

Title of meeting: Full Council

Date of meeting: 16th July 2024

Subject: Submission to the Boundary Commission

Report by: The Chief Executive

Cabinet Member: N/A

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: Yes

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval of Portsmouth City Council to the submission of our proposal to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) on the number of Councillors that should serve Portsmouth (size of Council) and our election cycle.
- 1.2 The proposed submission is suggesting no change to the size of the Council. The submission also has to show that the Council has considered the issue of the election cycle and, with no unanimity from the Member Working Group that was set up to oversee the submission, this report allows Council to take a view on this issue. The position taken by Full Council in reference to the election cycle issue will be made in the submission to the LGBCE.
- 1.3 Members also need to be aware that even if our proposal for no change in council size is accepted, there will be proposed changes in the next stage of the review. The LGBCE will review the ward boundaries to ensure that there is an approximately similar number of electors per councillor.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Portsmouth City Council is recommended to:
- a. approve the submission to the LGBCE attached as Appendix 1
 - b. agree that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to make minor changes (as detailed in section 3.3) to the submission in consultation with the Leader of the Council or for more extensive changes to be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with all the Group Leaders



- c. agree that the submission to the LGBCE (in Appendix 1) should state that Portsmouth wish to retain 14 wards with three Councillors for each ward (see paragraph 3.11)
- d. vote on the following resolutions to enable the submission to state whether the Council's preference, following the post LGBCE review election, is to move to all-out elections every 4 years or retain the existing electoral arrangements with ward councillors elected in 1/3rds for 4 year terms (see paragraph 3.12).
 - i. The Council resolves that it wishes to pursue the move to all-out elections every 4 years subject to consultation and appropriate future resolutions
 - ii. The Council resolves that it wishes to retain the existing electorate arrangements with the Councillors elected in 1/3^{rds} and serving 4 year terms

3. Background

- 3.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body that is accountable to Parliament. It undertakes reviews and recommends fair electoral and boundary arrangements for local authorities in England. The LGBCE aims to make sure that within an authority each councillor represents a similar number of electors, that ward boundaries are appropriate and reflect community ties and identities and that any reviews undertaken are informed by local needs, views and circumstances.
- 3.2 The last review of Portsmouth was in 2000 and the changes were implemented in 2002. This is a long time between reviews. The LGBCE wrote to the Chief Executive to inform them of their intention to conduct a review and asking whether the Council preferred a 2026 or 2027 implementation date. In consultation with Members, the Chief Executive stated that the preference was for a 2026 implementation. A 2027 implementation date would have meant that any councillor elected in 2026 would only serve 1 year before there were 'all out' elections in 2027 following the review. The LGBCE were contacted in autumn 2023 as there had been no further communication since the Council has confirmed the preferred implementation year. Discussions confirmed that it was possible to proceed with the review with a 2026 implementation date. There are no scheduled local elections in 2025 and all-out elections will follow the LGBCE review in 2026.
- 3.3 To support the review the Council needs to make a proposal to the LGBCE using a standard template provided by the LGBCE. The completed template is attached as Appendix 1. This template will need to be amended to reflect any decisions made at this meeting and will then be submitted to the LGBCE on 17 July. It is proposed that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to agree any minor changes, such as spelling mistakes, clarifications or formatting, to the final submitted template. If there are more significant changes it is proposed that the delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive in consultation with all the Group Leaders to make substantial changes.



3.4

The LGBCE review is a 2 stage process. The first stage is considering the overall number of wards and number of Councillors and also has to have regard to electoral arrangements. Our submission, attached at Appendix 1, covers these issues but will need to be updated to reflect decisions made at this meeting. The second stage of the LGBCE process is to agree a ward map for Portsmouth that ensures an approximate equal number of electors per councillor. In summary, the overall review process is:

- First stage / preliminary period
The LGBCE will collect information from the council. They will ask the Council how many Councillors it thinks the Council should have
- Council size decision
The LGBCE assess the evidence and decide how many Councillors there should be.
Second stage
- Consultation on warding pattern
The LGBCE ask people across the local area to tell them where they think boundaries between wards should be. The LGBCE is also interested in what people think wards should be called and how many councillors each of the wards should have.
- Preparation of draft proposals
The LGBCE consider all comments made during the consultation and they then prepare proposals for new wards.
- Consultation on proposals
The LGBCE ask people across the local area to tell what they like and don't like about their proposals for ward boundaries, ward names and distribution of councillors. The LGBCE also ask them to suggest changes that would improve the proposals.
- Preparation of recommendations
The LGBCE consider all comments made during the consultation. They make changes to their proposals and prepare recommendations for Parliament to consider.
- Approval of recommendations
The LGBCE publish their recommendations. If Parliament agrees them, the new electoral arrangements become law.

Sometimes the LGBCE will hold an additional round of consultation if they want to test some proposals that are very different from the draft proposals.

- Implementation of new electoral arrangements
The new arrangements will come into force at the next local election in 2026.

This report is seeking to agree the preliminary evidence for submission to the LGBCE.



3.5 One of the key issues for consideration in this preliminary stage by the LGBCE is the number of Councillors for the Council (referred to as Council size) and therefore by default the number of wards. This needs to consider a range of issues including the role of Councillors, the number of electors forecast by 2030, the views of Councillors and how this compares to other areas and then how this relates to existing arrangements. These issues are considered in turn below. It is worth noting that the LGBCE state that "the commission will always recommend a council size that in its judgement enables the Council to take its decisions effectively, to discharge the business and responsibilities of the Council successfully and provides for effective community leadership and representation". Once this size is agreed the LGBCE will move to the second stage of the process which will be agreeing the ward map for the city. This means that even if the council size remains the same, the ward boundaries will change to ensure equality of representation throughout the city. This will be a second stage of the process.

3.6 **The role of Councillors**

3.6.1 The LGBCE want to make sure that there is the right number of Councillors to provide strategic leadership, secure accountability and offer community leadership. The voice of councillors is part of the evidence for this (please see Member survey responses attached as Appendix 2). There is a recognition that there needs to be an appropriate number of Councillors to give strategic leadership, including by filling key posts and committee positions, and also to provide appropriate community leadership and support.

3.6.2 The current number of Councillors (42) enables 10 cabinet positions to be filled including one position held by the Leader of the Council. It also enables representation across scrutiny and key regulatory committees (recognising that ensuring political representation can be a challenge with some parties being relatively small for the roles that need filling). The covid pandemic showed that Portsmouth Councillors were able to play a key role in the community and able to link community organisations with the council. With three members per ward there is also the ability for electors to link in with their Councillors for case work. The Member Survey showed that councillors spend a great deal of time on casework with more than 60% of respondents stating that they spent more than 20 hours / month dealing with casework and half saying that they spent more than 25 hours / month dealing with casework. Nearly 40% of respondents said that they received between 20 and 29 casework queries / month. It is interesting to note that despite this high casework load, more than half of respondents stated that this level was the level that they had expected. It should also be noted that Cabinet holders stated that their workload as a Cabinet member was much more than when they had not been a Cabinet member which is to be expected.

3.6.3 On this basis it would suggest that reducing the number of Councillors would create an excessive workload and similarly that the current number enables roles to be undertaken appropriately. There could be an argument that an increase in



the Council size would reduce the workload but this would need to be considered alongside the other evidence below.

3.7 **Electorate forecast**

3.7.1 Because the review is looking to the future and ensuring the Council size is appropriate for the medium term (assumed to be up to 2030 with the opportunity for future reviews) there is a need to consider population changes and also whether new developments will impact on the overall size of the electorate. Attached as Appendix 3 is a report that explains the methodology that has been used to consider these issues and the electorate forecast. The forecast has to take account of:

- Population related change calculated from ONS population projections
- Growth resulting from housing developments that will be occupied by 2030 where they are predicted to contain more than 30 electors
- The impact of post-Brexit changes to the franchise rights of EU citizens

3.7.2 Dealing with these points in turn the forecast attached as Appendix 3 shows:

- Population growth – the electorate is forecast to increase from 147,500 to 152,900 between 2024 and 2030
- Housing – by 2030, 13 new development sites will generate 2,218 individual dwellings – however discounting developments creating fewer than 30 electors and using the historical elector / dwelling ratio of 0.62 – new developments will create an additional 1,274 electors
- It has been estimated that of the 3,000 EU citizens that will be subject to review, as to whether they can vote or not in local elections, approximately 750 will be found as not eligible to vote in the post Brexit arrangements

3.7.3 The following table shows the overall impact of these changes for each of the current wards in the city. This suggests that overall the increase in the electorate across the city will be 4% within the current Charles Dickens ward increasing by 8% and Nelson ward by 7%. Overall the 4% increase equates to an average 141 electors per councillor. If the number of councillors increased, for example, to 45 then it would equate to an additional 132 electors per councillor. This suggest that the forecast elector increase does not make the case for increasing the council size.

Table 1: Electorate forecast by Ward

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ward	Electorate (December 2023)	Office of National Statistics-based forecast	Electors occupying new build properties by 2030	Adjusted electorate forecast (C + D)	EU citizens to be removed from register	Adjusted electorate forecast (E - F)	% Change by 2030
St Thomas	11,142	11,428	101	11,529	80	11,449	+3%
St Jude	9,118	9,491		9,491	69	9,422	+3%
Central Southsea	12,033	12,259		12,259	92	12,167	+1%
Eastney & Craneswater	9,716	10,003		10,003	61	9,942	+2%
Milton	10,426	10,841	184	11,025	43	10,982	+5%
Fratton	10,455	10,807		10,807	88	10,719	+3%
Charles Dickens	13,302	13,816	679	14,495	85	14,410	+8%
Baffins	10,981	11,381		11,381	34	11,347	+3%
Nelson	10,042	10,529	267	10,796	66	10,730	+7%
Copnor	9,660	10,053		10,053	33	10,020	+4%
Hilsea	10,044	10,432		10,432	36	10,396	+4%
Paulsgrove	10,058	10,484		10,484	27	10,457	+4%
Cosham	10,024	10,511	43	10,554	22	10,532	+5%
Drayton & Farlington	10,446	10,820		10,820	14	10,806	+3%
Total	147,447	152,855	1,274	154,129	750	153,379	+4%

3.7.4 It could be argued that the use of the 0.62 electorate / dwelling, whilst based on historical data, may be lower than expected. Across the city as whole there are 1.55 electors per dwelling and if this figure was used against the forecast new dwellings, the overall electorate increase would equate to 4.8% or an extra 170 electors/Councillor. If there were 45 Councillors, this would equate to 158 extra electors / councillor. Again, this would suggest an increase in council size would make a marginal difference.

3.8 The views of Councillors

3.8.1 To support this submission a survey of Councillors was undertaken. The analysis of this survey is attached as Appendix 2. Sixteen of the 42 Councillors responded to the questionnaire (38%) although over half of them were Cabinet members. Nearly 90% of the respondents had been Councillors for at least two years and so it is reasonable to assume that they had a good understanding of the issues.

3.8.2 The following bullet points provide the key point analysis from the survey:



- All councillors state that they are busy but Cabinet members state that the Cabinet role is particularly busy – this would not change with an increase in the number of councillors.
- 75% of respondents had at least 20 contacts from residents / month however the majority of respondents (56%) said the volume of casework was what was expected.
- 63% of respondents said that their role as a councillor has become more complicated partly because as their experience develops so does what they are able to do.
- All channels of communication are used the same, or more, the majority of time which implies that technology is already being well used with no overall efficiency gains to be had.
- There was reasonably positive support for keeping the same number of councillors (42) although there were proposals for different numbers e.g. 43 or an extra ward of three councillors.
- There is no obvious clear message about the names of the Wards.

3.8.3 On the basis of the survey results there is no compelling reason to change the council size. Reducing the size of the council would add to the work pressure that is already being experienced by the Councillors. It would have to be a significant increase in council size for the workload to reduce significantly but it is worth noting that the majority of Councillors said that their level of casework was as expected.

