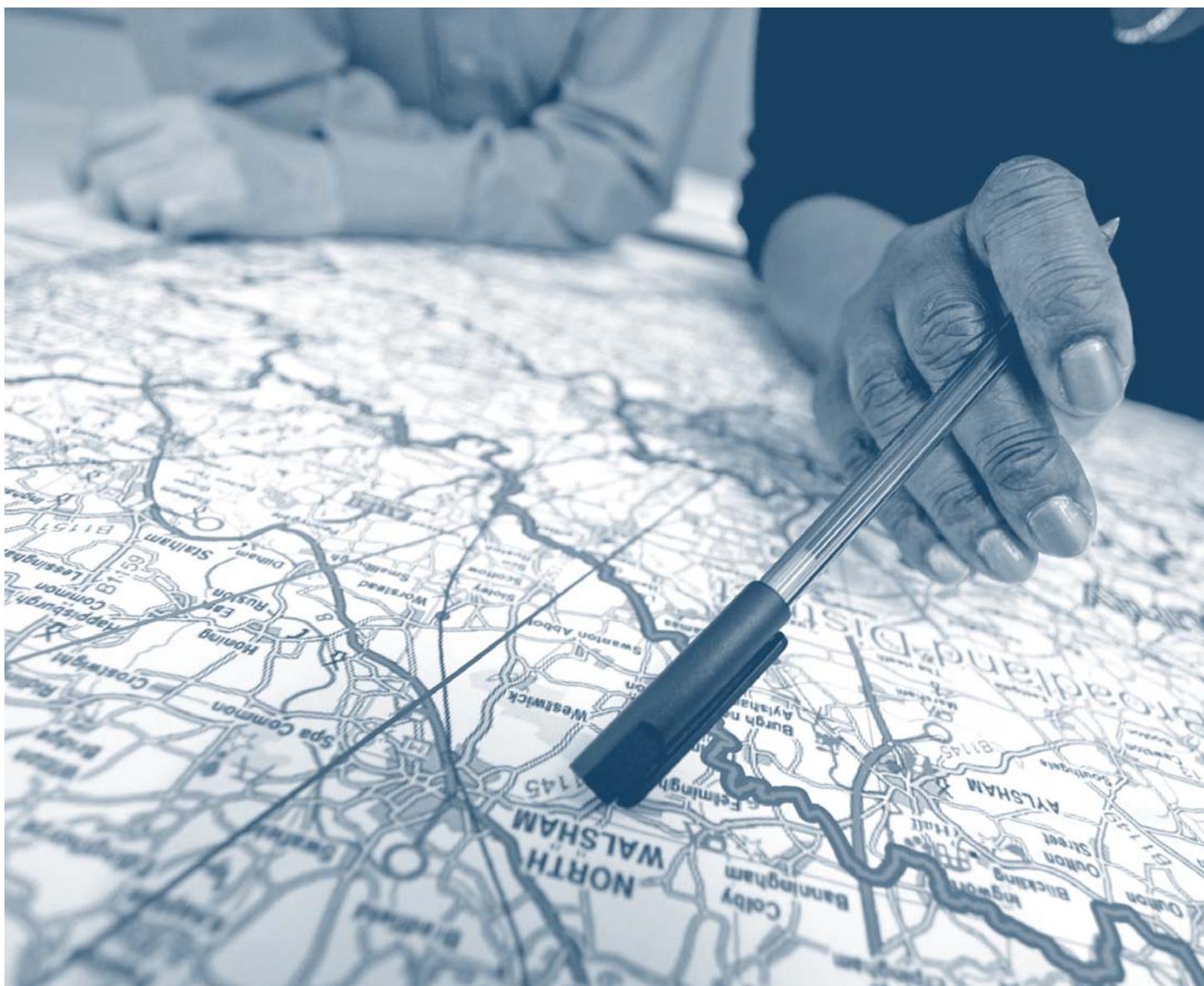


Draft recommendations



New electoral arrangements for Wiltshire Council

July 2008

Translations and other formats

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Summary

The Boundary Committee for England is the body responsible for conducting electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements – the number of councillors to be elected to the council and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions – for a specific local authority. We are conducting an electoral review of Wiltshire to ensure that the new unitary authority, which takes on all local government functions for the county in April 2009, has new and appropriate electoral arrangements.

The review aims to ensure that the number of voters represented by each unitary authority councillor is approximately the same. The Electoral Commission, which is the body responsible for implementing our recommendations, directed us to undertake this review.

This review is being conducted in four stages:

Stage	Stage starts	Description
One	26 February 2008	Submission of proposals to us
Two	22 April 2008	Our analysis and deliberation
Three	1 July 2008	Publication of draft recommendations and consultation on them
Four	26 August 2008	Analysis of submissions received and formulation of final recommendations

Submissions received

During Stage One we received 57 submissions, including county-wide schemes from the County Council, the town clerk of Trowbridge Town Council and from an organisation called 'Wiltshire Democracy'. We received two submissions containing electoral schemes predominantly for the area of Wiltshire East. We also received localised proposals from town and parish councils, as well as other individual stakeholders. All submissions received can be viewed on our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

Analysis and draft recommendations

Electorate figures

As part of this review Wiltshire County Council, supported by the four district councils in Wiltshire, submitted electoral forecasts for the year 2012. Between December 2001 and December 2007, Wiltshire experienced growth in its electorate of 3.6%. For this review, Wiltshire County Council is predicting growth over a five-year period (December 2007 to December 2012) of around 4.9%, with the highest level of growth forecast for western parts of the county. We are satisfied that this projection is the most accurate that can be provided at this time.

Council size

We received two different council size (by which we mean the number of councillors to be elected to the council) proposals during Stage One: from Wiltshire County Council for 98 councillors; and from 'Wiltshire Democracy' for 101 councillors. We also received extensive submissions for individual areas which were based on a council size of 98, allocating an 'entitlement' in each case for the relevant area. This would produce an overall council size of 98 for the county as a whole. During Stage One, we requested further information from the County Council regarding the proposed council size of 98 and further evidence was provided. We considered the evidence sufficient to justify this council size in the context of how it is expected the new unitary authority will operate.

General analysis

This review of the new Wiltshire Council, together with those of the new Shropshire and Cornwall authorities, was directed by the Electoral Commission with a view to implementation at the May 2009 local elections.

In 25 of the proposed 98 divisions the level of electoral inequality would exceed 10% from the county-wide 2007 average, forecast to improve to 10 divisions exceeding 10% from the county-wide average by 2012. The worst imbalance forecast by 2012 would be in the proposed Winterslow division, with an electoral variance of 18%.

What happens next?

There will now be a consultation period, during which we encourage comment on our draft recommendations on the proposed electoral arrangements for the prospective Wiltshire unitary authority contained in the report. **We take this consultation very seriously. It is therefore important that all those interested in the review should let us have their views and evidence, whether or not they agree with these draft proposals.** We will take into account all submissions received by **25 August 2008**. Any received **after** this date may not be taken into account.

We would particularly welcome local views backed up by demonstrable evidence. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

Let us have your views by writing directly to us:

**Review Officer
Wiltshire Review
The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW**

**reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk
Tel: 020 7271 0572**

The full report is available to download at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

1 Introduction

1 The Electoral Commission has directed the Boundary Committee to conduct a review of the electoral arrangements for the new Wiltshire unitary authority. The review commenced on 26 February 2008, a day after the Statutory Instrument which created the new council was passed by Parliament¹. We wrote to the principal local authorities in Wiltshire (the county and district councils) and other interested parties, inviting the submission of proposals to us on the electoral arrangements for the new council. The submissions we received during the initial stage of this review have informed the draft recommendations in this report. We are now conducting a full public consultation on those recommendations.

What is an electoral review?

2 The main aim of an electoral review is to try to ensure ‘electoral equality’, meaning that all councillors in a single authority represent approximately the same number of electors. Our objective is to make recommendations that will improve electoral equality, while trying to reflect communities in the area and provide for convenient and effective local government.

3 Those three main considerations – equalising the number of electors each councillor represents; reflecting community identity; and providing for convenient and effective local government – are set out in legislation² and our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations.

4 Our powers, as well as the guidance we have produced for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

Why are we conducting a review in Wiltshire?

5 In December 2007, the Government approved a bid from Wiltshire County Council for a unitary council to take over the responsibilities for all local government services in those areas of Wiltshire currently served by district and county councils. A Statutory Instrument was subsequently approved by Parliament on 25 February 2008, establishing a new Wiltshire unitary authority from 1 April 2009. The Electoral Commission is obliged, by law, to consider whether an electoral review is needed, following a change in local government. Its view was that an electoral review of Wiltshire was appropriate before the first elections in 2009.

How will our recommendations affect you?

6 As the new Wiltshire unitary authority will hold its first elections with new electoral arrangements, our recommendations will decide how many councillors will serve on the new council. They will also determine which electoral division you vote in, which other communities are in that division and, in some instances, which parish or town council wards you vote in. Your electoral division name may change, as may

¹ Wiltshire (Structural Change) Order 2008 SI 490.

² Section 13(5) of the LGA 1992, as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Chapter 2 Section 56.

the names of parish or town council wards in the area. If you live in a parish, the name or boundaries of that parish will not change.

