

Wiltshire Council

Malmesbury Area Board

2 May 2018

Electoral Review Information

Background

1. Electoral Reviews determine both the overall number of councillors on a council, and the pattern of divisions within that council.
2. The current review is the first review since Wiltshire Council was formed in 2009.
3. It was required because 25 Divisions had a variance from the average in the size of their electorate of more than 10%, and 2 Divisions had a variance from the average of over 30%.
4. The review's outcome, if implemented, will apply from the next elections in May 2021.
5. **Parliament, not Wiltshire Council, will be responsible for the final decision, following a recommendation from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).**

Preliminary Phase

6. Wiltshire Council formed an Electoral Review Committee to prepare any submissions to and make any comments in relation to the Electoral Review on its behalf. The preliminary phase is about to conclude, and relates to the overall size of the council.
7. The criteria for assessing the most appropriate council size includes consideration of the government arrangements of the council (eg how many councillors it needs to efficiently conduct its business), the scrutiny arrangements of the council (eg to ensure there are sufficient councillors to hold the executive to account) and the representational role of councillors. The number must be that which is considered best for effective and convenient local government.
8. **The Electoral Review Committee considered a great deal of evidence, and recommended to Full Council that a council size of 99 be submitted to the LGBCE. This was approved on 20 February 2018.**
9. The decision of the LGBCE will be announced shortly. Even if the council size remains relatively unchanged, there will need to be significant changes to the shape of current divisions, due to population changes.

Next Phase

10. After announcing its decision on council size, the LGBCE will hold a **public consultation, the dates of which are yet to be announced.**

11. The consultation will seek proposals from the council, towns and parishes, other community or local groups, and members of the public, on how the determined number of divisions should be drawn up.
12. **Anyone who wishes to make a representation on the pattern of divisions should contact the LGBCE directly via their website - <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews>**
13. There will be a briefing for parishes from the LGBCE, with the date still to be confirmed.
14. Wiltshire Council also welcomes any submissions from parishes or the public, to assist it in drawing up its own proposals. **Anyone who wishes to share their views on a submission with the council should email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk**

Submission Details

15. Anyone commenting on proposed divisions or making their own submissions, should be aware of the criteria for assessment of said divisions, as detailed below:

Electoral Equality - Any submissions made will be required to seek to create divisions as close as possible to the average figure of electors per division (not total population per division) identified by the LGBCE when making their decision on council size.

Interests and identities of local communities - this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, avoid splitting local ties, and where boundaries are easily identifiable.

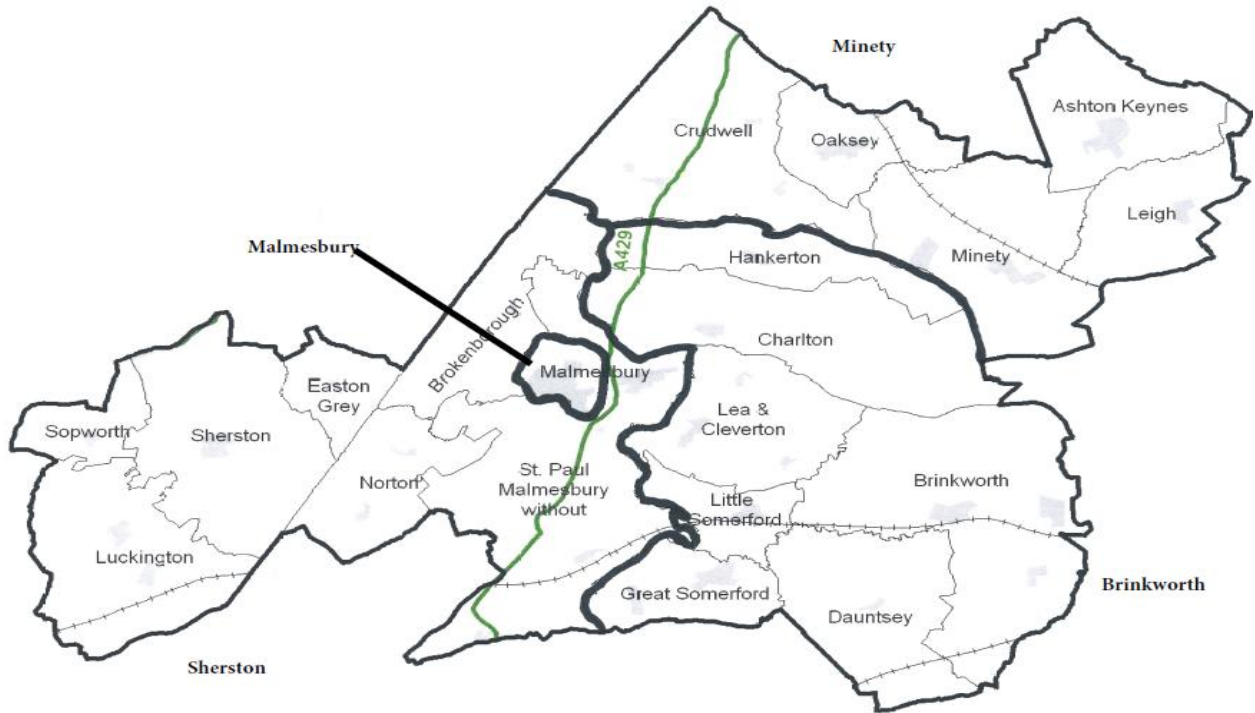
Effective and convenient local government - this means ensuring that the divisions can be represented effectively, and that the electoral arrangements as a whole, allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

