

Full Council

10 July 2018

Further Report on the Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council – Supplementary Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

1. On 2 July 2018 a report was published with the Council Summons for 10 July 2018 outlining developments with the electoral review of Wiltshire Council being undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England ('the Commission').
2. Reference was made to a letter from the Commission dated 31 May 2018 requesting supplementary information on the Council's original submission of 4 April 2018. A copy of their letter is attached at Annex A.
3. The information requested by the Commission can be summarised as:
 - i) How the Council's proposal provides an effective balance between strategic decisions and operational management;
 - ii) To fully understand scrutiny members' role in policy development and, if there is one, why portfolio holders are needed;
 - iii) In relation to the planning function, why such a large number of Councillors need to be involved in decision making on a very small proportion of the total number of planning applications which the Council receives;
 - iv) Why a minimum of four councillors is needed for an Area Board to operate effectively;
 - v) Why a smaller council would compromise the Council's ability to discharge its duties and represent the people of Wiltshire.
4. At its meeting on 25 June 2018 the Electoral Review Committee confirmed that the Council's original submission should stand, and delegated the preparation of a draft response for consideration by Council to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services after consultation with the Chairman.
5. A draft statement to form the basis of the Council's response to these questions is attached at Annex B.
6. As the request for additional information was addressed to the Leader of the Council, it is proposed response will go out from the Leader on behalf of the Council.

Proposal

7. It is therefore recommended that Council:

- i) Notes the current position and the request from the Commission seeking supplementary information on the Council's original submission (Annex A);
- ii) Approves the supplementary information set out in Annex B as the basis of the response to the Commission's letter, subject to any minor drafting and consequential changes to be delegated to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services after consultation with the Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee.

Ian Gibbons - Director of Legal and Democratic Services (and Monitoring Officer)

Report Author: Paul Kelly, Head of Democratic Services, 01225 713049
paul.kelly@wiltshire.gov.uk

Annex A – Letter 31 May from LGBCE

Annex B – Draft information to form the basis of response