7 It is therefore important that you let us have your comments and views on our draft recommendations. We encourage comments from everyone in the community, regardless of whether you agree with our draft recommendations or not. Our recommendations are evidence based and we would therefore like to stress the importance of providing evidence in any comments on our recommendations, rather than relying on assertion. We will be accepting comments and views until 25 August 2008. After that point, we will be formulating our final recommendations, which we are due to publish in the autumn of 2008. Details on how to submit proposals can be found on page 31 and more information can be found on our website, www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

What is the Boundary Committee for England?

8 The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by Parliament under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. It is responsible for conducting reviews as directed by the Electoral Commission or the Secretary of State.

Members of the Committee are:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Jane Earl
Robin Gray
Professor Ron Johnson
Joan Jones CBE
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Professor Colin Mellors

Director: Archie Gall

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

9 Before finalising our recommendations on the electoral arrangements for the new unitary Wiltshire Council we invite views on our initial thoughts, expressed in these draft recommendations. We welcome comments from anyone, relating to the number of councillors, proposed division boundaries, division names, and parish or town council electoral arrangements. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

10 As described earlier, our prime aim when recommending new electoral arrangements for Wiltshire is to achieve good levels of electoral fairness – that is, each elector’s vote being worth the same as another’s. In doing so we must have regard to the Local Government Act 1992³, with the need to:

- secure effective and convenient local government
- reflect the identities and interests of local communities
- provide for equality of representation

11 Legislation also states that our recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the existing number of electors in an area, but also on estimated changes in the number and distribution of electors likely to take place over the next five years. We must also try to recommend clearly identifiable boundaries for the divisions we put forward at the end of the review.

12 In reality, the achievement of absolute electoral fairness is unlikely to be attainable. There must be a degree of flexibility. However, our approach is to keep variances in the number of electors each councillor represents to a minimum. We therefore strongly recommend that, in formulating proposals for us to consider, local authorities and other interested parties should also try to keep variances to a minimum, making adjustments to reflect relevant factors such as community identity and interests. As mentioned above, we aim to recommend a scheme which provides improved electoral fairness over a five-year period.

13 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of the county of Wiltshire or the external boundaries or names of parish or town councils, or result in changes to postcodes. Nor is there any evidence that our recommendations will have an adverse effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums. Our proposals do not take account of parliamentary constituency boundaries, and we are not, therefore, able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

14 Prior to and during the initial stage of the review, officers and members of the Committee visited the Wiltshire area and met with officers and members from the county and district councils. Officers also held briefing sessions with the Implementation Executive and parish and town councils. We are grateful to all concerned for their co-operation and assistance. During Stage One the Committee received 57 submissions, including county-wide schemes from the County Council,

³ Section 13(5) of the LGA 1992, as amended by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Chapter 2 Section 56.

the town clerk of Trowbridge Town Council (on an individual basis for all proposals outside Trowbridge) and an organisation called 'Wiltshire Democracy'.

15 We also received two submissions, predominantly for the area of Wiltshire East, from Kennet District Councillor Philip Brown (Bromham & Rowde) and Kennet District Council. In addition, we received alternative localised proposals submitted from town and parish councils, as well as other individual stakeholders. All of these submissions can be inspected both at our offices, and those of the county and district councils. All representations received can also be viewed on our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

Electorate figures

16 As part of this review Wiltshire County Council, supported by the four district councils in Wiltshire, submitted electorate forecasts for the year 2012. Between December 2001 and December 2007, Wiltshire has experienced growth in its electorate of 3.6%. For this review, Wiltshire County Council is predicting growth over a five-year period (December 2007 to December 2012) of around 4.9%, with the highest level of growth forecast for western parts of the county.

17 In 2007 Wiltshire had an electorate of 345,495. It was forecast that by 2012 this would increase to 362,351. We have received submissions from Durrington Parish Council, Kennet District Councillor Alan Wood (Netheravon) and- Councillor Philip Brown that have questioned the projected 2012 electorates with regard to several military areas of the county (such as Bulford parish and Durrington parish). All of the submissions acknowledged that the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has given a provisional commitment to the construction of a 'super-garrison' in this area. However, there were disagreements and a lack of detail about the extent to which this would affect the local population and electorate within the five-year forecast period.

18 The County Council does not yet consider the 'super-garrison' plan to be advanced enough to include within their five-year projection of the electorate. There has been no robust evidence submitted to indicate that the electorate projection by Wiltshire County Council for such areas should be increased now. Therefore, at this stage, we have accepted the five-year forecast figures for this review.

19 While growth in the electorate beyond the five-year period is likely, we cannot take this into consideration for the purposes of the review. We are satisfied that the County Council's methodology has taken account of all electorate growth that is likely to be completed in the county by December 2012 and are content to accept the County Council's projected figures.

20 We recognise that forecasting electorate figures is difficult and, having considered the County Council's approach to producing the figures, accept that they are the best estimates that can reasonably be made at this time. We consider that the County Council has considered all known planning applications in the county within the timeframe, and are satisfied that the electorate figures it has provided reflect the growth anticipated over the five-year period at the start of this review.

Council size

21 During Stage One, we received eight submissions which explicitly mentioned the number of councillors to be elected on to the new council (known throughout this document as 'council size'). The submissions included two alternative models for council size: one from Wiltshire County Council for 98 members and one from 'Wiltshire Democracy' for 101 members. We also note that the remaining submissions assumed an average councillor elector ratio of approximately one to 3,697 (or thereabouts) by 2012. This equates to the 98-member proposal in the County Council's scheme.

22 Wiltshire County Council proposed a county-wide scheme comprising ten full-time executive positions (one leader and nine cabinet members) alongside 88 'backbench' councillors. It detailed the proposed roles of unitary authority members. These would include membership of the full council, serving on council committees and community area boards, and taking on what it stated would be a much higher profile 'front line' advocacy and leadership role within local communities than is presently performed by county councillors.

23 The proposal for the new authority stated that the members would fill 230 committee positions within the new structure. Combined with at least five full council meetings and up to eight community area board meetings per year, the proposal envisaged that all members would attend three to four formal committees a month, a large increase compared to the existing county councillor role.

24 The County Council stated that it was 'very concerned that there will be a democratic deficit' if there were less than 98 councillors, as the Wiltshire unitary authority will replace 196 councillors from four districts in addition to 49 county councillors. The County Council considered that 98 unitary members will be needed to serve not just on central council committees but also as 'community champions'. This local leadership role will centre upon leadership of the community area boards, as well as advocacy and co-operation with 260 parish or town councils and many more community groups. This will also require significant additional contributions of time in attending events such as parish council meetings.

25 The community area model, which the County Council described as a 'fundamental building block' in their unitary bid and in their submission to this review, helped gain the county council beacon status for 'Getting Closer to Communities' in 2005. This model has been employed in Wiltshire since 1997 and has been used as the basis of all community and service delivery planning work by both the county and district councils.

26 Wiltshire County Council suggested in its proposal that each councillor would only be able to reasonably fill two or three of the above roles. From this, it indicated that a potential council range of 70 to 110 non-executive members would be a reasonable number given the expected workload. Within this range, and considering the factors outlined in the previous paragraphs, the County Council considered that 88 such members, in addition to the ten full-time executive positions (making a total of 98 councillors), would be the ideal number to cover both unitary council and community leadership duties.

27 The County Council has achieved substantial consensus around its proposal for a 98-member council size. There was significant input into the consultation process from parish and town councils. County and district councillors were also consulted. The resulting recommendations were subsequently approved by a full County Council meeting. Representations were fed back to the Implementation Executive's working party on the electoral review, which comprised a cross-party group of councillors from both the county and district tiers. This group voted on 19 March 2008 to accept 'a minimum of 98 councillors' as the basis of the electoral review.

28 There were six other submissions containing statements on the County Council's proposal for 98 members. Four of these submissions, from Chippenham, Trowbridge and Warminster town councils and Kennet District Council, expressed their approval of a 98-member unitary authority, although they provided no evidence or argument on this point. In the other two submissions, Councillor Philip Brown commented that '98 councillors may be too many in the long run, [but] during the transition to one council this number is justified', while Heywood Parish Council considered that the proposal for 98 unitary councillors is 'on the low side when considering the scope of responsibilities they are likely to have to discharge... nonetheless, we feel that the proposals [for 98] have to be taken as the start point for the review'.

29 It is apparent from the submissions received during Stage One that there is a large degree of consensus around the proposal for 98 members for the new Wiltshire Unitary Authority, as well as a widespread expectation of this number of unitary councillors among local stakeholders.

30 'Wiltshire Democracy' stated that 'the number of 98 was merely suggested as a pragmatic solution for permitting elections to proceed in May 2009 using the current divisional boundaries for WCC [Wiltshire County Council].' It also proposed that 'elections could proceed in May 2009 using the existing 46 divisions for electing 98 councillors – two members in 43 wards and four members in the other three.' However, it did not provide any evidence to support the assertion that 98 members were proposed by Wiltshire County Council in order to allow elections to be held on the basis of the current county divisions.

31 'Wiltshire Democracy' submitted a comprehensive proposal for new unitary authority divisions across the county. The proposal was for 101 electoral divisions in Wiltshire within a framework of 14 entirely new 'community districts'. It argued that each 'community district' should have a committee of at least seven councillors'. Under the proposal, each district would have seven, except for Salisbury which would have 10 councillors, leading to 101 overall.

