

Circular to all parish councils, district and county councillors and community area partnerships.

Wiltshire Council: Area Boards

Consultation on Boundaries

I attach a map and schedule showing the recommended boundaries of the Wiltshire Area Boards which will be created after the Unitary Council Elections in June 2009.

The Area Boards Development Team has been sounding out parish and town councils, councillors and partnerships over the last few months, and the proposals attached seem to reflect the best fit with the views expressed so far.

In drawing up these boundaries, the Team has had regard to the electoral arrangements now recommended by the Electoral Commission. The Team is aware that some parishes are still concerned about those recommendations and are continuing to make representations to the Commission. The Team will review these proposals again should the Secretary of State make any changes to the Commission's recommendations.

It will be evident from the proposals attached that the Area Boards are formed by assembling electoral divisions into groupings that match as closely as possible the 20 community areas in Wiltshire. For this reason, it is not possible to detach individual parishes from the divisions to which they have been allocated by the Electoral Commission.

Comments, observations and representations are now invited on these proposals.

Of particular interest would be comments on the boundary of the Tidworth and Pewsey area. A dotted line is shown on the map to indicate the local preference for two separate Area Boards to be created. These Boards would have only 2 full members each and would share another. This is below the minimum number (4 members) recommended by the Wiltshire Implementation Executive. An alternative proposal would be to combine the two community areas under a single 5 member Board.

In South West Wiltshire, it is proposed to bring together a slightly reduced Wilton community area with the Tisbury and Mere community areas to form a 5 member Board. Again, views are sought on this proposal. In most other parts of Wiltshire, the impact of the proposals is far less significant with only a small number of parishes moving between community areas. This has enabled the 20 historic community areas to be preserved with only minor changes.

These proposals, together with any representations received, will be considered by the Wiltshire Implementation Executive at the end of February, 2009. Please submit your comments (preferably) by email to stevemilton@wiltshire.gov.uk.

I look forward to receiving your comments before 6 February 2009

Yours sincerely,

Steve Milton
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Wiltshire County Council