sandwich (Sandwich South Ward)	1899	2199	16%	2,546	21	36	2,583	8	323		6	430
Shepherdswell with Coldred (Coldred Ward)	141	147	4%	153	0	0	153	3	51	Total electorate: 1,660 =	2	77

Parish (Parish Ward)	Electorate Feb 2021	Electorate Feb 2026	% increase from 2021 - 2026	Electorate estimate 2031 based on same % increase	Number of new dwellings due to be built by 2031	Expected electorate increase based on average per property per area	Total estimated electorate by 2031 (Column F + Column H)	Current number of council seats	Electors per Councillor (Column I figures for 2031 estimate)	Electorate estimate for 2031 for whole council = total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councilor.	Number of council seats recommended* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor (Column I figures for 2031 estimate)
Shepherdswell with Coldred (Shepherdswell Ward)	1348	1411	5%	1,477	16	30	1,507	9	167	no more than 9 cllrs	7	215
Sholden (Hyton Ward)	695	669	-4%	644	0	0	644	2	322	Total electorate: 2,009 = no more than 10 cllrs	3	215
Sholden (Sholden Ward)	852	915	7%	983	178	295	1,278	4	320		6	213
Sholden (Tenants Hill Ward)	99	92	-7%	85	1	1	87	1	87		1	87
St Margaret`s-At-Cliffe	2156	2173	1%	2,190	30	50	2,240	9	249		10	224
Staple	459	458	0%	457	32	58	515	7	74		7	74
Stourmouth	241	229	-5%	218	14	25	243	5	49		7	35
Sutton	611	622	2%	633	28	52	685	7	98		7	98
Temple Ewell	1363	1381	1%	1,399	14	25	1,424	12	119		9	158
Tilmanstone	303	281	-7%	261	7	13	273	5	55		7	39
Walmer (Gladstone Ward)	797	776	-3%	756	1	1	757	2	378	Total electorate: 6,624 = no more than 15 cllrs	2	378
Walmer (Lower Walmer, St Saviour`s Ward)	1289	1274	-1%	1,259	2	3	1,262	3	421		3	421
Walmer (Lower Walmer, Wellington Ward)	2401	2354	-2%	2,308	6	10	2,318	5	464		5	464
Walmer (Upper Walmer Ward)	2121	2191	3%	2,263	15	24	2,288	5	458		5	458
Whitfield	4410	5154	17%	6,024	50	88	6,112	14	437		14	437
Wingham	1399	1442	3%	1,486	85	152	1,638	9	182		9	182

Parish (Parish Ward)	Electorate Feb 2021	Electorate Feb 2026	% increase from 2021 - 2026	Electorate estimate 2031 based on same % increase	Number of new dwellings due to be built by 2031	Expected electorate increase based on average per property per area	Total estimated electorate by 2031 (Column F + Column H)	Current number of council seats	Electors per Councillor (Column I figures for 2031 estimate)	Electorate estimate for 2031 for whole council = total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councilor.	Number of council seats recommended* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor (Column I figures for 2031 estimate)
Woodnesborough	1006	1019	1%	1,032	31	56	1,088	9	121		8	136
Worth (Sandwich Bay Ward)	165	143	-13%	124	0	0	124	2	62	Total electorate: 806 = no more than 7 cllrs	2	62
Worth (Worth Village Ward)	653	661	1%	669	7	13	682	5	136		5	136

ONS and KCC data covers the whole local authority area, rather than individual parishes and parish wards. Using these figures could potentially lead to over estimations in future electorate in many of the smaller parishes.

Votes for 16 year olds should be coming into effect before the next Parliamentary Election due before August 2029. ONS & KCC have this age range within their data because they deal with population rather than electorate - the DDC data does not include data for 16 year olds.

The DDC figures are based upon this guidance for the whole area:

From 'Electorate Forecasting' by LGBCE:

42. In wards which show electorate change unrelated to housing development, reflect this change in the forecast for the ward and smaller areas within it by continuing the recent past trend in electorate before applying the additional effect of the expected housing development:

Expected house builds taken from the Planning document 'DDC Monitoring Return 24-25' issued November 2025. These figures are estimates, and are not guaranteed to be completed within the 5 year term.

Dover District Council Background Information - electors per property estimates

Analysis Polling District								
Polling District	Property	Elector	Average electors per property	Parish Ward	Parish	District	County	Parliamentary
AMD1 - Middle Deal, Manor	1,353	2,187	1.63	Deal (Middle Deal Ward)	Deal	Middle Deal	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
AMD2 - Middle Deal, Park	957	1,523		Deal (Middle Deal Ward)	Deal	Middle Deal	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
AMD3 - Middle Deal, Upper	774	1,325		Deal (Middle Deal Ward)	Deal	Middle Deal	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
	3,084	5,035						
AMH1 - Mill Hill, South	1,423	2,306	1.67	Deal (Mill Hill Ward)	Deal	Mill Hill	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
AMH2 - Mill Hill, North	849	1,439		Deal (Mill Hill Ward)	Deal	Mill Hill	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
AMH3 - Mill Hill, West	1,291	2,188		Deal (Mill Hill Ward)	Deal	Mill Hill	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
	3,563	5,933						
AN1 - North Deal, Sandown	1,279	1,893	1.24	Deal (North Deal Ward)	Deal	North Deal	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
AN2 - North Deal, St Andrew's	1,618	1,767		Deal (North Deal Ward)	Deal	North Deal	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
AN3 - North Deal, Victoria	993	1,170		Deal (North Deal Ward)	Deal	North Deal	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
	3,890	4,830						
AW1 - Walmer, Upper Walmer	1,353	2,196	1.62	Walmer (Upper Walmer Ward)	Walmer	Walmer	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
AW2 - Walmer, Wellington	1,451	2,338	1.61	Walmer (Lower Walmer, Wellington Ward)	Walmer	Walmer	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
AW3 - Walmer, St Saviour's	944	1,262	1.34	Walmer (Lower Walmer, St Saviour's Ward)	Walmer	Walmer	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
AW4N - North Deal, Gladstone	571	755	1.32	Walmer (Gladstone Ward)	Walmer	North Deal	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
			1.56					
BC1 - Buckland, North	1,589	2,494		Dover (Buckland Ward)	Dover	Buckland	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
BC2 - Buckland, South	1,744	2,721		Dover (Buckland Ward)	Dover	Buckland	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
	3,333	5,215						
BCW1 - Whitfield Rokesley	322	462	1.43	Dover (Rokesley Ward)	Dover	Whitfield	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
BME - Maxton and Elms Vale	1,655	2,898	1.75	Dover (Maxton and Elms Vale Ward)	Dover	Maxton and Elms Vale	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
BR1 - St Radigund's, West	1,106	1,705	1.41	Dover (St Radigund's Ward)	Dover	St Radigund's	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
BR2 - St Radigund's, East	1,210	1,634		Dover (St Radigund's Ward)	Dover	St Radigund's	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
BR3 - St Radigund's, Town	932	1,251		Dover (St Radigund's Ward)	Dover	St Radigund's	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
	3,248	4,590						
BT1 - Town and Castle, Priory	1,840	2,456	1.30	Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	Dover	Town and Castle	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
BT2 - Town and Castle, Castle	1,577	1,855		Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	Dover	Town and Castle	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
BT3 - Town and Castle, Aycliffe	565	898		Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	Dover	Town and Castle	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
BT4 - Town and Castle, Redoubt	466	556		Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	Dover	Town and Castle	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
	4,448	5,765						

Polling District	Property	Elector	Average electors per property	Parish Ward	Parish	District	County	Parliamentary
BTH1 - Tower Hamlets, West	723	1,144		Dover (Tower Hamlets Ward)	Dover	Tower Hamlets	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
BTH2 - Tower Hamlets, East	1,274	1,662		Dover (Tower Hamlets Ward)	Dover	Tower Hamlets	Dover Town	Dover and Deal
	1,997	2,806	1.41					
PAK - Alkham	333	628	1.89	<None>	Alkham	Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PAY1 - Aylesham West	1,497	2,494		<None>	Aylesham	Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PAY2 - Aylesham East	1,332	2,311		<None>	Aylesham	Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover North	Dover and Deal
	2,829	4,805	1.70					
PCF - Capel-Le-Ferne	1,057	1,658	1.57	<None>	Capel-Le-Ferne	Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PDD - Denton	75	149		<None>	Denton with Wootton	Dover Downs and River	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PDW - Wootton	82	144		<None>	Denton with Wootton	Dover Downs and River	Dover West	Dover and Deal
	157	293	1.87					
PEA - Eastry	1,121	1,912	1.71	<None>	Eastry	Eastry Rural	Sandwich	Dover and Deal
PEX1 - Eythorne	657	1,225		Eythorne (Eythorne Ward)	Eythorne	Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PEX3 - Elvington	393	674		Eythorne (Eythorne Ward)	Eythorne	Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover West	Dover and Deal
	1,050	1,899	1.81					
PEX2 - Barfrestone	24	42	1.75	Eythorne (Barfrestone Ward)	Eythorne	Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PGM - Great Mongeham	343	603	1.76	<None>	Great Mongeham	Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PGS - Guston	528	658	1.25	<None>	Guston	Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PHM - Hougham Without	217	387	1.78	<None>	Hougham Without	Alkham and Capel-le-Ferne	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PLG - Langdon	268	478	1.78	<None>	Langdon	Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PLN - Lydden	337	643	1.91	<None>	Lydden	Dover Downs and River	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PNN - Nonington	340	695	2.04	<None>	Nonington	Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PNR - Northbourne	317	562	1.77	<None>	Northbourne	Eastry Rural	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PRG - Ringwould, Ringwould	246	392		<None>	Ringwould with Kingsdown	Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PRK - Ringwould, Kingsdown	826	1,314		<None>	Ringwould with Kingsdown	Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Dover North	Dover and Deal
	1,072	1,706	1.59					
PRP - Ripple	172	298	1.73	<None>	Ripple	Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PRV - River	1,656	3,017	1.82	<None>	River	Dover Downs and River	Dover Town	Dover and Deal

Polling District	Property	Elector	Average electors per property	Parish Ward	Parish	District	County	Parliamentary
PSHE - Eastry Rural, Sholden	528	876	1.66	Sholden (Sholden Ward)	Sholden	Eastry Rural	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
PSHM - Middle Deal, Hyton	435	660	1.52	Sholden (Hyton Ward)	Sholden	Middle Deal	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
PSHN - North Deal, Tenants Hill	70	93	1.33	Sholden (Tenants Hill Ward)	Sholden	North Deal	Deal & Walmer	Dover and Deal
PSL1 - Shepherdswell	750	1,393	1.86	Shepherdswell with Coldred (Shepherdswell Ward)	Shepherdswell with Coldred	Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PSL2 - Coldred	88	142	1.61	Shepherdswell with Coldred (Coldred Ward)	Shepherdswell with Coldred	Aylesham, Eythorne and Shepherdswell	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PSM - St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	1,310	2,163	1.65	<None>	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Guston, Kingsdown and St Margaret's-at-Cliffe	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PSU - Sutton	335	616	1.84	<None>	Sutton	Eastry Rural	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PTE - Temple Ewell	766	1,381	1.80	<None>	Temple Ewell	Dover Downs and River	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PTI - Tilmanstone	165	295	1.79	<None>	Tilmanstone	Eastry Rural	Dover North	Dover and Deal
PWH1 - Whitfield, North	2,390	4,227	1.76	<None>	Whitfield	Whitfield	Dover West	Dover and Deal
PWH2 - Whitfield, South	493	856		<None>	Whitfield	Whitfield	Dover West	Dover and Deal
	2,883	5,083						
PWR - Eastry Rural, Worth	355	675	1.90	Worth (Worth Village Ward)	Worth	Eastry Rural	Sandwich	Dover and Deal
XWR - Sandwich, Sandwich Bay	117	146	1.25	Worth (Sandwich Bay Ward)	Worth	Sandwich	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
XAS - Ash	1,539	2,777	1.80	<None>	Ash	Little Stour and Ashstone	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
XGD - Goodnestone	185	308	1.66	<None>	Goodnestone	Little Stour and Ashstone	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
XPR - Preston	396	736	1.86	<None>	Preston	Little Stour and Ashstone	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
XSA - Sandwich, North	1,486	2,139	1.44	Sandwich (Sandwich North Ward)	Sandwich	Sandwich	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
XSB - Sandwich, South	1,256	2,175	1.73	Sandwich (Sandwich South Ward)	Sandwich	Sandwich	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
XSP - Staple	252	454	1.80	<None>	Staple	Little Stour and Ashstone	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
XST - Stourmouth	131	233	1.78	<None>	Stourmouth	Little Stour and Ashstone	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
XWG - Wingham	803	1,437	1.79	<None>	Wingham	Little Stour and Ashstone	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
XWN - Woodnesborough	562	1,014	1.80	<None>	Woodnesborough	Sandwich	Sandwich	Herne Bay and Sandwich
Totals	56,092	89,165	1.59					

ONS Population Estimates

2022-based subnational population projections [note 1] [note 2]

Table 2: Local authorities and higher administrative areas within England

5 year age groups, Persons

CODE	AREA	AGE GROUP	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
E07000108	Dover	0-4	5,278	5,160	5,128	5,105	5,075	5,041
E07000108	Dover	5-9	6,126	6,034	5,895	5,804	5,682	5,616
E07000108	Dover	10-14	7,081	7,042	6,946	6,852	6,795	6,657
E07000108	Dover	15-19	6,596	6,681	6,742	6,709	6,663	6,634
E07000108	Dover	20-24	4,943	4,965	5,044	5,132	5,233	5,328
E07000108	Dover	25-29	6,209	6,113	5,945	5,893	5,907	5,960
E07000108	Dover	30-34	7,256	7,170	7,195	7,116	7,036	6,936
E07000108	Dover	35-39	7,744	7,913	7,959	8,015	8,031	7,962
E07000108	Dover	40-44	7,125	7,375	7,625	7,869	8,033	8,225
E07000108	Dover	45-49	6,869	7,011	7,186	7,325	7,428	7,552
E07000108	Dover	50-54	7,093	6,888	6,783	6,859	7,089	7,290
E07000108	Dover	55-59	8,602	8,460	8,351	8,135	7,931	7,627
E07000108	Dover	60-64	9,412	9,496	9,474	9,391	9,144	9,142
E07000108	Dover	65-69	8,289	8,524	8,776	8,983	9,340	9,553
E07000108	Dover	70-74	7,065	7,274	7,405	7,613	7,742	7,942
E07000108	Dover	75-79	6,800	6,396	6,219	6,188	6,270	6,330
E07000108	Dover	80-84	4,707	5,218	5,534	5,627	5,616	5,587
E07000108	Dover	85-89	2,479	2,551	2,655	2,840	3,026	3,236
E07000108	Dover	90+	1,316	1,368	1,422	1,468	1,511	1,532
E07000108	Dover	All ages	120,990	121,639	122,281	122,923	123,549	124,149
			102,504	103,402	104,312	105,162	105,997	106,835

note 1 These statistics are presented unrounded to allow user to do detailed calculations. However, this should not be taken to imply accuracy at this level.

note 2 Figures in tables may not sum exactly due to rounding.

An increase of 4.05% (4331 electors) in voting age population (plus 15 year olds) between 2026 and 2031 over the whole local authority area

KCC Population Estimates

Interactive sub-national population projection toolkit

Source: Office for National Statistics 2022 Sub-national Population Projections
Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council. Email: research@kent.gov.uk

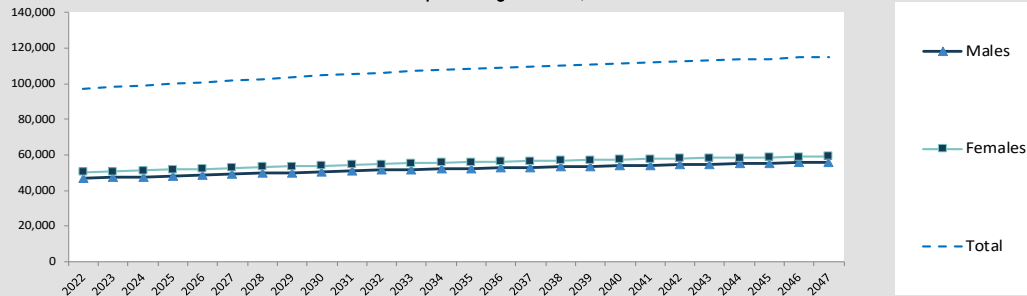
Select District

Select district 2

Select district 3

Start age End Age

Population aged 16-90+, 2022-2047

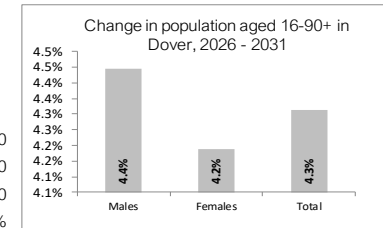


Source: Office for National Statistics. Presented by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Change in population aged 16-90+ in Dover, 2026 - 2031

Start Year End Year

	Males	Females	Total
2026	48,800	52,200	101,000
2031	51,000	54,400	105,400
Change	2,200	2,200	4,400
% change	4.4%	4.2%	4.3%



Source: Office for National Statistics. Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

All figures have been individually rounded to the nearest one hundred and therefore may not sum
Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers

Dover estimated population aged 16 - 90+

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042
Males	46,800	47,300	47,800	48,300	48,800	49,200	49,700	50,100	50,600	51,000	51,400	51,700	52,100	52,500	52,800	53,100	53,400	53,700	54,000	54,300	54,600
Females	50,200	50,700	51,300	51,800	52,200	52,700	53,200	53,600	54,000	54,400	54,900	55,300	55,600	56,000	56,300	56,600	56,900	57,200	57,500	57,700	58,000
Total	97,000	98,100	99,100	100,100	101,000	101,900	102,800	103,700	104,600	105,400	106,200	107,000	107,800	108,400	109,100	109,700	110,400	110,900	111,500	112,000	112,600

Source: Office for National Statistics. Presented by: Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/information-and-data/facts-and-figures-about-kent/population-and-census/population-forecasts>

Total Population forecast

KCC Housing Led Forecast 2021 housing figures

Forecast produced by Kent Analytics, Kent County Council

Forecasts controlled to 2020 Mid-Year Population Estimates as published by the Office for National Statistics and from then onwards the housing provision outlined on the 'housing supply' sheet

All figures have been individually rounded to the nearest one hundred and therefore may not sum

Percentages have been calculated using unrounded numbers



	Total population																				2011-2031 change		2020-2040 change		
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	Number	%	Number	%
Ashford	131,000	132,700	134,300	136,300	138,500	141,000	143,700	146,200	148,800	151,400	154,100	155,500	157,000	158,500	160,000	161,500	162,900	164,400	165,900	167,400	169,000	37,100	31.3	37,900	29.0
Canterbury	166,800	168,300	169,300	170,900	173,100	176,000	178,700	181,200	183,700	186,100	188,500	190,800	191,500	192,300	193,200	194,100	195,000	195,900	196,700	197,700	198,800	40,200	26.7	32,000	19.2
Dartford	114,100	116,300	118,400	120,500	122,500	124,400	125,900	127,400	128,800	130,200	131,500	132,800	134,100	135,300	136,600	137,800	139,100	140,300	141,600	143,000	144,400	35,200	36.0	30,300	26.6
Dover	118,500	119,500	120,400	121,800	123,500	125,700	128,000	128,300	128,700	129,200	129,600	130,000	130,500	130,900	131,400	131,800	132,300	132,700	133,300	133,800	134,300	18,300	16.4	15,800	13.3

128,000 128,300 128,700 129,200 129,600 130,000

A population increase of 2000 (not electorate) forecast between 2026 and 2031, which equates to an increase of less than 2% over the whole of the Dover Local Authority Area.

https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/211649/KCC-housing-led-summary.pdf

Details of Contested and Uncontested Elections since 2019

Parish (Parish Ward) (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Aug 2025)	Current number of Councillors	Electorate as at February 2026	2019 - contested or uncontested (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Feb 2026)	Vacancies / By-elections - contested or uncontested 2019-2023 (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Feb 2026)	2023 - contested or uncontested (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Feb 2026)	Vacancies / By-elections - contested or uncontested 2023 to Feb 2026 (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Feb 2026)
Alkham	7	631	Uncontested	3 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Ash	11	2780	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	8 vacancies, 0 elections
Aylesham	9	4892	Uncontested	5 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	5 vacancies, 1 election (contested)
Capel-Le-Ferne	9	1652	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Deal (Middle Deal Ward)	5	5057	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Deal (Mill Hill Ward)	5	5938	Contested	1 vacancy, 1 election (contested)	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Deal (North Deal Ward)	5	4856	Contested	1 vacancy, 0 elections	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Denton with Wootton	5	294	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Dover (Buckland Ward)	4	5206	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Dover (Maxton and Elms Vale Ward)	2	2900	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Dover (Rokesley Ward)	1	469	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Dover (St Radigund` s Ward)	4	4571	Contested	3 vacancies, 2 elections (contested)	Contested	1 vacancy, 1 election (contested)
Dover (Tower Hamlets Ward)	2	2813	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	1 vacancy, 1 election (contested)
Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	5	5755	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Eastry	11	1924	Uncontested	3 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	3 vacancies, 0 elections
Eythorne (Barfreestone Ward)	1	41	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Eythorne (Eythorne Ward)	10	1915	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	2 vacancy, 0 elections
Goodnestone	5	309	Uncontested	3 vacancies, 1 election (uncontested)	Contested	2 vacancies, 0 elections
Great Mongeham	7	588	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Guston	7	677	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Hougham Without	7	390	Re-run as inquorate (uncontested)	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Langdon	7	487	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Lydden	9	635	Uncontested	11 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	3 vacancies, 0 elections
Nonington	7	705	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections
Northbourne	7	558	Uncontested	3 vacancies, 1 election (contested)	Uncontested	5 vacancies, 1 election (uncontested)
Preston	7	741	Contested	3 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Ringwould with Kingsdown	9	1709	Uncontested	4 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	9 vacancies, 0 elections
Ripple	5	289	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	4 vacancies, 0 elections
River	10	3002	Uncontested	4 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections
Sandwich (Sandwich North Ward)	8	2177	Contested	4 vacancies, 2 elections (contested)	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Sandwich (Sandwich South Ward)	8	2199	Contested	2 vacancies, 2 elections (contested)	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Shepherdswell with Coldred (Coldred Ward)	3	147	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Shepherdswell with Coldred (Shepherdswell Ward)	9	1411	Uncontested	6 vacancies, 3 elections (1 contested, 2 uncontested)	Contested	1 vacancies, 0 elections
Sholden (Hyton Ward)	2	669	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Sholden (Sholden Ward)	4	915	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Sholden (Tenants Hill Ward)	1	92	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
St Margaret` s-At-Cliffe	9	2173	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	4 vacancies, 0 elections

Parish (Parish Ward) (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Aug 2025)	Current number of Councillors	Electorate as at February 2026	2019 - contested or uncontested (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Feb 2026)	Vacancies / By-elections - contested or uncontested 2019-2023 (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Feb 2026)	2023 - contested or uncontested (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Feb 2026)	Vacancies / By-elections - contested or uncontested 2023 to Feb 2026 (purple font indicates no contested elections or by elections from May 2019 to Feb 2026)
Staple	7	458	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Stourmouth	5	229	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections
Sutton	7	622	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Temple Ewell	12	1381	Re-run as inquorate (uncontested)	1 vacancy, 0 elections	Uncontested	6 vacancies, 0 elections
Tilmanstone	5	281	Uncontested	8 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	3 vacancies, 0 elections
Walmer (Gladstone Ward)	2	776	Uncontested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Walmer (Lower Walmer, St Saviour`s Ward)	3	1274	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Walmer (Lower Walmer,	5	2354	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 1 election (contested)	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Walmer (Upper Walmer Ward)	5	2191	Uncontested	5 vacancies, 1 election (contested)	Contested	0 vacancies, 0 elections
Whitfield	14	5154	Uncontested	4 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	4 vacancies, 0 elections
Wingham	9	1442	Uncontested	4 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections
Woodnesborough	9	1019	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Worth (Sandwich Bay Ward)	2	143	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections
Worth (Worth Village Ward)	5	661	Uncontested	2 vacancies, 0 elections	Uncontested	1 vacancy, 0 elections

