

Public Document Pack

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Notice of Meeting

To All Members of Chichester District Council

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of **THE COUNCIL** in the Council Chamber, East Pallant House East Pallant Chichester West Sussex PO19 1TY on **Tuesday 20 September 2016 at 2.00 pm** for the transaction of the business set out in the agenda below

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Shepherd'.

DIANE SHEPHERD
Chief Executive
Tuesday 13 September
2016

NOTES

- (1) *The Council meeting will be preceded by a Member briefing on Community Land Trusts with the Senior Leadership Team at 1.00pm*
- (2) *Members are asked to bring with them to the meeting their copy of the agenda and the accompanying papers for the meetings of the Cabinet held on 6 and 20 September 2016.*

AGENDA

This agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting

PART 1

- 1 **Minutes** (Pages 1 - 15)
To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 19 July 2016.
- 2 **Urgent Items**
Chairman to announce any urgent items which due to special circumstances are to be dealt with under the agenda item below relating to Late Items.

3 **Declarations of Interests**

Members and officers are reminded to make any declarations of disclosable pecuniary, personal and/or prejudicial interests they may have in respect of matters on the agenda for this meeting.

4 **Chairman's announcements**

5 **Public Question Time**

Questions submitted by members of the public in writing by noon on the previous working day (for a period up to 15 minutes).

DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY THE COUNCIL

To consider the following recommendations of the Cabinet requiring the approval of the Council.

The reports giving rise to these recommendations are in the papers for the meeting of the Cabinet on 6 September 2016 and 20 September 2016. These are available in the committee papers section of the Council's website.

Note: The meeting of the Cabinet on 20 September 2016 takes place on the same day as this Council meeting. The draft recommendations below may therefore be subject to amendment and will be reported orally at the Council meeting.

6 **Surface Water and Drainage Supplementary Planning Document for Adoption**

(See report at agenda item 5 (pages 17 to 19) of the Cabinet agenda of 6 September 2016 and pages 1 to 124 in the supplement to the agenda)

RECOMMENDED BY THE CABINET

- 1) That the Surface Water and Foul Drainage Supplementary Planning Document (set out in Appendix 1 to this report) be adopted.
- 2) The proposed responses to representations received (set out in Appendix 2 to this report) be approved.

7 **Avenue de Chartres Car Park - Tender Evaluation**

(See report at Agenda Item 6 (pages 20 to 27) of the Cabinet papers of 6 September 2016)

RECOMMENDED BY THE CABINET

- 1) That funding for the essential upgrade of the perimeter vehicle barriers, pedestrian railings and associated works be approved to achieve compliance with current health and safety standards and officers be authorised to invite invitations to tender for these works.
- 2) That funding to refurbish the 5 access towers and clean the concrete retaining wall and paved surfaces be approved and officers be authorised to invite invitations to tender for these works.
- 3) That the asset replacement programme be re-profiled to enable the replacement of the existing lighting installation with a more energy efficient LED system and officers be authorised to invite invitations to tender for these works.

- 4) That the release from capital reserves of the sum identified in the report be authorised to fund the cost of this refurbishment not provided for within the Asset Replacement Programme.

8 **Deficit Reduction Strategy**

(See report at Agenda Item 7 (pages 28 to 37) of the Cabinet papers of 6 September 2016)

RECOMMENDED BY CABINET

That the Head of Finance and Governance be authorised to submit a request to the Department of Communities and Local Government for a four-year settlement and that this Deficit Reduction Plan is used as the basis for that request.

9 **A27 Chichester Bypass Improvement Scheme Response to Highways England Public Consultation**

(See report at agenda item 4 (pages 1 to 64) of the Cabinet papers of 20 September 2016)

DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the overall conclusions of this report set out in paragraphs 5.27 to 5.29, providing qualified support for Option 2, based on the information published by Highways England at this stage, be agreed; and
- 2) That the comments set out in Appendix 3 for submission as Chichester District Council's formal response to the Highways England consultation on options for the A27 Chichester Bypass Improvement scheme, be approved.

10 **Making the Chidham and Hambrook Neighbourhood Development Plan**

(See report at agenda item 5 (pages 65 to 66) of the Cabinet papers of 20 September 2016)

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

To make the Chidham & Hambrook Neighbourhood Development Plan part of the Development Plan for Chichester District (excluding the area within the South Downs National Park).

11 **Approval of the Infrastructure Business Plan 2017-22 for consultation with the City, Town and Parish Councils and key Infrastructure Delivery Commissioners**

(See report at agenda item 6 (pages 67 – 130) of the Cabinet papers of 20 September 2016)

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

That the Infrastructure Business Plan 2017-2022 be approved for consultation with the city, town and parish councils, neighbouring local authorities including the South Downs National Park Authority and key infrastructure delivery commissioners for a period of six weeks from 3 October to 14 November 2016.

12 **Chichester Electoral Review: Draft Recommendations** (Pages 16 - 63)
RECOMMENDED

That the Council informs the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) that it supports the Commission's draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Chichester District Council, with the following exceptions:

- 1) Its proposal to include the parish of Elsted & Treyford in Midhurst Ward. Instead this parish should be included in Harting Ward, as in the Council's original submission, on the grounds that in this case the criteria of community identity and effective and convenient local government should outweigh the fairly marginal electoral inequality.
- 2) Its proposals for the proposed Bosham & Donnington and North Mundham & Tangmere wards are accepted, but the wards should be named respectively Harbour and Tangmere Wards.
- 3) Its proposal to transfer Velyn Avenue from Chichester South Ward to Chichester Central Ward; the flats on the western side of Velyn Avenue, with Peter Weston Close should be so transferred but the eastern and southern sides of Velyn Avenue should remain with the rest of Whyke in Chichester South Ward with which it has more community identity.
- 4) Its proposal to transfer the Pound Farm area from Chichester South Ward to Chichester East Ward, thus creating a very small and unviable city council ward. Under the Commission's proposal, electors in this area will be in Chichester South for County Council elections, Chichester East for District Council elections, and Chichester Pound Farm for City Council elections. This will be confusing for electors, and is not conducive to convenient and effective local government.
- 5) The name of its proposed Chichester Portfield Ward; Chichester Arundel Park Ward is preferred.

13 **Questions to the Executive**
(maximum of 40 minutes duration)

14 **Consideration of any late items as follows:**

- (a) Items added to the agenda papers and made available for public inspection.
- (b) Items which the chairman has agreed should be taken as matters of urgency by reason of special circumstances to be reported at the meeting.

15 **Exclusion of the press and public**

There are no restricted items for consideration at this meeting.

NOTES

1. The press and public may be excluded from the meeting during any item of business wherever it is likely that there would be disclosure of "exempt information" as defined in section 100A of and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972
2. The open proceedings of this meeting will be audio recorded and the recording will be held for one year by the council. A copy of the recording will also be retained in accordance with the council's information and data policies. If members of the public make a representation to the meeting, they will be deemed to have consented to being audio recorded. By

entering the committee room they are also consenting to being audio recorded. If members of the public have any queries regarding the audio recording of this meeting, please contact the contact for this meeting at the front of this agenda.

3. Subject to the provisions allowing the exclusion of the press and public, the photographing, filming or recording of this meeting from the public seating area is permitted. To assist with the management of the meeting, anyone wishing to do this is asked to inform the chairman of the meeting of their intentions before the meeting starts. The use of mobile devices for access to social media is permitted, but these should be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting. Those undertaking such activities must do so discreetly and not disrupt the meeting, for example by oral commentary, excessive noise, distracting movement or flash photography. Filming of children, vulnerable adults or members of the audience who object should be avoided. (Standing Order 11.3)

MEMBERS

Mrs E Hamilton

Mrs N Graves

Mrs C Apel

Mr G Barrett

Mr R Barrow

Mr P Budge

Mr J Connor

Mr M Cullen

Mr I Curbishley

Mr T Dempster

Mr A Dignum

Mrs P Dignum

Mrs J Duncton

Mr M Dunn

Mr J F Elliott

Mr J W Elliott

Mr B Finch

Mr N Galloway

Mr M Hall

Mrs P Hardwick

Mr R Hayes

Mr G Hicks

Mr L Hixson

Mr F Hobbs

Mr P Jarvis

Mrs G Keegan

Mrs J Kilby

Mrs D Knightley

Mrs E Lintill

Mr S Lloyd-Williams

Mr L Macey

Mr G McAra

Mr S Morley

Caroline Neville

Mr S Oakley

Mrs P Plant

Mr R Plowman

Mr H Potter

Mrs C Purnell

Mr J Ransley

Mr J Ridd

Mr A Shaxson

Mrs J Tassell

Mrs S Taylor

Mr N Thomas

Mrs P Tull

Mr D Wakeham

Mrs S Westacott

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 1



Minutes of the meeting of the **Council** held in Committee Rooms, East Pallant House on Tuesday 19 July 2016 at 11.00 am

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Members Present: | Mrs E Hamilton (Chairman), Mrs C Apel, Mr G Barrett, Mr R Barrow, Mr P Budge, Mr M Cullen, Mr I Curbishley, Mr A Dignum, Mrs P Dignum, Mrs J Duncton, Mr J F Elliott, Mr J W Elliott, Mr N Galloway, Mrs N Graves (Vice-Chairman), Mr M Hall, Mrs P Hardwick, Mr R Hayes, Mr G Hicks, Mr L Hixson, Mr P Jarvis, Mrs G Keegan, Mrs J Kilby, Mrs D Knightley, Mrs E Lintill, Mr S Lloyd-Williams, Mr L Macey, Mr G McAra, Mr S Morley, Mrs P Plant, Mr H Potter, Mrs C Purnell, Mr J Ransley, Mr J Ridd, Mr A Shaxson, Mrs J Tassell, Mrs S Taylor, Mr N Thomas, Mrs P Tull, Mr D Wakeham and Mrs S Westacott |
| Members not present: | Mr J Connor, Mr T Dempster, Mr M Dunn, Mr B Finch, Mr F Hobbs, Caroline Neville, Mr S Oakley and Mr R Plowman |
| Officers present all items: | Mrs D Shepherd (Chief Executive), Mr P E Over (Executive Director), Mr S Carvell (Executive Director), Mr J Ward (Head of Finance and Governance Services) and Mr P Coleman (Member Services Manager) |

125 Minutes

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the annual meeting of the Council held on 17 May 2016 be signed as a correct record.

126 Urgent Items

There were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

127 Declarations of Interests

Mrs Hamilton, as a member of the Birdham Parish Council, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 (Making the Birdham, Tangmere and Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plans) (see minute 130 below). She withdrew to the public seating area and did not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter.

Mrs Keegan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 11 (Chichester City Centre Management – Renewal of Chichester BID) (see minute 135 below), as being the Council's appointed representative on the Chichester City Centre Partnership. She did not vote on this matter.

128 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman:

- (1) explained to members that she had just unveiled a signed portrait of HM the Queen outside the Council Chamber to commemorate her 90th birthday;
- (2) thanked the Chief Executive and John Ward, Joanna Timm and the elections team, and other polling station and count staff for conducting the Referendum on 23 June.
- (3) Thanked and congratulated all the staff involved in arranging the Chichester Triathlon on 2 and 3 July 2016. This was the 10th year of the Triathlon, which had grown from a field of 140 people on one day, to a two-day event with 250 children participating on the Saturday, and 870 adults on the Sunday.
- (4) reminded members about the Members briefing session on 12 September covering:
 - 2.00 pm Southern Gateway Masterplan
 - 3.00 pm Devolution
 - 3.30 pm Welfare Reform.
- (5) explained that a list of events at which she and the Vice-Chairman had represented the Council would be emailed to members in future.

129 Public Question Time

No public questions had been submitted.

130 Making the Birdham, Tangmere and Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Plans

Mrs Hamilton, as a member of the Birdham Parish Council, declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item. She withdrew to the public seating area and did not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter.

(Mrs Graves in the chair)

Mrs Taylor (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning), seconded by Mr Dignum, moved the recommendations of the Cabinet, explaining that, on 9 February 2016, the Cabinet had approved that the Birdham and Tangmere Neighbourhood Development Plans proceed to referendum, and on 8 March had approved that the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Development Plan proceed to referendum. The referenda had been held on 5 May 2016, and in each case over 50% of votes cast were in favour of the Plan. The actual results were:

| | Turnout | Proportion in favour |
|------------------|---------|----------------------|
| Birdham | 45.86% | 90% |
| Tangmere | 21.18% | 89.8% |
| Wisborough Green | 36.58% | 83.18% |

Mr Hayes (Chairman of the Planning Committee) commended the Council's planning policy officers and the parish councils for their hard work in achieving these results.

RESOLVED

(1) That the Birdham Neighbourhood Development Plan be made part of the Development Plan for Chichester District (excluding the area within the South Downs National Park).

(2) That the Tangmere Neighbourhood Development Plan be made part of the Development Plan for Chichester District (excluding the area within the South Downs National Park).

(3) That the Wisborough Green Neighbourhood Development Plan be made part of the Development Plan for Chichester District (excluding the area within the South Downs National Park).

(Mrs Hamilton returned to the chair)

131 **Chichester Site Allocation: Draft Development Plan Document (DPD): further consultation**

The Council considered the draft Site Allocation: Preferred Approach Development Plan Document circulated with the agenda (copy attached to the official minutes).

Mrs Taylor (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning), seconded by Mr Dignum, moved the recommendations of the Cabinet. She explained that the Chichester Local Plan required delivery of 7,388 dwellings a year from 2012 to 2029. A large proportion would be in strategic development locations, but other sites would be identified in neighbourhood development plans or in the Site Allocation Development Plan Document (DPD). Public consultation on the DPD had taken place in January and February 2016, but since then progress on some neighbourhood plans and further information on a previously discounted site had resulted in some changed proposals requiring a further round of consultation. These changes related to:

- A site at Highgrove Farm, Bosham, to meet the parish's indicative housing number of 50, following removal of proposed housing allocations from the neighbourhood plan on the Examiner's recommendation.
- A new site for housing to the rear of Sturt Avenue, Lynchmere.
- Definition of the Local Centre of East Wittering.

As a result of the additional consultation, the timetable for the DPD had been delayed by six months, with submission to the Secretary of State for examination now expected to be in March 2017.

Mr Barrett asked whether the Local Centre was entirely in East Wittering, as it appeared to him that part of it might be within the parish of West Wittering. Mrs Taylor replied that she expected that this would be clarified through the consultation process.

Mr Shaxson, Mrs Hardwick and Mrs Graves expressed concerns about the inclusion of the site at Lynchmere, which had been previously discounted, partly because it had a history of flooding. They asked for an assurance that the Council was not committed to development on this site, but would consider the results of consultation. Mrs Taylor confirmed that the results of the consultation would be considered; this would lead to the

production of a pre-submission DPD, which would be subject to a further statutory public consultation before examination. The inclusion of the site in the DPD at present was, therefore, far from final and its potential would be carefully considered.

RESOLVED

(1) That further public consultation be approved on the Site Allocation: Preferred Approach Development Plan Document, as set out in the Appendix to the report, for eight weeks from 28 July until 22 September 2016.

