

Further clarification: electoral division boundaries in the Chippenham area of Wiltshire

This paper has been sent to:

- Wiltshire County Council
- North Wiltshire District Council
- Relevant parish and town councils affected by the proposed electoral arrangements (Chippenham Town Council, Chippenham Without Parish Council, Langley Burrell Parish Council)
- Local MPs and MEPs
- Local political groups
- Any local residents who have made submissions to us with respect to the Chippenham area

Please feel free to distribute this clarification to any further parties whom you believe may be interested in the electoral arrangements in this area.

Copies of this paper can also be downloaded from our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk

What is the Boundary Committee for England?

The Boundary Committee for England is a committee of the Electoral Commission, an independent body set up by the UK Parliament. Its 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.

Background

Electoral review in Wiltshire

The Boundary Committee for England is currently conducting an electoral review of the new Wiltshire unitary authority. The review began on 26 February 2008 with the changes to electoral divisions intended to be implemented in time for elections in May 2009. The first consultation stage ended on 21 April 2008 and the Boundary Committee published its Draft Recommendations on 1 June 2008. In response the

Committee received approximately 110 representations during the second stage of consultation, which finished on 25 August 2008. The representations referred to in this paper, together with the Boundary Committee's draft recommendations are available for viewing on our website at www.boundarycommittee.org.uk. A leaflet is enclosed explaining what we have to consider when making our recommendations.

Proposal on which we would like views

In the draft recommendations, the Committee proposed eight single member divisions to cover the parish of Chippenham. This pattern of divisions was based on Wiltshire County Council's submission of 22 April 2008.

Unfortunately, the Committee had not taken account of an updated submission from Wiltshire County Council on 1 May 2008 when forming its draft recommendations. This updated County Council scheme, was based upon a scheme proposed by Chippenham Town Council. This updated scheme proposes the expansion of the divisions of Cepen Park & Redlands and Cepen Park & Derriads to the A350 ring road to the west of Chippenham. This would result in those parts of Chippenham Without and Langley Burrell parishes that lie within the A350 being located in these divisions. For convenience we have named this proposal the 'Chippenham A350 expansion'.

The details of the 'Chippenham A350 expansion' were forwarded to all local stakeholders by the Committee on 10 July 2008 to ensure that the second stage of public consultation would continue on a transparent and effective basis. We have subsequently received further representations from local stakeholders indicating both support and opposition to this proposal.

Having given consideration to all of the submissions received with respect to this area, the Committee is now minded to support the County and Town Council proposal and to reflect this in its final recommendations. We would like to seek further views on this 'Chippenham A350 expansion' prior to the Boundary Committee making its final recommendations.

Mapping

Please find attached a map of the Committee's proposed final recommendations for the Chippenham area as Appendix A.

Electorate numbers for the 'Chippenham A350 expansion'

	2007	Electoral variance (%)	2012 projection	Electoral variance (%)
Chippenham Cepen Park & Derriads	3509	0	3509	-5
Chippenham Cepen Park & Redlands	3325	-6	3365	-9
Sutton Benger	3652	4	3907	6

Town Council arrangements

A consequence of this proposal would be a change in the electoral arrangements of Chippenham Town Council. Under Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972 we are obliged, in as far as is practicable, to create parish wards if a parish lies in more than one division. Under this proposal eight parish wards would be created within Chippenham and would follow the boundaries of the relevant divisions within Chippenham parish. There would also be a need to ward the parishes of Chippenham Without and Langley Burrell in accordance with the proposed expansion of the Cepen Park & Redlands and Cepen Park & Derriads divisions into these parishes.

Making a representation

Please send submissions to the Boundary Committee for England by **24 October 2008**. We are unable to consider responses received after this date. Tell us clearly:

- Your views on the proposed Chippenham Town A350 expansion
- Any evidence, which you consider supports your view of this proposal

Please feel free to refer to evidence you may already have provided to us. However, additional evidence and further comments would strengthen the case for your chosen option. We welcome responses in writing by post, email or fax. Please send your response to the questions raised in this consultation to:

Please attach further evidence or additional information to this form.

Please send your views any additional information to:

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