

14 July 2008

Dear Mr Quinton,

## UNITARY ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WILTSHIRE

### Clarification of the BCFE draft recommendations in respect of the Westbury 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 Westbury 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 April 2008 that has since been withdrawn.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 implied that Map 6A which depicts a proposed boundary between Westbury Vale and Westbury Laverton were based a submission provided by Wiltshire County Council. Map 6A actually contained the relevant boundary as proposed by Westbury Town Council in their submission of 17<sup>th</sup> April 2008. The Committee would like to apologise for any resultant misunderstanding.

The updated mapping received from Wiltshire County Council on 01 May 2008 has also been placed on our website. We would note that the electorate numbers contained in Appendix C of the draft recommendations for these divisions are accurate in respect of the updated mapping.

Democracy matters



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# The Boundary Committee for England

Part of the Electoral Commission

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, West Wiltshire District Council, Westbury Town Council, along with any parties who made submissions with respect to the Westbury 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.

The Committee is keen to state that despite the clarifications above, we have not amended our draft recommendations at the current time. We would urge any parties who support or oppose our draft recommendations in this area to provide further submissions during Stage Three in support of their view. This period of public consultation will end on 25 August 2008.

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.

Yours sincerely,



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**Review Officer**

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