WEST BERKSHIRE UNISON RESPONSE TO THE ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WEST BERKSHIRE:
WARDING ARRANGEMENTS CONSULTATION West Berkshire UNISON represents the interests of its members and makes the following submission on that basis. UNISON does not represent the interests of the communities in West Berkshire and will not make a comment what boundaries would reflect the identities of the communities in West Berkshire. We welcome the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors. As Councillors increasingly make choices to make staff redundant on the basis of financial constraints and reduced workload due to modern technology, so too should that be the basis for a reduction in the number of elected Members. Although outside the remit of this consultation; a reduction in the number of Councillors should not form the basis for any proposal to increase allowances paid to Members; if staff have to do more for less, so should elected Members. The changes to ward boundaries should be made in a way which recognises working boundaries used in different teams across the Council. For example in Adult Social Care, locality teams now operate in West, Central and East localities. A similar arrangement operates in Children’s Services. Borders should be coterminous with current working boundaries in order to ensure that services are delivered smoothly and in the best interest of the customer. As a point of common sense, where possible the ward boundaries should be coterminous with parliamentary boundaries.