

Wiltshire Council

Electoral Review Committee

25 January 2018

Council Size Submission Update

Purpose

1. For the Electoral Review Committee (“The Committee”) to approve a draft submission on council size, for consideration by Full Council on 20 February 2018.

Background

2. At its meeting on 25 January 2018 the Committee, after consideration of all relevant evidence that had been gathered on governance arrangements, scrutiny arrangements and the representational role of councillors, resolved that the most appropriate council size was 99.
3. A draft submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (“The Commission”) has been prepared by officers using the evidence and reasoning previously approved by the Committee.

Main Considerations

4. In their guidance, the Commission recommend that Council representations on size be made in a short submission of approximately ten pages, setting out the relevant justification and evidence to support the number being put forward. The layout of the proposed submission follows the suggested template from the Commission.
5. The Committee is requested to review the draft submission and indicate whether any further reasoning or evidence should be included.
6. The draft submission has been written as a recommendation from the Committee to Full Council. If approved by Council on 20 February, it will be amended to reflect its status as the formal view of Council. The final deadline for submission to the Commission is 15 March.

Proposal

7. That the Committee approve the draft submission on council size for consideration by Council on 20 February 2018, subject to any minor drafting and consequential changes to be delegated to the Director of Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Chairman.

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

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Appendix 1 – Draft Council Size Submission