



SWINDON BOROUGH COUNCIL
Municipal Year 2016/17

Thursday, 10 November 2016

**COUNCIL CHAMBER
CIVIC OFFICES
SWINDON**

2 November 2016

Dear Councillor,

Summons to attend Council Meeting

A MEETING of the **Council**, which you are requested to attend, is to be held at the CIVIC OFFICES, SWINDON, on **Thursday, 10 November 2016 at 7.00 p.m.**

The business to be transacted will be as follows:-

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
- 2. Communications**
To receive any communications or letters which the Mayor or Chief Executive may have to bring before the Council.
- 3. Minutes** (Pages 5 - 10)
To receive the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 4. Declarations of Interest**
Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

5. **Public Question Time**

See explanatory note below.

6. **Minutes for Confirmation** (Pages 11 - 144)

(1) To consider a Minute for Confirmation from the Cabinet.

- Community Governance Review – to consider the attached report.

(2) To consider a Minute for Confirmation from the Schools Forum.

- Minute 18 (Schools Forum Membership)

(3) To receive a Minute for Note from the Scrutiny Committee.

- Minute 34 (Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2015/16).

A copy of this report is available on the Council's website

<http://sbcvpwmmgv02:9070/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=619&MId=7541&Ver=4>

or from the Committee and Member Services.

7. **Motions**

(a) **Motion - Heathrow Airport Expansion** **Councillor Toby Elliott will move:**

“This Council notes:

1 The resolution of this Council of 20th December 2012, agreed unanimously, calling for better connections between Swindon and Heathrow as this would benefit Swindon's economy (Council Minute 84, 2012/13 refers).

2 The Conservative Government's announcement to support the expansion of Heathrow with the provision of a third runway.

3 The vital importance of expanding Britain's international airport capacity so that this country can take full advantage of its new global trading opportunities on leaving the EU.

This Council resolves to congratulate the Government on taking this difficult but necessary decision, which puts the needs of British people and the economy first.

This Council requests that the Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills report to Cabinet, when practicable, about how Swindon can take contribute to and take advantage of Heathrow's expansion.”

(b) **Motion - Parks Library** **Cllr Steve Allsopp will move:**

“This Council welcomes the recent petition obtaining over 1100 signatories, calling on Swindon Council to include Parks Library as part of the Council's

future core library service.

This Council urges Cabinet to give significant weight to this petition when considering its future core library service.”

8. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

To consider appointments to Committees and Other Bodies.

9. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

(Pages 145 - 160)

Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Cabinet Member in respect of Cabinet minutes (which are not reserved for Council for decision) and in respect of individual Cabinet Member delegated decisions.

10. Minutes of other Council Bodies

Members have the opportunity to raise questions with the relevant Chair in respect of all other Committee minutes (not reserved to Council for decision), as set out in the Minute Book circulated separately.

11. Councillors Question Time

Questions (if any) of which notice has been given by Councillors in accordance with Standing Order 15.

Yours faithfully

Director of Law and Democratic Services

Questions by Members of the Public in accordance with Standing Order 11

Swindon Borough Council remains committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters, and matters relating to planning and licensing applications). We will give priority to those who submit questions in writing at least two days before the meeting. Questions must be relevant, clear, and concise. You may not use Public Question Time as an opportunity to make speeches or statements.

Questions in writing should be sent to the Committee Officer whose contact details appear on the agenda above or to the Director of Law and Democratic Services, we will publish it, along with the answer, alongside the Minutes. The process associated with asking a public question is set out in the “Public Question Time at Council Meetings Protocol and Guidance” available on the Council’s Website

(<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13338&path=0>) or from the Committee Officer named above.

Access Arrangements - The venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you have any special requirements to enable you to attend the meeting or would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size, please contact the Committee Officer as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2016

PRESENT:- The Worshipful The Mayor in the Chair; Councillors Junab Ali, Steve Allsopp, Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Ray Ballman, Alan Bishop, Emma Bushell, Matthew Courtliff, Malcolm Davies, Mark Dempsey, Paul Dixon, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Claire Ellis, Steph Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Mary Friend, Jim Grant, John Haines, Dale Heenan, Russell Holland, Fay Howard, Colin Lovell, Mary Martin, Nick Martin, Cathy Martyn, Gemma McCracken, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Derique Montaut, Teresa Page, Stan Pajak, Barbara Parry, Kevin Parry, Maureen Penny, Garry Perkins, David Renard, James Robbins, Carol Shelley, Kevin Small, Gary Sumner, Timothy Swinyard, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Joe Tray, Chris Watts, Nadine Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger, Keith Williams and Julie Wright and Robert Wright.

39. Minutes Silence

The Worshipful The Mayor reported the recent death of Doctor Peter Crouch, Vice-Chair of The Council's Health and Wellbeing Board and invited the Chamber to stand and join him in observing a Minutes Silence as a sign of respect.

40. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Wayne Crabbe and Vera Tomlinson.

41. Communications

The Chief Executive reported that no communications had been received.

42. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July, 2016, be confirmed and signed.

43. Declarations of Interest

The Mayor reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Mary Martin made a personal declaration in respect of Agenda Item 7 (Motion – Sprinkler Systems in Schools) in her capacity as a Governor of the Great Western Academy.

44. Public Question Time

Mr Tony Hillier asked if the Council would consider delaying, for one year, any decision regarding the creation of additional Parish Councils within the Borough. The Cabinet Member for Communities responded at the meeting.

Mr Hillier asked the Leader of the Council if he would add his congratulations to those given in praise of the work of the organisers of the recent Great Western Hospital fete. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr Brian Cockbill asked a question regarding the public's perception of Swindon in the light of recent poor publicity about the Town and also about rumours of the sale of buildings in the town centre. The Leader of the Council responded at the meeting.

Mr Cockbill asked a further question about Council policies as a contributory factor to the poor perception of the town's image. The Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness responded at the meeting.

Ms Helen Jackson asked a public question regarding Council support for the future provision of the Dial A Ride Service. The Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Highways and Transport responded at the meeting.

Ms Jackson asked a supplementary question on the same topic which the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness also responded to at the meeting.

(In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Bob Wright made a personal declaration in respect of this item (in relation Mr Hillier's second question) as he was a Health and Safety Advisor to the Great Western Hospital.)

45. Minutes for Confirmation

(1) Councillor John Haines moved and Councillor Nick Martin seconded that Minute 17 of the Licensing Committee (Animal Welfare Charter for Swindon) be confirmed and adopted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(2) Councillor John Haines moved and Councillor Nick Martin seconded that Minute 18 of the Licensing Committee (Cumulative Impact Policy for the Broad Green Area, Swindon) be confirmed and adopted.

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

46. Council Petition Scheme

The Council considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services concerning the receipt of a petition containing 3,645 signatures (with an online version of the petition with the same wording containing 384 signature) calling on Swindon Borough Council not to cut funding it provides to the Dial A Ride service (now or in the future).

In accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme Mr Paul Newton-Smith, on behalf of the petitioners, introduced the petition.

Councillor Dale Heenan moved and Councillor Derique Montaut seconded:

“This Council:

- Notes the Save Swindon's Dial a Ride Petition, which has obtained more than 4000 signatures.
- Expresses regret that the Dial a Ride contract had to be cut due to required Council Budget Reductions.
- Supports Cabinet's view that there be no further funding reductions to Swindon Dial a Ride.
- Notes that the Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Highways, and Transport has met with the Lead Petition Organiser where they discussed new income stream options, which could be used to mitigate the effects of Dial a Ride's cut in funding.
- Requests the Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Highways, and Transport:

(a) bring a report to Cabinet detailing the different options the Council has to create new income streams for Dial a Ride to mitigate the effects of the organisation's funding cut; and

(b) set up a cross-party Cabinet Member advisory group to monitor and review the Swindon Dial a Ride contract and ensure the aims of this motion are achieved.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

47. Motion - Wiltshire Council Planning Application

Councillor Tim Swinyard moved and Councillor Matthew Courtliff seconded:

“This Council notes with grave concern the planning application by Taylor Wimpey to build in view of St Mary's Church and Lydiard House within the area of Wiltshire Council.

This Council requests that the Cabinet Member responsible for Lydiard write to the relevant Wiltshire Council planning committee expressing this Council's unequivocal objection to such a development.”

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

48. Motion - Sprinkler Systems in Schools

Councillor Garry Perkins moved and Councillor Joe Tray seconded:

“This Council notes

(1) A proposed change in government policy that would no longer require new schools to be fitted with sprinkler systems.

(2) The advice from professional fire officers that sprinkler systems are a vital tool in reducing the risk to life and property from fires.

(3) The enormous damage to children's education if their school is rendered unusable by a fire.

(4) The adverse effect relocating children might have to their educational attainments, which would be contrary to Pledge 17 of the Council's Vision.

This Council requests

That the Leader of the Council write to the relevant Government Minister and the Borough's two Members of Parliament: Robert Buckland QC and Justin Tomlinson, urging the retention of the requirement to fit sprinkler systems in new schools."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

(In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Mary Martin made a personal declaration in respect of this item as she was a Governor of the Great Western Academy.)

49. Motion - Jazz Carlin

With the agreement of the Council Councillor Bob Wright moved and Councillor Gary Sumner seconded the following amended motion:

"This Council welcomes the success of former Swindonian Jazmine Carlin in achieving two Olympic Silver Medals at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

Council requests the Leader of the Council to work with the Council's other political group leaders or their nominated deputies, on how Swindon can celebrate Jazz Carlin's success and the performance of all local Olympians and Paralympic athletes."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

50. Motion - CO2 Emissions

With the agreement of the Council this motion was withdrawn.

51. Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

The Council considered a report of the Director of Law and Democratic services setting out proposed changes to the membership of Committees and Other Bodies.

Councillor David Renard moved and Councillor Russell Holland seconded:

(1) That Councillor Cathy Martyn replace Councillor Fionuala Foley as a member of the Council's Adoption Panel of the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/17.

(2) That Councillor Stephanie Exell replace Councillor Junab Ali as a member of the Council's Licensing Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2016/17.

(3) That Councillor Brian Ford replace Mr Brian Mattock as the Councillor's nominated Governor serving on the Great Western Hospital Foundation Trust for period until August 2019.

(4) That the representation for Groups A (Christian Denominations and Other Religions), B (Church of England) and C (Teacher Associations) serving on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report of the Director of Law and Democratic Services, be approved for the period until May 2020.

(5) That, further to (4) above, the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, following nominations from representative organisations, be authorised to appoint to any interim vacancies during this term of office.

(6) That the Corporate Director, Economy Regeneration and Skills be appointed as a Director of Forward Swindon Limited for a term of office ending in September 2019."

The Motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

52. Minutes of Cabinet and Decisions Delegated to Cabinet Members

The Council considered (a) the minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 13th July, 17th August and 7th September 2016, and (b) questions to the Cabinet Members regarding their portfolio responsibilities and answers received.

53. Minutes of other Council Bodies

The Council (a) received the minutes set out in the "Minutes of Other Council Bodies" circulated with the Agenda, and (b) considered questions to Chairs relating to the work of their Committees and other bodies and answers received.

54. Councillors' Question Time

The Director of Law and Democratic Services reported that no Standing Order 15 Questions had been received.

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Recommendations from the Community Governance Review

Council

Date: 10th November 2016

Author:	Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart. Cabinet Member for Communities, Chief Executive, Corporate Director Resources, and Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report summarises the Community Governance Review that the Council has undertaken and it seeks Members' support for the amendments to existing Parishes and the creation of new parishes as set out in **Appendix Three: "Recommendations to Council"**.
- 1.2 Legislation reserves the right to amend or create new parishes to Full Council.

2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Adopt and give effect to the recommendations of the Cabinet set out in **Appendix Three: "Recommendations to Council"** of the report in order to ensure that community governance within the Borough is effective and convenient, and reflective of the identities and interests of communities within the Borough;
 - 2.2 Note that parishing the entire Borough would enable community empowerment at local level consistently throughout the Borough and extend localism to those parts of the Borough that do not currently have a local council and so do not have the full range of options for local service provision;
 - 2.3 Agree that the final proposal map at **Appendix Four: Map of the recommended new parish boundaries and parish wards** is approved as the new boundaries of existing and new parishes with effect from the dates to be set out in the Order;
 - 2.4 Subject to Council approving the recommendation set out above, authorises:
 - 2.4.1 the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, to;
 - (i) Establish Shadow Councils for each of the proposed new parishes with a membership of at least 5 in number made up from the ward members in each area;
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor, 01793 463012, staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

Recommendations from the Community Governance Review

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- (ii) Determine, in consultation with the Shadow Parishes, the governance arrangements for each new parish;
- (iii) In accordance with the requirements set out in Section 96 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to publish the Council's decision in relation to these recommendations together with the reasons for making this decision, and to take such steps as he considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the Community Governance Review are informed of that decision.

2.4.2 The Head of StreetSmart to organise the borough council's workforce in such a way as to facilitate any service transfer that may be agreed between the borough council and any new or existing parish or town council.

2.4.3 The Director of Law and Democratic Services to:

- (i) prepare, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, a revised scheme and consequential Community Governance Reorganisation Order to include such provisions as he considers appropriate in relation to (inter alia) implementation dates, asset transfers, and warding arrangements;
- (ii) seek the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission to any consequential changes to the protected electoral arrangements set out in the Swindon (Electoral Changes) Order 2012, and
- (iii) Make and implement the Reorganisation Order.

3. Detail

Background

- 3.1 Cabinet agreed to commence a Community Governance Review at its meeting on 21st October 2015 (Cabinet Minute 39, 2015/2016 refers). The Terms of Reference approved are attached at **Appendix One: Community Governance Terms of Reference****Error! Reference source not found..** The indicative time approved is set out in Table One. The Cabinet decision was noted by Council on 12th November 2015 (Council Minute 47, 2015/16 refers).

Recommendations from the Community Governance Review

Council

Date: 10th November 2016

Table 1 Initial Review Timetable

Action	Timeline	Outline of Action
Report to Cabinet / Council	October / November 2015	Timescale and Terms of Reference approved
Commence Review	December 2015	Council publishes Notice of the Review and notifies stakeholders
Introductory stage – Meetings with stakeholders	December 2015	
Stage 1	January – March 2016	Initial submissions invited
Stage 2	April - June 2016	Consider submissions. Prepare draft recommendations
Stage 3	July – September 2016	Draft recommendations published and comments sought
Stage 4	September – November 2016	Consider final submissions and prepare recommendations
Final recommendations	November – December 2016	Publish Final recommendations
Implementation Order	November – December 2016	Council to make Order

- 3.2 The review was requested of Council partly due to a number of parish councils having asked for their electoral arrangements to be reviewed, including the number of parish councillors and their parish warding arrangements, and also having regard to a petition currently ongoing for the creation of a new parish in an area that is currently parished.
- 3.3 In addition, Cabinet was also informed by the reported success of the initial pilot schemes in which some parish councils agreed to take on devolved services

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Recommendations from the Community Governance Review

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from the Borough. Each parish, as a separate entity, negotiated as to which services these were.

- 3.4 For every stage of the Review, Members have kept in mind the statutory duties as set out in Section 93 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, together with the statutory guidance on community governance reviews issued by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

- 3.5 Under section 93 of the 2007 Act:

“(4) The principal council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review—

- (a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and
- (b) is effective and convenient.”

and the statutory guidance gives further assistance with regard to factors for consideration such as community cohesion together with size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

Stage One

- 3.6 Stage One of the Community Governance Review commenced on 5th December 2015 and was reported to Cabinet on 16th June 2016 (Cabinet Minute 8, 2016/2017 refers). The all-party Scrutiny Committee reviewed the Cabinet decision-making process supporting this decision on 20th June 2016 (Scrutiny Minute 4, 2016/17 refers) and Council noted the Cabinet minute on (Council Minutes 31 and 36, 2016/2017 refer). A total of over 700 residents attended 32 drop-in sessions across the Borough, which were supported by ward members and officers. In addition to paper submission forms, the Council provided a dedicated CGR email address and an on-line facility to make submissions during the consultation period. As a result of this, 258 submissions (including two petitions) were recorded from both residents and interested groups/organisations. A copy of the submissions, with personal information duly redacted, was made available on the Council's website and in the Members' Room.
- 3.7 In reviewing the submissions, Cabinet took note of the need to provide more opportunities to inform and engage with those who had responded, so that there could be more adequate knowledge of the work of parish council and how they might both better reflect community identities and provide for effective and convenient community governance. To assist the discussions, Cabinet approved two illustrative maps to provide a visual context of how additional parishes might look. However, these maps did not constitute proposals.

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Recommendations from the Community Governance Review

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- 3.8 As a consequence of this, Cabinet agreed to proceed with Stage Two of the Consultation and amended the timetable as set out in Table Two.

Table 2 Revised Community Governance Timetable

Action	Original	Revised	Outline of action
Stage 1	5 th December 2015 to 30 th March 2016	5 th December to 30 th March 2016	Initial Submissions invited
Stage 2	31 st March to 30 th June 2016	31 st March to 29 th July 2016	Prepare draft recommendations, including public engagement from 22 nd June to 20 th July involving maps and setting out illustrative outline parish boundaries
Stage 3	4 th Jul to 16 th September 2016	9 th Aug to 30 th September 2016	Draft recommendations published and comments sought
Stage 4	19 th September to November 2016	3 rd October to November 2016	Consider final submissions and prepare recommendations
Final recommendations	November/December 2016	November/December 2016	Publish final recommendations
Implementation order	January 2017	January 2017	Council to make order

Stage Two

- 3.9 The findings from Stage Two of the Community Governance Review were reported to Cabinet on 17th August 2016 (Cabinet Minute 37, 2016/17 refers).
- 3.10 Prior to this on 14th April 2016, Council debated a motion calling for a consultative poll to be held in those areas that did not currently have a parish council to inform the Community Governance Review. This motion was defeated (Council Minute 89, 2015/16 refers).
- 3.11 Stage Two sought further detailed suggestions from residents of the Borough on possible arrangements for parishes so as to enable the council to formulate a proposal for public consultation in Stage Three. To that end additional public engagement activities, using 2 illustrative maps (Appendix Two A and Appendix

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor, 01793 463012, staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

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Two B of the June Cabinet report) that set out potential outline parish boundaries, took place between 22nd June and 20th July 2016 as listed below:

- 3.11.1 8 public meetings (including 4 organised at request of members) were held and attended by a total of 181 residents;
- 3.11.2 4 workshops for those who had expressed more detailed views at Stage 1 were held and attended by 27 residents;
- 3.11.3 Illustrative maps and CGR information were published on the SBC website which attracted hits from over 500 residents;
- 3.11.4 Members were asked to publicise the events in their wards;
- 3.11.5 Social media activity to promote the public meetings and maps/information;
- 3.11.6 Media relations activity, including press releases, generated media coverage on the engagement exercise across a number of outlets including Swindon Advertiser, Swindon Link, BBC Wiltshire and in some Parish/Community publications;
- 3.11.7 Posters distributed by the Localities team to advertise the public meetings;
- 3.11.8 Officer meetings with parish councils, community groups and Ward members; and
- 3.11.9 139 submissions (including one petition) were recorded from both residents and interested groups/organisations. A copy of the submissions, with personal information duly redacted is available on the Council's website and in the Council's Members Room.
- 3.12 The main area of focus in discussions in the workshops as to the creation of parishes in areas without them was in relation to the number of new parish councils to be created. The options here ranged from one large single parish to a larger number of smaller parishes that would be more closely aligned to specific communities.
- 3.13 Members considered the merits of different possible parish arrangements and, on balance, determined that one large single parish would not be reflective of the identities and interest of the community in that area, as required by the 2007 Act. Put simply, a new large parish of approximately 56,200 households would not recognise the existing sub-divisions and governance arrangements of the areas of the town without parishes.
- 3.14 Cabinet recommended that the Borough consult on the creation of four new parishes; namely, West Swindon, Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South, and South Swindon and to expand Nythe to cover the unparished area of

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Liden and Eldene. In addition, Cabinet is also recommended to consult on the creation of a St Andrew's Parish from out of the current parish of Blunsdon St Andrew.

- 3.15 The Borough Council also considered the number of parish councillors for any new parish. The statutory minimum number of parish councillors is 5. There is no maximum number. The number of parish councillors in existing parishes in Swindon range from 5 (Castle Eaton, Stanton Fitzwarren, and Hannington) to 23 (Stratton St Margaret).

Stage Three

- 3.16 The outcome of Stage Three of the Community Governance Review was reported to Cabinet on 19th October 2016 and subject to a lengthy and detailed discussion in public at that meeting.
- 3.17 The consultation process has taken the following form:-
- 3.17.1 5 public meetings in the current non-parished areas were held and attended by a total of 172 residents. Members were asked to publicise Council-facilitated events in their wards and some ward members also held additional public meetings;
 - 3.17.2 1 joint meeting with Blunsdon st Andrew parish council was held and attended by 12 consisting of Councillors, employees of the Parish Council and residents;
 - 3.17.3 Royal Mail was commissioned to deliver an 8 page leaflet to every household;
 - 3.17.4 3 meetings with businesses were held that led to decisions to hold further steering group sessions to help shape the relationship between businesses and parish councils in future;
 - 3.17.5 The existing and proposed maps and CGR information were published on the SBC website which attracted 8,342 page views from over 1,300 unique visitors during the CGR process;
 - 3.17.6 Social media activity to promote the public meetings and maps/information;
 - 3.17.7 Media relations activity, including press releases, generated media coverage on the engagement exercise across a number of outlets including Swindon Advertiser, Swindon Link, BBC Wiltshire and in some Parish/Community publications;
 - 3.17.8 Posters distributed to advertise the public meetings;
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- 3.17.9 Officer meetings with parish councils, community groups and Ward members; and
- 3.17.10 A total of 420 submissions were recorded from both residents and interested groups/organisations. A copy of the submissions, with personal information duly redacted is available on the Council's website and in the Council's Members Room. In addition, the Swindon Labour Group conducted a number of polls by secret ballot. As at 18th October 2016, the results were a total of 317 votes against creating parishes and 3 in favour; of these 226 also voted for the creation of a single town parish for whole unparished area, and 39 for a smaller, single parish Council for most of the traditional part of Swindon. The submissions were summarised using a qualitative analysis process to ensure that Members could see the range of opinions being expressed.
- 3.18 The key themes from the consultation were set out in Appendix Three to the Cabinet Report for this meeting with additional submissions being circulated at the meeting. The consolidated document setting out the analysis of the submissions and evidence from key stakeholders such as parish councils is attached at. **Appendix Two: "Summary of Submissions to Stage Three of the Consultation"**.

Recommendations from the Community Governance Review to Council

- 3.19 The detailed proposals for each parished and currently unparished area of the Borough are set out in **Appendix Three: "Recommendations to Council"**, together with the rationale for those proposals.
- 3.20 The Cabinet Member has consulted with all the political party groups about the proposed schedule of parish wards. It was suggested that census data be used rather than the number of electors to determine these areas. However, the statutory guidance makes clear the principle that each vote should have equal weight across the parish, which can best be achieved by using the number of electors.

Shadow Parishes

- 3.21 In order to coincide with the commencement of the new financial year for both the Borough Council and Parish Councils, it is proposed at this stage that the new arrangements come into effect on 1st April 2017, so far as practicable. Recognising the normal timescales for elections, it is proposed that the elections for any new parish councils, together with any consequential elections for existing parish councils, take place on Thursday, 4th May 2017.
- 3.22 Since Nythe parish is expanding into an area without a parish, there will be no shadow council as the existing Council will have the authority to act for the whole area once the Order comes into effect. Nythe parish council elections would

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normally be in 2019, but the parish council may wish to consider co-opting individuals from Liden and Eldene and discussions will be held with them on that point.

- 3.23 In order to allow consultation on the details of the community governance order to allow the creation of the new parishes and to oversee work required between 10th November 2016 and 1st April 2017 it is proposed that shadow parish councils are established. On the assumption that the new arrangements come into effect on 1st April 2017, and in order to ensure that any new parish councils take up their duties with adequate funding, the role of these shadow parishes would be to set the Budget and precept of any new parishes for the 2017-18 Financial Year and to agree and oversee operational arrangements to ensure the safe provision of services from 1st April 2017.
- 3.24 As reported to Cabinet, and subject to the decision of Council, the Borough Council has put in place a transitional team to support the parish councils over service delivery and clerking issues and it may well be that in some areas, the Borough Council remains the service delivery provider for a transitional period until the parish is established and feels able to manage the services either directly or through a third party.
- 3.25 The transitional team will be available to provide operational, financial and clerking support to minimise duplication within the proposed new parishes in terms of the establishment of policies and procedures, to enable economies of scale in terms of joint contracting for services and to generally provide support and advice to ensure sustainable service delivery models can be established.
- 3.26 Due to their knowledge of local areas and their democratic mandate as elected representatives of those areas, it is proposed that the local Borough Council ward members for each area be invited to form the shadow parish councils, where they are willing to do so. Where there are insufficient numbers of ward members available, then it is suggested that other borough councillors be so invited, subject to the membership reflecting the current political balance of the area.

Property Assets

- 3.27 Part of the role of any shadow parish(es) would be to provide input over the assets that should transfer from the Borough Council to the Parish Council(s) to be included in the Community Governance Review order.
- 3.28 It is not proposed to transfer strategic assets such as Lydiard Park, Coate Water and its surrounding lakes, Barbury Castle or Stanton Manor and Country Park to parishes due to the strategic nature of these assets and resulting maintenance responsibilities. In respect of other community-type assets such as local parks, community buildings, allotments, play areas and small depots, it is proposed that they should be transferred to any new parish councils unless they form part of a

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor, 01793 463012, staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

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future development site as part of the Borough Council's strategic property responsibilities. On this basis, the property could be leased or maintained under a maintenance agreement with the freehold being retained by the Borough Council.

- 3.29 Within these parameters it proposed that the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, agree any property transfers to be contained within the CGR order with the Shadow parish(es).

Community empowerment

- 3.30 One of the drivers for reviewing unparished areas of the Borough was to enable community empowerment and allow the Borough Council to devolve powers to neighbourhood level and extend localism. Any new parishes would, therefore, be able to provide services being deprioritised by the Borough Council that existing parish councils are providing in other areas of the Borough.
- 3.31 Since 2014, some parish councils have been steadily increasing the range and depth of service provision provided in their areas which has been well received in those areas.
- 3.32 In 2014, it was considered that services costing the Borough Council around £5m per annum could potentially be provided by parish councils in future as there were examples of parishes providing those services across the country. As a result of the CGR engagement process and via consultation on specific service changes, it is no longer proposed that the cost of street lighting energy is passed to parish councils and the Borough Council is reshaping bus services without seeking a contribution from parish councils. Further, Cabinet has confirmed its intention to withdraw funding from some local services where possible. As a result, it is now expected that the Borough Council will work with parish councils to take on these services where there is a desire for them to do so.
- 3.33 In overall terms, it is therefore expected that parish councils could generate new income to invest in services across the Borough. In the parished areas of the Borough, service levels have been increased above those affordable by the Borough Council in most areas, with local communities having more influence over local services and priorities.

Transitional Funding and Reserves

- 3.34 The greater the scale and complexity of the services that are provided by parish councils in future increases the financial risks the organisations will be exposed to. In order to support the success of any newly created parish councils it is recommended that the Borough Council takes steps to increase their financial resilience from the first day of operation rather than waiting for reserves to be established over time.

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- 3.35 In addition, Members have been clear throughout the CGR process that they do not wish to create hardship for Council Tax payers through unnecessarily high increases from one year to the next.
- 3.36 Within this context, Cabinet is asked to agree the following financial arrangements to support both the establishment of any new parish councils and in support of parish councils taking over services from the Borough Council. The exact payment to be made to each parish council should be agreed between the Corporate Director Resources on behalf of the Borough Council and Parish / Shadow Parish Council before the start of the new financial year.
- 3.36.1 New Parish Council Reserves – Subject to agreement by Council, all new or significantly expanded parish councils be paid 10% of the cost of services currently being provided by Swindon Borough Council that will be discontinued with effect from 1st April 2017 and instead provided by parish councils. This will be held as a start-up reserve by the parish councils to cover unforeseen costs and should not be spent on planned expenditure during the first three years.
- 3.36.2 It is expected that this will cost the Borough Council around £300k, but the actual cost will be impacted by the scale of services that the new parish councils decide to provide.
- 3.36.3 Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Funding – Where the Borough Council is holding Section 106 or CIL funding that has been earmarked to be spent in a specific area on services that will typically be managed by parish councils in future, that funding will be passed to the parish council. The parish council will be required to demonstrate it has spent any funding in accordance with the conditions attached to each deposit.
- 3.36.4 Existing Parish Reserves – If any existing parishes are split into more than one parish it is proposed that any reserves held by the parish council are shared in a fair and pragmatic way. The Borough Council would expect that any funding earmarked to be spent in a specific area should be given to the new parish whose boundary that area falls within. Where reserves are not earmarked, it is recommended that they are split based on the estimated proportion of the existing Council's budget spent in each new area with overheads being apportioned in line with direct costs.
- 3.36.5 Earmarked Borough Council Reserves - Where the Borough Council is holding a specific reserve that has been earmarked to be spent on assets that will be managed by parish councils in future, that funding will be passed to the parish council. The parish council will be required to
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demonstrate it has spent any funding in accordance with the purpose of the reserve.

- 3.36.6 Future Capital Bids and Loans – For the vast majority of assets and services managed by parish councils in future, with good financial management the annual precept value and any transferring reserves plus appropriate insurance arrangements will be sufficient to cover their running costs and future liabilities. However, for a very small number of more significant assets, there may periodically be a requirement to incur more significant one-off capital investment to undertake major maintenance work or improvements. An example may be major improvement work to a park or remedial works to a damaged asset.
- 3.36.7 In this circumstance, through close partnership arrangements between the ward members and parish councillors, it may be appropriate to propose that a capital bid be submitted to the Borough Council for either a loan, or potential joint funding of the works. It is also normal practice for parish councils to borrow from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB).
- 3.36.8 Transitional Funding – For all parish councils (existing and new) that agree to provide services currently provided by the Borough Council, transitional funding will be provided for two financial years. In 2017-18, 50% of the marginal cost savings in that year freed up by Swindon Borough Council from no longer providing these services in each area will be paid to the parish councils. In 2018-19, this will reduce to 25%. The intention of this transitional funding is to allow parishes to phase the cost of services into their annual precept over a 3 year period rather than burdening tax payers with the full increase in one year and is separate to the funding already agreed with existing parish councils that have already taken over services.
- 3.36.9 It is expected that this will cost around £2.5m but the actual cost will again be influenced by the range and scale of services the councils choose to provide. Linked to previous-year service transfers to parish councils, the Borough Council already has transitional funding commitments for the next two financial years amounting to around £0.3m.
- 3.36.10 In order to fund the establishment of parish reserves and the total transitional funding likely to be agreed, it is proposed that a specific reserve is set aside of £3m with any surplus or deficit being managed as part of the Council's overall in-year Budgets.

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Local Government Pension Costs

- 3.37 Around 50% of the £3.5m of parish-type services currently provided by the Borough Council relates to staffing costs. All Council staff are automatically entitled to be part of the Local Government Pension Scheme if they work for the Council and this national pension scheme is more expensive than many other pension schemes due to its more favourable benefits.
- 3.38 A significant proportion of the grounds and street cleaning team employed by the Borough Council has a large amount of experience gained through a long and loyal service history supported by regular training. It is therefore not surprising that there is an appetite for most staff to be supported to continue providing these types of services across the Borough, albeit through a different employer.
- 3.39 Recognising this, through the engagement process, a number of residents and organisations have raised questions around the future liabilities facing parish councils if they take over the Borough Council workforce, especially when members have significant local government service which could attract expensive severance packages should the workforce need to be reshaped in future.
- 3.40 In order to support both the workforce to be welcomed by parish councils or other future employers and to balance the financial risks facing smaller organisations in future, it is proposed that the Borough Council under-writes a proportion of the liabilities for any staff transferring to a parish council or sub-contractor of a parish council.
- 3.41 If no further service transfers to existing parish councils took place and no new parish councils were established, the status quo position means that the Borough Council is responsible for meeting all pension liabilities due to be paid by the employer for its workforce. This includes future service costs, past service liabilities plus one-off severance costs should staff retire early or be made redundant. Therefore, any transfer of pension costs to a new employer will reduce the Borough Council's current financial exposure. The same applies for redundancy payments.
- 3.42 Recognising this, it is proposed that Cabinet agrees that a cost-sharing arrangement is put in place with organisations employing staff currently providing services that the Borough Council will be pulling back from in future on the following basis.

Pension Transfer Costs

- 3.43 Parish Councils will have an automatic entitlement to be part of the Local Government Pension Fund. Any sub-contractors can apply for admitted body status so that they can employ staff and allow them to remain in the Fund.