3.9 **Comparisons to Portsmouth's CIPFA nearest neighbours**

3.9.1 The LGBCE say that they compare council size with similar authorities. The authorities that are used for comparison are the CIPFA group of "nearest neighbours" which is judged using the statistical Euclidian distribution distance such that these nearest neighbours are considered the authorities most similar to Portsmouth, in terms of demographic characteristics This should mean that issues such as deprivation should not be markedly different and so there should not be a significant difference in Councillor workload based on such issues.

3.9.2 The table attached as Appendix 4 compares electorate per councillor across the Portsmouth nearest neighbours. On the basis of this table if Portsmouth maintains the same council size it would be in-line with most of the nearest neighbours despite the increase in electorate that has been forecast.

3.10 **Other factors**

3.10.1 The LGBCE state that the evidence base should also reference other relevant information. In October 2021 the LGA undertook a Peer Review of Portsmouth City Council. Their [report](#) did not reference Council size but stated in the conclusion that:

The peer challenge team found that Portsmouth is a good council, that is performing well and doing some innovative work particularly in housing,



social care, and finance. The peer challenge team saw evidence of good performance across many key services, as demonstrated by recent Ofsted Inspections and key performance data. However, some significant challenges remain in terms of the Local Plan and housing delivery.....

There are also opportunities for greater collaboration across the member-officer interface and for greater joint working. The peer challenge team also found that there could be more cross-departmental working on strategic issues and more communication across departments....

During interviews some concerns about capacity were raised by staff and some members as well. The Council should satisfy itself it has the necessary capacity to deliver its ambitions in a way that doesn't compromise on quality. Where this is not the case the Council needs to review and prioritise its ambitions.

3.10.2 It is also worth noting that one of the recommendations of the Peer Review was to undertake a review of the constitution. The work on this is underway.

3.11 **Options and Conclusions**

3.11.1 On the basis of the above, and in-line with the recommendations of the Member Working Group it is proposed that the council size is maintained at 42.

3.11.2 In terms of options the working group considered reducing the council size to 39 Members but concluded that this was not appropriate because of the workload of councillors, the need to fill key positions and the fact that compared to other similar councils we do not have a low number of electorate/Councillor.

3.11.3 Consideration was given to increasing the number of wards by one and by three councillors. This was not felt to be appropriate because it was not felt that this would have a significant impact on workload and there is not an issue in terms of the ability to fill positions. It was also felt that this would make the electorate / councillor figure relatively low compared to similar authorities.

3.11.4 Consideration was also given to increasing the number of Councillors by 1 or 2. This was not felt to create any significant difference in terms of workload or ability to fill positions and it would create significant differences by moving away from the three councillors / ward arrangements that we have across the city at present. We feel that this would be confusing for the electorate going forward.

3.11.5 By maintaining the current council size with 42 councillors over 14 wards it is felt that this will maintain the logic and simplicity of the current arrangements. This also ensures that the current arrangements for filling positions are maintained and the electorate/Councillor ratio is broadly similar to other similar authorities.

3.12 One issue that the Member Working Group has not been able to unanimously agree on is the proposed electoral cycle. The LGBCE require authorities to have considered this as part of the review process. Following the review there will be an all-out election (in 2026) to reflect that ward boundaries will have changed, but



the Council needs to consider how it will undertake future elections. It could decide to:

- a) move to all-out elections every 4 years. If the Council resolves to follow this approach it will need to undertake a full consultation exercise and then if it is subsequently decided to change to this approach, there will need to be a two-thirds majority vote by Full Council in favour of the resolution to change the election cycle.
- b) maintain the procedure of electing 1/3rd of the Council every year for three out of the four years with a fallow year as well. This means that if the Council size proposal is agreed each ward will vote for a Councillor every year

3.13 With no agreement from the Member Working Group to this approach it is recommended that Council votes on these options. The submission to the LGBCE will be amended to reflect the agreed position. There are arguments in favour of either option with all-out elections providing certainty for a period of four years and with the reduced cost of holding the elections. The annual equivalent saving associated with all-out elections compared to the current elections by thirds will be circulated under separate cover. Elections by thirds enables the Council to evolve and keeps the accountability with residents/electorate strong.

3.14 Following Full Council discussion on these issues the submission will be amended to reflect the views of Full Council. If there are significant changes the Member Working Group will meet on the 17th July to agree the final document before submission to the LGBCE by the Chief Executive.

4. Reasons for recommendations

4.1 The recommendations will allow a submission to be made to the LGBCE in line with the views of the Member working group and the discussion at Full Council. This submission will state that the Council wishes to retain 42 Councillors over 14 wards. Delegated authority is being sought for the Chief Executive to agree the final submission in consultation with the Leader of the Council or with Group Leaders with the option of the Member Working Group also considering the final document if there are significant changes following the Full Council.

4.2 There is no agreed unanimous view from the Member Working Group on electoral frequency arrangements and so on this basis Council is asked to resolve how it wishes to proceed on this matter. The submission to the LGBCE will be amended to reflect what the Council resolves.

5. Integrated impact assessment

5.1 It is not considered that there is a need for an Integrated Impact Assessment at this stage of the process. Depending on the recommendations from the LGBCE there may be a need for an impact assessments on how the recommendations are implemented.



6. Legal implications

6.1 The report sets out the requirements of engagement with the LGBCE and aligns what decisions this Council needs to make to deal with the configuration of the number of wards and additionally what it would wish to do with respect to electoral cycle. The envisaged delegations are appropriate as are the recommendations put to Full Council. Decisions, as are made post-debate, will likely stand up to scrutiny and be compliant in a competency sense. The process mapping as set out above is transparent and as such less likely to be lead to a decision being made that is erroneous at law, or at process or indeed irrational or illegal.

7. Director of Finance's comments

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the submission to the LGBCE at this stage however should the Council determine that it wishes to change to a system of all-out elections there is likely to be an annual equivalent saving and this figure will come out under separate cover. There may be other financial implications in relation to "Council Size" depending on the final recommended decision.

.....
Signed by:
Natalie Brahma-Pearl
Chief Executive

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)
- Appendix 2 - Survey of Portsmouth Councillors analysis
- Appendix 3 - Electorate forecast for Portsmouth
- Appendix 4 - Electorate comparisons with CIPFA statistical nearest neighbours

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location



Portsmouth
CITY COUNCIL

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

.....
Signed by:



Portsmouth City Council

Council Size Submission - Portsmouth City Council

July 2024
V1.0



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How to Make a Submission

It is recommended that submissions on future governance arrangements and council size follow the guidance provided and use the format below as a template. Submissions should be treated as an opportunity to focus on the future needs of the council and not simply describe the current arrangements. **Submissions should also demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been considered in drawing up the proposal and why you have discounted them.**

The template allows respondents to enter comments directly under each heading. It is not recommended that responses be unduly long; as a guide, it is anticipated that a 15 to 20-page document using this template should suffice. Individual section length may vary depending on the issues to be explained. Where internal documents are referred to URLs should be provided, rather than the document itself. It is also recommended that a table is included that highlights the key paragraphs for the Commission's attention.

'Good' submissions, i.e. those that are considered to be most robust and persuasive, combine the following *key success components* (as set out in the guidance that accompanies this template):

- Clarity on objectives
- A straightforward and evidence-led style
- An understanding of local place and communities
- An understanding of councillors' roles and responsibilities

About You

The respondent should use this space to provide the Commission with a little detail about who is making the submission, whether it is the full Council, Officers on behalf of the Council, a political party or group, a resident group, or an individual.

This submission has been prepared by Officers of Portsmouth City Council but has been developed in consultation with a cross party Member Working Group and has been approved by Full Council.

Reason for Review (Request Reviews Only)

Please explain the authority's reasons for requesting this electoral review; it is useful for the Commission to have context. *NB/ If the Commission has identified the authority for review under one of its published criteria, then you are not required to answer this question.*

The last review was undertaken in 2000 and implemented in 2002. Since this date there have been changes in the distribution of the population between wards and so it is considered that it is appropriate for a review to take place. The request for the review to take place now, is so that the implementation can align with the electoral cycle and so that



the "all-out" elections that would follow the review could link in with the fallow year in the current electoral cycle.

The Context for your proposal

Your submission gives you the opportunity to examine how you wish to organise and run the council for the next 15 - 20 years. **The consideration of future governance arrangements and council size should be set in the wider local and national policy context.** The Commission expects you to challenge your current arrangements and determine the most appropriate arrangements going forward. In providing context for your submission below, please demonstrate that you have considered the following issues.

- When did your Council last change/reorganise its internal governance arrangements and what impact on effectiveness did that activity have?
- To what extent has transference of strategic and/or service functions impacted on the effectiveness of service delivery and the ability of the Council to focus on its remaining functions?
- Have any governance or capacity issues been raised by any Inspectorate or similar?
- What influence will local and national policy trends likely have on the Council as an institution?
- What impact on the Council's effectiveness will your council size proposal have?

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review of Portsmouth City Council's council size was initiated in recognition of the last review having been undertaken in 2000 and implemented in 2002.

In addition to this passage of time it is noted that one ward, Charles Dickens, has a variance of 38% compared to the ward average.

This report comprises Portsmouth City Council's 'Council Size Submission' and provides the background data and rationale for the recommendation.

That rationale is based upon the LGBCE's review criteria, namely:

- a) Strategic Leadership – the role of councillors in decision making and council business demonstrating how responsibilities are distributed across the council.
- b) Accountability – the role of councillors in holding decision makers to account and to ensure that the council can discharge its responsibilities to outside bodies
- c) Community leadership – how councillors represent and provide leadership in their communities and how this affects workload responsibilities.

By way of background, Portsmouth City Council became a unitary authority with effect from 1 April 1997. It operates a Leader and Cabinet Model with the ceremonial position of Lord Mayor.

This Leader and Cabinet model was adopted in 2002, with the committee structure having been subsequently amended at various times since. The Employment Committee was



established in 2005, the Governance, Audit & Standards Committee in 2007 and the current scrutiny arrangements in 2008.

In undertaking this council size submission, a Cross Party Working Group of Councillors has been established in order to provide an overall view which is representative of the majority of the council.

Taking into account parity in the number of electors per ward, both now and that predicted for the future, effective community representation and leadership, along with the effective governance and decision making of the council it is the council's view that the number of Councillors in total should stay the same i.e. that there should be 42 Councillors representing 14 wards with three Councillors for each ward.

Any less than 42 Councillors would make it difficult to fill the key roles within the democratic structure. Portsmouth is a relatively highly deprived city and the constituent support role of the Councillors cannot be underestimated. Again this means that any suggestion to reduce the number of Councillors would not be appropriate.

Local Authority Profile

Please provide a short description of the authority and its setting, in particular the local geography, demographics and community characteristics. This should set the scene for the Commission and give it a greater understanding of any current issues. The description should cover all of the following:

- Brief outline of area - are there any notable geographic constraints for example that may affect the review?
- Rural or urban - what are the characteristics of the authority?
- Demographic pressures - such as distinctive age profiles, migrant or transient populations, is there any large growth anticipated?
- Community characteristics – is there presence of “hidden” or otherwise complex deprivation?
- Are there any other constraints, challenges, issues or changes ahead?

Further to providing a description, the Commission will be looking for a submission that demonstrates an understanding of place and communities by putting forth arguments on council size based upon local evidence and insight. For example, how does local geography, demographics and community characteristics impact on councillor casework, workload and community engagement?

Portsmouth is a compact city covering 40 square kilometres—75% of the population lives on Portsea Island. Portsea Island is bounded by the Solent to the South, Portsmouth Harbour to the West and Langstone Harbour to the East. There is a small creek to the North of Portsea Island, Portsbridge Creek, that connects the two Harbours. There are three road bridges and 1 railway bridge that link Portsea Island to the mainland. The neighbouring local authorities to Portsmouth are Havant Borough Council, Winchester City Council and Fareham Borough Council. Gosport Borough Council is opposite Portsmouth across Portsmouth Harbour with a ferry link between the two and the Isle of Wight Council is to the south of Portsmouth across the Solent, with a ferry and hovercraft link between the two authorities.



APPENDIX 1

Portsmouth is a very tightly packed urban city. The city was estimated to be the most densely populated local authority area outside of London in 2020 (5,315 people per square kilometre in Portsmouth), but the 2021 Census estimated Portsmouth (5,153 people per square kilometre) to be the second most densely populated local authority outside of London, behind Luton.