(2) That authority be delegated to the Head of Planning Services to enable minor editorial and typographical amendments to be made to the document prior to its publication.

132 Chichester District Council Annual Report 2015-16

The Chairman explained that, because the Council agenda had been produced before the Cabinet meeting on 12 July, members had been sent an update sheet drawing attention to five minor textual alterations approved by the Cabinet as follows:-

Page 13 5th para: the reference to 'channels' in the second line is now changed to 'ways of contacting us'.

Page 13 last para: the reference to '1,000,000 vulnerable people and saved thousands of lives' now reads '1,000,000 vulnerable people and saved thousands of lives in the district and beyond'.

Page 14 first para: the reference to '21,000 clients – from young carers to senior citizens' now reads '21,000 clients – from young carers to senior citizens, of which some 2,800 are Chichester district residents'.

Page 17 para 2: reference to 'the Grange' now reads 'the Grange Midhurst'.

Page 24 last para, first bullet: reference to 'two responsible dog events' now reads two responsible dog-owner events'.

Mr Dignum (Leader of the Council), seconded by Mrs Lintill, moved the recommendation of the Cabinet. He explained that the Annual Report described the key achievements of the Council over the past year. It focussed on significant achievements and future objectives, and in addition there was a great deal of regular work not recorded in the Report. He commended all members to read it.

With reference to the section on Planning Policy, Mrs Apel expressed concerns about waste water treatment for new development in the City of Chichester. She was concerned that the use of package sewage treatment plants could result in further discharge into Chichester Harbour. The water quality of the Harbour was currently rated medium and the Harbour Conservancy was concerned that any further influx could result in the water quality becoming poor and wildlife being adversely affected.

Mrs Taylor replied that a Surface Water and Foul Drainage Supplementary Planning Document was being prepared and developers would be given guidance on the remaining

capacity in existing waste water treatment works; and what to do if there was inadequate capacity. Mr Carvell added that foul drainage and water quality were key considerations in the determination of planning applications, which would be carefully scrutinised to ensure satisfactory means of disposal and discharge before approval.

RESOLVED

That the Annual Report 2015-16 be approved, subject to the amendments agreed by the Cabinet.

133 **Chichester in Partnership - Community Strategy 2016-2021**

Mrs Lintill (Cabinet Member for Community Services), seconded by Mr Dignum, moved the recommendation of the Cabinet.

She explained that Chichester in Partnership (CIP) had been formed in 2002. The Local Government Act 2000 placed a duty on local authorities to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) to promote and improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of their areas, and contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. This was rescinded in 2012, but unlike other Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) CIP had continued to flourish, becoming more focussed, with action plans and strategies being developed, priorities set, outcomes planned and projects delivered. In December 2015 partners had felt the existing SCS to be dated and not reflecting the ethos of the Partnership. They had agreed to complete a light touch review of the SCS in consultation with the core and wider partnership. The result was a new strategy that was shorter and easier to read with fewer priorities. Each partner was being asked to take the revised SCS through its formal approval process.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviewed the work of the CIP each year, and had recommended approval of the revised strategy. The Committee had also recommended that “consideration is given to establishing an emergency fund for Chichester in Partnership for the period 2016-2021 to ensure its ability to function in times of hardship.”

In consequence of this, the Cabinet had approved an amendment to the second recommendation, which was set out on the update sheet.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the Community Strategy 2016-2021 be adopted.
- (2) That a £10k funding reserve be made available, to be managed by the Cabinet Member for Community Services and the Head of Community Services as the Council’s representatives to Chichester in Partnership, in order to attract match funding to support new or existing projects with proven benefits to vulnerable residents that would otherwise fail for lack of short term funding.

134 **A27 Contributions - Adoption of amendment to the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document**

Mrs Taylor (Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning), seconded by Mr Dignum, moved the recommendations of the Cabinet.

She reminded the Council that Local Plan Policy 8 described a co-ordinated package of improvements to the A27 Chichester Bypass junctions to mitigate the traffic impact arising from the major housing developments proposed in the Local Plan. She drew attention to the scale of the financial cost of the mitigation package set out in Appendix 3 of the Cabinet report and to the method of calculation in the table in paragraph 1.6 of that Appendix, which required each development of more than 50 dwellings to pay a contribution per dwelling based on the estimated number of trips generated that would use the A27 junctions. Developers would be required to enter into a Section 106 agreement requiring them to enter into a Section 278 Agreement with Highways England to pay the contribution. The scheme was intended to mitigate the impact of new development, not to remedy current difficulties. She pointed out that the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) examination had found the proposed charge to be viable and that, in the consultation, the developers had raised no objections in principle.

Mr Cullen asked whether, before the introduction of CIL, there had been any developers' contributions to trunk road improvements.

Mr Carvell explained that, before CIL, such requirements had been governed either by planning conditions or negotiated through Section 106 agreements. Under the arrangements now proposed, the contributions secured for the mitigation works on the A27 junctions would go directly to Highways England.

Members asked whether the developers' contributions should be devoted to improvements on the local road networks, rather than the trunk road, for example the Selsey Tram roundabout on the A286 in Donnington. It was explained that the use of Section 106 agreements and separate CIL contributions could continue to be used for local road improvements required as a result of new development.

Members also referred to the Highways England consultation, which had just started, on a major improvement scheme for the A27 Chichester By-pass, and enquired whether, given that the mitigation package proposed under the Council's scheme was to deal with improvements required as a result of new development, it was legitimate for these contributions to be used for the major scheme. They also enquired whether the £11m expected from the Council's scheme met Highways England's expectations.

Mrs Taylor explained that planning applications in relation to the new developments were being submitted and Section 106 agreements were being negotiated now, and could not wait for the outcome of the A27 consultation and route design. Mr Dignum added that the District Council and the County Council had committed to contribute £10m each to the A27 improvement scheme, and the developers' contributions would cover the District Council's contribution.

Mr Potter questioned whether the council should approve the recommendation when there were so many uncertainties about the future improvement of the A27. He also suggested that not all developers had responded to the consultation, Persimmon being an example. However, Mr Taylor replied that all developers had had the chance to respond. Failure to proceed with the scheme would miss an opportunity to obtain contributions from new development towards necessary improvements to the A27 junctions. The Chief Executive added that this could put the Local Plan in jeopardy.

Mr Ridd expressed concern that Highways England seemed only to be concerned with the A27 and regarded all other roads as not being their responsibility. However, it was

important to see the whole picture and to take account of the knock-on effect on local roads of changes to the A27. Mr Ransley supported this and asked that the Cabinet Member should write to the responsible minister to urge that delivery of infrastructure after development was considered and brought together. Mrs Taylor agreed to write accordingly.

RESOLVED

- (1) That, because there are no adverse comments from the Statutory Bodies and for the reasons set out in the Criteria and screening opinion set out in Appendix 2 to the Cabinet report, it be determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required in respect of the proposed amendment to the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD); and
- (2) That the approach for securing A27 contributions proposed in the consultation be agreed, and that the amendments to the Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) be formally adopted by including the additional wording set out in Appendix 3 to the Cabinet report.

135 Chichester City Centre Management - Renewal of Chichester BID

Mrs Lintill (Cabinet Member for Community Services), seconded by Mr Finch, moved the recommendation of the Cabinet.

She explained that Chichester's City Centre Business Improvement District (BID) was one of over 200 BIDs in place across the country. Chichester BID had been established five years ago, its formation being driven by this Council's Economic Development Service in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce.

A number of City Centre functions, formerly undertaken or overseen by the Council, had been transferred to the BID, including:

- City Centre management and events
- the annual Christmas lights
- the ChiBAC (Chichester Business Against Crime) initiative

Since 2012, Chichester BID had also provided a good deal of marketing and promotion of the City Centre, and improved its physical organisation and general safety and security.

BIDs were business led partnerships created through a ballot process with all business ratepayers in the BID area voting on whether the BID goes ahead. By law a BID had to be renewed every five years, giving business ratepayers the opportunity to vote again to decide whether or not the BID should continue for a further term.

Chichester's City Centre BID was nearing the end of its first five-year term and wished to seek renewal for a further term of five years. Accordingly, it had undertaken extensive consultation with local businesses and had prepared its Renewal Business Proposal for the next five years.

While the BID did not achieve everything it set out to do in its first term, overall it had been a success, and, for its second term, proposed to build on those successes.

If the BID was not renewed it would cease from 31st March 2017. A number of City Centre management, organisational and promotional functions would then stop or need to be re-allocated to other bodies, including Christmas lights and festivities, events and promotions, ChiBac and city centre safety, advocacy and support to businesses. Similarly, the additional activities proposed for the next five years would not happen.

The progress of the BID had been reviewed annually by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and at its meeting on 5 July the Committee had recommended the Cabinet to support the BID's renewal plans and that the level of support provided by the Council to the BID's strategic partnership be considered and that a brief report be requested to identify how joint objectives could be better delivered.

The BID's Renewal Business Proposal was in line with the Council's strategic objectives, and complemented its emerging strategy for the visitor economy and the Chichester Vision.

RESOLVED

That the Leader of the Council be authorised to vote in accordance with Cabinet's decision in relation to the ballot to renew the BID.

136 Treasury Management Policy 2016-2017 Update

Mrs Hardwick (Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance), seconded by Mr Dignum, moved the recommendation of the Cabinet. She explained that minor adjustments were required to the Council's treasury management strategy to reflect the necessary framework changes in the limits etc., as detailed in appendix 1 to the Cabinet report, rather than a complete update in terms of context and the market. This was because the framework of the strategy enabled the treasury team to have the flexibility required to make decisions, taking into account the prevailing market conditions, when considering investment opportunities for the Council's surplus funds.

For example, it had been the Council's intention to invest up to £10m in the Local Authority Property Fund. Having placed £5m in the fund in February 2016, it was intended to place a further £5m in May 2016; however in light of the referendum and possible impact on commercial property values, officers held off making further investments in the fund at that time. However, the recommended capital limits would still permit this, if conditions made it appropriate.

Officers were looking at alternative investment opportunities including different pooled funds, such as bond funds or multi-asset funds that had a diversified pool of equity, bond and property exposures. The use of any new investment vehicles would have due diligence undertaken by officers, including taking external advice in order to fully understand the risks attached, and prior approval by the Head of Finance and Governance Services.

The advice from Arlingclose (the Council's Treasury advisors) regarding the use of the Local Authority Property Fund, was to buy and hold these funds for the long term, so that the income was the main source of return, and the Council had time to ride out the ups and downs of capital values. A formal revaluation of the existing Property Fund investment was currently awaited, and it was likely that there would be a reduction in value. However, the property fund investment was intended to be a long term investment.

Mrs Hardwick added that the Cabinet had asked for a further report later in the year on any significant changes in market conditions that might affect the Strategy. However, she made the following interim statement.

“The economic outlook for the UK has changed significantly following the referendum result. However, the financial markets seem to have stabilised following the initial shock.

“In the short term, the economy is expected to slow due to the uncertainty which is likely due to deferred investment decisions, but the equity markets seem to have remained relatively positive and calmer in the early weeks of July. This might reflect a more optimistic longer term investment horizon, due to evidence supporting the view that trading nations outside the EU such as Australia, New Zealand and China are already making overtures to the UK about establishing trade deals, having been frustrated with the lack of progress with EU negotiations.

“Sterling has depreciated in response to the Governor of the Bank of England indicating that further monetary easing may be necessary in the near future, especially if gilt yields start to rise due to concerns over the UK economy. However, the Monetary Policy Committee did not reduce the Base Rate at its last meeting, which surprised many analysts.

“Officers will be formally reporting the 2015-16 Treasury Management outturn report and the first quarter’s performance for 2016-17 to the September Cabinet meeting. They will also be reporting on whether any changes in the economic climate post-Brexit warrant any further changes to the Treasury Management Strategy.

“It is also worth noting that recent benchmarking of our portfolio compared to other Arlingclose clients, has confirmed that we are well placed for any repercussions due to the referendum outcome.”

Mr Ransley asked that the Cabinet should be reminded of and review the changes approved today, when considering the later report on market conditions, because they allowed officers greater latitude in making investment decisions, and that should be reviewed in the overall context. Mrs Hardwick confirmed this and added that the revised Strategy had also been considered and supported by the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

RESOLVED

That the revised Treasury Management Strategy 2016-17 be approved.

137 Review of the Constitution

The Council considered the Cabinet report and appendices circulated with the agenda (copy attached to the official minutes).

Mrs Hardwick (Cabinet Member for Finance and Governance), seconded by Mrs Taylor, moved the recommendation of the Cabinet. She reminded the Council that they had appointed a Task and Finish Group (TFG) comprising herself, Mrs Apel, Mrs Lintill, Mr Ridd and Mrs Tull to review the Council’s Constitution and advise Cabinet and Council on any changes, in particular, on how decisions are made and the effective operation of the

Council's business. The TFG had met twice and its conclusions were summarised in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 and Section 6 of the Cabinet report.

Mr Budge drew attention to the proposed deletion in Article 5 of the provision that "The Chairman may promote a Chairman's Charity appeal for the charity or charities of his choice during his term of office." He felt that this was a valuable provision which should be retained. Mrs Hardwick replied that the TFG had strongly supported its deletion. It seemed invidious to single out a particular charity for a special effort which would inevitably require Council resources to support the Chairman and manage the fund.

RESOLVED

That the revised Constitution, as set out in the background paper to the Cabinet report, including the significant alterations described in section 6 of the Cabinet report, be approved.

138 Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2015/16 and Work Programme 2016/17

Mrs Apel (Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee), seconded by Mrs Graves, moved receipt of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2015/16 and Work Programme 2016/17 (copy attached to the official minutes). She added that the Committee had had a busy year. She thanked the members of the Committee and the supporting officers, Mrs Jones, Miss Higenbottam, and Mr Hansford.

RESOLVED

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Annual Report 2015/16 and Work Programme 2016/17 be noted.

139 Questions to the Executive

Questions to members of the Cabinet and responses given were as follows:

(a) Question: Surplus land at The Grange, Midhurst

Mr Thomas asked Mrs Keegan for an update on marketing for disposal the surplus land at The Grange, Midhurst

Response:

Mrs Keegan (Cabinet Member for Commercial Services) replied that officers were making sure that there was an agreement in principle from the South Downs National Park Authority to grant planning permission for the site to be developed in the way it was being marketed. This was being sought in writing to give confidence to the marketing offers. That had resulted in a slight delay, before formal marketing commenced towards the end of this month. Some expressions of interest had already been received. The offers would then be analysed by officers and reported to the Cabinet meeting in November.

(b) Question: Gypsies and travellers

Mr Shaxson commented that there seemed to be an alarming number of incursions by gypsies and travellers, despite the existence of the transit site at Westhampnett. He asked whether the site was too small, and what was planned for the future.

Response:

Mrs Lintill (Cabinet Member for Community Services) replied that she did not have the number of incursions there had been in the 2016 season, but she would find out and give a written reply. The transit site did provide a facility for the police to direct travellers to. If the whole group was too big to be accommodated at the transit site, part of the group could be directed there, and frequently the whole group would move out of the county rather than split. Mrs Lintill advised that she would provide a written answer.