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- 3.44 For all transferring pension liabilities, the Borough Council will pay upfront any deficit value within the existing pension fund as at the transfer date so that any transferring staff are fully funded on their first day of employment with their new employer
- 3.45 The parish council, or new employer, will meet the cost of its future employers pension on-costs recommended by the Local Government Pension Fund actuary. By doing this, the fund should remain fully funded and there should be no deficit liabilities for the parish in future.

Future Redundancy Costs

- 3.46 The Borough Council will under-write any severance costs (including pension and redundancy payments) up to the value as at the service commencement date by the parish council. In effect, this would mean that if liabilities arose for an employee with 20 years' service, two years after the parish service commencement date, the Borough Council would meet 18/20ths of the pension and redundancy costs.
- 3.47 The programme is being managed to try to prevent compulsory redundancies but, should any staff take voluntary or compulsory redundancy prior or on the service commencement date, the severance costs would be met by the Borough Council in full prior to the transfer.

Council Tax Support

- 3.48 As part of the engagement and consultation processes, a number of questions have arisen over the cost of Council Tax Support and the impact of this on other residents in parished areas with higher numbers of households in receipt of this reduction.
- 3.49 In overall terms, around 10% of the cost of Council Tax is met from Council Tax Support and this has been factored into the financial modelling around likely future income levels and savings for Swindon Borough Council. Financial modelling has also been undertaken to show the potential impact on Council Tax bills of new parishes that could be established within the proposed boundaries. This modelling takes into account the potential expenditure levels of the proposed new parishes, the household numbers and bandings and the levels of Council Tax Support and other discounts and exemptions in place. The modelling does not show any material differences between the likely increases in Council Tax bills for those parishes containing higher level of households in receipt of Council Tax Support and those with lower levels. This tends to be because they are often more heavily populated areas so the cost of services is spread across a larger number of households.
- 3.50 Parish Council receive a grant from the Borough Council towards the cost of Council Tax Support and this grant is proportionate to the amount paid out in

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each area. Therefore, those parishes with higher levels of deprivation will receive a larger grant than other areas. In addition, the Council Tax calculations take into account this grant and ensure that sufficient Council Tax is raised to cover the cost of services within an area after taking into account any discounts and exemptions in place for some households.

Council Tax Capping / Referendum Criteria

- 3.51 At the present time, parish councils are not restricted over the levels of annual council tax increases. However, during the last few years, articles have been published that suggest that capping could be considered in future for the largest parish councils in the Country.
- 3.52 In response to this, the Government has included as part of its consultation on the 2017-18 Local Government Settlement some proposals to restrict large increases in parish council precepts. As extract from the consultation is set out below.
- 3.53 *"We propose that referendum principles are introduced for local precepting authorities (town and parish councils) whose Band D precept is higher than that of the lowest charging district council for 2016/17 (£75.46), and which have a total precept for 2016/17 of at least £500,000 (subject to the next paragraph). These parishes would face the same referendum principles as shire districts: increases of less than 2% or up to and including £5 (whichever is higher) can be set without triggering a referendum. Based on these thresholds, the Government expects this new principle will affect around 120 of England's 8,800 local precepting parishes.*

In doing this, the Government wishes to ensure that parishes continue to have the flexibility to take on responsibilities from other tiers of local government without being unduly constrained by council tax referendum principles. It is therefore proposed that parishes will not be in the category to which the referendum principle applies where there has been a transfer of responsibilities, and where three conditions are satisfied:

- i. the parish council and a principal council covering the area of the parish council have each resolved that a particular function carried out by the principal council in relation to the parish council's area in the financial year 2016-17 is to be carried out instead by the parish council in the financial year 2017-18*
- ii. the parish council and the principal council have agreed the reasonable cost of the exercise of that particular function in the parish council's area by the parish council in the financial year 2017-18*
- iii. that the agreed cost, if collected by way of the parish council precept, would take the parish council over the threshold of a 2% or £5 increase on the previous year.*

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Recommendations from the Community Governance Review

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A large proportion of parishes are modest in size – for example, around 4,000 parishes have precepts of £25 or less. However, the Government is aware that increases in these precepts continue to concern local tax payers and is therefore prepared to consider extending referendums to all parishes. We recognise that issues of proportionality, practicality and cost could be raised by such a step, and would welcome views on this.”

- 3.54 Swindon currently has one parish with an annual precept over £500k and it is likely that the larger proposed new parishes could also raise a precept in excess of £0.5m. However, the Government is very supportive of the creation of new parishes which is demonstrated by it recently passing legislation making it easier for them to be created and therefore it is not expected that above inflation increases in precepts during the early years of new parishes being established would be challenged. The consultation detailed above also recognises that the referendum principles should not apply where there is a transfer of responsibilities down to parish councils as is the case in Swindon.
- 3.55 Should new legislation be introduced in future that does impact on the proposed strategy to support parishes to take on a greater range and depth of service provision, it is proposed that the Borough Council liaises with Central Government over potential future increases and, if necessary, reviews its transitional funding arrangements to ensure the strategy can be implemented successfully. However, that is not proposed at present and it is proposed that the Council responds to the consultation on this to confirm that it supports the Government’s proposal that should referendum criteria be introduced for parishes in future, it should not apply where there is a transfer in responsibility for services.

Business Community

- 3.56 As well as engaging with residents, the Council is also committed to engage with business representatives, including the Old Town Business and Professional Association, to ensure key businesses in the town understand the context the Borough Council is operating within and the Community Governance Review process that is being undertaken.
- 3.57 A number of engagement events and meetings have been held to explore how businesses could influence and contribute towards the cost of services provided in commercial shopping areas. Officers will continue to work with InSwindon and the local business community about ways they can augment or replace the Council’s budget contribution and, in the interim, and recognising that the Town Centre is an asset for the whole borough, the Borough Council will continue to pay the cleaning and maintenance costs of the Town Centre.

Recommendations from the Community Governance Review

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4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Council could choose to decline some or all of the recommendations set out in the Minute from Cabinet. It is not the Council's practice to decline no

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 The cost of the Community Governance Review has to date been met using existing resources and budgets with the exception of £15k spent from the Transition Grant to fund a leaflet drop to all households as part of stage 3 of the consultation. Other financial implications are as referred to in the report.
- 5.2 Should the Community Governance Review result in the whole Borough being parished, it is estimated that at least £3m of new income could be generated from council tax payers to fund important local services should the parishes so decide.
- 5.3 If agreed, around £3m of one-off funding would be required to establish parish reserves and to fund transitional funding to ease the impact of the proposals on council tax payers.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.4 Legal and Human Rights implications have been taken fully into account in the preparation of this report. It is considered that the recommendations of the report are compatible with Convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.5 There are no other direct implications associated with this report.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.6 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) has been undertaken on the proposal for parishes to take a larger role in service provision and this is available for inspection from the report author.
- 5.7 A DIA for the CGR itself has not been undertaken. It should be noted that parish councils are Public Authorities and so subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Risk Management

- 5.8 There are none linked to this report although failure to comply with the statutory procedures would be a legal and reputational risk to the Council.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor, 01793 463012, staylor@swindon.gov.uk.

Recommendations from the Community Governance Review

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6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Corporate Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- 6.2 Borough Councillors, Parishes and parish councillors, stakeholders and the public have been consulted during Stages 1, 2 and 3 of the Review.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Community Governance Review working papers and feedback.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix One: Community Governance Terms of Reference
- 8.2 Appendix Two: "Summary of Submissions to Stage Three of the Consultation"
- 8.3 Appendix Three: "Recommendations to Council"
- 8.4 Appendix Four: Map of the recommended new parish boundaries and parish wards
- 8.5 Appendix Five: - Draft Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting, 19th October 2016

Swindon Borough Council

Community Governance Review 2015

**Review of Community Governance Arrangements within the
Borough of Swindon**

(Draft) Terms of Reference and Timescale

Introduction

Swindon Borough Council is conducting a Review of Community Governance Arrangements within the Swindon Local Authority area in accordance with Part 4 Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

The Council is required to have regard to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government. This guidance was considered when drawing up these Terms of Reference (TOR).

What is a Community Governance review

It is a review that can take place for the whole or part of the Borough to consider one or more of the following:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
- The electoral arrangements for parishes (the ordinary year of election; council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding), and
- Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:

- Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and
- Is effective and convenient.

In doing so the community governance review is required to take into account:

- The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and
- The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.

Why undertake this Community Governance review

The Council believes that parish councils play an important role in terms of community empowerment at the local level and wants to ensure that parish governance within the Borough continues to be robust, representative and enabled to meet new challenges. Furthermore, it wants to ensure that there is clarity and transparency to the areas that parish councils represent and that the electoral arrangements of parishes – the warding arrangements and the allocations of councillors – are appropriate, equitable and readily understood by their electorate.

This review is taking place partly due to a number of parish councils having asked for their electoral arrangements to be reviewed, including the number of parish councillors and their parish warding arrangements, and also having regard to a petition currently on-going for the creation of a new parish in an area that is currently parished.

Areas to be reviewed

Bishopstone	Inglesham
Blunsdon St Andrew	Liddington
Castle Eaton	Nythe
Chisledon	South Marston
Covingham	Stratton St Margaret
Hannington	Stanton Fitzwarren
Haydon Wick	Wanborough
Highworth	Wroughton
All unparished areas of the Borough	

Who will undertake the Review

The Borough Council is responsible for conducting a review within its electoral area. The Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Corporate Governance Review Working Group, will be responsible for making both draft and final recommendations during the process. The Council will be required to approve the final recommendations prior to the Community Governance Order being made.

A full consultation process will form part of the Review to take full account of the views of local people.

Indicative Timetable for the review (still being finalised)

Action	Timeline	Outline of Action
Report to Cabinet / Council	October / November 2015	Timescale and Terms of Reference approved
Commence Review	December 2015	Council publishes Notice of the Review and notifies stakeholders

Action	Timeline	Outline of Action
Introductory stage – Meetings with stakeholders	December 2015	
Stage 1	January – March 2016	Initial submissions invited
Stage 2	April - June 2016	Consider submissions. Prepare draft recommendations
Stage 3	July – September 2016	Draft recommendations published and comments sought
Stage 4	September – November 2016	Consider final submissions and prepare recommendations
Final recommendations	November – December 2016	Publish Final recommendations
Implementation Order	November – December 2016	Council to make Order

Electorate forecasts for the Borough

This Review will be conducted using electoral data taken from the December 2015 electoral register.

Representations

Swindon Borough Council welcomes all representations from any person or body who may wish to comment or make proposals on any aspect of the matters under review

Representations should be addressed to; The Electoral Services Manager, Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 3JH. Representations may be delivered by email to elecereg@swindon.gov.uk or by fax to (01793) 463155.

All initial representations must be made by 31st March 2016 and the draft recommendations will be published by 1st July 2016.

This Review is deemed to have commenced on the date of this Notice

Stephen Taylor
Director of Law & Democratic Services

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APPENDIX 2

1. Part One - Swindon Borough Community Governance Review (Stage Three)

Introduction – Stage Three

- 1.1 A Community Governance Review for the whole Borough of Swindon was initiated in December 2015. This Appendix details public responses to the Council's consultation and engagement activities in Stages One to Three.
- 1.2 Following a decision by Cabinet, on 17th August 2016, Stage Three commenced on Tuesday 23rd August to 30th September 2016. This marked the start of the formal public consultation as set out in the August Cabinet report. Stage Three invited comments on the formal proposal set out in the consultation map.
- 1.3 As with the earlier Community Governance Review stages of engagement, all residents, groups, associations, stakeholders and Parish Councils who had asked for feedback in the previous stages were notified in writing by email. This included notification of five public meetings taking place in September.
- 1.4 All resident groups and Parish Councils were invited to a stakeholder meeting on 1st September 2016 to receive an update on the start of formal consultation.
- 1.5 In support of the consultation, a leaflet was distributed through Royal Mail delivery to all households during September. From 23rd August 2016, displays on the Review with copies of the Cabinet report, consultation feedback forms and a return box were sited in four main libraries; West Swindon, Parks, North Swindon and Central. An online survey was also opened.
- 1.6 Swindon Borough Council's website was updated with information about the process to date, access to the relevant Cabinet papers, redacted copies of the submissions to date and access to information about the proposal for consultation.
- 1.7 Feedback was requested in any written format. At the close of the 30th September 2016, responses had been received as follows

Email submissions	131
Feedback forms	72
Online survey returns	217
Written comments	5
Petitions	2

A number of respondents used more than one format or made multiple submissions during the consultation period. 75 submissions did not provide either a contact name or a verifiable address.

1.8 Feedback from public meetings:

Broadgreen Community Centre, Central Swindon
Concern about potential impact on businesses, concern about the Council's mandate to progress new parishes, general questions about the validity of the process and timeframes.
West Swindon Library, West Swindon
46 residents attended.
Aren't there better ways to address the issues? Some of the Council's resources could work harder than they do currently e.g. operational hours during high season. Concern about unnecessary extra costs in relation to administration and bureaucracy. Who absorbs the costs for facilities accessed by residents generally? Concerns that people cannot afford to pay more and should be given the choice. Will there be a cap on parish precepts? Will businesses contribute? Queries about timeframes and the consultation process.
Pinetrees Community Centre, North Central Swindon.
32 residents attended.
Why should residents be charged more when services are not up to standard already? Why is so much money being spent on older people and vulnerable people? What is the rationale for not including a small proportion of households into Haydon Wick parish despite sending in submissions to this effect? The Council should have raised the Council tax over the years rather than creating this problem now. Why isn't there going to be a referendum? Concern about costs of bureaucracy and administration. What consideration is being given to a single parish? Will there be a cap on parish precepts?
Lawns Community Centre, Old Town/Lawn
60 residents attended
Concerns about how boundaries have been drawn and the rationale for dividing up certain communities. Queries and concerns about liability and maintenance of local facilities and assets. Concern about costs of the town centre. Queries and concerns about validity of the consultation process, timeframes and the lack of community support.
Eldene Community Centre – Eldene/Liden
16 residents attended
If services provided through Council tax are reducing, is all of this costing us more for less? What has been undertaken to ensure that the parish areas

proposed such as Central South, are viable? Will parishes have any protection from the Council's cuts? Concern that consideration must be given to poorer areas where they may be less willing to participate or to take community action. Some of the new parish areas proposed have masses of green space, has consideration been given to the relative costs across each Parish if they are to look after public open spaces? Shouldn't Covingham be expanded? Could Parishes be more creative in how they tackle local issues? Will there be a cap on parish precepts? Why isn't the Council considering one single parish? To what degree are the costs associated with older or vulnerable people being spent on immigrants or asylum seekers and refugees? How will equipment be distributed to parishes? Some feedback that there is support to group Eldene with Nythe and Liden.

Analysis of individual responses

- 1.9 Coding was applied to redacted, anonymous text with the possibility both that there could be more than one theme per submission and even that a theme could be repeated in that submission¹. The total number of coded remarks will not equal the total number of responses.
- 1.10 The most significant findings are set out in Figure One while all coded responses are listed in Table Two. Members can see the range of comments from those who replied. Given that individual submissions could contain a wide range of views a further breakdown of those who had indicated opposition to creating parishes was undertaken and full details are in Table One below. This additional analysis does indicate that there are still forms of community governance that would be acceptable.

¹ Software Used

Huang, Ronggui (2014). RQDA: R-based Qualitative Data Analysis. R package version 0.2-7.
<http://rqda.r-forge.r-project.org/>

Mirai Solutions GmbH (2016). XLConnect: Excel Connector for R. R package version 0.2-12.
<https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=XLConnect>

R version 3.3.1 (2016-06-21) -- "Bug in Your Hair" Copyright (C) 2016 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing Platform: i686-pc-linux-gnu (32-bit)

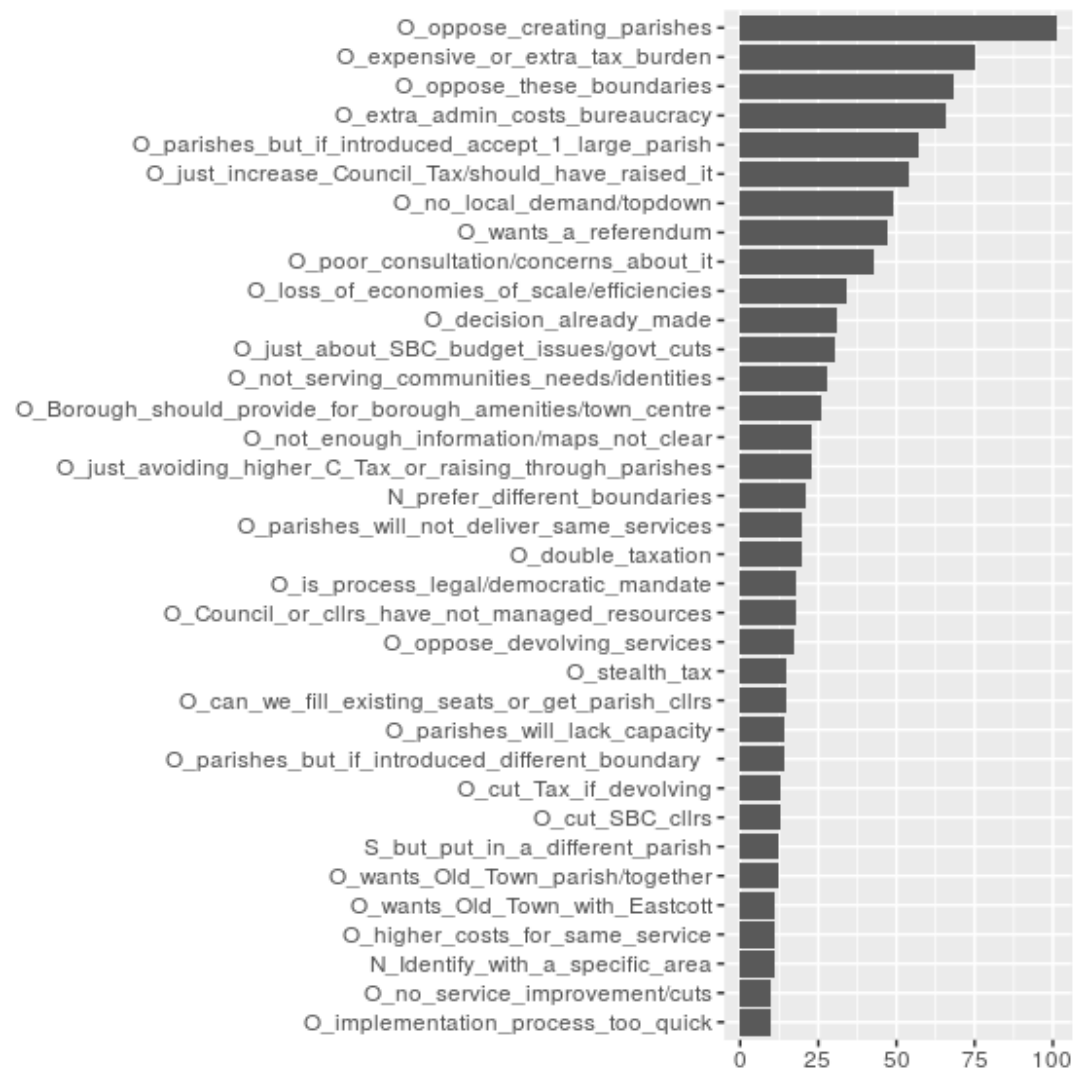
Wickham, Hadley (2009) ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis. Springer-Verlag New York

Wickham, Hadley (2016). tidyverse: Easily Install and Load 'Tidyverse' Packages. R package version 1.0.0. <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=tidyverse>

Yihui Xie (2014) knitr: A Comprehensive Tool for Reproducible Research in R. In Victoria Stodden, Friedrich Leisch and Roger D. Peng, editors, Implementing Reproducible Computational Research. Chapman and Hall/CRC. ISBN 978-1466561595

Yihui Xie (2015) Dynamic Documents with R and knitr. 2nd edition. Chapman and Hall/CRC. ISBN 978-1498716963 Yihui Xie (2016). knitr: A General-Purpose Package for Dynamic Report Generation in R. R package version 1.14.

Figure 1: Most Common Responses



Total number of people replying =416

NB There may be more than one theme per respondent and each theme can be used more than once in a response.

Table 1 Breakdown of comments of those coded as opposing creating parishes

columnNames	countTerms
codedBy.O_oppose_creating_parishes	101
codedBy.O_expensive_or_extra_tax_burden	25
codedBy.O_parishes_but_if_introduced_accept_1_large_parish	22
codedBy.O_extra_admin_costs_bureaucracy	22
codedBy.O_no_local_demand/topdown	21
codedBy.O_poor_consultation/concerns_about_it	19
codedBy.O_just_increase_Council_Tax/should_have_raised_it	18
codedBy.O_wants_a_referendum	16
codedBy.O_oppose_these_boundaries	16
codedBy.O_decision_already_made	13
codedBy.O_loss_of_economies_of_scale/efficiencies	11
codedBy.O_Borough_should_provide_for_borough_amenities/town_centre	11
codedBy.O_just_about_SBC_budget_issues/govt_cuts	11
codedBy.O_Council_or_cllrs_have_not_managed_resources	7
codedBy.O_just_avoiding_higher_C_Tax_or_raising_through_parishes	7
codedBy.O_stealth_tax	7
codedBy.O_parishes_will_not_deliver_same_services	7
codedBy.O_not_serving_communities_needs/identities	6
codedBy.O_double_taxation	6
codedBy.O_can_we_fill_existing_seats_or_get_parish_cllrs	6
codedBy.O_parishes_will_lack_capacity	6
codedBy.O_wants_Old_Town_parish/together	5
codedBy.O_not_enough_information/maps_not_clear	4
codedBy.O_oppose_devolving_services	4
codedBy.O_implementation_process_too_quick	4
codedBy.O_will_not_save_projected_amount	4
codedBy.O_is_process_legal/democratic_mandate	4
codedBy.O_unanswered_questions	4
codedBy.O_imposed/devisive	4
codedBy.O_parishes_but_if_introduced_different_boundary	3
codedBy.O_cut_SBC_cllrs	3
codedBy.O_no_service_improvement/cuts	3
codedBy.O_risk_of_needing_parish_CT_referendum	3
codedBy.O_wants_Old_Town_with_Eastcott	3

codedBy.O_one_parish_paying_for_town_centre	2
codedBy.O_cost_of_extra_cllrs	2
codedBy.O_cost_of_paying_for_other_areas	2
codedBy.O_prove_ASC_costs_are_up	2
codedBy.O_not_serving_towns_identity/needs	2
codedBy.O_parish_wont_have_enough_tax_base	2
codedBy.O_different_services/tax_burdens_between_parishes	2
codedBy.O_stop the CGR	2
codedBy.O_people_cant_afford/wont_pay_precept	2
codedBy.S_but_different_the_boundary/name	1
codedBy.N_why_these_boundaries	1
codedBy.S_single_large_parish	1
codedBy.O_businesses_should_paying_more	1
codedBy.S_support_the_principle	1
codedBy.O_oppose_splitting_parish_BlunsdonStA	1
codedBy.O_better_use_for_money_spent_on_CGR	1
codedBy.N_wants_a_referendum	1
codedBy.O_cut_Tax_if_devolving	1
codedBy.O_reject_term_parish	1
codedBy.O_will_not_work	1
codedBy.N_all_about_finance	1
codedBy.N_concern_about_loss_of_economies_of_scale	1
codedBy.N_concern_about_paying_for_services	1
codedBy.O_oppose_prefer_different_boundaries	1
codedBy.O_may_exceed_CT_referendum_threshold	1
codedBy.O_wants_Haydon_View_to_be_in_Haydon_Wick	1
codedBy.O_what_services_will_SBC_cut	1
codedBy.N_decision_already_made/inevitable	1
codedBy.N_Borough_to_provide_Borough_services	1
codedBy.N_concern_about_parish_capacity	1
codedBy.N_concern_about_different_services_between_parishes	1
codedBy.O_oppose_appointted_shadow_cllrs	1
codedBy.O_oppose_forced_boundary_changes	1
codedBy.O_risk_of_corruption	1
codedBy.O_comments_about_shadow_parish	1
codedBy.O_impact_on_local_businesses	1
codedBy.O_lobby_central_govt/MPs_more	1
codedBy.O_one_large_parish_efficient_sustainable	1

codedBy.O_no_evidence_of_pilot_better_service	1
codedBy.O_run_Council_more_efficiently	1
codedBy.O_concern_about_shadow_council_membership	1
codedBy.O_concern_about_effect_on_staff	1
codedBy.O_will_it_work/lack_of_evidence	1
codedBy.O_wants_Woughton_boundaries_unchanged	1
codedBy.O_lack_of_engagement_with_business	1

Submissions received in Stage 3 about Specific Boundaries.

1.11 Blunsdon St Andrew

1 submission, restating the petition of 899 signatures in Stage One, requesting the creation of a St Andrews parish covering the St Andrews Borough Council Ward and leaving the remainder of the Blunsdon St Andrew Parish as a separate Blunsdon Parish.

1 submission to create a Blunsdon parish and to include the area covered by the Borough St Andrews ward in an enlarged Haydon Wick parish (see Haydon Wick below).

740 signatures on a petition opposing splitting the Blunsdon St Andrew parish.

1.12 Central Swindon North

3 submissions to include all of Penhill in Haydon Wick parish.

4 submissions to include Haydon View Estate, Penhill in Haydon Wick parish

1 submission in favour of Central Swindon North and South parishes

1 submission supported the proposed Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South and South parishes.

1.13 Central Swindon South/South

1 submission supported the proposed Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South and South parishes.

1 submission to move Eastcott from proposed Central Swindon South to the proposed South Swindon parish

1 submission to keep Eastcott in Central Swindon South

1 submission to keep Eastcott in a larger parish

1 submission saying 16 people favoured Eastcott as its own parish

525 signatures on a petition to create a separate Eastcott parish.

19 responses seeking to put Eastcott with Old Town

- 13 submissions wanting all of Old Town in a single parish
- 1 submissions to keep Old Town in the proposed South parish
- 2 submissions to put Old Town in South Central parish
- 1 submissions response explicitly wanted Old Town not to be in a parish
- 1 combine Lawn and Badbury Park in the same parish
- 1 submission in favour of Central Swindon North and South parishes
- 1 submission supporting a South Swindon parish
- 1.14 Chiseldon
 - 1 submission to combine Lawn and Badbury Park in the same parish
 - 1 submission retain Coate and Badbury Park in Chiseldon
 - 2 submission opposing the creation of a Badbury Park parish
 - 3 submission to retain Chiseldon in its current boundaries.
 - 4 submission to create a Badbury Park parish
- 1.15 East (Nythe, Eldene and Liden)
 - 1 submission opposing creating an East parish
 - 1 for a Liden and Eldene parish.
 - 6 in support of a parish covering Nythe, Eldene and Liden, including one requesting minor boundary changes to include the Nythe allotments.
 - 1 submission for an Eldene parish
 - 1 submission to combine Nythe and Covingham
 - 1 submission to put Lawn in the East parish
 - 1 submission to merge Covingham, Eldene, Liden and Nythe in a single parish
- 1.16 Haydon Wick
 - 1 submission to create a Blunsdon parish and to include the area covered by the Borough St Andrews ward in an enlarged Haydon Wick parish (see Blunsdon St Andrew above)
 - 3 submissions to include all of Penhill in Haydon Wick parish.
 - 4 submissions to include Haydon View Estate, Penhill in Haydon Wick parish
- 1.17 West Swindon
 - 7 submission supporting West Swindon
- 1.18 Wichelstowe

- 3 submission to add Wichelstowe to Wroughton
- 1 submission to add all of Wichelstowe to Old Town
- 1 submission to create a Wichelstowe parish
- 1 submission put East Wichel in Wroughton

1.19 Wroughton

- 3 submissions to leave the Wroughton boundaries unchanged,
- 2 submission to add Wichelstowe to Wroughton
- 1 submission to put East Wichel in Wroughton

1.20 One town parish

- 61 submissions in favour of one large parish

Table 2: All Coded Comments

Var1	Freq
N_accepts_principle	1
N_all_about_finance	1
N_already_pay_management_fee	1
N_Borough_ward_parish_wording_protocol_needed	1
N_community_and_employment_links_to_an_area	1
N_concern_about_consultation	1
N_concern_about_more_devolution	1
N_concern_about_quality_of_parish_cllrs	1
N_concern_about_tax_level	1
N_concern_about_transfer_of_assets	1
N_could_council_devolve_services	1
N_data_on_ASC_asylum_costs	1
N_does_not_oppose_boundary	1
N_Eastcott_in_South	1
N_Eastcott_in_South_Central	1
N_existing_parish_had_contested_elections	1
N_expand_or_change_existing_parishes	1
N_higher_CT_for_fewer_services	1
N_just_increase_CT/should_have_increased_it	1
N_make_residents_responsible_for_more	1
N_need_sustainable_communities	1
N_petition_submitted	1

N_poor_consultation/concerns	1
N_reject_splitting_parish	1
N_retain_economies_of_scale	1
N_split_Blunsdon_but_expand_Haydon_Wick	1
N_wants_Easctott_in_larger_parish	1
N_wants_Eastcott_parish	1
N_wants to be_in_Haydon_Wick	1
O_abolish_all_parishes	1
O_are_new_parishes_sustainable	1
O_Borough_has_other_concerns	1
O_boundary_not_clear/identifiable	1
O_but_no_further_comment	1
O_could_parishes_enforce_eg_litter_fines	1
O_if_imposed_new_Old_Town_boundaries	1
O_if_introduced_secure_economies_of_scale	1
O_impact_on_local_businesses	1
O_lack_of_engagement_with_business	1
O_may_exceed_CT_referendum_threshold	1
O_no_consideration_of_community_wellbeing	1
O_no_evidence_of_pilot_better_service	1
O_one_large_parish_better_for_transfer_of_staff/assets	1
O_one_large_parish_lower_admin_cost	1
O_oppose_appointed_shadow_cllrs	1
O_oppose_centre_businesses_paying_more	1
O_oppose_forced_boundary_changes	1
O_oppose_Nythe_Liden_Eldene	1
O_oppose_Old_Town_being_parished	1
O_oppose_politically_motivated_proposal	1
O_oppose_South_parish	1
O_principle_but_support_West	1
O_recreate_SCS_Ltd_as_parish_contractor	1
O_rejects_how_Special_Rates_used	1
O_risk_of_corruption	1
O_run_Council_more_efficiently	1
Other_comments_unclear	1
O_use_Special_Rate	1
O_wants_a_Wichelstowe_parish	1
O_wants_Coate&BadburyPark_in_Chiseldon	1

O_wants_Lawn_&_Badbury Park_combined	1
O_wants_Wichelstowe_in_Old_Town	1
O_wants_Woughton_boundaries_unchanged	1
O_what_services_will_SBC_cut	1
S_but_borough_to_provide_borough_services	1
S_but_bottom-up_not_top-down	1
S_but_concern_about_CT_after_special_rate	1
S_but_concern_at_names	1
S_but_concern_at_speed_of_change	1
S_keep_current_Wroughton	1
S_no_further_comment	1
S_only_existing_parishes	1
S_parishes_doing_more	1
S_petition_in_support_of_boundaries	1
S_secure_local_influence_and_services	1
S_should_merge_Liden_Eldene_Nythe_&_Covingham	1
S_single_large_parish	1
S_smaller_parishes_in_the_unparished_area	1
S_support_changes_to_Nythe	1
S_support_East	1
S_support_Lawn_in_East	1
S_support_Nythe_&_Covingham	1
S_support_Old_Town	1
S_support_Old_Town_in_South_Central	1
S_supports_2_town_centre_parishes	1
s_supports_3_parishes	1
S_supports_devolution	1
S_supports_East_Wichel_in_Wroughton	1
s_supports_Eldene	1
S_support_South_Swindon	1
S_support_Wroughton_without_Wichelstowe	1
S_unanswered_questions	1
S_wants_Liden_&_Eldene	1
S_wants_OldTown_in_South	1
N_affect_on_house_prices	2
N_concern_about_different_services_between_parishes	2
N_concern_about_timescale	2
N_merge_SBC_and_Wilts	2

N_need_experienced_parish_clerks/cllrs	2
N_stealth_tax_or_get_round_capping	2
O_already_pay_management_company	2
O_concern_about_effect_on_staff	2
O_concern_about_only_50%_transitional_funding	2
O_effect_on_CIL/S106_payments	2
O_no_further_comment	2
O_oppose_Badbury_Park_parish	2
O_parishes_wont_solve_budget_problem	2
O_reject_term_parish	2
O_risk_SBC_losing_income_to_parishes	2
O_SBC_to_have_intervention_powers	2
O_uneven_tax_services_burden_between_parishes	2
O_using_ward_cllrs_for_shadow_council	2
O_wants_Penhill_in_Haydon_Wick	2
O_wants_Wichestowe_in_Wroughton	2
O_what_else_will_devolve	2
O_will_it_work/lack_of_evidence	2
S_but_concern_about_community_cohesion/identity	2
S_wants_East_Wichel_in_Wroughton	2
N_Borough_to_provide_Borough_services	3
N_boundaries_confusing	3
N_concern_about_extra_costs_and_bureaucracy	3
N_concern_about_loss_of_economies_of_scale	3
N_concern_about_parish_capacity	3
N_double_taxation	3
N_wants_1_large_parish	3
N_wants_a_referendum	3
O_better_use_for_money_spent_on_CGR	3
O_comments_about_shadow_parish	3
O_concern_about_shadow_council_membership	3
O_one_large_parish_larger_taxbase_fairer	3
O_people_cant_afford/wont_pay_precept	3
O_prove_ASC_costs_are_up	3
O_will_not_work	3
S_but_concern_about_service_level	3
S_but_oppose_double_taxation	3
S_support_the_principle	3

S_wants_to_retain_Chiseldon_unchanged	3
N_decision_already_made/inevitable	4
N_refers_to_cllrs_leaflet	4
O_cost_of_extra_cllrs	4
O_lobby_central_govt/MPs_more	4
O_merge_with_Wilts	4
O_prefer_different_boundaries	4
O_wants_Haydon_View_to_be_in_Haydon_Wick	4
S_supports_Liden_Eldene_Nythe	4
S_supports_parishes	4
S_want_Badbury_Park_Parish	4
O_different_services/tax_burdens_between_parishes	5
O_one_large_parish_efficient_sustainable	5
O_reject_splitting_existing_parish	5
Other_comments	5
S_but_concern_at_higher_costs/loss_of_efficiency/effectiveness	5
N_are parishes_able_to_deliver	6
O_no_clarity_on_who_is_responsible_for_what	6
O_oppose_large_parishes	6
O_oppose_splitting_parish_BlunsdonStA	6
O_parish_wont_have_enough_tax_base	6
N_concern_about_paying_for_services	7
N_why_these_boundaries	7
O_businesses_should_paying_more	7
O_cost_of_paying_for_other_areas	7
O_imposed/devisive	7
O_not_serving_towns_identity/needs	7
O_one_parish_paying_for_town_centre	7
O_oppose_prefer_different_boundaries	7
O_stop the CGR	7
O_will_not_save_projected_amount	7
S_support_West_Swindon	7
N_not_enough_information/maps_not_clear	8
N_wants_Eastcott_with_Old_Town	8
Other_no_comments_at_all	8
S_but_different_the_boundary/name	8
O_risk_of_needing_parish_CT_referendum	9
O_unanswered_questions	9

O_implementation_process_too_quick	10
O_no_service_improvement/cuts	10
N_Identify_with_a_specific_area	11
O_higher_costs_for_same_service	11
O_wants_Old_Town_with_Eastcott	11
O_wants_Old_Town_parish/together	12
S_but_put_in_a_different_parish	12
O_cut_SBC_cllrs	13
O_cut_Tax_if_devolving	13
O_parishes_but_if_introduced_different_boundary	14
O_parishes_will_lack_capacity	14
O_can_we_fill_existing_seats_or_get_parish_cllrs	15
O_stealth_tax	15
O_oppose_devolving_services	17
O_Council_or_cllrs_have_not_managed_resources	18
O_is_process_legal/democratic_mandate	18
O_double_taxation	20
O_parishes_will_not_deliver_same_services	20
N_prefer_different_boundaries	21
O_just_avoiding_higher_C_Tax_or_raising_through_parishes	23
O_not_enough_information/maps_not_clear	23
O_Borough_should_provide_for_borough_amenities/town_centre	26
O_not_serving_communities_needs/identities	28
O_just_about_SBC_budget_issues/govt_cuts	30
O_decision_already_made	31
O_loss_of_economies_of_scale/efficiencies	34
O_poor_consultation/concerns_about_it	43
O_wants_a_referendum	47
O_no_local_demand/topdown	49
O_just_increase_Council_Tax/should_have_raised_it	54
O_parishes_but_if_introduced_accept_1_large_parish	57
O_extra_admin_costs_bureaucracy	66
O_oppose_these_boundaries	68
O_expensive_or_extra_tax_burden	75
O_oppose_creating_parishes	101

Responses from Parish Councils in Stage Three:

Bishopstone Parish Council

- 1.21 No representation has been received from Bishopstone Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes.

Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council

- 1.22 The submission from Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council is set out below:

Additional comments are as follows

- As the PC is strongly opposed to separating the Parish it is not appropriate to suggest membership numbers for each of the resulting parishes should the proposal be adopted: such details can be left for determination if necessary once a decision has been made.
- The current Kingsdown Parish Ward should remain a warded part of Blunsdon St Andrew Parish, as residents have requested.

Introduction

- 1.23 The Community Governance Review is primarily being undertaken to look at proposals to Parish the town areas of Swindon in order to facilitate the transfer of services into those Parishes. For the transfer of services to be effective and efficient it is important to have sustainable Parish Councils, so that the resulting increase in precept does not unduly burden the taxpayer. It has been acknowledged that the Consultation Map ([Appendix A](#) – Illustrative and Existing Maps - is not based on any facts or figures and has not taken account of any impacts, positive or negative on residents. As a result, there is still no evidence or business case to demonstrate that the changes shown on the Illustrative Maps would be beneficial to residents. The absence of any such empirical evidence, would suggest there is an arbitrary, minority held desire to split the current Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew at any cost.
- 1.24 Two months on and we are still in the position of having no evidence to support the proposal to split the parish. How can this be a constructive consultation when the reasons and rationale for the proposal have not been made clear. At a recent meeting with the Borough Solicitor, he stated that the reasons and rationale would not be forthcoming until the decision had been made and even then they would not be detailed. This is not transparent decision making and the Parish remains of the view that there is a desire to split the Parish irrespective of residents' views, the cost of doing so or the efficiency of two Parishes operating where one has done so very well for a number of years.
- 1.25 This submission demonstrates why the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew should not be split and how it operates efficiently and effectively for the benefit of its residents across the entire Parish. Furthermore, Blunsdon St Andrew PC is fully committed to and capable of taking on the designated services from April 2017.

- 1.26 This response has been produced in line with the Terms of Reference for the Community Governance Review, namely;

The Council is required to ensure that community governance within the area under review will be:

- 1. Reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and**
- 2. Is effective and convenient.**

In doing so the community governance review is required to take into account:

- 1. The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and**
- 2. The size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.**

- 1.27 Blunsdon St Andrew, although historically regarded as rural, is clearly now an Urban Parish with some rural aspects, not the other way around as is often suggested. The Parish will become increasingly urban with the proposed developments scheduled within the Parish – Kingsdown NC5, (1650), Ermin Street (190), Abbey Farm and the 'Triangle' (400), Abbey Stadium (500) and Tadpole Garden Village c.1500 to go) approx. 4,200 new households.
- 1.28 The Parish has many facilities that are utilised by residents from various parts of the Parish. The facilities are not localised to separate parts of the Parish. Many of the sports teams and other community user groups draw their membership from across the Parish, for example, Blunsdon Football Club and Blunsdon Cricket Club and children from Blunsdon Village use the community facilities and the pre-school at Redhouse. The regeneration of Abbey Stadium will provide an important facility for the whole parish and the wider community of Swindon. Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council has been engaged in this project from the outset, providing valuable feedback to help shape the development in the interests of residents.
- 1.29 The Parish Council has made grants available to various groups and organisations across the Parish – Abbey Meads Community Primary School, Butterflies, North Swindon Fun Day, Redhouse Community Centre, Police Bicycles and BIOS Van to give a few examples.
- 1.30 Redhouse Community Centre has become the focal point of the Parish, with the Parish Office now being located there and open to residents for their Parish issues. In addition, our Parish Councillors live and operate across the Parish making them accessible to residents and a real part of community life. ([Appendix B](#) - Parish Councillor Map).
- 1.31 The Parish Council is progressive and responsive and aims to fulfil the demands of the different communities within it. ([Appendix C](#) – Parish Workload. This involves working hard with the Community Centre in Redhouse to provide much needed services to residents, supporting the Abbey Meads School Community operation and helping to create a

Neighbourhood Plan to ensure measured development in the rural areas. It uses modern methods to engage successfully with residents, be it in resolution of an issue or advice or signposting to other organisations and agencies. The Parish Councillors are located evenly across the Parish making them accessible to residents, they work as a team, utilising their different skills and experiences across the Parish as a whole. The Parish Council has good working relationships with neighbouring parishes and has worked successfully with Haydon Wick PC on a number of issues e.g. Section 106 monitoring, highways and transfer of services.

- 1.32 The Parish is viewed as one by the Parish Council but more importantly by residents. The petition on which Illustrative Map 1 was produced, was only directed at one sector of the Parish, this is not in the interests nor does it reflect the identity of the residents – it's divisive. The results were unsurprising in that if you asked any group of residents if they would like their Council Tax to be cheaper, the answer is going to be yes! We have taken the attached set of facts and figures to our residents over the last two weeks and have secured 360 signatures in support of remaining as one Parish. ([Appendix D](#) – Petition responses. These will be hand delivered with the hard copy version on 1st August 2016.
- 1.33 Blunsdon St Andrew is still of the view that the petition to split the Parish is flawed. While the Parish understands it was not the trigger to commence the review, it appears to have been given significant weight to date. In fact, in the August Cabinet Report it was the only piece of relevant and current "evidence" cited. The two other points relied on were derived from data in 1999 and 2011! At the Public meeting on 14th September, we were told by Cllr Martin that the Borough Council does not have adequate resources to check the validity of any petition received. As such, it is almost acceptable that a petition drafted by a resident may not be entirely accurate, however, the petition to split St Andrews from Blunsdon was drafted by a Borough Councillor who has a responsibility to be honest and open with the electorate and not mislead them. Furthermore, we also learned at the same meeting that this petition had in fact been checked, by the Borough Solicitor himself. In addition, in a recent article in the Link magazine, Cllr Tomlinson claimed to have the support of the Borough Solicitor for her petition, this is of concern as we have been assured of his independence and neutrality in this matter. The residents of St Andrews Parish Ward have signed a petition on the basis they will pay less Council Tax, they will not. Additional signatures to retain the Parish on existing boundaries have been obtained (on paper and online) and these will be hand delivered with the hard copy version on 30th September 2016. The total number of signatories on this petition is currently 733.
- 1.34 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council already delivers on the desires outlined in a previous petition and we're preparing to take on the other services suggested from SBC. ([Appendix E](#) - Exit or Remain) The Parish Council has established good productive working relationships with Borough Officers, Planning, Highways, and Environmental Health by way of example and also has excellent working relationships with Justin Tomlinson MP, and most of the Ward Councillors. This enables the PC to work collaboratively with colleagues for the benefit of all Parishioners.

- 1.35 It can be difficult to recruit and retain Parish Councillors. Blunsdon St Andrew is very fortunate to have experienced, committed community-focussed Councillors. This experience should be invaluable in assisting the Borough to implement changes in the areas that are to be newly Parished. Much has been made of this during the engagement sessions with the Borough, so to dilute that experience and the team working that has been built up by splitting the Parish would be a travesty.
- 1.36 There has been a suggestion during this period of engagement that existing Parish Councillors may not be utilised to form any new Parish or Shadow Parish Council. These individuals are the most local and direct level of democratically elected leadership and as such would be best placed to form a new Parish Council. It is of concern that this does not appear to be the favoured option in this case. Given the vast amounts of work in the very short timescales available it would make eminent sense to work in this way, however, indications are that Ward Councillors, the very same ones that instigated the petition, would in fact take control. Again, in the absence of any clear explanation or evidence to support this eventuality, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that there are other motivations driving this agenda, the aim being control of their own little empire. At the Public Meeting on 14th September, Cllr Tomlinson promised the Parish Council a response to an email sent five days earlier asking for details in support of her statements made to date. At the date of this document, this response has not been received, clearly there is no evidence or justification to split the Parish just a Political whim!
- 1.37 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council is the most cost effective PC in the Borough, with a precept of approximately £18 per household per year. Satisfaction with the performance of the PC recorded in a 2015 survey showed some 80% as satisfied or very satisfied.
- 1.38 Currently the ratio of spend between Blunsdon Village and the remainder of the Parish is 30% to 70% respectively, in monetary terms this equates to approx. £28K and £68K of last year's Precept. (£96,000)
- 1.39 All income-earning assets are in Blunsdon so that in effect, rather than was suggested by the petition, this income helps to keep the precept low across the whole Parish. Although Redhouse Community Centre generates income, it is a self-financing organisation and therefore does not contribute to Parish income. ([Appendix F](#) – Income and Expenditure [figure 6]) Blunsdon as a Parish on its own would see an increase in precept of almost 250%, to around £45 for the current levels of service; this would be further increased by £65 to take on existing transfer of services. This is not sustainable and therefore is in direct conflict with the purpose of the review. Furthermore, St Andrews would save approx. £4 per household and the set up and operation costs of a new Parish would be between £5 and £10 which would bring the Precept back to more than the current level. The residents would then have to take on the costs associated with transfer of services. ([Appendix G](#) – Kirsty Coles' breakdown of ToS costs. These figures have now been revised as at 12.30 on 29th July 2016)

- 1.40 At the Public Meeting on 14th September Cllr Martin provided some indicative costs for the proposed split of Blunsdon St Andrew Parish. These figures were completely different again to those supplied previously. The PC accepts that these figures will change as the process develops, but the Tax base does not change significantly day to day nor does the spend on current service provision so it's hard to have any confidence in the figures being used. The indicative costs provided at this meeting were a Precept of approx. £43 per household for St Andrews and approx. £57 per household for Blunsdon. The figure for St Andrews is understated as it has been calculated including revenue that is utilised in the current calculation of the Precept, derived from assets in Blunsdon. If the Parish is split, St Andrews would not benefit from this "subsidy" and therefore the Precept would be higher than the indicative figures given. Despite all the confusion with figures and indicative costs provided, one thing is patently clear – both Parishes of Blunsdon and St Andrew will lose out under this proposal and residents of both Parishes will pay significantly more than they currently do, or than they would have if the Parish remained as Blunsdon St Andrew. The most cost effective way for the Borough to transfer services for the area of Blunsdon and St Andrews is to leave the Parish as one, keeping the Precept to its lowest level for the provision of efficiently procured services. There is also the issue of whether this Precept is calculated to include the transition payments from SBC or that these payments have still to be applied. It would also appear that the levels of transition funding are to be significantly reduced from that which the Parishes have been using to model their arrangements. A sum equivalent to the current cost of services to SBC, was to be transferred to the Parishes for year one. This is now likely to be 50% of the current cost which will impact Parishes and their residents much harder and sooner than expected. In the case of Blunsdon St Andrew this reduced funding, on top of the proposed split, will have a significant impact of the financial stability of the Parishes and will leave residents paying far more than they would if the Parish remained on its current boundaries.
- 1.41 On a separate but related matter, the Parish Council is concerned at the potential costs it will incur if current SBC staff are transferred with the service. Rates of pay, pension issues and redundancy costs will significantly increase the cost of service provision and as a consequence the Precept. In addition, the Parish Council is also concerned about the transitional arrangements and the support on offer from SBC. There is much detail to agree, previous agreements and contracts will need to be unpicked and redrafted and yet we have no information about how and when this will take place nor how these decisions/negotiations will be managed.
- 1.42 Blunsdon St Andrew as a Parish on its current boundaries promotes diversity of age and ethnicity and whilst there are arguably differences between the two areas of the Parish, together they provide a sustainable, balanced, cohesive community, which is served well by the Parish Council.

Conclusion

- 1.43 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council submit that it should continue to operate on its current boundaries, with the exception of the proposal from Haydon

Wick to assume Abbey Meads into its boundary, which we believe has merit, provides clarity and would benefit those residents.

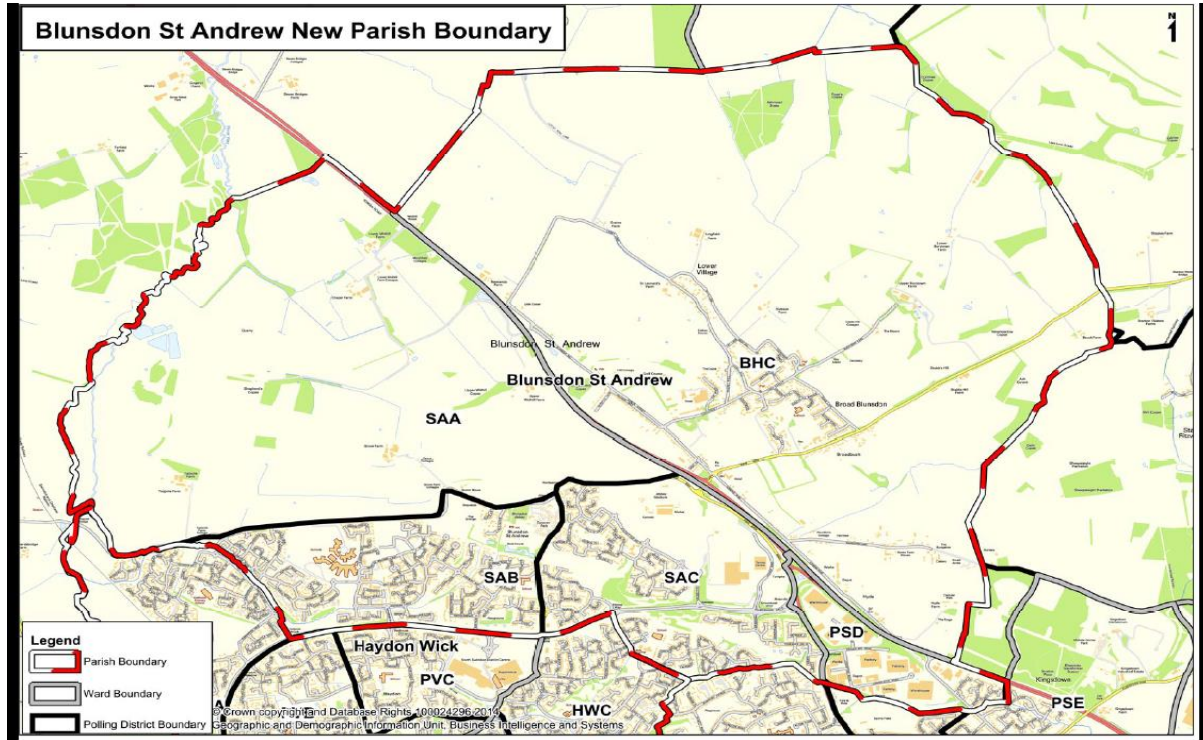
- 1.44 The Parish Council is firmly of the view, as demonstrated in this paper, that the boundaries set out in the Illustrative Maps would not be beneficial to residents and would in fact be more expensive.
- 1.45 This view has only been reinforced in the intervening months. We have provided evidence that the most efficient and cost effective means of transferring services is for Blunsdon St Andrew PC to continue as is and build on its considerable strengths in taking on this new challenge. Tentative plans have been put in place for the provision of services transferring from SBC in April 2017, these arrangements are only viable for the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew as a whole and it will not be possible or practical to implement if the Parish is split. The Review timetable does not allow sufficient time for either Parish accurately to consider a budget or to negotiate tenders for contracts to carry out the services transferred. This is a flawed process that might work for unparished areas but does not take into account the technical requirements to make provision for a full year's services to our community and therefore the decision for the Parish to remain is the most sensible one.
- 1.46 We are an experienced, committed and community focussed Parish Council serving our community well and looking forward to the challenge of providing even better services for our residents through the opportunities presented by the Transfer of Services programme.
- 1.47 Finally, we believe the focus of effort and resources at this point in time should be to establish successful new parishes in the Town area. There is experience within the PC to help support this transition and as advocates of Parishing this would be a valuable resource in what is a major undertaking. The timescales for implementation of any changes agreed as part of this review are extremely tight and therefore to ensure the best chance of success focussing on the Town area would seem like the logical way forward.
- 1.48 Again, this view has only been reinforced. Having attended a stakeholder meeting at SBC, which was mainly attended by representatives from the non Parished areas, it was evident that the purpose, role and responsibilities of a Parish Council were not clear to them. The process by which budgets are set and income raised were also unclear. While this is to be expected, it further demonstrates how much work will be required to establish and operate these new Parishes. When you then consider the fact that Parishing the Town areas is very unpopular and therefore willingness to be involved may be lacking it makes sense to concentrate valuable and scarce resources to these areas where change is necessary and will be hugely difficult. As previously stated there is no reason nor evidence to support why any change is necessary in respect of Blunsdon St Andrew. It can continue to operate efficiently and effectively without being a further drain on the public purse, residents' pockets or the limited resources available to implement this vitally important project. In the interests of our residents and common sense we urge you to retain the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew.

Borough Council's Comment

- 1.49 The submission by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council at Stage 2 has been summarised in Appendix 3 at paras 2.18 to 2.21. The Borough Council has been asked to include the parish council's submission at Stage 3 in full.
- 1.50 The submission is self-explanatory. As is acknowledged in 1.21, however, there are arguably differences between the two areas of the parish – ie east and west of the A419. This has been expanded on in the report and the differences highlighted in Appendix 5 of the report (paragraphs 2.3 to 2.10 refers). Whether the two areas are cohesive is a judgment call and for the reasons set out in this report and in previous reports, it is considered that this is not the case.
- 1.51 So far as the area of Abbey Meads which Blunsdon St Andrew parish council suggest in their submission as being transferred to Haydon Wick parish council is concerned, this would lie in the proposed St Andrews parish if Members choose to continue to proceed with creating that parish. The area is clearly identified on the map supporting the petition to create St Andrews as being within that new parish, and not within Haydon Wick. It is considered that Abbey Meads better reflects the identity and interests of a St Andrews parish than that of Haydon Wick and would secure more effective and convenient community governance within that area by retaining the unity of the northern sector development.
- 1.52 So far as comments about individuals are concerned, the Director of Law and Democratic Services (referred to as the Borough Solicitor in paragraph 1.12) confirms his independence and neutrality in this matter. He supports all members and confirms that the petition met the criteria set out in section 80 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. In relation to the assertion made in paragraph 4.3, it is not true to say that “the reasons and rationale for any decision would not be forthcoming until the decision had been made and even then they would not be detailed.” The report itself sets out the detailed reasons and rationale for the recommendations.

2. APPENDICES FROM BLUNSDON PARISH COUNCIL SUBMISSION

2.1 [Appendix A](#) – Illustrative and Existing Maps

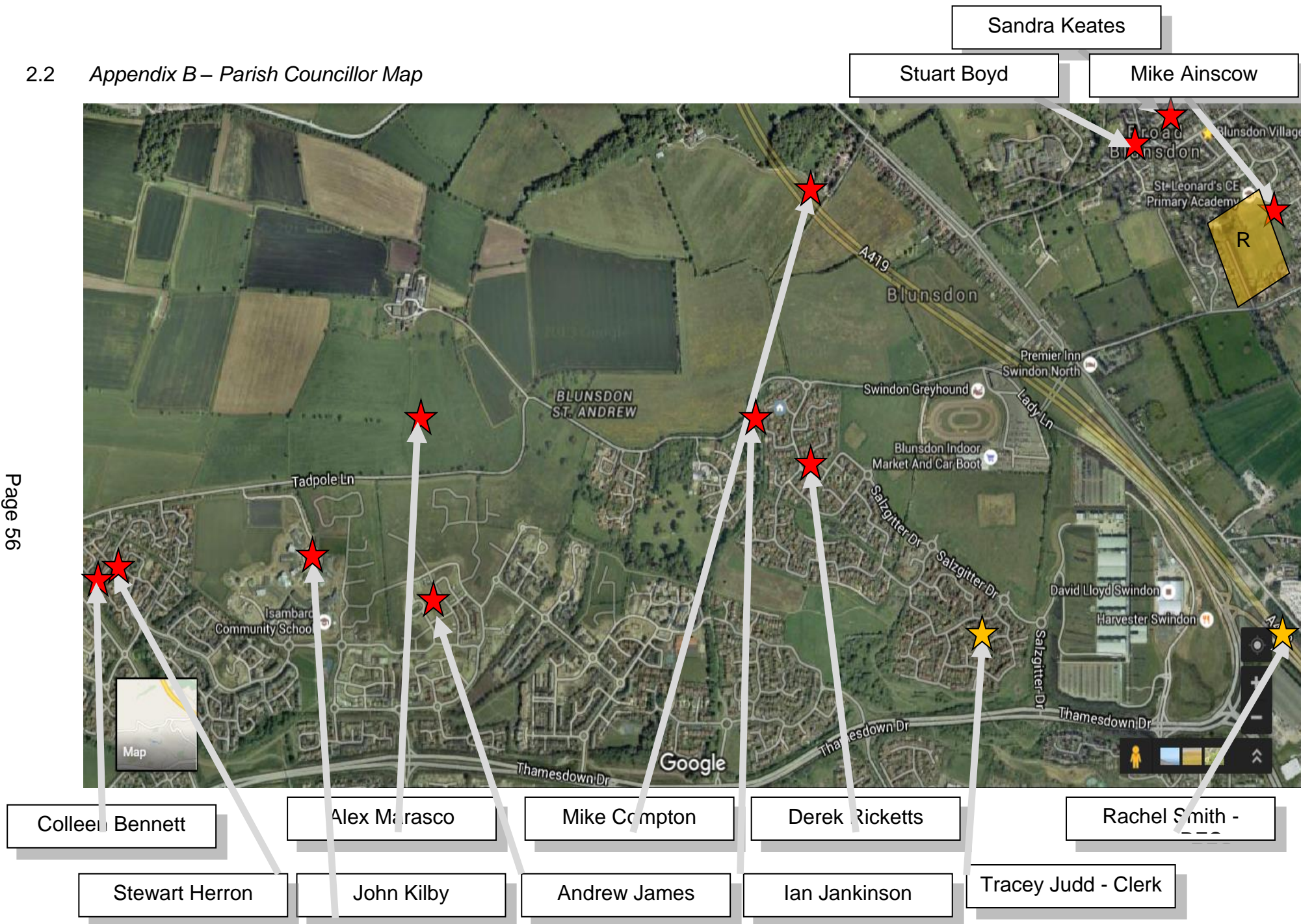




Illustrative Map 2



2.2 Appendix B – Parish Councillor Map



2.3 Appendix C – Parish Workload

Workload carried out across the whole Parish

As you may be aware the Borough Council are currently conducting a consultation concerning the review of Boundaries in Swindon. Their view is that it would be good to create Parishes in the non-parished areas of the town and revisit some of the existing Parish Boundaries. The two illustrative maps produced by the Borough Councillors show a division of Blunsdon St Andrew Parish thereby creating a new St Andrews Ward Parish in line with the Borough Council Ward (St Andrew's Ridge, Ash Brake, Redhouse and Tadpole Garden Village) or that the same area is subsumed by Haydon Wick Parish Council. This would mean that Blunsdon St Andrew Parish, established since 1894, would only then cover the existing area East of the new A419.

Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council is strongly against this idea. 75% of the allocated Parish Councillors are drawn and work from within the suggested 'new' Parish area and we provide and administer many services across the Parish but these specifically in the proposed new parish:-

- ✓ 91% of our play areas are in the proposed new area and 100% of the maintenance costs
- ✓ 81% of our 53 dog bins are in the proposed area and are serviced by us
- ✓ The majority of planning matters that take up Parish time are in that area
- ✓ We run the new Community Centre there
- ✓ We help fund the Redhouse Residents Association
- ✓ We help fund the Community part of Abbey Meads School
- ✓ We help fund Butterflies Children's Centre activities
- ✓ We help fund the Bios Van project for youth
- ✓ We have installed outdoor fitness equipment and have planned and budgeted for more
- ✓ A 70% share of the Parish staff's hours/admin costs is spent there
- ✓ The Parish Clerk works from her office there
- ✓ We have even refurbished the K6 Telephone Box there!

We have provided notice boards and signs and police bicycles and funded street parties and given Diamond Jubilee commemorative medals to all school pupils.

We have a great relationship with Highworth Town Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council and work with them on many projects from road safety to transferring assets.

2.4 Appendix D – Petition Results

- 2.5 As at 30th September 2016, there are 733 signatures on our Petition. These have been submitted with the hard Copy version of this document.

2.6 Appendix E – Exit or Remain?

Petition for Bluxit! Or petition for Remain. (You know what happened in the other one!)

With reference to the Community Governance review suggesting that the Parish is split at the A419, we have been doing some calculations...

The statements in the petition raised by Swindon Borough Councillors Vera Tomlinson and Mary Friend say the following

‘1. There is no commonality between Blunsdon (small village) and St Andrew’s Ward (new build west of 419).’

This may appear to be true, however the reality of what we and the Parish Clerk **do** at Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council, does not reflect that statement, in fact things are very much the same.

We consider planning applications, and rely on the local knowledge of our elected Parish Councillors to help make decisions across the whole Parish, fewer in the Village than St Andrew’s Ward.

We arrange for the Play Areas to be kept litter free, safe and in good working order in both areas.

We arrange for the dog bins to be emptied in both areas.

We run a Village Hall and a Community Centre the same way

We support local residents` associations, all schools, help provide services for youth, and for the aged.

‘2. The Precept raised is currently managed by Blunsdon (St Andrew) Parish Council. The majority of the Precept is collected from the St Andrew’s ward residents, but most of that Precept is spent in Blunsdon Village.’

It is true that we manage the Precept as do all Parish Councils, however we manage it so well that it is the lowest Precept in the Borough (£18.43 per band D). As the majority of the houses in the Parish are west of the A419, overall we do collect more from that area. **It is not true that most of the Precept is spent in Blunsdon Village**, we spend more money and time in the larger area comprising Redhouse, St Andrew’s Ridge, Abbey Meads, Ash Brake, Groundwell West and Tadpole Garden Village.

‘3. The Precept from the St Andrew’s Ward is needed for our Ward and should be managed by our own Parish Council. For example, on road crossings, grass cutting, dog bins, children’s play parks and running our own Community Centre.’

As can be seen from the breakdown of the end of year accounts, we do manage the Precept well and spend the majority of it in the area west of the A419 on dog bins, play areas and setting up the Community Centre which, like the Village Hall, contribute to their own running costs. Road crossings and grass cuttings are currently paid for in your Council Tax.

If after reading this, you believe the Parish should be split think on this. If it does split your Precept contribution in both areas will increase! The cost of

setting up and running a new Parish along with taking over the services that you already pay for as discussed will cost you more. Please take this into consideration and sign our counter-petition. Or let your local Parish Councillor know if you want your name removed. They are **Mike Compton, Derek Ricketts and Ian Jankinson** (St Andrew's Ridge), **Andrew James, Colleen Bennett, John Kilby and Stewart Herron** (Redhouse). **Alex Marasco** (Tadpole Garden Village) Thank you – Ian Jankinson

Appendix F – Income and Expenditure - Taken from the 2015/16 end of year accounts All figures are approx..

	<u>Abbey Meads Ward</u>		<u>Blunsdon/Kingsdown Ward</u>	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
Precept (£96,000)	79,104		16,896	
Council Tax Grant	11,650		2,533	
Village Hall		12,464	15,724	12,464
Redhouse Comm Centre		12,000		
Burial Ground		1,668	2,662	1,668
Rec Ground: maintenance		3,054	626	3,054
Car park/compound		6,378		6, 378
Pavilion			1,150	2,027
Transferred Play Areas	65,000	53,745		
Dog bins	24	6,778		1,400
Gen Admin		6,290		4,000
Miscellaneous: K6		1,025		
Tennis courts				353
Grants		12,600		
Publicity		423		423
Employees: Admin		21,700		9,300
Groundsman		6,550		9,200
Caretaker				4,290
Pensions		4,250		4,920
	155,778	148,925 71.46%	39,591	59,477 28.54%
Precept Raised £96,000.				
Band D Equivalent H/holds		4,777	581	
Precept per H/hold	£14.36		£47.15	
Cost of New Parish		£5 – 10	0	

2.7 Appendix G – Kirsty Coles’ breakdown of ToS costs

Map 1

Parish	Existing Parish Band D Charge	Number of Band D properties	Current SBC Spend on services provided by some parishes	Indicative extra parish cost per Band D household if existing parish model replicated Borough-wide
Haydon Wick - current parish	£33.48	6,854	£17,970	£2.62
Haydon Wick - extension		1,582	£19,717	£12.46
Blunsdon CP - existing boundary	£18.14	5,358	£92,379	£17.24
Blunsdon CP - reduced boundary	£18.14	581	£36,917	£63.54
St Andrew CP	£18.14	4,777	£55,462	£11.61
Castle Eaton CP	£41.87	113	£1,750	£15.49
Hannington CP	£38.21	116	£4,650	£40.09
Highworth CP	£119.27	2,960	£3,300	£1.11

Map 2

Parish	Existing Parish Band D Charge	Number of Band D properties	Current SBC Spend on services provided by some parishes	Indicative extra parish cost per Band D household if existing parish model replicated Borough-wide
Haydon Wick - current parish	£33.48	6854	£17,970	£2.62
Haydon Wick - extension		6359	£75,179	£11.82
Blunsdon CP - reduced boundary	£18.14	581	£36,917	£63.54
Castle Eaton CP	£41.87	113	£1,750	£15.49
Hannington CP	£38.21	116	£4,650	£40.09
Highworth CP	£119.27	2,960	£3,300	£1.11

Castle Eaton Parish Council

- 2.8 No representation has been received from Castle Eaton Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes.

