

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>20 JUNE 2024</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - LAW AND PEOPLE RETURNING OFFICER</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>LEGAL &amp; DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER</b> <a href="mailto:elisabeth.page@southderbyshire.gov.uk">elisabeth.page@southderbyshire.gov.uk</a>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTORAL DIVISION BOUNDARY REVIEW CONSULTATION</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE:</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Members consider the detail and implications of the Derbyshire County Council Electoral Divisions Review and propose a response to that consultation.

## **2.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 To provide Members with an overview of the Local Government Boundary Commissions (LGBC) Derbyshire County Council Electoral Divisions Review proposals, the implications of those proposals for the administration of elections by the Council, and implications for the District as a whole.
- 2.2 To seek a response to the consultation.

## **3.0 Detail**

### **Background**

- 3.1 Derbyshire County Council has invited the Local Government Boundary Commission to review the number of Councillors, electoral divisions and electoral division names for Derbyshire County Council.

- 3.2 The Timetable for the Review was as follows-

21 March 2023	LGBC decide how many councillors there should be
9 May 2023 - 17 July 2023	LGBC carry out an initial public consultation
23 January 2024 - 1 April 2024	LGBC carry out a public consultation on our proposals
2 July 2024	LGBC publish its recommendations
TBC	LGBC ask Parliament to approve our recommendations
May 2025	New arrangements apply to local elections

- 3.3 The LGBC decided that Derbyshire County Council should have 64 Councillors and it has prepared a set of draft recommendations for the new Electoral Divisions in Derbyshire.
- 3.4 Unfortunately, the Council was not properly consulted in accordance with the timetable and therefore has not been able to fully engage in the process. However, on 20 May 2024, an extension of the consultation period on proposals was agreed. The consultation period ends on 21 June 2024 to allow the Council to consider its response at this Committee.
- 3.5 The proposals have been circulated to all Members, Parish Councils and key local groups asking for comments to be submitted by the revised deadline. The proposals have also been published on the Council's website for residents to view and comment.
- 3.6 Once the consultation has closed and the LGBC has considered all responses to the consultation, it aims to publish the final recommendations in July 2024. It will then lay a draft order in both houses of Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements are scheduled to come into effect at the County Council's elections in May 2025.
- 3.7 The proposals in relation to South Derbyshire are summarised below-

- To increase the County Council Electoral Divisions in South Derbyshire from eight to nine.