The 2021 Census estimates the Portsmouth population to be 208,100 people; 6,600 fewer than the 2020 ONS mid-year estimate of 214,700 people (the mid-year estimates had been broadly similar from 2017-2020). When comparing the 2021 Census estimate to the mid-2020 ONS estimate, the largest difference is in the 20-29 year age group - the 2021 Census revealed there were over 5,000 fewer males in the 20-29 years group (a decrease of 23% - a similar decrease in ages 20-24 (-22%) and 25-29 years (-25%)); and almost 2,000 fewer females in the 20-29 years group (a decrease of 10%).

However, the female population aged 30-44 years was 2,000 more than the mid-2020 estimates (an increase of 10%). Despite this, as the chart below shows, Portsmouth still has a high proportion of young people particularly aged 20-24. This reflects the successful University that is based in Portsmouth.

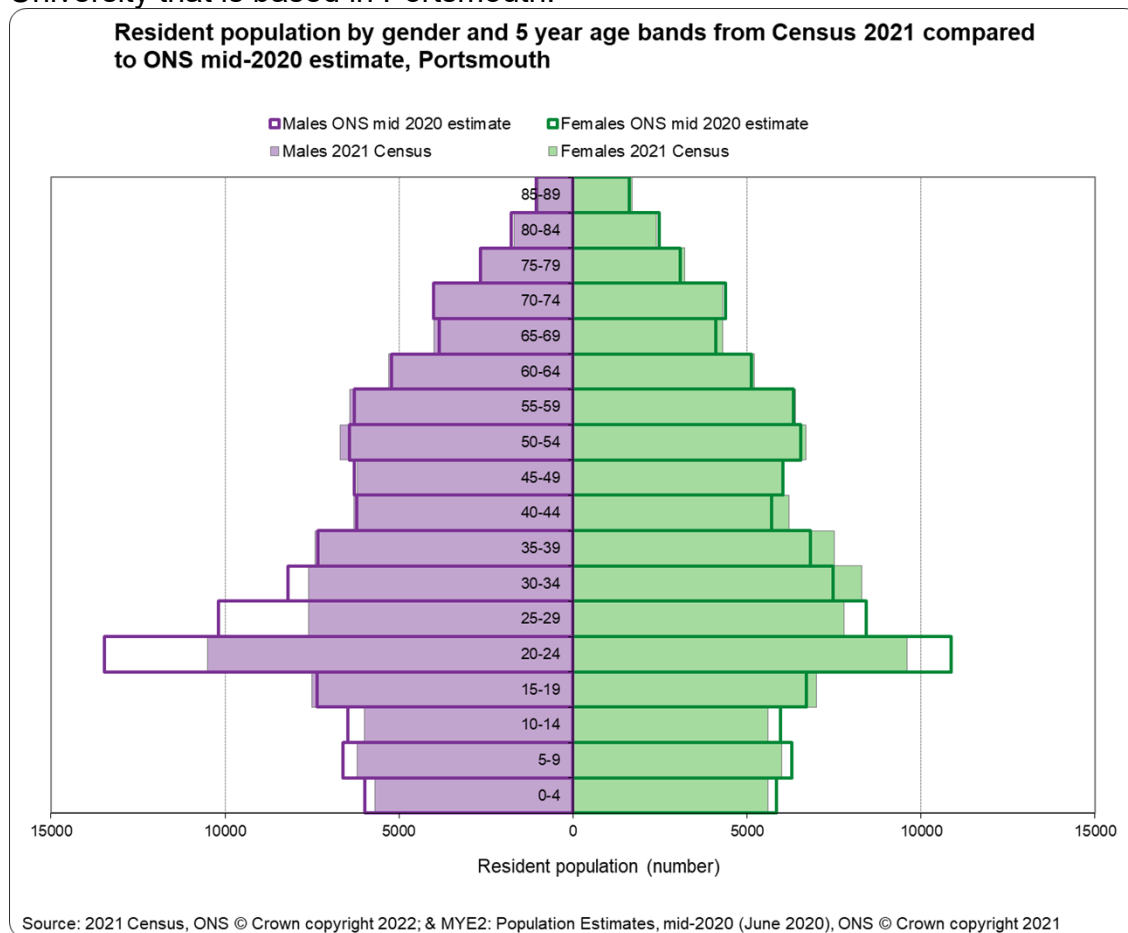


Figure 1. Resident population by gender and 5 year age bands from Census 2021 compared to ONS mid-2020 estimate, Portsmouth



APPENDIX 1

The mid-year estimates are largely based on births, deaths and estimated migration data and, to a lesser extent, changes in special populations (home armed forces, foreign armed forces and the prison population) — although there remain more births than deaths each year in Portsmouth, and a positive net international migration (more inflow than outflow), this is offset by a negative internal migration (more UK outflow than UK inflow).

The population increase is estimated to have slowed since 2017; nevertheless, based on the 2018 based estimate, the population is projected to increase (albeit projections based on 2018 estimates) by roughly 5,000 (2.3%) between 2021 and 2030—from 217,330 to 222,300 (NB the census has a lower base population). The projected increase between this period is largely an anticipated increase in the number of 15-24 year olds and an increase in residents aged 65 years and over.

Compared to other authorities in the South-East, Portsmouth has a high proportion of asylum seekers in dispersal accommodation (longer term temporary accommodation). Although people in dispersal accommodation do not have a vote, if they are given Leave to Remain there is evidence that a relatively high proportion will choose to stay in Portsmouth having put down 'roots' in the time that they are in the dispersal accommodation.

Portsmouth is also relatively highly deprived. In the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019, Portsmouth is ranked 59th most deprived nationally out of 317 local authorities when the average score for the different domains that make up the IMD. The most recent unemployment claimant data (March 2024) shows that, in contrast to all but two other authorities in the wider Hampshire and Isle of Wight area, Portsmouth's unemployment rate of 4.9% is higher than the national average. This high level of deprivation and issues such as unemployment does suggest that there may be more need for community leadership from the Portsmouth Councillors and more requirement for constituent support than in many other councils nationally.

Council Size

The Commission believes that councillors have three broad aspects to their role. These are categorised as: **Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulatory and Partnerships), and Community Leadership**. Submissions should address each of these in turn and provide supporting evidence. Prompts in the boxes below should help shape responses.

Strategic Leadership

Respondents should provide the Commission with details as to how elected members will provide strategic leadership for the authority. Responses should also indicate how many members will be required for this role and why this is justified. **Responses should demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been explored.**

Topic		
Governance Model	<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	➤ <i>What governance model will your authority operate? e.g. Committee System, Executive or other?</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>The Cabinet model, for example, usually requires 6 to 10 members. How many members will you require?</i> ➤ <i>If the authority runs a Committee system, we want to understand why the number and size of the committees you propose represents the most appropriate for the authority.</i> ➤ <i>By what process does the council aim to formulate strategic and operational policies? How will members in executive, executive support and/or scrutiny positions be involved? What particular demands will this make of them?</i> ➤ <i>Whichever governance model you currently operate, a simple assertion that you want to keep the current structure does not in itself, provide an explanation of why that structure best meets the needs of the council and your communities.</i>
	<p>Analysis</p>	<p>Portsmouth City Council comprises of 42 councillors across 14 three member wards. Councillors are elected by thirds each year, with a fallow year every fourth year when no local elections are held. There is not a unanimous view across the political parties on whether to retain this electoral model or move to all-out elections however the majority view agreed by Full Council is that (ADD IN AFTER FULL COUNCIL DECISION)</p> <p>The current political composition of the council as of May 2024 is:</p> <p>Liberal Democrat - 19 Councillors</p> <p>Portsmouth Independents Party - 9 Councillors</p> <p>Labour - 8 Councillors</p> <p>Conservative - 4 Councillors</p> <p>Independents - 2 Councillors</p> <p>For many years the council has been a 'hung council', one in which no single political party holds a majority of the council seats, but in which the majority of councillors belong to a political party.</p> <p>This means that the political groupings are used to working together and on significant issues engagement is undertaken with all group Leaders.</p>

Full Council

On average, Full Council meets for seven scheduled meetings each year. One of these meetings is held in February to agree the budget and one in May to agree the proportionality of the council and associated committee seats for the coming year. Immediately prior to this there is a Mayor Making Ceremony to formally elect the Lord Mayor for the municipal year.

In addition to these scheduled meetings there are on average two extraordinary meetings called each year to either determine matters of urgent or significant business or to agree to bestow honours, such as admission to the roll of honorary aldermen or grant individuals the Freedom of the City.

The Cabinet

The Leader and Cabinet provide the political leadership for the council. Section 11 of the Local Government Act 2000 permits up to 10 members on the Cabinet and this is the number of members that the Cabinet currently comprises of.

List of Cabinet Portfolios:

- Culture, Regeneration and Economic Development Portfolio - held by Cllr Steve Pitt (the Leader of the Council)
- Children, Families and Education - Cllr Suzy Horton (also Deputy Leader)
- Climate Change and Greening the City - Cllr Kimberly Barrett
- Environmental Services - Cllr Dave Ashmore
- Community Safety, Leisure and Sport - Cllr Lee Hunt
- Community Wellbeing, Health and Care - Cllr Matthew Winnington
- Housing and Tackling Homelessness - Cllr Darren Sanders
- Planning Policy and City Development - Cllr Hugh Mason
- Central Services - Cllr Chris Attwell
- Transport - Cllr Peter Candlish

	<p>On average the Cabinet meets formally approximately 10 times each year. In addition, each cabinet member holds a decision meeting on average every six to eight weeks, but this varies depending on the number of decisions needed for each portfolio. By their nature, some portfolio decision meetings have a need to meet more regularly, such as Transport, which, for example, has a steady workload of Traffic Regulation Orders to determine.</p> <p>In addition to cabinet members, each opposition group may appoint an opposition spokesperson for each cabinet portfolio. Opposition spokespersons are named on and receive the formal summons to all decision meetings of that portfolio and are able to speak freely at the meetings unincumbered by the usual rules around deputations to question the cabinet member and put forward any views they may have on the items being considered. They do not, of course, have any voting rights.</p> <p><u>Policy Formulation</u></p> <p>It is the role of the Leader and Cabinet to drive political and strategic economic priorities for the Council. If within agreed council policy and budget the Cabinet may also implement these, but it is a matter for all Councillors at a Full Council meeting to determine the budget and policy framework.</p> <p>As detailed above and in addition to scrutiny, the opposition spokespersons play a key role as part of facilitating a wider and cross-party engagement by non-cabinet members in the Cabinet model that the council operates. This is beneficial for a hung council in facilitating the adoption of key policies and strategies by Full Council.</p> <p>It is the council's intention to continue with the current 'Leader and Cabinet' governance model that it has successfully operated under since 2002.</p> <p>It is the council's view that this successful model of Governance can be retained with the existing Council size of 42 councillors with three councillors for each of the 14 wards within the city.</p>
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Portfolios	Key lines of explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How many portfolios will there be?</i> ➤ <i>What will the role of a portfolio holder be?</i> ➤ <i>Will this be a full-time position?</i> ➤ <i>Will decisions be delegated to portfolio holders? Or will the executive/mayor take decisions?</i>
	Analysis	<p>In terms of the number of portfolios, this lies wholly within the gift of the Leader. As the appointed leader of the Council it is their responsibility to ensure that the number of portfolios and their remit are the correct ones to deliver key strategies agreed by the Full Council. As described above there are currently 10 portfolios at Portsmouth City Council.</p> <p>The role of the portfolio holder as defined the council's constitution is:</p> <p><i>'The Cabinet comprises a Leader with Cabinet Members and will carry out all of the city council's functions which are not the responsibility of any other part of the city council, whether by law or under this Constitution.'</i></p> <p>Individual cabinet members may make decisions at formal meetings of their portfolio on matters that sit entirely within their portfolio. By the nature of their remit some meet more often than others. For example, the Transport Portfolio has a steady stream of Traffic Regulation Orders to consider, which results in meetings being required every month. Others do not have a steady workstream of routine business and meet only when necessary, perhaps quarterly.</p> <p>The councillor survey undertaken (see Appendix was very clear that the Cabinet members regarded their workload as significant.</p>
Delegated Responsibilities	Key lines of explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What responsibilities will be delegated to officers or committees?</i> ➤ <i>How many councillors will be involved in taking major decisions?</i>
	Analysis	<p>The full list of delegations can be found in Part 2 of the council's constitution:</p>