Chiseldon Parish Council

- 2.9 The factual summary of the parish council's submission is as follows:
- 2.10 "Re Community Governance Review phase 3 – Final Proposal is to take Badbury Park out of Chiseldon and into a Central Swindon South Parish"

Summary of the Parish Council's current Position

- 2.11 "I [the Chair of Chiseldon Parish Council] have been requested to formally write on behalf of Chiseldon Parish Council (CPC) and register our profound disappointment to the final proposal of the CGR to take Badbury Park out of Chiseldon Parish and into a Central Swindon South Parish."

Supporting evidence/facts

- 2.12 "The ward Councillors have been made fully aware that over the last few months CPC carried a motion in Parish Council on two separate occasions to support retaining our existing boundaries and to keep Badbury Park within the Parish – March 2016 and July 2016. Ward Councillors Foley and Shaw both attended the first meeting and Cllr Shaw the second – both were copied in subsequent minutes.
- 2.13 CPC made a submission to CGR phase 2 – this was published in the Cabinet report (17th August)
- 2.14 CPC submission to CGR phase 3 on 30th September 2016 – to confirm Cllr Foley has seen this submission having requested a copy from CGR in her email to Cllr Martin 30th September. It has also been made a public document on the CGR website.
- 2.15 A joint survey was conducted by CPC and Badbury Park Community Association between 23/25th September 2016. The poll asked residents to give their opinion on whether they wished to remain within the parish of Chiseldon or move into a newly formed 'South Swindon Parish'. Responses were made via online and by telephone.
- 2.16 Results
- 2.16.1 leaflets distributed to circa 300 households on Badbury Park & Coate Estate
- 2.16.2 there were 47 responses of which 8 were invalid
- 2.16.3 Chiseldon parish 30 (77%)
- 2.16.4 South Swindon 9 (23%)

- 2.17 Engagement in the survey was low, possibly because of the previous work done by the former Chair of the BPCA in polling and re-polling residents and suspected confusion as to whether Badbury Park could become unparished or become a parish in its own right.
- 2.18 These options however were discounted as in Phase 2 of CGR it was felt that while Badbury Park was still under construction, the size of the population would not offer 'convenient and effective governance', similarly such a small parish would not benefit from economies of scale in contract negotiations leading to poor value.
- 2.19 A copy of the raw data is attached for information. The summary of the results were included in CPC submission to CGR 30th September. 2016"

Covingham Parish Council

- 2.20 Covingham Parish Council position is unchanged from Stage Two:
- 2.21 Covingham Parish Council does not want to be grouped with areas which were fundamentally very different. Covingham Parish Council has been established for many years and has a good reputation for providing for the residents of Covingham.
- 2.22 Covingham Parish Council are mindful of the impact that the New Eastern Villages will have on the area of Covingham and have been proactive in making comments where necessary. We would like to continue in this way going forward on behalf of residents of Covingham.

Hannington Parish Council

- 2.23 No representation has been received from Hannington Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes.

Haydon Wick Parish Council

- 2.24 Haydon Wick Parish Council have submitted as follows:
- a) The Council wishes to advise the Borough Council that should it be agreed in the Community Governance Review process for additional areas, whether currently parished or unparished, to be merged into the current parish this would be acceptable;
- b) In recognition of the positive response to a poll conducted by the Haydon View Residents Association for Haydon View to become part of the Parish of Haydon Wick (a 92% vote in favour of the merging into the parish, based on 99 responses received from the 131 households in the area) the Councillors fully support the application made to the Borough Council for the boundary of the Parish to be amended to include Haydon View. This is in keeping with the purpose of the Community Governance Review to recognise the area which residents identify themselves as being part of and to ensure community adhesion. At a recent meeting held in Blunsdon St Andrew a comment was made by Borough Councillor Martin that a specific view opposing this proposal

had been received in Stage 2. Following a search by Borough Officers of the submissions made has confirmed that no such submission was received. It is understood that this decision not to merge Haydon View into the parish may have been based on general or verbal comments made relating to the creation of one single central parish;

c) The Council requests that the proposal to extend the southern boundary of the Parish, as shown on Illustrative Map 1 & Map 2 from Stage 2, to be reconsidered (to incorporate the section of Whitworth Road from Lime Avenue to footpath leading to Seven Fields {Pond Street}). Boundaries to run behind properties in Whitworth Road. This proposal originally arose following comments received by the Parish Council from local resident associations. Such a move would remove the current issues which arise on the artificial split between the two parts Moredon with the current boundary running along The Street;

d) To propose that the section of Abbeymeads currently within the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew be moved into the Parish of Haydon Wick. This will remove the operational issues which currently arise with two parishes providing services in the area and the confusion for residents over which parish serves Abbeymeads. This situation will continue if the existing situation remains or if the current proposal to divide Blunsdon St Andrew is implemented. The move into Haydon Wick will meet the stated criteria of the Review in regard to ensuring community cohesion, acknowledge the view held by the majority of residents of the area they are part of and will ensure that a cost efficient and equal service to be provided in Abbeymeads. It is understood that this proposal is supported by current Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council;

e) The Council wishes to reiterate the need to remove Ray Ward with one (1) Councillor position and merge this position into Haydon End Ward giving nine (9) Councillor positions;

f) The Council wish for a minor adjustment to the boundary to be considered in regard to the boundary line Oakhurst Way to Tadpole Lane. Currently the boundary leaves Oakhurst Way and traverses a field before joining Tadpole Lane, it is proposed that it runs for the length of Oakhurst Way to the roundabout for the entrance of Tadpole Garden Village and then along Tadpole Lane. This would give a hard and easily recognisable boundary by following the highway;

g) The Council is concerned over the comments contained in the report on the Community Governance Review submitted to the Cabinet in August regarding a suggestion reported to have been made by the Priory Vale and St Andrew Ward Councillors to split the Parish and wishes to object to this proposal. The Director of Law & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, Stephen Taylor, has advised by email that this was a verbal suggestion and he is therefore unable to provide any detail. Further some of the Ward Councillors representing the two wards have indicated to the Council that they did not put this suggestion forward and do not support such a proposal. While it is accepted that the report has discounted the suggestion it is hoped that the Borough Council understands that it is worrying that this has been suggested and included in a report without any discussion with the Council. In the short time available until the end of the

consultation period a petition of some 211 signatures (which due to size of scanned file will be sent by post) has been collected to rebut the suggestion made to remove the Priory Vale Ward from the Parish of Haydon Wick.

The Council understands that the October meeting of the Cabinet will consider whether to vary the current transitional funding arrangements from a three year package to a reduced two year package in regard to the transfer of services to both new and existing parish councils as April 2017. The approach of only offering a two year package of 50% in year 1 and 25 % in year 2 will have an adverse effect on the precept set by the new parishes and is likely to impact on the willingness to consider future transfers. Should this be agreed then it will be crucial for any future transfer of services to be discussed early in the financial year rather than at best in last half of the year as has been the practise to date. This will enable parish councillors to fully assess the impact on the precept for the following year and, if a transfer is accepted, put in place suitable arrangements

2.25 Following the publication of Cabinet papers, Haydon Wick have submitted additional comments as follows:

2.26 "Following receipt of the 19th October 2016 Cabinet Report on Community Governance, the Parish Council has noted the comments in para 2.43 regarding the submission requesting that the Borough Council agree to the inclusion of Haydon View into the Parish of Haydon Wick particularly that the Cabinet has no objection in principle to this happening. The wording of para 2.43 is as follows:

*"2.43 The existing Haydon Wick parish has a record of delivering effective.....in that area on its current boundaries. **The changes proposed in relation to Haydon View do not make it clear the boundary of that area. Were additional evidence and a map submitted, Cabinet has no objection in principle to the inclusion of Haydon View in Haydon Wick parish.**"*

2.27 The document attached to this email [figure 1 below] shows the area in question with the current boundary shown in pink and the proposed extended boundary shown in blue. In keeping with the approach followed by the Borough overall, the extended boundary is drawn using either highway or footpath resulting in a clear boundary."

Figure 1 Possible boundary change to Haydon Wick Parish Council – the addition of the Haydon View area.



- 2.28 “The Parish Council has requested that the Cabinet reconsiders the submissions in Appendix Three of the report from the Parish in para 1.28 subsection b) for Haydon View to be included and note the support for that request as set out in the same appendix in para 1.43 from the Haydon View Community Association.
- 2.29 In addition the Parish Council wish to add that in a number of previous reviews when the Community Association requested to be moved into the parish the main reason given for not agreeing with the submission was that the boundary of Haydon View had no physical connection with the boundary of Haydon Wick. This situation changed in the implementation of the last review in May 2015 when

the cemetery and Seven Fields (in its entirety) were moved in the Parish of Haydon Wick placing the boundary on the western side of Haydon View. Merging an area that has always identified itself as being part of Haydon Wick not only in name but in the area which the residents use for shopping, medical facilities, schools and leisure is in keeping with the stated intent of the review of ensuring community identity is maintained and/or recognised.

- 2.30 Should Haydon View be included within the Parish then the area would join Haydon Wick Ward. At this stage, Haydon Wick parish council is not seeking an extra parish Councillor but is considering asking the Community Association to put forward a representative to attend parish council meetings as a non-Councillor to ensure the needs of Haydon View are highlighted and to have a voice in Council proposals. The Borough Council considers that this is a matter for the parish council.
- 2.31 The Parish Council propose that the section of Abbeymeads currently within Blunsdon St Andrew be moved into the Parish of Haydon Wick. The new boundary to run from the junction of Thamesdown Drive and Elstree Way (eastern junction) to the junction of Thamesdown Drive and the A4311 (Cricklade Road). The boundary then to run along the centre line of Cricklade Road to the point where the HP5 footpath (Sherwood Walk) joins the Cricklade Road. This footpath runs between the areas of Abbeymeads and Penhill. All the properties to the north of the footpath will be in Haydon Wick. This will remove the operational issues which currently arise with the two Parishes providing services & the confusion caused to residents over which Parish serves Abbeymeads and enable a cost efficient service to be provided. It is understood that this proposal is supported by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council."

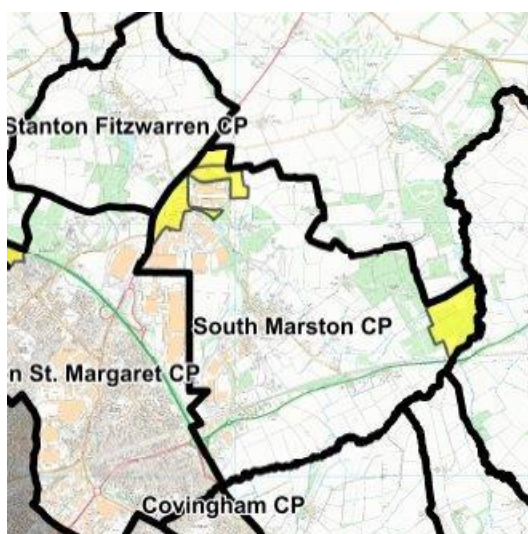
Borough Council Comments

- 2.32 The Haydon View area in question currently forms part of the GPA polling district in the Gorse Hill and Pinehurst Ward. A telephone conversation with the Parish confirmed that the parish council would accept the boundary through Whitworth Road as drawn on figure one in order to provide effective and convenient community governance.
- 2.33 The Abbey Meads area in question is currently in the Blunsdon St Andrew parish.

Highworth Town Council

- 2.34 Highworth Town Council has submitted its agreement to the proposed changes to its boundaries with South Marston as follows:
- 2.35 "On the indicative map attached we do not have any objection to South Marston Parish Council (SMPC) assuming responsibility for the south east corner of our Parish area, adjacent to the A420 that includes part of the NEV development at Rowborough (shown in yellow) [Figure 2]."

Figure 2 Possible boundary change between Highworth Town Council and South Marston Parish - Rowborough (section in yellow in the south east corner of the requested parish boundary)



Inglesham Parish

- 2.36 No representation has been received from Inglesham Parish or others in relation to parish boundary changes

Liddington Parish Council

- 2.37 Liddington Parish Council do not want to make any changes to the current boundary. Liddington Parish Council would like to request an increase in Parish Councillor numbers from 7 to 8.

Nythe Parish Council

- 2.38 Nythe Parish Council submitted Stage Two comments as follows:

Nythe Parish Council would like the Nythe allotments included within the Parish Boundary and are open to grouping of Parishes.

- 2.39 Councillor Dale Heenan as ward and parish councillor has made a submission that the parish be divided into three wards each electing three parish councillors, with the wards based on the polling districts that broadly correspond to the geographical areas of Nythe, Eldene, and Liden. It is suggested that such an arrangement of wards would give better representation to these distinct communities.

South Marston Parish Council

- 2.40 South Marston Parish Council confirmed the agreement with Highworth Town Council in relation to 2.35 above and submitted as follows

- The PC agrees with A361 boundary proposal
- The PC will revert to the agreement made with Stanton Fitzwarren PC and will take over the area of the Supermarine currently within Stanton's boundary to take effect from the next full parish elections.

Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council

- 2.41 No representation has been received from Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council in relation to parish boundary changes.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

- 2.42 In Stage Two, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council responded as follows

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council strongly believe that it is important to maintain its existing boundary especially to the East of the Parish to include the Honda site, the A419 should not be used as the boundary line. The one provision is to include a small housing estate within the Blunsdon boundary (Branwell Close, Pearce Close and Loveridge Close on the Hyde Road)

The Parish Council is not looking to take on other areas but if Penhill is imposed on us then we would work for the best of the community.

If the civil parish of St Margaret is to remain within its current boundary, we would wish to reduce the number of Councillors from 23 to 19.

The wards to be made up of the following:

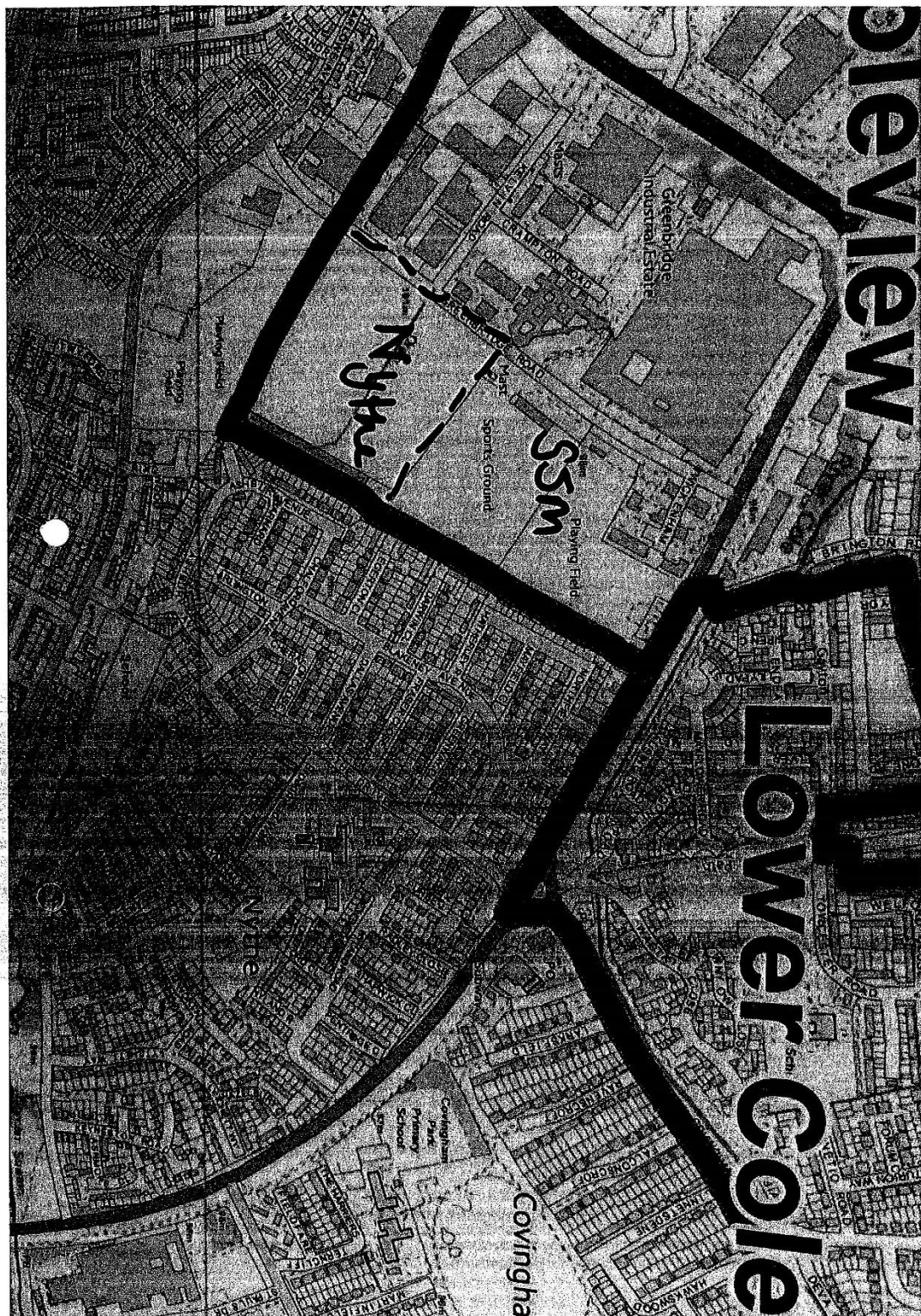
<i>Coleview</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Lower Stratton</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Lower Coleview</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Upper Stratton</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Merton</i>	<i>1</i>

- 2.43 Stratton St Margaret Parish Council was invited to consider proposals by Nythe Parish Council regarding changes to the boundary. Stratton St Margaret proposes:

2.43.1 To proceed with the request that Nythe allotments, currently managed by SBC, be transferred to Nythe Parish Council.

2.43.2 To offer an alternative to moving the boundary line along West View as shown in the attached [Figure 3]. The Parish Council owns and maintains the playing fields and is currently in a lease agreement with a third party.

Figure 3 Possible boundary change between Stratton St Margaret Parish Council and Nythe Parish Council – West View Road (allotments)



Wanborough Parish Council

- 2.44 Wanborough Parish Council submitted in Stage 2 as follows:
- 2.45 We note the proposed marginal adjustments to the northern parish boundary and have no objection to either.
- 2.46 The reference to proposed marginal adjustments is a reference to the illustrative maps prepared for discussion purposes. These were not proposals and Members may feel that there is no need to change the northern boundary of this parish until there is sufficient development of the New Eastern Villages that would create new identities and community interests.

Wroughton Parish Council

- 2.47 Wroughton Parish Council have submitted as follows:
- 2.48 "In April 2016, Wroughton Parish Council resolved that 'Swindon Borough Council be informed that the Parish Council would like the boundary of the parish of Wroughton extended to include East Wichel in accordance with the boundary indicated on the attached map.' Our position has not changed from that resolution.
- 2.49 We are disappointed to see that all of Wichelstowe has been removed from the Parish of Wroughton in both illustrative maps. We believe that the existing community of East Wichel and the communities of Middle and West Wichel when they develop, will be best served by Wroughton as an experienced and well established Parish Council.
- 2.50 Wroughton Parish Council is unique in its setting within the Borough due to its relative low population density in comparison to its geographical area. To assist the Parish Council in the continued delivery of community services such as the library, Wroughton Parish must retain its current size and the increasing financial precept opportunity which will become available as mid and West Wichel are built out. It would be unfortunate to have our precept potential reduced at a time where our Parish has already successfully taken on some services locally and is striving to accommodate the increased service delivery responsibilities which have been and continue to be devolved from the centre.
- 2.51 If it would not be possible to include East Wichel within the area of Wroughton Parish Council, then we would wish to retain Middle and West Wichel within our existing boundary as encompassed within the Wroughton Neighbourhood Plan.
- 2.52 Councillors John and Ray Ballman raised a number of issues about the number of parish councillors for the parish ward covering the Gorse Hill and Pinehurst Borough Council ward namely:
- 2.53 The general population in this proposed parish ward is higher than that of any other ward in the Central North boundary.
- 2.54 A significant number of people may not be registered on the electoral roll.

- 2.55 The Gorse Hill & Pinehurst Ward holds a greater proportion of the assets that are listed for transfer
- 2.56 It is likely the Gorse Hill & Pinehurst Ward will make a greater financial contribution to the precept than other wards but the lower number of parish councillors representing them means that this may not fair representation on any decision making.
- 2.57 There are the same number of polling districts as with Rodbourne Cheney but despite the points above, Rodbourne has a higher number of parish councillors.
- 2.58 Councillors Ballman have requested that the number of parish councillors for the proposed Gorse Hill and Pinehurst Parish Council ward be the same as the number of parish councillors for the proposed Rodbourne Cheney ward.

Borough Council comment

- 2.59 It is understood that the electorate for the proposed Gorse Hill and Pinehurst parish ward is currently in the region of 8,000 whereas the electorate for the proposed Rodbourne Cheney ward is in the region of 9,000. However, as set out in 2.27, Haydon View Residents' Association and Haydon Wick Parish Council would like to transfer the Haydon View area from Gorse Hill and Pinehurst area of the proposed Central Swindon North, to Haydon Wick parish.
- 2.60 Summary Responses from Residents Groups, Organisations or Associations

Badbury Park Residents Association
<p>The survey at Stage 2 was repeated again at Stage 3 between 14 and 28 September 2016 and again the results recommended Badbury Park to becoming its own Parish called "Coate at Badbury Park" who voted by 76.63% in favour of becoming their own parish, 13.43% voted to move into the new South Swindon Parish and only 11.94% voted to remain with Chiseldon Parish Council.</p> <p>The residents believe the recommendation made in the CGR Report to Cabinet (paragraph 3.29 to Cabinet on 17 August 2016) is void and should now reflect Badbury Park residents' wishes to become their own parish. Subsequently, the principle council must take into account the impact of community governance arrangements have on community cohesion and the 700 electors now on Badbury Park. Their report should not influence the Cabinets decision because we are still under construction because the residents' believe they can provide convenient and effective local governance with their Management Company who acts in a similarly way to the parish council.</p> <p>The majority of residents voted at Stage 2 and Stage 3 to become their own parish and their second choice was to move into the new proposed south Swindon Parish.</p>

The proposed recommendations for the new South Swindon parish does not bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and will not result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services due to the anomalies with the precept and residents' Management Company. Badbury Park already set local priorities for local service by having a management company who works in a similar way to a parish council.

The majority of residents' have voted Not to stay with Chiseldon Parish Council and by making Badbury Park part of South Swindon will spilt the existing community, which will then become a large diverse community, that will not bring together the necessary benefits to build towards a better community, as the majority of the Badbury Park residents' Precept will onto improving South Swindon and not the community on Badbury Park, as they have already set their local priorities under their Management Company.

Following the residents consultation on the Community Governance Review it recommends the creation of the parish of Badbury Park and of a parish council for Badbury Park.

Subject to agreement to recommendation above, the recommends that the name of the new council shall be "Coate at Badbury Park Parish Council".

Conclusion: Badbury Park is asking SBC to seriously consider their request to become their own parish under the CGR, as the residents' could petition the Borough Council next year under the 2007 Act paragraph 40. Therefore, it would be more cost effective if the cabinet reconsidered the Badbury Park residents' wishes to become their own Parish Council.

Central Area Residents Improvement Group

Central Area Residents' Improvement Group do not agree with the proposals to parish any of the currently unparished areas of Swindon as are being presented by Swindon Borough Council, both with the intention and with the process. Despite this being named a consultation, it is absolutely clear that the Council is planning to go ahead with these plans and has little interest in what local people really think about the matter. If they did, they would be offering a referendum on the matter. Should parishing of the remaining areas of Swindon go ahead we wish to make our view clear: It is entirely unacceptable and unfair to expect the residents of the central area of Swindon to pick up the cost of town centre street cleaning and other maintenance. The argument has been that other areas with shopping centres have to do the same but these areas are not comparable to the town centre, as is evident by the large estimated increase in parishing precept for this area. It is particular unfair to expect this of an area which contains 3 of the 5 most deprived areas of Swindon. We understand the Council is saying that they intend for businesses to pick up this bill but we also know that the businesses are very much reluctant to and that there appears to be

no intention to make this mandatory. The only solution we can see to this problem is to create one large parish so that the cost can be evenly spread amongst all residents. We are also not happy about the proposal of having unelected parish councillors for any period of time. It's a wholly undemocratic way to implement what is already an undemocratic proposal.

Dorchester Road Group

The positions of the boundaries are largely irrelevant in the context of the overall impositions of artificial parishes for fiscal reasons.

I consider the creation of new parishes and devolution of services to be a dereliction of duty for SBC. Tax payers pay SBC to provide services, not to DIY and make more.

Haydon View Community Association

Repeat position from Stage One: Haydon View Rd, Eastville Rd, Sunningdale Road, Mendip Close and Orchid Close to be linked to Haydon Wick Parish.

I would further note that after the HAYDON PARISH COUNCIL meeting on the 26th sept that they have FULLY ENDORSED our request to merge the Haydon View estate in the H.W.P. Council. To date I have not seen any adverse comments/submissions against this proposal. Furthermore it will add Community Adhesion and recognition to our estate (re the name Haydon). The proposal includes positive boundaries and will at last an opportunity to us to further establish our relationship with H.W.P.C.

Most residents shop in the area, Attend doctors surgery, use the leisure centre etc., further more it will give us a sense of belonging. Over the last few years we have been part of

- A) Whitworth ward.
- B) Penhill ward
- C) Pinehurst Ward

Kingshill Area Residents Association (KARA)

As a Residents' Association we were surprised and disappointed to learn from the Swindon Advertiser that we are no longer considered part of the same proposed Parish as the rest of Old Town – referred to as South Swindon. Covering Kingshill and Eastcott Areas we thought we would automatically be included in a larger parish with this area. We consider our area to be part of Old Town. We are also part of the catchment for Commonweal School the local Old Town post 11 school. This does not seem to have been taken into account.

Some of our residents continue to have accessed little or no information about the parishing process. Some have been unable to attend meetings. Some don't have access to the internet. Others who were aware signed either the on-line petition or the hand written petition both of which were

ignored by the Council.

The whole process has been disappointing to date both in its proposals and the way they have been delivered. And now we are unable to understand the logic of a division which creates a separate parish from the rest of Old Town thus excluding the residential area of our members.

Penhill Forum

In the absence of a full and proper referendum and since Parishing seems to be inevitable: We would want to be placed in an already established parish. Our preference would be Haydon Wick Parish. We think this is important to be able to learn from good Parish Councillors in a well-run parish.

Reasons: They are established and appear to be well managed. We border the Parish and share the largest piece of open space. Many of Penhill residents use and work in the facilities, shops, doctors, and library (should we lose ours) cycle routes, play areas.

Facilities are within easy walking/cycling distance via plentiful cycle routes. They appear to keep their parish precept to a sensible affordable level.

Their centre of administration is nearer to Penhill than any other parish and therefore more accessible. The line shown on your maps clearly points to this being a more sensible option for easily defined border along Whitworth Road and Cricklade Road.

Our second choice would be Stratton Parish, but feel we have less in common and note that their precept is already high and therefore even more of a burden to those living in an area of deprivation.

Pipers Way Residents Association

1- Please do not create new parishes to include Old Town.

2- Please do not split up the urban area of Swindon, but keep this 'unparished' area governed as one block.

3- Please do not rip Old Town from Eastcott, which is part of our community, and push us into alliance with sub-urban areas, which are not part of our day-to-day community.

The first answer that we would like to be recorded is please do not create a new parish including Old Town.

There is no evidence that the people of Old Town want parishes, no requests have been made to either ourselves, to the media or, in current knowledge, to Swindon Borough Council [SBC]. Indeed, at several public meetings the virtually unanimous votes, as handheld or secret ballots has been against any new parish for Old Town.

IF, and only IF, SBC insist on pursuing this idea against the will of the people, we would like you to consider our position on the boundaries of new parishes.

Old Town is a very clear historical space, hence we represent and draw membership and support from a fairly coherent community which is the southern half of Old Town. However, that representation of a southern Old Town is purely historical and convenience led, many of our residents live their lives in both halves of Old Town and indeed across the wider town and beyond, North v South Old Town is not a lifestyle, practical nor exact boundary. Many of our residents see themselves as part of the whole of Swindon and would wish representation on that manner.

There have been votes, ballots and discussion on this matter also and we would like you to note the outcome, Old Town sees itself as part of the wider urban Swindon.

Our second answer is that the clear wish of local residents appears to be a preference to be part of a larger parish to cover the whole, or major part, of the unparished area in urban Swindon.

However, IF, and only IF, SBC insist on pursuing smaller boundaries against the will of the people, we object significantly to the current proposed boundaries. This answer has a key element and then further responses that are relevant.

Our third answer is that Old Town North and South must be kept together as one and that cannot be ripped at the centre point by a line through Bath Road and Victoria Road. Old Town is a community that thrives together and is clearly definable by historical precedent, shared usage and practical day to day community exchange. The complete area of Old Town can be defined by a border as such: the bottom of Croft Rd; Lakeside roads that empty onto the south/south section of Marlborough Rd; Lawns and the east side of High St; Christchurch; The Regent Hotel on Victoria Rd; The Beehive Pub; Dixon St along to the cemetery; the end point of Clifton St; the bottom of Kings Hill; The Mall; and the Southern side of Westlecott/Springfield Roads. This definition is close to universally defined by those who live in both Old Town and Eastcott wards as proved recently by social media comments and polls. We share across the proposed boundary usage of community centres at Savernake St and Christ Church; usage of parking; usage of shops, cafes and pubs; usage of parks, leisure centre and open spaces; places of worship; attendance at Lethbridge, Croft, King William and Commonweal schools; and so much more. Importantly, the current boundary would split the food and drink businesses in Victoria Rd from those in Wood St and Devizes Rd, these are substantially the same business types and share the same customers, often on the same night, and they share a commercial association which traverses the boundary. It is important that these businesses share the same facilities, the same management and the same

governing bodies.

If it is clear that Eastcott must be treated as part of the same governance area as Southern Old Town, we may question some of the other areas that are bundled into this Southern Swindon package in preference to Eastcott. All of these areas are important and we imply no criticism, merely description.

Residential Lawns – including Windsor Rd. This area is very suburban, the housing was built much later than Old Town and is a very different style. It is quite a distance from Old Town and very few people would walk into the Old Town hub. The people attend different shops, pubs, schools than Old Town. There is no community group that ties the two and the area has a defined, separate community centre and residents association.

Eastern Marlborough Rd and Badbury Park are very far away from Old Town and cannot be seen to be naturally part of our community.

Marlborough Park is as yet unbuilt, but again differs significantly in architecture, population density and potentially lifestyle.

Wichelstowe, is new, clearly suburban and with their own centres, schools and residents associations. They have no connection to Old Town and probably much closer affinity with Wroughton.

Overall the proposed Southern Swindon Parish includes a very small number of residents to create incomes to run local parks and other facilities. Indeed the parish proposed is much smaller than South Central Swindon and the addition of Eastcott to the southern area may balance the sizes of population to a greater degree. The name – South Swindon Parish, means so little, it does not define our community and will be very confusing when compared to South Central Swindon. The proposed Parish has no defined parish offices or service centres and it seems equally unreasonable that these should be in Old Town, away from the centre of the proposed parish, or in Lawns, which is away from the majority of the community.

Finally we are massively concerned by the effects that creating such parishes will have on local people. We question if there is sufficient money and power locally to maintain and protect local green spaces and public amenities; we question the high percentage cost in administration to run a parish of 6,000 people at c£900k pa budget; we question if there is political will to create a vibrant totally elected political scene to represent such a small area; we question what may happen to residents associations, a necessary tier of local representation even under parish councils; we question if there are enough volunteers to cover all this proposed activity. If these questions are unclear or negative we should not proceed.

To summarise. This idea is not wanted by local people and we believe it

does not come from the community. This appears to be in direct contradiction of the spirit and wording of the very legislation used to enact this change. Indeed you have asked the community repeatedly throughout this year and there is statistical evidence that each further step towards creating parishes is in direct opposition to wishes of the community. This is not real or appropriate consultation.

As a residents association, we clearly ask Swindon Borough Council to stop the process of creating new parishes, to think again and more discursively engage with local communities to find other solutions to the challenges facing our town.

Rayburn Cresc Alliance

A parish council in the Central area is not wanted.

Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association

As representatives of the residents of Rodbourne Cheney we feel that it is incumbent upon us to make a representation to you by the end of March. However because of the lack of information concerning boundaries, possible precept rates and work to be undertaken by the parishes, we are not in a position to provide meaningful advice to our residents at this time. Indeed we question whether parishing is either necessary or desirable and the question should be put to all affected residents by means of a referendum. We appreciate that should this policy be forced upon us, we may have to choose between joining an existing parish or become part of a new one. We are adamant that we would not wish to see our area of Rodbourne Cheney divided.