32 The 'Wiltshire Democracy' submission did not provide any argument as to why 14 'community districts' should replace the current 20 'community areas'. It also used inaccurate approximations of the electorate on a parish-by-parish basis and did not base these figures on the established 2007 or 2012 electorate forecasts. As a result, the proposed divisions had large electoral variances when considering the agreed electorate forecasts (as well as in relation to the submission's own inaccurate electorate figures) and are therefore an unsound basis for any comprehensive scheme.

33 We consider that 'Wiltshire Democracy's' proposals are poorly argued and incomplete in terms of the suggested council size of 101. We are therefore not minded to pursue them. Consequently, and because of the inaccurate electorate figures on which the scheme was based, we have been unable to consider the division patterns proposed by 'Wiltshire Democracy' throughout the county.

34 Wiltshire County Council provided significant and robust evidence relating to the proposed roles of the new unitary councillors, broadly justifying their proposal for 98 members for the new unitary authority. There is cross-party and multi-authority backing for this proposal, including the prospective new authority's Implementation Executive, along with support from several town and parish councils.

35 We therefore propose a council size of 98 for the new Wiltshire unitary authority. We are persuaded that this council size will provide effective and convenient local government in the context of the prospective unitary authority's internal political management structure, including the important role of scrutiny of executive decisions and the representational role of unitary councillors.

Electoral fairness

36 As discussed in the introduction to this report, the primary aim of an electoral review is to achieve electoral fairness in a local authority area.

37 Electoral fairness, in the sense of each elector in a local authority having a vote of equal weight when it comes to the election of councillors, is a fundamental democratic principle. The Electoral Commission expects the Boundary Committee's recommendations to provide for electoral fairness whilst ensuring that we reflect communities in the area, and provide for convenient and effective local government.

38 In seeking to achieve electoral fairness, we evaluate the average number of electors per councillor. The county average is calculated by dividing the total electorate of the county (345,495 in December 2007 and 362,351 by December 2012) by the total number of councillors representing them on the council, 98 under our draft recommendations. Therefore, the average number of electors per councillor under our draft recommendations is 3,525 in 2007 and 3,697 by 2012.

39 Under our draft recommendations, initially 25 of the 98 divisions will have electoral variances of greater than 10% from the county average. This is forecast to improve by 2012 when only 10 divisions will vary by more than 10% from the county average. These divisions are addressed below in the detailed discussion of individual divisions. However, overall, we are satisfied that we have achieved good levels of electoral fairness under our draft recommendations for Wiltshire.

General analysis

40 We considered evidence supplied in both whole county or district submissions along with more locally based proposals. For the reasons outlined below, we are basing the majority of our recommendations on the County Council's proposals.

41 The County Council's scheme has been widely consulted on in Wiltshire and incorporates local proposals for electoral arrangements across much of the county. Virtually all of the outstanding local objections or alternatives to the County Council's scheme raised in submissions have previously been considered by the County Council in the development of its proposals. These have either been accepted by the County Council or rejected by it on the grounds of the knock-on effects upon electoral equality across the county. The vast majority of submissions received by the Committee support the proposed council size and most of the electoral arrangements for the new Wiltshire Unitary Authority in the County Council's scheme.

42 The County Council's proposals were supported by the Implementation Executive (IE) of Wiltshire Unitary Authority. The IE is composed of representatives from the County Council, four District Councils and all of the major political groupings in Wiltshire (Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Labour and Independent).

43 The County Council's scheme envisaged 98 single-member divisions for the new Wiltshire Unitary Authority. It projects that by December 2012 there will be no divisions with an electoral variance of more than 20% from the average across the county and 11 divisions with an electoral variance of more than 10%. The County Council's scheme provides significant evidence in support of its proposal for single-member wards, as detailed below. It also provided some evidence (although this varies significantly in scope and quality) for retaining the proposed divisions which vary by more than 10% from the county average, on the grounds of community interests, or impact on electoral equality elsewhere.

44 As detailed in paragraph 32, we were unable to consider the proposals from 'Wiltshire Democracy', given their reliance on a different council size and inaccurate electorate figures.

45 In addition, we received a county-wide proposal from the clerk of Trowbridge Town Council. We were informed that his proposals for Trowbridge parish, which are the same as the County Council's scheme, were endorsed by the Town Council. However, the remainder of his proposals were submitted on an individual basis.

46 The town clerk proposed 98 single-member divisions. The majority of these divisions are identical to those contained within the County Council's scheme. In the areas of Wiltshire West, North and South, the electoral arrangements proposed are substantially the same, with minor changes proposed to provide for marginal improvements to electoral equality. Given the marginal nature of such improvements and the lack of any evidence provided to support the changes proposed, the Committee has not pursued these proposals in the draft recommendations.

47 The town clerk proposed substantially different electoral arrangements for the Wiltshire East area, amending fifteen out of the seventeen divisions proposed by the County Council in Wiltshire. These proposals would result in a marginal improvement in electoral equality in the area. However, no evidence of community interests or the

needs of local government has been provided in support of the proposed electoral arrangements and there has been no consultation on these proposals.

48 The Committee recommends that Trowbridge Town Council's proposal (in so much as it differs from the County Council's scheme) should be rejected on the grounds that it does not provide for significantly greater electoral equality and neither claims nor appears to reflect established local community interests. Given that the County Council's scheme has been widely consulted upon, that extensive re-warding would be demanded by the Trowbridge plan, and that there is so little evidence to support it, it must be rejected at this time.

49 Kennet District Council submitted a proposal for 18 members to represent the Wiltshire East area (constituting the area of Kennet District Council), along with the addition of the parish of Seend. This addition would create an imbalance of representation for the Wiltshire Unitary Authority, as the area is not entitled to an additional councillor. Due to the electoral imbalances which would result from this incorrect allocation of councillors, along with the lack of any robust evidence of local community identities or the needs of convenient and effective local government, the Committee is not persuaded by the electoral arrangements proposed by Kennet District Council.

50 Kennet District Councillor Philip Brown (Bromham & Rowde) proposed 17 members to represent the Wiltshire East area. In general his submission contains reasonable proposals for electoral equality. However, it disputes the electorate projections proposed by the County Council for the Bulford area without providing a robust argument. Using the County Council's forecast, the divisions proposed by Councillor Brown would result in significant over-representation for the division containing Bulford (15% electoral variance by 2012).

51 There is also no robust evidence to indicate that the changes proposed to the County Council's scheme reflect local community interests or would provide for more effective local governance. In view of this, and the electoral inequalities created by a different electorate projection, the Committee is not persuaded by the electoral arrangements proposed by Councillor Philip Brown.

52 Our draft recommendations propose changes to the County Council's scheme to provide for better electoral equality and to better reflect local community identities and the need for convenient and effective local governance. These changes are set out below and involve alterations in the boundaries to two divisions in the County Council's scheme.

53 In the remainder of Wiltshire we are adopting the County Council's scheme in its entirety on the grounds that it provides for good levels of electoral equality, has clear boundaries, contains evidence of reflecting local community identities and provides for convenient and effective local government. We consider that the proposals provided by the County Council were of a high quality and reflected the consultation process it carried out in advance of their submission to the Committee.

The number of councillors in each division

54 We have noted that a large majority of the submissions we received supported the County Council's scheme and envisaged a pattern of single-members divisions in

the new Wiltshire Unitary Authority. The County Council presented evidence to support this view in the form of statements from representatives from all major political groupings in the county, along with information about the role and duties of unitary councillors. The County Council considered that single-member divisions would allow members to be effective 'community champions'. It took the view that multi-member divisions would result in excessively large and unwieldy rural divisions and would undermine clear local accountability for decision-making by the unitary authority. These comments have been supported by a range of other submissions received during this stage of the review.

55 In general, we have sought to respect the almost universal support from Wiltshire stakeholders for single-member divisions throughout the county. In several proposed divisions (such as Malmesbury, Winterslow, Aldbourne & Ramsbury and Tidworth) consideration was given to joining these divisions with neighbours in a larger two-member division in order to improve electoral equality in these areas. However, due to the marginal improvements that would have resulted, the apparent community interests of the divisions themselves, along with the prevailing support for single-member divisions, we have not pursued these proposals.

56 Although we are recommending a wholly single-member pattern of divisions in Wiltshire at this stage, we will still fully consider any submissions containing proposals for multi-member divisions received during Stage Three. Any future submissions in support of multi-member divisions should contain strong evidence-based argument and clearly detail the presumed advantages of such a multi-member arrangement.

Electoral arrangements

57 This section of the report details the submissions received, our consideration of them, and our draft recommendations for each area of Wiltshire. The following areas are considered in turn:

- Wiltshire North (page 13)
- Wiltshire West (page 15)
- Wiltshire South (page 17)
- Wiltshire East (page 19)

58 Details of our draft recommendations are set out in Table C1 (in Appendix C), and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Wiltshire North

59 During Stage One, in addition to the County Council's scheme, we received proposals from the town clerk of Trowbridge Town Council (on an individual basis) and 'Wiltshire Democracy' for electoral arrangements across Wiltshire North. We also received a number of comments from parish councils, councillors and residents on individual areas. These submissions can be viewed on our website.

