

## ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

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**MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 JULY 2019 AT KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, BYTHESEA ROAD, TROWBRIDGE, BA14 8JN.**

**Present:**

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cllr Richard Clewer (Chairman), Cllr Christopher Newbury, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Stuart Wheeler and Cllr Graham Wright

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**1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Gavin Grant, Ian McLennan and Jonathon Seed.

**2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2019 were received and after consideration it was,

**Resolved:**

**To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.**

**3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

**4 Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**5 Public Participation**

There were no statements or questions submitted.

**6 Electoral Review Update**

On 2 July 2019 the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) had announced a further limited consultation on revised draft recommendations focused upon area of the south, south west and south east of the council area. As the deadline for submissions was 29 July 2019 Full Council at its meeting on 9 Jul 2019 delegated authority to approve a response to the consultation to the Electoral Review Committee.

Following a meeting with local members the Committee held an informal workshop on 15 July 2019 to discuss the proposed new pattern of divisions.

Arising from that workshop the Committee received a draft submission, recommending that the Council respond to the latest consultation with a restatement of its previous submission. This was because it was considered that in seeking to address concerns expressed by members of the public during the previous consultation, the proposals of the LGBCE had led to significantly greater harm to community identity and cohesion and other statutory criteria across a wide area.

The Committee discussed the proposal, noting in particular that it had considered dozens of potential patterns of divisions in this area of the council, but that alternative solutions, such as the LGBCE's latest proposal, all required the splitting of parish communities and widespread impacts across other divisions requiring combinations of parishes with no community connections, such as the inclusion of the Deverill Valley within the Nadder Valley division. The proposals of the LGBCE also had inferior electoral equality, with an overly large division in an area that would see future growth, necessitating further reviews far sooner than would otherwise be the case.

The Committee discussed specifics to be included within the submission to the LGBCE, and at the conclusion of discussion it was,

**Resolved:**

**To approve the draft submission as detailed in Appendix A, subject to any necessary consequential changes to the documentation by the Director of Legal, Electoral and Registration Services after consultation with the Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee.**

*At the request of the Committee it was noted that the decision above was unanimous.*

7 **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next scheduled meeting was confirmed as 26 September 2019.

8 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 3.30 - 3.55 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718504, e-mail [kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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