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	Majority response from CGR: Change / No change / No majority	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS				
								Last contested election held:	Vacancy history since 2019	Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning
Alkham	727	7	104	N/A	7	104	Change	2023	3 uncontested vacancies since 2019 elections. 6 of 7 potential candidates stood for election in 2019; 2023 elections were contested.	7		Only 1 response was received requesting a reduction from 7 councillors to 3. The minimum number of councillors required on a town/parish council is 5 so this is not possible, and there were elections to the council in 2023 which suggests good democratic engagement; it is therefore recommended to keep with the current number of 7, as it also matches the NALC guidelines.
Ash	3204	11	291	N/A	11	291	No change	2011	11 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 6 of 11 potential candidates in 2019 elections and 7 of 11 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	11		The majority of responses, including one from the Parish Council, are in favour of keeping the current number of councillors; this matches the number recommended by NALC. There have been no contested parish elections since 2011, so there is no strong evidence to increase the number of seats available for election so it is recommended to make no change to the councillor numbers.
Aylesham	6306	9	701	N/A	14	450	Change	2025	10 uncontested vacancies and 1 contested vacancy since 2019 . 7 of 9 potential candidates in 2019, and contested elections held in 2023	14		The majority of respondents requested a change in numbers, including Aylesham Parish Council. Of those, only one requested a reduction from 9 to 7, which as the NALC recommended number is 14, it is too far below the guideline number. To keep in line with NALC recommended numbers and the majority of respondents requesting an increase, it is recommended to increase the councillor numbers from 9 to 14.
Capel-Le-Ferne	1826	9	203	N/A	9	203	No majority	1991	2 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 6 of 9 potential candidates in 2019 elections, and 7 of 9 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	9		The responses were split 50/50 regarding changing councillor numbers or keeping them the same. One change response requested an increase to 10, whilst the other believed that an increase was necessary without stating what the increase should be. As there have been no contested parish elections since 1991, there is no strong evidence to suggest an increase in the number of seats available for election would be useful. There has been no response from Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council to this Community Governance Review (CGR) regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended to keep the number at 9 in line with NALC guidelines.
Deal (Middle Deal Ward)	5420	5	1084	Total electorate: 16,622 = no more than 21 cllrs	7	774	Change	2019	No vacancies from 2019 onwards. Contested elections in 2019, 5 of 5 potential candidates at 2023 uncontested election.	5		60% of the responders requested to change the councillor numbers. Of those, all wished to reduce the council numbers or merge the Council with a neighbouring council. There is no scope in this Review to increase district councillors at the expense of town councillors as requested by one responder, nor is the discussion of merging councils relevant to this particular CGR, although it will be noted as an interest for the next CGR. The Town Council response states it works well with the current number of councillors, even though it is well below the NALC recommended maximum. A further reduction in numbers would risk the efficient running of the council, as they are already 6 seats below the NALC figure. Therefore it is recommended to make no changes to the number of seats on this Council.
Deal (Mill Hill Ward)	6380	5	1276		8	798		2023	1 contested vacancy and no other vacancies since 2019. Contested in both 2019 and 2023.	5		
Deal (North Deal Ward)	4822	5	964		6	804		2023	1 uncontested vacancy and no other vacancies since 2019. Contested elections in 2019 and 2023.	5		

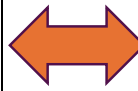
Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	Majority response from CGR: Change / No change / No majority	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS				
								Last contested election held:	Vacancy history since 2019	Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning
Denton with Wootton	305	5	61	N/A	7	44	Change	2019	1 uncontested vacancy since 2019. Election contested in 2019, 4 of 5 potential candidates at 2023 uncontested election.	7		The only response received suggests increasing the number of seats on the council. There have been parish elections as recently as 2019 so there is recent evidence of democratic engagement in the parish. There has been no response from Denton with Wootton Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. Increasing to 7 is recommended, as it keeps the figures in line with NALC guidelines.
Dover (Buckland Ward)	5313	4	1328	Total electorate: 22,490 = no more than 24 cllrs	6	886	Change	2023	No vacancies since 2019. Uncontested in 2019 elections with 4 of 4 potential candidates. Contested in 2023.	4		The majority of the representations for change are in favour of reducing the size of the council, but it is already below recommended NALC numbers for the electorate and the Town Council representation states that it can function well on the current number of councillors. One response calls for abolition of the council, however this CGR is only dealing with councillor numbers and is not looking to abolish any councils. There are 2 mentions of increasing council size, one recommending only in certain areas, but it is not specified which areas they think are under-represented. Changing only a few areas instead of whole council change risks substantially altering the elector to councillor ratio's, thereby potentially giving more 'weight' to one councillor over another. It is therefore recommended that the councillor numbers should stay the same instead of reducing or increasing them.
Dover (Maxton and Elms Vale Ward)	2896	2	1448		3	965		2023	No vacancies since 2019 elections. Contested in 2019 & 2023	2		
Dover (Rokesley Ward)	454	1	454		1	454		Ward formed in 2019 as a result of District boundary changes so no records prior to 2019 elections.	No vacancies since 2019 elections. Uncontested with 1 of 1 potential candidates in both 2019 & 2023	1		
Dover (St Radigund`s Ward)	5027	4	1257		5	1,005		2024	3 contested and 1 uncontested vacancy since 2019. Contested elections in both 2019 and 2023.	4		
Dover (Tower Hamlets Ward)	2811	2	1405		3	937		2025	1 contested vacancy since 2019. Contested elections in both 2019 & 2023.	2		
Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	5989	5	1198		6	998		2023	No vacancies since 2019 elections. Elections contested in both 2019 and 2023.	5		
Eastry	2142	11	195	N/A	10	214	No change	2015	7 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 7 of 11 potential candidates in 2019, and 9 of 11 potential candidates in 2023.	11		Of the 3 responses received, only 1 recommended change, but did not state whether increasing or decreasing the numbers would be optimal. The response of the Parish Council states that they struggle to fill the council seats, despite wanting to remain above the NALC recommended maximum number of seats and being uncontested for the elections in 2019 and 2023. The struggle to fill seats is an important factor here, but as the majority opinion received is that no changes should be made, it is therefore recommended that the number of councillors stay the same at 11.
Eythorne (Barfrestone Ward)	35	1	35	Total electorate: 1.979 = no more than	1	35	No majority	2007	1 uncontested vacancy since 2019. 1 of 1 potential candidate at 2019 and 2023 elections.	1		The responses were split 50/50 regarding changing councillor numbers. The response requesting change asks for an increase to 11 for Eythorne, which takes it further above the NALC maximum recommended number. The Parish Council feels that decreasing the numbers will have a detrimental effect on 'recruitment' to the council, although the democratic preference is that 'recruitment' to councils is by way of an election rather

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	Majority response from CGR: Change / No change / No majority	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS				
								Last contested election held:	Vacancy history since 2019	Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning
Eythorne (Eythorne Ward)	1944	10	194	9 cllrs	8	243	No majority	2009	4 uncontested vacancies since 2019. Uncontested in 2019 with 4 of 10 potential candidates, uncontested in 2023 with 6 of 10 potential candidates.	10		There is a preference to that Parliament to electors to by way of an election rather than co-option. Decreasing the numbers should encourage this, as there have been no contested elections to the parish council since 2009. However, with no requests to decrease the number of seats for elections, it is recommended to make no change to the numbers, in line with the Parish Council request.
Goodnestone	337	5	67	N/A	7	48	No change	2023	5 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 4 of 5 potential candidates in 2019 and contested in 2023.	5		The Parish Council was the only response received, recommending the number of councillors remain at 5. The last elections to the parish council were in 2023 which would suggest there is good democratic engagement in the community. It is recommended to leave the seat numbers at 5.
Great Mongeham	674	7	96	N/A	7	96	No change	2003	2 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 4 of 7 potential candidates in 2019 elections, and 6 of 7 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	7		The Parish Council was the only response received, recommending the number of councillors remain at 7. As no elections to the parish council have taken place since 2003, it would suggest that increasing the numbers would be more likely to increase co-options, rather than elections to the Council. It is recommended to leave the seat numbers at 7.
Guston	1135	7	162	N/A	8	142	No majority	1983	2 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 4 of 7 potential candidates in 2019 and 5 of 7 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	7		No responses were received in regard to Guston. Although the NALC recommended maximum number is an increase to 8 councillors, there has been no contested elections to the parish council since 1983, which would suggest increasing the numbers may not be useful and would encourage co-option rather than election. There has been no response from Guston Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended to leave the number of seats at 7.
Hougham Without	380	7	54	N/A	7	54	No change	1999	1 uncontested vacancy since 2019. 2 of 7 potential candidates in May 2019 elections, 2 of 5 potential candidates at the re-run of the election in June 2019, and 4 of 7 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	7		All responses received advised 7 as the ideal number to run the council effectively. This matches the NALC recommendation so it is recommended to make no change to the numbers.

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	Majority response from CGR: Change / No change / No majority	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS				
								Last contested election held:	Vacancy history since 2019	Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning
Langdon	497	7	71	N/A	7	71	No majority	1979	1 uncontested vacancy since 2019. 6 of 7 potential candidates in 2019 elections and 5 of 7 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	7		Only 2 responses received overall, one to keep the numbers as is, and one response which does not give an answer to whether they believe the council numbers should be changed or not; the queries raised in that response cannot be responded to as part of this Review, as it can only answer questions on parish council numbers and has no remit to respond to other questions. No elections to Langdon Parish Council have taken place since 1979, so it could be argued that there is a democratic surplus on the council and numbers should be reduced to 5 rather than kept as 7. There has been no response from Langdon Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended to leave the number of seats at 7 in line with the one relevant response and NALC guidelines.
Lydden	691	9	77	N/A	7	99	No majority	2018	14 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 4 of 9 potential candidates at 2019 elections and 3 of 9 potential candidates at 2023 elections	7		No responses were received in regard to Lydden. The NALC maximum recommended number is a decrease to 7 councillors and the last contested election took place in 2018, which would suggest the decrease would be useful in preserving the democratic process of election rather than co-option. There has been no response from Lydden Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended to reduce the number of seats available to 7 in line with NALC guidelines and the fact that they are currently operating effectively with several vacant seats.
Nonington	773	7	110	N/A	7	110	No majority	1999	3 uncontested vacancies since 2019 elections. 7 of 7 potential candidates for 2019 elections and 4 of 7 for 2023 elections.	7		No responses were received in regard to Nonington. No elections have been held to the parish council since 1999, so it could be argued that there is a democratic surplus on the council and that numbers should be reduced rather than kept the same. However, the NALC recommended number is 7 councillors which matches the current number and it is therefore recommended that on this occasion, the number of seats should remain unchanged.
Northbourne	843	7	120	N/A	7	120	No majority	2019	6 uncontested vacancies and 2 contested vacancies since 2019. 6 of 7 potential candidates at 2019 elections and 5 of 7 potential candidates for 2023 elections	7		No responses were received in regard to Northbourne. The last contested election to the parish was held in 2019, which would suggest no democratic surplus on the council. The NALC recommended number is 7 councillors which matches the current number and it is therefore recommended that the numbers remain unchanged.
Preston	784	7	112	N/A	7	112	No majority	2019	4 uncontested vacancies since 2019. Contested at elections in 2019 and 7 of 7 potential candidates for 2023 elections.	7		No responses were received in regard to Preston. The last contested election to the parish was held in 2019, which would suggest no democratic surplus on the council. The NALC recommended number is 7 councillors which matches the current number and therefore it is recommended that the numbers remain unchanged.

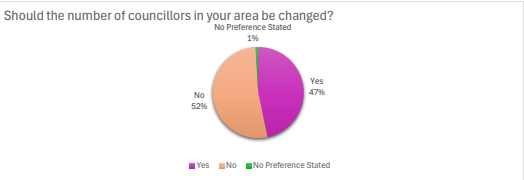
Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	Majority response from CGR: Change / No change / No majority	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS				
								Last contested election held:	Vacancy history since 2019	Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning
Ringwould with Kingsdown	1766	9	196	N/A	9	196	No change	2018	13 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 4 of 9 potential candidates in 2019 elections and 8 of 9 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	9		Only 1 response was received in regard to Ringwould with Kingsdown, recommending the number of seats remain the same. This number matches the NALC recommended number and the last contested election was held in 2018, which would suggest sufficient democratic engagement in the area and therefore no change is recommended.
Ripple	283	5	57	N/A	7	40	No change	1983	7 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 5 of 5 potential candidates in 2019 elections and 5 of 5 potential candidates in 2023 elections	5		Only 1 response was received in regard to Ripple, recommending the number of seats remain the same. Although this number is less than the recommended number by NALC, no contested elections to the parish council have been held since 1983, which would suggest increasing the number of seats available would not be useful. It is therefore recommended to leave the numbers unchanged.
River	2921	10	292	N/A	11	266	Change	1991	6 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 7 of 10 potential candidates in 2019 elections and 8 of 10 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	10		Only 1 response received, suggesting the number of councillors be reduced to 8. This is below the number recommended by NALC, which would increase the seats from 10 to 11. There have been no contested parish council elections since 1991, so an increase of seats as suggested by NALC guidelines would seem unnecessary at this time and the number of councillors suggested in the response takes it further away from the NALC guidelines. There has been no response from River Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended that the councillor numbers remain unchanged at this time.
Sandwich (Sandwich North Ward)	2723	8	340	Total electorate: 5,306 = no more than 13 cllrs	6	454	No change	2023	2 uncontested and 2 contested vacancies since 2019. Elections contested in 2019 and 2023.	8		The majority of respondents - including the Town Council - do not want the number of seats on the council to be amended. The Town Council and other respondents make valid points about workload and staffing committees. Several responders felt strongly about the need to ensure equal representation for the North and South wards. All the responses requesting change want either a reduction in numbers or to abolish the council. It should be noted that this CGR is only looking at councillor numbers, and is not looking to abolish any councils. In keeping with the majority of respondents and their accompanied reasonings, it is recommended to not change the number of seats for Sandwich Town Council.
Sandwich (Sandwich South Ward)	2583	8	323		6	430		2023	2 contested vacancies since 2019. Elections contested in 2019 and 2023.	8		
Shepherdswell with Coldred (Coldred Ward)	153	3	51	Total electorate: 1,660 = no more than 9 cllrs	2	77	No majority	1987	2 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 3 of 3 potential candidates at both 2019 and 2023 elections.	3		The 2 responses received were split 50/50 regarding changing councillor numbers. The response for 'change' suggests matching the NALC recommended number. The Parish Council response states that the number of seats available for election to the council should remain the same to ensure proper representation and to reflect the level of community engagement. The seats were contested at the last elections in 2023, suggesting good democratic engagement. It is therefore recommended that the councillor numbers remain the same.
Shepherdswell with Coldred (Shepherdswell Ward)	1507	9	167		7	215		2023	4 uncontested vacancies and 3 contested vacancies since 2019. 6 of 9 potential candidates in 2019 and contested in 2023.	9		

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	Majority response from CGR: Change / No change / No majority	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS				
								Last contested election held:	Vacancy history since 2019	Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning
Sholden (Hyton Ward)	644	2	322	Total electorate: 2,009 = no more than 10 cllrs	3	215	No majority	Ward formed in 2019 as a result of District boundary changes so no records prior to 2019 elections.	No vacancies since 2019. No nominations received in 2019 elections and 1 of 2 potential candidates in 2023.	2		Only 2 responses were received, one for and one against changing the councillor numbers. The response for change wanted the number of councillors reduced to 3, which is less than the minimum number of councillors required for a parish council (the minimum required is 5), and this is way below the numbers recommended by NALC for the size of the electorate. The Parish Council suggests keeping the number of seats at 7 in total, which they say will enable the effective running of the council through potential future changes. It is therefore recommended that there be no change to councillor numbers in this parish.
Sholden (Sholden Ward)	1278	4	320		6	213		2023	1 uncontested vacancy since 2019. 4 of 4 potential candidates in 2019 elections and contested in 2023 elections.	4		
Sholden (Tenants Hill Ward)	87	1	87		1	87		Ward formed in 2019 as a result of District boundary changes so no records prior to 2019 elections.	No vacancies since 2019. No nominations received in 2019 elections and 1 of 1 potential candidates in 2023.	1		
St Margaret`s-At-Cliffe	2240	9	249	N/A	10	224	No change	2015	7 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 6 of 9 potential candidates at 2019 elections and 4 of 9 potential candidates at 2023 elections.	9		The majority of responses are in favour of keeping the councillor numbers the same, one citing difficulty in attracting people to the role of councillor as a reason for not increasing the number. The Parish Council admits this has been an issue, but they are embarking on a programme of engagement to combat this. No parish elections have been contested since 2015, which could suggest that increasing the number would lead to more co-options instead elections to the Council. It is therefore recommended to leave the councillor numbers at 9 on this occasion, in line with the majority of responses received.
Staple	515	7	74	N/A	7	74	No change	2015	2 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 6 of 7 potential candidates at 2019 elections and 4 of 7 potential candidates at 2023 elections.	7		Only one response was received for Staple, from the Parish Council recommending no change to councillor numbers as the current number works well. As this matches the number of recommended seats by NALC, it is recommended to not change the number of seats available for election.
Stourmouth	243	5	49	N/A	7	35	Change	1995	4 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 5 of 5 potential candidates at both 2019 and 2023 elections.	7		Only one response was received for Stourmouth, from the Parish Council requesting to change the councillor numbers from 5 to 7. No reasoning was given for the change and there has been no elections to the parish council since 1995. However, the number of recommended seats by NALC for the electorate at Stourmouth is also 7 , so it is recommended to change the number of seats as requested.
Sutton	685	7	98	N/A	7	98	No majority	1987	3 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 6 of 7 potential candidates at the 2019 elections and 5 of 7 potential candidates at the 2023 elections.	7		No responses were received in regard to Sutton and the last contested election to the parish was held in 1987, which could suggest a democratic surplus on the council. However, the NALC recommended number is 7 councillors which matches the current number so it is recommended the numbers stay the same.

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	Majority response from CGR: Change / No change / No majority	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS				
								Last contested election held:	Vacancy history since 2019	Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning
Temple Ewell	1424	12	119	N/A	9	158	Change	2007	7 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 1 of 12 potential candidates in May 2019 election, 4 of 11 potential candidates at the rerun in June 2019, and 9 of 12 potential candidates in 2023 elections	9		The majority of responses were in favour of changing the number of seats on the council by reducing them. The one response against change suggested the possibility of merging Temple Ewell with it's neighbouring parish of River. As this CGR is based solely upon councillor numbers, this cannot be considered at this time but will be noted as an interest for the next CGR to consider. Temple Ewell Parish Council is in favour of matching the NALC recommended numbers so it is therefore recommended to reduce the number of councillors from 12 to 9 in line with NALC and the majority of responses for this council.
Tilmanstone	273	5	55	N/A	7	39	No change	2023	11 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 4 of 5 potential candidates in 2019 elections and contested 2023 elections.	5		Both responses received do not wish to increase the councillor numbers. The Parish Council feels an increase at this time would lead to vacant roles, but is open to change in the future when the Whitfield Expansion is completed and the effect on the parish is known. Elections to the Council were held in 2023, so democratic engagement is in evidence. In line with the majority of responses and the request of the Parish Council, it is recommended to keep the number of seats on the council at 5.
Walmer (Gladstone Ward)	757	2	378	Total electorate: 6,624 = no more than 15 cllrs	2	378	Change	2023	No vacancies since 2019. 2 of 2 potential candidates in 2019 elections and contested in 2023 elections.	2		The majority of responses wanted to see a change in the councillor numbers; all of those were in favour of a reduction in numbers, although most wanted a reduction to numbers that would be too far below the NALC guidelines. Several responses discussed merging Deal and Walmer and / or having fewer councils overall. This CGR is only covering councillor numbers, so merging and/or abolishing of parishes cannot be considered; however the interest will be noted for a future CGR. There has been no response from Walmer Town Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. NALC recommends no more than 15 councillors which matches the current amount but the numbers could be reduced to 12 as one response suggested. Reducing the numbers to 12 will be in line with the majority opinion of a reduction being needed and is close to the NALC recommended numbers. Elector to councillor ratios would be amended; Walmer's Gladstone Ward (378) remains the same, but St Saviours (421), Wellington (464) and Upper Walmer (458) will change the electors per councillor ratio to 631, 579 and 572 respectively. The figures are largely in parity, with Gladstone remaining the smallest ratio. It is therefore recommended that the number of councillors be reduced from 15 to 12 in line with the majority responses asking for a reduction.
Walmer (Lower Walmer, St Saviour` s Ward)	1262	3	421		3	421		2023	No vacancies since 2019. Contested in both 2019 and 2023 elections.	2		
Walmer (Lower Walmer, Wellington Ward)	2318	5	464		5	464		2023	1 contested and 1 uncontested vacancy since 2019. 4 of 5 potential candidates in 2019 and contested in 2023	4		
Walmer (Upper Walmer Ward)	2288	5	458		5	458		2023	4 uncontested and 1 contested vacancy since 2019. 5 of 5 candidates in 2019 and contested in 2023.	4		

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cllrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	Majority response from CGR: Change / No change / No majority	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS				
								Last contested election held:	Vacancy history since 2019	Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning
Whitfield	6112	14	437	N/A	14	437	Change	1979	9 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 8 of 14 potential candidates at 2019 elections and 7 of 14 potential candidates at 2023 elections.	11		The majority of responses want to reduce the number of council seats from 14 to 7, however this is well below the NALC recommended number of 14. Although there is much growth in the area due to the ongoing Whitfield Expansion, there has been no contested election to the parish council since 1979, which would suggest a reduction in councillor numbers would be useful to encourage elections rather than co-options, and will allow the residents of Whitfield to have a say on who sits on the Parish Council. There has been no response to the CGR received from Whitfield Parish Council, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to respond to the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. In line with the majority of responses requesting a reduction and the lack of contested parish council elections for nearly 50 years, it is recommended to reduce the councillor numbers from 14 to 11, which should still allow the council to function effectively, considering they currently have 11 councillors and 3 vacancies.
Wingham	1638	9	182	N/A	9	182	No change	2003	6 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 6 of 9 potential candidates in 2019 elections and 8 of 9 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	9		All responses received agreed the current number of councillors was suitable and should not be changed. The number of current councillors (9) matches the NALC recommended number of seats (9) so it is recommended to make no changes.
Woodnesborough	1088	9	121	N/A	8	136	No change	2015	3 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 7 of 9 potential candidates in 2019 and 2023 elections	9		Only 1 response was received - from the Parish Council - in regard to Woodnesborough, recommending the number of seats remain the same. Although this number is 1 more than the recommended number by NALC, it is recommended that the request is upheld on this occasion and the number of seats remains at 9 in line with the response received.
Worth (Sandwich Bay Ward)	124	2	62	Total electorate: 806 = no more than 7 cllrs	2	62	No majority	Wards formed in 2019 as a result of District boundary changes. The last whole council elections (before the warding in 2019) took place in 2011.	2 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 1 of 2 potential candidates in 2019 elections and 2 of 2 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	2		No responses were received in regard to Worth Parish Council. As the current number of seats matches the NALC recommended numbers, it is recommended to make no changes here.
Worth (Worth Village Ward)	682	5	136		5	136			3 uncontested vacancies since 2019. 3 of 5 potential candidates in 2019 elections and 4 of 5 potential candidates in 2023 elections.	5		

