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Electoral Review of Wiltshire Council - Area Boards

Democratic and Member Services <Committee@wiltshire.gov.uk>

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Dear Parishes

You will have previously been circulated Wiltshire Councillor Briefing Note no.366 outlining the 'minded to' decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) that Wiltshire Council remain at 98 councillors from the next elections in 2021.

The briefing note contains details of the decision and links to all the information and guidance necessary for any parish, organisation or member of the public to make a representation on the future pattern of divisions to the LGBCE, as well as a request for any interested party to let Wiltshire Council know, **before the end of September**, of any comments they may have, so that these may be taken into account by the Electoral Review Committee when Wiltshire Council prepares its own submission.

We have been requested by the Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee to emphasise to all parishes that although the number of councillors will not change, there will nevertheless be significant changes to electoral divisions in order to achieve the electoral equality required by the LGBCE.

In particular, parishes are requested to consider the data in the briefing note, including the need for new divisions to be as close as possible to the electorate figure of 4291 (electorate data can also be found links within the briefing note), and to consider any possible impacts in terms of the incorporation of parishes within specific area board definitions – it remains possible that some divisions can only be formed if some parishes are moved from one area board to another. The LGBCE have made clear that they will not be restricted by existing Area Board geography alone.

The Council welcomes any comments that any parish or individual may have on these matters. If you have any questions please email committee@wiltshire.gov.uk

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