Swindon Civic Voice

Previous stage of consultation has been ignored; parishes should not be imposed. The proposed boundaries are not viable as drawn, but given that previous consultation has been ignored, and this stage driven forward, we will not try to outline the reasons here. Instead we ask to meet with the external agent who is supposedly scrutinising the process. If parishing IS forced against citizens' wishes, then we believe that one new parish for the non-parished areas would be better than the divided ones proposed. This process raises the concern about past use of non-parish rates, in a fashion which has long disadvantaged residents living in them. This is because their additional rate has been used to service the whole town. This proposal to parish reveals that issue but does not resolve it in any way that is democratic, in the sense that ordinary citizens might relate to.

Wroughton Church Council

Wichelstowe should be part of Wroughton Parish. Creating an effective parish is about creating a cohesive community not just an administrative boundary. If the emerging communities of Wichelstowe are to consider

themselves part of a parish, they must be able to identify with that parish.

3. Part Two - Stage One and Stage Two Consultation Response

- 3.1 The first stage of consultation on review commenced at the beginning of January and concluded on 31st March 2016. During Stage One, over 700 people attended drop-in engagement sessions between 22nd February and 17th March 2016 at the following locations:-
- 3.2 Freshbrook Community Centre,
Highworth Community Centre,
Coleview Community Centre Stratton,
St Marys Hall Old Town,
Liden Community Centre,
St Peters Church Hall Penhill,
St Andrews Church Hall Walcot,
Pinetrees Community Centre Pinehurst,
Central Community Town Centre,
StoweAway Community Centre East Wichel,
Haydon Wick Parish Council Offices and
Broadgreen Community Centre.
- 3.3 At the end of Stage One, on 31st March 2016, 258 submissions were received.
- 3.4 Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet reviewed the submissions from the community engagement in Stage One at its meeting on 16th June 2016. The Cabinet agreed a number of recommendations, including:
- 3.4.1 Engage with local communities in June and July to address issues raised in the first stage of the Community Governance Review; and
- 3.4.2 Authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Communities, to prepare illustrative maps for use during the engagement process.
- 3.5 Two illustrative maps were prepared to support further engagement in Stage Two. Map 1 linked to submissions and boundaries proposed in Stage One of the Review, Map 2 linked to major roads and key boundaries. Illustrative Maps 1 and 2 are attached in Appendix Two A and Appendix Two B.

Stage Two

- 3.6 Following the Cabinet meeting in June, four workshop sessions and 8 public meetings have been undertaken. Officers have also engaged directly with key stakeholder groups and Parish Councils. A feedback form inviting comments on the illustrative maps was available on the Council's website as well as a link to make responses through survey monkey. Submissions were invited from 22nd June to 31st July 2016. 139 submissions and 2 comments were received. Submissions were received as follows:

Email submissions	30
Feedback Forms/Written comments	70
Survey Monkey returns	39

- 3.7 The submissions received have now been reviewed and analysed, and are summarised in the paragraphs below together with comments and, where appropriate recommendations / draft proposals.

Stage Two feedback from engagement events in unparished areas

- 3.8 As part of public engagement in Stage Two, 8 public meetings (including 4 organised at request of members) were held and attended by a total of 181 residents.
- 3.9 In addition to public meetings, four workshops were held in unparished areas to gain qualitative feedback on community identity and community priorities in response to the illustrative maps. Existing residents groups, all ward councillors and a small number of residents who made detailed submissions in Stage One were invited to participate.
- 3.10 4 workshops for those who had expressed more detailed views at Stage 1 were held and attended by 27 residents;

A summary is as follows:

East Swindon
Mixed views on community identity and defined boundaries. Park North and Park South could be linked with Eldene but might more naturally link with Walcot East. Concern about community interest and capacity in the parish model and likelihood of getting involved. Could link the East grouping together as an East parish. Eldene and Liden look to have a natural fit geographically. Map 2 generally more favourable from residents living in Eldene and Liden.
West Swindon
General consensus that the West boundary on the maps reflects the area that represents West Swindon. Some agreement to renewing parish boundaries along previous ward boundaries rather than existing. General sense that the future would need to be about managing and protecting the assets and spaces that West Swindon has rather than taking on new responsibilities. Some interest in the option to reduce the West parish to smaller parishes at a future date if the community identity did not work as a result of the larger boundary.
North/Central Swindon
Some concerns about the scale of the non parished area. Can this

genuinely reflect community identities, particularly in relation to the diversity of the local population? The diversity of the central area could mean that a larger parish covering the non parished area might serve the wider community. Concern about local impact of the town centre/shopping area on related services. Interest in smaller community groups joining Haydon Wick parish.

Old Town/South Swindon

Concerns about the concept of parishes and the imposition on communities. If non parished areas are to be parished, there is some consensus that a single parish for the non parished area would serve local communities' needs better than smaller arrangements e.g. economies of scale, opportunity to go smaller in the future. Concern about costs/viability if popular assets such as Old Town gardens are transferred to parishes. Map 1 more preferable.

- 3.11 Illustrative maps and CGR information were published on the SBC website which attracted hits from over 500 residents;
- 3.12 Members were asked to publicise the events and process for feedback in their wards and networks;
- 3.13 Social media activity to promote the public meetings and maps/information was undertaken.

Stage Two feedback from Resident Groups, Forums or Associations

- 3.14 Feedback from groups, forums and associations is summarised as follows.

Badbury Park Residents Association

There was insufficient information on the proposed Community Governance Review to enable Badbury Park residents to express their views on the best way forward. The proposed recommendations for the new South Swindon parish does not bring about improved community engagement, better local democracy and will not result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services due to the anomalies with the precept and residents' Management Company. Badbury Park and Broome Manor already set local priorities for local service by having a management company. Making Badbury Park part of South Swindon will spilt the existing community, which will then become a large diverse community, that will not bring together the necessary benefits; unless Badbury Park is made a Ward of South Swindon.

Eldene Residents Association

Of the two choices, it would be a lot more preferable to go with Liden, Nythe and Covingham. This is due to the general feeling of being more of a similar area, as well as seeing the benefits that joining existing Parishes would bring, in terms of the administrative expertise and contacts of existing Parish

Councillors.
Haydon View Community Association
Repeat position from Stage One: Haydon View Rd, Eastville Rd, Sunningdale Road, Mendip Close, and Orchid Close to be linked to Haydon Wick Parish.
Kingshill Area Residents Association (KARA)
Only a referendum would prove support - KARA does not support the creation of new parishes that the real reason for creation is about raising additional income beyond council tax - if it had to support the creation of parishes, it would support West Swindon plus a warded super parish (as described in dia 2 Central and South Swindon.
Meres Residents Association
Comments on both maps. Interest in canvassing support for a separate Liden Parish.
Penhill Forum
<p>We feel that linking to the Central Parish would give us very little say. We cannot set local priorities without knowing the areas/neighbourhood and communities within that planned area. Four choices:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To seek to go in to Haydon Wick Parish Council, closer to services in Haydon Wick, shop in Haydon Wick, jobs available to us in Haydon Wick. Thamesdown Drive/Cricklade Road/Whitworth Road is a sensible main road boundary. 2. Blunsdon - or we are told that a new parish of St. Andrew may be created 3. Stratton Parish, from where Penhill originally came. 4. To become a new linked parish to the Central Swindon proposal but we felt that we may have problems finding enough capacity.
Pinehurst Initiative Forum
The Central Swindon area (on maps 1 and 2) looks large, especially as it is densely populated and has significant 'issues' in several of the areas. Surely this will lead to a very 'stretched' parish, in terms of funding/work.
Pipers Way Residents Association
We would specifically and completely reject the idea of Map 2 which splits many in Old Town into a different parish than the local civic, cultural and commercial centre. This statement in no way support Map 1 either.
Shaw Residents Association

In view of the small number of people who've responded to the consultation and the fact that there is no evidence of a community request from non parished areas, we believe that to proceed would be undemocratic. The SRA therefore maintains its position that Swindon Borough Council does not have a mandate to continue. However, should SBC choose to ignore this opinion, we believe it would make sense to start with one big parish and then, if there's a popular appetite, divide it up over the coming years. Such a scenario would also preserve at least some of the economies of scale currently enjoyed by the Borough. It would also minimise the additional administrative burden the creation of several new parishes would place on the tax payer.

Specifically, given that there is no petition or demonstrable public request for a West Swindon parish, we suggest it is more democratic to include West Swindon in the aforementioned central parish until such point in time that a public petition exists requesting it to become separate.

Swindon Tenants Voice

General commentary on the engagement/consultation process. No specific comments on any illustrative maps.

Stage Two summary of Individual Responses

3.15 A summary of the responses is as follows:

Comments	Number of responses <i>(not all responses responded to each category, responses below are not double counted)</i>
Responses with comments relating to either illustrative Map 1 or Map 2	<p>9 responses generally agreed with the illustrative maps</p> <p>13 responses partly disagreed with the illustrative maps</p> <p>18 responses disagreed with the illustrative maps</p> <p>6 responses proposed a single parish for non parished areas as a preference</p> <p>2 responses preferred a South Swindon parish (from Walcot and Park North ward)</p> <p>8 responses preferred illustrative map 1 (mostly residents in Walcot and Park North ward)</p> <p>39 responses preferred illustrative map 2 (majority of responses from Liden, Eldene and</p>

	Park South ward)
Do you think the potential parishes on the illustrative maps could give the opportunity for local people to set local priorities for local services?	<p>21 responses indicated yes</p> <p>38 responses indicated no</p> <p>13 responses indicated possibly</p> <p>10 responses said yes only in relation to illustrative map 2</p>
Do you think any of the potential parishes on the illustrative maps could help improve your neighbourhood area?	<p>10 responses said yes</p> <p>40 responses said no</p> <p>21 responses said possibly</p> <p>9 responses said yes if illustrative map 2</p>
Do you think any of the potential parishes on the illustrative maps could help grow a stronger sense of community feeling or identity where you live?	<p>8 responses said yes</p> <p>46 responses said no</p> <p>16 responses said possibly</p> <p>6 responses said yes if illustrative map 2</p>

Stage Two Parish Council responses and recommendations to the 17th August 2016 Cabinet Meeting

Bishopstone Parish Council

3.16 In Stage Two, Bishopstone Parish Council have responded as follows

We note the proposed marginal adjustments to the northern parish boundary and have no objection to either of the proposals.

3.17 The reference to proposed marginal adjustments is a reference to the illustrative maps prepared for discussion purposes. These were not proposals and Members may feel that there is no need to change the northern boundary of this parish until there is sufficient development of the New Eastern Villages that would create new identities and community interests.

3.17.1 Recommendation - It is recommended that there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Bishopstone Parish Council.

Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council

- 3.18 CGR Stage 1 - Blunsdon St Andrew formally submitted a request to retain the existing boundaries for Blunsdon St Andrew Parish. The Parish submitted that it serves the existing Parish with community facilities that promote cohesion.
- 3.19 A petition containing 899 signatures was submitted to the Community Governance Review at the close of Stage One seeking the creation of a new Parish Council for St Andrews.
- 3.20 In Stage Two, Blunsdon St Andrew submitted a detailed submission with a petition statement comprising 390 signatures. Their response includes the following statements:

This submission demonstrates why the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew should not be split and how it operates efficiently and effectively for the benefit of its residents across the entire Parish. Furthermore, Blunsdon St Andrew PC, is fully committed to and capable of taking on the designated services from April 2017.

Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council submit that it should continue to operate on its current boundaries, with the exception of the proposal from Haydon Wick to assume Abbey Meads into its boundary, which we believe has merit, provides clarity and would benefit those residents.

The Parish Council is firmly of the view, as demonstrated in this paper, that the boundaries set out in the Illustrative Maps would not be beneficial to residents and would in fact be more expensive.

- 3.21 Given the strength of the petition from residents within the St Andrew area calling for a separate parish for St Andrew to be created, Members may wish determine that the existing parish area be split into two parishes, unless it is felt that the arguments put forward by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council outweighs this.
- 3.21.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that the consultation map show a redrawn and renamed Blunsdon parish, with the A419 as its boundary, and with a new St Andrew Parish covering that area south west of the A419 that is presently part of the Blunsdon St Andrew Parish and that the parish have 11 parish councillors.

Castle Eaton Parish Council

- 3.22 No representation has been received from Castle Eaton Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes and so no changes are proposed.
- 3.22.1 Recommendation - It is recommended that there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Castle Eaton.

Central Swindon North

- 3.23 It is considered that the area north of the Chippenham-Swindon-Didcot railway line and east of the River Ray presently outside a parish can justifiably be considered a distinct community. It recognises the parliamentary boundary along

the railway line and includes the smaller communities of Gorse Hill, Pinehurst, Rodbourne, Moredon, and Penhill. These are all older traditional neighbourhoods that were established before the massive recent expansions to the West and North West. The area also includes most of the North Central locality; hence, there is an established pattern of sub-local authority community identity and governance.

3.23.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that there be a new Central Swindon North parish consisting of the Swindon Borough Council wards of Gorse Hill and Pinehurst and Rodbourne Cheney in addition to polling districts MWA and MWD from the Mannington and Western ward and polling districts PSA, PSB and PSG from the Penhill and Upper Stratton ward. It is further recommended that the new parish should have 15 councillors.

Central Swindon South

3.24 The urban area without a parish south of the Chippenham-Swindon-Didcot railway line and excluding Old Town, Eldene and Liden was formerly known as part of Swindon New Town. It has been part of one local authority since at least 1900, which has created shared cultural, retail and transport links and in particular, the area will contain significant green open spaces including Queens Park, Faringdon Park. All these help create the shared values of association that combine these disparate small communities into a broader Central South Swindon identity.

3.25 Again, while there are numerous small community and neighbourhood identities, creating more numerous parishes to reflect them would inhibit effective and convenient governance or the provision of local services that would be available to other parishes. A single parish would have sufficient resources, in terms of residents, potential councillors, and tax base to provide both convenient and effective governance as well as to reflect local communities.

3.25.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that a parish be created covering the Swindon Borough Council wards of Central, Walcot and Park North, the LEA and LEB polling districts from the Liden, Eldene and Park South ward, the ETA, ETB, ETD and ETE polling districts from Eastcott ward and most of the ETC polling district less the area south of Church Place and east of Albert Street. It is further recommended that the new parish have 15 councillors.

Chiseldon Parish Council

3.26 In Stage One, Chiseldon Parish Council submitted a request to keep their current boundary arrangements with regard to the villages and hamlets that make up Chiseldon Parish. Badbury Park Residents Association submitted a separate proposal to create a new Parish for Badbury Park.

3.27 In Stage Two, Chiseldon Parish Council have submitted with comments as follows:

Chiseldon Parish Council voted to retain its existing Parish Boundaries. A vote was taken on Monday 14th March 2016 and further ratified at the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th July 2016 . The members also voted in favour of retaining both Badbury Village and Badbury Park within the boundary of Chiseldon Parish.

Chiseldon Parish Council proposes that Badbury Village is moved back under the Ward of Chiseldon & Lawn.

Chiseldon Parish Council request an increase in the number of Parish Councillors from 15 to 16 with effect immediately.

- 3.28 As set out in the main report, Members may wish to note the greater shared community identities and common interests between those neighbourhoods that lie north of the M4, which may be better reflected for the purpose of convenient and effective local governance in joining a newly created South Swindon parish. Alternatively, Members may wish to give greater weight to the Parish Council's representation.

3.28.1 Recommendation – That the existing parish boundary be redrawn to exclude all parts of the Parish north of the M4, the area so removed to form part of a new South Swindon parish. It is further recommended that the number of parish councillors remain at 15, since there would be only a slight reduction in the current population.

Covingham Parish Council

- 3.29 Covingham Parish Council made no submission for parish boundary changes in Stage One. In Stage Two Covingham Parish Council have submitted with comments as follows:

Covingham Parish Council do not consent to being grouped for the following reasons: Covingham Parish Council do not want to be grouped with areas which were fundamentally very different. Covingham Parish Council has been established for many years and has a good reputation for providing for the residents of Covingham.

3.29.1 Recommendation – Covingham Parish Council boundaries and the number of councillors remain unchanged.

Hannington Parish Council

- 3.30 No representation has been received from Hannington Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes and so no parish boundary changes are proposed.

3.30.1 Recommendation - Hannington Parish Council boundaries and the number of councillors remain unchanged.

Haydon Wick Parish Council

- 3.31 Proposals from Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association and Haydon View Community Association were received in Stage One merging these areas into the existing Haydon Wick Parish. In Stage Two, Haydon Wick Parish Council have made a detailed submission including comments as follows:

Following a discussion on the illustrative maps, a presentation from the Haydon View Residents Association and a brief summary by the Chair of Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council on their draft submission the Councillors wish to make the following comments:

- a) In recognition of the wish of the majority of the residents in Haydon View (Haydon View Road, Eastville Road, Mendip Road & Sunningdale Road) to become part the Parish of Haydon Wick the Councillors resolved to fully support the application made to the Borough Council for the boundary of the Parish to be amended to include Haydon View ;*
- b) The proposal to extend southern boundary as shown on Illustrative Map 1 & Map 2 is accepted (with a variation to incorporate Haydon View and the section of Whitworth Road from Lime Avenue to footpath leading to Seven Fields {Pond Street}). Boundaries to run behind properties in Whitworth Road;*
- c) The Councillors have taken no view with regard to the proposals made on Illustrative Map1 & Map 2 north of the current boundary as they relate to the Parish of Blunsdon St Andrew;*

d) The Parish Council propose that the section of Abbeymeads currently within Blunsdon St Andrew be moved into the Parish of Haydon Wick. The new boundary to run from the junction of Thamesdown Drive and Elstree Way (eastern junction) to the junction of Thamesdown Drive and the A4311 (Cricklade Road). The boundary then to run along the centre line of Cricklade Road to the point where the HP5 footpath (Sherwood Walk) joins the Cricklade Road. This footpath runs between the areas of Abbeymeads and Penhill. All the properties to the north of the footpath will be in Haydon Wick. This will remove the operational issues which currently arise with the two Parishes providing services & the confusion caused to residents over which Parish serves Abbeymeads and enable a cost efficient service to be provided. It is understood that this proposal is supported by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council;

e) The Councillors wish to reiterate the need to remove Ray Ward with one (1) Councillor position and merge this position into Haydon End Ward giving nine (9) Councillor positions;

f) The Councillors wish for a minor adjustment to the boundary to be considered in regard to the boundary line Oakhurst Way to Tadpole Lane. Currently the boundary leaves Oakhurst Way and traverses a field before joining Tadpole Lane, it is proposed that it runs for the length of Oakhurst Way to the roundabout for the entrance of Tadpole Garden Village and then along Tadpole Lane. This would give a hard and easily recognisable boundary by following the highway.

3.32 Members may note that the area of Abbeymeads is included in the petition to create a separate St Andrew parish and Haydon Wick parish has provided no equivalent evidence to support expanding to the north. In addition, Members are advised that the other increases to the parish boundary may have adverse consequences on a proposed North Central Swindon parish and its ability to provide convenient and effective governance whereas Haydon Wick is already of a sufficient size and establishment to do this.

3.33 If this is agreed by Members, the new parish area be warded as follows: Haydon Wick – 9 councillors; Haydon End – 9 councillors; and it would mean abolishing the Ray Ward.

3.33.1 Recommendation That the existing parish boundary be retained and that the parish be warded as set out above with 18 parish councillors.

Highworth Town Council

3.34 Highworth Town Council have submitted in Stage Two as follows:

There are no apparent proposed changes to the Highworth Town Council Parish boundary shown in illustrative maps 1 and 2 so we have no comments to make on this.

- 3.35 The Town Council has stated subsequently:

On the indicative map...we do not have any objection to South Marston Parish Council (SMPC) assuming responsibility for the south east corner of our Parish area, adjacent to the A420 that includes part of the NEV development at Rowborough (shown in yellow).

We do not have a violent objection to the suggestion that the whole of Supermarine Sports Field be included in the same Parish area but would rather suggest that the boundary be set at the roadway at the bottom end of the sports fields so that they are wholly within the Highworth side of the Parish boundary.

- 3.36 Given that there is agreement between two parishes to transfer the entire area of industrial land in the most southern part of the parish to South Marston parish, polling district BHF of the Blunsdon and Highworth Borough ward would need to be amended by creating a new polling district BHJ.
- 3.37 Since there is no agreement between the Highworth Town and South Marston Parish Councils concerning the Sports Field, no change is recommended in that regard.
- 3.38 Recommendation – To amend the southern boundary of the parish as reflected above and that there be no change to the number of parish councillors.

Inglesham Parish

- 3.39 No representation has been received from Inglesham Parish or others in relation to parish boundary changes and so no parish boundary changes have been proposed.
- 3.39.1 Recommendation – Inglesham parish boundaries remain unchanged.

Liddington Parish Council

- 3.40 No representation has been received from Liddington Parish Council or others in relation to parish boundary changes and so no parish boundary changes have been proposed.
- 3.40.1 Recommendation – Liddington Parish Council boundaries and the number of councillors remain unchanged.

Nythe Parish Council

- 3.41 Nythe Parish Council has submitted Stage Two comments as follows:
- Nythe Parish Council would like the Nythe allotments included within the Parish Boundary and are open to grouping of Parishes.*
- 3.42 Feedback from some residents and ward councillors as set out in the main report indicates that extending the Nythe parish to include Eldene and Liden, which do not have a parish at present, would unite an area with shared community interests as well as providing for effective local governance and representation.

- 3.43 At present Nythe has 7 parish councillors and it is suggested that this be increased to 11 if the parish is expanded.

3.43.1 Recommendation – To extend the parish of Nythe to include the currently unparished areas of Eldene and Liden to create an Eldene, Liden and Nythe parish with 11 parish councillors.

South Swindon

- 3.44 The residents of the new homes at East Wichel have strong community identity links with other parts of the main urban area rather than with the largely rural Wroughton parish to the south. The West and Middle Wichel areas, once developed, will also have community, housing tenure and transport links that will make them more similar to the contiguous urban core to which they are attached. In addition to this, the M4 would also act as a clear actual and geographical barrier separating Wichelstowe from Wroughton.
- 3.45 There are strong historical community ties across Old Town, Lawn, and Broome Manor with the communities there sharing a common point of focus as “Old Town”, which is distinct from New Town. The area was contained in a single local government ward from 1949 to 2012. This area has shared transport links, cultural and retail facilities and large open spaces including The Lawns, the Polo Ground, and Old Town Gardens.
- 3.46 The residents of the new development at Badbury Park have expressed a desire to set up their own parish; however, as this area is still under construction, it is deemed too small at this time to provide convenient and effective local governance. Some residents of this area have indicated that they have more affinity to the contiguous urban core than to the largely rural Chiseldon village, and would see their community interests better reflected in a parish lying north of the M4.
- 3.46.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that a new parish be created covering the WWB polling district from the Wroughton and Wichelstowe ward, all the Old Town ward, that part of polling district ETC in Eastcott that lies south of Church Place and east of Albert Street, the entire CLA and CLC polling districts from the Chiseldon and Lawn ward and that part of polling district CLB from the same ward that lies north of the M4. It is further recommended that the new parish should have 15 councillors.

South Marston Parish Council

- 3.47 In Stage 2, South Marston Parish Council have submitted as follows:

1. *The South boundary with Wanborough: Oppose the proposed change: Retain the River Cole as the boundary: Traffic egress onto A420 and towards village: Proposed NEV development intimately linked with development north of the A420: [The Parish has] considerable familiarity with the NEV proposals and emerging policies.*

2. *North boundary with Stanton: Accept change from a meandering line within the South Marston Industrial Park to A361. Accept western portion of Supermarine Sports Field (but see 4. below)*

3. *East boundary with Highworth:*

a) *If 2. Above is implemented, then this would run across the middle of the Supermarine sports site. We recommend that the whole of the site is included in our parish.*

b) *Part of the easternmost development area of the NEV at Rowborough is within the Highworth boundary.*

3.48 As stated above, Highworth Town Council is happy to agree the parish boundary changes with regard to Rowborough but the Town Council propose the sports field be in Highworth, not South Marston.

3.48.1 Recommendation – it is recommended that the boundary with that Parish be aligned to the A361 and that the Rowborough part of Highworth be included within the parish of South Marston, and that the remaining boundaries and number of parish councillors be left unchanged.

St Andrew

3.49 An 899 signature petition has been received requesting the creation of a new parish out of the area in the Blunsdon St Andrew parish covered by the St Andrew Swindon Borough Council ward, with the A419 as the shared boundary. Blunsdon St Andrew has also submitted a 390 signature petition to the contrary as well as its objections to the loss of all its areas beyond the A419.

3.50 Additional submissions from the Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council to the last two Commissions looking at new borough council wards suggest a lack of shared community interests and community cohesion between those parts of the Blunsdon St Andrew parish that lie north east of the main road and the newer developments within the parish that are within the St Andrews Swindon Borough Council ward.

3.50.1 Recommendation – It is recommended that a new parish of St Andrew be formed for the area south west of the A419, covering all of the present Swindon Borough Council St Andrews ward. It is further proposed that this parish should have 11 councillors.

Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council

3.51 In Stage Two it has been proposed to change the boundary between South Marston Parish Council and Stanton Fitzwarren to follow the A361. Discussion has indicated that this is acceptable to Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council. No formal submission has been received.

3.51.1 Recommendation – To amend the parish boundary to the A361 as agreed by the parish councils of Stanton Fitzwarren and South Marston. It is

further recommended that the number of parish councillors remain unchanged.

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council

- 3.52 In Stage Two, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council have responded as follows

Stratton St Margaret Parish Council strongly believe that it is important to maintain its existing boundary especially to the East of the Parish to include the Honda site, the A419 should not be used as the boundary line. The one provision is to include a small housing estate within the Blunsdon boundary (Branwell Close, Pearce Close and Loveridge Close on the Hyde Road)

The Parish Council is not looking to take on other areas but if Penhill is imposed on us then we would work for the best of the community.

If the civil parish of St Margaret is to remain within its current boundary, we would wish to reduce the number of Councillors from 23 to 19.

The wards to be made up of the following:

Coleview	3
Lower Stratton	6
Lower Coleview	3
Upper Stratton	6
Merton	1

If Penhill is included in the Parish then it is suggested that the number of Councillors increase by an additional 2 for the Penhill ward making the total for the whole Parish Council at 21.

- 3.53 Since the Parish Council has not made a formal submission to include Penhill, and there might be adverse consequences for a proposed North Central Swindon parish that would diminish its ability to be effective if such a change were made, Members may choose to leave this boundary unchanged.

3.53.1 Recommendation – That polling district PSD of the borough ward of Penhill & Upper Stratton be transferred from the existing Blunsdon St Andrew parish to Stratton St Margaret. It is further recommended that the number of parish councillors be reduced from 23 to 19 as requested by the parish council, to take effect from the next full parish elections.

Wanborough Parish Council

- 3.54 Wanborough Parish Council have submitted as follows:

We note the proposed marginal adjustments to the northern parish boundary and have no objection to either.

- 3.55 The reference to proposed marginal adjustments is a reference to the illustrative maps prepared for discussion purposes. These were not proposals and Members may feel that there is no need to change the northern boundary of this parish until there is sufficient development of the New Eastern Villages that would create new identities and community interests.

3.55.1 Recommendation - Wanborough Parish Council boundaries and the number of parish councillors remain unchanged.

Wroughton Parish Council

- 3.56 Wroughton Parish Council have submitted as follows:

In April 2016 Wroughton Parish Council resolved that 'Swindon Borough Council be informed that the Parish Council would like the boundary of the parish of Wroughton extended to include East Wichel in accordance with the boundary indicated on the attached map.' Our position has not changed from that resolution.

We are disappointed to see that all of Wichelstowe has been removed from the Parish of Wroughton in both illustrative maps. We believe that the existing community of East Wichel and the communities of Middle and West Wichel when they develop, will be best served by Wroughton as an experienced and well established Parish Council.

If it would not be possible to include East Wichel within the area of Wroughton Parish Council, then we would wish to retain Middle and West Wichel within our existing boundary.

- 3.57 As set out in the main report, Members may wish to note the greater shared community identities and common interests between those neighbourhoods that lie north of the M4, which may be better reflected for the purpose of convenient and effective local governance in joining a newly created South Swindon parish in an area that does not have a parish at present. In particular, Members may note the views of some residents in Badbury Park as well as the views of some Ward Members that confirm a distinct sense of community that such a parish could promote.

3.57.1 Recommendation – That the parish boundary be amended to exclude the area north of the M4 in the current WWB polling district and that there be no change to the number of parish councillors.

West Swindon

- 3.58 West Swindon is widely recognised to be an identifiable community that had a functioning local area forum before the creation of the West Locality, which has provided convenient and effective means for promoting local governance. The West Swindon Centre provides a focal point with sports, leisure, and retail facilities with which local residents identify. There were representations at the engagement meetings supporting this.

3.59 The areas that could be created as a parish would have boundaries largely similar to the current West locality, but excluding the area of the Mannington and Western Ward that lies east of the River Ray.

3.59.1 Recommendation – That a new parish be created covering the present wards in the West Locality: Lydiard & Freshbrook and Shaw, along with the current polling districts from the Mannington and Western Ward: MWB and MWC. It is further recommended that the new parish should have 15 parish councillors.

Recommendations to Council

1. Recommendations by Parish/Area

Bishopstone

- 1.1 No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents.

Recommendation:

- 1.2 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Bishopstone and that Bishopstone Parish Council retains its nine parish councillors.

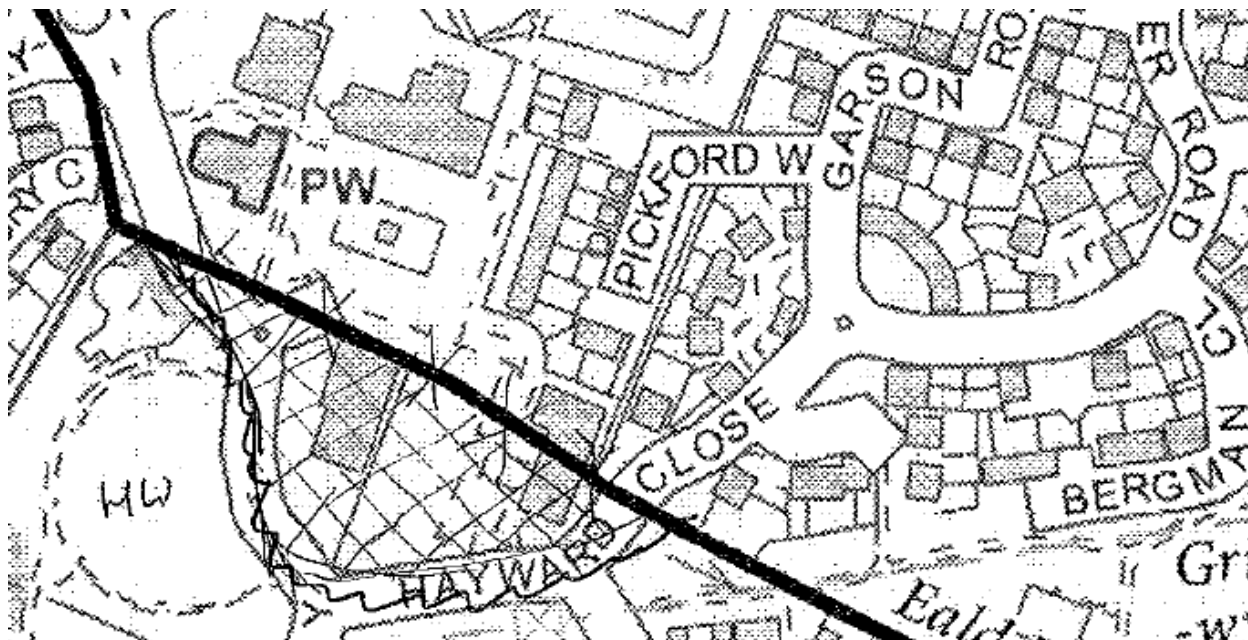
Blunsdon St Andrew

- 1.3 There was 1 submission at Stage 3 to create a Blunsdon parish and to include the area covered by the Borough Council's St Andrews ward in an enlarged Haydon Wick parish. Following the earlier petition at Stage One of 899 signatures in favour of dividing the current parish to create a new St Andrews parish with the A419, in effect, forming the eastern boundary, there were subsequent petitions of 390 signatures at Stage Two and 740 signatures at Stage Three opposing such a split for the reasons set out in the petitions.
- 1.4 The initial petition favouring the split has been re-stated at Stage 3, supporting the proposed change. The St Andrews Borough Council ward has clearly defined boundaries and encompasses an area with community identities that are distinct from that part of Blunsdon St Andrew that lies north east of A419. The remaining area around Broad and Lower Blunsdon would also retain a strong community identity and sufficient size to function as a parish.
- 1.5 At the Stage Two consultation, Stratton St Margaret parish expressed a willingness to accept the Kingsdown parish ward contained within polling district PSD from the Blunsdon St Andrew parish. This polling district adjoins the rest of the Kingsdown area, which is in the Stratton Parish but no further evidence was provided.
- 1.6 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish has not given its consent to such a change and without mutual consent between parishes and no compelling evidence that the transfer would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance within the area, Cabinet recommends that such changes not be imposed. This area was not included on the map supporting the petition for creating a separate St Andrews ward.
- 1.7 Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council has declined to suggest membership numbers for a Blunsdon Parish Council should this be recommended stating that "such details can be left for determination if necessary once a decision has been made." The Borough Council suggests that if the Borough Council's St Andrews ward is created as a new parish, then the number of parish councillors on the re-named Blunsdon Parish Council be 11 as this was their previous number.