All responses received at Stage 1



ALL RESPONSES TO STAGE 1

107 responses in total

50 in agreement of changing councillor numbers

56 against changing councillor numbers

1 email response with no preference stated

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes	We do not need two town councils Deal and Walmer . One council should suffice .	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	Deal and Walmer councils should be amalgamated as we don't need x 2 15 councillors each or two cost centres.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	Insufficient cltrs available for the level of committees expected to cover	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	River (10)	Yes	Perhaps 8 councillors would be sufficient to represent the people of River parish	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Temple Ewell (12)	Yes	Proposed number - 8. At no time in the past 7 years (or more) has the current number of 12 Councillors been achieved - the highest figure was 10 and then only for a very short period of time. The current number of 8 works well given the limited work & issues undertaken.	
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Hougang Without (7)	No		Appears to work well from personal experience
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	5. Too many in conjunction with Town Council, Scrap Town Council and then increase district councillors.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	No		Difficulty attracting new members. BUT there must be a number of strong independent counsellors to offset the unhealthy Chair/Clerk axis that is starting to become an issue.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		Don't want to pay for any more bureaucracy
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Sholden (7 total - Hyton (2), Sholden (4), Tenants Hill (1))	Yes	3	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Temple Ewell (12)	Yes	Although unpaid, hard enough to attract the candidates. Many open positions and never a fair election process as many stand unopposed or get co-opted.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Capel-Le-Ferne (9)	Yes	10 so as a Reform councillor can be appointed	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	15	
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Great Mongeham (7)	No		The council has very few responsibilities, but needs enough councillors to have a balanced view and be quorate. There is little or no councillor cost to the electorate as we do not claim expenses.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		5 for each ward seems reasonable
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Ash (11)	No		Ash is a large parish - one of the largest in Kent. It requires capacity to ensure support across a number of priorities and parish owned assets. Devolution will likely lead to more community ownership assets.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	Yes	The number of councillors needs to be enough to ensure that there exists some level of expertise in a number of fields plus cover when cltrs may be sick, both short and long term, on leave, to allow for the formation of working parties etc. In the case of my parish possibly eleven might adequately cover the needs identified above.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	1 less St Radigunds. 2 less Town and Castle. Business can be handled with the reduced number of councillors A reduction in other areas could be made	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14)	No		I think it's an important local role and all should remain
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Ash (11)	No		11 councillors in Ash is adequate to accommodate the needs of the area
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	To many it needs to be cut down we don't see or hear from them only at election time and it would be cheaper..	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	No		To ensure fair representation of local people
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14)	Yes	Shocked at the amount. Half as many. Whitfield is a small parish. Too many cltrs across the district in general.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	The number seems quite high. Maybe it should be based on a ratio of councillors to residents? I would like to see those figures for the current number of councillors.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14)	Yes	7 is plenty, the parish councils no longer have much governance and even though it is a voluntary role, is there need for so many?	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Alkham (7)	Yes	3. To reduce costs.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes	I think there should be a review of all the Councils - they used to reflect Town or Parish administrative boundaries but these have changed beyond recognition. The Parishes are much smaller and many have merged eg Walmer & Cornillo Parish, and the Towns are much bigger owing to development eg Deal & Sholden. Overall I think there should be far fewer councils and far less Councillors - there are nearly 300 listed which is very expensive for the local tax payers, and often the work is duplicated, eg Deal and Walmer both run a braderie and brocante, and they both run a food fare and a cheese fair etc	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	No		I've not been presented with any reasons to change the numbers so it's not possible to give an informed opinion.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes	5-7. 15 far too many to make reasoned decisions. Uncertain powers so far as electorate concerned and little if any local consultation on any significant matter. Overlap between Deal and Walmer Town Councils. Money squandered (e.g. house purchase in Walmer). No alignment with present parishes.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	No		Works well as it is.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		The present number is appropriate if they all involve themselves in positive actions and not pettyfogging.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	Yes	Historically as a Cinque Port there were 12 councillors and 1 Mayor. This is sufficient as the number of residents has not changed so significantly as in 1931 census it was 4554 and in 2021 the census was 4851. Surely reducing councillors will reduce costs and provide a more efficient council.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		It's more a case of not reducing the numbers. These small groups often get more done than district councils - so one can conclude that the numbers work as they are and should not be changed just for the sake of change.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eastry (11)	No		We need a team of councillors who understand the needs of residents
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	No		The system is balanced between North and South wards and the number of councillors at 16 combined allows for a number to be absent while retaining a sufficient diversity to be democratic. It also ensures a large enough "pot" to man committees allowing for the small number who will not attend committees. Practically speaking our main Council meeting often lacks 2 or 3 councillors, occasionally 4. Reducing the number of councillors to 13 will not imply losing the 2 or 3 that frequently miss meetings, hence, practically we risk having a 10 person council.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Aylesham (9)	Yes	The number of residents is over 6,000 in the most recent census, the number of electors at present is around 4,892. Councillor numbers are too low at the moment and with another 800 dwellings imminent in Aylesham South and a predicted 401 to be built by 2031 (I believe more will have been built by then) there absolutely needs to be the suggested 14, at the minimum.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Langdon (7)	No		Seems to work well and possible difficulties in gaining more
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Temple Ewell (12)	No		The number of Councillors seems. appropriate for the the population and geographical area covered by Temple Ewell. Is there a case for amalgamating Temple Ewell and River.? This could lead to efficiencies of scale and remove the blurring of boundaries e.g. I Kearney River or Temple Ewell?
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	1. To make the government smaller	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Wingham (9)	No		It seems an appropriate number for this parish, in comparison with other parishes.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		What would be the advantage in doing so?
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	Increased, the wards are too large for the number of councillors	
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Tilmanstone (5)	No		I believe we have a cross section of Councillors representing the Hamlet of Tilmanstone. They all know the area very well and can support the requirements and needs of the Parishioners.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	Yes	0 - STC should be abolished and absorbed by the District to prevent waste	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	All should be available for election for maximum democracy	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Aylesham (9)	Yes	All districts should be represented in proportion to the population. Aylesham is under-represented due to its recent population increase.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14)	Yes	Half numbers to 7 . It seems a lot of councillors for a small village and it will save costs.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		It works ok at present. A reduction would put more responsibility on too few people.

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

				Having considered the matter carefully, I do not support any reduction or alteration to the current number of councillors.
				The existing councillor complement provides an appropriate balance between democratic representation, workload distribution, and effective governance. Dover District contains a diverse mix of urban, rural, and coastal communities, each with distinct needs and priorities. Maintaining the current number of councillors ensures that residents across all wards/parishes continue to receive adequate representation and access to elected members.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		Reducing the number of councillors risks: Diluting local representation, particularly in rural and geographically dispersed areas Limiting accessibility for residents seeking support Concentrating decision-making authority in fewer hands Any reduction in councillor numbers would inevitably impact the quality and responsiveness of local governance.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		Right number of councillors for size of area and population. However some other areas ave too many/ not enough councillors
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	Clarendon area of Dover need at least 5	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		The more councillors on the ground, who live in the local area and see our problems first hand, the better.
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	11	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Aylesham (9)	Yes	7	
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Hougham Without (7)	No		Gives a balanced number and range of views. A larger number would be difficult to fill posts
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		I feel that the number of councillors fairly represents the proportion of electors in the parish.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	3 at the most	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	No		St Margaret's is a large and growing village spread over quite a distance with three main residential areas - Nelson Park, the central village and the bay. Nine parish councillors seems appropriate.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	At the most 5 Local Councillors have no power they just have to go along with what District Council says weather it's in Deal's interest or not so there's no point in having 15 councillors	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	Proposed number of councillors: 0 I believe this council should be abolished. In my view, the authority does not demonstrate sufficient value for money, effective financial stewardship, or clear outcomes that justify its continued existence. There appears to be duplication of responsibilities with other tiers of local government, leading to unnecessary expenditure and blurred accountability. Residents face rising costs and service pressures, yet there is limited visible evidence that this council is delivering measurable improvements proportionate to its funding. Governance structures should prioritise efficiency, transparency and public interest — not political positioning or personal profile. Abolishing the council would remove administrative overhead, reduce duplication, and allow responsibilities to be consolidated within a streamlined structure with clearer accountability to residents. Local government must serve the public interest above all else. Where it fails to demonstrate that clearly, structural reform — including abolition — should be considered.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Whitfield (14)	No		Although we have a lot of houses being built in Whitfield, the number of councillors listed for here (14) seems excessive compared to the numbers for Deal and Dover. Is 14 a typo? I wonder if it should be 4.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Denton with Wootton (5)	Yes	The current Parish Council does not really carry out enough activities on behalf of local residents, nor publicise as adequately as it could its meetings or activities - unlike some other rural parishes.. With more Cllrs, there would be more Cllr-hours available for the members to spend on such activities. This is important when the new more remote Kent unitary authorities are introduced when PCs should and, I think, will get more powers. Even if they don't, these small local authorities will be the only ones staffed by genuinely local members who really know what their area needs, and who are, or should be, readily accessible to local residents to enable adequate local representation of needs and preferred policy outcomes for their area.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Wingham (9)	No		These village councils function perfectly well without increasing their numbers.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	No		The number seems right and sufficient for the number of residents within this Parish.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Capel-Le-Ferne (9)	Yes	I am not well informed enough to comment on the precise number of councillors required but we need to increase the number during to the continued growth of the population through new housing etc.	

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	You need people who know the area and will stand up for the people and not be afraid to put our questions to the top people	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	8	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eythorne (11 total - Eythorne (10), Barrestone (1))	Yes	11, seems to be a good number for Eythorne but think this should be the maximum. It allows for a decent attendance at meetings allowing for holidays, illness and work commitments.	
			9 - (3 of each instead of 5) Whilst i undertand their role is likley to be on top of other work commitments, 5 for each area does seem to be extremely high. An understanding of their usual commitements in hours to the role and what they do, meetings they attend, and how the support each other, would make the rational easier	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	I'm concerned dmore about why there are two town councils in Deal Town and Walmer Town Council, the cost of 2 buildings, duplicating work, meetings is more concerning to me that than the number of councillors.	
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Ringwould with Kingsdown (9)	No		We are a Parish made up of two villages Ringwould and Kingsdown which have different issues, we work as a team and find that nine is the appropriate number.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes	Deal has almost twice as many electors per councillor (Average 791 versus 442). Why is it that Deal can be represented effectively in this way but Walmer next door, a very similar area where residents often use the facilities of the other area and so in practice they are almost one) cannot? Efficiency in use of limited resources is an important consideration for residents / tax payers. Suggest therefore the number for Walmer is reduced to a comparable 7 or 8. It is a generally agreed principle too that smaller boards (no more than 10) are optimal for effective decision making. This is also a point to consider when looking at numbers.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	No		seems to work as is
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Eastry (11)	Yes	The number councillors should match the number of posts with a specific responsibility in line with the needs of the community and the resources available. A council made up of well meaning folk with no responsibilities is just a talking shop where nothing gets done.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	Too many cooks. 7	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Capel-Le-Ferne (9)	No		The more Councillors, the better the response, to deal with issues. Having less would make it more difficult to get all aspects covered. Having more will lighten the load.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Capel-Le-Ferne (9)	No		Don't change anything that is working well !
				I do not agree with reducing the numbers and believe the Council should stay at 16 councillors, with 8 in each ward. Sandwich is not a small, simple town anymore. It has different areas with different needs, and people want to feel that someone understands their part of town and speaks up for them. If councillor numbers are cut, fewer people will be trying to cover more ground, and some voices will inevitably be missed.
				Councillors already give a lot of their own time to help residents, attend meetings, deal with problems, and support local projects. Reducing numbers would mean more work for each person, which is not fair and may put people off standing in the future.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	No		I am also concerned that fewer councillors will make the Council feel more distant from ordinary residents. At the moment, it is usually possible to find someone approachable and willing to listen. If numbers are reduced, people may feel it is harder to get help or be heard.
				The town is growing, especially in the North Ward, and this brings more issues, more planning, and more pressure on services. This is not the time to reduce representation. We should be strengthening local democracy, not weakening it.
				There are also important responsibilities that the Town Council has, including financial matters and working with other authorities. These things need proper attention and oversight, which is easier when there are enough councillors to share the load.
				The current system of 16 councillors has worked well for many years. There is no obvious problem that needs fixing. Cutting numbers feels like a change being made for its own sake rather than because it will genuinely improve things. For these reasons, I strongly support keeping the present arrangement of 16 councillors, with equal representation in both wards.

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

			14 - Re: Parish Councillor Numbers for Sandwich Town Council I write in response to the consultation by Dover District Council regarding the proposed reduction in the number of councillors for Sandwich Town Council from 16 to 12, based on guidance from National Association of Local Councils. While I agree that a reduction in councillor numbers should be considered, I submit that the most appropriate figure would be 14 councillors (7 per ward) rather than 12 (6 per ward), for the following reasons: 1. Parity Between the Two Wards The original recommendation of 7 councillors for Sandwich North and 6 for Sandwich South has been revised to 6 for each ward. Retaining 7 councillors per ward would ensure continued parity while better reflecting the differing geographic spread and population growth patterns, particularly in the north of the parish. 2. Complex Governance Responsibilities The Town Council has an unusually complex governance environment, including its ongoing relationship with the Sandwich Tollbridge Fund. These additional responsibilities justify maintaining a slightly larger council to ensure adequate capacity and oversight. 3. Avoiding Excessive Workload Pressures Reducing representation to 6 councillors per ward would significantly increase the number of electors represented by each councillor. This would place disproportionate workload pressures on members and could hinder effective decision-making and representation. 4. Electorate Size and NALC Guidance Bands The projected electorate of approximately 5,306 by 2031 sits well above the lower NALC band of 4,400 that suggests a total of 12 councillors. By being nearly 1,000 electors above the lower threshold, a council the size of 14 more accurately reflects the position of Sandwich Town Council within the banding guidance. 5. Community Engagement Across Distinct Areas Sandwich comprises three distinct community areas: the south, the historic centre, and the area across the toll bridge. Maintaining a higher number of councillors will better support meaningful engagement across these varied communities. 6. Growth in the North Ward There is a notable increase in residents within the North Ward over the next 5-10 years, with many located towards the outer edge of the parish boundary. This advancement in both Temple Ewell Parish Council has confirmed that it is happy with the proposed reduction to 9 Councillors.	
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	Yes		
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Temple Ewell (12)	Yes		
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	No		Sandwich is a complex town with a complex town council structure and a great deal of business to get through. If numbers were to be reduced to the level proposed, a great deal of work would fall on to fewer shoulders and the burden would be great. Sandwich has historically always had sixteen councillors. In addition, there is a great deal of new housing that is in the pipeline, some of which will be completed in the time frame between 2027-31. We are also strongly of the opinion that the North and the South Ward should retain an equal number of councillors.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	No		Walmer is growing larger and larger, due to the number of houses being built. We need good representation for a growing population.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Staple (7)	No		Staple Parish Council currently comprises seven councillors, which the Council considers appropriate for the size and population of the parish. Seven members ensures effective representation, maintains resilience for quorum purposes, and allows the Council to discharge its statutory duties efficiently.
				Reducing the number would place additional pressure on remaining members and reduce operational flexibility, while increasing the number is not considered necessary given the scale of local governance responsibilities.
				The Council therefore supports retaining the current number of seven councillors.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Woodnesborough (9)	No		The Parish Council would like to retain the 9 Parish Councillors that they now have, they see no reason to reduce the number.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Hougham Without (7)	No		It is the right number for a small parish
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Aylesham (9)	No		We have too many at the moment this Council is a parish Council acting like a district Council. It is overstepping. It's legal role and it is taking money by force of residence so they can hand it out as they seem fit.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Aylesham (9)	No		Aylesham has too many as it is. We have a small parish Council acting as a district Council forcing residence. To pay towards any scheme they dream up and they have employed five members of staff more waste of our money.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Ash (11)	Yes	15 to accord with the increased number of residents living in this growing village	
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Ash (11)	No		This question was considered at the Ordinary Meeting of Ash Parish Council on 2 March 2026 and Councillors agreed that the correct number of Councillor posts are held in order to effectively carry out the business of the Council.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		Members considered the DDC Community Governance Review documentation at their February Full Council meeting and following debate RESOLVED: Not to recommend any change to the number of Deal Town Council Councillors.
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	Yes	10. 10 is the recommended number of councillors using NALC guidelines. Future population growth and probability of increased duties for parish councils once unitary authorities established are likely to increase workload for councils. We have had difficulty filling places in the past but are about to engage in an exercise to encourage participation.	
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Stourmouth (5)	Yes	7	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Shepherdswell with Coldred (12 total - Shepherdswell (9), Coldred (3))	Yes	As suggested in the review for more effective governance.	
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Eastry (11)	No		Although Eastry Parish council struggle to be at full capacity they would like to remain at 11 members.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Tilmanstone (5)	No		The Council feels that increasing the number of Cllrs would lead to roles being left vacant. The Council would like to readdress the matter down the line when the Whitfield Expansion is complete, as this could considerably increase the population of the parish.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Shepherdswell with Coldred (12 total - Shepherdswell (9), Coldred (3))	No		The current number of 12 councillors is a good reflection of community activity and ensures proper representation.

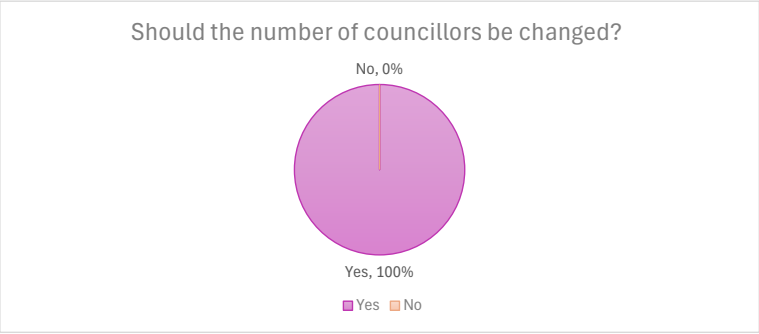
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Aylesham (9)	Yes	14 We do not struggle to find candidates to stand, and there are no frequent vacancies. However, Aylesham Parish Council does experience difficulties in staffing committees, which can make it challenging to remain quorate. Additionally, the increasing population of Aylesham has led to a higher workload for the council.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes	I think the number of councillors could be reduced to 12 given the size of Walmer, and what areas are covered. St Saviour's could have 2 councillors, and Wellington and Upper have 4 councillors each.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Hougham Without (7)	No		Perfect number for size of council and couldn't really be any fewer!
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Eythorne (11 total - Eythorne (10), Barfrestone (1))	No		The Parish Council considers that a decrease of the Cllr numbers may have a detrimental effect on recruiting new Councillors in the future.

Email response from Parish councillor	Langdon (7)	As a Parish Councillor, I am responding formally to Stage 1 of the Community Governance Review. I wish to record a formal objection to the progression of this Review in its present form and at this time. The Council’s own documents make clear that this Review is being shaped by the anticipated Local Government Reorganisation of Kent. The Terms of Reference state that only councillor allocations are being reviewed now, while wider matters such as parish boundaries, warding, grouping, creation, merger, or abolition are being excluded because they may conflict with LGR proposals and will instead fall to the future unitary authority. That position gives rise to an immediate defect. You cannot sensibly or lawfully review councillor numbers in isolation while expressly declining to review the very parish boundaries and governance arrangements that define the electorate base on which those numbers are supposed to rest. If the authority itself says those wider structures may shortly change, then the figures and assumptions used for this Review are inherently unstable. This is not a minor technical point. It goes directly to whether the Review is being conducted on a sound and rational footing. It is also premature. The wider reorganisation programme remains politically, legally, and financially unsettled. Major concerns have already been raised nationally as to mandate, legal authority, expenditure, and the risk of fettering future authorities through decisions taken in advance of settled structural footing. In those circumstances, advancing a partial governance review now risks locking in assumptions which may soon be overtaken or contradicted by later structural decisions. That creates an obvious value-for-money problem as well. Public money should not be spent progressing a review whose own basis the Council says may shortly be displaced by reorganisation. Accordingly, before any meaningful response can be given on councillor numbers, I ask the Council to identify clearly: the precise legal footing on which it says it can lawfully review councillor numbers in isolation from the parish boundaries and governance arrangements that define them; how it says this Review avoids irrationality, given its express acknowledgment that wider arrangements may soon change through LGR; how it says this Review does not risk fettering the future decisions of any successor authority; and why it considers it a proper use of public funds to conduct only a partial review now, while deferring the fuller governance questions to a future unitary authority. Until those matters are answered, I object to the progression of this Review in its present form. To proceed now is to engage in a partial and inherently unstable governance exercise during an unresolved transition, without a settled structural footing and without a rational basis for separating councillor numbers from the boundaries that determine them. Finally, with regard to your wording as follows: ‘The Council must ensure that community governance within the review area reflects local identities and interests, and that it is effective and convenient.’ would you clarify your precise meaning of these words bearing in mind that in a local democracy, residents are able to vote for the candidates who put themselves forward from their Parish.		
---------------------------------------	-------------	--	--	--

a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Sholden (7 total - Hyton (2), Sholden (4), Tenar No	No		Sholden Parish Council feels that seven parish councillors can effectively deal with the increased and potential increase in the workload caused by the increased number of residents in the Parish. In addition, as part of the LGR there is a possibility of future boundary changes for Sholden Parish. If the two mooted changes (Hyton Ward and Tenants Hill ward going into Deal Town Council) then the number of residents will decrease (but may slowly be offset by other major developments in Sholden).
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Ripple (5)	No		This is one of the smallest Parish Councils in the District with just over 300 residents and this is unlikely to change. The current number of councillors (5) is sufficient for the number of residents that we serve.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Goodnestone (5)	No		The Parish Council believe that the 5 Parish Councillors is appropriate for the size of the Parish.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Wingham (9)	No		Our current number of councillors is in line with those recommended by NALC for our population. Councillors state they see no justification for change; the council works well as it is.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		18 councillors allows for adequate representation whilst ensuring that elections are generally contested. This suggests that the size of Council reflects the capacity of local electors to stand. It avoids the undemocratic process of co-option therefore ensuring that the Council is qualified to exercise the power of general competence, which is an extremely legal provision in meeting the needs of a town of 20,000+ electors

Alkham Parish



ALKHAM

Current Number of councillors: 7

NALC maximum recommended number: 7

Last contested election / by- election: 2023

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

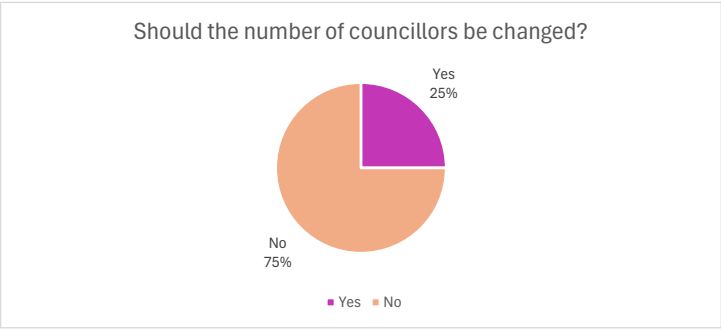
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on

Alkham (7)

Yes

3. To reduce costs.

Ash Parish



ASH

Current Number of councillors: 11

NALC maximum recommended number: 11

Last contested election / by- election: 2011

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Ash (11)	No		This question was considered at the Ordinary Meeting of Ash Parish Council on 2 March 2026 and Councillors agreed that the correct number of Councillor posts are held in order to effectively carry out the business of the Council.
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Ash (11)	No		Ash is a large parish - one of the largest in Kent. It requires capacity to ensure support across a number of priorities and parish owned assets. Devolution will likely lead to more community ownership assets.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Ash (11)	No		11 councillors in Ash is adequate to accommodate the needs of the area
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Ash (11)	Yes	15 to accord with the increased number of residents living in this growing village	

Aylesham Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? No 33% Yes 67% ■ Yes ■ No		AYLESHAM Current Number of councillors: 9 NALC maximum recommended number: 14 Last contested election / by- election: 2025		
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Aylesham (9)	Yes	14 We do not struggle to find candidates to stand, and there are no frequent vacancies. However, Aylesham Parish Council does experience difficulties in staffing committees, which can make it challenging to remain quorate. Additionally, the increasing population of Aylesham has led to a higher workload for the council.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Aylesham (9)	Yes	The number of residents is over 6,000 in the most recent census, the number of electors at present is around 4,892. Councillor numbers are too low at the moment and with another 800 dwellings imminent in Aylesham South and a predicted 401 to be built by 2031 (I believe more will have been built by then) there absolutely needs to be the suggested 14, at the minimum.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Aylesham (9)	Yes	All districts should be represented in proportion to the population. Aylesham is under-represented due to its recent population increase.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Aylesham (9)	Yes	7	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Aylesham (9)	No		We have too many at the moment this Council is a parish Council acting like a district Council. It is overstepping. It's legal role and it is taking money by force of residence so they can hand it out as they seem fit.

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area

Aylesham (9)

No

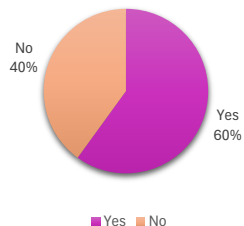
Aylesham has too many as it is. We have a small parish Council acting as a district Council forcing residence. To pay towards any scheme they dream up and they have employed five members of staff more waste of our money.

Capel-le-Ferne Parish

Should the number of councillors change? No 50% Yes 50% ■ Yes ■ No CAPEL-LE-FERNE Current Number of councillors: 9 NALC maximum recommended number: 9 Last contested election / by- election: 1991				
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Capel-Le-Ferne (9)	Yes	10 so as a Reform councillor can be appointed	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Capel-Le-Ferne (9)	Yes	I am not well informed enough to comment on the precise number of councillors required but we need to increase the number during to the continued growth of the population through new housing etc.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Capel-Le-Ferne (9)	No		The more Councillors, the better the response, to deal with issues. Having less would make it more difficult to get all aspects covered. Having more will lighten the load.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Capel-Le-Ferne (9)	No		Don't change anything that is working well !