60 As discussed in paragraph 53, we have developed proposals which are broadly based on the county-wide scheme from the County Council. The County Council's proposed divisions in this area would provide good electoral equality by 2012 with the exception of Malmesbury (15% electoral variance). We have considered the poor electoral equality in this division, as discussed below. However, we have considered comments or proposals received from other parties during Stage One.

61 Cricklade Town Council's submission proposed a new division of Ashton Keynes, Leigh, Baydon & Purton, which would have resulted in an electoral variance of over 30% by 2012. The County Council's scheme for this area, which provides for good electoral equality, has demonstrable local support. Minety Parish Council and Ashton Keynes Parish Council also made submissions which supported the County Council's scheme. Therefore, we are not adopting Cricklade Town Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

62 Box Parish Council objected to the division of Box between two divisions - Box & Colerne and Corsham Without & Box Hill - preferring instead that Box be left whole and for Colerne to be joined to Biddestone. This proposal would result in large electoral variances by 2012 (23% and 35%, respectively). There is no clear way of addressing the negative electoral variance without displacing this electoral inequality into neighbouring divisions. The Parish Council did not provide any significant evidence of community interests that might justify such large imbalances. We are therefore not adopting this proposal in our draft recommendations.

63 Calne Town Council objected to the County Council's scheme, commenting that it did not want any part of Calne Without parish within one of the four Calne urban wards. However, the Calne Town Council proposal then contradicted its expressed preferences by placing parts of Calne Without parish into Calne wards, in an equivalent manner to the County Council's scheme. The Town Council provided

some community evidence concerning local recreation facilities for its alternative proposal.

64 Calne Town Council's proposal did not contain any information on electorate figures, nor did it provide a map of its specific proposals. As a result, we had difficulty identifying its exact proposals. Therefore, in light of the lack of evidence provided to support this proposal, we are not adopting Calne Town Council's proposals.

65 The County Council's proposal for the divisions in Chippenham was initially developed in conjunction with Chippenham Town Council. However, the Town Council subsequently provided an alternative proposal to us for these divisions.

66 The Town Council proposed an extension of the Chippenham divisions to the west of the town up to the A350 ring road. This is a significant increase past the parish boundary, and transfers those electors west of the parish boundary out of the neighbouring Sutton Benger division. This would lead to a large imbalance in that division of 28% electoral variance from the county average by 2012.

67 Chippenham Town Council's electorate estimates for 2012 also differ markedly from the County Council's forecasts, which we have accepted are the best estimate at this time. Accordingly, we are not confident at present that the Town Council's proposals are based on robust figures. Nor do we consider that it has provided sufficient evidence to justify the significant implications for the surrounding area, if the proposal were to be adopted.

68 Corsham Town Council submitted an alternative to the County Council's scheme, proposing that a small area from Rudloe parish ward be moved from the Corsham Pickwick division to the Corsham Without & Box Hill division. However, the boundaries suggested are not clear and no electorate information for these new divisions was submitted. The Town Council also proposed renaming the latter division as Corsham Villages. It did not provide any evidence for this alternative name and, added to the unclear nature of the boundaries proposed, we are not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

69 The County Council's proposed division of Malmesbury would have the second largest variance of any division, at 15% above the county average. The County Council's scheme includes some evidence that this level of electoral inequality could be justified in terms of retaining the local community interests of Malmesbury.

70 The town of Malmesbury is virtually enclosed by the river, which forms a substantial natural boundary. There is also broad support throughout the submissions received during Stage One of the review for Malmesbury to be placed in one new division. However, we are concerned about the large electoral variance which would result from the County Council's proposal. We considered the potential of a two-member division covering Malmesbury and the surrounding Sherston division, which would reduce the electoral variance of this area to 11% from the average by 2012. Although this would result in improved electoral equality, on balance we are recommending the County Council's single-member divisions for this area, in order to maintain a pattern of single-member divisions for the county. We consider that the particular circumstances outlined as evidence to us of Malmesbury town, coupled with the apparent almost unanimous preference for single-member divisions, warrant us accepting a higher electoral variance for this division.

71 We received a number of objections to the County Council's proposals for divisions in the Wootton Bassett and surrounding area; from Councillor Mollie Groom (county, district and parish councillor), the two Lydiards parish councils and Broad Town Parish Council. These respondents proposed that the two Lydiards and Broad Town parishes be placed in the same division with a small area of Wootton Bassett East. They also proposed two urban Wootton Bassett divisions, and a fourth division with a small area of Wootton Bassett West linked to Lyneham, Tockenham and Clyffe Pypard parishes. These proposals can be viewed in detail on our website.

72 This proposal contrasts with the electoral boundaries proposed in the County Council's scheme, which are also supported by Wootton Bassett Town Council and Tockenham parish council. The County Council's proposal provides for a Wootton Bassett North division, a Wootton Bassett Central division and a Wootton Bassett South division which would be combined with the Lydiards parish councils. The parish of Broadtown would be in a division with Tockenham, Clyffe Pypard and Lyneham parishes.

73 Councillor Groom's proposal provided some evidence of community links between the Lydiards and Broadtown but little specific detail. In addition, the electoral figures used in the proposal differ by around 5% from the County Council's figures. Given the lack of robust electorate figures for Wootton Bassett in this proposal, unclear detailed mapping and the lack of evidence to justify the alternative, we are not minded to adopt Councillor Groom's proposals as part of our recommendations. We also note that her proposals were opposed by Wootton Bassett Town Council.

74 In addition to supporting the County Council Wootton Bassett Town Council also proposed a three-member division for the Wootton Bassett area. However, it did not provide sufficient evidence explaining why such a division would better meet our statutory criteria than single member divisions. In light of the good levels of electoral equality provided by the County Council, and the apparent significant support for a pattern of single-member divisions in the county, we are not adopting the Town Council's proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

75 In the remainder of Wiltshire North, we propose adopting the County Council's scheme without modification. It would achieve good levels of electoral equality and has been consulted on locally.

76 Table C1 provides details of the electoral variances of our draft recommendations for divisions in Wiltshire North. Our draft recommendations Wiltshire North are shown on Maps 3A, 3B, 3C and 4 accompanying this report.

Wiltshire West

77 During Stage One, in addition to the County Council's scheme, we received proposals from the Trowbridge town clerk (on an individual basis) and 'Wiltshire Democracy' for electoral arrangements across Wiltshire West. We also received a number of comments from parish councils, councillors and residents on individual areas. These submissions can be viewed on our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk.

78 As discussed in paragraph 53, we have developed proposals which are broadly based on the County Council's scheme. The County Council's proposed divisions in Wiltshire West would provide good levels of electoral equality, with the exception of its proposed Warminster Broadway division, which would have an electoral variance of 15% from the county average by 2012. We therefore sought to address the poor electoral equality in this division. However, we have considered comments or proposals received from other parties during Stage One.

79 Staverton Parish Council proposed a division covering Staverton, Holt and Hilperton parishes. However, this division would result in a large electoral variance of 75% from the county average by 2012. Therefore we are not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

80 Monkton Farleigh Parish Council objected to being placed in the County Council's Holt & Staverton division, preferring to be linked with Limpley Stoke, Westwood, Winsley and South Wraxhall. The Parish Council provided some evidence of improved electoral equality and community identity to support its proposal. However, it did not take account of the significant knock-on effect to electoral equality in the surrounding Trowbridge area. Having considered the implications for the surrounding area, and the lack of evidence provided by the Parish Council, we are not minded to accept its proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

81 Warminster Town Council submitted an alternative to the County Council's scheme. It proposed four urban wards in Warminster and one 'Warminster Without' division. However, this division would have a detached section in the south-east, and an electoral variance of over 16% from the county average by 2012. No significant evidence has been supplied to justify this electoral variance. In addition, as explained in our guidance, we would normally only consider detached electoral areas as being appropriate in exceptional circumstances. As a result, we are not adopting this proposal as part of our recommendations.

82 The proposed Warminster Broadway division will have an electoral variance from the county average of 13% based on the 2007 electorate, increasing to 15% by 2012 due to new housing developments. We have received no alternative proposals containing robust evidence for different electoral arrangements that would reduce the electoral inequality in this area. We are wary of addressing this electoral inequality through the manufacture of wholly new electoral arrangements within Warminster, which could adversely affect community interests in the area. As a result the Committee has pursued the County Council's proposal for Warminster Broadway in the draft recommendations. However, we welcome comments on this area during the consultation stage.

83 Councillor Catherine Spencer made a number of comments regarding Maiden Bradley & Yarnfield parish, and its links to Mere and Warminster. These are addressed in paragraph 94.

84 In addition, we are recommending that the County Council's proposals be amended to include Erlestoke parish in the proposed Westbury White Horse division. This will ensure better levels of electoral equality within the resulting The Lavingtons division. In the County Council's scheme, the electoral variance of The Lavingtons & Erlestoke division from the county average would be 12% by 2012. The transfer of

Erlestoke parish would reduce this in The Lavingtons division to 8% from the county average by 2012, without, in our view, sacrificing local community identity.

85 Edington Parish Council has suggested the name of Whorwellsdown or Ethandun instead of Westbury White Horse on the grounds of historic associations but did not provide any substantial evidence in support. We would welcome further comments on the name of this division. However, we have retained the County Council's suggested name in our draft recommendations.

