

TOLLER PORCORUM PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Meeting of Parish Council | Wednesday 13 May 2026

Appendix M - Response to consultation on Electoral Review of Dorset Council

Minute reference: 26/05-17.1

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In what capacity are you giving us your views (e.g. individual or councillor)?

Representative of parish/town council

If you are a representative of an organisation please tell us its name, or if you are councillor please tell us which council you sit on

Toller Porcorum Parish Council

It helps if you tell us here what part of the council area you are giving views on

Eggardon Ward

Share your views. Please avoid including any personal information such as your name, address or contact details

Local government in Dorset works best when there is effective communication between residents and their parish/town council, between residents engaging directly with Dorset Council and of course local parish/town councils engaging directly with Dorset Council.

Key to these engagement paths are the elected ward members. In Dorset there are 160 local town and parish councils. Whilst it is recognised that a review of councils does not form part of this review it should be recognized that rural parish councils are at a distinct disadvantage to more urban councils as there are more Dorset Councillors to engage with fellow town councils than in rural areas where there are more parish councils and less Dorset Ward Councillors.

The Parish Council believes that in order to achieve effective communication as described above there needs to be a greater number of Dorset Councillors serving rural areas.

The Parish Council believes that currently there is an electoral imbalance between rural and urban areas disadvantaging rural communities which puts an undue burden on rural Dorset Ward Councillors.

The Parish Council ask that if the number of Dorset Councillors is not to be increased, which it thinks is a mistake, then the warding of rural wards like Eggardon be reviewed not just by electoral numbers but also by rurality issues such the number of parish councils per ward and the geographic spread of those parishes compared to more densely populated areas.