Mr Hall added that the transit site was working effectively and a local liaison group monitored its operation.

(c) Question: Southern Rail

Mr Lloyd-Williams referred to the recent decision by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to ask that a letter be sent to the District's Members of Parliament about the chaos on Southern Rail services, and asked whether that letter had been sent and, if so, whether a reply had been received.

Response:

Mr Dignum (Leader of the Council) replied that he had not yet received the formal request to write the letter.

(d) Question: Visit Chichester

Mrs Apel made reference to the preparation of a Vision for Chichester, and asked whether it would address the issue of tourism. She referred to the decision some years ago to grant £50,000 to Visit Chichester, and asked whether that had been well spent.

Response:

Mr Dignum (Leader of the Council) replied that a Tourism Strategy would be drawn up after the Vision for Chichester was completed because part of the Vision would need a way of attracting tourism to the City. The Council might need to reconsider its decision to get out of tourism except for one Tourist Information Centre.

The Chief Executive added that the Council did not currently fund Visit Chichester, but the Strategy would be reviewed and a decision whether to contribute would be made early next year.

Mr Over declared an interest as a Director of Visit Chichester, but stated that the £50,000 grant had been mainly spent on website development and members could judge whether it had been well spent by visiting the website.

(e) Question: Racial hate crime

Mrs Dignum reported that a number of ward members had received letters expressing concern about the recently reported rise of racist and xenophobic incidents and hate crimes, following the EU referendum. She understood that the police kept a record of such crimes and asked whether there had been an increase in such incidents in Chichester District.

Response:

Mrs Lintill (Cabinet Member for Community Services) replied that she wished to reassure residents that there had not been any significant increase of this type of crime in the Chichester District to date. However, the most up to date data suggested there had been two cases which might be linked to the EU referendum and there had been some reports of anti-English graffiti and behaviour.

She wanted to make it absolutely clear that discriminatory behaviour of any kind would not be tolerated. Everyone had the right to feel safe in their communities and any kind of hate crime was unacceptable in any circumstances.

The Council worked very closely with the police and other partners through the Chichester District Community Safety Partnership. The Partnership not only monitored crime in the District, but it also identified actions that needed to be tackled or responded to. This included running campaigns to tackle certain behaviours such as race hate crime. The Partnership was leafleting via Community Wardens, high risk areas (Natures Way, Pepper farms) and universal services eg GP surgeries, to encourage reporting.

The Council's Community Wardens also provided a reassuring presence on many of the District's streets. They were integrated into the communities in which they worked. They were always available to listen to any concerns that people might have. They also knew which agencies were best placed to respond to particular issues.

If any residents had been affected by, or had witnessed, this type of behaviour, they should be encouraged to report this to the police on 101 or email 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk. Concerns could also be reported on both the District Council's and County Council's websites.

(f) Question: Community Infrastructure Levy

Mr Ransley referred to the members' briefing by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) officers on the Community Infrastructure Levy, in which they had stated that WSCC was a co-ordinator and commissioner of infrastructure provision. He asked whether the District Council had any oversight to scrutinise and monitor their performance.

Response:

Mrs Taylor drew attention to the Section 106/CIL protocol on the Council's website. This provided that, before release of identified CIL funds to external public bodies (infrastructure commissioners), the District Council would normally require a Legal Development Agreement/Service Level Agreement once sufficient CIL money had been collected to cover the total costs of the projects to be funded in any financial year. To

ensure that the money is spent on the agreed project and to the indicated timetable agreed with the District Council as Charging Authority, CIL funds would be released in arrears either on completion of projects or in staged payments as agreed by the Head of Planning Services. The Corporate Governance and Audit Committee would monitor the effectiveness of this protocol and that any risks are being managed in ensuring that monies are spent in accordance with the legal agreement (in the case of S106), and Legal Development Agreement/Service Level Agreement (in the case of CIL) and within the required timescales.

(g) Question: Chichester City Floral Decorations

Mr John F Elliott congratulated Mr Budge (Mayor of Chichester) on the floral decorations of the City.

140 Exclusion of the press and public

RESOLVED

That the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that it is likely that there would be a disclosure to the public of 'exempt information' of the description specified in Paragraph 3 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)) of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and because, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption of that information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

141 Plot 21, Terminus Road Chichester

Mrs Keegan (Cabinet Member for Commercial Services), seconded by Mr Dignum, moved the recommendations of the Cabinet, drawing attention to the revised recommendation as shown on the update sheet.

Mrs Keegan explained that, in June 2015, the Cabinet had approved a budget for the demolition of the existing building and redevelopment of this site with a single unit, subject to a pre-let agreement being in place before the new unit is built. Unfortunately, marketing of the site had failed to secure such a pre-let agreement. However, an offer had been received from a developer proposing to take a long lease to construct a five unit speculative industrial scheme. A market overview report had been commissioned from a local commercial agent whose report indicated that there was good demand for such units.

Whilst accepting the offer from a developer was a low risk option, it also offered a relatively low return. It was, therefore, proposed that the Council should itself proceed with the development of a five-unit speculative development, but in two stages – initially to draw up a detailed design, obtain detailed planning permission and tender for construction, to be followed by a further report to Cabinet on current market conditions and expected return on investment before proceeding with a construction contract. She added that, even if market conditions worsened and some units became hard to let or rents reduced, the expected return on investment would still be better than cash on deposit or the local authority property fund.

Mrs Keegan answered members' questions about the scale of investment and the rate of return, accepting that the rate of return should take into account the value of the land.

RESOLVED

- (1) That funding of the amount set out in recommendation 2.1(i) of the Cabinet report is released from Capital Reserves to enable the detailed design, planning matters and pre-construction tender process to be progressed for a five unit scheme.
- (2) That the balance of the estimated total project cost is allocated from capital reserves and that, following the tender process, a report is brought back to Cabinet to review capital costs, return on investment, and prevailing condition of the property market before the budget is released to enter into a construction contract.

The meeting ended at 1.00 pm

CHAIRMAN

Date:

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Minute 139 Questions to the Executive

(b) *Question: Gypsies and travellers*

Mr Shaxson commented that there seemed to be an alarming number of incursions by gypsies and travellers, despite the existence of the transit site at Westhampnett. He asked whether the site was too small, and what was planned for the future.

Response:

Mrs Lintill (Cabinet Member for Community Services) replied that she did not have the number of incursions there had been in the 2016 season, but she would find out and give a written reply. The transit site did provide a facility for the police to direct travellers to. If the whole group was too big to be accommodated at the transit site, part of the group could be directed there, and frequently the whole group would move out of the county rather than split. Mrs Lintill advised that she would provide a written answer.

Written response:

Following the question which you asked in Council on 19 July 2016 concerning the apparent number of incursions by Gypsy Travellers despite the Transit Site, I now set out the number of incursions for 2014/15 and 2015/16 for comparison, countywide and within the Chichester District.

The Transit site opened in May 2015. WSCC only started acting on behalf of all Districts and Boroughs in all unlawful encampments since May 2015 therefore data before then may not be complete, however CDC's is. I would also refer you to the Cabinet report of 3 December 2013 para.4.5 (c) stating CDC had experienced 51 incursions in 2013/14 to date.

A full post project evaluation is being conducted, coming to Cabinet on 4 October 2016 and I would reserve further comment until I have seen the full analysis, save to say the site is as big as the land available allowed and it was always intended to provide another option for use of police powers not previously available and not a total solution.

1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 – 117 encampments in WSCC of which 70 were Gypsy Travellers (others include so called New Age Travellers and temporary Van Dwellers)

1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 – 19 in Chichester District

Average stay on site 5 – 10 days and majority dependent on court hearing for resolution

1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 – 100 in WSCC of which 61 were Gypsy Travellers

1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 – 21 in Chichester District

Average stay on public land unauthorised sites 1 – 3 days range of interventions of police powers, transfer to Transit Site, decline offer of the site and move on and court action.

The full analysis for the PPE report will seek to identify how many times the Transit Site has been full and unavailable when there has been an unauthorised encampment.

Chichester District Council

COUNCIL

20 September 2016

Chichester Electoral Review: Draft Recommendations

1. Contacts

Report Author:

Philip Coleman, Member Services Electoral Review Support Officer

Tel: 01243 534655 E-mail: pcoleman@chichester.gov.uk

2. Recommendation of the Boundary Review Panel

That the Council informs the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) that it supports the Commission's draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Chichester District Council, with the following exceptions:

- (1) Its proposal to include the parish of Elsted & Treyford in Midhurst Ward. Instead this parish should be included in Harting Ward, as in the Council's original submission, on the grounds that in this case the criteria of community identity and effective and convenient local government should outweigh the fairly marginal electoral inequality.
- (2) Its proposals for the proposed Bosham & Donnington and North Mundham & Tangmere wards are accepted, but the wards should be named respectively Harbour and Tangmere Wards.
- (3) Its proposal to transfer Velyn Avenue from Chichester South Ward to Chichester Central Ward; the flats on the western side of Velyn Avenue, with Peter Weston Close should be so transferred but the eastern and southern sides of Velyn Avenue should remain with the rest of Whyke in Chichester South Ward with which it has more community identity.
- (4) Its proposal to transfer the Pound Farm area from Chichester South Ward to Chichester East Ward, thus creating a very small and unviable city council ward. Under the Commission's proposal, electors in this area will be in Chichester South for County Council elections, Chichester East for District Council elections, and Chichester Pound Farm for City Council elections. This will be confusing for electors, and is not conducive to convenient and effective local government.
- (5) The name of its proposed Chichester Portfield Ward; Chichester Arundel Park Ward is preferred.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 16 August 2016, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) published for consultation its draft recommendations for ward names and boundaries for Chichester District Council to take effect for the council elections in May 2019. The consultation document is attached as Appendix 1. The consultation period runs until 10 October 2016.

3.2. This is the third and penultimate stage in the electoral review. Previous stages have been:

- (1) Review of Council size, leading to a proposal to reduce the size of the Council from 48 to 36 members.
- (2) Invitation to the Council (and other interested parties) to propose a pattern of wards, leading to approval of a submission to the LGBCE by the Council at a special meeting on 31 March 2016.

3.3. Also on 16 August, the LGBCE published its final recommendations for its review of electoral divisions of West Sussex County Council. This has particular relevance for ward patterns within Chichester City.

4. Outcomes to be achieved

4.1. The outcome is to achieve a pattern of wards which meets the Commission's three statutory criteria: electoral equality; community interests and identities; and effective and convenient local government.

4.2. **Electoral Equality:** This means that each councillor should represent roughly the same number of voters. The projected number of voters in the District is 98,781. (This is based on projections to 2021, as required by the LGBCE to help future-proof the new arrangements) This means that, on average, each councillor should represent about **2,744** voters. The LGBCE works on the principle that a ward has electoral equality if the number of electors per councillor is within 10% of the average.

4.3. **Interests and identities of local communities:** This means respecting local ties and setting easily identifiable boundaries. The patterns of community life, represented by transport links, community groups, facilities such as shops, health services and community halls, and shared interests should be taken into account. In many cases parishes can be used as building blocks.

4.4. **Effective and convenient local government:** This means ensuring that the wards can be represented effectively by their elected councillor(s) – that wards are neither too big nor too small in extent and all parts of the wards are linked together. Wards may have more than one councillor, but not more than three.

5. Proposals

5.1. In its consultation document, the LGBCE accepts the electorate forecasts for 2021 provided by the Council as “the best available at the present time” and uses them to produce its draft recommendations.

5.2. The LGBCE had already reached a provisional view in support of the Council's recommendation for a reduction in the number of councillors to 36, believing that the Council would still be able to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively. In the course of its consultation on ward patterns, other parties put forward arguments in favour of 35 or 34 members. The LGBCE examined these options, but does not accept them, and expresses concern that a reduction to 34 would impact on the running of the council.

- 5.3. The LGBCE's draft recommendations are based on the submission put forward by the Council in March. Although stating the Council's recommendations, that submission also drew the LGBCE's attention to matters of controversy, such as the inclusion of Sidlesham in a ward with part of Selsey, and the inclusion of Lurgashall in Fernhurst ward. These and other matters were also raised in the submissions by other parties direct to the LGBCE.
- 5.4. The LGBCE has considered, and comments upon, these matters, but with three exceptions (described in paragraph 6 below) its draft recommendations follow the Council's own proposals.
- 5.5. The Panel believes that, in responding to the LGBCE's draft recommendations, the Council should comment only on the LGBCE proposals that differ from Council's. There seems no point in re-opening issues where the LGBCE has adopted the Council's proposals.
- 5.6. A summary of the LGBCE's draft recommendations, setting out how they affect parishes is set out in Appendix 2.

6. Issues

- 6.1. The LGBCE's draft recommendations differ from the Council's proposals, where the latter involve the creation of wards with a variance of + or – 10% from the average. There are also some variations within the City of Chichester.

Harting Ward.

- 6.2. The Council proposed a single-member Harting Ward with a projected electorate of 3,054, a variance of +11%, comprising the four parishes of Harting, Rogate, Trotton with Chithurst and Elsted & Treyford. Although acknowledging that this was above the 10% threshold, both Trotton with Chithurst and Elsted & Treyford had stated that they had more affinity with this ward and with each other than with parishes to the east and north.
- 6.3. The LGBCE proposes detaching Elsted & Treyford parish and including this in the two-member Midhurst Ward. Its report states (paras 30-31):-

*“30 We received two submissions relating to **Harting** ward. It was acknowledged that this ward had over 10% more electors than the average for the district. It was suggested that either Elsted & Treyford parish or Trotton with Chithurst parish could be transferred to Midhurst or Linchmere wards, respectively. However, this was rejected on the basis of community identity. We also received good evidence for the community links between Trotton with Chithurst and the parishes within the proposed Harting ward.*

“31 We have carefully considered the evidence received, but consider the electoral variance for this proposed ward to be somewhat high. We have examined the proposal to transfer Elsted & Treyford parish to Midhurst ward. Our tour of the area confirmed that while Elsted & Treyford parish clearly has links to the parishes in Harting ward, it also has reasonable road links to Midhurst. Transferring Elsted & Treyford to Midhurst would improve electoral equality. We

are therefore transferring Elsted & Treyford parish to Midhurst as part of our draft recommendations.”

