

Wiltshire Council

Council

26 February 2013

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## Electoral Arrangements – Royal Wootton Bassett

### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to advise members of progress with its previously approved order to rectify errors in the 2009 electoral review, and to seek formal approval to the final remaining point.

### **2. Background**

- 2.1. At the Council meeting held on 13 November 2012, the Council resolved to make an Order under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to rectify errors in the order affecting the new town wards at Calne, Corsham and Warminster.
- 2.2. These areas were reviewed by the predecessor body to the Local Government Boundary Committee for England (LGBCE) within the last five years, so the resolution of the Council was therefore made subject to the LGBCE's consent to alter their "protected arrangements"
- 2.3. That consent was forthcoming from the LGBCE on 19 December 2012, and work is in hand on the making of the order.
- 2.4. The final outstanding point relates to the names of electoral areas within the parish of (Royal) Wootton Bassett, as the procedure for making alterations to electoral areas of principal authorities requires one more formal step.
- 2.5. The Commission has granted its consent for the Council to change the electoral division names of Wootton Bassett North, Wootton Bassett South and Wootton Bassett East to Royal Wootton Bassett North, Royal Wootton Bassett South and Royal Wootton Bassett East. This paves the way for a special Council meeting to resolve, by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting on it, to change the names as provided for in Section 59 of the 2007 Act.
- 2.6. As previously reported, the Town Council supports the council's preferred option.

### **3. Equalities Impact of the Proposal**

3.1. There are no equality issues arising from these proposals.

### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1. There are no financial consequences arising from this review.

### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 devolved power to local authorities to undertake governance reviews. Paragraph 1.12 of Part 3 of the Constitution of the Council reserves this decision to full Council. The LGCBE has granted its consent for the council to amend the (Royal) Wootton Bassett unitary division names if it wishes..

### **6. Proposal**

6.1. It is recommended the provisions of the Statutory Instrument 2009 No. 531 The County of Wiltshire (Electoral Changes) Order 2009 be amended as follows:

6.1.1. The names of the Unitary Divisions of Wootton Bassett North, Wootton Bassett South and Wootton Bassett East and the town wards of Wootton Bassett North, Wootton Bassett South and Wootton Bassett East be amended by the inclusion of the prefix "Royal" in their titles with no alteration to the areas shown on the 2009 Order maps.

6.1.2. The effective date for the commencement of the Order be set to provide for the effective conduct of the 2013 parish and town council elections in May 2013.

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30 January 2013.

Background Papers None