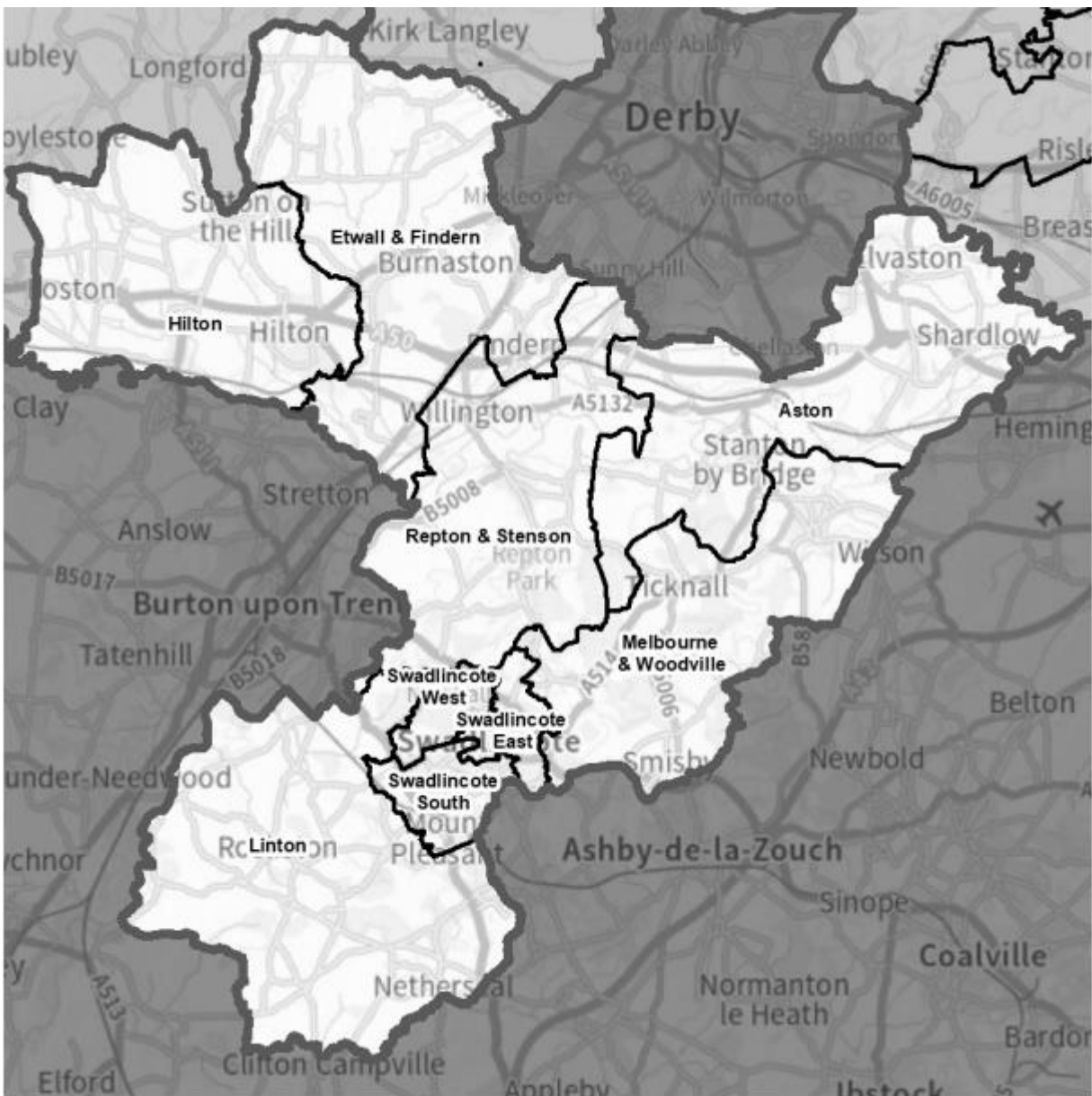
The current Divisions are- Aston, Etwall and Repton, Hilton, Melbourne, Swadlincote North, Swadlincote Central, Swadlincote South and Linton.

The proposed Divisions are- Aston, Etwall and Findern, Repton and Stenson, Hilton, Melbourne and Woodville, Swadlincote West, Swadlincote East, Swadlincote South and Linton.

- To change the County Council Electoral Division Boundaries from



To



The proposals can be viewed in full by visiting the LGBC website which includes maps and the report outlining the draft recommendations <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/derbyshire>

The table below compares the current Divisions against the proposed Divisions-

Current			Proposed		
Division	Wards	Polling District	Division	Ward	Polling District
Aston	Aston Stenson (part)	ASA - Aston on Trent, ASB1- Stenson Fields (East) ASB2- Barrow on Trent, ASC – Elvaston Rural,	Aston	Aston Repton (part) Stenson (part)	ASA - Aston on Trent, ASB1- Stenson Fields (East) ASB2- Barrow on Trent, ASC – Elvaston