16. Localised submissions from organisations and communities may justify a level of variance from the average electorate figure, but this would need to be supported by clear evidence.

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17. A map of the current community area boundaries, and the parishes and electoral divisions contained therein, is shown overleaf.
18. **While the Electoral Review Committee is minded to try to recommend new divisions which accord to the current community area boundaries, unless there are justifiable requests to do otherwise, the need to have electorally equal divisions may mean the LGBCE decide it is necessary to create divisions which go beyond the current boundaries. This could be by combining whole parishes or parts of parishes.**

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Neighbouring Area Boards

Wiltshire Area Boards and Community Partnership Areas 2009



Key facts and figures

19. The current electorate for the Malmesbury Community Area is **15,734**, with 4 electoral divisions.

20. The average division size at present across the council area is **3752**.
21. The projected electorate for the Malmesbury Community Area in 2024 is **17,363**. **The number is presently draft only.**
22. Below are listed the draft figures for the projected electorates for the current pattern of division, and for parishes, in 2024. These may be subject to some change.

Divisions

Brinkworth – 3921
Malmesbury – 4956
Minety – 4102
Sherston – 4384

Parishes

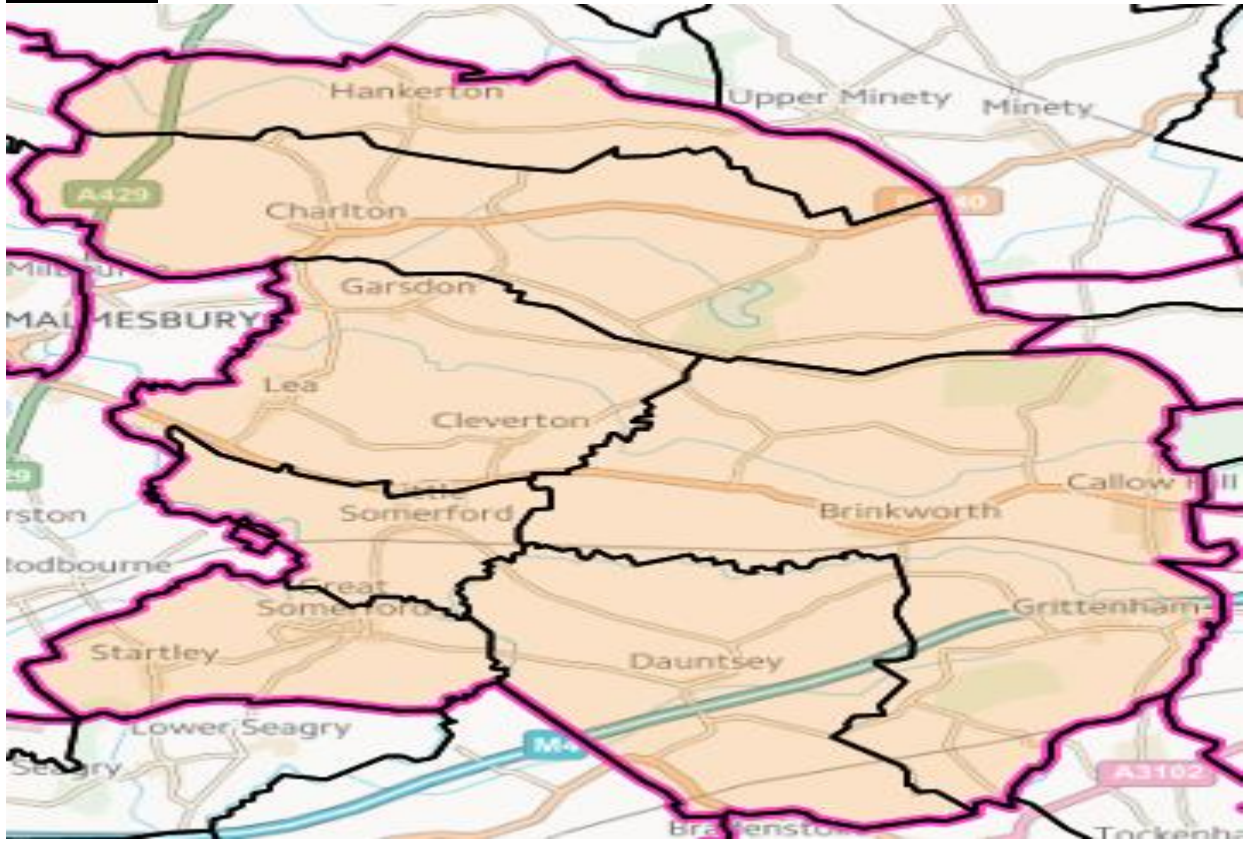
Ashton Keynes – 1175
Brinkworth – 1109
Brokenborough – 163
Charlton (nr Malmesbury) – 366
Crudwell – 978
Dauntsey – 490
Easton Grey – 71
Great Somerford – 705
Hankerton – 257
Lea and Claverton – 692
Leigh – 285
Little Somerford – 301
Luckington – 528
Malmesbury – 4956
Minety – 1211
Norton and Foxley – 104
Oaksey – 454
Sherston – 1338
Sopworth – 100
St Paul Malmesbury Without - 2079

