



# Devizes Town Council

[www.devizes-tc.gov.uk](http://www.devizes-tc.gov.uk)

## **Community & Civic Resources Committee**

### Special Meeting

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Community & Civic Resources Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: Tuesday, 22 November 2022

Time: Immediately after the Recreation & Properties Committee Meeting

Venue: The Assembly Room, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 723333

The Town Mayor Councillor Corbett

Chairman: Councillor Nash

Councillors: Bridewell  
Geddes  
Hunter  
Stevens

Burton  
Hopkins  
Oliver

Gay  
Hoult  
Rose

## **AGENDA**

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST**

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

#### 4 REPORT FOR DECISION – 2023 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

##### **Recommendation**

That the committee considers the revisions of the proposed changes set out in the Boundary Commission 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies report and decide if it wishes to make any further comments.

##### **Purpose of the Report**

For the Town Council to provide its views on amendments to the 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

##### **Background**

The Boundary Commission is seeking further views on proposed changes to the parliamentary constituencies, following 2021 consultation, which are due to be implemented for the next elections.

In setting out the initial proposed review, the Boundary Commission for England work to within the legislation set down by the Government, which states that there will continue to be 650 parliamentary constituencies for the UK with England being allocated 543 which is 10 more than currently. Whilst there are many rules the review has to follow and which can be viewed online at <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/guide-to-the-2023-review-of-parliamentary-constituencies/>, one of the most significant rules are number of electors. The rules state that a constituency can have no fewer than 69,724 or more than 77,062.

Under the proposals shared with the Council in 2021, the current constituency for Devizes will disappear and will be merged with Melksham to form a new Melksham and Devizes constituency of 71,823 electors created, a copy of the proposed constituency is available by visiting [https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/review2023/b65f7782-658b-4c4a-9cba-59c16c807f77/a3-maps/SW\\_24\\_Melksham%20and%20Devizes%20CC.pdf](https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/review2023/b65f7782-658b-4c4a-9cba-59c16c807f77/a3-maps/SW_24_Melksham%20and%20Devizes%20CC.pdf)

In 2021 the council made the following observation on the then proposals;

*“The proposal for Devizes in Wiltshire will see the town divided into three parliamentary constituencies, which will be confusing for residents and a bureaucratic challenge for local health services, government bodies and NGO's who will need the support of their local MP to progress funding or local issues.*

*Devizes Town Council strongly believes that the urban area of Devizes, with Roundway and Bishops Cannings, should be considered one constituency given the relatively small numbers*

*involved is achievable and should work within the stated population requirements .*

*It is important that if the name of a town is set out in the constituency title, then the whole of the recognised urban areas, with its rural hinterland, should be included. That is not to say that the name Devizes should be removed from the constituency name, as Devizes is an important and well known community area in its own right but has no recognisable community link with Melksham, other than we are situated in the same county.*

*If the new constituency must be named after two towns, what is the justification for the name Melksham and Devizes, when it would be customary to list them in alphabetical order, therefore the name should be the Devizes and Melksham Constituency.”*

From the redrawn map, it would appear that the Devizes hinterland is now within the same constituency, but the name remains unaltered

The committee needs to decide if it wishes to make any further comment before the consultation deadline of 5 December 2022.

### **Options Considered**

The Committee needs to guide officers as to what if any comments it would like to make in relation to the proposed amendments made to the new parliamentary constituencies covering Devizes. The Committee may also wish to make comments on the wider review process.

### **Implications and Risks**

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Officers are unaware of any financial or resource implication for the Council associated with this decision

#### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The Council will be considering this matter under its General Power of Competence

#### **Environmental Implications**

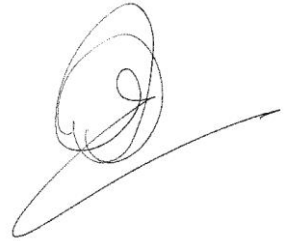
Officers are unaware of any environmental implication for the Council associated with this decision.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Officers are unaware of any risk implication for the Council associated with this decision.

**Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

TOWN CLERK