Deal Town

Should the number of councillors be changed?



DEAL

Current Number of councillors: 15 (5 each ward)

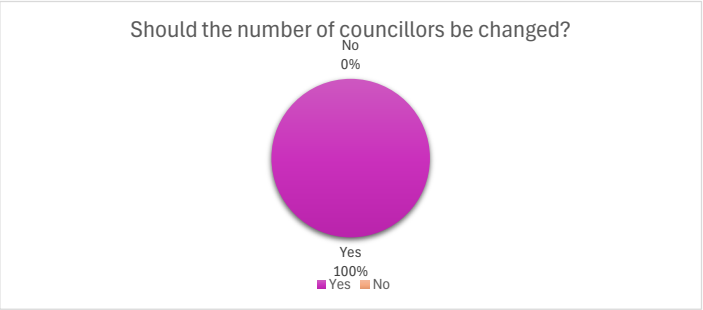
**NALC maximum recommended number: 21
(Potentially 7, 8 & 6)**

Last contested election / by- election: 2023

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		Members considered the DDC Community Governance Review documentation at their February Full Council meeting and following debate RESOLVED: Not to recommend any change to the number of Deal Town Council Councillors.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	Deal and Walmer councils should be amalgamated as we don't need x 2 15 councillors each or two cost centres.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	Insufficient cllrs available for the level of committees expected to cover	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	5. Too many in conjunction with Town Council. Scrap Town Council and then increase district councillors.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		5 for each ward seems reasonable
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	To many it needs to be cut down we don't see or hear from them only at election time and it would be cheaper..	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		The present number is appropriate if they all involve themselves in positive actions and not pettyfogging.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		What would be the advantage in doing so?
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	No		It works ok at present. A reduction would put more responsibility on too few people.
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes		

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	At the most 5 Local Councillors have no power they just have to go along with what District Council says weather it's in Deal's interest or not so there's no point in having 15 councillors	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	You need people who know the area and will stand up for the people and not be afraid to put our questions to the top people	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	8	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5))	Yes	9 - (3 of each instead of 5) Whilst i undertand their role is likley to be on top of other work commitments, 5 for each area does seem to be extremely high. An understanding of their usual commitements in hours to the role and what they do, meetings they attend, and how the support each other, would make the rational easier	
			I'm concerned dmore about why there are two town councils in Deal Town and Walmer Town Council, the cost of 2 buildings, duplicating work, meetings is more concerning to me that than the number of councilors.	

Denton with Wootton Parish



DENTON WITH
WOOTTON

Current Number of councillors: 5
NALC maximum recommended number: 7

Last contested election / by- election: 2019

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on

Denton with Wootton (5)

Yes

The current Parish Council does not really carry out enough activities on behalf of local residents, nor publicise as adequately as it could its meetings or activities - unlike some other rural parishes.. With more Cllrs, there would be more Cllr-hours available for the members to spend on such activities. This is important when the new more remote Kent unitary authorities are introduced when PCs should and, I think, will get more powers. Even if they don't, these small local authorities will be the only ones staffed by genuinely local members who really know what their area needs, and who are, or should be, readily accessible to local residents to enable adequate local representation of needs and preferred policy outcomes for their area.

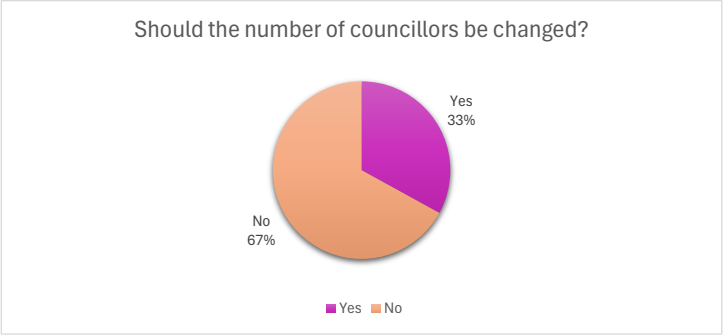
Dover Town

Should the number of councillors be changed?		No 41% Yes 59% ■ Yes ■ No DOVER Current Number of councillors: 18 (4,2,1,4,2,5) NALC maximum recommended number: 24 (Potentially 6,3,1,5,3,6) Last contested election / by- election: 2025		
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), No Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))			18 councillors allows for adequate representation whilst ensuring that elections are generally contested. This suggests that the size of Council reflects the capacity of local electors to stand. It avoids the undemocratic process of co-option therefore ensuring that the Council is qualified to exercise the power of general competence, which is an extremely legal provision in meeting the needs of a town of 20,000+ electors
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), No Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))			Don't want to pay for any more bureaucracy
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Yes Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))		15	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Yes Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))		1 less St Radigunds, 2 less Town and Castle. Business can be handled with the reduced number of councillors A reduction in other areas could be made	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Yes Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))		The number seems quite high. Maybe it should be based on a ratio of councillors to residents? I would like to see those figures for the current number of councillors.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), No Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))			It's more a case of not reducing the numbers. These small groups often get more done than district councils - so one can conclude that the numbers work as they are and should not be changed just for the sake of change.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Yes Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))		1. To make the govement smaller	

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	Increased, the wards are too large for the number of councillors	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	All should be available for election for maximum democracy	
				Having considered the matter carefully, I do not support any reduction or alteration to the current number of councillors.
				The existing councillor complement provides an appropriate balance between democratic representation, workload distribution, and effective governance. Dover District contains a diverse mix of urban, rural, and coastal communities, each with distinct needs and priorities. Maintaining the current number of councillors ensures that residents across all wards/parishes continue to receive adequate representation and access to elected members.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		Reducing the number of councillors risks: Diluting local representation, particularly in rural and geographically dispersed areas Limiting accessibility for residents seeking support Concentrating decision-making authority in fewer hands Any reduction in councillor numbers would inevitably impact the quality and responsiveness of local governance.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		Right number of councillors for size of area and population. However some other areas ave too many/ not enough councillors
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	Clarendon area of Dover need at least 5	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		The more councillors on the ground, who live in the local area and see our problems first hand, the better.

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	No		I feel that the number of councillors fairly represents the proportion of electors in the parish.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	3 at the most	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	Proposed number of councillors: 0 I believe this council should be abolished. In my view, the authority does not demonstrate sufficient value for money, effective financial stewardship, or clear outcomes that justify its continued existence. There appears to be duplication of responsibilities with other tiers of local government, leading to unnecessary expenditure and blurred accountability. Residents face rising costs and service pressures, yet there is limited visible evidence that this council is delivering measurable improvements proportionate to its funding. Governance structures should prioritise efficiency, transparency and public interest — not political positioning or personal profile. Abolishing the council would remove administrative overhead, reduce duplication, and allow responsibilities to be consolidated within a streamlined structure with clearer accountability to residents. Local government must serve the public interest above all else. Where it fails to demonstrate that clearly, structural reform — including abolition — should be considered.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5))	Yes	Too many cooks. 7	

Eastry Parish



EASTRY

Current Number of councillors: 11

NALC maximum recommended number: 10

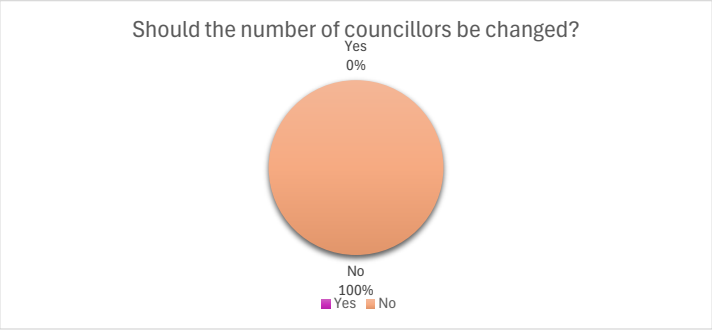
Last contested election / by- election: 2015

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Eastry (11)	No		Although Eastry Parish council struggle to be at full capacity they would like to remain at 11 members.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eastry (11)	No		We need a team of councillors who understand the needs of residents
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Eastry (11)	Yes	The number councillors should match the number of posts with a specific responsibility in line with the needs of the community and the resources available. A council made up of well meaning folk with no responsibilities is just a talking shop where nothing gets done.	

Eythorne Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? No 50% Yes 50% ■ Yes ■ No				
EYTHORNE Current Number of councillors: 11 (10, 1) NALC maximum recommended number: 9 (Potentially 8,1) Last contested election / by- election: 2009				
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Eythorne (11 total - Eythorne (10), Barfrestone (1))	No	The Parish Council considers that a decrease of the Cllr numbers may have a detrimental effect on recruiting new Councillors in the future.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eythorne (11 total - Eythorne (10), Barfrestone (1))	Yes	11, seems to be a good number for Eythorne but think this should be the maximum. It allows for a decent attendance at meetings allowing for holidays, illness and work commitments.	

Goodnestone Parish



GOODNESTONE

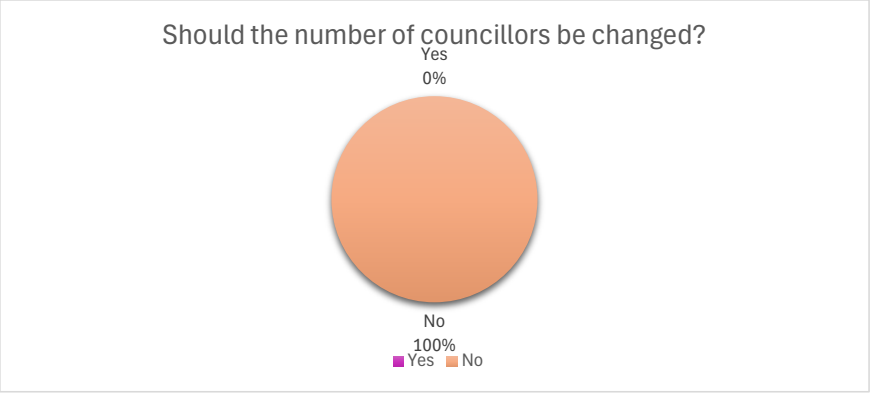
Current Number of councillors: 5

Last contested election / by- election: 2023

NALC maximum recommended number: 7

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Goodnestone (5)	No		The Parish Council believe that the 5 Parish Councillors is appropriate for the size of the Parish.

Great Mongeham Parish



**GREAT
MONGEHAM**

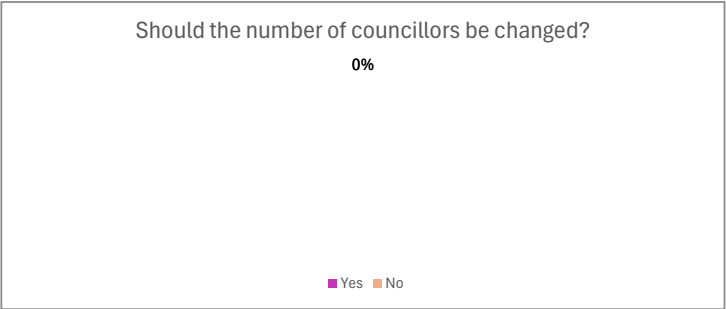
Current Number of councillors: 7

NALC maximum recommended number: 7

Last contested election / by- election: 2003

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent (on behalf of the Parish Clerk)	Great Mongeham (7)	No		The council has very few responsibilities, but needs enough councillors to have a balanced view and be quorate. There is little or no councillor cost to the electorate as we do not claim expenses.

Guston Parish



GUSTON

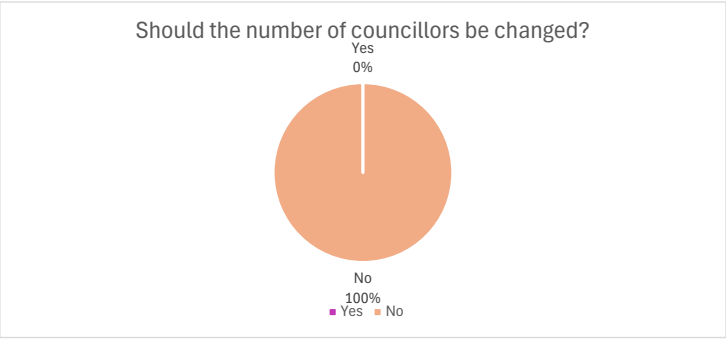
Current Number of councillors: 7

NALC maximum recommended number: 8

Last contested election / by- election: 1983

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

Hougham Parish



HOUGHAM

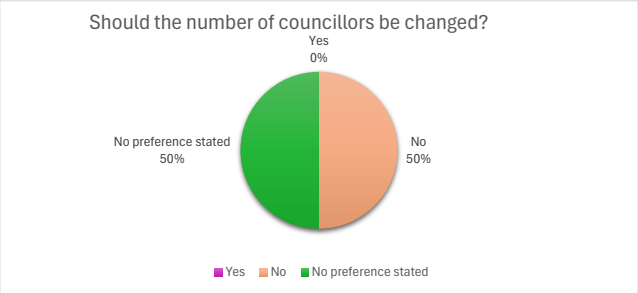
Current Number of councillors: 7

NALC maximum recommended number: 7

Last contested election / by- election: 1999

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Hougham Without (7)	No		The Council are satisfied that this is the correct number of councillors.
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Hougham Without (7)	No		Appears to work well from personal experience
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Hougham Without (7)	No		Gives a balanced number and range of views. A larger number would be difficult to fill posts
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Hougham Without (7)	No		It is the right number for a small parish
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Hougham Without (7)	No		Perfect number for size of council and couldn't really be any fewer!

Langdon Parish



LANGDON

Current Number of councillors: 7

NALC maximum recommended number: 7

Last contested election / by- election: 1979

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Langdon (7)	No		Seems to work well and possible difficulties in gaining more
--	-------------	----	--	--

Email response from Parish councillor	Langdon (7)	As a Parish Councillor, I am responding formally to Stage 1 of the Community Governance Review. I wish to record a formal objection to the progression of this Review in its present form and at this time. The Council’s own documents make clear that this Review is being shaped by the anticipated Local Government Reorganisation of Kent. The Terms of Reference state that only councillor allocations are being reviewed now, while wider matters such as parish boundaries, warding, grouping, creation, merger, or abolition are being excluded because they may conflict with LGR proposals and will instead fall to the future unitary authority. That position gives rise to an immediate defect. You cannot sensibly or lawfully review councillor numbers in isolation while expressly declining to review the very parish boundaries and governance arrangements that define the electorate base on which those numbers are supposed to rest. If the authority itself says those wider structures may shortly change, then the figures and assumptions used for this Review are inherently unstable. This is not a minor technical point. It goes directly to whether the Review is being conducted on a sound and rational footing. It is also premature. The wider reorganisation programme remains politically, legally, and financially unsettled. Major concerns have already been raised nationally as to mandate, legal authority, expenditure, and the risk of fettering future authorities through decisions taken in advance of settled structural footing. In those circumstances, advancing a partial governance review now risks locking in assumptions which may soon be overtaken or contradicted by later structural decisions. That creates an obvious value-for-money problem as well. Public money should not be spent progressing a review whose own basis the Council says may shortly be displaced by reorganisation. Accordingly, before any meaningful response can be given on councillor numbers, I ask the Council to identify clearly: the precise legal footing on which it says it can lawfully review councillor numbers in isolation from the parish boundaries and governance arrangements that define them; how it says this Review avoids irrationality, given its express acknowledgment that wider arrangements may soon change through LGR; how it says this Review does not risk fettering the future decisions of any successor authority; and why it considers it a proper use of public funds to conduct only a partial review now, while deferring the fuller governance questions to a future unitary authority. Until those matters are answered, I object to the progression of this Review in its present form. To proceed now is to engage in a partial and inherently unstable governance exercise during an unresolved transition, without a settled structural footing and without a rational basis for separating councillor numbers from the boundaries that determine them. Finally, with regard to your wording as follows: ‘The Council must ensure that community governance within the review area reflects local identities and interests, and that it is effective and convenient.’ would you clarify your precise meaning of these words bearing in mind that in a local democracy, residents are able to vote for the candidates who put themselves forward from their Parish.		
---------------------------------------	-------------	--	--	--

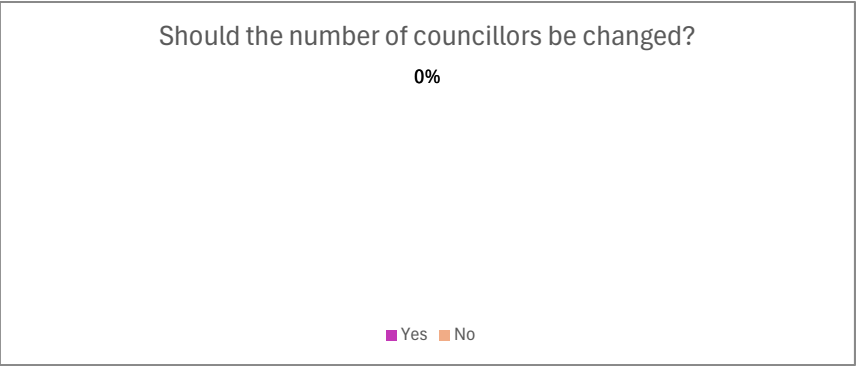
Lydden Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? 0% ■ Yes ■ No				
LYDDEN		Current Number of councillors: 9 NALC maximum recommended number: 7 Last contested election / by- election: 2018		
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.

Nonington Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? 0% ■ Yes ■ No		NONINGTON Current Number of councillors: 7 NALC maximum recommended number: 7 Last contested election / by- election: 1999		
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.

Northbourne Parish



NORTHBOURNE

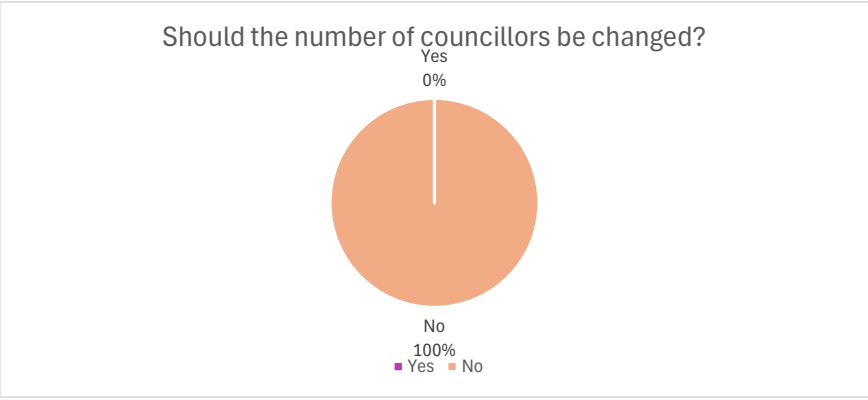
Current Number of councillors: 7
NALC maximum recommended number: 7
Last contested election / by- election: 2019

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

Preston Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? 0% ■ Yes ■ No				
PRESTON		Current Number of councillors: 7 NALC maximum recommended number: 7 Last contested election / by- election: 2019		
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.

Ringwould with Kingsdown Parish



**RINGWOULD
WITH
KINGSDOWN**

Current Number of councillors: 9

NALC maximum recommended number: 9

Last contested election / by- election: 2018

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

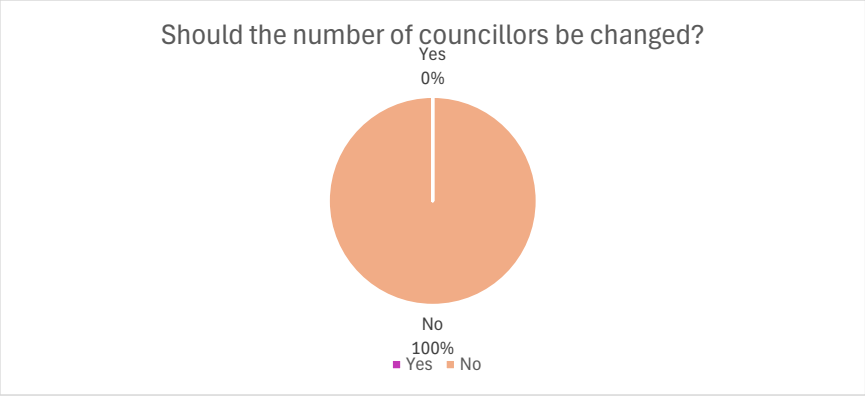
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent

Ringwould with Kingsdown (9)

No

We are a Parish made up of two villages Ringwould and Kingsdown which have different issues, we work as a team and find that nine is the appropriate number.

Ripple Parish



RIPPLE

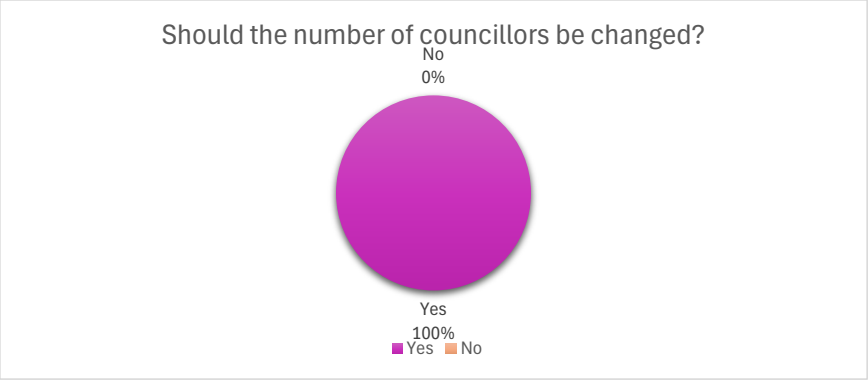
Current Number of councillors: 5

Last contested election / by- election: 1983

NALC maximum recommended number: 7

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent (on behalf of the Parish Clerk)	Ripple (5)	No		This is one of the smallest Parish Councils in the District with just over 300 residents and this is unlikely to change. The current number of councillors (5) is sufficient for the number of residents that we serve.

River Parish



RIVER

Current Number of councillors: 10

Last contested election / by- election: 1991

NALC maximum recommended number: 11

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	River (10)	Yes	Perhaps 8 councillors would be sufficient to represent the people of River parish	

Sandwich Town

Should the conucillor numbers be changed? Yes 43% No 57% Yes No

SANDWICH

Current Number of councillors: 16 (8,8)

NALC maximum recommended number: 13 (potentially 6,6 to keep the representation equal between the 2 wards)

Last contested election / by- election: 2023

a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	No	Sandwich is a complex town with a complex town council structure and a great deal of business to get through. If numbers were to be reduced to the level proposed, a great deal of work would fall on to fewer shoulders and the burden would be great. Sandwich has historically always had sixteen councillors. In addition, there is a great deal of new housing that is in the pipeline, some of which will be completed in the time frame between 2027-31. We are also strongly of the opinion that the North and the South Ward should retain an equal number of councillors.	
---	---	----	---	--

a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	No	I've not been presented with any reasons to change the numbers so it's not possible to give an informed opinion.	
---	---	----	--	--

a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	Yes	Historically as a Cinque Port there were 12 councillors and 1 Mayor. This is sufficient as the number of residents has not changed so significantly as in 1931 census it was 4554 and in 2021 the census was 4851. Surely reducing councillors will reduce costs and provide a more efficient council.	
---	---	-----	--	--

a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	No	The system is balanced between North and South wards and the number of councillors at 16 combined allows for a number to be absent while retaining a sufficient diversity to be democratic. It also ensures a large enough "pot" to man committees allowing for the small number who will not attend committees. Practically speaking our main Council meeting often lacks 2 or 3 councillors, occasionally 4. Reducing the number of councillors to 13 will not imply losing the 2 or 3 that frequently miss meetings, hence, practically we risk having a 10 person council.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	Yes	0 - STC should be abolished and absorbed by the District to prevent waste	

an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8))	No	I do not agree with reducing the numbers and believe the Council should stay at 16 councillors, with 8 in each ward. Sandwich is not a small, simple town anymore. It has different areas with different needs, and people want to feel that someone understands their part of town and speaks up for them. If councillor numbers are cut, fewer people will be trying to cover more ground, and some voices will inevitably be missed. Councillors already give a lot of their own time to help residents, attend meetings, deal with problems, and support local projects. Reducing numbers would mean more work for each person, which is not fair and may put people off standing in the future. I am also concerned that fewer councillors will make the Council feel more distant from ordinary residents. At the moment, it is usually possible to find someone approachable and willing to listen. If numbers are reduced, people may feel it is harder to get help or be heard. The town is growing, especially in the North Ward, and this brings more issues, more planning, and more pressure on services. This is not the time to reduce representation. We should be strengthening local democracy, not weakening it. There are also important responsibilities that the Town Council has, including financial matters and working with other authorities. These things need proper attention and oversight, which is easier when there are enough councillors to share the load. The current system of 16 councillors has worked well for many years. There is no obvious problem that needs fixing. Cutting numbers feels like a change being made for its own sake rather than because it will genuinely improve things. For these reasons, I strongly support keeping the present arrangement of 16 councillors, with equal representation in both wards.	
--	---	----	---	--

14 -

Re: Parish Councillor Numbers for Sandwich Town Council

I write in response to the consultation by Dover District Council regarding the proposed reduction in the number of councillors for Sandwich Town Council from 16 to 12, based on guidance from National Association of Local Councils.

