

## Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council: Warding Arrangements

**Summary** – This report asks Members to consider a response to a consultation about the Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council being undertaken by The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

### 1. Background

At the Full Town Council meeting of 10 September the following resolutions were made:

**233/18 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WILTSHIRE: WARDING ARRANGEMENTS**  
 Members noted the dates of the Electoral Review of Wiltshire which runs to 5 November 2018, and considered how to respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission.  
**RESOLVED:** (i) to defer a response on the review until after a full discussion on the issue and consultation with Marlborough Area Board and others  
**RESOLVED:** (ii) to call an Extraordinary Full Town Council prior to 5 November to deal with the issue

An explanatory letter from The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is at **Appendix 1**.

Wiltshire Council agreed its response to the consultation at the Council meeting on Tuesday, 16 October. Its agreed proposals covering the whole county are set out in a large document (171 pages) at

<https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/s152589/ElectoralReviewSubmission.pdf>

The way this would affect the Marlborough area (the current Wiltshire divisions of Marlborough East (currently Cllr Stewart Dobson), Marlborough West (currently Cllr Nick Fogg), West Selkley (currently Cllr Jane Davies) and Aldbourne & Ramsbury (currently Cllr James Sheppard) are at pages 17-20 of the document which includes maps. This section is at **Appendix 2**.

### 2. Summary

The proposal being put forward by WC involves the Marlborough Area Board being made up of 3 seats rather than the current 4 seats. The West Selkley Division will be lost with its parishes being absorbed within other divisions. This is part of WC's solution to meeting the LGBCE rule that all divisions are within a variance of 10% of 4263 electors. It would look like this:

**Aldbourne/Ramsbury** takes in both of the Ogbournes and loses Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett to the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board.

**Marlborough East** takes in Mildenhall and Savernake and the new Salisbury Road development and some of Churchfields.

**Marlborough West** takes in the rest of the current West Selkley Division (Preshute, Avebury, Berwick Bassett, East Kennett, Fyfield, West Overton, Winterbourne Monkton). Froxfield will move to the Pewsey Area Board.

No details have yet been finalised about the naming of the new look divisions.

Whilst this solution does align well to the Marlborough Area Neighbourhood Plan Area and helps to allay concerns of a merger between the Marlborough and Pewsey Area Boards, it will throw out other questions for discussion (e.g. smaller budget allocations to spread over a wider area, the loss of distinctive urban/rural identities, how a quorum of 3 at Area Board meetings will be addressed when 1 or more Councillors does not attend, the significance of finding the right division names).

The Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Stewart Dobson met to discuss the likely impacts on the Marlborough Area at an informal meeting on 15 October (Cllr Fogg was, unfortunately, away and not able to attend). They may like to update Members on these discussions during the meeting.

### **Town Clerk's Recommendation**

The Town Clerk recommends that Members agree a response to the LGBCE consultation which finishes on 5 November.

**Town Clerk**

**October 2018**