		<p>Constitution - Portsmouth City Council</p> <p>For major decisions, within the remit of Cabinet, the decisions are taken collectively by the 10 cabinet members. Where within the remit of Full Council they are taken by all 42 councillors.</p> <p>Often briefings for all members are arranged in advanced of the meetings to allow input into decisions, or for cabinet to fully explain the matter to ensure that a sound decision is made.</p>
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Accountability

Give the Commission details as to how the authority and its decision makers and partners will be held to account. The Commission is interested in both the internal and external dimensions of this role. **Responses should demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been explored.**

Topic	
Internal Scrutiny	<p>The scrutiny function of authorities has changed considerably. Some use theme or task-and-finish groups, for example, and others have a committee system. Scrutiny arrangements may also be affected by the officer support available.</p>
<i>Key lines of explanation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How will decision makers be held to account?</i> ➤ <i>How many committees will be required? And what will their functions be?</i> ➤ <i>How many task and finish groups will there be? And what will their functions be? What time commitment will be involved for members? And how often will meetings take place?</i> ➤ <i>How many members will be required to fulfil these positions?</i> ➤ <i>Explain why you have increased, decreased, or not changed the number of scrutiny committees in the authority.</i> ➤ <i>Explain the reasoning behind the number of members per committee in terms of adding value.</i>
Analysis	<p>The scrutiny structure at Portsmouth City Council has remained broadly consistent since 2008. This comprises of the Scrutiny Management Panel as the parent committee, with four themed scrutiny panels, whose areas of focus are aligned with the service areas and cabinet portfolios for the core functions of the council. This has been embedded for many years and is believed to strike the right balance</p>

between the number of panels to be effective, whilst ensuring that only those who wish to be involved in the process have a seat on a panel.

- Economic Development, Culture and Leisure Scrutiny Panel
- Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel
- Housing & Social Care Scrutiny Panel
- Traffic, Environment & Community Safety Scrutiny Panel

Each year the panels choose a topic of focus to review to add to the council's scrutiny work programme for the year and aim to complete their reviews with associated recommendations to the Cabinet within that municipal year. They hold as many meetings as are required to complete their reviews and are usually held between mid/late June and March the following year. Meetings may be informal if that is the best setting in order to gather evidence. Typically, each themed panel would meet formally five to seven times during the course of the year depending on the complexity of the review.

This approach allows the necessary training to be delivered first and for the reviews to be completed prior to the pre-election period. Following the elections there are often necessary changes to the composition of the panels. It is therefore important that new members are trained first and that reviews don't carry over to the following municipal year.

In addition to setting the overall scrutiny work programme the Scrutiny Management Panel has started undertaking some reviews of its own for significant corporate issues. It also deals with all call-ins and scrutinises the budget prior to its consideration by Cabinet and Council each year.

Call-in is used where necessary and acts as a formal mechanism to hold decision makers to account should it be believed that there has been a failure in making a sound decision. As detailed in the 'Cabinet' section above, the Council also has opposition group spokespersons to provide a degree of check and balance prior to a decision being made.

Under Regulation 30 of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny)

		<p>Regulations 2012, the Council has also appointed a Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>Six members sit on each of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel, themed scrutiny panels, Employment Committee and the Governance & Audit & Standards Committee. This totals 42 members, the same as the number of members on the council. The logic being that there is a committee seat for each member on one of these committees. This however doesn't dictate council size and would remain operable if there was a small reduction or increase in the size of the council.</p>
Statutory Function		<p>This includes planning, licencing and any other regulatory responsibilities. Consider under each of the headings the extent to which decisions will be delegated to officers. How many members will be required to fulfil the statutory requirements of the council?</p>
Planning	Key lines of explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What proportion of planning applications will be determined by members?</i> ➤ <i>Has this changed in the last few years? And are further changes anticipated?</i> ➤ <i>Will there be area planning committees? Or a single council-wide committee?</i> ➤ <i>Will executive members serve on the planning committees?</i> ➤ <i>What will be the time commitment to the planning committee for members?</i>
	Analysis	<p>The following data shows the percentage of planning applications determined by officers under delegated powers over time:</p> <p>2019: 95% 2020: 92% 2021: 95% 2022: 92% 2023: 89% 2024: 87%</p> <p>It is thought that part of the reason for the reduction in the % determined under delegated powers is that since the Spring of 2022 there has been a blanket call-in to Committee for a certain type of HMO application which has resulted in more of these types of applications determined by Committee.</p> <p>The council has a single Planning Committee comprising of 10 members who have received mandatory training. Executive members can, and do, sit on the committee.</p>

		<p>The Planning Committee meets every three weeks and meetings vary between 2 and 5 hours on average. In addition to this, members read the agenda for the meeting to appraise themselves of the applications and the relevant considerations. This would take on average around 3 hours.</p>
	<p>Key lines of explanation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How many licencing panels will the council have in the average year?</i> ➤ <i>And what will be the time commitment for members?</i> ➤ <i>Will there be standing licencing panels, or will they be ad-hoc?</i> ➤ <i>Will there be core members and regular attendees, or will different members serve on them?</i>
	<p>Analysis</p>	<p>The Council has one Licensing Committee comprising 15 members to consider matters of licensing policy. Sub-Committees of 3 members and 1 reserve are formed from this pool of 15 members (and standing deputies). Due to the ad-hoc nature of the Hearings there are no pre set dates and we do not have standing licensing sub-committee memberships, such as panel a, panel b etc. The membership of each sub-committee is instead based upon availability for the date selected, with a view to having a mix of experience and cross-party representation. Where possible the workload is shared as evenly as possible amongst the membership of the Licensing Committee to ensure fairness and develop experience across the members.</p> <p>On average PCC holds between 15 and 20 licensing sub-committee hearings each year. Simple applications may take an hour and a half. On occasion a complex Hearing can last all day. In addition to this there is the time taken to read the agenda for the meeting and pre meeting preparatory work, which may take up to a couple of hours depending on the matter being considered.</p>
Other Regulatory Bodies	<p>Key lines of explanation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What will they be, and how many members will they require?</i> ➤ <i>Explain the number and membership of your Regulatory Committees with respect to greater delegation to officers.</i>
	<p>Analysis</p>	<p>The Council has an Employment Committee and a Governance & Audit & Standards Committee.</p> <p>Employment Committee</p> <p>This committee comprises of six members and meets quarterly.</p>

	<p>The remit of the committee covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power to appoint staff, and to determine the terms and conditions on which they hold office; • Responsible for the strategic overview of workforce/employment matters; • To approve key strategies as the basis for people management within Portsmouth City Council • To be responsible for the recruitment of directors. <p>A Sub-Committee of three Employment Committee Members is formed as when required to deal with disciplinary ill-health & performance, redundancy and grievances.</p> <p>Governance & Audit & Standards Committee</p> <p>This committee comprises of six members and meets five times per year.</p> <p>The remit of the committee covers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit activity • Constitutional matters • The council's accounts • Regulatory matters, such as the Annual Governance Statement, risk management, corporate governance and anti-fraud/anti-corruption strategies. • Standards & Code of Conduct matters <p>In respect of member complaints, these are heard and considered by a Sub-Committee of three, formed of members of the committee and independent people. This is an advisory body to aid the deliberations of the City Solicitor, who ultimately makes a decision.</p>
<p>External Partnerships</p>	<p>Service delivery has changed for councils over time, and many authorities now have a range of delivery partners to work with and hold to account.</p>
<p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Will council members serve on decision-making partnerships, sub-regional, regional or national bodies? In doing so, are they able to take decisions/make commitments on behalf of the council?</i> ➤ <i>How many councillors will be involved in this activity? And what is their expected workload? What proportion of this work is undertaken by portfolio holders?</i> ➤ <i>What other external bodies will members be involved in? And what is the anticipated workload?</i>

<p>Analysis</p>	<p>The council appoints to a comprehensive list of outside bodies.</p> <p>These include national bodies, such as the Local Government Association and more local bodies such as the Langstone Harbour Board, the Hampshire Fire & Rescue Authority and the Police and Crime Panel as well as sub-regional bodies such as the Partnership for South Hampshire (PfSH) and Solent Transport.</p> <p>Where applicable and requested for decision making purposes the relevant cabinet member is appointed and where a single nomination is required this would normally be a councillor from the ruling party. Proportionality is applied where multiple appointments are required.</p> <p>In addition, Councillors are nominated to be a trustee of local organisations with links to the council or of significant local importance/benefit, such as local theatres, the Portsmouth Historic Quarter Trust and the Portsmouth Royal Dockyard Historical Trust.</p> <p>The remainder of the outside bodies appointments are either to national/regional bodies which the council deems beneficial to be a member of or local groups and associations, which again are felt to be of benefit to both the body and the council.</p> <p>Workload and responsibility varies considerably depending on the body and the nature of the appointment. For some there is a commitment to undertake comprehensive training (provided by the body) and to devote a significant amount of time to attend meetings of various committees and boards that the body may appoint them to.</p> <p>Over the last 10 years the Council has been actively pursuing devolution options but without success. There has been extensive political engagement in the process with a strong desire for meaningful devolution to better serve the needs of local communities. It is hoped that this will be further pursued with the new Government and Portsmouth works closely with the other local unitary authorities and with neighbouring local authorities to pursue this.</p>
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Community Leadership

The Commission understands that there is no single approach to community leadership and that members represent, and provide leadership to, their communities in different ways. The Commission wants to know how members are required to provide effective community leadership and what support the council offers them in this role. For example, does the authority have a defined role and performance system for its elected members? And what support networks are available within the council to help members in their duties? The Commission also wants to see a consideration of **how the use of technology and social media by the council as a whole, and by councillors individually, will affect casework, community engagement and local democratic representation.** Responses should demonstrate that alternative council sizes have been explored.

Topic		Description
Community Leadership	Key lines of explanation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>In general terms how do councillors carry out their representational role with electors?</i> ➤ <i>Does the council have area committees and what are their powers?</i> ➤ <i>How do councillors seek to engage with their constituents? Do they hold surgeries, send newsletters, hold public meetings or maintain blogs?</i> ➤ <i>Are there any mechanisms in place that help councillors interact with young people, those not on the electoral register, and/or other minority groups and their representative bodies?</i> ➤ <i>Are councillors expected to attend community meetings, such as parish or resident's association meetings? If so, what is their level of involvement and what roles do they play?</i> ➤ <i>Explain your approach to the Area Governance structure. Is your Area Governance a decision-making forum or an advisory board? What is their relationship with locally elected members and Community bodies such as Town and Parish Councils? Looking forward how could they be improved to enhance decision-making?</i>
	Analysis	<p>It is fair to say that the majority of contact from residents that Councillors receive is either via the telephone or email.</p> <p>Most councillors hold ward surgeries and the days and locations of these are listed within their profiles on the Council's website.</p> <p>There are currently two active Neighbourhood Forums and the local councillors are invited members of these. These forums are not however organised or managed by the Council and are different to Area Committees.</p>

		<p>In addition, there are a large number of outside organisations to which the council is invited to appoint members to. These include a number of local community associations and groups.</p>
<p>Casework</p>	<p><i>Key lines of explanation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>How do councillors deal with their casework? Do they pass it on to council officers? Or do they take a more in-depth approach to resolving issues?</i> ➤ <i>What support do members receive?</i> ➤ <i>How has technology influenced the way in which councillors work? And interact with their electorate?</i> ➤ <i>In what ways does the council promote service users' engagement/dispute resolution with service providers and managers rather than through councillors?</i>
	<p>Analysis</p>	<p>Councillors manage their own casework and when appropriate either signpost to the correct channels or involve senior officers to seek resolutions to issues. Councillors generally take ownership of issues and concerns from residents and seek to resolve them. Councillors within wards support each other, with recently elected councillors often asking more experienced ward colleagues for advice when needed as part of their ongoing development.</p> <p>The majority of casework is either via email or from telephone calls. Whilst some letters are received, this channel of communication has and continues to decrease over time.</p> <p>The council has a small Member Services team who support all Councillors. Some Councillors use the team as their advertised public point of telephone or address contact to take messages and receive correspondence and the team signpost councillors to the correct officer to direct queries to etc.</p>

Other Issues

Respondent may use this space to bring any other issues of relevance to the attention of the Commission.