While I agree that a reduction in councillor numbers should be considered, I submit that the most appropriate figure would be 14 councillors (7 per ward) rather than 12 (6 per ward), for the following reasons:

1.//Parity Between the Two Wards

The original recommendation of 7 councillors for Sandwich North and 6 for Sandwich South has been revised to 6 for each ward. Retaining 7 councillors per ward would ensure continued parity while better reflecting the differing geographic spread and population growth patterns, particularly in the north of the parish.

2.//Complex Governance Responsibilities

The Town Council has an unusually complex governance environment, including its ongoing relationship with the Sandwich Tollbridge Fund. These additional responsibilities justify maintaining a slightly larger council to ensure adequate capacity and oversight.

3.//Avoiding Excessive Workload Pressures

Reducing representation to 6 councillors per ward would significantly increase the number of electors represented by each councillor. This would place disproportionate workload pressures on members and could hinder effective decision-making and representation.

4.//Electorate Size and NALC Guidance Bands

The projected electorate of approximately 5,306 by 2031 sits well above the lower NALC band of 4,400 that suggests a total of 12 councillors. By being nearly 1,000 electors above the lower threshold, a council the size of 14 more accurately reflects the position of Sandwich Town Council within the banding guidance.

5.//Community Engagement Across Distinct Areas

Sandwich comprises three distinct community areas: the south, the historic centre, and the area across the toll bridge. Maintaining a higher number of councillors will better support meaningful engagement across these varied communities.

6.//Growth in the North Ward

There is a notable increase in residents within the North Ward over the next 5-10 years, with many located towards the outer edge of the parish boundary. This expansion in both geography and population supports retaining a higher number of councillors to ensure adequate local representation.

7.//Impact of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

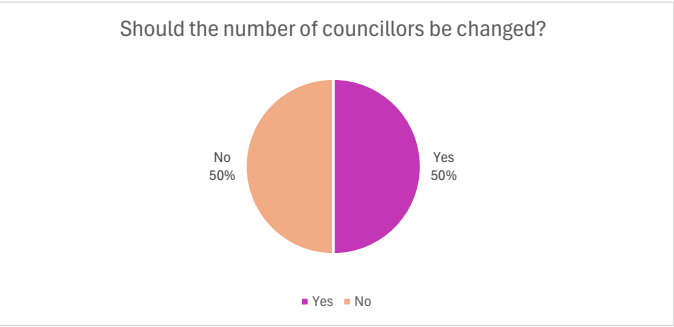
Ongoing and future impacts arising from Local Government Reorganisation are likely to increase the strategic and representative responsibilities placed on parish councils. A council of 14 members would provide resilience during this period of change.

8.//Historical Context

Sandwich has traditionally operated with 16 councillors. A reduction to 14 represents a balanced and proportionate adjustment, preserving effective governance capacity while recognising the need for some rationalisation.

In summary, while I agree that a modest reduction is appropriate, a council size of 14 members would provide a better balance between efficiency, fair representation, and the ability to manage the town's governance complexities and growing community engagement needs.

Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish



SHEPHERDSWELL WITH COLDRED

Current Number of councillors: 12 (9,3)

NALC maximum recommended number: 9 (potentially 7,2)

Last contested election / by- election: 2023

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Shepherdswell with Coldred (12 total - Shepherdswell (9), Coldred (3))	No		The current number of 12 councillors is a good reflection of community activity and ensures proper representation.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Shepherdswell with Coldred (12 total - Shepherdswell (9), Coldred (3))	Yes	As suggested in the review for more effective governance.	

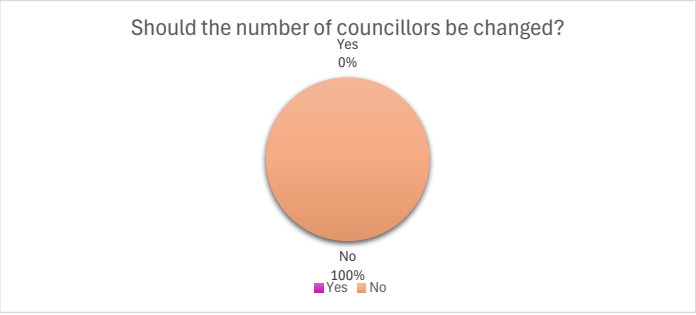
Sholden Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? No 50% Yes 50% ■ Yes ■ No				
SHOLDEN Current Number of councillors: 7 (2,4,1) NALC maximum recommended number: 10 (Potentially 3,6,1) Last contested election / by- election: 2023				
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Sholden (7 total - Hyton (2), Sholden (4), Tenar No			Sholden Parish Council feels that seven parish councillors can effectively deal with the increased and potential increase in the workload caused by the increased number of residents in the Parish. In addition, as part of the LGR there is a possibility of future boundary changes for Sholden Parish. If the two mooted changes (Hyton Ward and Tenants Hill ward going into Deal Town Council) then the number of residents will decrease (but may slowly be offset by other major developments in Sholden).
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Sholden (7 total - Hyton (2), Sholden (4), Tenants Hill (1)	Yes	3	

St Margaret's-at-Cliffe Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? Yes 40% No 60% ■ Yes ■ No ST MARGARET'S AT CLIFFE Current Number of councillors: 9 NALC maximum recommended number: 10 Last contested election / by- election: 2015				
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent (on behalf of the Parish Clerk)	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	Yes	10. 10 is the recommended number of councillors using NALC guidelines. Future population growth and probability of increased duties for parish councils once unitary authorities established are likely to increase workload for councils. We have had difficulty filling places in the past but are about to engage in an exercise to encourage participation.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	No		Difficulty attracting new members. BUT there must be a number of strong independent counsellors to offset the unhealthy Chair/Clerk axis that is starting to become an issue.
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	Yes	The number of councillors needs to be enough to ensure that there exists some level of expertise in a number of fields plus cover when cllrs may be sick, both short and long term, on leave, to allow for the formation of working parties etc. In the case of my parish possibly eleven might adequately cover the needs identified above.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	No		Works well as it is.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	St Margaret's-at-Cliffe (9)	No		St Margaret's is a large and growing village spread over quite a distance with three main residential areas - Nelson Park, the central village and the bay. Nine parish councillors seems appropriate.

Staple Parish



STAPLE

Current Number of councillors: 7

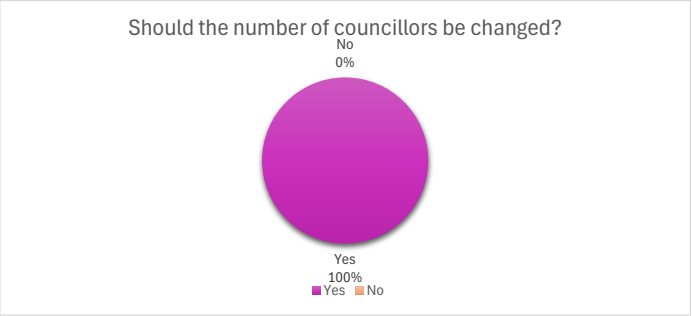
NALC maximum recommended number: 7

Last contested election / by- election: 2015

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Staple (7)	No	Staple Parish Council currently comprises seven councillors, which the Council considers appropriate for the size and population of the parish. Seven members ensures effective representation, maintains resilience for quorum purposes, and allows the Council to discharge its statutory duties efficiently. Reducing the number would place additional pressure on remaining members and reduce operational flexibility, while increasing the number is not considered necessary given the scale of local governance responsibilities. The Council therefore supports retaining the current number of seven councillors.
---	------------	----	---

Stourmouth Parish



STOURMOUTH

Current Number of councillors: 5

NALC maximum recommended number: 7

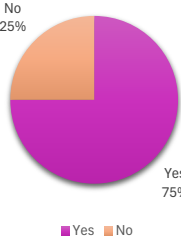
Last contested election / by- election: 1995

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Stourmouth (5)	Yes	7	

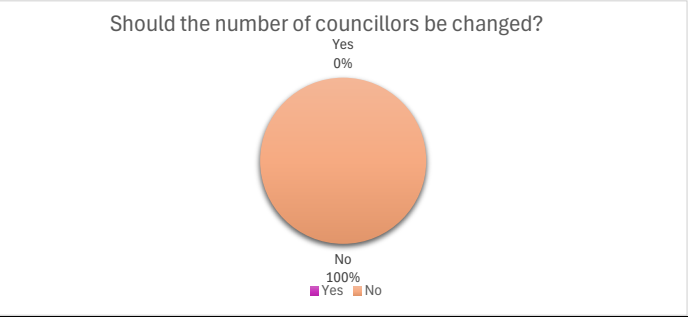
Sutton Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? 0% ■ Yes ■ No				
SUTTON		Current Number of councillors: 7 NALC maximum recommended number: 7 Last contested election / by- election: 1987		
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.

Temple Ewell Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed?  TEMPLE EWELL Current Number of councillors: 12 NALC maximum recommended number: 9 Last contested election / by- election: 2007				
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Temple Ewell (12)	Yes	Temple Ewell Parish Council has confirmed that it is happy with the proposed reduction to 9 Councillors.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Temple Ewell (12)	Yes	Proposed number - 8. At no time in the past 7 years (or more) has the current number of 12 Councillors been achieved - the highest figure was 10 and then only for a very short period of time. The current number of 8 works well given the limited work & issues undertaken.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Temple Ewell (12)	Yes	Although unpaid, hard enough to attract the candidates. Many open positions and never a fair election process as many stand unopposed or get co-opted.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Temple Ewell (12)	No		The number of Councillors seems. appropriate for the the population and geographical area covered by Temple Ewell. Is there a case for amalgamating Temple Ewell and River.? This could lead to efficiencies of scale and remove the blurring of boundaries e.g. I Kearney River or Temple Ewell?

Tilmanstone Parish



TILMANSTONE

Current Number of councillors: 5

NALC maximum recommended number: 7

Last contested election / by- election: 2023

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Tilmanstone (5)	No		The Council feels that increasing the number of Cllrs would lead to roles being left vacant. The Council would like to readdress the matter down the line when the Whitfield Expansion is complete, as this could considerably increase the population of the parish.
a town or parish councillor for the area you represent	Tilmanstone (5)	No		I believe we have a cross section of Councillors representing the Hamlet of Tilmanstone. They all know the area very well and can support the requirements and needs of the Parishioners.

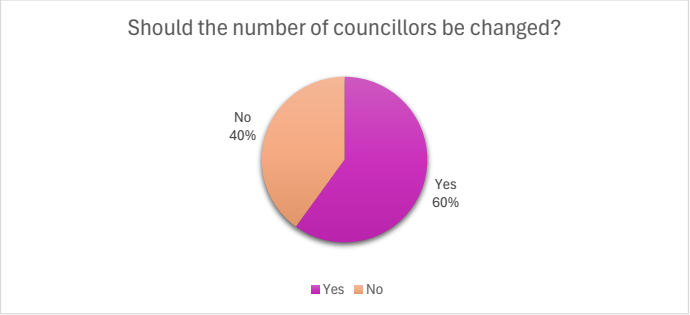
Walmer Town

Should the number of councillors be changed? No 44% Yes 56% ■ Yes ■ No WALMER Current Number of councillors: 15 (2,3,5,5) Last contested election / by- election: 2023 NALC maximum recommended number: 15 (2,3,5,5)				
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes	We do not need two town councils Deal and Walmer . One council should suffice .	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	No		To ensure fair representation of local people
			I think there should be a review of all the Councils - they used to reflect Town or Parish administrative boundaries but these have changed beyond recognition. The Parishes are much smaller and many have merged eg Walmer & Cornillo Parish, and the Towns are much bigger owing to development eg Deal & Sholden. Overall I think there should be far fewer councils and far less Councillors - there are nearly 300 listed which is very expensive for the local tax payers, and often the work is duplicated, eg Deal and Walmer both run a braderie and brocante, and they both run a food fare and a cheese fair etc	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes		
			5-7. 15 far too many to make reasoned decisions. Uncertain powers so far as electorate concerned and little if any local consultation on any significant matter. Overlap between Deal and Walmer Town Councils. Money squandered (e.g. house purchase in Walmer). No alignment with present parishes.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes		
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	No		The number seems right and sufficient for the number of residents within this Parish.

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
-------------	---	---	---	---

an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes	Deal has almost twice as many electors per councillor (Average 791 versus 442). Why is it that Deal can be represented effectively in this way but Walmer next door, a very similar area where residents often use the facilities of the other area and so in practice they are almost one) cannot? Efficiency in use of limited resources is an important consideration for residents / tax payers. Suggest therefore the number for Walmer is reduced to a comparable 7 or 8. It is a generally agreed principle too that smaller boards (no more than 10) are optimal for effective decision making. This is also a point to consider when looking at numbers.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	No		seems to work as is
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	No		Walmer is growing larger and larger, due to the number of houses being built. We need good representation for a growing population.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5))	Yes	I think the number of councillors could be reduced to 12 given the size of Walmer, and what areas are covered. St Saviour's could have 2 councillors, and Wellington and Upper have 4 councillors each.	

Whitfield Parish



WHITFIELD

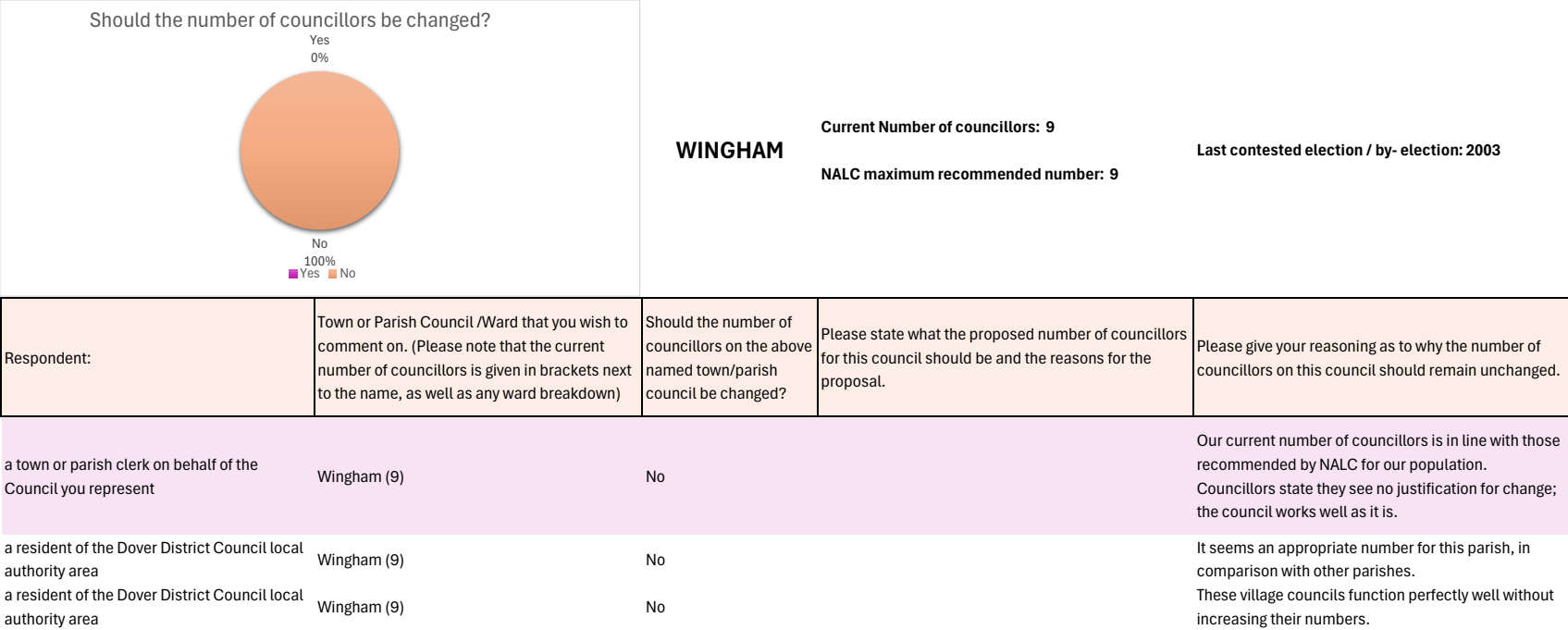
Current Number of councillors: 14

NALC maximum recommended number: 14

Last contested election / by- election: 1979

Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14)	No		I think it's an important local role and all should remain
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14)	Yes	Shocked at the amount. Half as many. Whitfield is a small parish. Too many cllrs across the district in general.	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14)	Yes	7 is plenty, the parish councils no longer have much governance and even though it is a voluntary role, is there need for so many?	
a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14)	Yes	Half numbers to 7 . It seems a lot of councillors for a small village and it will save costs.	
an elector registered to vote in the area being commented on	Whitfield (14)	No		Although we have a lot of houses being built in Whitfield, the number of councillors listed for here (14) seems excessive compared to the numbers for Deal and Dover. Is 14 a typo? I wonder if it should be 4.

Wingham Parish



Woodnesborough Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? Yes 0% No 100% ■ Yes ■ No WOODNESBOROUGH Current Number of councillors: 9 NALC maximum recommended number: 8 Last contested election / by- election: 2015				
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.
a town or parish clerk on behalf of the Council you represent	Woodnesborough (9)	No	The Parish Council would like to retain the 9 Parish Councillors that they now have, they see no reason to reduce the number.	

Worth Parish

Should the number of councillors be changed? 0% ■ Yes ■ No					WORTH Current Number of councillors: 7 (2,5) NALC maximum recommended number: 7 (2,5) Last contested election / by- election: 2011
Respondent:	Town or Parish Council /Ward that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)	Should the number of councillors on the above named town/parish council be changed?	Please state what the proposed number of councillors for this council should be and the reasons for the proposal.	Please give your reasoning as to why the number of councillors on this council should remain unchanged.	

Appendix 4 Final Recommendations

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cltrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAGE 1 RESPONSES			FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
							Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning	Majority response from CGR Stage 2: Agree / Disagree / No majority / No responses received.	Current number of council seats / councillors	Number of seats / councillors from Draft Recommendations	Final recommendation for number of seats / councillors No change to draft  Changes to Draft Recommendation  	Reasoning
Alkham	727	7	104	N/A	7	104	7		Only 1 response was received requesting a reduction from 7 councillors to 3. The minimum number of councillors required on a town/parish council is 5 so this is not possible, and there were elections to the council in 2023 which suggests good democratic engagement; it is therefore recommended to keep with the current number of 7, as it also matches the NALC guidelines.	No responses received	7	7	 7	No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received for Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Ash	3204	11	291	N/A	11	291	11		The majority of responses, including one from the Parish Council, are in favour of keeping the current number of councillors; this matches the number recommended by NALC. There have been no contested parish elections since 2011, so there is no strong evidence to increase the number of seats available for election so it is recommended to make no change to the councillor numbers.	Agree	11	11	 11	No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 and it was in agreement with the recommendation.
Aylesham	6306	9	701	N/A	14	450	14		The majority of respondents requested a change in numbers, including Aylesham Parish Council. Of those, only one requested a reduction from 9 to 7, which as the NALC recommended number is 14, it is too far below the guideline number. To keep in line with NALC recommended numbers and the majority of respondents requesting an increase, it is recommended to increase the councillor numbers from 9 to 14.	No majority	9	14	 14	No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 2 responses received for this Stage, 1 for and 1 against the recommended change. The argument against the change focuses on bureaucracy, wages and pensions, whilst the argument for the change focuses on the growth of the village, being consistent with the community's current and anticipated future needs, and the need for more representation. As there is no majority in favour or against the recommendation, and the reasoning for the argument for the change includes future proofing the parish due to expected growth, it is recommended to increase the current numbers from 9 to 14 in line with the Draft Recommendation & NALC recommended numbers.
Capel-Le-Ferne	1826	9	203	N/A	9	203	9		The responses were split 50/50 regarding changing councillor numbers or keeping them the same. One change response requested an increase to 10, whilst the other believed that an increase was necessary without stating what the increase should be. As there have been no contested parish elections since 1991, there is no strong evidence to suggest an increase in the number of seats available for election would be useful. There has been no response from Capel-le-Ferne Parish Council to this Community Governance Review (CGR) regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended to keep the number at 9 in line with NALC guidelines.	Agree	9	9	 9	No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Deal (Middle Deal Ward)	5420	5	1084	Total electorate: 16,622 = no more than 21 cltrs	7	774	5		60% of the responders requested to change the councillor numbers. Of those, all wished to reduce the council numbers or merge the Council with a neighbouring council. There is no scope in this Review to increase district councillors at the expense of town councillors as requested by one responder, nor is the discussion of merging councils relevant to this particular CGR, although it will be noted as an interest for the next CGR. The Town Council response states it works well with the current number of councillors, even though it is well below the NALC recommended maximum. A further reduction in numbers would risk the efficient running of the council, as they are already 6 seats below the NALC figure. Therefore it is recommended to make no changes to the number of seats on this Council.	Agree	5	5	 5	No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 (compared with 16 at Stage 1) which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Deal (Mill Hill Ward)	6380	5	1276		8	798	5				5	5	 5	
Deal (North Deal Ward)	4822	5	964		6	804	5				5	5	 5	

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cltrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAGE 1 RESPONSES			FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
							Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning	Majority response from CGR Stage 2: Agree / Disagree / No majority / No responses received.	Current number of council seats / councillors	Number of seats / councillors from Draft Recommendations	Final recommendation for number of seats / councillors No change to draft recommendations  Changes to Draft Recommendation  	Reasoning
Denton with Wootton	305	5	61	N/A	7	44	7		The only response received suggests increasing the number of seats on the council. There have been parish elections as recently as 2019 so there is recent evidence of democratic engagement in the parish. There has been no response from Denton with Wootton Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. Increasing to 7 is recommended, as it keeps the figures in line with NALC guidelines.	No responses received	5	7		No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received for Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Dover (Buckland Ward)	5313	4	1328	Total electorate: 22,490 = no more than 24 cltrs	6	886	4		The majority of the representations for change are in favour of reducing the size of the council, but it is already below recommended NALC numbers for the electorate and the Town Council representation states that it can function well on the current number of councillors. One response calls for abolition of the council, however this CGR is only dealing with councillor numbers and is not looking to abolish any councils. There are 2 mentions of increasing council size, one recommending only in certain areas, but it is not specified which areas they think are under-represented. Changing only a few areas instead of whole council change risks substantially altering the elector to councillor ratio's, thereby potentially giving more 'weight' to one councillor over another. It is therefore recommended that the councillor numbers should stay the same instead of reducing or increasing them.	Agree	4	4		No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 2 responses received for Stage 2 (compared to 17 at Stage 1) both of which were in agreement with the recommendation.
Dover (Maxton and Elms Vale Ward)	2896	2	1448		3	965	2				2	2		
Dover (Rokesley Ward)	454	1	454		1	454	1				1	1		
Dover (St Radigund's Ward)	5027	4	1257		5	1,005	4				4	4		
Dover (Tower Hamlets Ward)	2811	2	1405		3	937	2				2	2		
Dover (Town and Castle Ward)	5989	5	1198		6	998	5				5	5		
Eastry	2142	11	195	N/A	10	214	11		Of the 3 responses received, only 1 recommended change, but did not state whether increasing or decreasing the numbers would be optimal. The response of the Parish Council states that they struggle to fill the council seats, despite wanting to remain above the NALC recommended maximum number of seats and being uncontested for the elections in 2019 and 2023. The struggle to fill seats is an important factor here, but as the majority opinion received is that no changes should be made, it is therefore recommended that the number of councillors stay the same at 11.	Agree	11	11		No changes to be made from recommended number. 3 responses were received at Stage 2, of which 2 were in favour of the recommendation. The response against the recommendation stated that the 3 responses received at Stage 1 were not enough to base a decision on. Unfortunately, as only 3 responses were received to Stage 1 for Eastry, and a decision has to be made, we can only make considerations based on those 3 responses received. Therefore there is no change to the recommended number of councillors to Eastry Parish.
Eythorne (Barfrestone Ward)	35	1	35	Total electorate: 1,979 = no more than 9 cltrs	1	35	1		The responses were split 50/50 regarding changing councillor numbers. The response requesting change asks for an increase to 11 for Eythorne, which takes it further above the NALC maximum recommended number. The Parish Council feels that decreasing the numbers will have a detrimental effect on 'recruitment' to the council, although the democratic preference is that 'recruitment' to councils is by way of an election rather than co-option. Decreasing the numbers should encourage this, as there have been no contested elections to the parish council since 2009. However, with no requests to decrease the number of seats for elections, it is recommended to make no change to the numbers, in line with the Parish Council request.	Agree	1	1		No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 2 responses received for Stage 2, both of which were in agreement with the recommendation.
Eythorne (Eythorne Ward)	1944	10	194		8	243	10				10	10		