- 6.4. Both Elsted and Treyford and Trotton with Chithurst parish councils are understood to be strongly against the LGBCE’s draft recommendation. The former provides a detailed argument on community identity grounds for remaining in Harting Ward (set out in full in Appendix 3) and the latter states that councillors “intend to reiterate and reinforce the objections they sent last time regarding separating us from Elsted & Treyhurst parish council”. Those objections emphasised the closeness of relations between the two parishes, involving significant working together and the possibility of a common council (ie one parish council for two parishes). Representations supporting the Council’s original proposal and opposing the transfer of Elsted & Treyford Parish to Midhurst Ward have also been received from Midhurst Town Council, which points to the fact that significant additional development may be expected in Midhurst but not in Harting Ward and to the difficulties in managing such a mix of rural and urban communities, and from Cllr Andrew Shaxson.
- 6.5. **The Panel considers that, in this case, considerations of community identity and convenient and effective local government should outweigh those of electoral equality and that Elsted & Treyford should be included in Harting Ward.**

Bosham to Tangmere area

- 6.6. The Council proposed:
- A two-member Bosham Ward, with a projected electorate of 3,132, a variance of +14%, comprising the parishes of Chidham & Hambrook, Bosham, and Fishbourne (except Appledram Lane South).
 - A single-member Donnington Ward, with a projected electorate of 3,012, a variance of +10%, comprising the parishes of Donnington, Appledram (with Appledram Lane South), and Hunston.
 - A single member Oving Ward, with a projected electorate of 2,341, a variance of -15%, comprising the parishes of North Mundham and Oving.
 - A single member Tangmere Ward, with a projected electorate of 2,472, a variance of -10%, comprising Tangmere Parish.
- 6.7. The LGBCE comments that the proposals for Bosham, Oving and Tangmere Wards have poor electoral equality. They also do not support the creation of a parish ward in Fishbourne for Appledram Lane South consisting of about 60 electors. The LGBCE, therefore, proposes:
- a three-member Bosham & Donnington ward, comprising the parishes of Chidham & Hambrook, Bosham, Fishbourne, Appeldram and Donnington, with a projected electorate of 8,355, a variance of +1%,
 - a two-member North Mundham and Tangmere Ward, comprising the parishes of Hunston, North Mundham, Oving and Tangmere, with a projected electorate of 5,734, a variance of +4%,
- 6.8. Its report states (paras 38-41, 43-44):-

“...the Bosham ward had poor electoral equality, with 14% more electors than the district average. In addition, it was proposed that an area of Fishbourne

parish be transferred to Donnington ward. This would require the creation of a parish ward of Fishbourne with only 62 electors. We do not consider this provides for effective and convenient local government and do not propose adopting it. However, retaining the whole of Fishbourne parish in Bosham ward worsens electoral equality from 14% to 15% more electors than the district average.

*“We have therefore examined options to improve this. We note that there is no option to transfer any area to the north as the A27 forms a strong boundary. We have considered transferring part of the proposed Bosham ward around Nutbourne in Chidham & Hambrook parish to Southbourne ward. However, we note that part of the Nutbourne area has only recently been transferred to Chidham & Hambrook parish as part of a Community Governance Review. While moving this area for warding purposes would improve electoral equality we do not believe it would reflect communities or ensure effective and convenient local government. We are therefore adopting the proposed **Southbourne** ward without amendment.*

“We note that there were strong objections to the transfer of any area of Fishbourne parish into a Chichester city ward. However, our tour of the area confirmed that the north-east area of Fishbourne, around Mosse Gardens, does have road links into Chichester city via Clay Lane, albeit while crossing under the A27. We also explored the links between the southern area of Fishbourne and Appledram and Donnington parishes. Transferring part of Fishbourne would improve electoral equality in Bosham ward and also improve electoral equality in the Chichester wards. However, we acknowledge that this would not reflect community links.

*“Therefore, to address the variance in Bosham ward we propose transferring Donnington and Appledram parishes to Bosham ward to create a three-member **Donnington & Bosham** ward. We acknowledge that this creates a somewhat large ward, but it is no larger than others in the district and would be served by three councillors. In addition, while it contains a number of communities, there are good internal road links between them and our recommendations avoid the need to divide any parish between wards...”*

*“...We note that the proposals for Oving and Tangmere wards would have poor electoral equality, with Oving ward having 15% fewer electors than the district average. It was argued that this would enable the areas to accommodate predicted growth beyond the five-year forecast period. However, we are unable to consider the electorate forecasts beyond the date five years from the end of the review. We have therefore sought to improve these proposals. We propose transferring the remainder of Donnington ward into a two-councillor ward combining Oving and Tangmere wards. We propose calling this ward **North Mundham & Tangmere**. This ward would have good electoral equality, but still enable a certain amount of growth to be accommodated beyond the forecast period. Our tour of the area confirmed that there are good road links within the ward.”*

- 6.9.** The scale of the variances in the Council’s original proposals are unlikely to be acceptable to the LGBCE, unless compelling evidence can be provided on the criteria of community identity or convenient and effective local government.

There is some uncertainty about the pace of development, and hence the accuracy of the projected electorates in Oving and Tangmere parishes, both of which contain strategic development locations. In particular, because the electoral review has slipped a few months, an additional 45 houses at Shopwyke (equivalent to 76 electors) should be added to the projections for Oving Parish. The Council's projections are based on a cautious view and there are already possible signs that they may be exceeded. However, as explained in the final paragraph of the above extract from the LGBCE report, there is some headroom to enable a certain amount of additional growth to be accommodated. The proposed addition of Hunston to this Ward makes it impracticable to separate Tangmere from the rest of the Ward.

- 6.10. The Panel believes that the LGBCE's recommendations for ward boundaries are acceptable, but that the names of the Wards should be "Harbour" (for the LGBCE's proposed Bosham and Donnington Ward) and "Tangmere" (for the LGBCE's proposed North Mundham and Tangmere Ward), in order to achieve consistency with the Council's approach to naming wards.**

Chichester City

- 6.11. The Council's submission kept Chichester City as a single entity, with no district wards crossing the city boundary. It proposed division of the City into five wards, with a single-member central ward and four two-member wards named after compass points. Only Chichester South Ward had a positive variance; all other wards had negative variances, rising to as much as -10% in Chichester East. Co-terminosity with proposals for county electoral divisions was sought where possible, but these had not been settled at that time, with WSCC putting forward counter-proposals to the LGBCE's draft recommendations. This Council's submission, therefore, encouraged the LGBCE to seek co-terminosity as far as possible in producing final recommendations for WSCC and draft recommendations for Chichester District Council, acknowledging that this would not always be possible and there would be divergences in places, notably East Broyle, Arundel Park and the north-east quadrant of the City Centre.
- 6.12. The LGBCE's proposals for warding Chichester City are broadly similar to the Council's submission. The LGBCE accepts the community identity arguments for not crossing the City boundary. However, it does propose some minor variations to ward boundaries:-
- a. Transfer the south side of Westgate, including Tannery Close, Mount Lane and Marriott House/Lodge from Chichester Central to Chichester West. This appears to be a consequence of representations from the Westgate Residents Association. A similar change has been made to the WSCC Electoral Division boundary. Since the last electoral review in 2002, Westgate Street has been traffic calmed and is less of a main road. The road is more of a unifying feature than a dividing feature in the community, and this proposal appears reasonable.
 - b. Transfer Cawley Road, Laburnam Grove, Velyn Avenue, Peter Weston Close and the South side of The Hornet from Chichester South to Chichester Central. This appears to be a re-balancing of Chichester Central as a

consequence of the previous proposal. This proposal appears reasonable, in part at least. However, Chichester City Councillors have argued that Velyn Avenue belongs with Whyke in Chichester South rather than the Central Ward. In fact, the western side of Velyn Avenue and the whole of Peter Weston Close comprise blocks of flats constructed recently and linked to flats in The Hornet, whereas the eastern side of Velyn Avenue, and its southern end comprise older development that is more related to the Whyke area in Chichester South.

- c. Transfer Pound Farm Road and the north sides of parts of Whyke Road and Bognor Road from Chichester South to Chichester East. This appears to be intended to reduce the negative variance on Chichester East ward. As mentioned in the next paragraph, this creates a very small city council ward. The Council's submission had already proposed that the south side of Oving Road should be transferred from Chichester South to Chichester East, so that both sides of Oving Road fell in the same ward. A similar proposal was put forward for WSCC's electoral division boundary, and that has been adopted by the LGBCE. The combined effect of the LGBCE's proposals is that the proposed Pound Farm City Ward will be in Chichester South for county council elections but in Chichester East for district council elections. This may be confusing for the electorate and contrary to effective and convenient local government.

Impact on parish electoral arrangements

6.13. These proposals have knock-on effects for Chichester City Council. Where the district ward boundaries diverge from the county ED boundaries a single-member city ward is created. (See para 52 of Appendix 2). This results in four single-member city council wards within the retained council size of 20. These are:-

- East Broyle. This is an inevitable consequence of the Council's proposals and is a reasonable size.
- Portfield. The Panel believes this would be better named "Arundel Park". This is an inevitable consequence of the Council's proposals and is a reasonable size.
- Priory. This is an inevitable consequence of the Council's proposals. It is rather on the small side and in strict equality terms would be entitled to only 0.44 of a city councillor.
- Pound Farm. This is the area referred to in paragraph 6.12 (c) above. It is very small (about 240 electors) and would be entitled to only 0.21 of a city councillor.

6.14. The LGBCE has provided the following figures of projected electorates for its proposed City Council wards:

| Proposed City Ward | 2021 electorate | 'Entitlement' to councillors | Proposed number of councillors |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chichester Central | 2,086 | 1.79 | 2 |
| Chichester East | 4,948 | 4.25 | 4 |
| Chichester East Broyle | 955 | 0.82 | 1 |
| Chichester North | 5,113 | 4.39 | 4 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------|---|
| Chichester Portfield | 1,400 | 1.20 | 1 |
| Chichester Pound Farm | 241 | 0.21 | 1 |
| Chichester Priory | 511 | 0.44 | 1 |
| Chichester South | 3,691 | 3.17 | 3 |
| Chichester West | 4,331 | 3.72 | 3 |

6.15. In paragraph 53 of their draft recommendations report (Appendix 2 hereto) the LGBCE explains that Chichester District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements. In conducting such a review, the Council would not be bound by the same limitations as the LGBCE and could, for example, vary the size of the City Council and change ward boundaries so that they regain co-terminosity with the District ward boundaries. However, electoral arrangements put in place by the LGBCE are protected for five years and, if the Council wishes to alter them as part of a community governance review, the consent of the LGBCE is required.

6.16. **The Panel recommends the elimination of the proposed Pound Farm Ward, by adhering to the rear of the properties on the south side of Oving Road as the boundary between Chichester East and Chichester South wards. It also agrees that the flats on the western side of Velyn Avenue, with Peter Weston Close, should be transferred to Chichester Central Ward, but recommends that the eastern and southern sides of Velyn Avenue should remain with the rest of Whyke in Chichester South Ward.**

6.17. The LGBCE also provides revised parish electoral arrangements for Selsey Town Council, the only other parish not wholly within one district ward. The Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Selsey North (six councillors) and Selsey South (eight councillors).

7. Consultation

7.1. On 16 August 2016, the same day as it was received, the LGBCE's consultation document was sent to all members, all parish councils and chairmen of parish meetings, West Sussex County Council, South Downs National Park Authority, the local Police commander, political parties in the Chichester and Arundel and South Downs constituencies, and other interested parties who had responded to the Council's earlier consultation on creating a pattern of wards. The consultation document was also put on the Council's website.

7.2. At the time of preparing this report, relatively few responses have been received. Those that have been received are set out in Appendix 3, and have been taken into account in Section 6 above.

8. Appendices

- 8.1. Appendix 1 – LGBCE draft recommendations report for Chichester District Council
Appendix 2 – Summary showing arrangement of parishes
Appendix 3 – Representations received to date

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Summary

Who we are and what we do

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is an independent body set up by Parliament. We are not part of government or any political party. We are accountable to Parliament through a committee of MPs chaired by the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Our main role is to carry out electoral reviews of local authorities throughout England.

Electoral review

An electoral review examines and proposes new electoral arrangements for a local authority. A local authority's electoral arrangements decide:

- How many councillors are needed
- How many wards or electoral divisions should there be, where are their boundaries and what should they be called
- How many councillors should represent each ward or division

Why Chichester?

We are conducting an electoral review of Chichester District Council following a request by the Council in order to consider a reduction in council size.

Our proposals for Chichester

- Chichester should be represented by 36 councillors, 12 fewer than at present.
- Chichester should have 21 wards, eight fewer than now
- The boundaries of all of the existing wards should change

Have your say

We are consulting on our draft recommendations for an eight-week period, from 16 August 2016 to 10 October 2016. We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to contribute to the design of the new wards – the more public views we hear, the more informed our decisions will be when analysing all the views we received.

We ask everyone wishing to contribute ideas for the new wards to first read this *Draft recommendations* report and accompanying map before responding to us.

You have until 10 October 2016 to have your say on the draft recommendations. See page 17 for how to send us your response.

What is the Local Government Boundary Commission for England?

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body set up by Parliament.¹

The members of the Commission are:

Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)

Dr Peter Knight CBE DL

Alison Lowton

Peter Maddison QPM

Sir Tony Redmond

Professor Paul Wiles CB

Chief Executive: Jolyon Jackson CBE

¹ Under the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

1 Introduction

1 This electoral review is being carried out to ensure that:

- The wards in the district of Chichester are in the best possible places to help the Council carry out its responsibilities effectively
- The number of voters represented by each councillor is approximately the same across the district.

What is an electoral review?

2 Our three main considerations are to:

- Improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each councillor represents
- Reflect community identity
- Provide for effective and convenient local government

3 Our task is to strike the best balance between them when making our recommendations. Our powers, as well as the guidance we have provided for electoral reviews and further information on the review process, can be found on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Consultation

4 We wrote to the Council to ask its views on the appropriate number of councillors for Chichester. We then held a period of consultation on warding patterns for the district. The submissions received during consultation have informed our draft recommendations.

This review is being conducted as follows:

| Stage starts | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| 19 January 2016 | Number of councillors decided |
| 26 January 2016 | Start of consultation seeking views on new wards |
| 4 April 2016 | End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming draft recommendations |
| 16 August 2016 | Publication of draft recommendations, start of second consultation |
| 10 October 2016 | End of consultation; we begin analysing submissions and forming final recommendations |
| 6 December 2016 | Publication of final recommendations |

How will the recommendations affect you?

5 The recommendations will determine how many councillors will serve on the Council. They will also decide which ward you vote in and which other communities are in that ward and, in some instances, which parish council wards you vote in. Your

ward name may also change, as may the names of parish or town council wards in the area. The names or boundaries of parishes will not change as a result of our recommendations.

2 Analysis and draft recommendations

6 Legislation² states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors³ there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards.

7 In reality, we are unlikely to be able to create wards with exactly the same number of electors in each; we have to be flexible. However, we try to keep the number of electors represented by each councillor as close to the average for the council as possible.

8 We work out the average number of electors per councillor for each individual local authority by dividing the electorate by the number of councillors, as shown on the table below.

| | 2015 | 2021 |
|---|--------|--------|
| Electorate of Chichester | 92,617 | 98,780 |
| Number of councillors | 36 | 36 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,573 | 2,744 |

9 When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority, we refer to the ward as having 'electoral equality'. All of our proposed wards for Chichester will have electoral equality by 2021.

10 Our recommendations cannot affect the external boundaries of Chichester district or result in changes to postcodes. They do not take into account parliamentary constituency boundaries. The recommendations will not have an effect on local taxes, house prices, or car and house insurance premiums and we are not able to take into account any representations which are based on these issues.

Submissions received

11 See Appendix B for details of submissions received. All submissions may be viewed at our offices and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk

Electorate figures

12 The Council submitted electorate forecasts for 2021, a period five years on from the scheduled publication of our final recommendations in 2016. These forecasts were broken down to polling district levels and predicted an increase in the electorate of around 6.6% to 2021.