The cross-party working group carefully considered the various options in respect of council size. As well as the draft of the body of this template, the cross-party working group also considered the following information.

They looked at the details of the electorate forecast. A note detailing the methodology for this is attached as Appendix 1 and the results are also summarised in table 1 below.

Table 1: Electorate forecast by Ward

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ward	Electorate (December 2023)	ONS-based forecast	Electors occupying new build properties by 2030	Adjusted electorate forecast (C + D)	EU citizens to be removed from register	Adjusted electorate forecast (E - F)	% Change by 2030
St Thomas	11,142	11,428	101	11,529	80	11,449	+3%
St Jude	9,118	9,491		9,491	69	9,422	+3%
Central Southsea	12,033	12,259		12,259	92	12,167	+1%
Eastney & Craneswater	9,716	10,003		10,003	61	9,942	+2%
Milton	10,426	10,841	184	11,025	43	10,982	+5%
Fratton	10,455	10,807		10,807	88	10,719	+3%
Charles Dickens	13,302	13,816	679	14,495	85	14,410	+8%
Baffins	10,981	11,381		11,381	34	11,347	+3%
Nelson	10,042	10,529	267	10,796	66	10,730	+7%
Copnor	9,660	10,053		10,053	33	10,020	+4%
Hilsea	10,044	10,432		10,432	36	10,396	+4%
Paulsgrove	10,058	10,484		10,484	27	10,457	+4%
Cosham	10,024	10,511	43	10,554	22	10,532	+5%
Drayton & Farlington	10,446	10,820		10,820	14	10,806	+3%
Total	147,447	152,855	1,274	154,129	750	153,379	+4%

The cross-party working group also considered the results of the Member Survey. The analysis of this survey is attached as Appendix 2. Sixteen of the 42 councillors responded to the questionnaire (38%) although over half of them were Cabinet members. Nearly 90% of the respondents had been councillors for at least 2 years and so it is reasonable to assume that they had a good understanding of the issues.

The following bullet points provide the key point analysis from the survey:

- All councillors state that they are busy but Cabinet members state that the Cabinet role is particularly busy – this would not change with an increase in the number of councillors
- 75% of respondents had at least 20 contacts from residents / month however the majority of respondents (56%) said the volume of casework was what was expected

- 63% of respondents said that their role as a councillor has become more complicated partly because as their experience develops so does what they are able to do
- All channels of communication are used the same, or more, the majority of time which implies that technology is already being well used with no overall efficiency gains to be had
- There was reasonably positive support for keeping the same number of councillors (42) although there were proposals for different numbers e.g. 43 or an extra ward of 3 councillors.
- There is no obvious clear message about the names of the Wards

On the basis of the survey results there is no compelling reason to change the council size. Reducing the size of the council would add to the work pressure that is already being experienced by the councillors. It would have to be a significant increase in council size for the workload to reduce significantly but it is worth noting that the majority of councillors said that their level of casework was as expected.

The Member Working Group also looked at the number of electors / councillor and compared this to the equivalent number for the Council's nearest neighbours using the CIPFA nearest neighbours from the Public Health fingertips tool. A table with this information is attached as Appendix 3. This enabled a comparison to be made on the basis of increasing the number of councillors and also allowing for the increase in the size of the electorate. A selection from the full Appendix is shown below and this shows that retaining the Council size will not make Portsmouth at the far end in terms of electorate / councillor (high or low).

ELECTORATE COMPARISONS TO NEAREST NEIGHBOURS

Ref	Local Authority	Population (2022 MYE)	Electorate (Dec '23 excl' attainers)	Number of Cllrs	Electorate / Cllr
A	Portsmouth with 39		147,377	39	3,779
B	Portsmouth with 43	208,400	147,377	43	3,427
C	Portsmouth with 45	208,400	147,377	45	3,275
D	Portsmouth projection with 42		153,379	42	3,652
	Portsmouth	208,400	147,377	42	3,509
3	Bristol	479,000	323,581	70	4,623

Ref	Local Authority	Population (2022 MYE)	Electorate (Dec '23 excl' attainers)	Number of Cllrs	Electorate / Cllr
4	Sheffield	566,200	388,108	84	4,620
5	Southend-on-Sea	180,900	130,094	51	2,551
8	Newcastle upon Tyne	307,600	189,314	78	2,427

In terms of other information, in October 2021 the LGA undertook a Peer Review of Portsmouth City Council. Their [report](#) did not reference Council size but stated in the conclusion that:

The peer challenge team found that Portsmouth is a good council, that is performing well and doing some innovative work particularly in housing, social care, and finance. The peer challenge team saw evidence of good performance across many key services, as demonstrated by recent Ofsted Inspections and key performance data. However, some significant challenges remain in terms of the Local Plan and housing delivery.....

There are also opportunities for greater collaboration across the member-officer interface and for greater joint working. The peer challenge team also found that there could be more cross-departmental working on strategic issues and more communication across departments....

During interviews some concerns about capacity were raised by staff and some members as well. The Council should satisfy itself it has the necessary capacity to deliver its ambitions in a way that doesn't compromise on quality. Where this is not the case the Council needs to review and prioritise its ambitions.

It is worth noting that one of the recommendations of the Peer Review was to undertake a review of the constitution. The work on this is underway.

Portsmouth has been actively pursuing devolution for a number of years preferably within the Solent area but has also been part of discussions across the wider geography. This does not appear to be coming close to fruition at the current time.

Summary

In following this template respondents should have been able to provide the Commission with a robust and well-evidenced case for their proposed council size; one which gives a clear explanation as to the governance arrangements and number of councillors required to represent the authority in the future.

Use this space to summarise the proposals and indicate other options considered. Explain why these alternatives were not appropriate in terms of their ability to deliver effective



Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulation and Partnerships), and Community Leadership.

After analysing the current and forecast number of electors and the associated ratio between electors and councillors, four potential options for consideration were identified:

1. Reduce the number of Councillors to 39.

To retain voting by thirds, undertaking this approach would result in the loss of one ward. Whilst possible with the redrawing of boundaries it is felt that this would make it difficult to fill all the roles required of a unitary authority with extensive partnership arrangements and that is heavily engaged in sub-regional working. It is also felt that this would lead to an overly high ratio of electors to councillors (although still lower than many statistical neighbours), which over time would only increase.

The necessary redrawing of ward boundaries to ensure a parity of electors to councillors would likely result in ward boundaries that are no longer reflective of individual and well-established communities and have a resulting negative impact on residents feeling of identity.

The predicted increase in casework is likely to lead to a degradation of the councillor's community leadership role and their ability to respond to residents' queries and concerns in a timely manner. This has the potential to deter certain groups of people from standing for election (particularly those of working age or with younger children) and thereby negatively altering the demographic of the council in a way that is likely to result in councillors being elected that are less representative of their communities.

It is for these reasons that this is not the council's preferred option.

2. Retain the current number of Councillors (42)

This option would retain the status quo. Population forecasts support this number, albeit with changes to ward boundaries to address the current anomalies in the number of electors per ward. Taking into account the current effectiveness of ward representation, the council's desire to continue with the current committee structure, member availability to sit on committees and outside bodies coupled with the current workload of councillors, retaining 42 councillors is the council's preferred option. The Member Survey (attached as Appendix 2) shows that this approach has broad support from existing councillors.



3. Increase to 43 councillors with the creation of two 2 Councillor wards.

This option was considered to address the current ward imbalance, particularly looking forward to future proof for planned development past the statutory projection date of 2030. However, whilst some other councils have differing numbers of councillors in different wards, the council notes that this is not the preferred approach and that these anomalies are historic in nature. The council carefully considered the imbalance that that this would create in respect of the timing of elections and potential confusion amongst voters. Whilst this approach would aim to future proof against anticipated development past the statutory 2030 projections, the council notes that the submission should not look past this statutory date and it is believed that the amending of ward boundaries will suffice to ensure parity amongst ward sizes up to 2030. For these reasons this option is not the council's preferred approach.

4. Increase to 45 Councillors, thereby creating one additional three member ward.

Whilst the electorate forecast figures could support this option, these figures also support the option to remain at 42 councillors. No compelling evidence in respect of community representation and councillor workload could be found to make this the preferred option when balanced against offering best value and ensuring the prudent management of the public purse. Comparisons with statistical neighbours does not provide a reason to push for this option. For these reasons this is not the council's preferred option.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 = Electorate forecast note

APPENDIX 2 = Member survey results

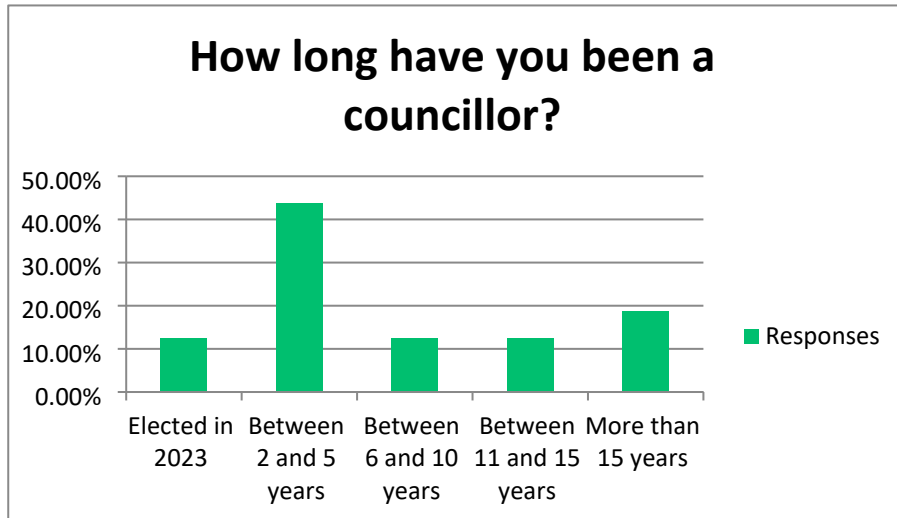
APPENDIX 3 = Comparisons to statistical neighbours

Local Government Boundary Commission Submission

Member Survey

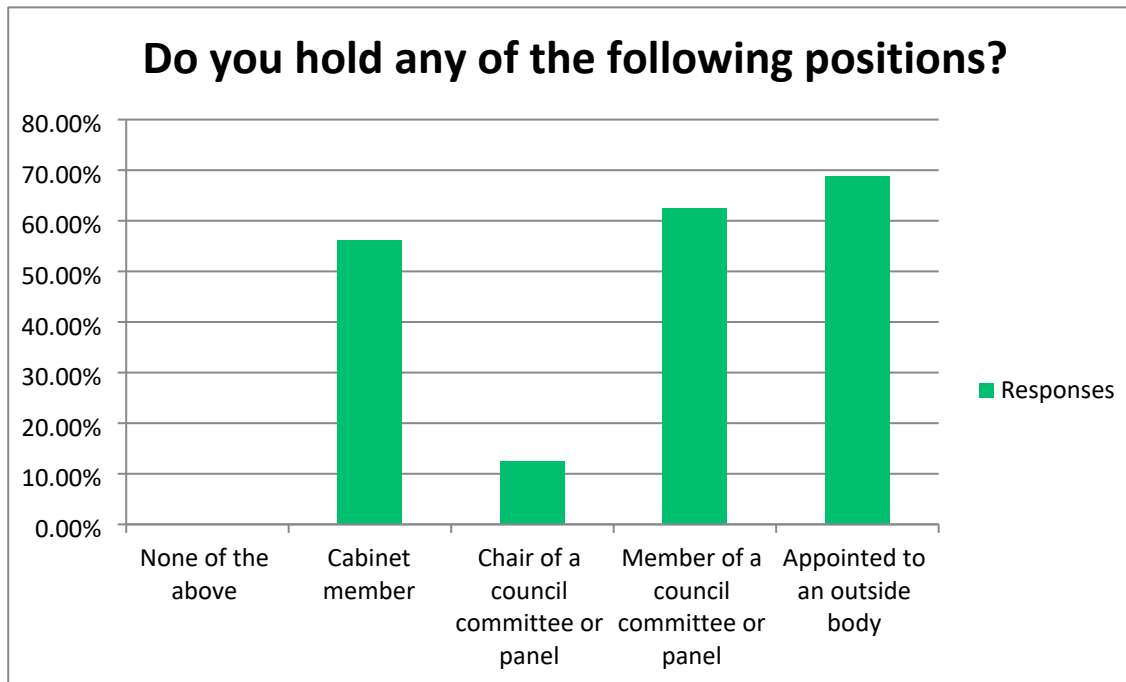
Question 1 - How long have you been a councillor?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Elected in 2023	12.50%	2
Between 2 and 5 years	43.75%	7
Between 6 and 10 years	12.50%	2
Between 11 and 15 years	12.50%	2
More than 15 years	18.75%	3
	Answered	16
	Skipped	0