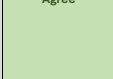
Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (clrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAGE 1 RESPONSES			FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
							Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning	Majority response from CGR Stage 2: Agree / Disagree / No majority / No responses received.	Current number of council seats / councillors	Number of seats / councillors from Draft Recommendations	Final recommendation for number of seats / councillors No change to draft recommendations  Changes to Draft Recommendation  	Reasoning
Goodnestone	337	5	67	N/A	7	48	5		The Parish Council was the only response received, recommending the number of councillors remain at 5. The last elections to the parish council were in 2023 which would suggest there is good democratic engagement in the community. It is recommended to leave the seat numbers at 5.	Agree	5	5		No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Great Mongeham	674	7	96	N/A	7	96	7		The Parish Council was the only response received, recommending the number of councillors remain at 7. As no elections to the parish council have taken place since 2003, it would suggest that increasing the numbers would be more likely to increase co-options, rather than elections to the Council. It is recommended to leave the seat numbers at 7.	Agree	7	7		No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Guston	1135	7	162	N/A	8	142	7		No responses were received in regard to Guston. Although the NALC recommended maximum number is an increase to 8 councillors, there has been no contested elections to the parish council since 1983, which would suggest increasing the numbers may not be useful and would encourage co-option rather than election. There has been no response from Guston Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended to leave the number of seats at 7.	Agree	7	7		No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Hougham Without	380	7	54	N/A	7	54	7		All responses received advised 7 as the ideal number to run the council effectively. This matches the NALC recommendation so it is recommended to make no change to the numbers.	No responses received	7	7		No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received at Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Langdon	497	7	71	N/A	7	71	7		Only 2 responses received overall, one to keep the numbers as is, and one response which does not give an answer to whether they believe the council numbers should be changed or not; the queries raised in that response cannot be responded to as part of this Review, as it can only answer questions on parish council numbers and has no remit to respond to other questions. No elections to Langdon Parish Council have taken place since 1979, so it could be argued that there is a democratic surplus on the council and numbers should be reduced to 5 rather than kept as 7. There has been no response from Langdon Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended to leave the number of seats at 7 in line with the one relevant response and NALC guidelines.	No responses received	7	7		No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received at Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (clrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAGE 1 RESPONSES			FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
							Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning	Majority response from CGR Stage 2: Agree / Disagree / No majority / No responses received.	Current number of council seats / councillors	Number of seats / councillors from Draft Recommendations	Final recommendation for number of seats / councillors No change to draft recommendations  Changes to Draft Recommendation  	Reasoning
Lydden	691	9	77	N/A	7	99	7		No responses were received in regard to Lydden. The NALC maximum recommended number is a decrease to 7 councillors and the last contested election took place in 2018, which would suggest the decrease would be useful in preserving the democratic process of election rather than co-option. There has been no response from Lydden Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended to reduce the number of seats available to 7 in line with NALC guidelines and the fact that they are currently operating effectively with several vacant seats.	Agree	9	7		No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received at Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Nonington	773	7	110	N/A	7	110	7		No responses were received in regard to Nonington. No elections have been held to the parish council since 1999, so it could be argued that there is a democratic surplus on the council and that numbers should be reduced rather than kept the same. However, the NALC recommended number is 7 councillors which matches the current number and it is therefore recommended that on this occasion, the number of seats should remain unchanged.	No responses received	7	7		No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received at Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Northbourne	843	7	120	N/A	7	120	7		No responses were received in regard to Northbourne. The last contested election to the parish was held in 2019, which would suggest no democratic surplus on the council. The NALC recommended number is 7 councillors which matches the current number and it is therefore recommended that the numbers remain unchanged.	No responses received	7	7		No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received at Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Preston	784	7	112	N/A	7	112	7		No responses were received in regard to Preston. The last contested election to the parish was held in 2019, which would suggest no democratic surplus on the council. The NALC recommended number is 7 councillors which matches the current number and therefore it is recommended that the numbers remain unchanged.	No responses received	7	7		No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received at Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Ringwould with Kingsdown	1766	9	196	N/A	9	196	9		Only 1 response was received in regard to Ringwould with Kingsdown, recommending the number of seats remain the same. This number matches the NALC recommended number and the last contested election was held in 2018, which would suggest sufficient democratic engagement in the area and therefore no change is recommended.	Agree	9	9		No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Ripple	283	5	57	N/A	7	40	5		Only 1 response was received in regard to Ripple, recommending the number of seats remain the same. Although this number is less than the recommended number by NALC, no contested elections to the parish council have been held since 1983, which would suggest increasing the number of seats available would not be useful. It is therefore recommended to leave the numbers unchanged.	No responses received	5	5		No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received at Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cltrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAGE 1 RESPONSES			FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
							Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning	Majority response from CGR Stage 2: Agree / Disagree / No majority / No responses received.	Current number of council seats / councillors	Number of seats / councillors from Draft Recommendations	Final recommendation for number of seats / councillors No change to draft recommendations  Changes to Draft Recommendation  	Reasoning
River	2921	10	292	N/A	11	266	10		Only 1 response received, suggesting the number of councillors be reduced to 8. This is below the number recommended by NALC, which would increase the seats from 10 to 11. There have been no contested parish council elections since 1991, so an increase of seats as suggested by NALC guidelines would seem unnecessary at this time and the number of councillors suggested in the response takes it further away from the NALC guidelines. There has been no response from River Parish Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. It is recommended that the councillor numbers remain unchanged at this time.	Agree	10	10		No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Sandwich (Sandwich North Ward)	2723	8	340	Total electorate: 5,306 = no more than 13 cltrs	6	454	8		The majority of respondents - including the Town Council - do not want the number of seats on the council to be amended. The Town Council and other respondents make valid points about workload and staffing committees. Several responders felt strongly about the need to ensure equal representation for the North and South wards. All the responses requesting change want either a reduction in numbers or to abolish the council. It should be noted that this CGR is only looking at councillor numbers, and is not looking to abolish any councils. In keeping with the majority of respondents and their accompanied reasonings, it is recommended to not change the number of seats for Sandwich Town Council.	Agree	8	8		No changes to be made from recommended number. 9 responses received for Stage 2, of which 8 were in agreement with the recommendation and 1 that believed all responses to Stage 1 were from Sandwich councillors and should be ignored (For reference, only 2 of the 7 responses received were from councillors in Stage 1). 6 of the 9 Stage 2 responses were made by councillors who represent Sandwich. With no other representations received to consider, 'no change' is still recommended.
Sandwich (Sandwich South Ward)	2583	8	323		6	430	8				8	8		
Shepherdswell with Coldred (Coldred Ward)	153	3	51	Total electorate: 1,660 = no more than 9 cltrs	2	77	3		The 2 responses received were split 50/50 regarding changing councillor numbers. The response for 'change' suggests matching the NALC recommended number. The Parish Council response states that the number of seats available for election to the council should remain the same to ensure proper representation and to reflect the level of community engagement. The seats were contested at the last elections in 2023, suggesting good democratic engagement. It is therefore recommended that the councillor numbers remain the same.	No majority	3	3		No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 2 responses received for Stage 2, of which 1 was for and 1 against the recommended 'no change'. The argument against no change focuses on decisions taking too long, whilst the argument for no change focuses on the number of councillors being a good reflection of community activity and ensuring proper representation. With no majority and the argument in agreement with the recommendation being reasonable, it is recommended to make no changes from the recommended number of councillors for this parish.
Shepherdswell with Coldred (Shepherdswell Ward)	1507	9	167		7	215	9				9	9		
Sholden (Hyton Ward)	644	2	322	Total electorate: 2,009 = no more than 10 cltrs	3	215	2		Only 2 responses were received, one for and one against changing the councillor numbers. The response for change wanted the number of councillors reduced to 3, which is less than the minimum number of councillors required for a parish council (the minimum required is 5), and this is way below the numbers recommended by NALC for the size of the electorate. The Parish Council suggests keeping the number of seats at 7 in total, which they say will enable the effective running of the council through potential future changes. It is therefore recommended that there be no change to councillor numbers in this parish.	No responses received	2	2		No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received at Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Sholden (Sholden Ward)	1278	4	320		6	213	4				4	4		
Sholden (Tenants Hill Ward)	87	1	87		1	87	1				1	1		

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (clrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAGE 1 RESPONSES			FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
							Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning	Majority response from CGR Stage 2: Agree / Disagree / No majority / No responses received.	Current number of council seats / councillors	Number of seats / councillors from Draft Recommendations	Final recommendation for number of seats / councillors No change to draft recommendations  Changes to Draft Recommendation  	Reasoning
St Margaret's-At-Cliffe	2240	9	249	N/A	10	224	9		The majority of responses are in favour of keeping the councillor numbers the same, one citing difficulty in attracting people to the role of councillor as a reason for not increasing the number. The Parish Council admits this has been an issue, but they are embarking on a programme of engagement to combat this. No parish elections have been contested since 2015, which could suggest that increasing the number would lead to more co-options instead elections to the Council. It is therefore recommended to leave the councillor numbers at 9 on this occasion, in line with the majority of responses received.	No responses received	9	9	 9	No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received for Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Staple	515	7	74	N/A	7	74	7		Only one response was received for Staple, from the Parish Council recommending no change to councillor numbers as the current number works well. As this matches the number of recommended seats by NALC, it is recommended to not change the number of seats available for election.	No responses received	7	7	 7	No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received for Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Stourmouth	243	5	49	N/A	7	35	7		Only one response was received for Stourmouth, from the Parish Council requesting to change the councillor numbers from 5 to 7. No reasoning was given for the change and there has been no elections to the parish council since 1995. However, the number of recommended seats by NALC for the electorate at Stourmouth is also 7, so it is recommended to change the number of seats as requested.	No responses received	5	7	 7	No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received for Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Sutton	685	7	98	N/A	7	98	7		No responses were received in regard to Sutton and the last contested election to the parish was held in 1987, which could suggest a democratic surplus on the council. However, the NALC recommended number is 7 councillors which matches the current number so it is recommended the numbers stay the same.	No responses received	7	7	 7	No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received for Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Temple Ewell	1424	12	119	N/A	9	158	9		The majority of responses were in favour of changing the number of seats on the council by reducing them. The one response against change suggested the possibility of merging Temple Ewell with it's neighbouring parish of River. As this CGR is based solely upon councillor numbers, this cannot be considered at this time but will be noted as an interest for the next CGR to consider. Temple Ewell Parish Council is in favour of matching the NALC recommended numbers so it is therefore recommended to reduce the number of councillors from 12 to 9 in line with NALC and the majority of responses for this council.	No responses received	12	9	 9	No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received for Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Tilmanstone	273	5	55	N/A	7	39	5		Both responses received do not wish to increase the councillor numbers. The Parish Council feels an increase at this time would lead to vacant roles, but is open to change in the future when the Whitfield Expansion is completed and the effect on the parish is known. Elections to the Council were held in 2023, so democratic engagement is in evidence. In line with the majority of responses and the request of the Parish Council, it is recommended to keep the number of seats on the council at 5.	Agree	5	5	 5	No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Walmer (Gladstone Ward)	757	2	378		2	378	2		The majority of responses wanted to see a change in the councillor numbers; all of those were in favour of a reduction in numbers, although most wanted a reduction to numbers that would be too far below the NALC guidelines. Several responses discussed merging Deal and Walmer and / or having fewer councils overall. This CGR is only covering councillor numbers, so merging and/or		2	2	 2	Changes to be made from recommended number. 11 responses were received in total for Stage 2 of the consultation, 9 disagreeing with the recommendation and 2 agreeing with the recommendation. Of the 11 responses received, 6 were from representatives of Walmer Council and 5 from residents of the area. The majority responses agreed that without a redrawing of the current wards, electoral inequality is too great when the numbers are reduced as recommended and the council

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cltrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAGE 1 RESPONSES			FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
							Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning	Majority response from CGR Stage 2: Agree / Disagree / No majority / No responses received.	Current number of council seats / councillors	Number of seats / councillors from Draft Recommendations	Final recommendation for number of seats / councillors No change to draft  Changes to Draft Recommendation  	Reasoning
Walmer (Lower Walmer, St Saviour's Ward)	1262	3	421	Total electorate: 6,624 = no more than 15 cltrs	3	421	2		abolishing of parishes cannot be considered; however the interest will be noted for a future CGR. There has been no response from Walmer Town Council to this CGR regarding their current councillor numbers, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. NALC recommends no more than 15 councillors which matches the current amount but the numbers could be reduced to 12 as one response suggested. Reducing the numbers to 12 will be in line with the majority opinion of a reduction being needed and is close to the NALC recommended numbers. Elector to councillor ratios would be amended; Walmer's Gladstone Ward (378) remains the same, but St Saviours (421), Wellington (464) and Upper Walmer (458) will change the electors per councillor ratio to 631, 579 and 572 respectively. The figures are largely in parity, with Gladstone remaining the smallest ratio. It is therefore recommended that the number of councillors be reduced from 15 to 12 in line with the majority responses asking for a reduction.	Disagree	3	2	 3	will be unable to function effectively. All 5 residents were against the recommended changes, with 4 of those feeling that the council would not be able to run effectively with less councillors and 1 who believed it should be reduced further to 7 members because they don't believe that NALC (National Association of Local Councils) guidelines are worth taking into consideration and that instead the appetite is for abolishing or merging the parish. As explained in Stage 1 responses, this particular CGR is not looking to abolish or merge any councils but that can be looked at in the future, after Local Government Reorganisation has taken place. Of the 2 responses in agreement with the changes, they both believed representation on the council should only be by people who live in Walmer, instead of people who live outside of the parish boundary. Unfortunately that would require a change to Section 79 of the Local Government Act 1972 which includes as a qualification for standing for election that a candidate can live in the parish or within 3 miles (4.8km) of its boundary. Legislative changes can only be made by Parliament, and not by a local authority.
Walmer (Lower Walmer, Wellington Ward)	2318	5	464		5	464	4				5	4	 5	
Walmer (Upper Walmer Ward)	2288	5	458		5	458	4				5	4	 5	
Whitfield	6112	14	437	N/A	14	437	11		The majority of responses want to reduce the number of council seats from 14 to 7, however this is well below the NALC recommended number of 14. Although there is much growth in the area due to the ongoing Whitfield Expansion, there has been no contested election to the parish council since 1979, which would suggest a reduction in councillor numbers would be useful to encourage elections rather than co-options, and will allow the residents of Whitfield to have a say on who sits on the Parish Council. There has been no response to the CGR received from Whitfield Parish Council, so their views cannot be taken into consideration at this point in the CGR, although they will have the opportunity to respond to the Draft Recommendations at Stage 2 of this Review. In line with the majority of responses requesting a reduction and the lack of contested parish council elections for nearly 50 years, it is recommended to reduce the councillor numbers from 14 to 11, which should still allow the council to function effectively, considering they currently have 11 councillors and 3 vacancies.	Disagree	14	11	 14	Changes to be made from recommended number. 5 responses were received in total for Stage 2 of the consultation; 2 of the responses were from Whitfield Council representatives, and a third response appeared to be from a resident responding on behalf of the council. A couple of responses seemed to suggest that co-opting councillors was better than holding elections to allow the residents of the parish to decide who represents them, and one response felt that not enough people had given opinions at Stage 1 and so their opinions should not have been considered at all. It is important to note that we can only consider opinions that have been put forward as part of the review and whether it is 1 response, 100 or 1000, all viewpoints are considered but we will always try and satisfy the majority because that is how democracy works. For Stage 2, the same number of responses were received as for Stage 1, and we have given those opinions the same consideration as we did the 5 responses for Stage 1. Of the 5 responses received for Stage 2 of the Review, all 5 disagreed with the recommendation, mainly citing the expansion of Whitfield as the reason why it should not be reduced in number, as well as that 14 councillors matches the NALC guideline number for the current parish electorate. As no other responses were received in favour of the recommended reduction, and the main argument for wanting no change is reasonable, it is recommended that the councillor numbers for Whitfield remain at 14 rather than the Draft Recommendation of 11.
Wingham	1638	9	182	N/A	9	182	9		All responses received agreed the current number of councillors was suitable and should not be changed. The number of current councillors (9) matches the NALC recommended number of seats (9) so it is recommended to make no changes.	No responses received	9	9	 9	No changes to be made from recommended number. No responses received for Stage 2 to argue for or against the recommendation.
Woodnesborough	1088	9	121	N/A	8	136	9		Only 1 response was received - from the Parish Council - in regard to Woodnesborough, recommending the number of seats remain the same. Although this number is 1 more than the recommended number by NALC, it is recommended that the request is upheld on this occasion and the number of seats remains at 9 in line with the response received.	Agree	9	9	 9	No changes to be made from recommended number. Only 1 response received for Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.
Worth (Sandwich Bay Ward)	124	2	62	Total electorate: 806 = no more than 7	2	62	2		No responses were received in regard to Worth Parish Council. As the current number of seats matches the NALC	Agree	2	2	 2	No changes to be made from recommended number.

Parish (Parish Ward)	Estimated 2031 electorate	Current number of council seats / councillors	Electors per Councillor based on current seats and 2031 electorate	Total number of recommended councillors (cltrs) to be divided between the wards of the parish for best equality of electors per councillor. (Only applies to warded towns/parishes)	Number of council seats / councillors recommended using NALC guidance* (figure in red if different from current figure)	Electors per Councillor based on NALC seats / councillors recommended and 2031 electorate	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM STAGE 1 RESPONSES			FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS				
							Recommended number of seats / councillors	Increase  Decrease  No change 	Reasoning	Majority response from CGR Stage 2: Agree / Disagree / No majority / No responses received.	Current number of council seats / councillors	Number of seats / councillors from Draft Recommendations	Final recommendation for number of seats / councillors No change to draft recommendations  Changes to Draft Recommendation  	Reasoning
Worth (Worth Village Ward)	682	5	136	5	5	136	5		recommended numbers, it is recommended to make no changes here.		5	5		Only 1 response received for Stage 2 which was in agreement with the recommendation.

All Stage 2 Responses Received

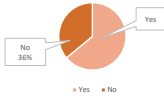
STAGE 2 RESPONSES FOR ALL AREAS

50 Responses in total.

32 agreeing with the recommendations for their town/parish. (64%)

18 disagreeing with the recommendations for their town/parish. (36%)

Do you agree with the recommendations for your town/parish council?



Stage 1 Responses Statistics for reference:

107 responses in total

50 in agreement of changing councillor numbers (47%)

56 against changing councillor numbers (52%)

1 email response with no preference stated (1%)

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question: Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?	Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?	Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Eastry (11) - No change recommended	No		A sample size of 3 responses is not statistically significant against a population of over 2,000 therefore the result is not valid. Either a bigger sample should be obtained or else the whole thing scrapped as not economically viable. Who is validating these results?
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	No		Most people want the number to reduce but the town councillors don't. Cllr Mills at Council said he would listen to electors not councillors, he will either make the reduction in Sandwich or, he is a liar.
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eastry (11) - No change recommended	Yes	The number of required Councillors for Eastry is appropriate. At present there are 8 councillors so 3 more are needed.	
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Aylesham (9) - Increase to 14 councillors recommended	No		we have to many councillors, the bureaucracy is out of control the Parish of Aylesham does not need 14 councillors It should be reduced to 6. And the staffing levels are out of control too It's now costing 90,000 a year plus in wages and pensions. they've just delivered a massive 8 per cent rise on the rates in Aylesham Parish Council. This is just not acceptable to the people of aylesham.
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		Imbalances in electors per councillor in Wards under proposed changes would leave St Saviours ward with almost twice as many electors as the Gladstone ward. Given the limitations on the review my suggestion is that the numbers remain at 15.
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		Reducing the number of councillors at this stage makes no sense as the resulting number of residents per councillor ends up extremely unbalanced and far worse than the current situation. A reduction of councillors alone with no re-drawing of the ward boundaries or potential other changes which could in future be made, will simply result in an increased workload for current/future councillors, potentially less being delivered for the residents of Walmer, reduces local representation and will make it increasingly difficult to attract local people into these positions going forwards.
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		At a time of significant and far reaching regional/local governance changes [details of which are not yet confirmed] and with some larger councils already divesting services [for example I understand that DDC is in preliminary discussions with Walmer Town Council over the continuing provision of public toilets and there are other facilities which are being considered for transfer] to town or parish council it seems unwise to reduce the number of councillors on Walmer Town Council thus potentially increasing the work load of the remaining elected members and office staff. Therefore it seems like the wrong time to shrink the number of elected councillors by 20%.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	Yes	The Review has taken into account our views and those of the majority of local respondents. We are happy with no change.	
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	Yes	I write in response to the second stage consultation by Dover District Council for the Community Governance Review. I support the recommendation to retain the number of councillors at its current level for the following reasons: 1. Parity Between the Two Wards Retaining 8 councillors per ward would ensure continued parity while better reflecting the differing geographic spread and population growth patterns, particularly in the north of the parish. 2. Complex Governance Responsibilities The Town Council has an unusually complex governance environment, including its ongoing relationship with the Sandwich Tollbridge Fund. These additional responsibilities justify maintaining the number of councillors at its current level to ensure adequate capacity and oversight. 3. Avoiding Excessive Workload Pressures Any reduction in representation for either ward would significantly increase the number of electors represented by each councillor. This would place disproportionate workload pressures on members and could hinder effective decision-making and representation. 5. Community Engagement Across Distinct Areas Sandwich comprises three distinct community areas: the south, the historic centre, and the area across the toll bridge. Maintaining a higher number of councillors will better support meaningful engagement across these varied communities. 6. Growth in the North Ward There is a notable increase in residents within the North Ward over the next 5-10 years, with many located towards the outer edge of the parish boundary. This expansion in both geography and population supports retaining the current number of councillors to ensure adequate local representation. 7. Impact of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Ongoing and future impacts arising from Local Government Reorganisation are likely to increase the strategic and representative responsibilities placed on parish councils. A council of 16 members would provide resilience during this period of change. 8. Historical Context Sandwich has traditionally operated with 16 councillors, retaining a council of this size would provide a better balance between efficiency, fair representation, and the ability to manage the town's governance complexities and growing community engagement needs. Because Sandwich is not a "regular" parish council- it is trustee of two charities, owns a number of assets and is one of the original Cinque Ports. This means it requires a high level of governance and 16 councillors is an appropriate number. Sandwich is, given its governance history and funding structure, complex: many councillors are heavily involved in a number of key Parish Council issues, and any reduction in overall numbers would make the work even harder to complete properly and to appropriate standards. The centre of the town is in the North Ward, and the South ward has, under past administrations had far less attention and input, even though that ward has seen the recent population growth. Any unbalanced membership between the wards would again raise the issue of one ward favoured over another - a situation the present council has worked hard to remove. There should be equal representation between wards.	
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		The current number is 15 and that enables a democratic spread of councillors through the town. Reducing it to 12 introduces an imbalance in the wards (residents per councillor). 12 is also too small a number to fill the necessary committees.
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	Yes	Sandwich is a complex town and parish with a large mix of both businesses and residential properties, there are a lot of complex matters to deal with and this requires a large number of councillors, 16 as proposed is about adequate. As there is a 19% growth over these two wards in the future it is important to maintain the existing number of councillors in order to upkeep the requirements of the residents and the infrastructure. I hope the current proposal of continuing with 16 councillors is upheld.	
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	Yes	The current number of councillors is required for this council to maintain efficiency. There are many committees, charities and other responsibilities that need to be managed.	

