

Wiltshire Council

Annual Council

12 May 2015

Notice of Motion No. 21

**Reduction in the number of Councillors
From Councillors Jeff Osborn and Terry Chivers**

To consider the following motion:

“That Council recognises the need to economise in these hard times and should therefore instigate a process of reducing the number of members to 70.

Whilst it appreciates that this cannot immediately happen, as division boundaries will need to be revised, it is important that the process starts now, to indicate to the public that we are serious in our commitment to save money.”

Briefing Note in Response to Notice of Motion 21

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is responsible for determining any changes to the electoral arrangements for principal councils, including the number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of electoral divisions and the number of councillors to be elected to each.

Whilst the council would be invited to submit representations in connection with any review of electoral arrangements the final decision rests with the LGBCE, whose recommendations are implemented by the making of a statutory order, which is subject to Parliamentary scrutiny.

The LGBCE have indicated that Wiltshire is not included in their current programme of reviews for 2015/16 and, even if the council requested a review of the number of councillors, the entire process would not be completed until after the unitary elections in 2017, based on the indicative timescale set out in the LGBCE's Technical Guidance on Electoral Reviews April 2014.