

Appendix 3 – Electoral Equality and Variance

Electoral equality is a key factor in any electoral Review, and it is recognised adherence to a community area boundary cannot override the need to reflect electoral equality and other relevant factors.

In 2008 14 divisions created had predicted variances from the average of between 10-15%. 1 Division, Winterslow, had a variance of 17%.

It is accepted that even if the number of councillors remained relatively stable, and the integrity of the community areas retained, there would need to be significant alterations to division boundaries in order to ensure electorate equality.

The table below shows the potential average variance within a community area board, assuming that within that area electoral equality with the council wide average is achieved inasmuch as possible.

	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
Amesbury	7	8	9	-5	-4	-3	-2
Bradford on Avon	17	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6
Calne	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3
Chippenham	1	2	3	4	5	-5	-4
Corsham	5	6	7	8	9	11	-12
Devizes	1	2	4	5	6	7	8
Malmesbury	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Marlborough	10	11	12	13	15	16	-12
Melksham	-2	-1	0	1	3	4	5
Pewsey	-11	-10	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3
Salisbury	2	3	4	5	-6	-5	-4
South West	12	13	-9	-8	-7	-6	-5
Southern	-7	-6	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1
Tidworth	6	7	8	10	11	12	13
Trowbridge	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	1
Warminster	-5	-4	-2	-1	0	1	2
Westbury	-3	-2	-1	0	1	2	3

This table shows that council sizes of 94, 95, 96 and 99 would permit the creation of divisions within or close to an acceptable variance from the council wide average of 10-15%.