86 Heywood Parish Council objected to the County Council's scheme, which would divide its parish between three divisions. It proposed that the whole of Heywood parish is retained in the proposed Westbury White Horse division. However, it did not provide robust evidence to support its proposal, which would lead to significant electoral inequality in the adjoining Westbury divisions. We are therefore not adopting this proposal in our draft recommendations.

87 Westbury Town Councillor Francis Morland proposed amending the County Council's scheme in the Westbury divisions. His proposals achieve a marginal improvement in the electoral equality of the Westbury divisions. However, this proposal is not supported by robust evidence of community identity, and there is no indication that this scheme has been consulted on. We are therefore not minded to adopt this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

88 In the remainder of Wiltshire West, we propose adopting the County Council's scheme without modification. It would achieve good levels of electoral equality and has been consulted on locally.

89 Appendix C provides details of the electoral variances of our draft recommendations for divisions in Wiltshire West. Our draft recommendations for the Wiltshire West area are shown on Maps 1, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B accompanying this report.

Wiltshire South

90 During Stage One, in addition to the County Council's scheme, we received proposals from the Trowbridge town clerk (on an individual basis) and 'Wiltshire Democracy' for electoral arrangements across Wiltshire South. We also received a number of comments from Salisbury District Council Labour Group, parish and town councils, councillors and residents about individual areas. These submissions can be viewed on our website.

91 As discussed in paragraph 53, we have developed proposals which are broadly based on the County Council's scheme. Its scheme provides for good electoral equality with the exception of its proposed Winterslow division, which would have 18% electoral variance from the county average by 2012. We therefore sought to address the poor electoral equality in these divisions. However, we have considered comments or proposals received from other parties during Stage One.

92 East Knoyle Parish Council objected to the County Council's proposal to place it in the East Knoyle & Nadder Valley division, preferring instead to be included in the Tisbury division. However, such a change would result in the Nadder Valley division having an electoral variance of 20% from the county average by 2012. There is no

clear way to correct this resultant imbalance without significant impact on the electoral equality of the surrounding divisions. In addition, we consider that East Knoyle & Nadder Valley is predominantly contained in strong valley boundaries and the other areas contain good road links within the Nadder Valley, suggesting the presence of shared community interests. We therefore are not adopting this proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

93 We also received submissions from the parish councils of Sedgehill & Semley, Swallowcliffe and Teffont, all of which requested that they be placed in a division with Tisbury parish. However, we received minimal evidence explaining why they should be placed in the same division with Tisbury parish. Their proposals would also have a significant knock-on impact, decreasing electoral equality significantly in East Knoyle & Nadder Valley, Fovant & Chalke Valley and Tisbury itself. We are therefore not adopting these proposals as part of our draft recommendations.

94 Salisbury District Councillor Catherine Spencer (Western & Mere) strongly objected to Maiden Bradley & Yarnfield parish being placed in the proposed Warminster Without division in the County Council's scheme, instead proposing it be linked to the proposed Mere division. She provided some community identity evidence for her proposal but did not address the resulting electoral imbalance in the Warminster Without division. We note that there are good road links between Maiden Bradley and the Warminster area, which is roughly equidistant between Mere and Warminster, and that removing this parish would result in unacceptable levels of electoral equality. We therefore are not adopting the councillor's proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

95 Landford Parish Council requested that the proposed Redlynch & Landford division be allocated two members in order to best represent the area's interests with regard to the New Forest National Park. Due to the extreme electoral inequality that would be produced by this two-member division, which is only entitled to one councillor, we cannot adopt this proposal as part of our recommendations.

96 The Salisbury District Council Labour Group submitted a strong objection to the County Council's proposals for divisions in the city of Salisbury. It considered the boundaries proposed by the County Council as a 'gerrymander' but provides no specific evidence to justify this assertion.

97 The Labour Group considered that community interests in Salisbury were compromised by the County Council's scheme. It stated that this was demonstrated by the manner in which some of the proposed divisions run across, rather than down, the valleys in the city. However, their argument did not include substantial evidence of the effect of this on community identity. The Labour Group's proposals resulted in larger variances from the average than the County Council's proposals. In light of this, we are not minded to adopt the Labour Group's proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

98 Steeple Langford Parish Council objected to the County Council's proposal to place it in the Till & Wylve Valley division. However, it provided no robust evidence of any community interests and did not consider the implications for the levels of electoral equality in the Till & Wylve Valley and neighbouring divisions, which would deteriorate significantly. Accordingly we are not adopting the Parish Council's proposal as part of our draft recommendations.

99 The County Council's proposed Winterslow division will have a large electoral variance of 18% from the county average by 2012. We consider this high electoral imbalance might be addressed in various ways, although Winterslow's position at the edge of the county and adjacent to the Salisbury city area limits our options.

100 The only clear modification that would eliminate this electoral inequality using full parishes would be to transfer Britford parish from the County Council's proposed Downton division to the Winterslow division. This would reduce the levels of electoral variance from the county average for the two divisions to 9% each by 2012. However, we note that Britford has no road access to the Winterslow area except through Salisbury and that there is also a substantial river boundary between Britford and Winterslow. Due to the knock-on effects of transferring parishes to the north of Winterslow, and the existence of the river as a significant boundary to the south, we are persuaded to adopt the County Council's scheme for this division as part of our recommendations.

101 In the remainder of Wiltshire South, we propose adopting the County Council's scheme without modification, which would achieve good levels of electoral equality and has been consulted on locally.

102 Table C1 provides details of the electoral variances of our draft recommendations for divisions in Wiltshire South. Our draft recommendations are shown on Maps 1, 2 and 6C accompanying this report.

Wiltshire East

103 During Stage One, in addition to the County Council's scheme we received proposals from the Trowbridge town clerk (representing the Town Council for Trowbridge specifically, otherwise on an individual basis), 'Wiltshire Democracy' and Councillor Philip Brown for electoral arrangements across Wiltshire East. We also received a number of comments from Kennet District Council, parish and town councils, councillors and residents on individual areas. These submissions can be viewed on our website.

104 The County Council's scheme provides for good electoral equality in this part of the county, with the exception of its proposed Aldbourne & Ramsay (12% electoral variance from the county average by 2012), Marlborough West (12%) and Tidworth (13%) divisions. We therefore sought to address the imbalances in these divisions. However, we have also considered comments or proposals received from other parties during Stage One.

105 The County Council's proposed Aldbourne & Ramsay division would have an electoral variance of 12% from the county average by 2012. The proposals of Kennet District Council, Councillor Philip Brown and Trowbridge Town Council seek to avoid this through extensive changes to the division pattern for the whole of East Wiltshire. However, as discussed in the general analysis section above, we are not persuaded that these proposals are based on accurate electoral figures, and do not improve the overall level of electoral equality or the representation of local community interests. Accordingly, we have not pursued these proposals in our draft recommendations.

106 We received a number of submissions that support what has been termed the 'Avonside' proposal. This area is centred on Netheravon, Fittleton and Enford parishes. These parish councils object to the County Council's proposal for The Collingbournes & Everleigh division.

107 These parish councils proposed that they be included in a division stretching north-south along the River Avon, together with the parishes of Figheldean and Upavon. Their proposal provides evidence of shared community interests, such as transport links, as well as the geographic factors such as the boundaries of the river valley.

108 Similar views about the community interests in the area were referred to by Durrington and Bulford parish councils, and Councillor Alan Wood. They also questioned the electoral projections that underpinned the County's proposed electoral arrangements.

109 However, no account was taken of the impact of this pattern of divisions on the surrounding area and there is no clear way to rectify the large electoral variances which would result in those areas. Accordingly, although we acknowledge the evidence of shared community interests in the 'Avonside' area, we are not adopting these proposals in our draft recommendations. Nevertheless, we welcome further comments on this issue during this consultation stage.

110 Bromham Parish Council objected to the County Council's proposal for a Rowde, Bromham & Potterne division, proposing instead a division comprising the parishes of Rowde, Bromham, Seend and Poulshot. The proposal was also supported by Rowde Parish Council. It provided some evidence of shared community interests based on transport links, and assertion of educational links. However, Bromham Parish Council's proposal would result in unacceptably high levels of electoral variance in neighbouring divisions. Accordingly, we have not been persuaded to pursue this proposal in our draft recommendations.

111 The County Council's proposed The Lavingtons and Erlstoke division would have an electoral variance of 12% from the county average by 2012. As detailed previously, we propose placing Erlestoke parish within the proposed Westbury White Horse division, which reduces the electoral variance to 8% from the county average by 2012 without, in our view, sacrificing community identity. As a result, we recommend changing the County Council's proposed division name to The Lavingtons.

112 Tidworth Town Council and Kennet District Council submitted proposals for a two-member division for the proposed Tidworth and Ludgershall & Perham Down divisions in the County Council's scheme. However, they did not provide substantial evidence to support this proposal. Nor did they explain how it might better meet the statutory criteria than a pattern of single-member divisions.

113 The County Council's proposed Tidworth division would, however, result in an electoral variance of 13% from the county average by 2012. As detailed above, this could be improved by creating a two-member division, as suggested by the district and town councils, but only to an electoral variance of 11% from the county average by 2012. This would also create the only two-member division in the county and, as mentioned above, we do not consider the marginal improvement in electoral equality

and the little evidence on which the proposal was based would justify deviating from the pattern of single-member divisions in the county. However, we particularly welcome further views on this recommendation during the consultation stage.

