Appendix 1 – Community Area Model

The Committee determined that the Community Area Model to be a key consideration for, among other reasons:

- The Community Areas, in place since 1997, were identified as relating to the distinct and historic communities of Wiltshire which in some cases date back to the Anglo-Saxon system of Hundreds, with several named for those ancient communities. They were described as a 'fundamental building block' in the bid for Unitary status, as noted in the 2008 recommendations of the Commission, which rejected an alternate submission which sought to eliminate this model without justifying evidence.

- As a large, rural county with the expanse of Salisbury Plain filling much of the centre, many communities are isolated from the county town, Trowbridge, or even the other large populations of Chippenham and Salisbury, which lie around the edges of the council area. Ensuring these smaller, more isolated communities are appropriately represented for council and democratic governance is essential, particularly when much other council business will be concentrated in the main hub towns.

- Each Area Board exercises delegated executive authority, determining over £1m in grants per annum in relation to communities, youth services, highways and more. The level of delegation has increased since 2009 and the 10-year business plan 2017-2027 seeks to build on the existing community area model to develop services to local areas in the most appropriate way, continuing and expanding the community area model as a focus for democratic engagement and the role of councillors as community leaders, as it is through the community areas that local services and partners are engaged and delivered, enabling county wide issues to be discussed and impacted at a local level. This includes the setting of local priorities through joint strategic assessments, and meetings of Local Youth Networks and Community Area Transport Groups to recommend allocation of executive funding.

- As a decision-making body, area boards are required to be quorate for their decisions. This means a minimum of three councillors per area board. Any number which reduced an area board to below this level would therefore be unworkable.

- As noted in its 2008 submission, accepted by the Commission, the Committee continues to maintain that the most effective and democratic arrangement would be a minimum of 4 councillors per area board. Recognising the need for electoral equality to be achieved, the council accepts the present situation where Pewsey and Tidworth Area Boards, being neighbouring community areas with broadly similar characteristics, could continue to function with only 3 members. However, it does not consider that other community area boards could reasonably be administratively combined in the same manner, given the disparity in size, location and character of those areas.

  The impact of the range 93-99 on the existing community area board sizes, (including the combined board of South West Wiltshire), can be seen overleaf:

  This is based on the 2024 electorate projections for the existing areas, allocating board members by total electorate divided by average division size.

At 93 divisions, 4 of 18 area boards would have fewer than 4 unitary councillors (Pewsey, Tidworth, Marlborough and Bradford-on-Avon).

At 94-98 divisions, 3 of 18 area boards would have fewer than 4 unitary councillors. (Pewsey, Tidworth, Marlborough).

At 99 divisions only 2 of 18 area boards would have fewer than 4 unitary councillors. (Pewsey and Tidworth).

93 Councillors

Area Board	Predicted Total Voters	Predicted Voters per Division	Cllrs Per Area Board
Amesbury	28778	4796	6
Bradford on Avon	15768	5256	3
Calne	20429	4086	5
Chippenham	40562	4507	9
Corsham	18816	4704	4
Devizes	27261	4544	6
Malmesbury	17361	4340	4
Marlborough	14779	4926	3
Melksham	26431	4405	6
Pewsey	12020	4007	3
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	26095	4349	6
Salisbury	36455	4557	8
South West	20022	5006	4
Southern	20789	4158	5
Tidworth	14262	4754	3
Trowbridge	38180	4242	9
Warminster	21389	4278	5
Westbury	17379	4345	4

		Total Est Voters	**416776**
		Est Voters per Division	**4481**

94 Councillors

Area Board	Predicted Total Voters	Predicted Voters per Division	Cllrs Per Area Board
Amesbury	28778	4796	6
Bradford on Avon	15768	3942	4
Calne	20429	4086	5
Chippenham	40562	4507	9
Corsham	18816	4704	4
Devizes	27261	4544	6
Malmesbury	17361	4340	4
Marlborough	14779	4926	3
Melksham	26431	4405	6
Pewsey	12020	4007	3
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	26095	4349	6
Salisbury	36455	4557	8

South West	20022	5006	4
Southern	20789	4158	5
Tidworth	14262	4754	3
Trowbridge	38180	4242	9
Warminster	21389	4278	5
Westbury	17379	4345	4

	Total Est Voters		**416776**
	Est Voters per Division		**4434**

95 Councillors

Area Board	Predicted Total Voters	Predicted Voters per Division	Cllrs Per Area Board
Amesbury	28778	4796	6
Bradford on Avon	15768	3942	4
Calne	20429	4086	5
Chippenham	40562	4507	9
Corsham	18816	4704	4
Devizes	27261	4544	6
Malmesbury	17361	4340	4
Marlborough	14779	4926	3
Melksham	26431	4405	6
Pewsey	12020	4007	3
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	26095	4349	6
Salisbury	36455	4557	8
South West	20022	4004	5
Southern	20789	4158	5
Tidworth	14262	4754	3
Trowbridge	38180	4242	9
Warminster	21389	4278	5
Westbury	17379	4345	4