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council-Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council-Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question: Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?	Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?	Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	Yes	Sandwich Town Council is an unusual Town Council in that it has great deal of business arising out of the two charities (The Toll Bridge Fund and the Georgina Maddox Charity Fund) of which the Council is a Trustee. The running of these two substantial charities and the decision making surrounding them takes up a great deal of councillor time, in addition to all the work that arises from normal and routine Town Council responsibilities. It is essential that the current number of councillors (16) is maintained so that the additional work can be spread over as many councillors as possible. Sandwich North and Sandwich South are about equal in population size and it therefore makes sense for each ward to have 8 councillors.	
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	Yes	Due to the Nature of how vast Sandwich Town Council is and the amount of work I feel that no change is required and to keep all 16 Councillor seats	
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		The committees need to have sufficient members to work effectively. To cut to 12 would put extra work load not only on the Councillors but the office staff. It is also unknown as to what extra responsibilities will be passed down from the new Unitary authorities to Parish and Town Councils. there probably is a need though to split one of the wards which is too big into 2 wards
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Worth (7 total - Sandwich Bay (2), Worth (5)) - No change recommended	Yes	Worth Parish Council requests the number of seats to remain at 5, as the current number of seats matches the NALC guidelines and that the current number works well	
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eythorne (11 total - Eythorne (10), Barfrestone (1)) - No change recommended	Yes	There are new houses already being built and the prospect of 300 to 400 more in the coming years according to the Local Plan, so an increase of residents would mean the likelihood of more representation needed at Parish Council level. GJR is also on the horizon.	
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5)) - No change recommended	Yes	I think the recommendation is that the number of councillors stays the same.	
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No	I agree with this, more councillors would make it difficult to make decisions as it would take longer to get all views across.	Walmer: Firstly thank you for the evident careful attention to the collective feedback from stage 1. It is interesting you note that respondents all wanted reductions in numbers of councillors and mostly to levels considerably below the small reduction (to 12 from 15) that you are proposing. It is evident, as you note in your summary of the feedback, that some respondents favoured outright abolition / merger. This indicates that the appetite from the people the council serves and who also pay the council taxes that fund it is for a much greater level of ambition in terms of efficiencies. While the reduction you propose is welcome, it is not significant and is not in line with the appetite for reduction / efficiencies expressed by the members of the local population that responded. You justify the approach you have taken by referring to NALC guidelines. It appears that NALC is simply a "national membership organisation for community, neighbourhood, parish and town councils" (https://www.nalc.gov.uk/about/about-nalc.html) and in fact an organisation that operates in a campaigning posture to / pretty much a lobbying organisation towards government. It does not appear to have any statutory or regulatory responsibility or powers. So why does it need to constrain DDCs actions in this matter? Even if you wanted to comply with its guidelines, it seems the numbers of councillors referred to are guidelines for the maximum number, with the minimum being 7. So in conclusion, given the overwhelming consultees' view expressed on the side of efficiencies, and the huge pressures on council budgets, and the council taxes that fund the budgets, why do you not take the opportunity to reduce the numbers to ?? It does not seem it would even take much political courage to do that, in fact it seems your response is out of line with the views of the responding constituents.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Goodnestone (5) - No change recommended	Yes	5 is the number that the Parish Council originally considered was appropriate and still is.	
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eythorne (11 total - Eythorne (10), Barfrestone (1)) - No change recommended	Yes	11 Councillors overall will give the opportunity for a more diverse group of people to become involved with serving the local community, especially with the increase in housing suggested in the Local Plan.	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		Without an associated ward boundary review the change in numbers of councillors to 12 creates an electoral imbalance (66% difference in electors per councillor between St Saviours and Gladstone Ward) that is unacceptable and Walmer Town Council wishes to remain with 15 members. Councillors on Walmer Town Council commit to a high level of volunteering both through events and other activities and therefore the public would be better served by 15 councillors.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Lydden (9) - Reduction to 7 councillors recommended	Yes	Lydden Parish Council supports the recommendation to reduce the number of councillors, and we offer the following rationale for the District Council's consideration: Recruitment and Sustainability As a small, rural parish, Lydden faces significant and ongoing challenges in recruiting sufficient volunteers to fill council positions. The current requirement of 9 councillors consistently exceeds the realistic pool of engaged and eligible residents willing to serve. This creates a cycle of vacancies that is difficult to resolve and places undue administrative and reputational burden on the council. Quorum and Governance Risk Under the current 9-councillor model, the quorum threshold presents a practical governance risk. When vacancies arise, as they frequently do in smaller rural communities, the council's ability to meet quorum and conduct lawful business is compromised. Reducing the number of councillors to 7 would lower the quorum requirement proportionately, providing greater resilience and ensuring the council can continue to function effectively and lawfully even during periods of vacancy. Workload Distribution A council of 7 members remains sufficient to ensure a fair and even distribution of responsibilities, committee participation, and community engagement activities appropriate to the scale and needs of Lydden Parish. This number strikes the right balance between democratic representation and operational practicality. Proportionality to Parish Scale The size and population of Lydden Parish does not warrant, nor does it practically support, a 9-member council. A body of 7 elected members is proportionate to the parish's geography, resident population, and the volume of business the council is required to transact.	

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 3 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council-Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council-Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question:	Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?	Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		As a Walmer resident (I am also a WTC cllr) I think reducing the number of cllrs from the population/cllr ratio recommended by NALC that Walmer has currently, is very misguided. Generally, it is bizarre to make CG changes to local councils before the big changes (of LGR Local Govt Reorganisation, the end of district and county council and shift to Unitary councils), are felt by EK citizens, there will be lessons to learn after vestment day. There is likely to be more work, not less, for unpaid local parish level councillors and councils, when Unitary Authorities take over. Why? Because elected members of UAs are likely to be covering division populations that are 3 to 4 times as big, and covering twice the responsibility areas of EK higher level councillors currently. It will be difficult for new UA councillors to earn the 5 figure cllr allowances they are likely to receive, given there are only 7 days in a week. In general terms unpaid local councillors will continue to be good value for money after LGR changes across Kent, this is why unparished districts are seeing new town councils coming into being. In specific terms WalmerTC has many fewer officers, 2.6FTE, than its near neighbour DealTC, it provides a number of events that other local councils don't and the extra hands on deck are those of volunteer WTC councillors. It is difficult to see how the current provision of events/ amenities could be provided if the number of unpaid WTC cllrs were reduced from 15 to 12. A reduction of cllrs could well result in an increase in paid WTC staff which would have an impact on the precept that I would pay as a Walmer resident. Furthermore I regard it as unfair to put in place a cut in councillors which would result in cllrs elected in St Saviours ward having 67% more residents per cllr than cllrs elected in Gladstone ward. The current arrangement is much more equitable between the 4 Walmer wards. I think the number of WPC councilors should remain at 14.
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councilors recommended	No		The number of residents within the Whitfield Parish is now increasing rapidly, due to the Whitfield Urban Development. There needs to be enough councilors positions to allow representation from all the different phases of the development. There are presently vacant positions, but having places for 14 councilors allows new residents from new developments zones to join the council immediately, without having to wait for elections.
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councilors recommended	No		I believe that the number of parish councilors should remain at 14 The higher number of councilors is favourable because: • there is a greater chance of a meeting being quorate taking into account illness, holidays and other commitments and circumstances • there are better discussions regarding parish council expenditure • there is a more informed understanding of the needs of the village • there are deeper discussions regarding recommendations for changes and improvements to benefit the village • more councilors enable our villagers to have a voice with local government as we can act as a conduit between them.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Aylesham (9) - Increase to 14 councilors recommended	Yes	Aylesham Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendation to increase councillor numbers from 9 to 14. The Council considers that the proposed increase more accurately reflects the size, electorate, ongoing growth and operational demands of the parish. Members consider that additional councillors would improve democratic representation, assist with workload distribution, strengthen committee capacity and support effective local governance as Aylesham continues to expand. The Council further considers that the recommendation is consistent with the community's current and anticipated future needs, particularly in light of planned development and Local Government Reorganisation.	
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Shepherdswell with Coldred (12 total - Shepherdswell (9), Coldred (3)) - No change recommended	No		A reduction of 2 for Shepherds Well & of 1 for Coldred giving a total of 9. Having attended meetings, decisions seem to take too long. Opinions and points of view can still be aired by 9 councilors.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Great Mongeham (7) - No change recommended	Yes	The Parish Council wanted to remain at 7 Parish Councillors.	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Eastry (11) - No change recommended	Yes	The Parish Councilors wanted to remain at 11 and that is the recommendation so they are happy with it.	
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councilors recommended	No		Whitfield Parish Council should continue to have 14 Councillors serving the community. The Parish Council objects most strongly to any proposal to reduce the numbers of Councillors. There is no good reason for the recommendation to reduce the number of councilors to 11 Only 5 people out of an estimated electorate of over of 6,000 commented -2 No – 3 Yes. A 60/40 split on the preferences of less than one thousandth of the electorate is not a sound basis for making changes to a Parish Council, especially as the comments were generally not well informed and gave no material reasons for the change. The NALC recommendation is for 14 not 11. Full weight should be given to this recommendation. Reduction in number to prompt elections is counterproductive as people are reluctant to stand for election. Sitting Councilors stand again and new Councilors are co-opted. The Co-opted Councilors generally report that they would not have put themselves forward if there was a contested election. Co-option into vacant seats allows new Residents the opportunity to put themselves forward soon after moving into the Parish, rather than waiting for up to 4 years for the next election in 2027, and then have to wait until 2031 for the next opportunity! The vacancies on the Parish Council are advertised frequently and Residents encouraged to come forward to serve, so anyone who wishes to have a say on who is on the council or who wish to serve have plenty of opportunity to do so. There are no good reasons for any change in numbers especially as Whitfield is expanding and will need 14 Councilors to carry out the role of the Council and share the workload. There is currently a strain on Infrastructure, along with notable concerns regarding the capacity of current roads (especially the A2 and A256 junctions), local GPs, and schools to handle the influx of thousands of new homes. A larger number of Councilors allows a more efficient engagement with the infrastructure and service providers and to prioritise the delivery of promised facilities, such as local convenience stores, community centres, and primary schools integrated into the master plan. A larger council allows a more representative mix of councilors to really represent the views of all the residents, from both new and old areas, of all ages, sexes, backgrounds and ethnicity, and to accurately represent the diverse voices of Whitfield, spanning both its historic village core and modern developments—it is essential to have a balanced variety of perspectives.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Tilmanstone (5) - No change recommended	Yes	The Council already struggles to fill vacancies. The Council would potentially like this to be reconsidered in future years, should development lead to a considerable increase in the population of the parish.	
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councilors recommended	No		Whitfield is continuing to expand with different new builds increasing not only the population but also the need for closer management of the many problems that causes .The idea that it will mean a smaller council is not logical or practical .

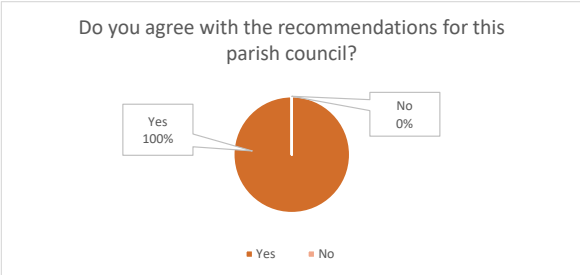
In what capacity are you responding to this Review?	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council-Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council-Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question:	Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?	Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.
area		Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?		I therefore strongly advise against the decrease in numbers and suggest that the continued increase in building and pop produlation requires even more than the present number .
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5)) - No change recommended.	Yes	Deal Town Council unanimously agreed that no change was required to the current number of Councillors for Deal Town Council.	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5)) - No change recommended	Yes	The Town Council agreed to maintain a level of eighteen councillors for the Dover Town wards, as stated within the recommendation of the Community Governance Review. Note: This may not be a matter for the Community Governance Review but we would like to highlight the very small number of electorate within the Rokesley Ward of Dover Town and was unsure if this could be integrated back into the Buckland Ward of the Dover town, as it had been previously? As mentioned during the first stage of the consultation, members feel that the current number of 12 councillors is a good reflection of community activity and ensures proper representation.	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Shepherdswell with Coldred (12 total - Shepherdswell (9), Coldred (3)) - No change recommended	Yes		
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Capel-Le-Ferne (9) - No change recommended	Yes	Difficult to recruit Councillors, already have one vacancy unfilled.	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Ash (11) - No change recommended	Yes	No change to existing number of Councillors	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		Without an associated ward boundary review the change in number of councillors recommended creates an imbalance that is unacceptable and Walmer Town Council wishes to remain with 15 members. Councillors on Walmer Town Council commit to a high level of volunteering both through events and other activities and therefore the public would be better served by 15 councillors.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councillors recommended	No		Whitfield Parish Council do not agree with the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors from 14 to 11. Whitfield is a growing Parish, with approved significant development over the coming years, which will bring an increase to the electoral number and community that it represents. Parish Councillors do not agree that the justification for the decision is sound, given the known changes coming within the Parish. We as a Parish Council do recognise that we have not had a full capacity of Councillors for some time, however this reflects recruitment challenges rather than a lack of need for representation. Along side the proposed development around and within Whitfield significantly increasing, this alone will bring a range of issues which would benefit from Parish Council input and oversight, with the workload to existing Parish Councillors, who give their time freely, greatly increasing. We acknowledge that the vacant seats may not all be filled immediately, vacancies may still exist, but by retaining 14 seats it avoids having to undertake further review to increase the numbers once the village has grown. Retaining 14 Councillors also prevents 'locking in' a reduced number which may not be reviewed upwards in the future.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Woodnesborough (9) - No change recommended	Yes	The Parish Councillors believe that they have the correct number of Councillors to represent their Parish.	Whilst the reasoning behind the proposal acknowledges that Whitfield is expanding in size, it looks back to 1979 as justification for a reduction in Councillors. This does not seem logical, Whitfield has only increased in size in this period of time. The opportunity to recruit Councillors from the new developments as they are completed and occupied is also an opportunity for the Parish Council to gain a greater diversity and community representation. Residents who occupy the new developments may well bring new opinions and may have differing views to long standing or established Councillors, this can only be seen as a positive. Whitfield Parish Council strongly suggest that we need to retain 14 seats to allow room for Councillors from both established and new areas of the community the opportunity to represent the electorate.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Great Mongeham (7) - No change recommended	Yes	Parish Councillors feel this is the right number to represent the views of the Parish	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Eastry (11) - No change recommended	Yes	Parish Councillors believe this is the correct number to represent the views of the Parish	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	River (10) - No change recommended	Yes	The Parish Councillors agreed that they were happy with the current arrangements	
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	Yes	At present we only have 6 residents of Walmer serving as Councillors thus 9 councillors are non residents of Walmer - 5 of these non residents also serve on Deal Council and include both the Mayor and deputy Mayor for Deal in 2026-27. Clearly residents are totally outnumbered by non residents which makes a mockery of the aim to have local representation. Let's just say that we reduced to 12 councillors and all 6 resident Councillors were re-elected, then we would still only be in a situation of 50-50 resident to non resident . At a local level , I believe that if the purpose of a Parish Council is to represent the local community in matters to do with the local area then this is best served by residents of the Parish. This was always the intention when local councils were established however , in practice ,and for many reasons , this has not happened. This can be resolved fairly by reducing the number of Councillors. I know that The Council voted on it however 9 of those Councillors clearly have a vested interest ! I would go one step further and suggest that only residents can serve on local Councils	
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	Yes	Strongly believe that Councillors that serve on local councils should be residents of that Parish . On Walmer Council at the present time only 6 of the 15 positions are held by local residents . The mayor and deputy mayor of Deal serve on our Council !!! It makes an absolute mockery of local representation for the matters that affect our community.	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Guston (7) - No change recommended	Yes	There hasn't been a contested election for many years now and we are never overwhelmed by volunteers so maintaining the status quo would appear to be the sensible option	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Ringwould with Kingsdown (9) - No change recommended	Yes	No comment	

Ash Parish

ASH

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 4 in total

1 response (25%) wanted to change the number of councillors

3 responses (75%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk
responding on behalf of the Council I Ash (11) - No change recommended
represent

Yes

No change to existing number of Councillors

Aylesham Parish

AYLESHAM

Stage 2 responses - 2 in total

1 response (50%) agreed with the recommendation

1 response (50%) disagreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 6 in total

4 responses (67%) wanted to change the number of councillors

2 responses (33%) did not want to change numbers.

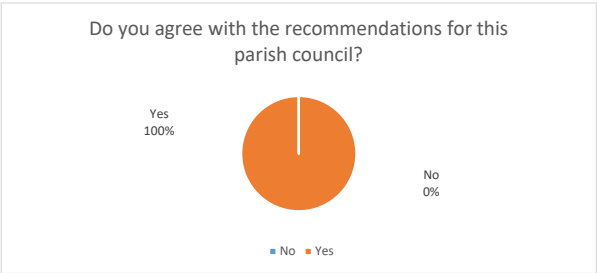
In what capacity are you responding to this Review?		Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx		Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question: Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?		Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?		Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.	
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Aylesham (9) - Increase to 14 councillors recommended		No					we have to many councillors, the bureaucracy is out of control the Parish of Aylesham does not need 14 councillors It should be reduced to 6. And the staffing levels are out of control too It's now costing 90,000 a year plus in wages and pensions. they've just delivered a massive 8 per cent rise on the rates in Aylesham Parish Council. This is just not acceptable to the people of aylesham.	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Aylesham (9) - Increase to 14 councillors recommended		Yes			Aylesham Parish Council supports the Draft Recommendation to increase councillor numbers from 9 to 14. The Council considers that the proposed increase more accurately reflects the size, electorate, ongoing growth and operational demands of the parish. Members consider that additional councillors would improve democratic representation, assist with workload distribution, strengthen committee capacity and support effective local governance as Aylesham continues to expand. The Council further considers that the recommendation is consistent with the community's current and anticipated future needs, particularly in light of planned development and Local Government Reorganisation.			

Capel-le-Ferne Parish

CAPEL-LE-FERNE

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 4 in total

2 responses (50%) wanted to change the number of councillors

2 responses (50%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Capel-Le-Ferne (9) - No change recommended

Yes

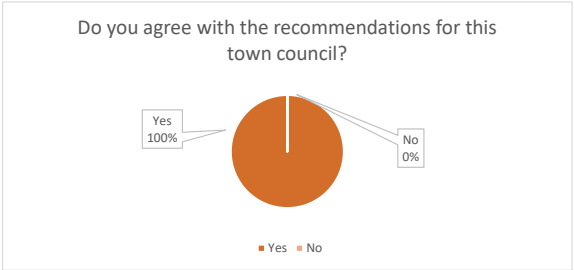
Difficult to recruit Councillors, already have one vacancy unfilled.

Deal Town

DEAL

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 15 in total

10 responses (60%) wanted to change the number of councillors

5 responses (40%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Deal (15 total - Middle Deal (5), Mill Hill (5), North Deal (5)) - No change recommended.

Yes

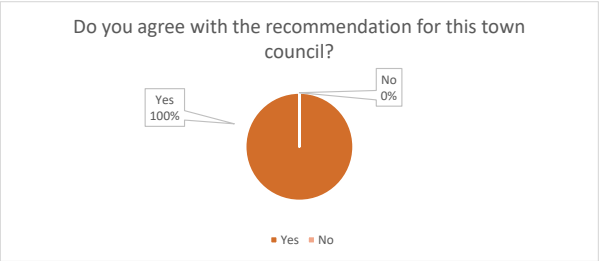
Deal Town Council unanimously agreed that no change was required to the current number of Councillors for Deal Town Council.

Dover Town

DOVER

Stage 2 responses - 2 in total

2 responses (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for references - 17 in total

10 responses (59%) wanted to change the number of councillors

7 responses (41%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5)) - No change recommended	Yes	I think the recommendation is that the number of councillors stays the same. I agree with this, more councillors would make it difficult to make decisions as it would take longer to get all views across.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Dover (18 total - Buckland (4), Maxton & Elms Vale (2), Rokesley Ward (1), St Radigund's (4), Tower Hamlets (2), Town & Castle (5)) - No change recommended	Yes	The Town Council agreed to maintain a level of eighteen councillors for the Dover Town wards, as stated within the recommendation of the Community Governance Review. Note: This may not be a matter for the Community Governance Review but we would like to highlight the very small number of electorate within the Rokesley Ward of Dover Town and was unsure if this could be integrated back into the Buckland Ward of the Dover town, as it had been previously?

Eastry Parish

EASTRY

Stage 2 responses - 3 in total

2 responses (67%) agreed with the recommendation

1 response (33%) disagreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 3 in total

1 response (33%) wanted to change the number of councillors

2 responses (67%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

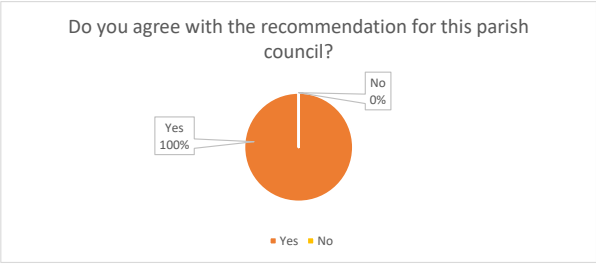
I am an elector registered to vote in th	Eastry (11) - No change recommended	No		A sample size of 3 responses is not statistically significant against a population of over 2,000 therefore the result is not valid. Either a bigger sample should be obtained or else the whole thing scrapped as not economically viable. Who is validating these results?
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eastry (11) - No change recommended	Yes	The number of required Councillors for Eastry is appropriate. At present there are 8 councillors so 3 more are needed.	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Eastry (11) - No change recommended	Yes	The Parish Councillors wanted to remain at 11 and that is the recommendation so they are happy with it. Parish Councillors believe this is the correct number to represent the views of the Parish	

Eythorne Parish

EYTHORNE

Stage 2 responses - 2 in total

2 responses (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 2 in total

1 response (50%) wanted to change the number of councillors

1 responses (50%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question:	Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?	Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.
Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?				

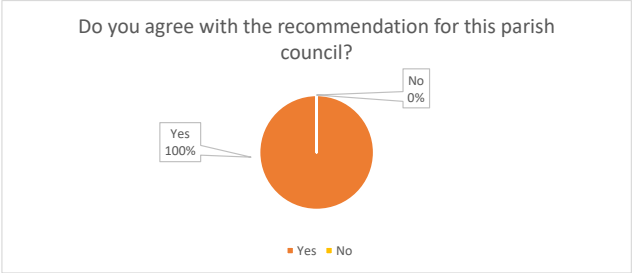
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eythorne (11 total - Eythorne (10), Barfrestone (1)) - No change recommended	Yes	There are new houses already being built and the prospect of 300 to 400 more in the coming years according to the Local Plan, so an increase of residents would mean the likelihood of more representation needed at Parish Council level. LGR is also on the horizon.
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Eythorne (11 total - Eythorne (10), Barfrestone (1)) - No change recommended	Yes	11 Councillors overall will give the opportunity for a more diverse group of people to become involved with serving the local community, especially with the increase in housing suggested in the Local Plan.

Goodnestone Parish

GOODNESTONE

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for references - 1 in total

1 response (100%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Goodnestone (5) - No change recommended

Yes

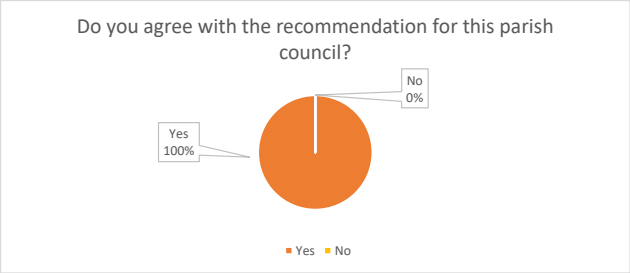
5 is the number that the Parish Council originally considered was appropriate and still is.