Recommendations to Council

- 1.8 Cabinet noted the submission by the Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council, as set out above and as discussed at the Cabinet meeting on the 19th October 2016 and had regard to that submission in the context of the need to secure that community governance within the area under review reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area and secures effective and convenient community governance. It was of the view that both Blunsdon and St Andrews areas each have a clear and distinct identity from the other, with one primarily urban and the other primarily rural, and that to create two parishes would reflect the community cohesion of each community on either side of the A419.
- 1.9 Members noted the agreement between Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council to transfer the Abbey Meads area into Haydon Wick Parish. However, the area of Abbey Meads would lie in a St Andrews parish if Members choose to continue to proceed with creating one. The area is clearly identified on the map supporting the petition to create St Andrews as being within the new parish.
- 1.10 A Haydon Wick borough ward councillor highlighted the anomaly that the present Haydon Wick/Blunsdon St Andrew cuts through buildings in the Abbey Meads village centre, which creates confusion about the responsibility for that area thus undermining efficient and effective community governance. Discussion between that councillor and the lead petitioner to create a St Andrew parish have produced the following proposed minor adjustment, to move the parish boundary southwards as set out in the map below and align it with Elstree Way/Hayward Close).

Figure 1 Adjustment of boundary through Abbey Meads village centre



Recommendations:

Recommendations to Council

- 1.11 *St Andrews Parish* - That the area south west of the A419 covering the SAA, SAB, SAC, SAD polling districts, together with the minor extension of the boundary through to Elstree Way/Hayward Close to include all of the Abbey Meads village centre, form a new St Andrews parish as this would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance within the area. No request has been made for the area to be warded and so it is not proposed to do so at this time. Accordingly, it is further recommended that the new parish be unwarded and have 11 councillors.
- 1.12 *Blunsdon Parish* - That the remainder of Blunsdon St Andrew parish north east of the A419 be renamed Blunsdon parish, as it would better reflect the identities and interests of the more established Lower and Broad Blunsdon communities in that area.
- 1.13 *Kingsdown Ward* - That the area in the current PSD polling district be part of the Blunsdon parish.
- 1.14 It is further recommended that that the renamed parish have 11 parish councillors and that it reflect the current arrangement for that area and be divided into wards with the current Kingsdown ward having 1 member, and the Blunsdon ward, covering the remainder of the proposed parish, having 10 members.

Castle Eaton

- 1.15 No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents.

Recommendation:

- 1.16 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Castle Eaton and that Castle Eaton parish council retains its five parish councillors.

Central Swindon North

- 1.17 There was a range of responses at Stage Three with 3 submissions to include all of Penhill in Haydon Wick parish and a further 4 asking that the review include the Haydon View area, in Haydon Wick parish. There was 1 submission in favour of Central Swindon North and South parishes and 1 submission supported the proposed Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South and South parishes.
- 1.18 Having considered the responses, Cabinet remains of the view that the area outside existing parishes east of the River Ray and north of the Chippenham-Swindon-Didcot railway line presently outside a parish can justifiably be considered a distinct geographical unity capable of reflecting and promoting the various community interests within that boundary. Cabinet has also noted that the size of such a proposed parish would be suitable to provide convenient and effective local governance.

Recommendations to Council

- 1.19 The Borough Council suggests that due to the size and population of the proposed parish, it would be sensible and practicable to create wards for the new parish and it is considered that there should be a parish council of 15 members, and the proposed warding arrangements reflect the current borough council wards and polling districts as set out below.
- 1.20 Cabinet noted the submission and map set out above from the Haydon View Residents' Association of the area it would like to be included in the Haydon Wick parish and that the Haydon Wick Parish Council is supportive of this change. The submissions made clear that such a change would better reflect community identities of those residing in the Haydon View area.
- 1.21 Members noted a re-statement by the Rodbourne Cheney Residents Association asking for their area to be included in Haydon Wick parish. However, there is a concern that such a transfer might have a significant effect on the ability the Central Swindon North parish to deliver effective and convenient community governance.
- 1.22 Cabinet considered the number of parish councillors in the proposed Rodbourne Cheney and the Gorse Hill and Pinehurst wards be changed.
- 1.23 Gorse Hill and Pinehurst Borough Council Ward Councillor John Ballman raised a number of issues at Cabinet about the number of parish councillors for the parish wards covering the Gorse Hill and Pinehurst Borough Council ward.
- 1.24 There was a further discussion of possible parish ward arrangements at a Community Governance Review Cabinet Member Advisory Group on 26th October 2016. At this meeting, the Cabinet Member for Communities stated she was minded to support the proposals from the Labour Group, especially the local knowledge of the ward councillors from the proposed parish area, relating to Central Swindon North setting out 7 wards as would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance. These are as set out in the recommendations below.

Recommendations:

- 1.25 Central Swindon North Parish - That the area consisting of the Swindon Borough Council wards of Gorse Hill and Pinehurst, and Rodbourne Cheney, in addition to polling districts MWA and MWD from the Mannington and Western ward and polling districts PSA, PSB and PSG from the Penhill and Upper Stratton ward, less the Haydon View part of polling district GPA – Haydon View Road, Mendip Close, Orchid Close, Sunningdale Road, and part of north side of Whitworth Road (Claermont Court to No. 68) - form a new Swindon Central North parish with 15 councillors to secure more effective and convenient community governance within that area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 1.26 That the new parish have a parish council comprising 15 councillors and that the new parish be divided into seven wards to reflect the distribution of communities within it, as set out below:

Recommendations to Council

- 1.26.1 Even Swindon ward with 2 parish councillors, covering the MWA and MWD polling districts,
- 1.26.2 Ferndale ward with 3 parish councillors, covering the RCA and RCD polling districts
- 1.26.3 Gorse Hill ward with 3 parish councillors, covering the GPB and GPD polling districts,
- 1.26.4 Moredon ward with 1 parish councillor, covering the RCB polling district.
- 1.26.5 Penhill ward with 2 parish councillors, covering the PSA, PSB, and PSG polling districts,
- 1.26.6 Pinehurst Ward with 2 councillors covering the GPA polling district, less the streets in Haydon View that are being added to the Haydon Wick parish area, and
- 1.26.7 Rodbourne Cheney ward with 2 parish councillors, covering the RCC polling district.

Central Swindon South / South

- 1.27 One submission supported the proposed Central Swindon North, Central Swindon South and South parishes set out in the consultation.
- 1.28 Of the other responses, a number related explicitly to the Eastcott area namely: 1 submission to move Eastcott from proposed Central Swindon South to the proposed South Swindon parish; 1 submission to keep Eastcott in Central Swindon South; 1 submission to keep Eastcott in a larger parish; 1 submission saying 16 people favoured Eastcott as its own parish; and a 525 signatures on a petition to create a separate Eastcott parish, with the parish being defined as the present Eastcott Borough Council ward, less that part south of Wood Street (the Old Town core).
- 1.29 The following responses referred to Eastcott and Old Town: 19 responses seeking to put Eastcott with Old Town; 13 submissions wanting all of Old Town in a single parish; 1 submissions to keep Old Town in the proposed South parish; 2 submissions to put Old Town in South Central parish; and 1 submission response explicitly wanted Old Town not to be in a parish.
- 1.30 The following responses related to other parts of Central Swindon South or South: 1 to combine Lawn and Badbury Park in the same parish 1 submission in favour of Central Swindon North and South parishes; and 1 submission supporting a South Swindon parish.
- 1.31 There is no general agreement, however, as to what comprises the areas known as “Old Town” and “Eastcott”. Some individual responses noted that Bath Road, the current ward boundary, is not a community boundary. It is also not clear at what points Eastcott residents cease to be in Old Town and associate more with the Town Centre. On that basis, it is not considered that a separate Eastcott Parish would either secure more effective and convenient community

Recommendations to Council

governance within the area or better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

- 1.32 While the comments of Chiseldon Parish Council are noted, it is considered that Badbury Park is a distinct community from the rest of Chiseldon and has greater links with the surrounding parts of the Swindon urban area. It is noted that in the future Badbury Park may be large enough to provide effective and convenient local governance, to complement its growing sense of community identity, the current size of the parish suggests it would not be viable and would not either secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area or better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area. Cabinet considers that the presence of Badbury Park in a new Swindon South Central Parish would help ensure the effectiveness of that parish and better reflect the community identity of that area.
- 1.33 Given the feedback at this stage of the consultation, it is suggested that a large single parish for central Swindon south of the railway line would best secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 1.34 Members are also invited to note the responses concerning Wichelstowe, which are set out below in relation to the Wroughton parish.
- 1.35 The Borough Council suggests that due to the size of the proposed parish, it would be sensible and practicable to create wards for the new parish and it is considered that there should be a parish council of 23 members, and the proposed warding arrangements reflect the current borough council wards and polling districts as set out below.

Recommendations:

- 1.36 *Central Swindon South/ South parishes* - That the Council not proceed with the creation of separate Central Swindon South, and South Swindon Parishes for the reasons outlined above.
- 1.37 *Central Swindon South parish* – That a new Central Swindon South parish be created covering the Swindon Borough Council wards of Central, Eastcott, Old Town, and Walcot and Park North, along with the LEA and LED polling districts of Park South, and the CLA and CLC polling districts from the Chiseldon and Lawn ward on the basis that this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 1.38 That the new parish have a parish council comprising 23 councillors and that the new parish be divided into six wards to reflect the distribution of communities within it, as set out below:
 - 1.38.1 Lawn and Badbury Park ward covering the CLA and CLC polling districts with 3 parish councillors.

Recommendations to Council

- 1.38.2 Old Town ward covering the present Old Town Swindon Borough Council ward with 4 parish councillors.
- 1.38.3 Central ward covering the present Swindon Borough Council Central ward with 5 parish councillors.
- 1.38.4 Eastcott ward covering the Swindon Borough Council Eastcott ward with 5 parish councillors.
- 1.38.5 Park South ward covering the LEA and LED polling districts with 2 parish councillors and
- 1.38.6 Walcot & Park North ward covering the Swindon Borough Council Walcot & Park North ward with 4 parish councillors.

Chiseldon

- 1.39 The Stage Three consultation yielded 1 submission to combine Lawn and Badbury Park in the same parish, 1 submission to retain Coate and Badbury Park in Chiseldon, 2 submissions opposing the creation of a Badbury Park parish, 3 submissions to retain Chiseldon in its current boundaries and 4 submissions to create a separate Badbury Park parish. Consultations undertaken by the Badbury Park Residents' Association indicated support for a separate parish with joining a South Swindon parish as the second preference. Details of this submission were attached at Appendix Three to the 19th October 2016 Cabinet report (Appendix Two to the Council report).
- 1.40 Chiseldon Parish Council made a formal submission, included at Appendix Three to the 19th October 2016 Cabinet report (Appendix Two to the Council report) stating that its opposition to dividing the parish. There were 39 responses out of a possible 300 houses with 30 in favour of remaining in Chiseldon and 9 for belonging to a South Swindon parish.
- 1.41 While the comments of Chiseldon Parish Council are noted, it is considered that Badbury Park is a distinct community from the rest of Chiseldon and has greater links with the surrounding parts of the Swindon urban area and so in order to better secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area, Cabinet is of the view that Badbury Park should be transferred to the proposed Central Swindon South parish.
- 1.42 Cabinet is not minded at this time, however, to recommend creating a separate Badbury Park parish as the area, which has still not been fully developed with housing, would lack the means to provide convenient and effective local governance.
- 1.43 As Chiseldon Parish Council has not requested any reduction in its membership should Badbury park be transferred out of Chiseldon, it is not recommended that there be any change in the number of parish councillors on Chiseldon parish council.

Recommendations to Council

Recommendations:

- 1.44 *Chiseldon parish* - That the Badbury Park part of Chiseldon parish (polling district CLC) be transferred to a new Central Swindon South parish but leave all other borders unchanged as this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 1.45 That Chiseldon Parish Council retains its 15 parish councillors and that the Badbury ward remain unchanged with one member, and 14 members for the amended Chiseldon ward.

Covingham

- 1.46 There was 1 submission to group the Nythe and Covingham parishes, 1 and 1 submission to merge Covingham, Eldene, Liden and Nythe in a single parish.
- 1.47 Covingham Parish Council has declined to proceed with any grouping arrangements as it believes it would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area in its present configuration.

Recommendation:

- 1.48 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Covingham and that Covingham Parish Council retains its 15 parish councillors.

Hannington

- 1.49 No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents.

Recommendation:

- 1.50 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Hannington and that Hannington Parish Council retains its five parish councillors.

Haydon Wick

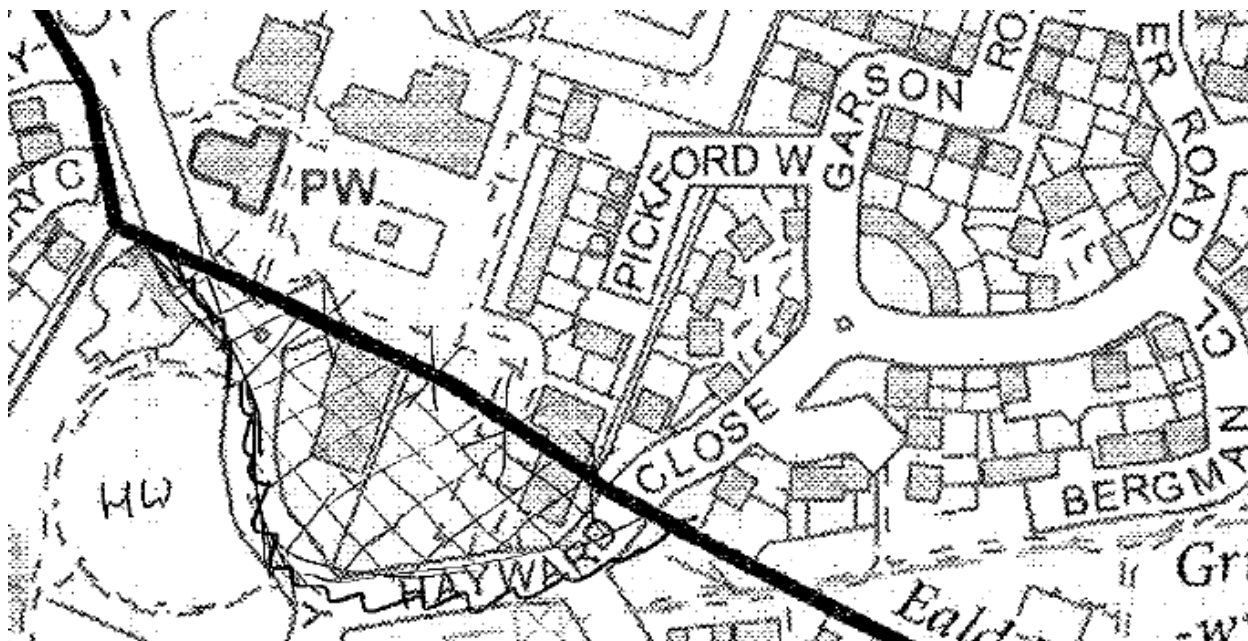
- 1.51 In addition to evidence presented at Stages One and Two, there was 1 submission to create a Blunsdon parish and to expand Haydon Wick parish, 3 submissions to include all of Penhill in Haydon Wick parish, and 4 submissions to include Haydon View, currently in the Rodbourne Cheney ward. Haydon View Community Association also made a submission calling for Haydon View Road, Eastville Road, Sunningdale Road, Mendip Close, and Orchid Close to be included within the Haydon Wick boundaries.
- 1.52 Haydon Wick parish also made a submission, included at Appendix Three to the 19th October 2016 Cabinet report (Appendix Two of the Council report), setting out:
- 1.52.1 The desire to include Haydon View,

Recommendations to Council

- 1.52.2 Changing the parish boundary through Abbeymeads to ensure consistent service delivery and accountability, and
- 1.52.3 Amending the parish ward boundaries to remove the single Member Ray ward.
- 1.53 The existing Haydon Wick parish has a record of delivering effective and convenient community governance within the area and reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area on its current boundaries.
- 1.54 Cabinet was of the view that there was insufficient evidence that the whole of Penhill has shared community interests with Haydon Wick to suggest that including that area in Haydon Wick parish would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 1.55 Members noted that Haydon Wick Parish Council had indicated its willingness to accept the area identified by the Haydon View Residents' Association, with the inclusion of part of Whitworth Road to make for an easily identifiable and recognisable boundary.
- 1.56 Haydon Wick Parish Council has also indicated its willingness to accept all of Abbey Meads, which currently within Blunsdon St Andrew be moved into the Parish of Haydon Wick. The new boundary to run from the junction of Thamesdown Drive and Elstree Way (eastern junction) to the junction of Thamesdown Drive and the A4311 (Cricklade Road). The boundary then to run along the centre line of Cricklade Road to the point where the HP5 footpath (Sherwood Walk) joins the Cricklade Road.
- 1.57 However, Members noted that the area of Abbey Meads would lie in a St Andrews parish if Members choose to continue to proceed with creating one. The area is clearly identified on the map supporting the petition to create St Andrews as belonging to the new parish, not being transferred to Haydon Wick.
- 1.58 A Haydon Wick borough ward councillor also highlighted the anomaly that the present Haydon Wick/Blunsdon St Andrew cuts through buildings in the Abbey Meads village centre, which creates confusion about the responsibility for that area thus undermining efficient and effective community governance. Discussion between that councillor and the lead petitioner to create a St Andrew parish have produced the following proposed minor adjustment, to move the parish boundary southwards as set out in the map below and align it with Elstree Way/Hayward Close).

Recommendations to Council

Figure 2 Adjustment of boundary through Abbey Meads village centre



Recommendations:

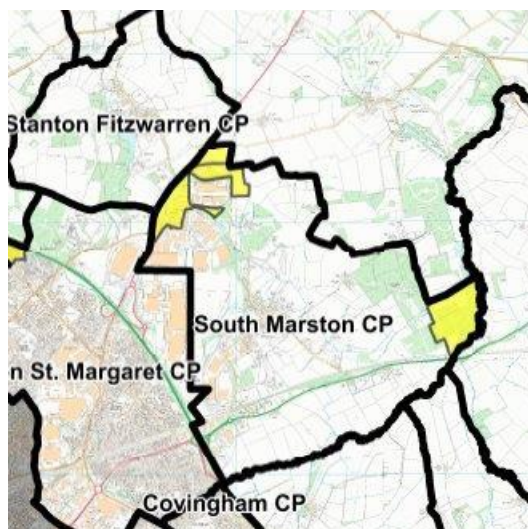
- 1.59 Haydon Wick Parish – That the boundaries be adjusted to Elstree Way/Hayward Close so that Abbey Meads village centre falls entirely within a single parish namely the proposed St Andrews parish and that the boundaries be extended to include the Haydon View part of polling district GPA – Haydon View Road, Mendip Close, Orchid Close, and Sunningdale Road and part of north side of Whitworth Road (Claremont Court to No. 68), as the evidence from the residents' association and the Parish Council, indicates that any change would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 1.60 That the parish be divided into two wards to reflect the distribution of communities within it, as set out below:
- 1.60.1 Haydon Wick ward remains as it is with 9 parish councillors, and
- 1.60.2 Haydon End ward has the former Ray Ward (polling district PVD) added to it, and will comprise 9 parish councillors.

Highworth

- 1.61 Highworth Town Council and South Marston Parish Council have reached mutual agreement to transfer the Rowborough area from Highworth to South Marston as illustrated below. Cabinet has been minded to support such transfers where the parish councils themselves are in agreement.

Recommendations to Council

Figure 3 Adjustment of boundary between Highworth and South Marston



Recommendation:

- 1.62 Highworth – that the area known as Rowborough as marked on the map above be transferred to South Marston parish as this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area. It is further recommended that there be no change to the number of town councillors and that the town council retains its 15 councillors and remain not warded.

Inglesham

- 1.63 No recommendations for changes were received from any residents.

Recommendation:

- 1.64 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Inglesham and that the Parish remains without a parish council.

Liddington

- 1.65 Liddington Parish Council made a submission requesting an increase in the number of parish councillors from seven to eight. However, there was no supporting evidence as to how this change would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area. In addition, it is believed that there has not been a contested parish election in Liddington for some years.

Recommendation:

- 1.66 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Liddington and that Liddington Parish Council retains its 7 parish councillors.

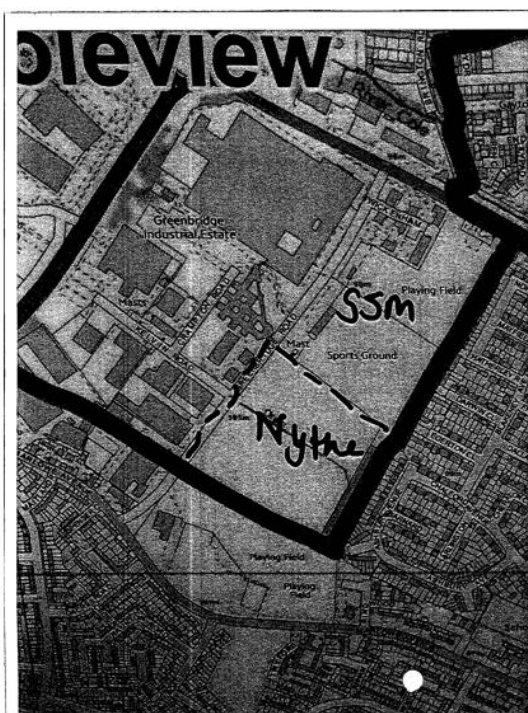
Recommendations to Council

Nythe, Eldene and Liden

- 1.67 Most of the submissions regarding the east of the borough have been generally supportive of extending Nythe parish. There was 1 submission opposing creating an East parish, 1 for a Liden and Eldene parish, 6 in support of a parish covering Nythe, Eldene and Liden, including one requesting minor boundary changes to include the Nythe allotments, 1 submission for an Eldene parish, 1 submission to combine Nythe and Covingham, 1 submission to put Lawn in the East parish, and 1 submission to merge Covingham, Eldene, Liden and Nythe in a single parish.
- 1.68 There was a specific request to move the parish boundary from West View Road to Greenbridge Road to include the Nythe allotments and to move the north west boundary from the hedge row through the Oakfield site to Marlowe Road so the whole area is in one parish. While no residential properties would be affected, the submission contends that such a change would help to secure more effective and convenient community governance by giving Nythe Parish ownership of its allotments, which are currently within the Stratton St Margaret parish boundaries. It would also ensure more effective and convenient community governance for the Oakfield site by placing it entirely within a single parish and not dividing it between Nythe and Stratton St Margaret.
- 1.69 The parish councils of Nythe and Stratton St Margaret have reached mutual agreement to transfer the area of the Nythe allotments rented from Swindon Borough Council but currently situated within the boundaries of Stratton St Margaret be transferred to Nythe as illustrated in the map below. Cabinet has been minded to support such transfers where the parish councils themselves are in agreement.
- 1.70 The submissions relating to expanding the parish to cover Eldene and Liden support the view that this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.

Recommendations to Council

Figure 4 Adjustment of boundary between Stratton St Margaret and Nythe



Recommendations:

- 1.71 *Nythe parish* – That the north eastern boundary be expanded to Greenbridge Road, to include the Nythe allotments, as shown in the map above and that the southern boundary of the parish be expanded to cover Eldene and Liden, presently in the CDE, LEC and LED polling districts. These changes would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 1.72 That Nythe Parish be re-named as Nythe, Liden and Eldene Parish and that it has 9 councillors.
- 1.73 That the parish be divided into three wards to reflect the distribution of communities within it, as set out below:
 - 1.73.1 Eldene ward covering the LEC polling district with 3 councillors,
 - 1.73.2 Liden ward covering the LED and CDE polling districts with 3 councillors, and
 - 1.73.3 Nythe ward covering the CDB polling district with 3 councillors.

South Marston

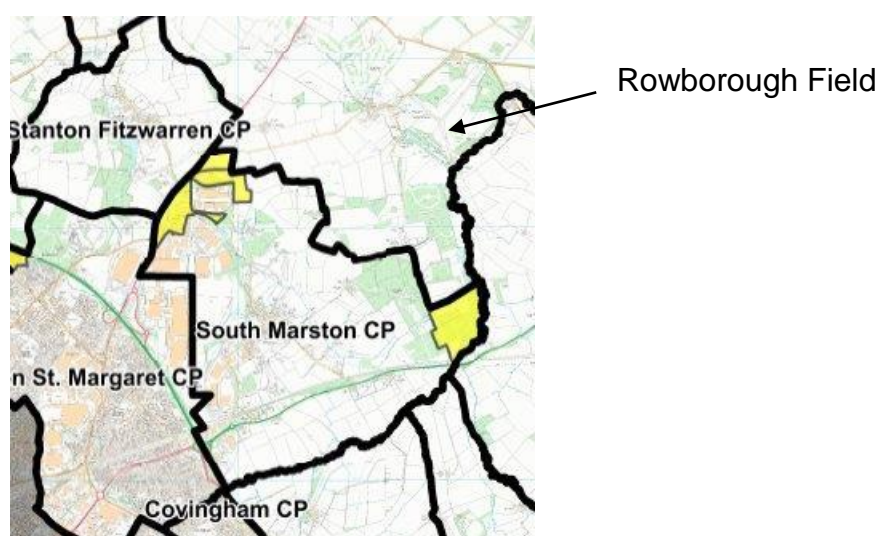
- 1.74 At Stage Two the Borough Council proposed straightening the border between South Marston and Stanton Fitzwarren to run along the A361 instead of through the Supermarine Industrial Estate. No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents. This change would not have

Recommendations to Council

affected any residents but would have provided more effective and convenient community governance within the area. However, as there has been no agreement between the two parishes as to this change, it is not recommended that this change be made.

- 1.75 Highworth Town Council and South Marston Parish Council have reached mutual agreement to transfer the Rowborough area from Highworth to South Marston as illustrated below.

Figure 5 Adjustment of boundary between Highworth and South Marston



Recommendation:

- 1.76 South Marston – that the area known as Rowborough as marked on the map above 1 be transferred to South Marston parish from Highworth as this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area. It is further recommended that there be no other changes to the parish arrangements and that South Marston retains its 9 parish councillors

St Andrews

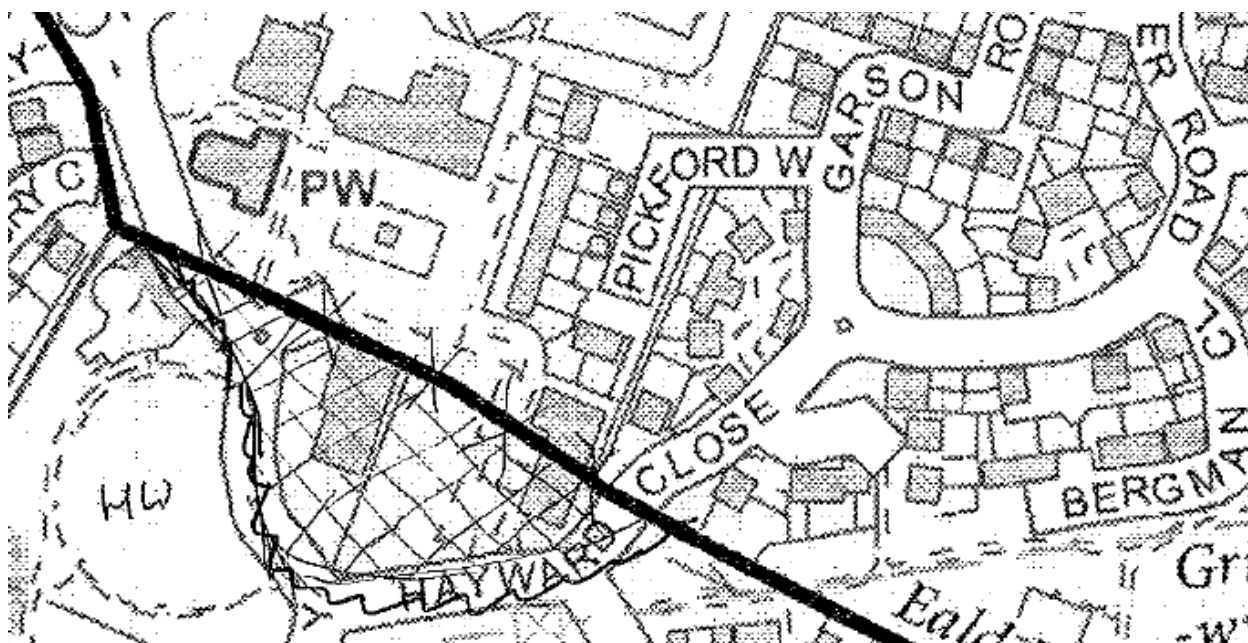
- 1.77 There was 1 submission to create a Blunsdon parish and to include the area covered by the Borough Council's St Andrews ward in an enlarged Haydon Wick parish. Following the earlier petition at Stage One of 899 in favour of dividing the current parish to create a new St Andrews parish with the A419, in effect, forming the eastern boundary, there were subsequent petitions of 390 signatures at Stage Two and 740 signatures at Stage Three opposing such a split. The initial petition favouring the split has been restated.
- 1.78 While there were no further submissions from local residents at this stage supporting the proposed change, the St Andrews Borough Council ward has clearly defined boundaries and encompasses an area with community identities that are distinct from that part of Blunsdon St Andrew that lies north east of A419.

Recommendations to Council

The remaining area around Broad and Lower Blunsdon would also retain a strong community identity and sufficient size to function as a parish.

A Haydon Wick ward councillor also highlighted the anomaly that the present Haydon Wick/Blunsdon St Andrew cuts through buildings in the Abbey Meads village centre, which creates confusion about the responsibility for that area thus undermining efficient and effective community governance. Discussion between that councillor and the lead petitioner to create a St Andrew parish have produced the following proposed minor adjustment, to move the parish boundary southwards as set out in the map below and align it with Elstree Way/Hayward Close).

Figure 6 Adjustment of boundary through Abbey Meads village centre



1.79

Recommendations:

- 1.80 *St Andrews Parish* - That the area south west of the A419 covering the SAA, SAB, SAC, SAD polling districts, together with the minor extension of the boundary through to Elstree Way/Hayward Close to include all of the Abbey Meads village centre, form a new St Andrew parish as this would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance within the area.
- 1.81 That the new parish have a parish council of 11 councillors, which is the number of councillors for the parish ward covering that area presently on Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council, and it shall not be warded.

Stanton Fitzwarren

- 1.82 At Stage Two the Borough Council proposed straightening the border between South Marston and Stanton Fitzwarren to run along the A361 instead of through

Recommendations to Council

the Supermarine Industrial Estate. No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish Council or other residents. This change would not have affected any residents but would have provided more effective and convenient community governance within the area. However, as there has been no agreement between the two parishes as to this change it is not recommended that this change be made.

Recommendation:

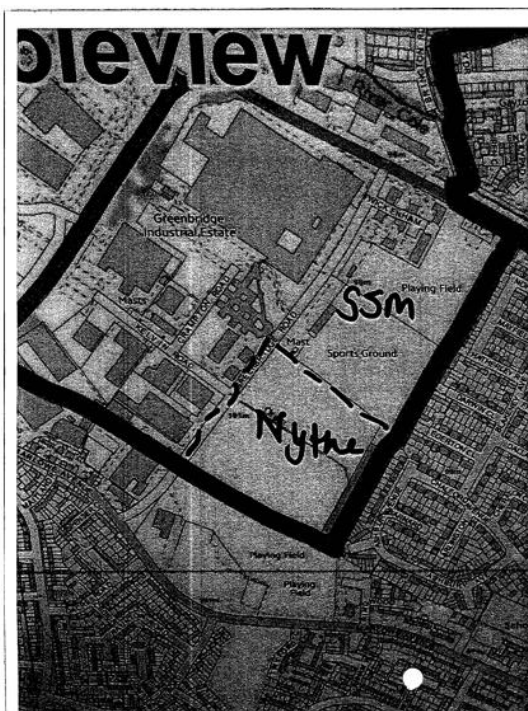
- 1.83 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Stanton Fitzwarren and that Stanton Fitzwarren Parish Council retains its five parish councillors.