114 The division of Marlborough West in the County Council's scheme would have an electoral variance of 12% from the county average by 2012. Councillor Philip Brown proposed a slight change to the County Council's scheme for Marlborough, transferring 51 electors from the Marlborough East to the Marlborough West division. However, he did not provide persuasive evidence for this amendment, which would have a negligible effect on electoral equality. As the County's scheme has been extensively consulted on and follows a strong road boundary in its division of the town, we are adopting it as part of our draft recommendations.

115 Easterton Parish Council objected to the County Council's proposal to place it within the Urchfont & The Cannings division. It suggested amendments to this and surrounding divisions. It proposed being placed with the Lavingtons and Cheverells parishes. However, its proposal would lead to two divisions comprised of Potterne, Worton & Martson, and Bromham & Rowde with very high electoral variance from the county average by 2012 of 47% and 27% respectively. Although the Parish Council supplied some comments regarding community interests based on transport links, we do not consider that this evidence could justify these levels of electoral variance. We therefore are not adopting this proposal as part of our recommendations.

116 We also received a submission from Kennet District Councillor Jonathan Seed (Urchfont) in which he objected to the Urchfont & The Cannings division and supported Kennet District Council's proposal for alternative divisions. However, he supplied limited evidence to support these proposals and we therefore are not adopting them as part of our draft recommendations.

117 In the remainder of Wiltshire East, we propose adopting the County Council's scheme without modification, which would achieve good levels of electoral equality and has been consulted on locally. We welcome further comments about these areas during this consultation stage.

118 Table C1 provides details of the electoral variances of our draft recommendations for divisions in Wiltshire East. Our draft recommendations are shown on Maps 1 and 4C accompanying this report.

Conclusions

119 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2007 and 2012 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

	Draft recommendations	
	2007	2012
Number of councillors	98	98
Number of electoral divisions	98	98
Average number of electors per councillor	3,252	3,697
Number of electoral divisions with a variance more than 10% from the average	25	10
Number of electoral divisions with a variance more than 20% from the average	4	0

Draft recommendations

Wiltshire Council should comprise 98 councillors serving 98 divisions, as detailed and named in Table C1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Parish electoral arrangements

120 As part of an electoral review, we can make recommendations for new electoral arrangements for parish and town councils – that is, the number of councillors on the parish or town council and the number, names and boundaries of any wards. Where there is no impact on the county council’s electoral arrangements, we will generally be content to put forward for consideration proposals from parish or town councils for changes to parish or town council electoral arrangements in our electoral reviews. However, we will wish to see some rationale for the proposal from the parish or town council concerned. Proposals should be supported by evidence, illustrating why changes to parish or town electoral arrangements are required. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

121 Kennet District Council has proposed the end of parish warding arrangements in the parishes of Bishops Cannings, Enford, Grafton and Wilcot. It has not supplied any robust evidence to support these changes. Accordingly, we have not pursued these proposals in the draft recommendations. However, we welcome comments on these proposals during the consultation period.

122 We have also received a submission from a local resident proposing the amalgamation of several parishes in the county (ie Tisbury and West Tisbury

parishes). However, changes to the external boundaries of parishes are not within the legal power of the Boundary Committee and as such, these proposals have not been pursued in the draft recommendations.

123 When reviewing electoral arrangements, we are required to comply as far as possible with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act. The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different divisions it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division.

124 Accordingly, we propose consequential parish warding arrangements for the parishes of Amesbury, Box, Bradford on Avon, Calne, Chippenham, Corsham, Devizes, Heywood, Marlborough, Melksham, Trowbridge, Warminster, Westbury and Wootton Bassett.

Amesbury

125 The parish of Amesbury is currently divided into two parish wards: Amesbury East (returning 12 members) and Amesbury West (returning three members).

126 Amesbury Town Council has proposed an increase in the number of members of Amesbury Town Council by one to 16, in order to allow for an equal number of members for each ward. We consider this to be a reasonable proposal and have accepted it in the draft recommendations.

127 As a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Amesbury parish.

Draft recommendations

Amesbury Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, one more than at present, representing two wards: Amesbury East (returning eight members), Amesbury West (returning eight members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 6C.

Box

128 The parish of Box is currently unwarded and returns 15 members. Following the division of the Box parish into two proposed divisions in the draft recommendations (Box & Colerne and Corsham Without & Box Hill) we recommend the division of Box parish into two wards, Box Hill ward and Box ward.

129 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Box parish.

Draft recommendations

Box Parish Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Box Hill ward (returning five members) and Box ward (returning 10 members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated on Map 1.

Bradford on Avon

130 The parish of Bradford on Avon is currently divided into two parish wards: Bradford on Avon North (returning six members) and Bradford on Avon South (returning six members). Following the division of the Bradford on Avon parish into two proposed divisions, we recommend the division of the parish into two wards.

131 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Bradford on Avon parish.

Draft recommendations

Bradford on Avon Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Bradford on Avon North (returning six members) and Bradford on Avon South (returning six members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 5A.

Calne

132 The parish of Calne is currently divided into six parish wards: Abberd (returning three members), Chilvester (returning two members), Lickhill (returning four members), Marden (returning four members), Priestley (returning three members) and Quemerford (returning three members). This is a total of 19 members.

133 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Calne parish.

Draft recommendations

Calne Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Calne Chilvester & Abberd (returning four members), Calne North (returning five members), Calne Central (returning five members) and Calne South (returning five members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 3C.

Chippenham

134 Chippenham Town Council is currently divided into nine wards returning 22 members. Allington (returning two members), Avon (returning three members), Hill Rise (returning two members), London Road (returning two members), Monkton Park (returning two members), Park (returning three members), Pewsham (returning three members), Redland (returning three members) and Westcroft/Queens (returning two members).

135 Chippenham Without Parish Council has indicated its support for the creation of a Cepen Park parish, which would comprise sections of Chippenham parish, Chippenham Without parish and Langley Burrell Without parish. However, the

creation of new parishes is not within the legal power of the Committee and as such this proposal has not been pursued in the draft recommendations.

136 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Chippenham parish. We are also proposing an increase in the number of members on Chippenham Town Council to 24 members, two more than at present. This increase is proposed in order to allow for the significantly increased electorate of Chippenham parish by 2012, as well as to provide for three members in each parish ward.

Draft recommendations

Chippenham Town Council should comprise 24 councillors, two more than at present, representing eight wards: Chippenham Cepen Park & Derriads (returning three members), Chippenham Cepen Park & Redlands (returning three members), Chippenham Hardenhuish (returning three members), Chippenham Hardens & England (returning three members), Chippenham Lowden & Rowden (returning three members), Chippenham Monkton (returning three members), Chippenham Pewsham (returning three members) and Chippenham Queens & Sheldon (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 3B.

Corsham

137 Corsham Town Council is currently divided into five parish wards returning 20 members: Corsham (returning seven members), Gastard (returning two members), Neston (returning three members), Pickwick (returning seven members) and Rudloe (returning one member).

138 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Corsham parish.

Draft recommendations

Corsham Town Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Corsham Town (returning seven members), Corsham Pickwick (returning seven members) and Corsham Without (returning six members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 4A.

Devizes

139 Devizes Town Council is currently divided into three town wards returning 17 members: Devizes East (returning seven members), Devizes North (returning five members) and Devizes South (returning five members).

140 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to

comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Devizes parish.

Draft recommendations

Devizes Town Council should comprise 17 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Devizes East (returning six members), Devizes North (returning six members) and Devizes South (returning five members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 4C.

Heywood

141 Heywood Parish Council is currently divided into two parish wards returning seven members: Heywood Village (returning four members) and Heywood Storridge (returning three members).

142 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Heywood parish.

Draft recommendations

Heywood Parish Council should comprise seven councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Heywood Village (returning four members) and Heywood Storridge (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 6A.

Malmesbury

143 A local resident has proposed the division of Malmesbury parish into parish wards to enable more convenient and effective local government in the town. However, they have not suggested any specific changes. Whilst the Committee considers this to be a reasonable suggestion, we have not pursued it in the draft recommendations due to the lack of a specific proposal. We welcome comments on this proposal in the consultation period.

Marlborough

144 Marlborough Town Council is currently served by two town wards returning 16 members: Marlborough East (returning eight members) and Marlborough West (returning eight members).

145 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Marlborough parish.

Draft recommendations

Marlborough Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Marlborough East (returning eight members) and Marlborough West (returning eight members). The boundary between these two parish wards is formed by the A346 road.

Melksham

146 Melksham Town Council is currently divided into three town wards returning 15 members: Melksham East (returning seven members), Melksham Spa (returning six members) and Melksham North (returning two members).

147 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Melksham parish.

Draft recommendations

Melksham Town Council should comprise 15 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Melksham North (returning five members), Melksham Central (returning five members) and Melksham South (returning five members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 4B.

Staverton

148 Staverton Parish Council has proposed an increase in the number of members of the council due to the increase in the local electorate in recent years and that which is projected by 2012. However, they have not suggested any specific changes. Whilst the Committee considers this to be a reasonable suggestion, we have not pursued it in the draft recommendations due to the lack of a specific proposal. We welcome comments on this proposal in the consultation period.