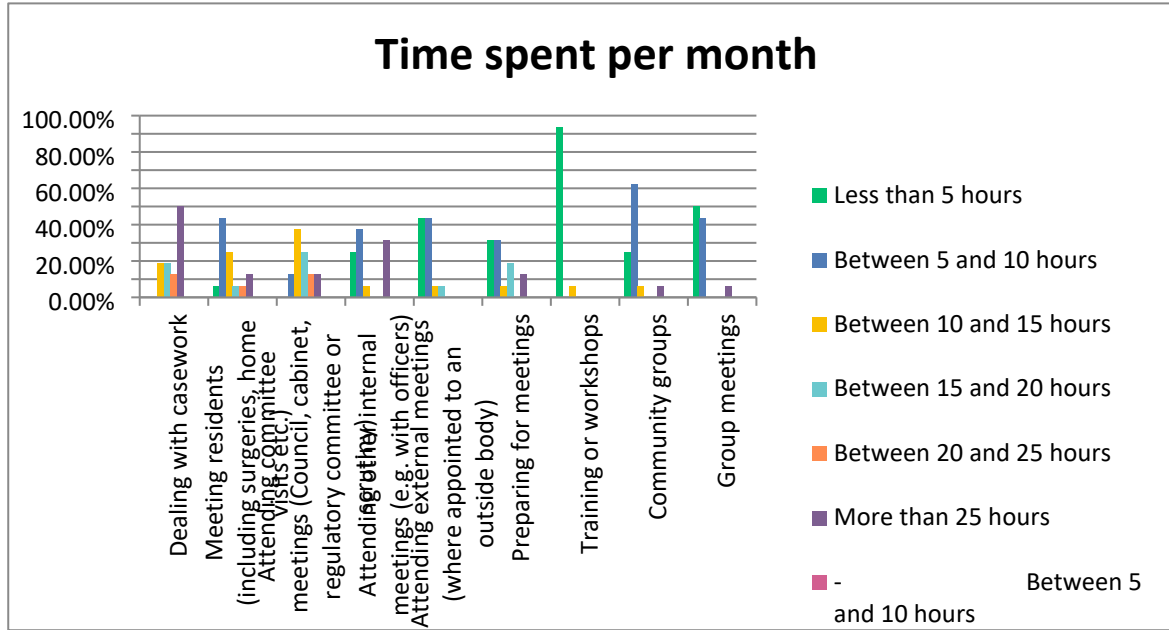
Question 2 - Do you hold any of the following positions?

Answer Choices	Responses	
None of the above	0.00%	0
Cabinet member	56.25%	9
Chair of a council committee or panel	12.50%	2
Member of a council committee or panel	62.50%	10
Appointed to an outside body	68.75%	11
	Answered	16
	Skipped	0



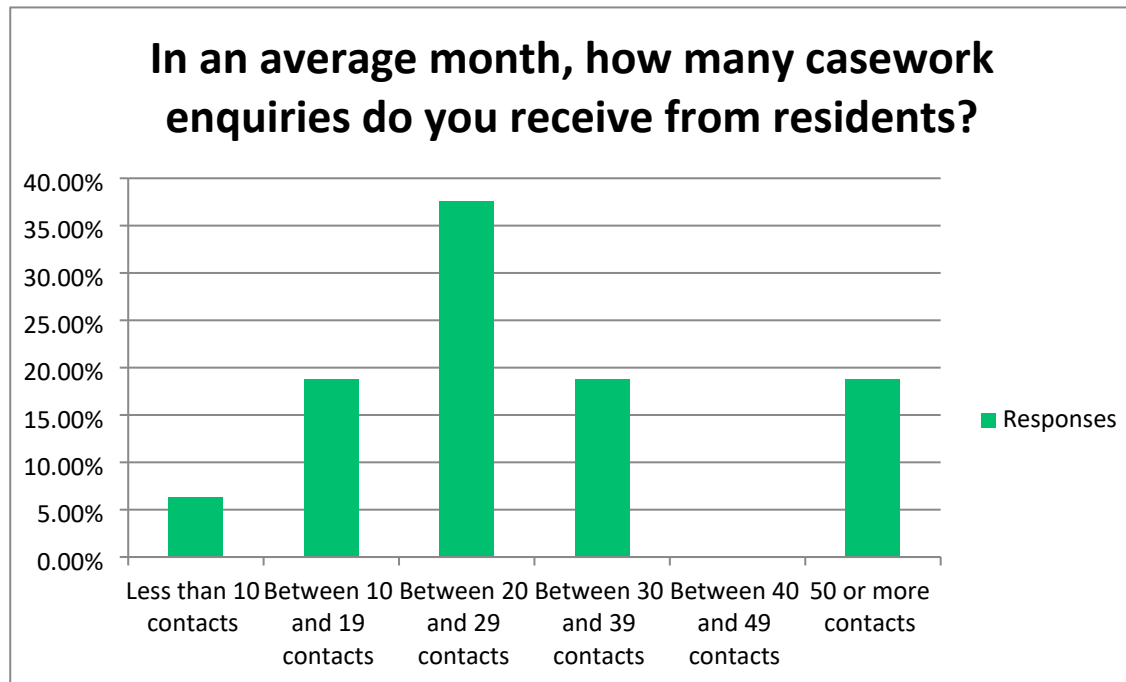
Question 3 - In an average month, how much time do you spend in your role as a councillor on the different aspects listed below? (Time spent per month)

	Less than 5 hours		Between 5 and 10 hours		Between 10 and 15 hours		Between 15 and 20 hours		Between 20 and 25 hours		More than 25 hours	
	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count
Dealing with casework	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	18.75%	3	18.75%	3	12.50%	2	50.00%	8
Meeting residents (including surgeries, home visits etc.)	6.25%	1	43.75%	7	25.00%	4	6.25%	1	6.25%	1	12.50%	2
Attending committee meetings (Council, cabinet, regulatory committee or scrutiny)	0.00%	0	12.50%	2	37.50%	6	25.00%	4	12.50%	2	12.50%	2
Attending other internal meetings (e.g. with officers)	25.00%	4	37.50%	6	6.25%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	31.25%	5
Attending external meetings (where appointed to an outside body)	43.75%	7	43.75%	7	6.25%	1	6.25%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Preparing for meetings	31.25%	5	31.25%	5	6.25%	1	18.75%	3	0.00%	0	12.50%	2
Training or workshops	93.75%	15	0.00%	0	6.25%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Community groups	25.00%	4	62.50%	10	6.25%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.25%	1
Group meetings	50.00%	8	43.75%	7	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.25%	1



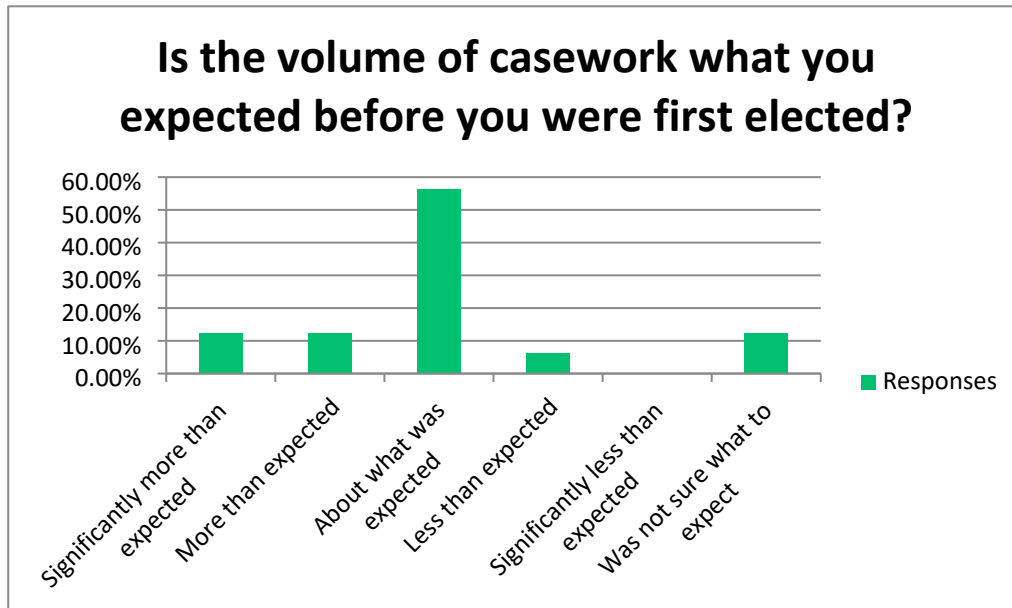
Question 4 - In an average month, how many casework enquiries do you receive from residents?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than 10 contacts	6.25%	1
Between 10 and 19 contacts	18.75%	3
Between 20 and 29 contacts	37.50%	6
Between 30 and 39 contacts	18.75%	3
Between 40 and 49 contacts	0.00%	0
50 or more contacts	18.75%	3
	Answered	16
	Skipped	0



Question 5 - Is the volume of casework what you expected before you were first elected?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Significantly more than expected	12.50%	2
More than expected	12.50%	2
About what was expected	56.25%	9
Less than expected	6.25%	1
Significantly less than expected	0.00%	0
Was not sure what to expect	12.50%	2
	Answered	16
	Skipped	0



Question 6 - Has the amount of time you have spent on your role as a councillor changed since you were first elected? Please tell us about casework, resident meetings, committee meetings, internal meetings with officers, external meetings including where you are appointed to an outside body, preparation for meetings and training or workshops. Please tell us whether it has changed and then how and why.

Yes. Significantly more meetings as a Cabinet Member and also an increase in outside body meetings. Casework has stayed more similar.
Everything increased significantly when I became a Cabinet member and attendance at Committee meetings and preparation increase significantly when I joined the Planning Committee.
Broadly similar over time.
Less time on casework now
Going on the Cabinet increased by workload dramatically (quadrupled it) and similarly when I became Deputy Leader
The time has increased, more internal / teams meetings often at short notice. More complex enquiries from residents requiring multiple meetings / emails / phone calls for one piece of casework.
(1st yr cllr) Casework ebbs and flows based on issues /time of year (eg lots of small scale stuff in summer BBQs, planning stuff all year round) but is increasing as more people know me as a Cllr and I know more people.
I am spending more time preparing/attending meetings since I volunteered to shadow the Cabinet member on the transport portfolio and now that I understand Planning more.
The time spent on my role as a Councillor has increased as I have gained more experience and responsibility and also since a Party mate lost their seat and were replaced by someone who does very little work
It has increased over time but that is due to the cost of living crisis, the energy price hike, national government policy changes and other unexpected factors
Yes. With fewer officers, fewer police and public officials my role has increased enormously as an interface and balance between public expectations and what can actually be achieved. Internally with officers the boundaries are more blurred because sometimes you have to like the officers as there are many fewer; this causes tensions. The constant changes of councillors and officer churn means individuals often don't understand respective roles. This can lead to misunderstandings at all levels. It's getting harder and more time-consuming. The government expects councillors and councils to do more but ties them down in bureaucracy and short-term policies.
It has changed. As I became more experienced I found myself a) with more council external commitments and b) many more and more complex casework issues.