Stratton St Margaret

- 1.84 At the Stage Two consultation, Stratton St Margaret parish council expressed a willingness to accept the Kingsdown parish ward contained within polling district PSD from the Blunsdon St Andrew parish. This polling district adjoins the rest of the Kingsdown area, which is in the Stratton Parish but no further evidence was provided.
- 1.85 Blunsdon St Andrew parish council has not given its consent to such a change and without mutual consent between parishes and no compelling evidence that the transfer would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance within the area, Cabinet has been minded to decline to impose changes.
- 1.86 There was a specific request to move the parish boundary from West View Road to Greenbridge Road to include the Nythe allotments and to move the north west boundary from the hedge row through the Oakfield site to Marlowe Road so the whole area is in one parish. While no residential properties would be affected, the submission contends that such a change would help to secure more effective and convenient community governance by giving Nythe Parish ownership of its allotments, which are currently within the Stratton St Margaret parish boundaries. It would also ensure more effective and convenient community governance for the Oakfield site by placing it entirely within a single parish and not dividing it between Nythe and Stratton St Margaret.
- 1.87 The parish councils of Nythe and Stratton St Margaret have reached mutual agreement to transfer the area of the Nythe allotments rented from Swindon Borough Council but currently situated within the boundaries of Stratton St Margaret be transferred to Nythe as illustrated in the map below. Cabinet has been minded to support such transfers where the parish councils themselves are in agreement.
- 1.88 As part of its Stage Two submission, Stratton St Margaret Parish Council did request reducing the number of councillors from 23 to 19 and no subsequent comments have been made on this request.

Recommendations to Council

Figure 7 Adjustment of boundary between Stratton St Margaret and Nythe



Recommendations:

- 1.89 *Stratton St Margaret parish* - That the area of the parish containing the Nythe allotments as set out in the map above be transferred to the Nythe Parish.
- 1.90 That the parish council be reduced to 19 members and that the 5 current wards remain unchanged and that the number of councillors per ward be as follows
- 1.90.1 Lower Coleview ward (polling district CDA), 3 councillors instead of 4
- 1.90.2 Merton ward (polling district GPC) no change with 1 councillor
- 1.90.3 Upper Stratton ward (polling districts PSC, PSE, PSF, SME) 6 councillors instead of 7
- 1.90.4 Lower Stratton ward (polling districts SMA and SMB) 6 councillors instead of 7
- 1.90.5 Coleview ward (polling district SMC), 3 councillors instead of 4.

Wanborough

- 1.91 No recommendations for changes were received from the Parish council or other residents.

Recommendation:

- 1.92 That there be no change to the parish arrangements relating to Wanborough and that Wanborough Parish Council retains its 11 parish councillors.

Recommendations to Council

West Swindon

- 1.93 As part of Stage Three there were 7 submissions supporting the creation of a West Swindon parish and none stating explicit opposition.
- 1.94 West Swindon is widely recognised to be an identifiable community that had a functioning local area forum before the creation of the West Locality, which has provided convenient and effective means for promoting local governance. The West Swindon Centre provides a focal point with sports, leisure, and retail facilities with which local residents identify. The area has had a separate local news magazine – the Link – since 1978 that has reinforced the distinctive West Swindon community identity. Existing smaller geographical neighbourhoods are easily accommodated within the broader sense of identity.
- 1.95 The evidence at Stages One and Two of this process demonstrated a West Swindon parish would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area.
- 1.96 There was a further discussion of possible parish ward arrangements at a Community Governance Review Cabinet Member Advisory Group on 26th October 2016. At this meeting, the Cabinet Member for Communities stated she was minded to support the proposals from the Labour Group, especially the local knowledge of the ward councillors from the proposed parish area, relating to West Swindon setting out 7 wards as would better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and secure effective and convenient community governance. These are as set out in the recommendations below.

Recommendations:

- 1.97 *West Swindon parish* - That a West Swindon parish be created consisting of the Borough Council wards of Lydiard and Freshbrook and Shaw, along with the MWB and MWC polling districts of the Mannington and Western ward.
- 1.98 That the new parish have a parish council comprising 15 councillors and that the new parish be divided into seven wards to reflect the distribution of communities within it, as set out below:
- 1.98.1 Eastleaze and Shaw ward with 1 parish councillor covering the SHD polling district.
- 1.98.2 Freshbrook ward with 2 parish councillors covering the LFC and LFE polling districts,
- 1.98.3 Grange Park ward with 3 parish councillors covering the LFA and LFB polling,
- 1.98.4 Middleaze and Ramleaze ward with 2 parish councillors covering the SHB and SHC polling districts,
- 1.98.5 Peatmoor and Sparcells ward with 2 parish councillors covering the SHA and SHF polling districts'

Recommendations to Council

1.98.6 Toothill ward with 3 parish councillors covering the MWC and LFD polling districts

1.98.7 Westlea ward with 2 parish councillors covering the MWB and SHE polling districts.

Wroughton

1.99 As part of Stage Three there were 3 submissions to add Wichelstowe to Wroughton, 1 submission to add all of Wichelstowe to Old Town, 1 submission to create a Wichelstowe parish and 1 submission to put East Wichel in Wroughton. In addition, there were 3 submissions to leave the Wroughton boundaries unchanged and 2 submissions to add Wichelstowe to Wroughton.

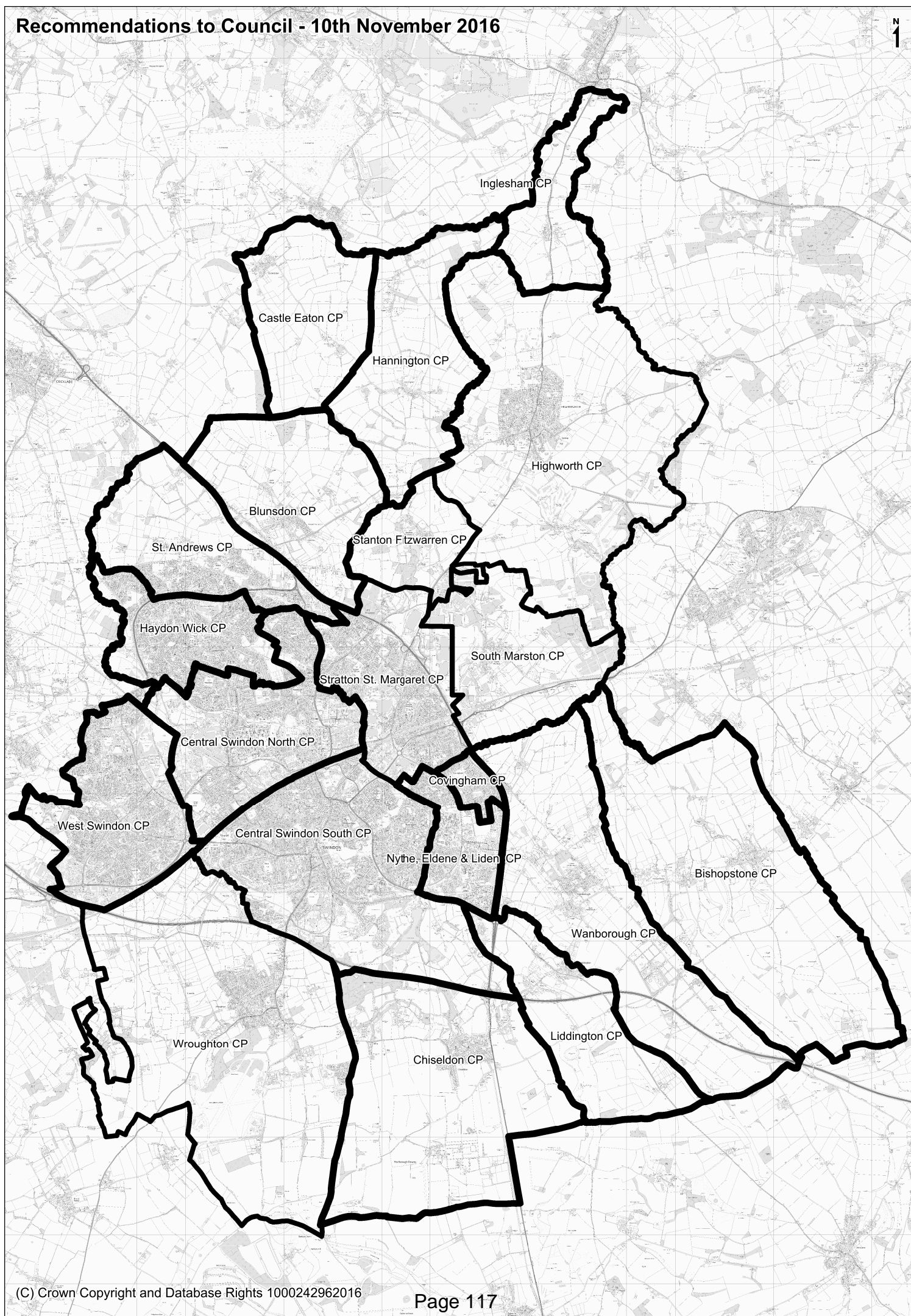
1.100 The Wroughton parish has an established record of both reflecting community interest and in providing effective and convenient local governance, including being one of the pioneers in seeking devolved services from the Borough Council. Moreover, the current pace of development in Middle and West Wichel means that a stand-alone Wichelstowe parish would not be practicable at this time and, therefore, that Middle and West Wichel remain in Wroughton. As Middle and West Wichel are largely undeveloped, it is not considered that East Wichel has any particular community identity either with Middle and West Wichel other than the name, or with Wroughton and so it is not recommended that East Wichel be transferred into Wroughton parish.

1.101 The area known as Hay Lane Camp is presently in the Wroughton and Wichelstowe Borough Council ward as polling district WWA but not within Wroughton Parish. The area has no affinity to West Swindon as it lies in an enclave south of the M4 and north of the Swindon-Chippenham railway line. Its main road link is to Wroughton village centre. Accordingly, it is considered that the area should be transferred into Wroughton parish.

Recommendation:

1.102 Wroughton – that the areas within the WWA polling district be added to Wroughton parish as this would secure more effective and convenient community governance within the area and better reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area. It is recommended that there be no other change to the parish and community governance arrangements relating to Wroughton and that Wroughton Parish Council retains its 15 parish councillors and remains unwarded.

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CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2016

58. Community Governance Review

The Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart, Cabinet Member for Communities, the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Resources, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services submitted a joint report the outcomes of Stage 3 of the Community Governance Review (CGR) and inviting Cabinet to consider the summarised feedback from the Stage 3 consultation, including submissions made by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council (set out in an update to the Cabinet report), and recommend a final proposal to Council.

Councillor Mary Martin, the Cabinet Member for Communities, introduced the report, initially taking members through the various recommendations and then expanding on the detail of the report by responding to members' questions and observations on (i) specific aspects of the Council's proposed response to the formal consultation undertaken by the Council on proposals to entirely parish the Borough through the creation of four new parish councils, extending the Nythe Parish Council area and the amendment of some other existing parish council boundaries, and (ii) the recommendations proposed to be made to Council, as set out in Appendix 5 to the report, as amended in the supplementary papers published before the meeting and tabled at the meeting, and including submissions made by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council.

Councillor Martin, with Councillors David Renard, the Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet, Toby Elliott, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Brian Ford Cabinet Member Adults' Health and Social Care and Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Highways, and Transport, responded at the meeting to questions put by Councillors John Ballman (Gorse Hill and Pinehurst), Gemma McCracken (St Andrews), Cathy Martyn (Wroughton and Wichelstowe), Jane Milner-Barry (Old Town), Des Moffatt (Rodbourne Cheney), Stan Pajak (Eastcott), Maureen Penny (Highworth and Blunsdon), Jim Robbins (Mannington and Western), Vera Tomlinson (St Andrews), Chris Watts (Liden, Eldene & Park South), Peter Watts (Rodbourne Cheney), Steve Weisinger (Blunsdon and Highworth), and Bob Wright (Central) on the following issues:

- The position on conducting a Referendum to assess Swindon residents' opinion on the parishing of the entire borough area.
- The ratios for the appointment councillors to each Parish and the principles that supported those calculations.
- The validation and transparency of the Review process and opportunity to make changes to the recommendations to be made to Council.
- The shortfall in funding made available to the Council from Central government and the motivation for the Review.
- The suggestion that public engagement with the Review has been limited

and that the recommendations have been influenced by only a minority of residents.

- The ratio of the electorate to the number of parish councils proposed to be created and the effect on those ratios of residents who are not on the electoral register.
- The extent of consultation with existing parished areas and the role of Shadow Parish Councils.
- The inclusion of polling district SAD in the new Blunsdon St Andrew Parish.
- The viability of the recommended parishes.
- Practicalities associated with the current positioning of the Haydon Wick Parish and Blunsdon St Andrew boundary through the Abbey Meads Village centre.
- The comment received from Highworth Town Council that the Highworth boundary be amended to include “Supermarine”.
- The proposed warding arrangements in respect of Nythe, Eldene and Liden and the effect of those arrangements on the position of existing Nythe Councillors.
- The principles supporting the recommendation that areas within the WAA polling district be added to Wroughton parish.
- The correlation between parish boundaries and size and the precepts that might be levied to ensure the future sustainability of services.

The Director of Law and Democratic Services responded to questions on the timing and scope of new elections and confirmed that Council could amend recommendations put forward by the Cabinet, providing there was an adequate rationale that met the statutory requirements for the community governance review.

Councillor Martin advised that, in response to issues raised by members and the public, during public question time, she would, on request, convene her Community Governance Cabinet Member Advisory Group to consider parish ward arrangements. Councillor Martin also invited Councillors from Haydon Wick and St Andrews to come forward before the scheduled Council meeting in November to discuss the proposed changes to the boundary through the Abbey Meads Village centre.

Resolved – (1) That the summarised feedback received from Stage 3 of the Community Governance Review, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report and the additional papers circulated after the initial agenda despatch, be noted.

(2) That the proposed arrangements to agree the transfer of property assets from the Borough Council to parish councils, if new parishes are established, as set out in the body of the report, be noted.

(3) That £3m of one-off resources be set aside to fund parish reserves and transitional funding, on the basis set out in the body of the report, and that the Corporate Director Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, be authorised to agree the exact payment to be made to each parish council within these terms.

(4) That the Corporate Director Resources be authorised to respond to the Government’s consultation on ‘Council Tax precept referendum criteria for parish councils’, to the effect that the Council supports the Government’s proposal that should the ‘Council Tax increase referendum criteria’ be extended to parishes in future, it should not apply where there is a transfer in responsibility for services from a principal authority to a local council.

(5) That Council be recommended that it:

- a) Agrees to the recommendations set out in Appendix 5 to the report, as amended in supplementary papers published before the meeting and tabled at the meeting, including submissions made by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council, and the following additional recommendations, in relation to the parished and currently unparished areas of the Borough, in order to ensure that community governance within the Borough is effective and convenient, and reflective of the identities and interests of communities within the Borough:

Additional Recommendations

- i. St Andrews – to include polling district SAD in the proposed new parish.
 - ii. Nythe/Stratton St Margaret – to adjust the border so that the Nythe allotments fall within the current Nythe parish
 - b) Notes that parishing the entire Borough would enable community empowerment at local level consistently throughout the Borough and extend localism to those parts of the Borough that do not currently have a local council and so do not have the full range of options for local service provision;
 - c) Agrees that the final proposal map at Appendix Six is approved as the new boundaries of existing and new parishes with effect from the dates to be set out in the Order;
 - d) Adopt and give effect to the recommendations of the Cabinet.
- (6) That, subject to Council approving the recommendation set out in (5) above, Cabinet further recommends that Council:
- e) Authorises the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, to:
 - i. Establish Shadow Councils for each of the proposed new parishes with a membership of at least 5 in number made up from the ward members in each area;
 - ii. Determine, in consultation with the Shadow Parishes, the governance arrangements for each new parish;
 - iii. In accordance with the requirements set out in Section 96 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, to publish the Council's decision in relation to these recommendations together with the reasons for making this decision, and to take such steps as he considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the Community Governance Review are informed of that decision.
 - f) Authorises the Head of StreetSmart to organise the borough council's workforce in such a way as to facilitate any service transfer that may be agreed between the borough council and any new or existing parish or town council.
 - g) Authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services to:
 - i. prepare, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, a revised scheme and consequential Community Governance Reorganisation Order to include such provisions as he considers appropriate in relation to (inter alia) implementation dates, asset transfers, and warding arrangements;
 - ii. seek the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission to any consequential changes to the protected electoral arrangements set out in the Swindon (Electoral Changes) Order 2012; and
 - iii. Make and implement the Reorganisation Order.

(7) That, in furtherance of the resolution of issues raised during the course of Cabinet's consideration of this matter, the Director of Law and Democratic be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Communities, to make such additional amendments as he may consider necessary to Appendix 5, and the proposal map in Appendix 6, in advance of its submission to the Council meeting in November 2016.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2016

MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

SCHOOLS FORUM

TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2016

13. Schools Forum Membership

The Head of Education submitted a report advising members that a review of the Schools Forum had been conducted. Mr Peter Nathan, Head of Education, advised that the review had been undertaken to ensure that the current membership was appropriate in light of the evolving balance of schools in Swindon and with regards to the 2002 Education Act, Schools Forum (England) regulations 2012 and Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide 2015. He referred to the membership structure and advised that to ensure proportionality, there was only one member from the maintained secondary school and that an extra member be elected by the mainstream Academy proprietors at a later date.

Mr Nathan responded to members' queries regarding the representation from Special Schools and the election of an academy representative by the Academy proprietors.

Resolved: That the Schools Forum recommends to Council that:

(a) The maintained school members within each group are drawn from headteachers, senior members of staff and governors.

(b) The number of mainstream Schools Forum members remains at 12 (21 Schools Forum members in total).

(c) The vacant maintained secondary governor position is deleted.

(d) That one extra member is elected to represent mainstream academies, to be elected at a later date by the proprietors of mainstream Swindon Academies.

(e) The Proposed membership structure and representatives of Schools Forum at Appendix 1 of the report.

(f) It notes there is currently a vacancy for a representative of Special Academies and the proprietor of the special academy is requested to seek a representative for Schools Forum.

(g) The Terms of Reference for Schools Forum be revised as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

(h) That the Head of Education be requested to contact the Academy proprietors to request they nominate a representative to the Schools Forum.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2016

34. Scrutiny Committee Annual report 2015/16

The Committee considered its Annual Report for 2015/16 prepared by the Director of Law and Democratic Services.

The Annual Report highlighted the work of the Scrutiny Committee and its five Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the Municipal Year 2015/16, in their role of supporting the Council's decision-making and policy development processes and the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee explained in his foreword to the report that the Scrutiny Committee recommendations are relied on to ensure Swindon's diverse needs are accounted for in these difficult and transitional times. He referred to the new ways of working with the challenge of ensuring resilience with excellence, the introduction of 'Pre-Scrutiny' and a re-focus on the Cabinets Work Plan. The Committee noted that the public role of the Overview and Scrutiny function was one area for improvement. In light of this, members felt that there needed to be an element of reflection of how Scrutiny in Swindon could be more effective and the structures currently in place remain fit for purpose.

The Committee thanked the Director of Law and Democratic Services for a very good report that highlighted the work of Scrutiny in Swindon.

Resolved – (1) That the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2015/16 be noted and referred to Full Council for information.

(2) That arrangements are made for a workshop, open to all members of the Council, to consider improvements to the Scrutiny process in Swindon. The workshop to be held prior to a future Scrutiny Committee.

Schools Forum Membership Update

Schools Forum

Date: 18th October 2016

Author: Head of Education

Wards: All

Locality Affected: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1. The Local Authority has conducted a review of Schools Forum to ensure that the current membership is appropriate in the light of the evolving balance of schools in Swindon and with regards to the 2002 Education Act, Schools Forum (England) regulations 2012 and Schools Forum Operational and Good Practice Guide 2015.
- 1.2. Following the review, this report has been submitted to enable the Forum to discuss the revised membership structure and revised Terms of Reference for Schools Forum. These are outlined below.

2. Recommendations

The Schools Forum is asked to recommend to the Council that:

- 2.1. The maintained school members within each group are drawn from headteachers, senior members of staff and governors (para. 3.8).
- 2.2. The number of mainstream Schools Forum members remains at 12 (21 Schools Forum members in total) (para. 3.15)
- 2.3. The vacant maintained secondary governor position is deleted (para. 3.15)

That one extra member is elected to represent mainstream academies, to be elected at a later date by the proprietors of mainstream Swindon Academies (para. 3.16)
- 2.4. The Proposed membership structure and representatives of Schools Forum at Appendix 1 (para. 3.19).
- 2.5. The Terms of Reference for Schools Forum be revised as set out in Appendix 2 (para. 3.34).
- 2.6. Note there is currently a vacancy for a representative of Special Academies and the proprietor of the special academy is requested to seek a representative for Schools Forum (para. 3.27).

Schools Forum Membership Update

Schools Forum

Date: 18th October 2016

3. Detail

- 3.1. Section 43 of the 2002 Education Act required Local Authorities to establish a Schools Forum to represent its schools.
- 3.2. Schools Forum were put in place to support local authorities on matters relating to school budgets and therefore play an important part in the local decision-making process.
- 3.3. Each local authority must ensure that the Schools Forum for its area is constituted in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Education Funding Agency. The local Authority is responsible for determining the size of membership and terms of office of the Schools Forum.
- 3.4. The existing representation of the Forum was last considered at the Schools Forum meeting held on 8th July 2014 (Minute 2, 2014/15 refers).
- 3.5. As part of the regular committee process a review of the Schools Forum constitution has been undertaken, this report has been submitted to enable the Forum to discuss the findings of this review.
- 3.6. Section 1 of the Regulations defines the meaning of 'school' for the purpose of regulations as being a maintained school. Therefore the only persons who can be part of the school members group are persons from a maintained school. The schools forum guidance at paragraph 3 confirms this when it states 'school members represent specified phases of types of maintained schools within the area'. The Governors group of the Swindon Schools Forum is a subgroup of the school members group and therefore can only comprise of members from maintained schools and can only be elected by maintained schools.
- 3.7. Section 2 of the Schools Forum regulations requires that Schools Forums have three types of groups. These are:
 - 3.7.1. School Members (maintained schools) elected by members of that group
 - 3.7.2. Academy members elected by Academy proprietors
 - 3.7.3. Non-schools members

Current Schools Forum membership

- 3.8. The local authority has the discretion to divide the School Member groups (maintained schools) into one or more sub-groups. The local authority propose that the members within each group are representatives drawn from headteachers, senior members of staff and governors within each group instead of separate headteacher and governor sub-groups due to the expansion of academies.

Schools Forum Membership Update

Schools Forum

Date: 18th October 2016

Members of the Schools Forum are asked to recommend to the Council:

- **That the local authority propose that the members within each School Members group are drawn from headteachers, senior members of staff and governors**

- 3.9. The maintained schools members can include governors in each group (i.e. Primary, Secondary and Special), these representatives can only lawfully be filled by a governor of a maintained school as set out in schools forums (England) regulations 2012 and guidance.
- 3.10. Schools and academy members together must comprise at least two thirds of the total membership of schools forum and the balance between maintained primary, maintained secondary and academy mainstream members must be broadly proportionate to the number of pupils in each category, so the structure of Forum should be regularly reviewed, i.e. annually.
- 3.11. As at the October 2015 school census there were 29,826 mainstream pupils and the proportion of current members representing the mainstream sector has been reviewed to ensure that the representation is broadly proportionate.
- 3.12. Officers have carried out a review to ensure that the Schools Forum mainstream representation is broadly proportionate to the number of mainstream pupils between maintained primary, maintained secondary and academy pupils. Table 1 below shows the numbers of pupils and proportion in each sector.
- 3.13. There is one maintained secondary school and therefore there has to be a minimum of one school member representing this group.
- 3.14. The review has indicated that the mainstream academy pupil proportion is 62% but of the current Schools Forum the proportion of members representing mainstream academies is 50%. See Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Schools Forum Mainstream Members	Total	Maintained Schools		Mainstream Academy
		Primary	Secondary	Total
Pupils Oct 15 census	29,826	10,246	1,079	18,501
Proportion of pupils	100%	34.4%	3.6%	62.0%
Current Schools Forum Members	12	4	2	6
Current proportion of Members	100%	33.3%	16.7%	50.0%
Proposed Schools Forum Members	12	4	1	7
Proposed proportion of Members	100%	33.3%	8.3%	58.3%

Schools Forum Membership Update

Schools Forum

Date: 18th October 2016

- 3.15. Therefore it is proposed that the number of mainstream Schools Forum Members remains at 12 and the vacant maintained secondary governor position is deleted to ensure that there is only one representative from the maintained secondary sector as there is only one maintained secondary school.
- 3.16. It is proposed that an extra member to represent mainstream academies is elected by the mainstream Academy proprietors at a later date.
- 3.17. It is for the proprietors of academies within each of the academy sub-groups to elect their representatives. It is not appropriate, therefore, for Headteacher phase groups to determine representation unless the academy proprietors have agreed and even then the voting would need to exclude maintained school representatives.

Members of the Schools Forum are now asked to recommend to the Council :

- That the number of mainstream members remains at 12 (21 Schools Forum members in total) (para. 3.15)
- That the vacant maintained secondary governor position is deleted (para. 3.15)
- That an extra member is elected to represent mainstream academies, to be elected at a later date by the proprietors of mainstream Swindon Academies (para. 3.16)

- 3.18. The current and proposed membership structure can be seen in Table 2 below.

Schools Forum Members	Current Structure	Proposed Structure
Schools (Maintained)	9	8
Academy	7	8
Non-Schools	5	5
Total Schools Forum	21	21

- 3.19. The proposed membership structure and current representatives can be seen at Appendix 1.

Members of the Schools Forum are now asked to recommend to the Council :

The proposed membership structure and representatives of Schools Forum at Appendix 1

Schools Forum Membership Update

Schools Forum

Date: 18th October 2016

3.20. In addition to the proposed additional academy representative (para. 3.14) there is also one further Schools Forum member vacancy:

- Academies – Special academy

School Members (Maintained schools)

3.21. School members represent specified phases or types of maintained schools. As a minimum, schools forum must contain representatives of two groups of schools, primary and secondary schools, unless there are no primary or secondary schools maintained by the LA. Where a LA maintains one or more special schools the schools forum must have at least one member from that sector and the same applies to pupil referral units (PRUs).

3.22. The school members should be representative of the number of pupils attending maintained schools and the representative should be a head teacher, senior member of staff or governor. There should be at least one representative from the following sectors:

- Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) (1 representative)
- Special School (2 representative)
- Secondary School (Currently 2 representatives but a reduction to 1 is proposed at para 3.15)
- Primary School (4 representatives)

3.23. The relevant sub-group of the school sector will elect representative, e.g. primary school representatives are elected by the primary schools.

Academy Members

3.24. Academy Members, which includes the University Technical College and Free Schools must represent mainstream academies, and have at least one representative from Special or Alternative Provision academies if there are any in the LA area:

- Mainstream academies (Currently 6 representatives plus the additional representative that is proposed in para 3.16)
- Special academies (1 representative - Vacant)
- Alternative Provision (AP) academies – currently there is no AP academy in Swindon but if and when one opens there should be a representative on Schools Forum.

3.25. Academy representatives are not required to represent specific primary and secondary phases but academy proprietors are encouraged to ensure representation remains broadly proportionate to pupil numbers. Academy

Schools Forum Membership Update

Schools Forum

Date: 18th October 2016

members must be separately elected and designated from maintained school representatives.

- 3.26. Academies members must be elected to the Schools Forum by the proprietors of the Academies in the authority's area. Academies members are there to represent the proprietor bodies of academies and are, therefore, not necessarily restricted to principals, senior staff or governors.
- 3.27. There is currently a vacancy for a representative of Special Academies. There is only one special academy in Swindon and the proprietor of the special academy is requested to seek a representative for Schools Forum.

Members of the Schools Forum are now asked to:

- **Note there is currently a vacancy for a representative of Special Academies and that the proprietor of the special academy is requested to seek a representative for Schools Forum**

Non-School Members

- 3.28. Non-schools members may number no more than a third of Schools Forum's total membership. A representative of providers of 16-19 education must be elected from those providers. As with academies the providers are probably best placed to determine the election process.
- 3.29. The local authority must appoint at least one person to represent early years providers from the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector. Early years PVI settings need to be represented because funding for the free entitlement for three and four year olds and eligible two year olds comes from the Dedicated Schools Grant, and all settings are funded through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF).
- 3.30. Before appointing additional non-schools members to the Schools Forum, the local authority must consider whether the Church of England and Roman Catholic dioceses situated in the local authority's area should be represented on the Schools Forum.
- 3.31. The purpose of non-schools members is also to bring greater breadth of discussion to schools forum meetings and ensure that stakeholders and partners other than schools are represented. Organisations which typically provide non-schools members are trades unions, professional associations and representatives of youth groups. However, as there are clearly limited numbers of non-schools members able to be on Schools Forum, care should be taken to ensure that an appropriate representation from wider stakeholders is achieved.
- 3.32. The current non-school members can be found at Appendix 1.

Schools Forum Membership Update

Schools Forum

Date: 18th October 2016

Schools Forum Membership Terms of Reference

- 3.33. Section 43 of the 2002 Education Act required Local Authorities to establish a Schools Forum to represent its schools. Subsequent regulations have extended and amended the original Act. The current regulations are Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 2261 Education England: "The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012".
- 3.34. It has been identified as part of the review that the current terms of reference were not as clearly set out as necessary to comply with the requirements in the regulations and guidance. The terms of reference have been updated and can be found at Appendix 2.

Members of the Schools Forum are now asked to recommend to the Council :

- **The Terms of Reference for Schools Forum be revised as set out in Appendix 2**

Election and nomination of schools (maintained) and academy members

- 3.35. The relevant group is probably best placed to determine how their schools members (maintained) should be elected.
- 3.36. Academies members must be elected to the Schools Forum by the proprietors of the Academies in the authority's area. Academies members are there to represent the proprietor bodies of academies and are, therefore, not necessarily restricted to principals, senior staff or governors.
- 3.37. There are currently vacancies for the following schools forum representatives:
- Special Academy (para. 3.27)
 - Proposed mainstream Academy - If agreed by Schools Forum (para. 3.14)

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1. In light of Maintained Schools converting to Academy Status, there is a need to review the membership of the Schools Forum and therefore, no other options have been considered.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1. There are no specific implications relating to this report.

Schools Forum Membership Update

Schools Forum

Date: 18th October 2016

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2. The legal implications are set out in the body of the report.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3. There are no such direct implications.

Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA)

- 5.4. The report reflects changes in the diversity of schools in Swindon.

Risk Assessment

There are no specific risk implications.

6. Consultees

- 6.1. The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1. Schools Forum: A Guide for Schools and Academies:
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/schools-forum-a-guide-for-schools-and-academies>
- 7.2. Schools Forums Operations and Good Practice Guide 2015.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-forums-operational-and-good-practice-guide-2015>

8. Appendices

- 8.1. Appendix 1 – Proposed Schools Forum Membership
- 8.2. Appendix 2 – Schools Forum Terms of Reference

Proposed School Forum Membership (September 2016)

Maintained Schools
1 Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher or senior member of staff
2 Special School Headteacher, senior member of staff or Governor
1 Secondary Headteacher, senior member of staff or Governor (reduced from 2 proposal in report)
4 Primary Headteachers, senior members of staff or Governors

Academies – any type of member
6 Mainstream representatives (plus 1 additional member proposed in report)
1 Special representative

Non Schools Members - any type of member
Diocesan
Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent Provider representative
Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Community representative
Trade Union representative

Observer Education Funding Agency (EFA)
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Peter Nathan,
Direct Dial 01793 463067, pnathan@swindon.gov.uk.

Current Schools Forum Representatives (September 2016)

Maintained School Representatives	Name	Term of office (4 years - HT/SLT 3 years - Governor)
Pupil Referral Unit Headteacher	Ben Slater	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Special School Headteacher	Jackie Smith	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Secondary Headteacher	Sue Banks	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Primary Headteacher	Janet Urban	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Primary Headteacher	Alison Lowe	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Primary Headteacher	Rhian Cockwell	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Governor - Special	Charles Law	Sept 2014 - Aug 2017
Governor - Secondary	VACANCY	Propose to be deleted (18/10/16)
Governor - Primary	Ray Williams	Sept 2014 - Aug 2017

Academy Representatives	Name	Term of office (4 years)
Mainstream Academy (Secondary)	Wendy Conaghan	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Mainstream Academy (Secondary)	James Povoas	July 2016 - July 2020
Mainstream Academy (Secondary)	Clive Zimmerman	July 2016 - July 2020
Mainstream Academy (Primary)	Lauren Costello	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Mainstream Academy (Primary)	Andrew Henstridge	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Mainstream Academy (Primary)	Jane Wheatley	Sept 2014 - Aug 2018
Mainstream Academy (Proposed)	VACANCY (if agreed 18/10/16)	
Special Academy	VACANCY	

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Peter Nathan,
Direct Dial 01793 463067, pnathan@swindon.gov.uk.