Trowbridge

149 Trowbridge Town Council is currently divided into seven parish wards returning 20 members: Trowbridge Bradley Road (returning one member), Trowbridge Central (returning four members), Trowbridge East (returning five members), Trowbridge North East (returning three members), Trowbridge North West (returning two members), Trowbridge South West (returning four members) and Trowbridge Whiterow Park (returning one member).

150 Trowbridge Town Council has proposed an increase in the number of members of Trowbridge Town Council by one to 21, in order to allow for an equal number of members for each ward. We consider this to be a reasonable proposal and have accepted it in our draft recommendations.

151 As a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Trowbridge parish.

Draft recommendations

Trowbridge Town Council should comprise 21 councillors, one more than at present, representing seven wards: Trowbridge Adcroft (returning three members), Trowbridge Central (returning three members), Trowbridge Drynham (returning three members), Trowbridge Grove (returning three members), Trowbridge Lambrok (returning three members), Trowbridge Park (returning three members) and Trowbridge Paxcroft (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 5B.

Warminster

152 Warminster Town Council is currently divided into two parish wards returning 12 members: Warminster East (returning six members) and Warminster West (returning six members).

153 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Warminster parish.

Draft recommendations

Warminster Town Council should comprise 12 councillors, as at present, representing four wards: Warminster Broadway (returning three members), Warminster East (returning three members), Warminster West (returning three members) and Warminster Cophead & Wylde (returning three members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 6B.

Westbury

154 Westbury Town Council is currently divided into two parish wards returning 16 members: Westbury Ham (returning nine members) and Westbury Laverton (returning seven members).

155 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Westbury parish.

Draft recommendations

Westbury Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Westbury Ham (returning four members), Westbury Vale (returning five members) and Westbury Laverton (returning seven members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 6A.

Wootton Bassett

156 Wootton Bassett Town Council is currently divided into two parish wards, returning 16 members: Wootton Bassett North (returning eight members) and Wootton Bassett South (returning eight members).

157 We received no proposals for new parish electoral arrangements in this area. However, as a result of our revised electoral division boundaries and the need to comply with the rules set out in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act, we are proposing revised parish electoral arrangements for Wootton Bassett parish.

Draft recommendations

Wootton Bassett Town Council should comprise 16 councillors, as at present, representing three wards: Wootton Bassett North (returning six members), Wootton Bassett Central (returning six members) and Wootton Bassett South (returning four members). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 3A.

3 What happens next?

158 There will now be a consultation period of eight weeks, during which everyone is invited to comment on the draft recommendations on future electoral arrangements for Wiltshire Council contained in this report. We will take into account fully all submissions received by 25 August 2008. Any received after this date may not be taken into account.

159 We have not finalised our conclusions on the electoral arrangements for Wiltshire and welcome comments from interested parties relating to the proposed division boundaries, number of councillors, division names, and parish and town council electoral arrangements. We would welcome alternative proposals backed up by demonstrable evidence during Stage Three. We will consider all the evidence submitted to us during the consultation period before preparing our final recommendations.

160 Express your views by writing directly to:

**Review Officer
Wiltshire Review
The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW**

reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk

Submissions can also be made by using the consultation section of our website, www.boundarycommittee.org.uk, by emailing reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk

161 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations it takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all Stage Three representations will be placed on deposit locally at the offices of Wiltshire County Council and the district and borough councils in the county, at the Committee's offices in London (Trevelyan House) and on its website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk. A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

162 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with our draft recommendations. We will then submit our final recommendations to the Electoral Commission. After the publication of our final recommendations, all further correspondence should be sent to the Electoral Commission, which cannot make the legal document giving effect to our recommendations until six weeks after it receives them.

4 Mapping

Draft recommendations for Wiltshire

163 The following maps illustrate our proposed electoral division boundaries for the new Wiltshire Council.

- **Sheet 1, Map 1** illustrates in outline form the proposed divisions for Wiltshire Council, including constituent parish areas.
- **Sheet 2, Map 2** illustrates the proposed divisions in Salisbury.
- **Sheet 3, Map 3A** illustrates the proposed divisions in Wootton Bassett.
- **Sheet 3, Map 3B** illustrates the proposed divisions in Chippenham.
- **Sheet 3, Map 3C** illustrates the proposed divisions in Calne.
- **Sheet 4, Map 4A** illustrates the proposed divisions in Corsham and Box.
- **Sheet 4, Map 4B** illustrates the proposed divisions in Melksham.
- **Sheet 4, Map 4C** illustrates the proposed divisions in Devizes.
- **Sheet 5, Map 5A** illustrates the proposed divisions in Bradford on Avon.
- **Sheet 5, Map 5B** illustrates the proposed divisions in Trowbridge.
- **Sheet 6, Map 6A** illustrates the proposed divisions in Westbury.
- **Sheet 6, Map 6B** illustrates the proposed divisions in Warminster.
- **Sheet 6, Map 6C** illustrates the proposed divisions in Amesbury.

Appendix A

Glossary and abbreviations

AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty)	A landscape whose distinctive character and natural beauty are so outstanding that it is in the nation's interest to safeguard it
Boundary Committee	The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, responsible for undertaking electoral reviews
Constituent areas	The geographical areas that make up any one ward, expressed in parishes or existing wards, or parts of either
Council size	The number of councillors elected to serve a council
Electoral Change Order (or Order)	A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority
Division	A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council
Electoral Commission	An independent body that was set up by the UK Parliament. Its mission is to foster public confidence and participation by promoting integrity, involvement and effectiveness in the democratic process
Electoral fairness	When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's

Electoral imbalance	Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority
Electorate	People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections
Multi-member ward or division	A ward or division represented by more than one councillor and usually not more than three councillors
National Park	The 12 National Parks in England and Wales were designated under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 and can be found at www.nationalparks.gov.uk
Number of electors per councillor	The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors
Over-represented	Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Parish	A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents
Parish council	A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town Council'

Parish (or Town) Council electoral arrangements	The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward
Parish ward	A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council
PER (or periodic electoral review)	A review of the electoral arrangements of all local authorities in England, undertaken periodically. The last programme of PERs was undertaken between 1996 and 2004 by the Boundary Committee for England and its predecessor, the now-defunct Local Government Commission for England
Political management arrangements	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enabled local authorities in England to modernise their decision making process. Councils could choose from two broad categories; a directly elected mayor and cabinet or a cabinet with a leader
Town Council	A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk
Under-represented	Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average
Variance (or electoral variance)	How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average

Ward	A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council
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Appendix B

Code of practice on written consultation

The Cabinet Office's November 2000 *Code of Practice on Written Consultation* (http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/servicefirst/2000/consult/code/_consultation.pdf) requires all government departments and agencies to adhere to certain criteria, set out below, on the conduct of public consultations. Public bodies, such as the Boundary Committee for England, are encouraged to follow the Code.

The Code of Practice applies to consultation documents published after 1 January 2001, which should reproduce the criteria, give explanations of any departures, and confirm that the criteria have otherwise been followed.

Table B1: The Boundary Committee for England's compliance with Code criteria

Criteria	Compliance/departure
Timing of consultation should be built into the planning process for a policy (including legislation) or service from the start, so that it has the best prospect of improving the proposals concerned, and so that sufficient time is left for it at each stage.	We comply with this requirement.
It should be clear who is being consulted, about what questions, in what timescale and for what purpose.	We comply with this requirement.
A consultation document should be as simple and concise as possible. It should include a summary, in two pages at most, of the main questions it seeks views on. It should make it as easy as possible for readers to respond, make contact or complain.	We comply with this requirement.
Documents should be made widely available, with the fullest use of electronic means (though not to the exclusion of others), and effectively drawn to the attention of all interested groups and individuals.	We comply with this requirement.
Sufficient time should be allowed for considered responses from all groups with an interest. Twelve weeks should be the standard minimum period for a consultation.	We consult at the start of the review and on our draft recommendations. Our consultation stages are a minimum total of 16 weeks.

Responses should be carefully and open-mindedly analysed, and the results made widely available, with an account of the views expressed, and reasons for decisions finally taken.

We comply with this requirement.

Departments should monitor and evaluate consultations, designating a consultation coordinator who will ensure the lessons are disseminated.

We comply with this requirement.