13 We considered the information provided by the Council and are satisfied that the projected figures are the best available at the present time. We have used these figures to produce our draft recommendations.

² Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

³ Electors refers to the number of people registered to vote, not the whole adult population.

Number of councillors

14 Chichester currently has 48 councillors. The Council provided evidence for reducing the number of councillors to 36. We have looked at evidence provided by the Council and have concluded that, despite a reduction, the Council will be able to continue to carry out its roles and responsibilities effectively.

15 We therefore invited proposals for new patterns of wards that would be represented by 36 councillors.

16 In response to our consultation on ward patterns a number of respondents argued that 35 or 34 members would enable a better pattern of wards, particularly in the south of the district around Selsey. We have examined these options in formulating the draft recommendations. While reducing the council size to 35 enabled an alternate pattern in the Selsey area, elsewhere it had a consequential effect that produced a pattern of wards that secured poor electoral equality. In addition, we did not consider there to be any compelling argument to reduce council size to 34, particularly given that our recommendation for 36 councillors already reduces council size by 12 councillors. We would be concerned about how this would impact on the running of the Council. We did not explore this further.

17 We are therefore recommending 36 councillors as the basis of the draft recommendations.

Ward boundaries

18 We received 12 submissions during our consultation on ward boundaries, including a district-wide proposal from the Council based on 36 councillors. This provided a mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards for Chichester.

19 We carefully considered the proposals received and concluded that the proposed ward boundaries generally have good levels of electoral equality and generally used clearly identifiable boundaries.

20 Our draft recommendations are based on the district-wide proposal that we received. However, in some areas we considered that the proposals did not provide the best balance between our statutory criteria and so we identified alternative boundaries. We also visited the area in order to look at the various different proposals on the ground. This tour of Chichester helped us to decide between the different boundaries proposed.

21 Our draft recommendations are for eight single-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and two three-councillor wards. We consider that our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests where we have received such evidence during consultation.

22 A summary of our proposed new wards is set out in Table A1 (on page 19) and on the large map accompanying this report.

23 We welcome all comments on these draft recommendations, particularly on the location of the ward boundaries, and the names of our proposed wards.

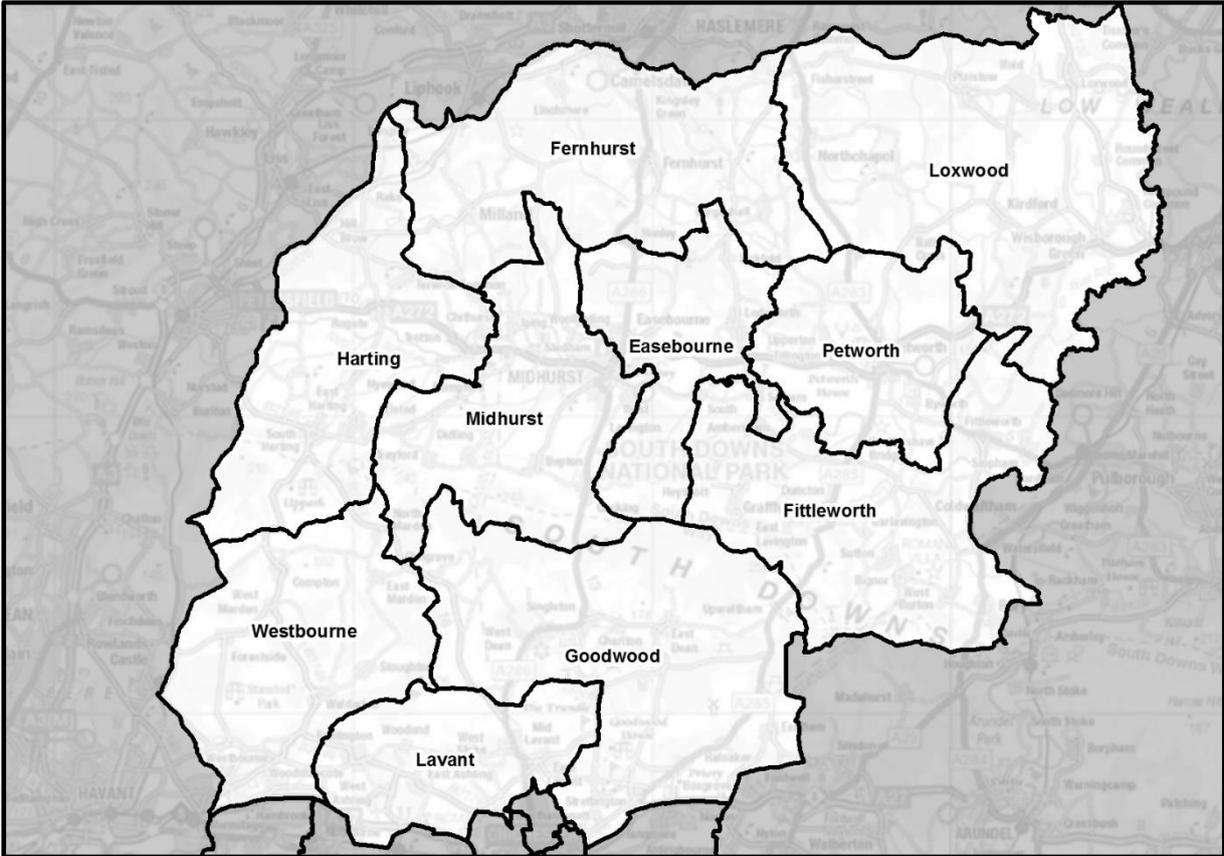
Draft recommendations

24 Pages 8–15 detail our draft recommendations for each area of Chichester. They detail how the proposed warding arrangements reflect the three statutory⁴ criteria of:

- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

⁴ Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

North area



| Ward name | Number of Cllrs | Variance 2021 |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Easebourne | 1 | 1% |
| Fernhurst | 2 | -1% |
| Fittleworth | 1 | 1% |
| Goodwood | 1 | 5% |
| Harting | 1 | 3% |
| Lavant | 1 | -1% |
| Loxwood | 2 | 4% |
| Midhurst | 2 | 8% |
| Petworth | 1 | 6% |
| Westbourne | 1 | 3% |

Easebourne

25 We received two submissions relating to **Easebourne** ward. One submission called for the retention of the existing Easebourne ward; however, this is not possible while trying to ensure good electoral equality across the wider area. Another submission highlighted a concern about the inclusion of Lodsworth parish in the proposed ward; however, it is necessary to include this to ensure electoral equality. We also note that Lodsworth has good road links to Easebourne and we are adopting this ward as part of the draft recommendations.

Fernhurst

26 We received two submissions relating to the two-councillor **Fernhurst** ward. There were objections to the inclusion of Lurgashall parish in the ward, with arguments that it shares greater community identities with Loxwood and has only limited links to Fernhurst. However, it is not possible to secure good electoral equality in the Loxwood area if Lurgashall is moved there so we do not propose adopting this.

27 Another submission suggested that the development of the Syngenta site would add sufficient electors to enable Fernhurst to be a single-councillor ward in its own right. However, we note that while there has been a 'scoping' exercise for the Syngenta site, there is no approved planning application for residential building on the site. Therefore, we do not believe that this site will be developed within the forecast period of the review. In addition, this alternate proposal relied on transferring Lurgashall parish to the Loxwood area, which, as discussed above, would result in poor electoral equality. On balance, we consider that the two-councillor Fernhurst ward secures good electoral equality and are adopting it as part of our draft recommendations.

Fittleworth

28 We received one submission relating to **Fittleworth** ward. This ward secures good electoral equality and we are adopting it as part of our draft recommendations.

Goodwood

29 We received one submission relating to **Goodwood** ward. This ward combines the existing Boxgove ward with Westhampnett. It was argued that while Westhampnett is the largest settlement in the ward, Goodwood is a locally recognised name in the area and should therefore be adopted as the ward name. This ward secures good electoral equality and we are adopting it as part of our draft recommendations.

Harting

30 We received two submissions relating to **Harting** ward. It was acknowledged that this ward had over 10% more electors than the average for the district. It was suggested that either Elsted & Treyford parish or Trotton with Chithurst parish could be transferred to Midhurst or Linchmere wards, respectively. However, this was rejected on the basis of community identity. We also received good evidence for the community links between Trotton with Chithurst and the parishes within the proposed Harting ward.

31 We have carefully considered the evidence received, but consider the electoral variance for this proposed ward to be somewhat high. We have examined the proposal to transfer Elsted & Treyford parish to Midhurst ward. Our tour of the area confirmed that while Elsted & Treyford parish clearly has links to the parishes in Harting ward, it also has reasonable road links to Midhurst. Transferring Elsted & Treyford to Midhurst would improve electoral equality. We are therefore transferring Elsted & Treyford parish to Midhurst as part of our draft recommendations.

Lavant

32 We received one submission relating to **Lavant** ward. It was argued that the parishes of Funtington and Lavant only have limited links, but both straddle the national park boundary and have shared interests in this regard. This ward secures good electoral equality and we are adopting it as part of our draft recommendations.

Loxwood

33 We received one submission relating to the two-councillor **Loxwood** ward. It was argued that this ward could be divided to create two single-councillor wards with good electoral equality. However, this was rejected following representations which argued that the north-west cluster of parishes in the proposed ward work together and are separated from the rest of Chichester's local plan area by the national park. On balance, we consider that the two-councillor ward better reflects local communities while securing good electoral equality and are therefore adopting it as part of our draft recommendations.

Midhurst

34 We received two submissions relating to **Midhurst** ward. Under the revised council size of 36 councillors it was acknowledged that the existing two-councillor Midhurst ward has too few electors so it was proposed to unite it with a number of surrounding rural parishes. We received a representation that argued for the incorporation of Stedham with Iping parish in Midhurst ward.

35 As stated in the discussion of Harting ward above, we propose transferring Elsted & Treyford parish to Midhurst ward to improve electoral equality in Harting ward. Subject to this amendment, we are adopting the proposed Midhurst ward as part of our draft recommendations.

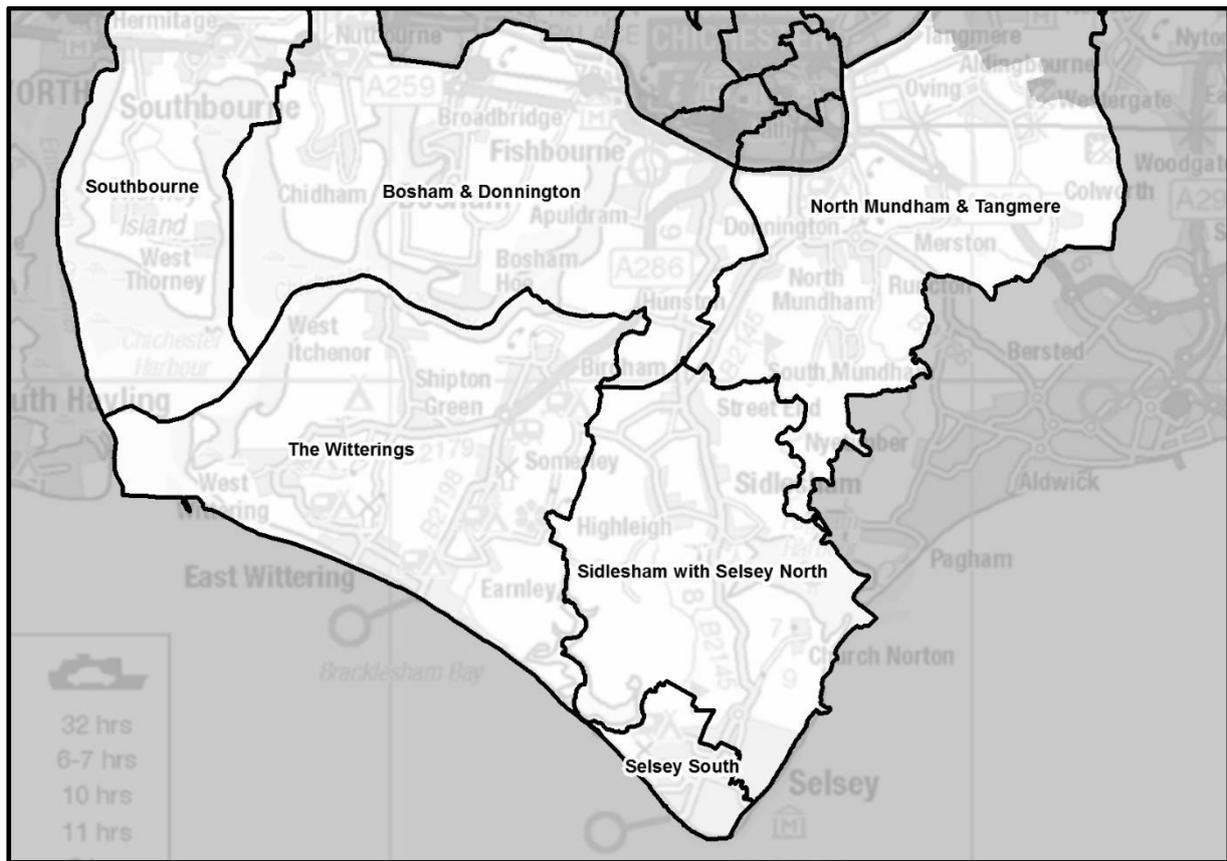
Petworth

36 We received one submission relating to **Petworth** ward. This supported the inclusion of the neighbouring parishes of Petworth and Tillington in a single ward. This ward secures good electoral equality and we are adopting it as part of our draft recommendations.

Westbourne

37 We received one submission relating to **Westbourne** ward. It was argued that the proposed ward would combine Westbourne parish with villages in the River Ems valley which have clear road links. This ward secures good electoral equality and we are adopting it as part of our draft recommendations.

South area



| Ward name | Number of Cllrs | Variance 2021 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Bosham & Donnington | 3 | 1% |
| North Mundham & Tangmere | 2 | 4% |
| Selsey South | 2 | -7% |
| Sidlesham with Selsey North | 2 | -5% |
| Southbourne | 2 | 5% |
| The Witterings | 3 | 3% |

Bosham, Southbourne and Fishbourne area

38 We received two submissions relating to this area, including proposals for a two-councillor Bosham and two-councillor Southbourne ward. However, the Bosham ward had poor electoral equality, with 14% more electors than the district average. In addition, it was proposed that an area of Fishbourne parish be transferred to Donnington ward. This would require the creation of a parish ward of Fishbourne with only 62 electors. We do not consider this provides for effective and convenient local government and do not propose adopting it. However, retaining the whole of Fishbourne parish in Bosham ward worsens electoral equality from 14% to 15% more electors than the district average.

39 We have therefore examined options to improve this. We note that there is no option to transfer any area to the north as the A27 forms a strong boundary. We have considered transferring part of the proposed Bosham ward around Nutbourne in

Chidham & Hambrook parish to Southbourne ward. However, we note that part of the Nutbourne area has only recently been transferred to Chidham & Hambrook parish as part of a Community Governance Review. While moving this area for warding purposes would improve electoral equality we do not believe it would reflect communities or ensure effective and convenient local government. We are therefore adopting the proposed **Southbourne** ward without amendment.