Great Mongeham Parish

GREAT MONGEHAM

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 1 in total

1 response (100%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Great Mongeham (7) - No change recommended

Yes

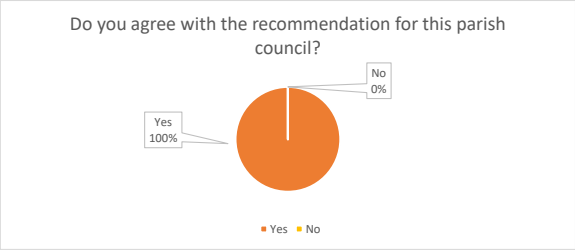
The Parish Council wanted to remain at 7 Parish Councillors. Parish Councillors feel this is the right number to represent the views of the Parish

Guston Parish

GUSTON

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 0 in total

No responses received.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Guston (7) - No change recommended

Yes

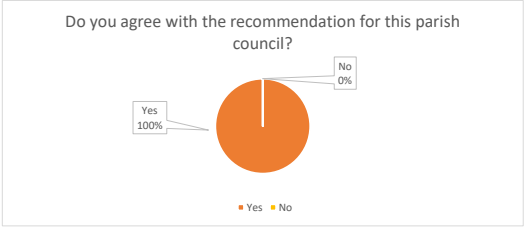
There hasn't been a contested election for many years now and we are never overwhelmed by volunteers so maintaining the status quo would appear to be the sensible option

Lydden Parish

LYDDEN

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 0 in total

No responses received.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Lydden (9) - Reduction to 7 councillors recommended

Yes

Lydden Parish Council supports the recommendation to reduce the number of councillors, and we offer the following rationale for the District Council's consideration:

Recruitment and Sustainability

As a small, rural parish, Lydden faces significant and ongoing challenges in recruiting sufficient volunteers to fill council positions. The current requirement of 9 councillors consistently exceeds the realistic pool of engaged and eligible residents willing to serve. This creates a cycle of vacancies that is difficult to resolve and places undue administrative and reputational burden on the council.

Quorum and Governance Risk

Under the current 9-councillor model, the quorum threshold presents a practical governance risk. When vacancies arise, as they frequently do in smaller rural communities, the council's ability to meet quorum and conduct lawful business is compromised. Reducing the number of councillors to 7 would lower the quorum requirement proportionately, providing greater resilience and ensuring the council can continue to function effectively and lawfully even during periods of vacancy.

Workload Distribution

A council of 7 members remains sufficient to ensure a fair and even distribution of responsibilities, committee participation, and community engagement activities appropriate to the scale and needs of Lydden Parish. This number strikes the right balance between democratic representation and operational practicality.

Proportionality to Parish Scale

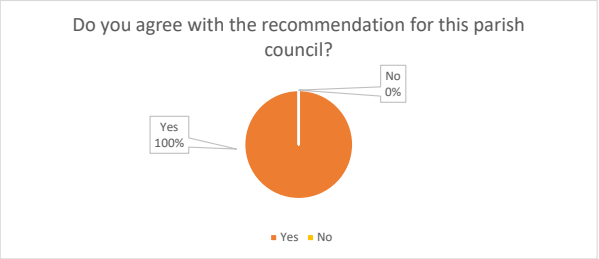
The size and population of Lydden Parish does not warrant, nor does it practically support, a 9-member council. A body of 7 elected members is proportionate to the parish's geography, resident population, and the volume of business the council is required to transact.

Ringwould with Kingsdown Parish

RINGWOULD WITH KINGSDOWN

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 1 in total

1 response (100%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Ringwould with Kingsdown (9) - No change recommended

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Yes

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

No comment

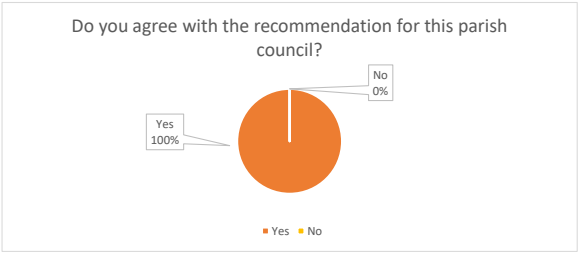
Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

River Parish

RIVER

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 1 in total

1 response (100%) wanted to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

River (10) - No change recommended

Yes

The Parish Councillors agreed that they were happy with the current arrangements

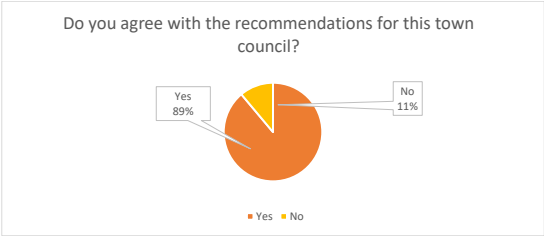
Sandwich Town

SANDWICH

Stage 2 responses - 9 in total

8 responses (89%) agreed with the recommendation

1 responses (11%) disagreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 7 in total

3 responses (43%) wanted to change the number of councillors

4 responses (57%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am an elector registered to vote in the area Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended

No

Most people want the number to reduce but the town councillors don't. Cllr Mills at Council said he would listen to electors not councillors, he will either make the reduction in Sandwich or, he is a liar.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended

Yes

The Review has taken into account our views and those of the majority of local respondents. We are happy with no change.

I write in response to the second stage consultation by Dover District Council for the Community Governance Review.

I support the recommendation to retain the number of councillors at is current level for the following reasons:

1. Parity Between the Two Wards
Retaining 8 councillors per ward would ensure continued parity while better reflecting the differing geographic spread and population growth patterns, particularly in the north of the parish.

2. Complex Governance Responsibilities
The Town Council has an unusually complex governance environment, including its ongoing relationship with the Sandwich Tollbridge Fund. These additional responsibilities justify maintaining the number of councillors at its current level to ensure adequate capacity and oversight.

3. Avoiding Excessive Workload Pressures
Any reduction in representation for either ward would significantly increase the number of electors represented by each councillor. This would place disproportionate workload pressures on members and could hinder effective decision-making and representation.

5. Community Engagement Across Distinct Areas
Sandwich comprises three distinct community areas: the south, the historic centre, and the area across the toll bridge. Maintaining a higher number of councillors will better support meaningful engagement across these varied communities.

6. Growth in the North Ward
There is a possible increase in residents within the North Ward over the next 10 years with more. Because Sandwich is not a "regular" parish council- it is trustee of two charities, owns a number of assets and is one of the original Cinque Ports. This means it requires a high level of governance and 16 councillors is an appropriate number.

I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on

Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended

Yes

I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on

Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended

Yes

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question:	Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?	Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?	Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	Yes	Sandwich is, given its governance history and funding structure, complex: many councillors are heavily involved in a number of key Parish Council issues, and any reduction in overall numbers would make the work even harder to complete properly and to appropriate standards. The centre of the town is in the North Ward, and the South ward has, under past administrations had far less attention and input, even though that ward has seen the recent population growth. Any unbalanced membership between the wards would again raise the issue of one ward favoured over another - a situation the present council has worked hard to remove. There should be equal representation between wards.	Sandwich is a complex town and parish with a large mix of both businesses and residential properties, there are a lot of complex matters to deal with and this requires a large number of councillors, 16 as proposed is about adequate. As there is a 19% growth over these two wards in the future it is important to maintain the existing number of councillors in order to upkeep the requirements of the residents and the infrastructure. I hope the current proposal of continuing with 16 councillors is upheld.	
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	Yes	The current number of councillors is required for this council to maintain efficiency. There are many committees, charities and other responsibilities that need to be managed.	Sandwich Town Council is an unusual Town Council in that it has great deal of business arising out of the two charities (The Toll Bridge Fund and the Georgina Maddox Charity Fund) of which the Council is a Trustee. The running of these two substantial charities and the decision making surrounding them takes up a great deal of councillor time, in addition to all the work that arises from normal and routine Town Council responsibilities. It is essential that the current number of councillors (16) is maintained so that the additional work can be spread over as many councillors as possible. Sandwich North and Sandwich South are about equal in population size and it therefore makes sense for each ward to have 8 councillors.	
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Sandwich (16 total - North (8), South (8)) - No change recommended	Yes	Due to the Nature of how vast Sandwich Town Council is and the amount of work I feel that no change is required and to keep all 16 Councillor seats		

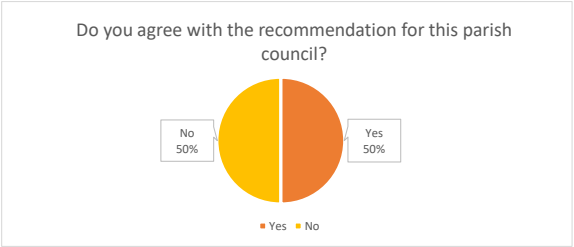
Shepherdswell with Coldred Parish

SHEPHERDSWELL WITH COLDRED

Stage 2 responses - 2 in total

1 response (50%) agreed with the recommendation

1 response (50%) disagreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 2 in total

1 response (50%) wanted to change the number of councillors

1 responses (50%) did not want to change numbers.

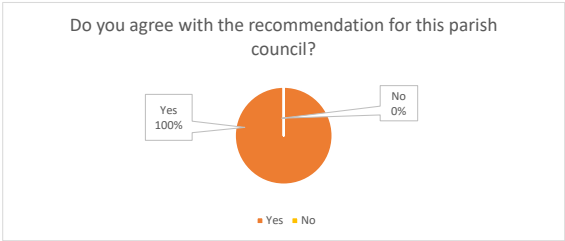
In what capacity are you responding to this Review?		Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question: Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?			Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?		Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.	
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Shepherdswell with Coldred (12 total - Shepherdswell (9), Coldred (3)) - No change recommended	No				A reduction of 2 for Shepherds Well & of 1 for Coldred giving a total of 9. Having attended meetings, decisions seem to take too long. Opinions and points of view can still be aired by 9 councillors.	
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent		Shepherdswell with Coldred (12 total - Shepherdswell (9), Coldred (3)) - No change recommended	Yes		As mentioned during the first stage of the consultation, members feel that the current number of 12 councillors is a good reflection of community activity and ensures proper representation.			

Tilmanstone Parish

TILMANSTONE

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 2 in total

2 responses (100%) did not want to change councillor numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown)
The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Tilmanstone (5) - No change recommended

Yes

The Council already struggles to fill vacancies. The Council would potentially like this to be reconsidered in future years, should development lead to a considerable increase in the population of the parish.

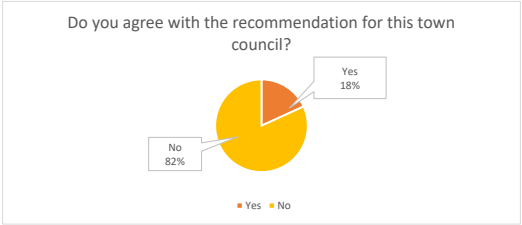
Walmer Town

WALMER

Stage 2 responses - 11 in total

2 responses (18%) agreed with the recommendation

9 responses (82%) disagreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 9 in total

5 response (56%) wanted to change the number of councillors

4 responses (44%) did not want to change numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		Imbalances in electors per councillor in Wards under proposed changes would leave St Saviours ward with almost twice as many electors as the Gladstone ward. Given the limitations on the review my suggestion is that the numbers remain at 15.
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		Reducing the number of councillors at this stage makes no sense as the resulting number of residents per councillor ends up extremely unbalanced and far worse than the current situation. A reduction of councillors alone with no re-drawing of the ward boundaries or potential other changes which could in future be made, will simply result in an increased workload for current/future councillors, potentially less being delivered for the residents of Walmer, reduces local representation and will make it increasingly difficult to attract local people into these positions going forwards.
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		At a time of significant and far reaching regional/local governance changes [details of which are not yet confirmed] and with some larger councils already divesting services [for example I understand that DDC is in preliminary discussions with Walmer Town Council over the continuing provision of public toilets and there are other facilities which are being considered for transfer] to town or parish council it seems unwise to reduce the number of councillors on Walmer Town Council thus potentially increasing the work load of the remaining elected members and office staff. Therefore it seems like the wrong time to shrink the number of elected councillors by 20%.
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		The current number is 15 and that enables a democratic spread of councillors through the town. Reducing it to 12 introduces an imbalance in the wards (residents per councillor). 12 is also too small a number to fill the necessary committees.
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		The committees need to have sufficient members to work effectively. To cut to 12 would put extra work load not only on the Councillors but the office staff. it is also unknown as to what extra responsibilities will be passed down from the new Unitary authorities to Parish and Town Councils. there probably is a need though to split one of the wards which is too big into 2 wards

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council—Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council—Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question: Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?	Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?	Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		Walmer: Firstly thank you for the evident careful attention to the collective feedback from stage 1. It is interesting you note that respondents all wanted reductions in numbers of councillors and mostly to levels considerably below the small reduction (to 12 from 15) that you are proposing. It is evident, as you note in your summary of the feedback, that some respondents favoured outright abolition / merger. This indicates that the appetite from the people the council serves and who also pay the council taxes that fund it is for a much greater level of ambition in terms of efficiencies. While the reduction you propose is welcome, it is not significant and is not in line with the appetite for reduction / efficiencies expressed by the members of the local population that responded. You justify the approach you have taken by referring to NALC guidelines. It appears that NALC is simply a "national membership organisation for community, neighbourhood, parish and town councils" (https://www.nalc.gov.uk/about/about-nalc.html) and in fact an organisation that operates in a campaigning posture to / pretty much a lobbying organisation towards government. It does not appear to have any statutory or regulatory responsibility or powers. So why does it need to constrain DDCs actions in this matter? Even if you wanted to comply with its guidelines, it seems the numbers of councillors referred to are guidelines for the maximum number, with the minimum being 7. So in conclusion, given the overwhelming consultees' view expressed on the side of efficiencies, and the huge pressures on council budgets, and the council taxes that fund the budgets, why do you not take the opportunity to reduce the numbers to 7? It does not seem it would even take much political courage to do that, in fact it seems your response is out of line with the views of the responding constituents.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		Without an associated ward boundary review the change in numbers of councillors to 12 creates an electoral imbalance (66% difference in electors per councillor between St Saviours and Gladstone Ward) that is unacceptable and Walmer Town Council wishes to remain with 15 members. Councillors on Walmer Town Council commit to a high level of volunteering both through events and other activities and therefore the public would be better served by 15 councillors.
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No		As a Walmer resident (I am also a WTC cllr) I think reducing the number of cllrs from the population/cllr ratio recommended by NALC that Walmer has currently, is very misguided. Generally, it is bizarre to make CG changes to local councils before the big changes (of LGR Local Govt Reorganisation, the end of district and county council and shift to Unitary councils), are felt by EK citizens, there will be lessons to learn after vestment day. There is likely to be more work, not less, for unpaid local parish level councillors and councils, when Unitary Authorities take over. Why? Because elected members of UAs are likely to be covering division populations that are 3 to 4 times as big, and covering twice the responsibility areas of EK higher level councillors currently. It will be difficult for new UA councillors to earn the 5 figure cllr allowances they are likely to receive, given there are only 7 days in a week. In general terms unpaid local councillors will continue to be good value for money after LGR changes across Kent, this is why unparished districts are seeing new town councils coming into being. In specific terms WalmerTC has many fewer officers, 2.6FTE, than its near neighbour DealTC, it provides a number of events that other local councils don't and the extra hands on deck are those of volunteer WTC councillors. It is difficult to see how the current provision of events/ amenities could be provided if the number of unpaid WTC cllrs were reduced from 15 to 12. A reduction of cllrs could well result in an increase in paid WTC staff which would have an impact on the precept that I would pay as a Walmer resident. Furthermore I regard it as unfair to put in place a cut in councillors which would result in cllrs elected in St Saviours ward having 67% more residents per cllr than cllrs elected in Gladstone ward. The current arrangement is much more equitable between the 4 Walmer wards.

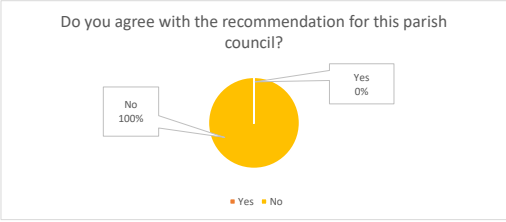
In what capacity are you responding to this Review?	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council—Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council—Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question: Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?	Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council? Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	No	Without an associated ward boundary review the change in number of councillors recommended creates an imbalance that is unacceptable and Walmer Town Council wishes to remain with 15 members. Councillors on Walmer Town Council commit to a high level of volunteering both through events and other activities and therefore the public would be better served by 15 councillors.
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	Yes	At present we only have 6 residents of Walmer serving as Councillors thus 9 councillors are non residents of Walmer - 5 of these non residents also serve on Deal Council and include both the Mayor and deputy Mayor for Deal in 2026-27. Clearly residents are totally outnumbered by non residents which makes a mockery of the aim to have local representation. Let's just say that we reduced to 12 councillors and all 6 resident Councillors were re-elected, then we would still only be in a situation of 50-50 resident to non resident . At a local level , I believe that if the purpose of a Parish Council is to represent the local community in matters to do with the local area then this is best served by residents of the Parish. This was always the intention when local councils were established however , in practice ,and for many reasons , this has not happened. This can be resolved fairly by reducing the number of Councillors. I know that The Council voted on it however 9 of those Councillors clearly have a vested interest ! I would go one step further and suggest that only residents can serve on local Councils
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Walmer (15 total - Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (3), Wellington (5), Upper (5)) - Reduction to 12 councillors recommended (Gladstone (2), St Saviour's (2), Wellington (4), Upper (4))	Yes	Strongly believe that Councillors that serve on local councils should be residents of that Parish . On Walmer Council at the present time only 6 of the 15 positions are held by local residents . The mayor and deputy mayor of Deal serve on our Council !!! It makes an absolute mockery of local representation for the matters that affect our community.

Whitfield Parish

WHITFIELD

Stage 2 responses - 5 in total

5 responses (100%) disagreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 5 in total

3 responses (60%) wanted to change parish councillor numbers.

2 responses (40%) did not want to change parish councillor numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councillors recommended	No	I think the number of WPC councilors should remain at 14. The number of residents within the Whitfield Parish is now increasing rapidly, due to the Whitfield Urban Development. There needs to be enough councilors positions to allow representation from all the different phases of the development. There are presently vacant positions, but having places for 14 councilors allows new residents from new developments zones to join the council immediately, without having to the wait for elections.
I am a town or parish councillor in the area I am commenting on	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councillors recommended	No	I believe that the number of parish councillors should remain at 14 The higher number of councillors is favourable because: • there is a greater chance of a meeting being quorate taking into account illness, holidays and other commitments and circumstances • there are better discussions regarding parish council expenditure • there is a more informed understanding of the needs of the village • there are deeper discussions regarding recommendations for changes and improvements to benefit the village • more councillors enable our villagers to have a voice with local government as we can act as a conduit between them.
I am an elector registered to vote in the area that I am commenting on	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councillors recommended	No	Whitfield Parish Council should continue to have 14 Councillors serving the community. The Parish Council objects most strongly to any proposal to reduce the numbers of Councillors. There is no good reason for the recommendation to reduce the number of councillors to 11 Only 5 people out of an estimated electorate of over of 6,000 commented -2 No – 3 Yes. A 60/40 split on the preferences of less than one thousandth of the electorate is not a sound basis for making changes to a Parish Council, especially as the comments were generally not well informed and gave no material reasons for the change. The NALC recommendation is for 14 not 11. Full weight should be given to this recommendation. Reduction in number to prompt elections is counterproductive as people are reluctant to stand for election. Sitting Councillors stand again and new Councillors are co-opted. The Co-opted Councillors generally report that they would not have put themselves forward if there was a contested election. Co-option into vacant seats allows new Residents the opportunity to put themselves forward soon after moving into the Parish, rather than waiting for up to 4 years for the next election in 2027, and then have to wait until 2031 for the next opportunity! The vacancies on the Parish Council are advertised frequently and Residents encouraged to come forward to serve, so anyone who wishes to have a say on who is on the council or who wish to serve have plenty of opportunity to do so. There are no good reasons for any change in numbers especially as Whitfield is expanding and will need 14 Councillors to carry out the role of the Council and share the workload. There is currently a strain on Infrastructure, along with notable concerns regarding the capacity of current roads (especially the A2 and A256 junctions), local GPs, and schools to handle the influx of thousands of new homes. A larger number of Councillors allows a more efficient engagement with the infrastructure and service providers and to prioritise the delivery of promised facilities, such as local convenience stores, community centres, and primary schools integrated into the master plan. A larger council allows a more representative mix of councillors to really represent the views of all the residents, from both new and old areas, of all ages, sexes, backgrounds and ethnicity, and to accurately represent the diverse voices of Whitfield, spanning both its historic village core and modern developments—it is essential to have a balanced variety of perspectives.
I am a resident of the Dover District Council local authority area	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councillors recommended	No	Whitfield is continuing to expand with different new builds increasing not only the population but also the need for closer management of the many problems that causes .The idea that it will mean a smaller council is not logical or practical . I therefore strongly advise against the decrease in numbers and suggest that the continued increase in building and pop prodution requires even more than the present number .

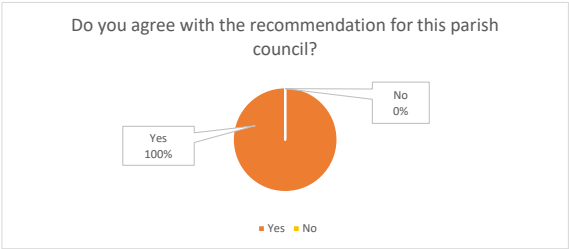
In what capacity are you responding to this Review?	Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx	Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx before answering the following question: Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?	Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?	Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.
I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent	Whitfield (14) - Reduction to 11 councillors recommended	No		Whitfield Parish Council do not agree with the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors from 14 to 11. Whitfield is a growing Parish, with approved significant development over the coming years, which will bring an increase to the electoral number and community that it represents. Parish Councillors do not agree that the justification for the decision is sound, given the known changes coming within the Parish. We as a Parish Council do recognise that we have not had a full capacity of Councillors for some time, however this reflects recruitment challenges rather than a lack of need for representation. Along side the proposed development around and within Whitfield significantly increasing, this alone will bring a range of issues which would benefit from Parish Council input and oversight, with the workload to existing Parish Councillors, who give their time freely, greatly increasing. We acknowledge that the vacant seats may not all be filled immediately, vacancies may still exist, but by retaining 14 seats it avoids having to undertake further review to increase the numbers once the village has grown. Retaining 14 Councillors also prevents 'locking in' a reduced number which may not be reviewed upwards in the future. Whilst the reasoning behind the proposal acknowledges that Whitfield is expanding in size, it looks back to 1979 as justification for a reduction in Councillors. This does not seem logical, Whitfield has only increased in size in this period of time. The opportunity to recruit Councillors from the new developments as they are completed and occupied is also an opportunity for the Parish Council to gain a greater diversity and community representation. Residents who occupy the new developments may well bring new opinions and may have differing views to long standing or established Councillors, this can only be seen as a positive. Whitfield Parish Council strongly suggest that we need to retain 14 seats to allow room for Councillors from both established and new areas of the community the opportunity to represent the electorate.

Woodnesborough Parish

WOODNESBOROUGH

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 1 in total

1 response (100%) did not want to change councillor numbers.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Woodnesborough (9) - No change recommended

Yes

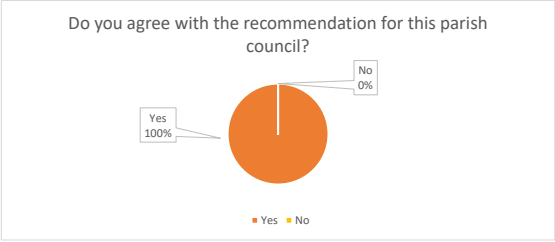
The Parish Councillors believe that they have the correct number of Councillors to represent their Parish.

Worth Parish

WORTH

Stage 2 responses - 1 in total

1 response (100%) agreed with the recommendation



Stage 1 responses for reference - 0 in total

No responses received.

In what capacity are you responding to this Review?

Recommendation that you wish to comment on. (Please note that the current number of councillors is given in brackets next to the name, as well as any ward breakdown) The reasonings behind each recommendation can be read on the 'Stage 1 Responses' document at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx>

Please ensure that you have read the reasonings for the recommendations at <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Council--Democracy/Elections/Community-Governance-Review-2026.aspx> before answering the following question:

Do you agree with the recommendation for this town/parish council?

Please state why you agree with the recommendation and any other points you think should be considered regarding the number of councillors for this particular town/parish council?

Please give the reasons why you disagree with the recommendation for this town/parish council. Please also tell us what you think the number of councillors should be, and why you think it should be considered as an alternative to the recommended number.

I am a town or parish clerk responding on behalf of the Council I represent

Worth (7 total - Sandwich Bay (2), Worth (5) - No change recommended

Yes

Worth Parish Council requests the number of seats to remain at 5, as the current number of seats matches the NALC guidelines and that the current number works well