		ASD – Elvaston Boulton Moor, ASE- Shardlow, ASF- Swarkestone, ASG- Weston on Trent STA-Stenson Fields, STB1- Stenson Fields (West) STB2-Twyford and Stenson			Rural, ASD – Elvaston Boulton Moor, ASE- Shardlow, ASF- Swarkestone, ASG- Weston on Trent MLC- Stanton by Bridge RTD- Foremark RTE-Ingleby STB2-Twyford and Stenson
Etwall and Repton	Etwall (part), Repton (part) Willington and Findern	ETB- Bearwardcote, ETC- Burnaston, ETD- Burnaston, ETF – Egginton, ETG- Etwall, ETI- Radbourne, RTD- Foremark, RTE-Ingleby, RTG- Repton RTH- Repton Parish Milton, WFA- Willington, WFB1- Findern (north) WFB2-Findern	Etwall and Findern	Etwall Willington and Findern (part)	ETA-Ash ETE-Dalbury Lees, ETH – Osleston & Thururvaston ETJ-Trusley ETB- Bearwardcote, ETC- Burnaston, ETD- Burnaston, ETF – Egginton, ETG- Etwall, ETI- Radbourne, WFB1- Findern (north) WFB2-Findern
-	-	-	Repton and Stenson (new Division)	Repton (part) Stenson (part)	RTG- Repton RTH- Repton Parish Milton, RTA-Bretby RTB-Bretby RTC-Calke RTF- Newton Solney WFA- Willington STA-Stenson Felds, STB1- Stenson Fields (West) STB2-Twyford and Stenson
Hilton	Etwall (part) Hilton Hatton	ETA-Ash ETE-Dalbury Lees, ETJ ETH – Osleston & Thururvaston, HLA- Barton Blout, HLB- Church Broughton, HLC- Foston & Scropton, HLD- Hatton (North), HLE- Hilton,	Hilton	Hilton Hatton	HLA- Barton Blout, HLB- Church Broughton, HLC- Foston & Scropton, HLD- Hatton (North), HLE- Hilton, HLF- Hoon, HLG- Marston on Dove,

		HLF- Hoon, HLG- Marston on Dove, HLH- Sutton on the Hill, HNA- Hatton (Yew Tree) HNB- Hatton (school), HNC – Hatton (central) HND- Hatton, Heathway, HNE- Hatton (Hoon) HNF- Hatton (South)			HLH- Sutton on the Hill, HNA- Hatton (Yew Tree) HNB- Hatton (school), HNC – Hatton (central) HND- Hatton, Heathway, HNE- Hatton (Hoon) HNF- Hatton (south)
Melbourne	Melbourne Repton (part) Woodville (part) Midway (part)	MLA-Melbourne MLB-Melbourne, MLC- Stanton by Bridge MWE- Hartshorne (Lower Midway) RTA-Bretby RTB-Bretby RTC-Calke RTF- Newton Solney RTI-Smisby RTJ-Ticknall WVA-Hartshorne WVB- Hartshorne	Melbourne and Woodville	Melbourne Repton (part) Woodville (part)	MLA-Melbourne MLB-Melbourne RTC-Calke RTI-Smisby RTJ-Ticknall WVA- Hartshorne WVB- Hartshorne WVD-Woodville WVC-Woodville part
Swadlincote North	Newhall and Stanton (part) Midway (part)	NSA-Newhall NSB-Newhall NSC-Newhall NSD-Newhall MWA-Midway NWB-Midway NWC-Midway	Swadincote West	Newhall and Stanton Midway (part) Swadlincote (part)	NSA-Newhall NSB-Newhall NSC-Newhall NSD-Newhall MWA-Midway NWB-Midway NWC-Midway Part of SWA- Swadlincote
Swadlincote Central	Midway(part) Swadlincote (part) Woodville (Part)	MWD-Midway SWA-Swadlincote SWB-Swadlincote SWE-Swadlincote WVC-Woodville WVD-Woodville WVE-Woodville	Swadlincote East	Swadlincote (part) Woodville (part) Midway (part)	Part of SWA- Swadlincote Swadlincote Swadlincote SWB- Swadlincote SWE- Swadlincote WVC- Woodville- part WVD-Woodville WVE-Woodville MWE- Midway (lower Harshorne) WVB- Hartshorne SWF- Swadlincote SWC- Swadlincote SWD- Swadlincote-

Swadlincote South	Church Gresley Swadlincote (part)	CGA-Church Gresley CGB-Church Gresley CGC-Church Gresley CGD-Church Gresley SWC-Swadlincote SWD- Swadlincote SWF-Swadlincote	Swadlincote South	Church Gresley Swadlincote (part)	part CGA-Church Gresley CGB-Church Gresley CGC-Church Gresley CGD-Church Gresley SWD-Swadlincote-part SWF-Swadlincote LTA-Castle Gresley
Linton	Linton Newhall and Stanton (part) Seals	LTA-Castle Gresley LTB-Cauldwell LTC-Drakelow LTD-Linton LTE-Linton LTF-Rosliston NSE-Newhall SLA-Catton SLB-Coton in the Elms SLC-Lullington SLD-Netherseal SLE-Overseal SLF-Walton on Trent	Linton	Linton Newhall and Stanton (part) Seals	LTB-Cauldwell LTC-Drakelow LTD-Linton LTE-Linton LTF-Rosliston NSE-Newhall SLA-Catton SLB-Coton in the Elms SLC-Lullington SLD-Netherseal SLE-Overseal SLF-Walton on Trent