40 We note that there were strong objections to the transfer of any area of Fishbourne parish into a Chichester city ward. However, our tour of the area confirmed that the north-east area of Fishbourne, around Mosse Gardens, does have road links into Chichester city via Clay Lane, albeit while crossing under the A27. We also explored the links between the southern area of Fishbourne and Appledram and Donnington parishes. Transferring part of Fishbourne would improve electoral equality in Bosham ward and also improve electoral equality in the Chichester wards. However, we acknowledge that this would not reflect community links.

41 Therefore, to address the variance in Bosham ward we propose transferring Donnington and Appledram parishes to Bosham ward to create a three-member **Donnington & Bosham** ward. We acknowledge that this creates a somewhat large ward, but it is no larger than others in the district and would be served by three councillors. In addition, while it contains a number of communities, there are good internal road links between them and our recommendations avoid the need to divide any parish between wards.

Wittering, Selsey and Oving area

42 We received four submissions relating to this area, including proposals for single-councillor Donnington, Oving and Tangmere wards, two-councillor Selsey South and Sidlesham & Selsey North wards, and a three-councillor Wittering ward.

43 As stated above, in order to address the poor electoral equality in the proposed Bosham ward, we are creating a three-councillor Bosham & Donnington ward. Although this ward is somewhat large, it has good electoral equality and there are road links between the constituent communities.

44 We note that the proposals for Oving and Tangmere wards would have poor electoral equality, with Oving ward having 15% fewer electors than the district average. It was argued that this would enable the areas to accommodate predicted growth beyond the five-year forecast period. However, we are unable to consider the electorate forecasts beyond the date five years from the end of the review. We have therefore sought to improve these proposals. We propose transferring the remainder of Donnington ward into a two-councillor ward combining Oving and Tangmere wards. We propose calling this ward **North Mundham & Tangmere**. This ward would have good electoral equality, but still enable a certain amount of growth to be accommodated beyond the forecast period. Our tour of the area confirmed that there are good road links within the ward.

45 To the south of this area we note that there were significant objections to the proposal to create a two-councillor Selsey South ward and two-councillor Sidlesham & Selsey North ward. Respondents argued that Selsey should not be divided and that it has only limited links to the Sidlesham area. We note that a number of

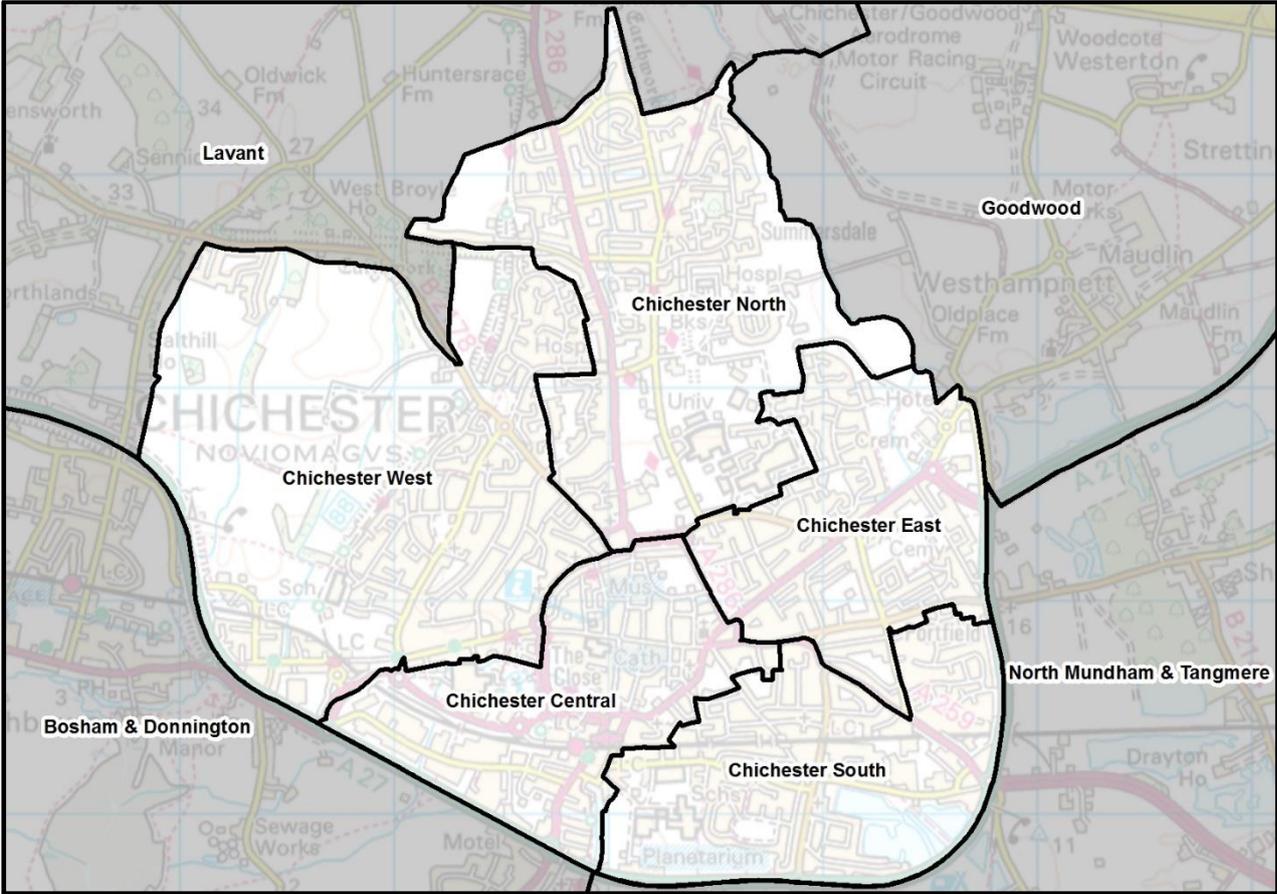
respondents also argued that Selsey should be a three-councillor ward, even though it would have poor electoral equality with 13% more electors than the district average. There were also proposals to reduce the overall number of councillors to either 35 or 34 members to accommodate an alternate warding pattern.

46 Taking into account our proposals for **Bosham & Donnington** ward, we were unable to identify a pattern of wards that would work for the remainder of the area to the south of the A27 under a council size of 35. We therefore did not explore this further. In addition, we did not consider there to be any compelling argument to reduce council size to 34, particularly given that our recommendation for 36 councillors already reduces council size by 12 councillors. We would be concerned about the impact this would have on the effective running of the Council.

47 We note that Selsey is already warded under the current electoral arrangements. While we acknowledge the concerns about warding the north area of Selsey with Sidlesham our tour of the area confirmed that they share reasonable road links. We are therefore adopting the two-member wards of **Selsey South** and **Sidlesham with Selsey North** as part of our draft recommendations.

48 We note there was some support for the proposed **The Witterings** ward, which we are adopting as part of our draft recommendations. There were some suggestions of alternate patterns for this area. However, we are of the view that they could not be accommodated within the wider warding pattern.

Chichester City



| Ward name | Number of Cllrs | Variance 2021 |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Chichester Central | 1 | -5% |
| Chichester East | 2 | -5% |
| Chichester North | 2 | -7% |
| Chichester South | 2 | -7% |
| Chichester West | 2 | -4% |

Chichester

49 We received three submissions relating to this area. All respondents were clear that the city boundary should not be breached, with no areas from the surrounding rural area transferred in, and no area of the city transferred out for warding purposes. As stated above, we did consider the option of transferring part of Fishbourne parish into the ward to address electoral equality elsewhere, noting it would also enable us to improve electoral equality in Chichester city’s wards. However, we rejected this option on community identity grounds.

50 We note that the proposed wards generally used strong boundaries. However, we propose a number of small amendments to improve electoral equality in a number of wards. We acknowledge that the proposals sought to reflect the recently proposed division boundaries and thus avoid the creation of small parish wards. Where possible we have sought to do this. However, where this negatively impacts on

electoral equality we have been unable to avoid this. Our **Chichester Central, Chichester East, Chichester North, Chichester South and Chichester West** wards secure good electoral equality.

Conclusions

51 Table 1 shows the impact of our draft recommendations on electoral equality, based on 2015 and 2021 electorate figures.

Table 1: Summary of electoral arrangements

| | Draft recommendations | |
|--|-----------------------|-------|
| | 2015 | 2021 |
| Number of councillors | 36 | 36 |
| Number of electoral wards | 21 | 21 |
| Average number of electors per councillor | 2,573 | 2,744 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 10% from the average | 3 | 0 |
| Number of wards with a variance more than 20% from the average | 1 | 0 |

Draft recommendation
 Chichester District Council should be made up of 36 councillors serving 21 wards representing eight single-councillor wards, 11 two-councillor wards and two three-councillor wards. The details and names are shown in Table A1 and illustrated on the large maps accompanying this report.

Mapping
Sheet 1, Map 1 shows the proposed wards for Chichester District Council. **You can also view our draft recommendations for Chichester on our interactive maps at <http://consultation.lgbce.org.uk>**

Parish electoral arrangements

52 As part of an electoral review, we are required to have regard to the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act). The Schedule provides that if a parish is to be divided between different wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single ward. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

53 Under the 2009 Act we only have the power to make changes to parish electoral

arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of our recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Chichester District Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements.

54 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Chichester and Selsey parishes.

55 As result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Chichester City Council.

Draft recommendation

Chichester City Council should comprise 20 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards: Chichester Central (returning two councillors), Chichester East (returning four councillors), Chichester East Broyle (returning one councillor), Chichester North (returning four councillors), Chichester Portfield (returning one councillor), Chichester Pound Farm (returning one councillor), Chichester Priory (returning one councillor), Chichester South (returning three councillors) and Chichester West (returning three councillors). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

56 As a result of our proposed ward boundaries and having regard to the statutory criteria set out in schedule 2 to the 2009 Act, we are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Selsey Town Council.

Draft recommendation

Selsey Town Council should comprise 14 councillors, as at present, representing two wards: Selsey North (returning six councillors) and Selsey South (returning eight councillors). The proposed parish ward boundaries are illustrated and named on Map 1.

3 Have your say

57 The Commission has an open mind about its draft recommendations. Every representation we receive will be considered, regardless of who it is from or whether it relates to the whole district or just a part of it.

58 If you agree with our recommendations, please let us know. If you don't think our recommendations are right for Chichester, we want to hear alternative proposals for a different pattern of wards.

59 Our website has a special consultation area where you can explore the maps and draw your own proposed boundaries. You can find it at consultation.lgbce.org.uk

60 Submissions can also be made by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to:

Review Officer (Chichester)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP

61 The Commission aims to propose a pattern of wards for Chichester which delivers:

- Electoral equality: each local councillor represents a similar number of voters
- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities
- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively

62 A good pattern of wards should:

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters
- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links
- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries
- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government

63 Electoral equality:

- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the council area?

64 Community identity:

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents' association or other group that represents the area?
- Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?
- Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

65 Effective local government:

- Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?
- Are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?

66 Please note that the consultation stages of an electoral review are public consultations. In the interests of openness and transparency, we make available for public inspection full copies of all representations the Commission takes into account as part of a review. Accordingly, copies of all representations will be placed on deposit at our offices in Millbank (London) and on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk A list of respondents will be available from us on request after the end of the consultation period.

67 If you are a member of the public and not writing on behalf of a council or organisation we will remove any personal identifiers, such as postal or email addresses, signatures or phone numbers from your submission before it is made public. We will remove signatures from all letters, no matter who they are from.

68 In the light of representations received, we will review our draft recommendations and consider whether they should be altered. As indicated earlier, it is therefore important that all interested parties let us have their views and evidence, **whether or not** they agree with the draft recommendations. We will then publish our final recommendations.

69 After the publication of our final recommendations, the changes we have proposed must be approved by Parliament. An Order – the legal document which brings into force our recommendations – will be laid in draft in Parliament. The draft Order will provide for new electoral arrangements to be implemented at the all-out elections for Chichester District Council in 2019.

Equalities

70 This report has been screened for impact on equalities, with due regard being given to the general equalities duties as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. As no potential negative impacts were identified, a full equality impact analysis is not required.

Appendix A

Table A1: Draft recommendations for Chichester District Council

| | Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2015) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2021) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|----|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Bosham & Donnington | 3 | 7,924 | 2,641 | 3% | 8,355 | 2,785 | 1% |
| 2 | Chichester Central | 1 | 2,524 | 2,524 | -2% | 2,597 | 2,597 | -5% |
| 3 | Chichester East | 2 | 4,997 | 2,499 | -3% | 5,189 | 2,595 | -5% |
| 4 | Chichester North | 2 | 4,004 | 2,002 | -22% | 5,113 | 2,557 | -7% |
| 5 | Chichester South | 2 | 4,813 | 2,407 | -6% | 5,091 | 2,546 | -7% |
| 6 | Chichester West | 2 | 5,078 | 2,539 | -1% | 5,286 | 2,643 | -4% |
| 7 | Easebourne | 1 | 2,258 | 2,258 | -12% | 2,778 | 2,778 | 1% |
| 8 | Fernhurst | 2 | 5,387 | 2,694 | 5% | 5,431 | 2,716 | -1% |
| 9 | Fittleworth | 1 | 2,757 | 2,757 | 7% | 2,780 | 2,780 | 1% |
| 10 | Goodwood | 1 | 2,432 | 2,432 | -5% | 2,881 | 2,881 | 5% |
| 11 | Harting | 1 | 2,810 | 2,810 | 9% | 2,834 | 2,834 | 3% |
| 12 | Lavant | 1 | 2,661 | 2,661 | 3% | 2,726 | 2,726 | -1% |

Table A1 (cont): Draft recommendations for Chichester District Council

| Ward name | Number of councillors | Electorate (2015) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % | Electorate (2021) | Number of electors per councillor | Variance from average % |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 13 Loxwood | 2 | 5,593 | 2,797 | 9% | 5,727 | 2,864 | 4% |
| 14 Midhurst | 2 | 5,733 | 2,867 | 11% | 5,910 | 2,955 | 8% |
| 15 North Mundham & Tangmere | 2 | 4,821 | 2,411 | -6% | 5,734 | 2,867 | 4% |
| 16 Petworth | 1 | 2,768 | 2,768 | 8% | 2,899 | 2,899 | 6% |
| 17 Selsey South | 2 | 5,070 | 2,535 | -1% | 5,124 | 2,562 | -7% |
| 18 Sidlesham with Selsey North | 2 | 4,718 | 2,359 | -8% | 5,198 | 2,599 | -5% |
| 19 Southbourne | 2 | 5,269 | 2,635 | 2% | 5,789 | 2,895 | 5% |
| 20 The Witterings | 3 | 8,203 | 2,734 | 6% | 8,518 | 2,839 | 3% |
| 21 Westbourne | 1 | 2,797 | 2,797 | 9% | 2,820 | 2,820 | 3% |
| Totals | 36 | 92,617 | - | - | 98,780 | - | - |
| Averages | - | - | 2,573 | - | - | 2,744 | - |

Source: Electorate figures are based on information provided by Chichester District Council.

