

10 July 2008

Dear Sir or Madam,

## UNITARY ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WILTSHIRE

### Clarification of the BCFE draft recommendations in respect of the Chippenham area

As you will be aware we published our draft recommendations for the new Wiltshire unitary authority on 01 July 2008. We have previously forwarded you a summary of these draft recommendations and indicated that the full draft recommendations report (and maps), along with all of the submissions received during the initial public consultation are available on our website at [www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk).

Following the publication of the draft recommendations it has become apparent that an unfortunate breakdown of communication has occurred between the Committee and Wiltshire County Council in respect of their Stage One submission. This has led to the Committee failing to take full account of an updated submission received from Wiltshire County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008 in respect of the Chippenham area and relying instead on mapping presented in the County Council's original submission on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2008 that has since been withdrawn.

As a result, the Committee's draft recommendations contain inaccurate argumentation (in paragraphs 65-67) concerning the County Council's view of the Chippenham Town Council proposal for the Chippenham area, along with the relevant electorate figures. These inaccuracies relate to the proposed divisions of Chippenham Cepen Park & Derriads, Chippenham Cepen Park &

The Boundary Committee  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW

Tel 020 7271 0500

Fax 020 7271 0505

Textphone 18001 020 7271 0500

[info@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:info@boundarycommittee.org.uk)

[www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk)

Democracy matters



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



POSITIVE ABOUT  
DISABLED PEOPLE

# The Boundary Committee for England

Part of the Electoral Commission

Redlands, as well as Sutton Benger. The Committee would like to apologise for any misunderstanding that may have resulted from this misleading argumentation.

This letter is not intended as an amendment to our draft recommendations but rather an acknowledgement of a misrepresentation of Wiltshire County Council's submission. It is intended to ensure that the current Stage Three consultation is as effective as possible by guaranteeing that all relevant stakeholders can provide submissions within an accurate context of previous submissions.

As such, this letter is being sent to Wiltshire County Council, North Wiltshire District Council, Chippenham Town Council, Chippenham Without parish council, Langley Burrell Without parish council, along with any parties who made submissions with respect to the electoral arrangements in the Chippenham or Sutton Benger area. This letter will be placed on our website (along with copies of both iterations of the County Council submission for the sake of clarity). Please feel free to distribute this clarification to any further parties whom you believe may be interested in the electoral arrangements in this area.

In paragraphs 65-67 of the draft recommendations, we have indicated that we received two differing proposals for the electoral arrangements within Chippenham from Chippenham Town Council and Wiltshire County Council respectively. In fact, the County Council amended their submission on 01 May 2008 to match that of Chippenham Town Council. They have also stated that the electorate numbers submitted on 21 April 2008 were in relation to this Chippenham Town Council proposal to extend the proposed Chippenham electoral divisions into the Cepen Park area. As such the electorate numbers for the three relevant divisions contained in the draft recommendations are accurate with respect to the Chippenham Town Council proposal but not to Map 3B contained in our draft recommendations. I have reiterated these numbers in attached Appendix A and the updated mapping of the Chippenham Town Council / Wiltshire County Council proposal received on 01 May 2008 has been placed on our website.

The Boundary Committee  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW

Democracy matters



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Tel 020 7271 0500  
Fax 020 7271 0505  
Textphone 18001 020 7271 0500  
info@boundarycommittee.org.uk  
www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

# The Boundary Committee for England

Part of the Electoral Commission

Unfortunately this misunderstanding led the Committee to consider the Chippenham Town Council proposal within a context of it significantly reducing the electorate number for the neighbouring Sutton Benger division. As we have indicated in the report, the resultant electoral variance in Sutton Benger by 2012 would have been an unreasonable 28%. In actuality, the electoral variance of the Sutton Benger division within the context of the Chippenham Town Council proposal would be 6%, a relatively good level of electoral variance.

We also received a submission from Chippenham Without parish council during Stage One, which indicated its strong opposition on community identity grounds to the placement of the Cepen Park wards of Chippenham Without parish (and Langley Burrell Without parish) within the proposed Chippenham town electoral divisions. As such, the Committee is well aware that not all stakeholders in the area supported the Chippenham Town Council proposal during the Stage One consultation, despite the amended position of Wiltshire County Council identified in this letter.

The Committee is keen to state that despite the clarifications above, we have not amended our draft recommendations at the current time. As in the draft recommendations we continue to consider that more evidence would be needed to support the Chippenham Town Council proposal and would advise interested parties to submit further evidence at this time. We would also urge any parties opposed to the idea to provide submissions during Stage Three in support of their view.

The Committee has three main considerations, which we would urge all parties to have regard to when making submissions during Stage Three of this review. These are equalising the number of electors each councillor represents, reflecting community identity, and providing for convenient and effective local government.

If you would like any clarification of the details contained in this letter then please contact me by email, post or over the phone.

The Boundary Committee  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW

Democracy matters



Tel 020 7271 0500  
Fax 020 7271 0505  
Textphone 18001 020 7271 0500  
[info@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:info@boundarycommittee.org.uk)  
[www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk)

The  
Boundary  
Committee  
for England

Part of the Electoral Commission

Yours sincerely,



**James Ansell**  
**Review Officer**  
[jansell@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:jansell@boundarycommittee.org.uk)  
020 7271 0572

Democracy matters



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



**The Boundary Committee**  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW

Tel 020 7271 0500  
Fax 020 7271 0505  
Textphone 18001 020 7271 0500  
[info@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:info@boundarycommittee.org.uk)  
[www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk)

**Appendix A – Selected electorate numbers for the ‘Chippenham Town extension’ proposal.**

		<b>2007</b>	<b>2012 projection</b>
Chippenham Park & Derriads	Cepen	3509	3509
Chippenham Park & Redlands	CEpen	3325	3365
Sutton Benger		3652	3907

Democracy matters



The Boundary Committee  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter Street  
London SW1P 2HW

Tel 020 7271 0500  
Fax 020 7271 0505  
Textphone 18001 020 7271 0500  
info@boundarycommittee.org.uk  
www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