It is these number that the LGBCE will use to create new divisions. They may use parts of parishes, and may not utilise existing area board boundaries.

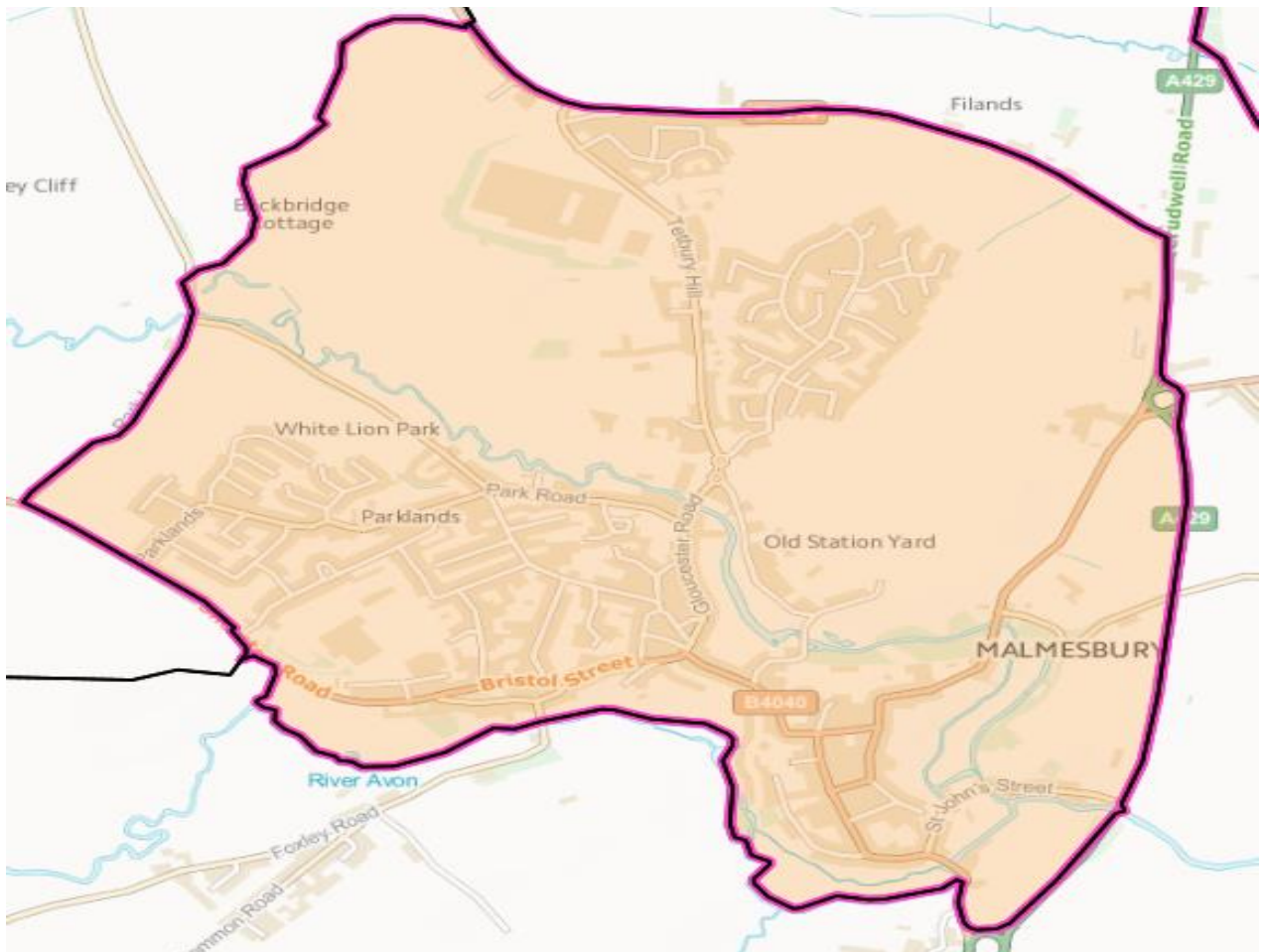
23. Overleaf are maps of the existing divisions.

