Wiltshire Council

Community Governance Review
Democratic Services
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
Trowbridge
Wiltshire
BA14 8JN
CGR@wiltshire.gov.uk
01225 718504

March 2022

Dear Householder,

**Community Governance Review 2021/22 – consultation on draft recommendations**

Background

A Community Governance Review (CGR) is a process which provides an opportunity for Wiltshire Council to review and make changes to governance arrangements of town and parish councils. This is to ensure that they continue to be reflective of the identity and interest of local communities, and that they are as efficient and effective in their governance as they can be – it is on those statutory criteria, not any reasons relating to council tax or parish precept, that a decision can be made by Wiltshire Council.

In November 2021 the council undertook an online survey on potential changes to parish governance arrangements in your area suggested by various interested parties, which ran from 15 November – 7 January 2022. This was advertised on the council's website and through local parish councils. Online information gathering sessions were held with parish and town representatives and Wiltshire Division Councillors. A public meeting was also held online on 14 December 2021. I would like to thank all those who responded to that survey or fed in comments during the meeting.

The Electoral Review Committee has reviewed all relevant information and has prepared draft recommendations where it believes parish governance arrangements in the areas under review should be changed. A complete list of those draft recommendations is available on our website, via the link provided below.

Full details of the CGR process, relevant documentation and the Draft Recommendations including an interactive map can also be found at: http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-cgr

**A consultation will therefore run from 18 March to 5 May on those draft recommendations.**

How do I respond to this consultation?

The council would strongly encourage that responses to any recommendation be made using its online survey. **This will be accessible from the webpage provided above.**

However, a hard copy response is included within this letter and can be filled in and posted. You may make a copy of the form if multiple persons wish to complete their own response. Further details can also be requested from CGR@wiltshire.gov.uk. If you cannot access the internet, the full list of recommendations is as stated included with this letter, and you may write to the address listed above if you would like to receive further details on reasoning behind any decision, by mail or telephone as appropriate, including any relevant maps. **Hard copies will also be available from Malmesbury Library.**

Public meeting

The Committee will hold a public meeting to set out the draft recommendations for Malmesbury & St Paul Malmesbury Without, and Charlton and Brokenborough, on **Thursday 21 April 7.00pm at Malmesbury Town Hall.**

The public meeting will also be advertised through local town and parish councils and media outlets as well as on the council's website, and you are advised to check the website listed above or contact the address above for any updates. Although such public events are not a requirement of the consultation process the Committee hopes these will be a further opportunity to gather local input prior to the Committee giving further consideration and forming the final recommendations.

What will happen next?

The Electoral Review Committee will analyse the responses to its draft recommendations and consider them along with other relevant information. It will then prepare final recommendations for each area, which as with the draft recommendations could include recommending there be no change or undertaking additional consultation as appropriate.

Those final recommendations will be considered by a meeting of Full Council in July 2022.

Yours sincerely,

**Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling**
**Chairman of the Electoral Review Committee**

**List of Draft Recommendations**

The full details and reasoning for each recommendation are available from http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-cgr .

*Note – Recommendations 1-7 relate to areas around Calne and Beechingstoke and so are not included in this letter.*

**Recommendation 8**

**8.1 That the area marked as M in the Draft Recommendations document be transferred from St Paul Malmesbury Without to Malmesbury Town. This would be named the Burton Hill and Cowbridge Ward and contain 2 councillors.**

**8.2 That the area marked as N in the Draft Recommendations in the Draft Recommendations document be transferred from St Paul Malmesbury Without to Malmesbury Town as part of the Malmesbury North Ward (see 8.3)**

**8.3 That Malmesbury Town Council contain a total of 19 councillors in the following wards: Backbridge Ward (two councillors), Malmesbury North Ward (six councillors), Malmesbury South (two councillors), Malmesbury West (seven councillors), Burton Hill and Cowbridge (two councillors).**

**8.4 That the area marked as O in the Draft Recommendations be transferred from St Paul Malmesbury to the parish of Charlton. Charlton to be increased to Eleven Parish Councillors.**

**8.5 That the area marked as P in the Draft Recommendations be transferred from St Paul Malmesbury to the parish of Brokenborough.**

**8.6 The parish of St Paul Malmesbury Without to be unwarded, with Twelve Councillors.**

**8.7 To request that the LGBCE amend the Malmesbury, Sherston and Brinkworth Divisions as shown in the map provided** *(Note: That is, N to be moved from Sherston into the Malmesbury Division, O to be moved from Sherston into the Brinkworth Division)*