Appendix C: Table C1 - Draft electoral arrangements for Wiltshire

	Electoral division Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2007)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from the average %	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
1	Aldbourn & Ramsbury	1	4,079	4,079	16	4,123	4,123	12
2	Alderbury & Whiteparish	1	3,398	3,398	-4	3,413	3,413	-8
3	Amesbury East	1	3,711	3,711	5	4,096	4,096	11
4	Amesbury West	1	3,290	3,290	-7	3,631	3,631	-2
5	Ashton Keynes & Minety	1	3,849	3,849	9	4,012	4,012	9
6	Bourne & Woodford Valley	1	3,463	3,463	-2	3,478	3,478	-6
7	Box & Colerne	1	3,783	3,783	7	3,808	3,808	3
8	Bradford on Avon North	1	3,880	3,880	10	3,799	3,799	3
9	Bradford on Avon South	1	3,657	3,657	4	3,950	3,950	7
10	Brinkworth	1	3,727	3,727	6	3,958	3,958	7
11	Bromham, Rowde & Potterne	1	3,845	3,845	9	3,978	3,978	8
12	Bulford, Allington & Figheldean	1	3,466	3,466	-2	3,553	3,553	-4
13	Burbage & The Bedwvns	1	3,900	3,900	11	3,943	3,943	7

	Electoral division Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2007)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from the average %	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
14	By Brook	1	3,418	3,418	-3	3,514	3,514	-5
15	Calne Central	1	2,915	2,915	-17	3,352	3,352	-9
16	Calne Chilvester & Abberd	1	3,564	3,564	1	3,935	3,935	6
17	Calne North	1	3,490	3,490	-1	3,520	3,520	-5
18	Calne Rural	1	3,424	3,424	-3	3,533	3,533	-4
19	Calne South & Cherhill	1	3,935	3,935	12	4,028	4,028	9
20	Chippenham Cepen Park & Derriads	1	3,509	3,509	0	3,509	3,509	-5
21	Chippenham Cepen Park & Redlands	1	3,325	3,325	-6	3,365	3,365	-9
22	Chippenham Hardenhuish	1	3,732	3,732	6	3,732	3,732	1
23	Chippenham Hardens & England	1	3,155	3,155	-11	3,261	3,261	-12
24	Chippenham Lowden & Rowden	1	3,436	3,436	-3	3,927	3,927	6
25	Chippenham Monkton	1	2,713	2,713	-23	3,597	3,597	-3

	Electoral division Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2007)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from the average %	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
26	Chippenham Pewsham	1	3,600	3,600	2	3,600	3,600	-3
27	Chippenham Queens & Sheldon	1	3,483	3,483	-1	3,503	3,503	-5
28	Corsham Pickwick	1	4,052	4,052	15	4,152	4,152	12
29	Corsham Town	1	3,893	3,893	10	3,962	3,962	7
30	Corsham Without & Box Hill	1	3,881	3,881	10	4,009	4,009	8
31	Cricklade & Latton	1	3,985	3,985	13	4,040	4,040	9
32	Devizes & Roundway South	1	3,530	3,530	0	3,555	3,555	-4
33	Devizes East	1	3,276	3,276	-7	3,398	3,398	-8
34	Devizes North	1	2,913	2,913	-17	3,336	3,336	-10
35	Downton & Ebble Valley	1	3,571	3,571	1	3,682	3,682	0
36	Durrington & Larkhill	1	4,435	4,435	26	4,025	4,025	9
37	East Knoyle & Nadder Valley	1	3,437	3,437	-3	3,559	3,559	-4
38	Fovant & Chalke Valley	1	3,417	3,417	-3	3,436	3,436	-7

	Electoral division Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2007)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from the average %	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
39	Hilperton	1	3,592	3,592	2	3,706	3,706	0
40	Holt & Staverton	1	2,926	2,926	-17	3,430	3,430	-7
41	Laverstock, Ford & Old Sarum	1	2,672	2,672	-24	3,423	3,423	-7
42	Ludgershall & Perham Down	1	3,653	3,653	4	4,023	4,023	9
43	Lyneham	1	4,029	4,029	14	4,064	4,064	10
44	Malmesbury	1	3,842	3,842	9	4,260	4,260	15
45	Marlborough East	1	3,022	3,022	-14	3,369	3,369	-9
46	Marlborough West	1	3,132	3,132	-11	3,248	3,248	-12
47	Melksham Central	1	3,629	3,629	3	3,852	3,852	4
48	Melksham North	1	3,223	3,223	-9	3,422	3,422	-7
49	Melksham Rural	1	3,369	3,369	-4	3,490	3,490	-6
50	Melksham South	1	3,956	3,956	12	4,078	4,078	10
51	Melksham Without South	1	3,650	3,650	4	4,018	4,018	9
52	Mere	1	3,500	3,500	-1	3,680	3,680	0

	Electoral division Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2007)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from the average %	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
53	Pewsey	1	3,613	3,613	2	3,889	3,889	5
54	Pewsey Vale	1	3,589	3,589	2	3,658	3,658	-1
55	Purton	1	3,342	3,342	-5	3,399	3,399	-8
56	Redlynch & Landford	1	3,742	3,742	6	3,739	3,739	1
57	Roundway	1	2,809	2,809	-20	3,441	3,441	-7
58	Salisbury Bemerton	1	4,046	4,046	15	4,109	4,109	11
59	Salisbury Fisherton & Bemerton Village	1	3,510	3,510	0	3,528	3,528	-5
60	Salisbury Harnham	1	3,592	3,592	2	3,736	3,736	1
61	Salisbury St Edmund & Milford	1	3,622	3,622	3	3,622	3,622	-2
62	Salisbury St Francis & Stratford	1	3,990	3,990	13	3,990	3,990	8
63	Salisbury St Mark's & Bishopdown	1	3,364	3,364	-5	3,364	3,364	-9
64	Salisbury St Martin's & Cathedral	1	4,013	4,013	14	4,056	4,056	10

	Electoral division Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2007)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from the average %	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
65	Salisbury St Paul's	1	3,471	3,471	-2	3,674	3,674	-1
66	Sherston	1	3,672	3,672	4	3,925	3,925	6
67	Southwick	1	3,364	3,364	-5	3,420	3,420	-8
68	Summerham & Seend	1	3,498	3,498	-1	3,503	3,503	-5
69	Sutton Benger	1	3,652	3,562	1	3,907	3,907	6
70	The Collingbournes & Everleigh	1	3,319	3,319	-6	3,442	3,442	-7
71	The Lavingtons	1	3,916	3,916	11	3,985	3,985	8
72	Tidworth	1	3,776	3,776	7	4,184	4,184	13
73	Till & Wylve Valley	1	3,457	3,457	-2	3,452	3,452	-7
74	Tisbury	1	3,383	3,383	-4	3,426	3,426	-7
75	Trowbridge Adcroft	1	3,220	3,220	-9	3,518	3,518	-5
76	Trowbridge Central	1	3,159	3,159	-10	3,495	3,495	-5
77	Trowbridge Drynham	1	3,145	3,145	-11	3,410	3,410	-8
78	Trowbridge Grove	1	3,402	3,402	-4	3,435	3,435	-7

	Electoral division Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2007)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from the average %	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
79	Trowbridge Lambrok	1	3,467	3,467	-2	3,560	3,560	-4
80	Trowbridge Park	1	3,258	3,258	-8	3,358	3,358	-9
81	Trowbridge Paxcroft	1	2,618	2,618	-26	3,518	3,518	-5
82	Urchfont & The Cannings	1	3,367	3,367	-4	3,621	3,621	-2
83	Warminster Broadway	1	3,985	3,985	13	4,237	4,237	15
84	Warminster Copheap & Wyllye	1	3,547	3,547	1	3,725	3,725	1
85	Warminster East	1	3,699	3,699	5	4,012	4,012	9
86	Warminster West	1	3,779	3,779	7	4,016	4,016	9
87	Warminster Without	1	3,418	3,418	-3	3,395	3,395	-8
88	West Selkley	1	3,442	3,442	-2	3,515	3,515	-5
89	Westbury Ham	1	3,308	3,308	-6	3,661	3,661	-1
90	Westbury Laverton	1	3,513	3,513	0	3,851	3,851	4
91	Westbury Vale	1	3,362	3,362	-5	3,748	3,748	1
92	Westbury White Horse	1	3,735	3,735	6	3756	3756	2

Electoral division Name	Number of Councillors	Electorate (2007)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from the average %	Electorate (2012)	Number of electors per councillor	Variance from average %
93 Wilton & Lower Wyllye Valley	1	3,637	3,637	3	3,955	3,955	7
94 Winsley & Westwood	1	3,433	3,433	-3	3,413	3,413	-8
95 Winterslow	1	3,057	3,057	-13	3,050	3,050	-18
96 Wooton Bassett Central	1	3,464	3,464	-2	3,824	3,824	3
97 Wooton Bassett North	1	3,720	3,720	6	3,720	3,720	1
98 Wooton Bassett South & The Lydiards	1	3,688	3,688	5	3,774	3,774	2
Totals	98	345,495	-	-	362,351	-	-
Averages	-	-	3,525	-	-	3,697	-

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Wiltshire County Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral division varies from the average for the county. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

The electorate figures above differ slightly from the electorate figures submitted by Wiltshire County Council in their submission of 21 April 2008. Following a request for clarification from the BCFE, Wiltshire County Council reassessed their electorate projections and realised there had been counting errors in several proposed divisions.

Appendix D

Equal opportunities

In preparing this report we have had regard to the general duty set out in section 71(1) of the Race Relations Act 1976 and the statutory Code of Practice on the Duty to Promote Race Equality (Commission for Racial Equality, May 2002), i.e. to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful racial discrimination
- promote equality of opportunity
- promote good relations between people of different racial groups.

National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Broads

We have also had regard to:

- Section 11A(2) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as inserted by section 62 of the Environment Act 1995). This states that, in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in a National Park, any relevant authority shall have regard to the Park's purposes. If there is a conflict between those purposes, a relevant authority shall attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Park.
- Section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. This states that, in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in an AONB, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purpose of the AONB.
- Section 17A of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act (as inserted by section 97 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000). This states that, in exercising or performing any functions in relation to, or so as to affect, land in the Broads, a relevant authority shall have regard to the purposes of the Broads.

The Boundary Committee

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The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by the UK Parliament. The Committee's main role is to conduct electoral reviews of local authorities in England with the aim of ensuring the number of electors represented by each councillor is approximately the same. Other duties include reviewing local authority boundaries and advising the Government on local authority bids for unitary status.