Current Divisions Maps

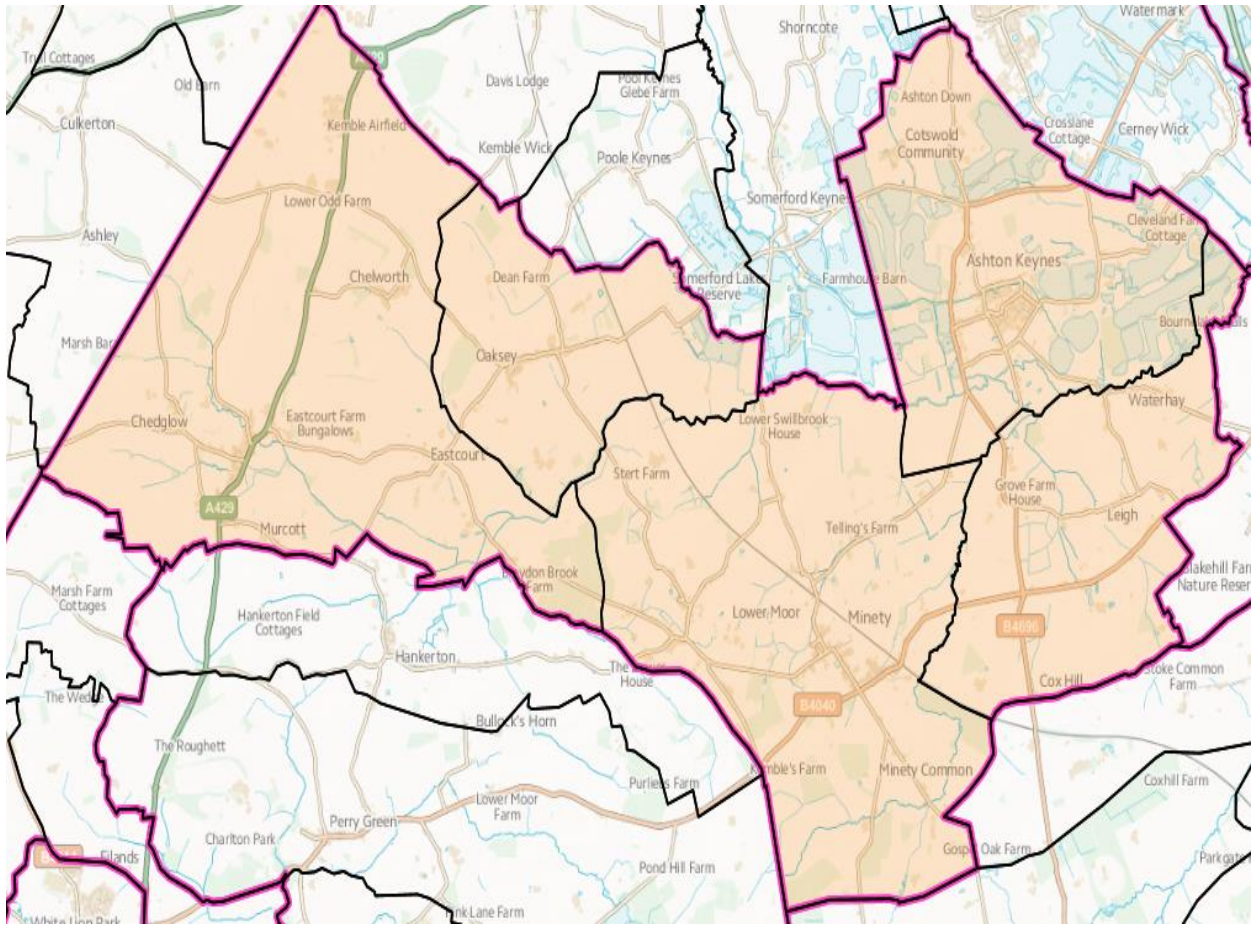
Brinkworth



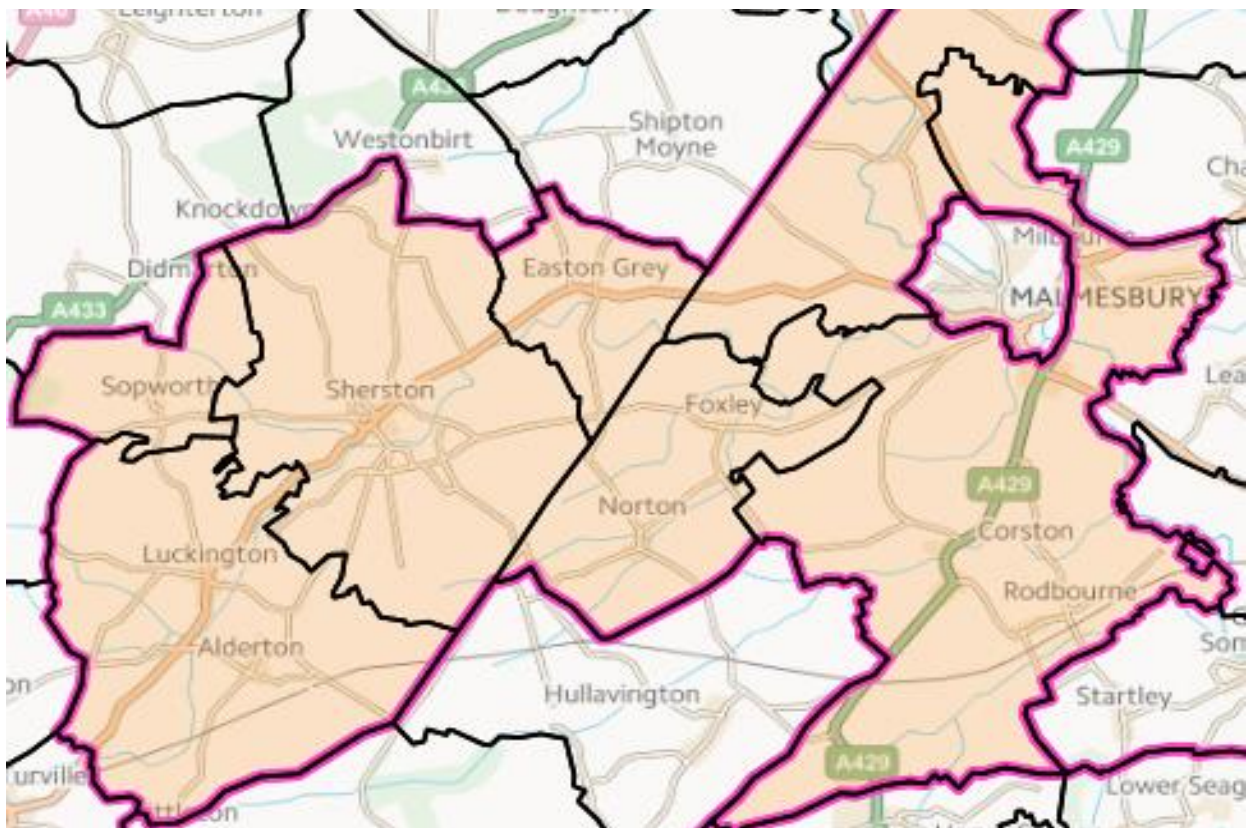
Malmesbury



Minety



Sherston



Future Stages

24. Some time after the next stage the LGBCE will consult upon its draft recommendations on new divisions, published after considerations of the submissions that have been made.
25. Area Boards will again be consulted at this stage, and the Electoral Review Committee will consider a response to the draft recommendations
26. Sometime in 2019 the final recommendations of the LGBCE will be published. They will be laid before Parliament, where the recommendations may be accepted, or rejected, but not amended.