**Precept Information**

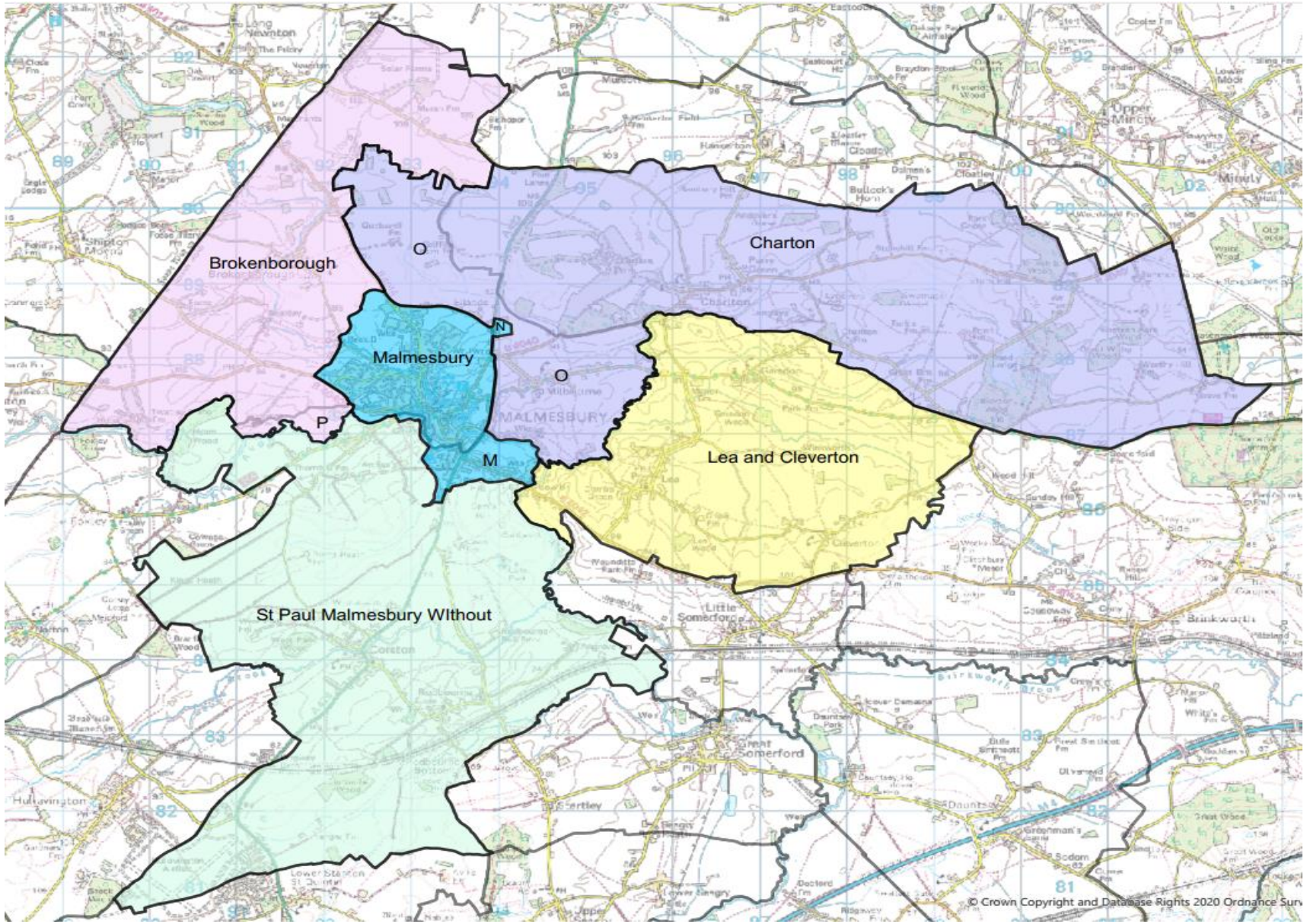
The Council can only take into consideration the statutory criteria as listed in the first paragraph of this letter when making a decision, which does not include council tax precept levels. However, for information only the current precept levels are listed below.

| **Council Tax Schedule 2022/23** | **Band D (Average)** |
|---|---|
| Malmesbury | £219.14 |
| St Paul Malmesbury Without | £17.11 |
| Brokenborough | £16.98 |
| Charlton | £41.19 |

*Full Info from https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/documents/s199413/CouncilTaxAppBandC_150222.pdf*

# Malmesbury Area

*(Shaded area is proposed new parish boundary, Dark grey/blue line existing parish lin)*



# Community Governance Review Consultation March 2022

**The council very strongly encourages respondents to complete this survey online at http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-democracy-cgr rather than by use of this hard copy form. This will also allow for easier response to multiple recommendations.**

**A community governance review must:**

**Reflect the identities and interests of the communities in that area; and provide effective and convenient local governance.**

**Consequently, a review must take into account:**
**The impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.**

This survey will ask for details of your name and postcode. This is in order to analyse responses by area and to analyse multiple respondents at the same postcode. Unless representing an organisation or group, names of respondents will not be published. Hard copy responses will be input into an online database along with the online responses. Names/Email addresses will be deleted after the conclusion of the review by December 2020.

Note: Additional sheets may be included, should you wish to expand beyond the space provided.

1. Please tick the following box if you consent to participate in the survey and provide the information requested for the purposes listed above ☐

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**2. What is your name?**

_____

**3. What is your postcode or postcode of your business/organisation?**

_____

**4. Are you answering this survey as?**

☐ A resident of a parish affected by a proposal

If so, please list parish_____

☐ A business or commercial concern in the area affected by a proposal

☐ A representative of a Parish or Town Council affected by a proposal

If so, please list council _____

☐ An interested party not necessarily from the area affected

**5. Having studied the recommendation, do you?**

- ☐ Agree with the recommendation
- ☐ Disagree with the recommendation
- ☐ Suggest an amendment

*(An amendment could be agreement/disagreement with some but not all the recommendation)*

**6. Taking account of the criteria of 'Effective and Convenient Local Governance' and 'Community Identity and Interests' please explain the reason you agree or disagree with the recommendation (you may include additional sheets)**

**If suggesting an amendment, please provide details of that revision include reasoning for the proposal, based on the criteria above**

**7. Are there any other factors you believe should be taken into account in this review? (a review cannot take into account matters such as the level of town/parish council precept)**