Note: The 'variance from average' column shows by how far, in percentage terms, the number of electors per councillor in each electoral ward varies from the average for the district. The minus symbol (-) denotes a lower than average number of electors. Figures have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Appendix B

Submissions received

All submissions received can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/west-sussex/chichester>

Councils

- Chichester District Council
- West Sussex County Council

Councillors

- Councillor C Purnell (Selsey North)

Town and parish councils

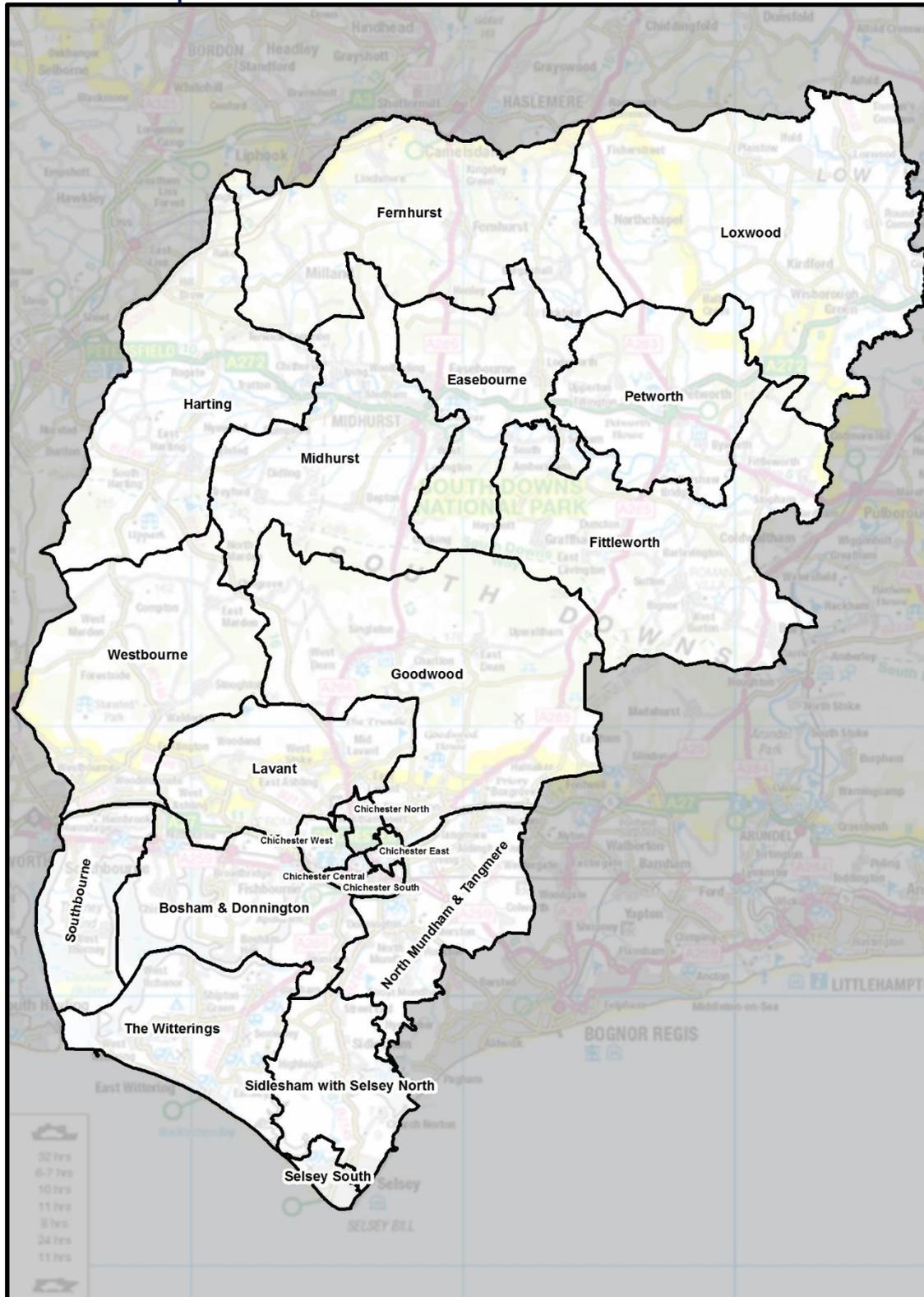
- Fishbourne Parish Council
- Selsey Town Council
- Sidlesham Parish Council
- Stedham with Iping Parish Council
- Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council
- West Wittering Parish Council

Members of the public

- Three local residents

Appendix C

Outline map



A more detailed version of this map can be seen on the A1 sheet accompanying this report, or on our website <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/west-sussex/chichester>

Appendix D

Glossary and abbreviations

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Council size | The number of councillors elected to serve on a council |
| Electoral Change Order (or Order) | A legal document which implements changes to the electoral arrangements of a local authority |
| Division | A specific area of a county, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever division they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the county council |
| Electoral fairness | When one elector's vote is worth the same as another's |
| Electoral inequality | Where there is a difference between the number of electors represented by a councillor and the average for the local authority |
| Electorate | People in the authority who are registered to vote in elections. For the purposes of this report, we refer specifically to the electorate for local government elections |
| Number of electors per councillor | The total number of electors in a local authority divided by the number of councillors |
| Over-represented | Where there are fewer electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average |

| | |
|---|---|
| Parish | A specific and defined area of land within a single local authority enclosed within a parish boundary. There are over 10,000 parishes in England, which provide the first tier of representation to their local residents |
| Parish council | A body elected by electors in the parish which serves and represents the area defined by the parish boundaries. See also 'Town council' |
| Parish (or Town) council electoral arrangements | The total number of councillors on any one parish or town council; the number, names and boundaries of parish wards; and the number of councillors for each ward |
| Parish ward | A particular area of a parish, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors vote in whichever parish ward they live for candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the parish council |
| Town council | A parish council which has been given ceremonial 'town' status. More information on achieving such status can be found at www.nalc.gov.uk |
| Under-represented | Where there are more electors per councillor in a ward or division than the average |
| Variance (or electoral variance) | How far the number of electors per councillor in a ward or division varies in percentage terms from the average |

| | |
|------|--|
| Ward | A specific area of a district or borough, defined for electoral, administrative and representational purposes. Eligible electors can vote in whichever ward they are registered for the candidate or candidates they wish to represent them on the district or borough council |
|------|--|

CHICHESTER DISTRICT COUNCIL

WARDS AS PROPOSED BY LGBCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

| Ward Name | No of cllrs | Parishes | Electorate 2021 | Electors per cllr | Variance % | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------|--|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--|
| Bosham & Donnington | 3 | Apuldram Bosham Chidham & Hambrook Donnington Fishbourne | 8,355 | 2,785 | +1% | Substantial change from CDC proposal, by combining proposed Bosham and Donnington Wards, except for Hunston |
| Chichester Central | 1 | Chichester City (part) | 2,597 | 2,597 | -5% | As CDC proposal, except add Cawley Road, Laburnam Grove, Velyn Avenue, Peter Weston Close + S side of The Hornet and subtract south side of Westgate |
| Chichester East | 2 | Chichester City (part) | 5,189 | 2,595 | -5% | As CDC proposal, except add Pound Farm Road, and northern sides of parts of Whyke Road and Bognor Road |
| Chichester North | 2 | Chichester City (part) | 5,113 | 2,557 | -7% | As CDC proposal |
| Chichester South | 2 | Chichester City (part) | 5,091 | 2,546 | -7% | As CDC proposal, except deduct Cawley Road, Laburnam Grove, Velyn Avenue, Peter Weston Close + S side of The Hornet and Pound Farm Road area |
| Chichester West | 2 | Chichester City (part) | 5,286 | 2,643 | -4% | As CDC proposal, except add south side of Westgate incl. Tannery Close and Mount Lane and Marriott House |
| Easebourne | 1 | Easebourne | 2,778 | 2,778 | +1% | As CDC proposal |

| Ward Name | No of cllrs | Parishes | Electorate 2021 | Electors per cllr | Variance % | Comments |
|-------------|-------------|---|-----------------|-------------------|------------|---|
| | | Heyshott Lodsworth | | | | |
| Fernhurst | 2 | Fernhurst Linch Lurgashall Lynchmere Milland | 5,431 | 2,716 | -1% | As CDC proposal |
| Fittleworth | 1 | Barlavington Bignor Bury Duncton East Lavington Fittleworth Graffham Stopham Sutton | 2,780 | 2,780 | +1% | As CDC proposal |
| Goodwood | 1 | Boxgrove Eartham East Dean Singleton Upwaltham West Dean Westhampnett | 2,881 | 2,881 | +5% | As CDC proposal |
| Harting | 1 | Harting Rogate Trotton with Chithurst | 2,834 | 2,834 | +3% | As CDC proposal, except Elsted & Treyford transferred to Midhurst |
| Lavant | 1 | Funtington Lavant | 2,726 | 2,726 | -1% | As CDC proposal |
| Loxwood | 2 | Ebernoe Kirdford Loxwood Northchapel | 5,727 | 2,864 | +4% | As CDC proposal |

| Ward Name | No of cllrs | Parishes | Electorate 2021 | Electors per cllr | Variance % | Comments |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|--|
| | | Plaistow & Ifold Wisborough Green | | | | |
| Midhurst | 2 | Bepton Cocking Elsted & Treyford Midhurst Stedham with Iping West Lavington Woolbeding with Redford | 5,910 | 2,955 | +8% | As CDC proposal, with addition of Elsted & Treyford |
| North Mundham & Tangmere | 2 | Hunston North Mundham Oving Tangmere | 5,734 | 2,867 | +4% | Substantial change from CDC proposal, by combining proposed Oving and Tangmere Wards with Hunston parish |
| Petworth | 1 | Petworth Tillington | 2,899 | 2,899 | +6% | As CDC proposal |
| Selsey South | 2 | Selsey Town (part) | 5,124 | 2,562 | -7% | As CDC proposal |
| Sidlesham with Selsey North | 2 | Selsey Town (part) Sidlesham | 5,198 | 2,599 | -5% | As CDC proposal |
| Southbourne | 2 | Southbourne West Thorney | 5,789 | 2,895 | +5% | As CDC proposal |
| The Witterings | 3 | Birdham Earnley East Wittering & Bracklesham West Itchenor West Wittering | 8,518 | 2,839 | +3% | As CDC proposal |
| Westbourne | 1 | Compton Marden Stoughton Westbourne | 2,820 | 2,820 | +3% | As CDC proposal |

Chichester Electoral Review Representations about the LGBCE's Draft Recommendations

West Sussex County Council – Proposed response, subject to confirmation by the Governance committee on 12 September

The County Council notes with concern the proliferation of wards spanning county division boundaries. A greater number of district wards than we are comfortable with will have their territory divided between two county councillors. We recognise that this is in part inevitable given the 25% reduction in the number of district councillors; however we strongly feel that a simultaneous, whole-county review would have produced a more sympathetic result, to the benefit of all our residents. We are aware that a pilot whole-country review of both districts wards and county divisions is currently underway in East Sussex and, pending successful completion, we hope that this will be adopted as standard practice in future.

The County Council generally accepts the Commission's proposals and welcomes the fact that the District Council's scheme has been largely adopted for consultation. It has several comments for the Commission's consideration:

1. The delay in the review (caused by the additional consultation period for the West Sussex review) means that the five-year projections could be out of date. Particularly in the Tangmere and Shopwyke areas, further outline planning permissions are now in place and build out progressing. It is hoped that the District Council can have these taken into account in the population projections. This is also likely to be the case for the Midhurst area.
2. Given the increased (and progression of) planned development in Tangmere and Shopwyke, the County Council believes that the Commission's proposal for a two member ward covering Tangmere, Oving and Hunston should be split into two wards, one covering Tangmere and one covering the other areas. The County Council generally prefers singlemember wards in rural areas as this provides better clarity for local people as to who they should contact.
3. The County Council is concerned about the large ward comprising Bosham, Fishbourne and Donnington, which spans both Chichester West and South Divisions. If the Commission agrees to accepting revised projection figures, it is hoped that it might be possible to split this from a

single three-member ward down to two wards.

The Commission may also wish to consider whether, on electoral equality grounds, any net gain is achieved by a large Bosham to Donnington Ward when the Hunston to Tangmere Ward is expected to exceed the +10% variance by end 2021/early 2022 and that an Apuldram/Donnington/Hunston Ward (entirely co-terminous with the Chichester South Division) would be @+7.5% above the District average. The District Council proposal has one, single-member, ward (N Mundham/Oving) in the Bosham to Tangmere arc spanning two divisions, whereas the Commission's has two wards with five members.

4. Within the City of Chichester, the County Council recommends that the Pound Farm Road area should be placed in Chichester South Ward, to provide better co-terminosity with the County Council wards.

5. The County Council believes that the proposed City Council ward of 'Portfield' would be better entitled 'Arundel Park' as this part of Chichester is best known by that name.

6. If revised electorate projections are accepted, it is also hoped that Elsted & Treyford Parish can be placed in Harting Ward as its main community links are with Harting rather than Midhurst, including shops and schools. It is noted that discussions are underway between Elsted & Treyford Parish and Trotton with Chithurst Parish with a view to some form of amalgamation. Having both these parishes within Harting Ward would avoid warding parish councils in this area in future.'

In respect of Harting Ward

Elsted & Treyford Parish Council

To whom in concerns:-

Elsted and Treyford Parish Council is extremely concerned that the Boundary Review for Chichester has ignored the concerns that we expressed earlier in the year, which we assume you were made aware of? The Parish was only consulted through Chichester DC and a response was sent to CDC in February 2016 which strongly opposed moving Elsted into the Midhurst Ward. To re-iterate, the response was as follows:-

Electoral review of Chichester District by the LGBCE. A response by Elsted and Treyford Parish Council to the Stage One public consultation

Elsted and Treyford Parish Council have read and considered the proposals for amended boundaries as suggested by CDC and support the inclusion of Elsted and

Treyford Parish within the proposed enlarged Harting Ward that also includes Rogate/Rake and Trotton with Chithurst parishes.

Our specific response to Question 11 of the Consultation Document is:-

“Concerning the ‘interests and identities of local communities’ we would like it noted that the proposed Harting./Rogate Ward would be rural in nature. Elsted and Treyford Parish has many traditional ties with Harting and all the Parishes within the proposed Ward. Harting parish and Elsted, Treyford cum Didling - and Rogate with Terwick and Trotton with Chithurst - are long-established United ecclesiastical Benefices.

“Recently Trotton with Chithurst Parish approached Elsted and Treyford to establish whether there was the possibility of joint working, including the creation of a Common Parish Council, or other arrangement of mutual benefit and to improve efficiency. This approach is currently under review. Following the closure of Elsted School in 1985 children from this Parish are within the catchment area of the replacement Harting Primary School, built to serve both communities. Harting Parish borders Hampshire and many Elsted and Treyford residents tend to use community and commercial facilities in either South Harting or nearby Petersfield, where there is a far wider range available than in Midhurst.