- To create Parish Wards for Woodville Parish Council as follows-

169 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for Woodville parish.

#### Draft recommendations

Woodville Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
Central	7
North	1
South	3

3.8 In formulating the recommendations, the LGBC must balance statutory criteria set out in law and it must:

- Ensure, within Derbyshire, each County Councillor represents a similar number of electors
- Create boundaries that are appropriate, and reflect community ties and identities
- Deliver reviews informed by local needs, views and circumstances
- Reflect the request for single-member divisions

### 3.9 The LGBC's therefore proposes-

*In order to achieve a reasonable degree of electoral equality, it is proposed that there is one additional member electoral division created in South Derbyshire. This would be done by removing a seat from Chesterfield District where there is a comparative overrepresentation of electors for the current nine members.*

### 3.10 The proposals need to deliver the following aims-

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

### 3.11 The proposed changes must therefore be assessed against the following criteria.

#### **Electoral equality**

- Does the proposal mean that Councillors would represent roughly the same number of electors as elsewhere in the council area?

#### **Community identity**

- Transport links: are there good links across your proposed division? Is there any form of public transport?
- Community groups: is there a Parish Council, residents association or another group that represents the area?
- Facilities: does your pattern of divisions reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc?
- 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?

#### **Effective local government**

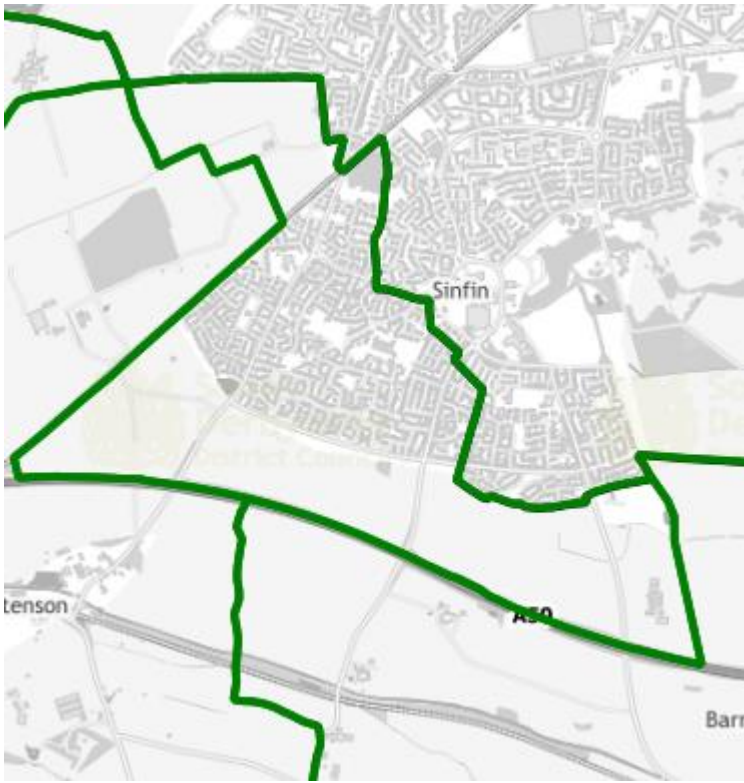
- Are any of the proposed divisions too large or small to be represented effectively?
- Are the proposed names of the divisions appropriate

