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Date

28 November 2017

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Dear Mr Jackson

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF EAST HAMPSHIRE: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Thank you for your letter of 3 October 2017 informing me of the Commission's Draft Recommendations in regard to the Electoral Review of East Hampshire.

Consultation with County Councillors in the East Hampshire area has been undertaken. Most of them are twin-hatters and will therefore take the opportunity to respond to the consultation through other channels. However, I am making you aware of specific comments of the County Councillors who represent the areas listed below.

Headley, Bramshott & Liphook

The importance of maintaining the parishes of Headley and Bramshott and Liphook as un-warded areas with the two and three district councillors respectively representing the whole of each parish has been highlighted. It is considered by the Local County Councillor that the existing arrangement works well in both parishes at present, facilitating Councillors to work together effectively. Therefore retaining the status quo is supported. The Local County Councillor has highlighted the importance of maintaining the present boundaries to avoid confusion between the County Division and the district parishes.

Petersfield

Concern has been raised by the Local County Councillor that the proposed Petersfield Heath and Petersfield Bell Hill district wards would both cross over the County Divisions of Petersfield Hangers and Petersfield Butser potentially making it

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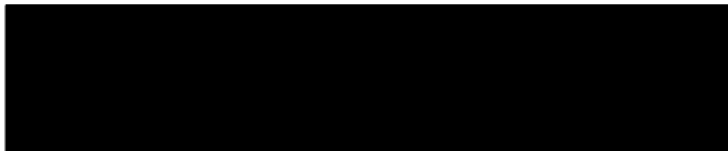
harder for County and District Councillors to collaborate on projects, which could be confusing for the public and other local bodies. The Local County Councillor also expressed concern that voters may have to attend different polling stations depending on which election is taking place.

Under the draft proposals, Sheet Parish would be removed from the Petersfield Wards and included in the Steep and Froxfield District Ward. St Mary's Church in Sheet would not be included in the proposed new District Ward of Petersfield St. Mary's and the Local County Councillor is concerned that this does not recognise the history and heritage of the area and he is of the view that splitting up the conurbation in the way proposed would not be helpful.

Petersfield is a historic market town with specific challenges and opportunities. The Local County Councillor considers that Petersfield County, District and Town Councillors currently work well together and the proposed changes do not take account of the importance of Petersfield to the economic development of East Hampshire generally.

The County Council supports the position of clarity in electoral arrangements to avoid voter confusion between district council and county council electoral boundaries.

Yours sincerely



John Coughlan
Chief Executive