“For these reasons we would not support transferring the Parish of Elsted to Midhurst ward or seeing Trotton transferred to a new ward centred on Lynchmere.”

In addition to what we stated a few months ago: - We have no reason to change our view, indeed in the light of the LGBCE proposal to split Elsted and Treyford parish from Harting and Trotton with Chithurst parishes and attach us to the 2 member Midhurst ward our views and concerns are more heart-felt. We believe that in spite of the Chichester District council proposal which created a ward just over 1% greater than the 10% variable the LGBCE use as a bench mark, you should reconsider their proposal to exclude us from the ‘new’ Harting ward. This is because we sincerely believe that in this instance the natural affiliation and established contacts and arrangements between Elsted and Treyford and the other 3 parishes that are proposed to be part of Harting ward mean that Elsted and Treyford should be part of that rural ward, not an outlier of the substantially urban ward of Midhurst. In any case we note that Midhurst will be served by two members, and would prefer to be part of a one member ward.

A further point to consider is that residents of this parish use the combined shop and post office in South Harting. The building that houses these facilities is owned by many local people, including Elsted and Treyford residents. There must be no discouragement for people to reduce their use of this facility, as it is a case of use it or lose it.

As far as we are aware no organisation or individual objected to the CDC draft proposal for a 'greater' Harting ward. In spite of the fact that it is slightly oversized in terms of electorate, as you should be aware CDC members, neighbouring parishes and others support it on the grounds that it reflects local community cohesion, as well as making good and natural sense,

The Chairman of the Parish Council has contacted a large proportion of its residents by e-mail and invited them to respond directly to the commission.

E-mail sent to Local Residents

Dear All

Local Government Boundary Review

Do You think that Elsted and Treyford Parish should be part of a larger Midhurst Ward or remain part of Harting Ward?

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CHICHESTER: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has published draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Chichester District Council. There is now an eight week public consultation on the Commission's draft recommendations on new ward boundaries across Chichester District Council. The consultation closes on 10 October 2016.

In summary the Commission is proposing that Elsted and Treyford should form part of a larger Midhurst Ward which would be represented by two Chichester councillors. At present Elsted and Treyford is part of Harting Ward which has a single Chichester Councillor

View the draft recommendations

You can view the Commission's draft recommendations at <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/current-reviews/south-east/west-sussex/chichester> where you can find interactive maps, a report and guidance on how to have your say. The Commission has not finalised its conclusions and is now inviting representations on the draft recommendations.

The link below provides a summary outlining the Commission's draft recommendations and a copy of the letter sent to the Chief Executive of Chichester District Council. An interactive map of the Commission's recommendations for Chichester, electorate figures and guidance on how to propose new wards is available on the consultation area at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6923>

The Commission website is at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Elsted and Treyford Parish Council was consulted earlier in the year and concluded that Harting and Elsted and Treyford should remain part of the same ward as there is a much greater synergy between them than there would be with Midhurst.

Other factors which it has also considered include:-

- Elsted and Treyford Parish has no automatic affiliation with Midhurst. Midhurst is five miles by road from the main centre of population at Elsted.
- Midhurst is a second-rate shopping centre compared to Petersfield. Whilst the roads to Midhurst are as good as the roads to Petersfield, having arrived at Midhurst the town is disadvantaged by the tyranny of too much traffic, and has a poor selection of shops. Conversely, Petersfield is easy to access, has many good shops relative to its size and is used by many in preference to Midhurst.
- Better to be served by one member, not to have the task split between two. This situation affecting a urban / rural ward will create a bias, probably and understandably towards the major population centre (Midhurst) rather the periphery (Elsted and Treyford)
- Two-member Midhurst division will be a semi-urban ward, with add-ons of small rural parishes to make up the numbers to justify it being a two-member ward – Elsted and Treyford is a rural parish, and wish to remain a composite part of the rural Harting ward, made up of similar settlements to this parish.
- Elsted, Treyford cum Didling is an equal part of the United Ecclesiastical Benefice of Harting
- Elsted village school closed in 1985. A new school was then built in South Harting to cater for both Harting and Elsted and Treyford primary school children.
- Elsted residents use the combined shop and post office in South Harting. There must be no discouragement for people to reduce their use of this facility, as it is a case of use it or lose it.
- Elsted and Treyford, and Trotton with Chithurst, Parish Councils have recently discussed the possibility of closer joint working, including becoming a Common parish council. Whilst the proposal of being a Common Parish council is currently not being progressed, there is every possibility that it will be re-visited. Putting these two parishes in different wards will make such an amalgamation - which could have huge local benefits - very complicated if not impossible to achieve.
- There are strong social links between Elsted & Treyford and Harting residents who use the public houses in the adjoining ward. The Village Hall in Elsted is also used heavily and provides a first class facility for the adjoining parishes.

Have your say

The Parish Council encourages everyone who has a view on the draft recommendations to contact the Commission and suggest that Elsted and Treyford should remain in the Harting Ward.

Before finalising the recommendations, the Commission has to consider every representation received during consultation weighing each submission against the criteria the Commission must follow when drawing up electoral arrangements:

To deliver electoral equality where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the district.

That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.

That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

Get in touch

The Commission welcomes comments on the recommendations report by 10th October 2016. Representations should be made through their active consultation portal <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/6923>.

By email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk.

Or in writing to:

Review Officer (Chichester)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

If you agree or disagree with the Parish Council please let me know and you are welcome to contact me at anytime.

Regards

Andrew Leno

01730825636

The Commission is asked to consider the contents of the above e-mail which further sets out the reasoning behind the Parish's objections.

The Parish Council will be meeting again on the 22nd September 2016 to consider any responses received and will be responding to the Commission before its deadline. In the meantime the Parish would ask the Commission to read carefully any comments made by its residents whose comments to date have overwhelmingly supported the views expressed by the Parish.

Finally The Parish Council would point out that it was only supplied with the draft proposals last week which has further reduced the length of the consultation period.

Midhurst Town Council

The Boundary Commission proposes, to provide an equitable balance of electoral voters, that Elsted and Treyford Parish is moved into the Midhurst ward.

Midhurst Town Council has reviewed the proposal and objects to it for the following reasons:

1. With the scale of housebuilding, particularly with sites that have not been taken into account, and with the Elsted and Treyford Parish added to the Midhurst ward, it is highly likely to pass the benchmark 10% variance that the Boundary Commission applies.
2. The addition of Elsted and Treyford Parish adds considerably to the land area of what is essentially an urban ward, adding to the possible burden of the elected councillors. This is essentially an unsustainable compromise in order to fix numbers.
3. There is little or no connect between Elsted and Treyford Parish and Midhurst. The nearest shops, school and other facilities are in Harting and Petersfield which is the shopping destination for most of the population, not Midhurst.
4. There are currently discussions between Elsted and Treyford Parish Council and Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council, with a view of some form of amalgamation. If progressed, Trotton is in Harting ward and it is eminently sensible that the Elsted and Treyford part is also in the same ward.
5. Both Elsted and Treyford and Trotton with Chithurst Parish Councils have voted to keep to the original proposal, as has Midhurst Town Council and most likely Harting Parish Council.

Midhurst Town Council therefore requests that the Elsted and Treyford Parish remain as part of the Harting Ward as proposed by CDC in its submission to the Boundary Commission.

Trotton with Chithurst Parish Council

Our next council meeting is not until 14th September. This message is therefore just to let you know that the subject is on the agenda for our next meeting and that council members have already made it clear that they intend to reiterate and

reinforce the objections they sent last time regarding separating us from Elsted & Treyhurst parish council. I will get our comments to you as soon as possible after our meeting.

Cllr Andrew Shaxson

To whom it concerns:-

1) My name is Andrew Shaxson. I have been a resident of Elsted parish all my life - 2/3rds of a century. I have been the District Councillor for the present Harting ward since 1999, and am also a Parish Councillor. I have represented Elsted and Treyford (E&T) parish since 1987, and for 12 years of that period I chaired the parish council. I am currently the vice-chairman. I am also a member of, and chair, Harting Parish Council. I live within 250 metres of the Harting Parish boundary, and own and run a third generation farming business located in both Elsted and Harting parishes – by way of illustration, of the 37 acre field adjacent to my house 15 acres are located in Elsted and 22 acres in Harting parish.

2) As the above illustrates I have very deep seated commitments to both Harting, and E&T parishes and parish councils. I am also knowledgeable about the wider area. Consequently I fully supported the proposal by Chichester District Council to include E&T parish in the enlarged Harting ward, as a consequence of the ‘public consultation on new ward boundaries’ that took place earlier this year. At that stage you received representation from Trotton with Chithurst PC to the effect that they both wanted to be in Harting ward, and supported the inclusion of E&T Parish within the enlarged Harting ward. You accepted their reasoning on the basis of Community Identity (para 30). E&T PC wrote in a similar vein, and although that information was sent to Chichester DC for consideration, and they took account of it in their submission to you, the parish council presumably didn’t contact you as they are not listed as a consultee on the LGBCE website.

3) The reason that you haven’t recommended the inclusion of E&T parish in the proposed Harting ward seems to be only because if done the variance in the ward electorate would be “somewhat high” (para 31 of your report). It is about 1% larger in terms of the electorate than the preferred upper limit – in the case of Harting ward that is 30 or so too many voters. You also state that whilst E&T parish “clearly has links” with the parishes in Harting ward, it has “reasonable road links” to Midhurst, indicating that to be the grounds for moving it to Midhurst Ward.

For the reasons I state below I don’t believe that the draft proposal joining E&T to Midhurst Ward reflects the make-up, needs and wishes of communities in this locality. This can be done by adding E&T to Harting, Rogate and Trotton with Chithurst parishes, thereby making a larger Harting ward. I shall now provide evidence for my whole-hearted support for that view.

a) E&T and Harting share a primary school. Elsted primary school was closed in 1985, and Harting school shortly after. The children of this parish and Harting are now jointly educated at a new site in South Harting. It was purposefully built as a joint parish school.

b) Elsted, Treyford cum Didling, and Harting are a United Benefice, containing three churches – one each in South Harting, Elsted and Didling. E&T residents consequently and habitually worship in Harting - and Harting residents in E&T. Harting also has a Congregational chapel which has benefitted E&T worshippers since the closure of the chapel at Elsted Marsh in the mid-1960s.

c) Harting has a combined Community Shop and Post Office. This facility is not just used by many E&T residents, but in order to keep it nearly 20 years ago both Harting and Elsted residents invested in it – I did. It is a Community owned Facility, therefore nothing must be done to discourage use of this shop, on the principle 'use it or lose it'.

d) E&T residents are encouraged to join organisations based in Harting – such as the Harting Horticultural Society (the chairman is an Elsted resident), and the Harting Society (one of the members of its small committee is an Elsted resident). Furthermore, Harting and Elsted have long benefitted from symbiotic arrangement concerning their cricket clubs.

e) It seems to be implied that because the roads to Midhurst are, quote "reasonable" (para 31), that E&T residents gravitate towards that town to shop. That isn't the case, as Midhurst only has a fraction of the range of facilities or retail outlets of Petersfield, located to the west of E&T. Elsted, the major settlement of the parish is over 5 miles from Midhurst, which therefore doesn't satisfy the criteria of being an adjacent town. Although further away than Midhurst, once one has got into a car (it has to be a car, there is no bus service in any part of the parish) for most people it makes sense to travel either to Harting for catch-up shopping or on through Harting ward to Petersfield – using roads that are effectively as "reasonable" as those to Midhurst, having been improved at the same time in the 1960s. Midhurst is 'spoilt' by the domination of traffic in the main street; it is not a shopping destination of choice for most E&T residents.

f) The above indicates that there is no automatic affinity with, or reason to habitually go to Midhurst. E&T, along with the three parishes currently proposed to make-up Harting Ward, is fundamentally rural, and outside the villages consists of many small groups of properties or isolated houses. It is therefore unlike the draft Midhurst ward which.....

g) would inevitably be dominated by its urban 'core parish', which would make up a high percentage of the total electorate. Three of the four other parishes that would make up this ward adjoin Midhurst parish, the other is nearby. E&T is by any definition an outlier – an add-on - indeed there are a number of residents of

the parish who according to Google maps live 11 miles and 22 minutes' drive (using the "reasonable" roads) away from the centre of Midhurst.

h) Midhurst ward would be represented by two members, whereas Harting Ward would be served by one. Research by CDC indicates that the local electorate prefer to be represented by a single member, so they endeavoured wherever possible to create single member wards. The electorate of this immediate area have indicated that they support the principle of being represented by one wholly accountable representative.

i) the inclusion of E&T into Midhurst ward would reduce the variable on Harting ward to + 3%, and increase the variable on Midhurst ward to + 8%. Plus 8% is the greatest variable of any ward according to the LG BCE draft proposals. It wouldn't take much for an increase in the relatively low housing rate of build currently proposed for Midhurst and the parishes within the draft ward that adjoin it to push that figure higher, perhaps more than 2% higher. If that is the case the issue of Harting ward being too large, which nobody hereabouts objects to, could be swapped for a similar one at Midhurst that could cause unknown outcomes.

j) Trotton with Chithurst and E&T are similar sized parishes with a long-standing affiliation. Trotton with Chithurst does not have a Community Hall, and uses Elsted Village Hall for certain functions. As Trotton and Chithurst Parish Council have informed you, for some time the two parish councils have been giving consideration to areas of mutual interest and advantage, including Joint working. The idea of amalgamating into a Common Parish Council has been discussed, and whilst not currently being taken forward, nothing should be done which might prevent this move to improve local representation, noting the implications of Parish Councils being expected to take on more responsibilities using a diminishing pool of volunteers. If E&T and Trotton with Chithurst were to be put into separate wards the opportunities for joint working, especially the ability to amalgamate, would be very seriously affected, if not prevented.

k) On a lighter note, noting that Community Identity and Effective Local Government are important criteria, the inclusion of E&T into Harting ward would recreate exactly the cluster of the parishes which made up the Hundred of Dumpford before the Norman Conquest. That has long-departed into the pages of history books, but did the Anglo-Saxon administrators get it right? I note that there has been a suggestion from Rogate that the ward be named 'Dumpford'. In spite of it sounding somewhat unfortunate, I understand the historic basis for that suggestion.

l) I am not aware of any organisation or individual who support the addition of E&T to Midhurst Ward – indeed Midhurst Town Council has indicated that they think it an adverse move. Perhaps it is ironic that in the 2001-2002 re-organisation of CDC ward boundaries Harting ward was deemed too 'small' and

Funtington ward too 'large'. The LGBCE proposed to deal with this discrepancy by transferring Marden parish from Funtington to Harting. Marden parishioners objected, citing lack of 'Community Links, interest and identity' with the Harting ward parishes. They were subsequently included with Funtington Ward, their obvious and natural home.

I ask that because of common Community links, Interests and Identity, and for all the reasons I have expanded on above, the natural place of Elsted & Treyford parish within Harting ward should be reconsidered. It should be treated in the same way as Marden parish in 2002.

In respect of other wards

Wisborough Green Parish Council

The Parish Council does not meet in August but I circulated your email to councillors. I can confirm that Wisborough Green Parish Council is supportive of the proposed Loxwood Ward.