## **4.0 Key Issues**

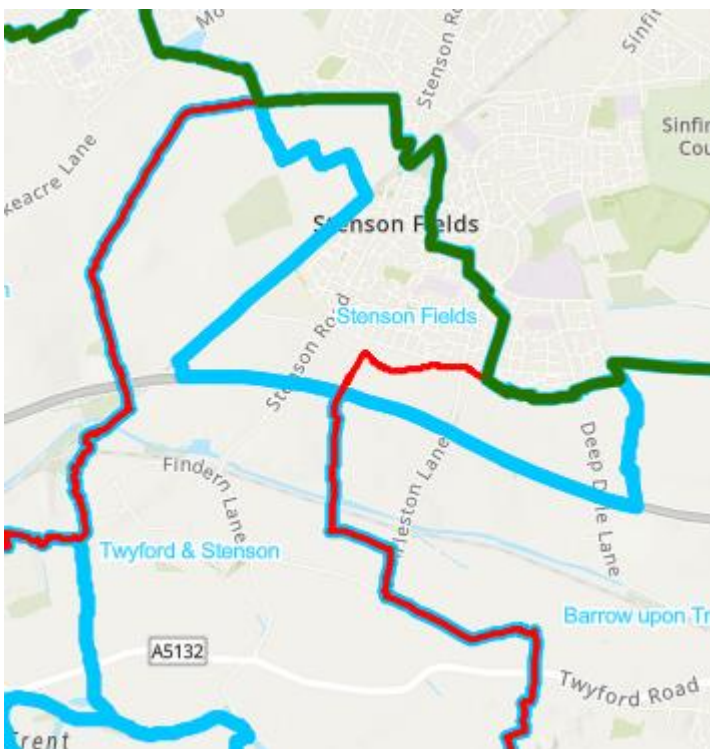
### 4.1 Officers have reviewed the proposals and noted the following issues-

### **4.2 The proposal for the Repton and Stenson Division and Aston Division divides the Stenson Fields Parish.**

See the Plan below for boundary of the Parish.



And the Proposal Plan below -



The red line shows the boundary of the Division and the proposal divides the Stenson Fields Parish in separate Divisions.

Previously all of the Polling Districts in Stenson Fields ASB1-Stenson Fields (East), STA-Stenson Fields and STB1- Stenson Fields (West) were in the Aston Division. It is now proposed that STB1 and STA are in the Repton and Stenson Division and ASB1 is in the Aston Division. ASB1 effects 16 properties and only 7 electors currently, however, it is an area that will be developed for housing in the future.



The Council can object to the division of Stenson Fields into separate Divisions on the basis of community identity as it splits the Parish of Stenson Fields.

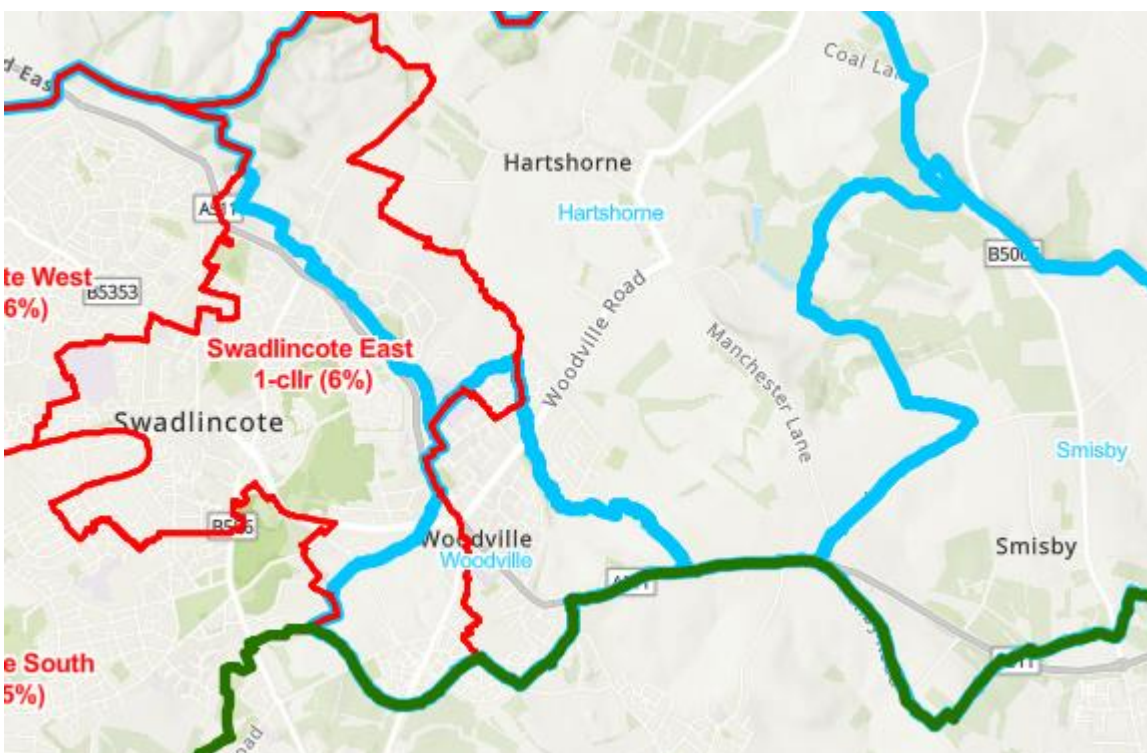
As an alternative, the Council would propose that ASB1 is included in the Repton and Stenson Division, this would have the effect of reducing the electorate in the Aston Division by 7 and increasing the electorate in the Repton and Stenson Division by the same amount.

