

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Electoral Review Committee**

**13 August 2020**

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#### **Area Board Boundary Review**

##### **Purpose**

1. To consider options for revised Area Board Boundaries to be consulted upon.

##### **Background**

2. Following an Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England proposed revised Electoral Divisions for the Council on 1 October 2019. On 17 March 2020 Parliament approved the revisions in *The Wiltshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2020*, to take effect at the local elections in May 2021.
3. Area Boards are appointed by the Council under S.102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and are constituted as area committees with the meaning of s.9E of Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
4. Schedule 1 of Part 3B of the Constitution sets out the Electoral Divisions, and therefore any parishes, which comprise each of the 18 existing Area Boards. Pewsey and Tidworth comprise a single area committee, which appoints the individual Area Boards. South West Wiltshire Area Board comprises three community areas.

##### **Main Considerations**

5. As a result of the Electoral Review the incoming Electoral Divisions do not align to the Area Boards as currently constituted. Therefore, it is necessary that the Council adopt revised arrangements for the appointment of Area Boards ahead of the elections in May 2021.
6. At its meeting on 21 July 2020 Full Council amended the terms of reference of the Committee to enable it to make recommendations in respect of the boundaries of Area Boards through such processes as it considered appropriate.
7. As an administrative arrangement of the Council, Full Council has responsibility for determining the boundaries of Area Boards. There is no requirement for consultation with other parties, however it is proposed that the Committee consult through the existing Area Boards and parishes in September-October 2020 on any proposal or options it resolves to recommend or suggest.
8. The Committee may propose any arrangement of Electoral Divisions within an Area Board as it feels appropriate.
9. In accordance with the Constitution Area Boards consist of entire Electoral Divisions and each Division may only be in one Area Board.
10. Sessions were arranged between members of the Committee and each existing Area Board to discuss the changes in Electoral Divisions and potential options and implications for any future Area Board arrangement.

11. Maps showing the existing Electoral Divisions and the incoming Divisions for each current Area Board area are attached at **Appendix A**. Notes from the sessions with members of the Area Boards are set out at **Appendix B**.

#### **Safeguarding Implications**

12. There are no safeguarding implications.

#### **Public Health Implications**

13. There are no public health implications.

#### **Procurement Implications**

14. There are no procurement implications.

#### **Risk Assessment**

15. There are no risk issues arising from this report.

#### **Equalities Implications**

16. There are no equalities implications.

#### **Environmental and Climate Change Implications**

17. There are no environmental implications.

#### **Workforce Implications**

18. There are no workforce implications.

#### **Financial Implications**

19. There are no financial implications.

#### **Legal Implications**

20. There are no legal implications.

#### **Proposal**

21. For the Committee to approve a proposal or options for a consultation on Area Board Boundaries.

#### **Ian Gibbons - Director of Legal and Governance**

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#### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Current Area Board Boundaries and incoming Electoral Divisions  
Appendix B – Notes from sessions with current Area Board Members

#### **Background Papers**

[Summary report of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England](#)  
[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Electoral Division Map](#)