

Devon County Boundary Divisions - Tiverton East and Willand and Uffculme

Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

That the Committee be asked to recommend that Council support the proposal that the boundary between the County's Tiverton East Electoral Division and the Willand and Uffculme Electoral Division, be altered in line with, what will be, the new district boundary, as outlined in the appended map.

2) Background / Introduction

Mid Devon have recently completed a Community Governance Review (CGR) of Mid Devon Council parish boundaries, following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) in respect of the Commission's review of the district ward boundaries completed in 2021, which resulted in a change of most ward boundaries.

3) Main Body / Proposal

In publishing its final report, the Commission suggested that the District Council should also carry out a CGR of all parishes. The CGR was completed in December 2022 and as a consequence, the parishes of Halberton, Uffculme and Willand boundaries were approved by the Council and took effect for the May 2023 District and Parish elections.

Due to the fact that the new parish boundaries no longer fall into line with the new District Ward boundaries, the LGBCE have agreed to consider a "related alteration" of those boundaries.

The LGBCE have asked if the County would also consider agreeing that the boundary between the County's Tiverton East Electoral Division and the Willand and Uffculme Electoral Division, be altered in line with what will be the new district boundary.

A Map showing the area under consideration is attached to this Report.

The earliest that the changes can be implemented for is the May 2025 County elections, if the County Council agrees to the change. The district wards would be implemented for the 2027 district elections.

4) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

Views were sought from Group Leaders, Local Members and also relevant officers within the Council.

The Local Member for Tiverton East asked for clarification as to whether the changes included moving Uplowman into Willand and Uffculme in line with the Mid Devon District Council ward of Canonsleigh and also taking in Butterleigh. It was confirmed the changes were limited to those outlined on the map.

The Local Member for Willand & Uffculme felt the proposal would tidy up the Parish boundaries to align more with the District Boundaries. He sought clarification that the proposal was for the areas that were transferred from Halberton Parish to Uffculme Parish through the Parish Boundaries review. This was confirmed to be the case.

The Local Members then confirmed they were content to go ahead with the proposals.

Officers had no objections to the proposals.

5) Strategic Plan

Whilst this is not directly aligned to the Council's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025, the proposal simplifies the issues that can arise with boundaries that are not coterminous.

6) Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations.

7) Legal Considerations

Should the Committee support and recommend the proposal, Government would need to legislate on new boundaries with effect from May 2025.

8) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

There are no environmental related issues.

9) Equality Considerations

There are no equality related issues.

10) Risk Management Considerations

No risks have been identified.

11) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

The proposal appears to be a sensible solution to ensure the County's Tiverton East Electoral Division and the Willand and Uffculme Electoral Division, are in line with what will be the new district boundary.

Name

Director of Legal and Democratic Services – Maria Price

Electoral Divisions: Tiverton East and Willand and Uffculme

Local Government Act 1972: List of background papers

NIL

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