	Total Est Voters		**416776**
	Est Voters per Division		**4387**

96 Councillors

Area Board	Predicted Total Voters	Predicted Voters per Division	Cllrs Per Area Board
Amesbury	28778	4111	7
Bradford on Avon	15768	3942	4
Calne	20429	4086	5
Chippenham	40562	4507	9
Corsham	18816	4704	4
Devizes	27261	4544	6
Malmesbury	17361	4340	4
Marlborough	14779	4926	3
Melksham	26431	4405	6
Pewsey	12020	4007	3
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	26095	4349	6

Salisbury	36455	4557	8
South West	20022	4004	5
Southern	20789	4158	5
Tidworth	14262	4754	3
Trowbridge	38180	4242	9
Warminster	21389	4278	5
Westbury	17379	4345	4

	Total Est Voters	**416776**
	Est Voters per Division	**4341**

97 Councillors

Area Board	Predicted Total Voters	Predicted Voters per Division	Cllrs Per Area Board
Amesbury	28778	4111	7
Bradford on Avon	15768	3942	4
Calne	20429	4086	5
Chippenham	40562	4507	9
Corsham	18816	4704	4
Devizes	27261	4544	6
Malmesbury	17361	4340	4
Marlborough	14779	4926	3
Melksham	26431	4405	6
Pewsey	12020	4007	3
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	26095	4349	6
Salisbury	36455	4051	9
South West	20022	4004	5
Southern	20789	4158	5
Tidworth	14262	4754	3
Trowbridge	38180	4242	9
Warminster	21389	4278	5
Westbury	17379	4345	4

	Total Est Voters	**416776**
	Est Voters per Division	**4297**

98 Councillors

Area Board	Predicted Total Voters	Predicted Voters per Division	Cllrs Per Area Board
Amesbury	28778	4111	7
Bradford on Avon	15768	3942	4
Calne	20429	4086	5
Chippenham	40562	4507	9
Corsham	18816	4704	4
Devizes	27261	4544	6
Malmesbury	17361	4340	4
Marlborough	14779	4926	3
Melksham	26431	4405	6
Pewsey	12020	4007	3

Area Board			
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	26095	4349	6
Salisbury	36455	4051	9
South West	20022	4004	5
Southern	20789	4158	5
Tidworth	14262	4754	3
Trowbridge	38180	4242	9
Warminster	21389	4278	5
Westbury	17379	4345	4

		Total Est Voters	416776
		Est Voters per Division	4253

99 Councillors

Area Board	Predicted Total Voters	Predicted Voters per Division	Cllrs Per Area Board
Amesbury	28778	4111	7
Bradford on Avon	15768	3942	4
Calne	20429	4086	5
Chippenham	40562	4507	9
Corsham	18816	4704	4
Devizes	27261	4544	6
Malmesbury	17361	4340	4
Marlborough	14779	3695	4
Melksham	26431	4405	6
Pewsey	12020	4007	3
Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade	26095	4349	6
Salisbury	36455	4051	9
South West	20022	4004	5
Southern	20789	4158	5
Tidworth	14262	4754	3
Trowbridge	38180	4242	9
Warminster	21389	4278	5
Westbury	17379	4345	4

		Total Est Voters	416776
		Est Voters per Division	4210

Appendix 2 – Portfolio Holders and Representational Role

These factors are not exhaustive and the final submission will include additional material as already detailed in committee meetings and workshops

Executive Portfolio Holders
The Committee recognises the Portfolio Holders are an essential part of ensuring a member-led authority, including work with services, external partners and other activities, with the Independent Remuneration Panel noting in 2013 during a review that they were '*an additional resource providing extra capacity to Cabinet Members' work, undertaking in-depth work with Service Directors and also functioning as an extra contact point for non-executive Councillors*' and considered that the role was '*a sensible addition to the structure*'. A review by the Independent Remuneration Panel in 2017 maintained the level of special responsibility allowance for the role, recognising their importance to the structure.

Representational role (rurality)
While much work is done online and paperlessly, travel time is a significant factor for councillors in a large county such as Wiltshire. For some the travel distance to main hubs will be unavoidable, but in order to devote appropriate attention to local casework, parish council attendance and other local work, divisions cannot become too geographically large. Given the low population in some areas, a reduction in council size would result in overly large divisions which would prevent councillors from performing their role as community leaders efficiently and effectively. Area boards also serve as hubs for meetings between parish council representatives and division members. Members are central to the council's operating model and, with the reduction in council staff, unitary councillors as community leaders support groups and parish councils within their area, often serving as primary liaison to those areas.