Non-School Representatives	Name	Term of office (3 years)
Diocesan – Clifton Catholic / Bristol CE	Ruth Lee (Clifton Catholic) / VACANCY (Bristol CE)	Sept 2014 - Aug 2017
Early Years Private, Voluntary and Independent Provider	Kate Adams	Mar 2015 - Mar 2018
16 – 19 Partnership	Graham Taylor / Andrew Miller (alternating)	Sept 2014 - Aug 2017
Black and Minority Ethnic (BME)	Ram Thiagarajah	Sept 2014 - Aug 2017
Trade Union	Peter Smith	Sept 2014 - Aug 2017

Observer Education Funding Agency (EFA)	Owen Jenkins	N/A
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Peter Nathan, Direct Dial 01793 463067, pnathan@swindon.gov.uk.

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Swindon Borough Council
Schools Forum
Terms of Reference (Sept 2016)

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Peter Nathan,
Direct Dial 01793 463067, pnathan@swindon.gov.uk.

Schools Forum Membership – Revised Terms of Reference September 2016

1. Regulations

Section 43 of the 2002 Education Act required Local Authorities to establish a Schools Forum to represent its schools. Subsequent regulations have extended and amended the original Act. The current regulations are Statutory Instrument 2012 No. 2261 Education England: “The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012”. Guidance issued by the Department for Education available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-forums-operational-and-good-practice-guide-2015>

2. Functions

The Functions of the Schools Forum are set out in Appendix A.

3. Membership

School Members (Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools) (9)

- 1 Head of Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) or senior member of staff
- 1 Head of Special School, Headteacher or senior member of staff
- 1 Secondary Headteacher or senior member of staff
- 3 Primary Headteachers or senior members of staff
- 1 Governor – Primary
- 1 Governor – Secondary (*to be deleted if agreed by SF 18/10/16*)
- 1 Governor - Special

Academies (including the UTC and Free Schools) (7)

- 6 Mainstream representatives (*plus 1 if agreed by SF 18/10/16*)
- 1 Special representative
- 1 *Alternative Provision (AP) representative (as and when an AP free school opens)*

Non School Members (5)

- 1 Representative of the Roman Catholic and Anglican Dioceses
- 1 Early Years Representative
- 1 Representative of the 16-19 Institutions
- 1 Representative from the Black and Minority Ethnic Community
- 1 Representative of the Teachers’ Trade Unions

Observers (1)

- 1 Education Funding Agency

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Peter Nathan, Direct Dial 01793 463067, pnathan@swindon.gov.uk.

Other attendees permitted to contribute

The Chief Financial Officer
The Director of Children's Services
Head of Education
Officers providing financial & technical advice to the Schools' Forum
The Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Presenters (restricted to the paper they are presenting)
The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources

4. Period of membership

School and Academy Members

Governors	3 years
Headteachers/Senior member of staff	4 years

Non-School Members

All Members	3 years
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The varying lengths of membership terms are designated to ensure that continuity of experience is maintained within the Forum.

Where a vacancy arises, the Authority shall appoint a replacement elected by the members of the relevant group nominated in accordance with the set procedure for such nominations.

In addition to a term of office coming to an end, a schools' member ceases to be a member of the Schools Forum if he/she resigns from the Forum or no longer occupies the office that he/ she was nominated to represent.

5. Substitutes

No substitutes are allowed.

6. Election of members

Members will be elected through the following processes:

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair of the Forum will be drawn from schools members only. He/She will be elected by a simple majority vote of members at a quorate meeting. The Vice Chair will be elected by the same process.

Election for Chair will be held on an annual basis. The next election is to be held at the first meeting in the financial year 2017-18.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Peter Nathan, Direct Dial 01793 463067, pnathan@swindon.gov.uk.

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair at any quorate meeting, the members will elect a chair for the meeting, drawn from the whole membership present.

Maintained School Members

Each representative group will be responsible for the method by which they elect and nominate representatives and should take full account of the Department for Education guidance upon the election and nomination of school representatives. Members can be drawn from Headteachers, senior members of staff and governors.

Academy Members

Academies members must be elected to the schools forum by the proprietors of the Academies in the authority's area. Academies members are there to represent the proprietor bodies of academies and are, therefore, not necessarily restricted to principals, senior staff or governors. For the avoidance of doubt, Free Schools, University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools are classed as academies for this purpose. There is no distinction between sponsored, non-recoupment and converter academies.

There are three sub-groups for academy members: mainstream academies, special academies and alternative provision academies and it is for the proprietors of academies within each of these sub-groups to elect their representatives. It is not appropriate, therefore, for headteacher phase groups to determine representation unless the academy proprietors have agreed and even then the voting would need to exclude maintained school representatives. There is no requirement for academies members to be split into primary and secondary sub-groups. However, the local authority would encourage academies to consider the pupil proportions across all academies when electing their representatives.

7. Quorum

The Forum shall be quorate if at least 40% of total membership is present at the meeting. If a meeting is inquorate, it may proceed but it cannot legally make decisions. An inquorate meeting can respond to the local authority's consultation and give views to the authority. It would normally be good practice for the authority to take account of such "unofficial" views but it is not legally obliged to do so. An inquorate meeting would have to be reconvened for decisions to be legally taken.

8. Declaration of interest and conduct

In carrying out their functions, members of the Forum shall act in accordance with the seven principles of public life set out in The Code of Conduct drawn up

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Peter Nathan, Direct Dial 01793 463067, pnathan@swindon.gov.uk.

by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) in 1995 and the terms were clarified in 2013: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership.

At each meeting, members of the Forum shall declare an interest in any proposals, which directly affect a school at which they are a governor or headteacher or which their children attend or in which they have a pecuniary interest.

Forum members must declare an interest where relevant, for example, when discussing the letting of service contracts.

9. Voting arrangements

The voting arrangements shall be as follows:

- (a) Voting on the funding formulae will be restricted to school members and the Early Years member.
- (b) Voting on items which are subject to de-delegation will be restricted to the relevant phase of maintained school members.
- (c) Any other question to be decided at a meeting of the Forum shall be determined by a majority of the votes of members present. The Chair will not vote unless there is a need for a casting vote.

10. Conduct of meetings

Consultation on final changes to the formula will take place within a given period of the start of the financial year. Otherwise, meetings will take place a minimum of three times a year.

Extraordinary meetings may be called at the request of Council Officers and with the agreement of the Chair.

Meetings will be held at a time of day and at an appropriate location to allow full participation by members – 4.00 pm in the Civic Offices – or otherwise notified to Forum members ten days before each regular meeting.

These arrangements may be changed by a quorate meeting of the Forum.

Working groups or sub-groups of the Forum will be constituted as necessary to discuss specific issues and to produce draft advice for the Forum to consider. The Forum will agree the terms of reference of such groups and specify membership arrangements.

Sub-groups of the Forum will consider policy and make recommendations to the Forum but will not have delegated decision-making powers.

Sub-groups will be required to report to a full (quorate) meeting of the Forum for approval of findings before such findings are published or formally passed to the Local Authority.

Meetings of the Schools Forum shall be open and notes of the meetings will be available to the public. This will apply to sub-groups.

Forum members must declare an interest where relevant, for example, when discussing the letting of service contracts.

The Forum shall inform the Governing Bodies of all schools of the results of these consultations within 14 days of the date of the consultation.

Reports on the action taken by the Local Authority in response to Forum advice will be given by the Director of Children's Services or his or her representative as necessary.

Feedback from Governing Bodies on the value of the Forum and the appropriateness of its response to consultations will be requested at regular intervals of 12 months.

11. Public access

Papers, agendas and minutes of the Forum will be publically available through the Council's website.

In accordance with Council Standing Order 28, public questions are to be submitted to the Clerk, in writing at least 24 hours before the meeting to enable officers to provide a written response.

Proceedings and meetings of the Forum shall be open to the public except in limited circumstances as decided by the Forum.

Appendix A

Schools Forum - Functions

All Schools Forums must adhere to The Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

- i) To be consulted on the LA's schools funding formula
- ii) To be consulted annually on the following specific issues relating to the Schools Budget:
 - a) special educational needs
 - b) pupil referral units and education otherwise than at school
 - c) arrangements for early years education
 - d) arrangements for the allocation of Government grants to schools
- iii) To be consulted (at least one month prior to the issue of tenders) on the terms of contracts to be let by an LA for services to schools where the contract is funded from within the Schools Budget and is of a size requiring adherence to relevant Public Services Contracts Regulations.
- iv) To be consulted on any proposed application to the DfE with regards to exclusions from the MFG
- v) By phase, to agree De-delegation for mainstream schools for:
 - a) Contingencies
 - b) Administration of free school meals
 - c) Insurance
 - d) Licence/subscriptions
 - e) Staff costs - supply cover
 - f) Support for minority ethnic pupils/underachieving groups
 - g) Behaviour support services
 - h) Museum and library services
- vi) To agree Central spend and the criteria for allocating funding from:
 - a) Funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth
- vii) To agree Central spend on:
 - a) Equal pay back-pay
 - b) Places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Peter Nathan, Direct Dial 01793 463067, pnathan@swindon.gov.uk.

- c) Early Years expenditure
 - d) Admissions
 - e) Servicing of schools forum
 - f) Capital expenditure funded from revenue
 - g) Schools budget centrally funded termination of employment costs
 - h) Licences negotiated centrally by the Secretary of State
 - i) Children and young people with high needs
-
- viii) To agree any carry forward of a deficit on central expenditure to the next year to be funded from the schools budget.
 - ix) To agree scheme of financial management changes (schools members only).
 - x) To agree to the level of school specific contingency at the beginning of each year
 - xi) In exceptional circumstances only:
 - To agree an increase in the amount of expenditure a local authority can retain from its Schools Budget above that allowed for in the regulations.

Members of the Schools Forum should respect the confidentiality of information received from the Council during processes leading up to contracts and sensitive commercial information from our suppliers in regard to contracts.

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2016

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Russell Holland, Oliver Donachie, Toby Elliott, Fionuala Foley, Brian Ford, Dale Heenan, Mary Martin, Keith Williams and Garry Perkins

Councillor Bob Wright attended the meeting in respect of Minute Nos. 57, 58 and 61, Councillors Cathy Martyn, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny and Chris Watts attended the meeting in respect of Minute Nos. 57 and 58, and Councillors John Ballman, Gemma McCracken, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Jim Robbins, Vera Tomlinson, Peter Watts and Steve Weisinger attended the meeting in respect of Minute 58.

52. Declarations of Interest.

The Chair reminded members of the need to declare known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

Councillor Toby Elliott made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in relation to agenda item 10 (Swindon Town Centre Property Acquisition and Disposal) in his capacity as an employee of the company referred to in the report.

Councillor Dale Heenan made a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in relation to agenda item 7 (Community Governance Review) in his capacity as chair of Nythe Parish Council.

Councillor Mary Martin a personal, non-prejudicial declaration of interest in relation to agenda 8 (Free Schools Bid Update) in her capacity as chair of the Great Western Academy.

Councillor Garry Perkins declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to agenda item 9 (Chapel Farm and other Swindon Solar Schemes) as a property owner in the area that might be affected by the proposals.

53. Stuart McKellar - Corporate Director, Resources

Councillor David Renard, the Leader of the Council, advised the meeting that Stuart McKellar, the Council's Corporate Director, Resources, was leaving the Council to take up a new post with a different Authority. On behalf of the Cabinet, and all members of the Council, Councillor Renard thanked Stuart for his years of service and wished him every success in the future.

54. Minutes.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2016 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

55. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

Resolved – That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act

1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the item listed below, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Item No.	Paragraph No.	Minute No.
10	3	61

56. Public Question Time.

Mr Edward Glennie of Swindon Climate Action Network asked questions about the solar sound barrier proposals. Councillor Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Highways and Transport, responded to the questions at the meeting.

Ms Geraldine Fernandez asked questions about business contributions to cleaning Swindon Town Centre and Old Town. Councillor Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Communities, responded to the questions at the meeting.

Mr Colin Doubleday asked questions about the Council Tax yield and Cabinet Members' views about creating parishes. Councillors David Renard, Chair of Cabinet, Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Communities, and Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults' Health and Social Care, responded to the questions at the meeting.

Ms Alison Bolton, Wichelstowe Residents' Association, asked questions about how the Community Governance Review proposals would reflect Wichelstowe's community interests. Councillor David Renard, Chair of Cabinet, and Councillor Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Communities, responded to the questions at the meeting.

Mr Tony Robson, a local resident, asked questions about how the Community Governance Review reflected government guidance. Councillor Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Communities responded to the questions at the meeting.

Mr Roy Worman, Haydon View Community Association, asked questions about the transfer of services to parishes. Councillor Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Communities, responded to the questions at the meeting.

Mr Mike Bawden, a local resident, asked a question about the democratic benefits of parishes. Councillor David Renard, Chair of Cabinet, responded to the question at the meeting.

Ms Kareen Boyd asked questions about the outcome of the community governance review and whether parishes might be subsequently absorbed into Wiltshire Council. Councillor David Renard, Chair of Cabinet, responded to the question at the meeting.

57. 2016-17 Budget Management, 2017-18 Draft Budget and Medium Term Resourcing Plan

Councillor Russell Holland, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, and the Corporate Director, Resources, submitted a joint report setting out a strategic context and framing for the direction of travel of the organisation to deliver the Vision for Swindon over the next four years, within the expected financial context. The report provided an update on the 2016-17 latest Budget Management position and provided an introduction to the draft budget proposals for 2017-18, which had been considered and developed within this overall context.

Following his introduction of the report, Councillor Holland, with Councillors Oliver Donachie, Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness, Brian Ford, Cabinet Member for Adults' Health and Social Care, Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Highways, and Transport, Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills, and Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart, responded to questions put by Councillors Cathy Martyn, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Chris Watts and Bob Wright, on the following issues:

- Toilets and parking charges at Barbury Castle.
- Future funding for Public Power Solutions (PPS)
- The cost of changes to the bus station and prosecution of fly-tippers in the town centre.
- The implications of the financial constraints on statutory services

Resolved – (1) That the medium term context of the Council be noted and it be agreed that the contents of this report be used to engage and consult with residents, stakeholders and service users on the organisational strategic response.

(2) That the in-year forecast out-turn position for 2016-17 and responding action plan to manage the projected year-end overspend be noted.

(3) That the 2016-17 budget virements, set out in appendix 3 to the report, be agreed.

(4) That the feedback from the Public Power Solutions (PPS) Board, around progress in mitigating the cost pressure arising on the Waste Solutions Plant, be noted and that it be agreed that repayment of the Company's existing working capital loan facility be deferred, subject to a further review of its financial position in 12 months' time.

(5) That, in relation to the 2017-18 Draft Budget proposals, the key assumptions underpinning the draft budget proposals be endorsed and specifically that:-

- a) While the Council has accepted the Government's offer of a 4 year financial settlement, there remains uncertainty around public finances in general and this will be the case at least until the Autumn Statement is announced in late November and the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for 2017-18 is published in December;
- b) The funding assumptions within the report assume that Council Tax will be increased by 3.99% in 2017-18 representing a 1.99% rise for general services plus a 2% uplift specifically to contribute towards the increasing demand for adult social care services;
- c) There is currently a gap between the assumed funding levels for 2017-18 and the current proposed cost of services as set out in Table Three in the report, and that work will continue to identify further options to close this gap for consideration by Members in December 2016 and February 2017;
- d) The impact on minority groups has been considered for all savings proposals and a full Diversity Impact Assessment has been undertaken where an impact was perceived; and
- e) The budget assumptions are based on estimated tax base and Collection

Fund balances and these will need to be updated and agreed in the December report.

- (6) That, in relation to the 2017-18 Draft Budget proposals, it be agreed that:-
- a) Consultation commences for Budget proposals affecting front-line services with the outcome of that consultation being reported to Cabinet in December 2016 to inform final decisions;
 - b) Fees and charges should be uplifted by 5%, or a rounded price close to 5%, except where alternative proposals are recommended, as set out in appendix 4 to the report, and that all changes should be implemented from 1st December 2016 or as soon as practicable thereafter;
 - c) All Heads of Service, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member and the Interim Corporate Director Resources, be authorised to increase fees and charges by greater than 5% where circumstances permit and subject to legal constraints, and to introduce new fees and charges where the market situation permits;
 - d) The Local Council Tax Support (reduction) scheme in 2016-17 be unchanged from that for 2015-16, apart from the annual increases in allowances, applicable amounts and non-dependant deductions, which will be increased in line with the national scheme;
 - e) Consultation be commenced with landlords, and others who may own empty domestic properties, on ending of the current three month Empty and Unfurnished discount of 50% and on reducing the Structural Alterations Discount to 25 % for a maximum of three months with effect from 1st April 2017;
 - f) Further detail around the opportunities to appropriate assets between the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account be brought to the December Cabinet meeting to support the proposed transfer of housing garages into the General Fund due to the majority now being let privately;
 - g) One-off funding of £3.8m is earmarked to support the implementation and cashflowing of the 2017-18 Budget proposals as set out in Table Six in the report; and
 - h) Those new Budget proposals that do not directly affect front-line services can be implemented by officers at the earliest opportunity, including undertaking consultation with staff where appropriate.
- (7) That the expansion of the ex-Penhill Children Centre building, which has recently opened as the new Family Service Centre, be approved, to enable the North Locality Team to relocate from their existing premises of The Limes to free up this property for disposal in accordance with the Council's development plan and that a proportion of the capital receipt from the disposal of The Limes be ring-fenced to fund works which are essential to enable the relocation.
- The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

58. Community Governance Review (Minute For Confirmation)

Councillors David Renard, the Leader of the Council, Russell Holland, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, Keith Williams, Cabinet Member for Streetsmart, Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Communities, and the Chief Executive, Corporate Director Resources, and Director of Law and Democratic Services, submitted a joint report the outcomes of Stage 3 of the Community Governance Review (CGR) and inviting Cabinet to consider the summarised feedback from the Stage 3 consultation, including submissions made

by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council (set out in an update to the Cabinet report), and recommend a final proposal to Council.

Councillor Mary Martin, the Cabinet Member for Communities, introduced the report, initially taking members through the various recommendations and then expanding on the detail of the report by responding to members' questions and observations on (i) specific aspects of the Council's proposed response to the formal consultation undertaken by the Council on proposals to entirely parish the Borough through the creation of four new parish councils, extending the Nythe Parish Council area and the amendment of some other existing parish council boundaries, and (ii) the recommendations proposed to be made to Council, as set out in Appendix 5 to the report, as amended in the supplementary papers published before the meeting and tabled at the meeting, and including submissions made by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council.

Councillor Martin, with Councillors David Renard, the Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet, Toby Elliott, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Brian Ford Cabinet Member Adults' Health and Social Care and Dale Heenan, Cabinet Member for Sustainability, Highways, and Transport, responded at the meeting to questions put by Councillors John Ballman, Gemma McCracken, Cathy Martyn, Jane Milner-Barry, Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Maureen Penny, Jim Robbins, Vera Tomlinson, Chris Watts, Peter Watts, Steve Weisinger and Bob Wright on the following issues:

- The position on conducting a Referendum to assess Swindon residents' opinion on the parishing of the entire borough area.
- The ratios for the appointment of councillors to each Parish and the principles that supported those calculations.
- The validation and transparency of the Review process and opportunity to make changes to the recommendations to be made to Council.
- The shortfall in funding made available to the Council from Central Government and the motivation for the Review.
- The suggestion that public engagement with the Review has been limited and that the recommendations have been influenced by only a minority of residents.
- The ratio of the electorate to the number of parish councils proposed to be created and the effect on those ratios of residents who are not on the electoral register.
- The extent of consultation with existing parished areas and the role of Shadow Parish Councils.
- The inclusion of polling district SAD in the new St Andrew Parish.
- The viability of the recommended parishes.
- Practicalities associated with the current positioning of the Haydon Wick Parish and Blunsdon St Andrew boundary through the Abbey Meads Village centre.
- The comment received from Highworth Town Council that the Highworth boundary be amended to include "Supermarine".
- The proposed warding arrangements in respect of Nythe, Eldene and Liden and the effect of those arrangements on the position of existing Nythe Councillors.
- The principles supporting the recommendation that areas within the WAA polling district be added to Wroughton parish.

- The correlation between parish boundaries and size and the precepts that might be levied to ensure the future sustainability of services.

The Director of Law and Democratic Services also responded to questions on the timing and scope of new elections and confirmed that Council could amend recommendations put forward by the Cabinet, providing there was an adequate rationale that met the statutory requirements for the community governance review.

Councillor Martin advised that, in response to issues raised by members and by the public during public question time, she would, on request, convene her Community Governance Cabinet Member Advisory Group to consider Parish Ward arrangements. Councillor Martin also invited Councillors from Haydon Wick and St Andrews to come forward before the scheduled Council meeting in November to discuss the proposed changes to the boundary through the Abbey Meads Village centre.

Resolved – (1) That the summarised feedback received from Stage 3 of the Community Governance Review, as detailed in Appendix 3 to the report and the additional papers circulated after the initial agenda despatch, be noted.

(2) That the proposed arrangements to agree the transfer of property assets from the Borough Council to parish councils, if new parishes are established, as set out in the body of the report, be noted.

(3) That £3m of one-off resources be set aside to fund parish reserves and transitional funding, on the basis set out in the body of the report, and that the Corporate Director Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, be authorised to agree the exact payment to be made to each parish council within these terms.

(4) That the Corporate Director Resources be authorised to respond to the Government's consultation on 'Council Tax precept referendum criteria for parish councils', to the effect that the Council supports the Government's proposal that should the 'Council Tax increase referendum criteria' be extended to parishes in future, it should not apply where there is a transfer in responsibility for services from a principal authority to a local council.

(5) That Council be recommended that it:

- Agrees to the recommendations set out in Appendix 5 to the report, as amended in supplementary papers published before the meeting and tabled at the meeting, including submissions made by Blunsdon St Andrew Parish Council and Haydon Wick Parish Council, and the following additional recommendations, in relation to the parished and currently unparished areas of the Borough, in order to ensure that community governance within the Borough is effective and convenient, and reflective of the identities and interests of communities within the Borough:

Additional Recommendations

- St Andrews – to include polling district SAD in the proposed new parish.
 - Nythe/Stratton St Margaret – to adjust the border so that the Nythe allotments fall within the current Nythe parish.
- Notes that parishing the entire Borough would enable community empowerment at local level consistently throughout the Borough and extend localism to those parts of the Borough that do not currently have a local council and so do not have the full range of options for local service provision;

- c) Agrees that the final proposal map at Appendix Six is approved as the new boundaries of existing and new parishes with effect from the dates to be set out in the Order;
 - d) Adopt and give effect to the recommendations of the Cabinet.
- (6) That, subject to Council approving the recommendation set out in (5) above, Cabinet further recommends that Council:
- a) Authorises the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities, to:
 - i. Establish Shadow Councils for each of the proposed new parishes with a membership of at least 5 in number made up from the ward members in each area;
 - ii. Determine, in consultation with the Shadow Parishes, the governance arrangements for each new parish;
 - iii. Publish the Council's decision in relation to these recommendations, together with the reasons for making this decision, in accordance with the requirements set out in Section 96 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and to take such steps as he considers sufficient to secure that persons who may be interested in the Community Governance Review are informed of that decision.
 - b) Authorises the Head of StreetSmart to organise the borough council's workforce in such a way as to facilitate any service transfer that may be agreed between the borough council and any new or existing parish or town council.
 - c) Authorises the Director of Law and Democratic Services to:
 - i. prepare, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, a revised scheme and consequential Community Governance Reorganisation Order to include such provisions as he considers appropriate in relation to (inter alia) implementation dates, asset transfers, and warding arrangements;
 - ii. seek the agreement of the Local Government Boundary Commission to any consequential changes to the protected electoral arrangements set out in the Swindon (Electoral Changes) Order 2012; and
 - iii. Make and implement the Reorganisation Order.
- (7) That, in furtherance of the resolution of issues raised during the course of Cabinet's consideration of this matter, the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Communities, to make such additional amendments as he may consider necessary to Appendix 5, and the proposal map in Appendix 6, in advance of its submission to the Council meeting in November 2016.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

59. Free School Bids - Update

Councillor Fionuala Foley, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, and the Head of Education Services submitted a report providing an update on the applications for new free schools that were submitted by 28th September 2016, in accordance with the Department for Education's "waves" application process.

Councillor Foley advised that the application submitted by Lydiard Park Academy in respect of Abbey Farm Primary School had been withdrawn.

Resolved – (1) That the applications submitted in wave 12, for education provision opening from September 2018 and later, be noted.

(2) That the Head of Education Services be authorised to support the applications from Great Western Academy (Tadpole Farm), The White Horse Federation (SMEH School), Educate Together (Abbey Farm and Badbury Park), Blue Kite Academy (Badbury Park) and The River Learning Trust (NEV campus).

(3) That the principles that a new free school is supported through the allocation of Section 106 receipts when relevant to the location of new housing, type of school required and in compliance with the terms of the legal agreements, be agreed.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

60. Chapel Farm and other Swindon Solar Schemes

Councillor Dale Heenan, the Cabinet Member for Sustainability and Transport, the Chief Executive and the Head of Economy, Skills and Property, submitted a joint report on the method by which the Council would build on the success of the Common Farm Solar Scheme to progress the Chapel Farm Solar Scheme through ownership of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) and enable community investment incorporating a new ISA structure. It was noted that the proposal would create the UK's first ISA-eligible investment offer through a Council owned company.

The report also provided an update on solar schemes proposed on the Barnfield and Mannington sites, also the proposed solar car ports, and the means by which Public Power Solutions Ltd (PPS) should progress this use of the Council land.

Resolved – (1) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to take the necessary steps to secure ownership of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) currently owned by PPS so as to enable the Council to become sole shareholder of the SPV.

(2) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services be authorised to approve the formation of a Members' Shareholder Panel to ensure democratic accountability for this and subsequent low carbon SPVs, and the appointment of three Directors to the SPVs who shall be SBC officers.

(3) That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, with the Head of Property Assets, be authorised to grant a lease to PPS to progress the solar schemes at Chapel Farm, Mannington and Barnfield sites.

(4) That the Corporate Director, Resources, be authorised to facilitate, on behalf of the Council as sole shareholder of the SPV, all necessary steps to enable Abundance Investment Ltd to undertake and complete the community investment offer as detailed in this report.

(5) That it be noted that, in the event that the community investment offer is unsuccessful, the Council, in its capacity as sole shareholder of the SPV, would need to make a decision as to how the required investment should be raised.

(6) That the Corporate Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, be authorised to invest £3m in the SPV.

(7) That the Corporate Director, Resources, be authorised to allocate annual surplus income from Business Rates, rent and financing costs at Chapel Farm solar farm to support ring fenced funding towards the borrowing costs related to the provision of a noise barrier to the West of the A419 as detailed at paragraphs 3.13 to 3.23.

(8) That it be noted that successful delivery of Chapel Solar Farm will mean the Council has achieved 83.5% of its 2020 target to generate the equivalent low carbon renewable electricity to power every home in Swindon by March 2017, and that the recommendations contained in this report at Barnfield, Mannington and Solar carports add an additional 2%.

(9) That the Interim Director, Economy, Regeneration and Skills, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Sustainability, present a report to Cabinet within 12 months on how to achieve the final 29MW to meet the 2020 renewables target, outline what is required to achieve “subsidy free” solar projects, and consider ways to reduce Council electricity costs by at least 20% through measures such as energy performance contracts.

Councillor Garry Perkins made a personal prejudicial interest in relation to this matter, as an owner of property in the area that might be affected by the proposals, and left the room during Cabinet’s consideration of the item.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

61. Swindon Town Centre Property Acquisition and Disposal

Councillor Garry Perkins, the Cabinet Member for Economy, Regeneration and Skills, and the Interim Head of Economy, Regeneration and Skills, submitted a joint report providing an update on further progress made in relation to the redevelopment of the site identified in the report and seeking authorisation to agree the terms of an asset swap and purchase with the company referred to in the report, for the assets owned by the Council, as identified in the plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report, on the basis that the Council acquires from the company the assets in the plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

Councillors Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration, and Skills and Toby Elliott, responded to questions put by Councillor Bob Wright about the value of the transfer and the possible effects on the Town Centre Masterplan.

Resolved – That the Director of Law and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Corporate Director Resources and Head of Property Assets, be authorised to dispose of the Council owned assets, identified in the plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report, to the company identified in the report, as detailed in the main body of the report, and, in return, to purchase the asset, identified on the plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report, for the amount identified in the report, to be funded from Council borrowing, and to acquire the other assets owned by the company, as also identified in Appendix 2, on such detailed terms and conditions as he considers necessary to protect the Councils interests.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

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Notice of Decisions Made

Decision Maker: Councillor Russell Holland, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services

Subject SEQOL

Decision(s): -

- (1) That the Corporate Director, Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults' Health and Social Care and with the Director of Adult Social Services, be authorised, in accordance with clause 2.3.6 of the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, to take the necessary and appropriate action, detailed in the report, with regard to the future provision of social care and community health services.
- (2) That the Director of Adult Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Finance and Corporate Services and for Adults' Health and Social Care, be authorised to continue close working with the CCG to reach joint agreement with regard to the implementation of joint plans and approaches to the contract issues detailed in the report and to take such steps under the contract to protect the Council's interests as she considers necessary, in consultation with the Director of Law and Democratic Services.

Consultation: Councillor Ray Ballman (Labour Group spokesperson for Adult's Health and Social Care). No comments were received that the responsible officer considered adversely affected the decision. No requests for Cabinet consideration were received.

Date of Publication: Thursday 22nd September 2016

Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in In the opinion of the decision maker, and in accordance with paragraph 16(h) of the Rules of Procedure of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the call-in provisions will not apply on the basis that this decision is urgent.

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note please contact: Sue Wald, 01793 465713, swald@swindon.gov.uk.

Or from Steve Jones, Committee and Member Services Manager, Direct Dial: 01793 463602 or Email stevejones@swindon.gov.uk

The Decision Note (report) sets out the background to, and reasons for, the decisions referred to in the Notice above. Details of the alternative options put forward for consideration (if any) are also recorded in the Decision Note (report). Any alternative options considered that did not appear in the initial report will be recorded as part of the above Notice of Decisions. The Decision Note is available via the following link on the Council's website =

<http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=440&RP=285&J=3>

Notice of Decisions Made

Decision Maker: Councillor Garry Perkins, Cabinet Member for the Economy, Regeneration and Skills

Subject Waiving car parking charges at Lydiard and Coate for specific charity events

Decision(s): - That the Corporate Director, Resources, suspend the parking charges at Lydiard on 5th December 2016 and Coate Water on 25th June 2017 in order support charitable events taking place at those locations on those dates.

Consultation: Councillors Matthew Courtliff, Stan Pajak, Jim Robbins, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Tim Swinyard. These members supported the recommendation and no comments were received that the responsible officer considered adversely affected the decision. No requests for Cabinet consideration were received.

Date of Publication: Thursday 20th October 2016

Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in Thursday 27th October 2017

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note please contact: Stuart McKellar, 01793 463300, smckellar@swindon.gov.uk.

Or from Steve Jones, Committee and Member Services Manager, Direct Dial: 01793 463602 or Email stevejones@swindon.gov.uk

The Decision Note (report) sets out the background to, and reasons for, the decisions referred to in the Notice above. Details of the alternative options put forward for consideration (if any) are also recorded in the Decision Note (report). Any alternative options considered that did not appear in the initial report will be recorded as part of the above Notice of Decisions. The Decision Note is available via the following link on the Council's website =

<http://sbcvpwmmgv02:9070/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=600&RP=285>

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Notice of Decisions Made

Decision Maker:	Councillor Mary Martin, Cabinet Member for Communities
Subject	Approval for a new leisure provider to operate the Highworth Recreation Centre
Decision(s): -	That the Cabinet member for Communities ratifies the recommendation from the Trustees of the Highworth recreation trust (2012) to appoint Halo leisure Services Ltd to operate the Higworth recreation centre with effect from 1 st November 2016.
Consultation:	Councillors Steve Weisinger, Alan Bishop, Maureen Penny, James Robbins, Kevin Small and Stan Pajak. No comments were received that the responsible officer considered adversely affected the decision. No requests for Cabinet consideration were received.
Date of Publication:	Friday 28 th October 2016
Date for Receipt of Requests for Call-in	In the opinion of the decision maker, and in accordance with paragraph 16(h) of the Rules of Procedure of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the call-in provisions will not apply on the basis that this decision is urgent.

For more details on the subject of the Decision or for a copy of the Decision Note please contact: Adrian Arnold, 01793 466217, aarnold@swindon.gov.uk.

Or from Steve Jones, Committee and Member Services Manager, Direct Dial: 01793 463602 or Email stevejones@swindon.gov.uk

The Decision Note (report) sets out the background to, and reasons for, the decisions referred to in the Notice above. Details of the alternative options put forward for consideration (if any) are also recorded in the Decision Note (report). Any alternative options considered that did not appear in the initial report will be recorded as part of the above Notice of Decisions. The Decision Note is available via the following link on the Council's website =

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