APPENDIX 2

Yes, the number of roles and responsibilities has increased over time. This is now a more than full time job. I could not do other paid employment.

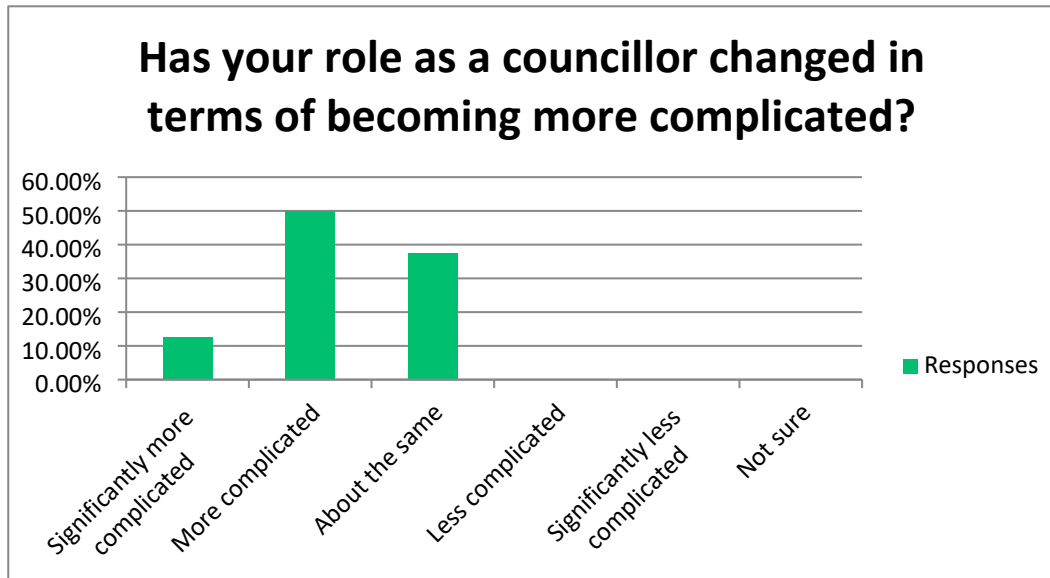
a lot more council meetings and briefings

Planning meetings are quite long, case work can vary but take some time to complete. There's more case work as you get known. This is my first year so it was quieter to begin with.

Case work has increased in the last 12 months. Residents unhappy with lack of response from Planning and transport

Question 7 - Has your role as a councillor changed in terms of becoming more complicated?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Significantly more complicated	12.50%	2
More complicated	50.00%	8
About the same	37.50%	6
Less complicated	0.00%	0
Significantly less complicated	0.00%	0
Not sure	0.00%	0
	Answered	16
	Skipped	0



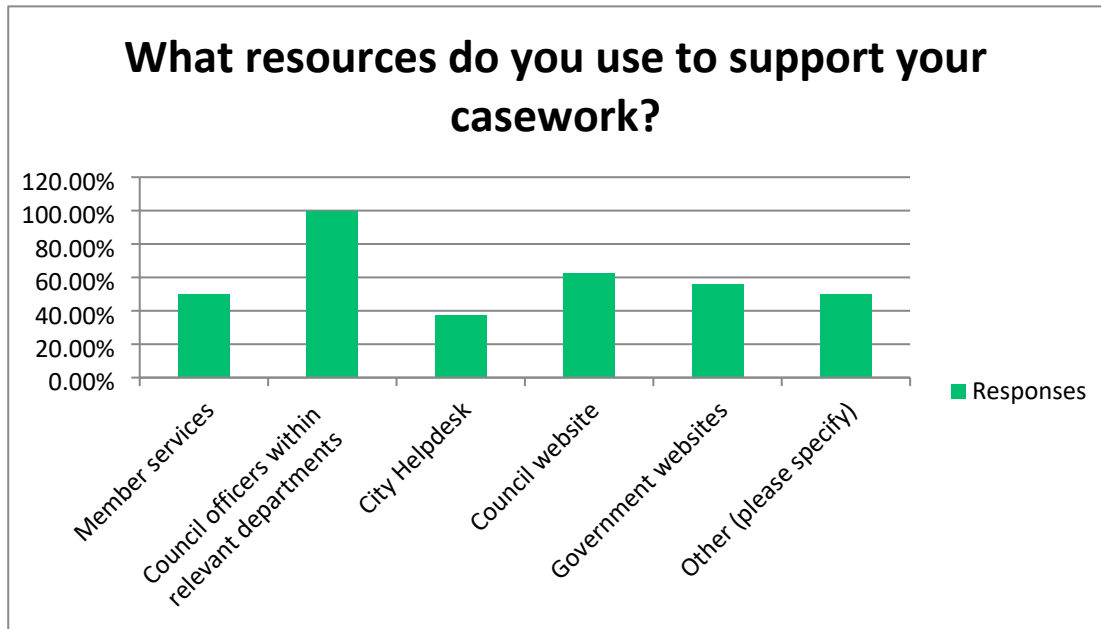
Question 8 - What do you think is the reason for your answer above (question 7)?

Answered	12
Skipped	4

Being on the Cabinet.
The main issues remain the same - especially casework - but there are more of them when joining the Cabinet as you deal with , in particular, casework relating to the portfolio
safeguarding
Social media
Taking on more responsibility and getting into stuff in more depth. I had a private sector senior mgt job. However, being a (good) councillor is potentially much harder given the width of issues and number of stakeholders. Residents can express a view/ask a question in a single line in an email that can take hours to resolve and organised groups send emails to you.
More knowledge and experience so able to get involved with more complicated matters
I have learnt to deal with a number of varied issues across the years but it tends to be the same sort of issues
Expectations of councillors have increased significantly as other public services have diminished.
Council financially less able to meet people's needs and aspirations
Particularly housing cases have become more complex in recent years post Covid.
cost of living crisis
I'm a new councillor so I expect to have more responsibility next year, been approached to chair planning next year.

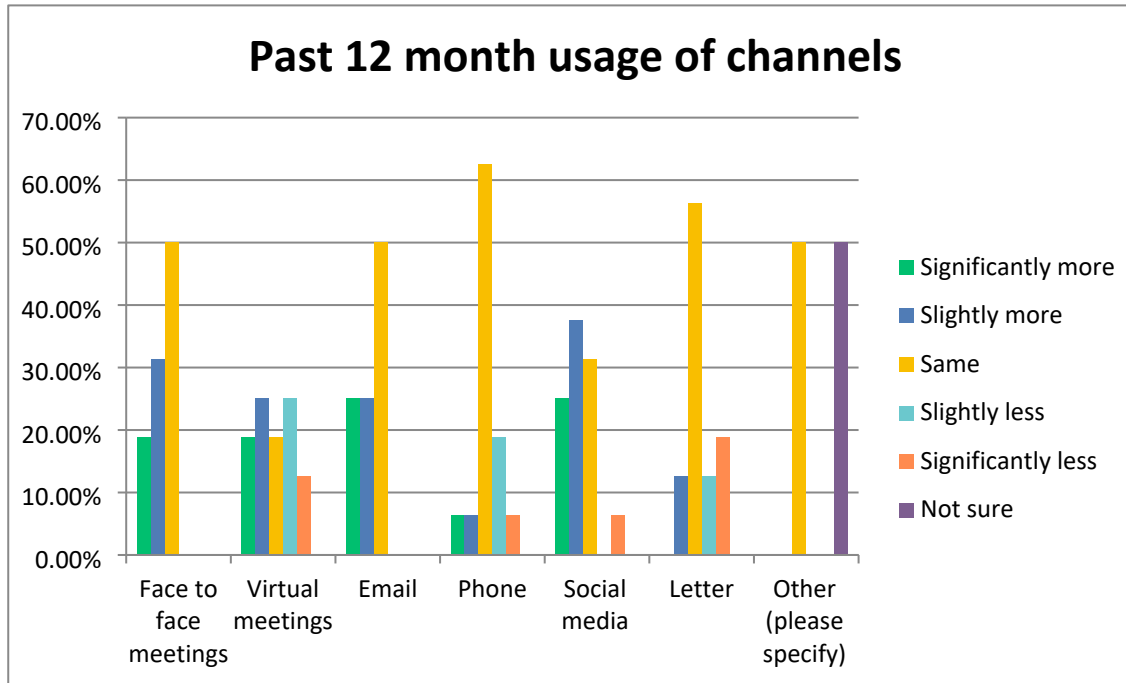
Question 9 - What resources do you use to support your casework?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Member services	50.00%	8
Council officers within relevant departments	100.00%	16
City Helpdesk	37.50%	6
Council website	62.50%	10
Government websites	56.25%	9
Other (please specify)	50.00%	8
	Answered	16
	Skipped	0



Question 10 - Thinking about how you communicate with residents or organisations in your role as a councillor, has there been a change in how you often you use the following communication channels in the last 12 months?

	Significantly more		Slightly more		Same		Slightly less		Significantly less		Not sure		Total
Face to face meetings	18.75%	3	31.25%	5	50.00%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	16
Virtual meetings	18.75%	3	25.00%	4	18.75%	3	25.00%	4	12.50%	2	0.00%	0	16
Email	25.00%	4	25.00%	4	50.00%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	16
Phone	6.25%	1	6.25%	1	62.50%	10	18.75%	3	6.25%	1	0.00%	0	16
Social media	25.00%	4	37.50%	6	31.25%	5	0.00%	0	6.25%	1	0.00%	0	16
Letter	0.00%	0	12.50%	2	56.25%	9	12.50%	2	18.75%	3	0.00%	0	16
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	2	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	2	4
												Answered	16
												Skipped	0



Question 11 - Is there a particular area of your role that you are concerned about in terms of future demands? Please tell us about any trends in workload, new areas of activity, changes in resident needs or expectations, or anything else you feel is relevant

Responses
Some of the demands in my particular Cabinet position are likely to increase due to changes in health and social care systems.
if you are in an administration, we work much, much harder then opposition
I think residents' expectations of what the Council should do has increased, with them thinking the Council should deal with issues that are outside its purview, such as antisocial behaviour. There is also a sense that people have had unrealistic expectations and so are less inclined to do things themselves.
The demands around housing are becoming more significant as the affordable housing situation worsens and many new residents are in inadequate housing
Being a cabinet member is a full time role
Pressure of cost of living on families and feeling that services cannot meet their needs
Older residents requiring more complex help, more cost of living issues and ASB issues needing more time and involvement to progress and deal with
Action groups organising email drives based on standard formats but coming from 'individual' residents
Social media - increasing expectation that we are visible on social media / respond to issues / post about issues but this takes a lot of time and the responses/dialogue is often unhelpful (trolls, lack of space to fully respond, poor context, biased headline, risk that responding feeds a negative story)
Only if we were to lose another member of my party in my ward as I will be doing the work of three councillors
Mental health issues, the cost of living crisis and rising bills. The cuts to local government from national government will put pressure on already pressurised services which I believe will cause problems for the council, officers and councillors in the long term.
There is little or no support for my role within the Council. There is some to manage my diary but I am obliged to use council IT equipment but don't want to carry it around with me. I have my own 'phone which I use to communicate instantly and sort casework fast on my own 'phone. Officers are really good at responding but some departments refuse to communicate with my private email address. Not helpful at all.
case work load
Campaign trail creates more case work

Question 12 - Do you have any views on the current number of councillors and the number needed moving forward?

Answered	14
Skipped	2

Responses
I think the number of councillors is about appropriate for the needs of the city and it fits in with average electors per councillor as per other urban unitary authorities around the country. Therefore I support staying at the current 42 councillors.
about the same but better reimbursed
This all depends on the electorate numbers. However, given the issues other groups have raised on workload, there is a real discussion to be had as to whether we stick with a rejigged 42 or increase by 1 to 43. The latter poses its own problems, but it depends a lot on this survey!
The current number seems about right.
While the present set up works well I think that Charles Dickens Ward now and Nelson Ward in the near future could become four member wards since they have increased in population. I would not increase the total number beyond 44 councillors given the present workload.
About right
43
Three in each ward works well
Either retain 42 or go to 43 (to provide an odd number and help with rebalancing ward sizes). I think 3 cllrs/ward in general works well but 2 x 2 could also . I disfavour single councillor wards as this gives residents no choice about who they contact, not just by Party but also by interest area.
I think a new ward is needed to balance population numbers
I think we have the right balance and would not want to see that change unless a new ward was created but I would opt for 3 councillors for any new ward and would also request it is kept as an odd number of councillors
In Portsmouth there are 42; some are better than others! If everyone took care to execute their roles well and showed up for training and informed themselves about their roles and officer functions then 42 is fine. I deal with enquiries from all over the city but never fob anyone off. If I can't help there and then I start the enquiry and hand it on.

42/43

definitely not less - maybe slightly more

Question 13 - What do you think about the current ward names? Do you think they reflect the identity of the current wards? Please explain why.

Answered	16
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Skipped	0
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Responses

Some do, some don't. The ones that don't fall into three categories. The first is Charles Dickens and Nelson which are non-geographic but cover so many different areas that a 'neutral' name is much shorter (than listing all the areas covered) and so makes sense (with the connections of one covering the former's birthplace and the latter covering the Navy's Whale Island). Both have also been around for a while so people are used to them. The second category is the two Saints wards, both named after churches. St Thomas should by all rights be called 'Old Portsmouth & Croxton' or 'Old Portsmouth & Somers Town' or some such concoction as the church it's named after is nowhere near the centre of the ward and has no connection to most of it. Even though St Jude's church is more or less at the centre of the ward, it encompasses the central area of Southsea and so should be named 'Central Southsea' because the name of a church again doesn't mean anything to people, especially those who live in the Albert Road section of the ward whereas everyone lives in Southsea in the ward. Then the third category is that where the names make no sense. The current Central Southsea is not geographically central Southsea, it's northern Southsea and should have been named 'North Southsea' at the last review. Similarly, though Eastney is a clear community and the vast majority is in Eastney & Craneswater ward, virtually no-one regards themselves as living in Craneswater whereas everyone in that area does regard themselves as living in Southsea so the name of the ward should have been 'Eastney & East Southsea' or if a location anchor was to be used it could have been a visible location like 'Eastney & Canoe Lake'.

no view

I think ward names in principle should broadly reflect communities. If that means longer names so be it.

The ward I represent - Charles Dickens ward - is made up of a number of distinct communities (Landport, Buckland, Portsea, Somerstown, and the City Centre). Few residents identify as living in "Charles Dickens" ward/area but many do in terms of their distinct community/estate.

I do not think that the name of the ward, unless it is totally inappropriate, matters very much.

Nelson, Charles Dickens mean nothing to people. Central Southsea is not. There is none of Southsea above so it's North Southsea.

Central Southsea sometimes is confusing for Southsea residents as Southsea arguably spans 5 wards. But not a major problem

No opinion

My own ward, Eastney & Craneswater is very long and no-one says they come from Craneswater. If a double barrel name is retained (and Eastney IS a separate identity), then Eastney and East Southsea/Southsea seafront would be better.

Responses

In canvassing, no-one says they come from St Thomas, Jude or Charles Dickens wards either, especially as the make up of wards changes through immigration and general movement. Geographic wards make more sense.

No, specifically Copnor as it encompasses Anchorage Park and the residents are very proud of their area so it should be 'Copnor & Anchorage Park

All are fine. They are well known and recognised and I think it would create confusion to change the names.

They're all ok. People know where they are and what they mean. Hilsea is Hilsea, Copnor is Copnor, Nelson reflects the area's history; theres no problem with identity of local communities.

They should describe the area they apply to.

No not all - e.g. Paulsgrove, Cosham, Nelson, St Jude

They're fine I think

Ward Names in the north match the locations however in the south they are less clear



Electorate forecast for Portsmouth

(will be appendix 1 to actual submission)

Portsmouth City Council Electoral Review

Electorate forecast

An important component of the first phase of Portsmouth's electoral review is to provide an electorate forecast. The forecast will be used in combination with the Council's proposal on the future number of councillors to form the foundation of the future warding arrangements.

The forecast must look forward to six years' time; 2030. The forecast will take into consideration population related growth plus growth resulting from housing developments that will be occupied within that period where they are forecast to contain more than 30 electors.

The forecast must look ahead to 2030 and take into consideration various factors including:

- Population related growth calculated from ONS population projections
- Growth resulting from housing developments that will be occupied within the forecast period where they are predicted to contain more than 30 electors
- The impact of post-Brexit changes to the franchise rights of EU citizens

ONS population projections

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England have provided guidance to assist in the formulation of the electorate forecast. This includes a tool to calculate future electorate based on ONS population projections. The ONS based forecast calculates future electorate by applying the population projections to the ratio of registered electors as a percentage of the adult population.

The electorate figure used as the basis for the forecast is taken from the 2024 electoral register published on 1 December 2023. The total electorate from the 2024 register was 147,447. When the ONS population projections are applied to this figure, it shows a forecast to increase to 152,855 by 2030.

These figures are broken down by ward in Table 1 (see columns A and B) on page 3.

Housing development

Portsmouth is an island city and is the second most densely populated local authority area outside London based on 2021 census figures. It is important to understand this geographical context when considering future population and electorate growth. There is little opportunity for large scale housing development in any specific area of the city and for the most part, future development is focussed on brownfield sites and spread across different parts of the local authority area.

The inclusion of electorate growth derived from housing development must be balanced with the potential that there could be double-counting. That is, those electors occupying the new housing could already have been included in the ONS population growth



projections. For that reason, a cautious approach has been adopted in this element of the forecasting.

Data provided by the Council's planning department from the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) shows that only 13 new development sites are due to be occupied during the forecast period to 2029. These developments include 2,218 individual dwellings. Whilst there are developments that will take place in 2030 it is unlikely that many of them will include people registered as electors for 2030 and any that would, and which have therefore been missed off in this methodology, they would likely be balanced out by the double counting referred to above.

When estimating the number of electors that will be registered at these housing developments, the Commission recommends using a ratio of between 1.6 and 1.8 elector per property. However, the average elector-property ratio for Portsmouth currently stands at 1.55 and this ratio varies considerably between different wards with a range of between 1.82 (Drayton & Farlington) and 1.17 (Charles Dickens).

Furthermore, when developments that have become occupied in the previous six-year period are examined, this reveals a ratio of just 0.62 electors per dwelling. If this ratio is applied, and properties which will yield fewer than 30 electors are discounted as required by the Commission's guidance, this gives a forecast figure of 1,274 electors in these new development properties. Even if the ratio of 1.55 electors / dwelling was used instead this would only create an average of an extra 29 electors / councillor in the City.

Changes to EU citizens' voting rights

Following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, changes to the voting franchise have been introduced by the Representation of the People (Franchise Amendment and Eligibility Review) Regulations 2023. Electoral Registration Officers are required to complete a review of EU citizens by 31 January 2025 to determine which EU citizens are eligible to remain registered to vote in local government elections. There are two categories of EU citizens who will retain voting rights:

- A. Citizens of Denmark, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal and Spain are qualifying citizens as the UK has negotiated reciprocal arrangements with these countries
- B. EU citizens who were resident in the UK before 31 December 2020 and who maintained lawful immigration status have 'retained rights'

Initial assessments have been completed which show that approximately 66% of EU citizens remain qualifying citizens due to option A above or where their registration can be traced to before 31 December 2020 as per option B above. These are estimates based on data available in the Electoral Registration Officer's software.

Of the total number of EU citizens registered to vote as at 1 June 2024, there are 2,967 electors whose eligibility will be subject to review where they cannot be confirmed as eligible under either of the above two criteria.

It is fair to assume that a proportion of the EU citizens that are subject to the review will subsequently be identified as eligible for the following reasons:

- They moved in to the area after 31 December 2020 (historic record not available)

- They changed their name (for example, marriage) after 31 December 2020
- Confirmation of their retained status is determined from other available data sources

Of the 2,967 EU citizens currently subject to the review, it is estimated that 25% of these electors will be removed from the register as a result of the review. This has been estimated as 750 electors as shown in column 'F' of Table 1 overleaf.

Table 1: Electorate forecast by Ward

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Ward	Electorate (December 2023)	ONS-based forecast	Electors occupying new build properties by 2030	Adjusted electorate forecast (C + D)	EU citizens to be removed from register	Adjusted electorate forecast (E - F)
St Thomas	11,142	11,428	101	11,529	80	11,449
St Jude	9,118	9,491		9,491	69	9,422
Central Southsea	12,033	12,259		12,259	92	12,167
Eastney & Craneswater	9,716	10,003		10,003	61	9,942
Milton	10,426	10,841	184	11,025	43	10,982
Fratton	10,455	10,807		10,807	88	10,719
Charles Dickens	13,302	13,816	679	14,495	85	14,410
Baffins	10,981	11,381		11,381	34	11,347
Nelson	10,042	10,529	267	10,796	66	10,730
Copnor	9,660	10,053		10,053	33	10,020
Hilsea	10,044	10,432		10,432	36	10,396
Paulsgrove	10,058	10,484		10,484	27	10,457
Cosham	10,024	10,511	43	10,554	22	10,532
Drayton & Farlington	10,446	10,820		10,820	14	10,806
Total	147,447	152,855	1,274	154,129	750	153,379

ELECTORATE COMPARISONS TO NEAREST NEIGHBOURS

(will be Appendix 3 to actual submission)

Ref	Local Authority	Population (2022 MYE)	Electorate (Dec '23 excl' attainers)	Number of Cllrs	Pop / Cllr	Electorate / Cllr	BC Review Date
A	Portsmouth with 39		147,377	39	5,344	3,779	
B	Portsmouth with 43	208,400	147,377	43	4,847	3,427	
C	Portsmouth with 45	208,400	147,377	45	4,631	3,275	
D	Portsmouth projection with 42		153,379	42		3,652	
	Portsmouth	208,400	147,377	42	4,962	3,509	2001 - Portsmouth LGBCE
1	Brighton & Hove	278,000	199,015	54	5,148	3,685	2023 - Brighton and Hove LGBCE
2	Plymouth	266,900	196,496	57	4,682	3,447	2002 - Plymouth LGBCE
3	Bristol	479,000	323,581	70	6,843	4,623	2015 - Bristol LGBCE
4	Sheffield	566,200	388,108	84	6,740	4,620	2015 - Sheffield LGBCE
5	Southend-on-Sea	180,900	130,094	51	3,547	2,551	2000 - Southend-on-Sea LGBCE
6	North Tyneside	210,500	157,428	60	3,508	2,624	In review - North Tyneside LGBCE

Ref	Local Authority	Population (2022 MYE)	Electorate (Dec '23 excl' attainers)	Number of Cllrs	Pop / Cllr	Electorate / Cllr	BC Review Date
7	Southampton	252,700	161,079	51	4,955	3,158	2023 - Southampton LGBCE
8	Newcastle upon Tyne	307,600	189,314	78	3,944	2,427	In review - Newcastle upon Tyne LGBCE
9	Derby	263,500	179,841	51	5,167	3,526	2023 - Derby LGBCE
10	Coventry	355,600	235,603	54	6,585	4,363	In review - Coventry LGBCE
11	Bolton	298,900	208,441	60	4,982	3,474	2022 - Bolton LGBCE
12	Salford	278,100	191,830	60	4,635	3,197	2019 - Salford LGBCE
13	Leicester	373,400	244,503	54	6,915	4,528	2014 - Leicester LGBCE
14	Nottingham	328,500	199,796	55	5,973	3,633	2018 - Nottingham LGBCE
15	Liverpool	496,800	329,757	85	5,845	3,879	2022 - Liverpool LGBCE

Sources:

MYE from Nomisweb. Nearest neighbours taken from Public Health fingertips (links to CIPFA)

[Electoral statistics for the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

[Open Council Data UK - compositions councillors parties wards elections emails](#)

[All reviews | LGBCE](#)