#### 4.3 The proposal divides the Woodville Parish into the Swadlincote East Division and the Melbourne and Woodville Division.

The Parish can be seen on the plan below.



The Proposal divides the Parish as shown in the plan below



The very north of the Parish and West of the Parish will form part of the Swadlincote East Division with the rest of the Parish is proposed to be within the Melbourne and Woodville Division.

The proposal results in Woodville Parish Council facilities on Occupation Lane falling in the Swadlincote East Division whilst the Play Area at New Road, the Parish Offices at High Street, the Memorial Gardens at Millfield Street and the Cricket Ground at Burton Road will fall in the Melbourne and Woodville Division. Those properties on the Hepworth Road Estate would fall in the Swadlincote East Division.

Members may consider that this proposal is harmful to community identity of the Parish and therefore propose that the whole of the Woodville Parish is included in the Melbourne and Woodville Division. To achieve this, it is proposed by Officers that WVC is included as a whole in the Melbourne and Woodville Division and not divided between that Division and the Swadlincote East Division.

This would see a reduction in approximately 1,000 electorate from Swadlincote East Division and the same increase in the Melbourne and Woodville Division.

#### **4.4 Polling District Area revisions in Swadlincote**

In Swadlincote, the proposed Swadlincote East, Swadlincote West and Swadlincote South Divisional Boundaries are proposed to replace the Swadlincote Central, Swadlincote North and Swadlincote South Divisions. Whilst it may be difficult to argue against the proposal on Community Identity grounds, the proposals will pose a challenge for the Council administering County Council elections, as the proposals do not follow Polling District boundaries. Officers therefore invite Members to support a response that the boundaries should follow established Polling District boundaries and that to fail to do so will have an impact on effective local government, as it will create difficulty for the Council in the administration the County Council elections. If the proposals are adopted the Council will need to consider reflecting the revised boundaries in its own Polling Place Review.

Officers therefore propose a response as follows-

Polling District SWA is included in Swadlincote West Division rather than divided between Swadlincote West and Swadlincote East

Polling District SWD is included in Swadlincote South Division rather than divided between Swadlincote South and Swadlincote East.

#### **4.5 Creation of Wards for Woodville Parish Council**

LGBC is also proposing to divide Woodville Parish into electoral wards as proposed below.

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#### Draft recommendations

Woodville Parish Council should comprise 11 councillors, as at present, representing three wards:

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This is necessary if the proposals as detailed in 4.3 above are adopted, the North Ward will encompass the area in the North of the Parish that is included in the Swadlincote East Division, the Central Ward is the part of the Parish that is also included in the Swadlincote East Division and the South Ward is that part which is included in the Melbourne and Woodville Division.

The justification of the creation of Wards is detailed in the Proposal Report as follows

### Parish electoral arrangements

155 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 divisions it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single division. We cannot recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes as part of an electoral review.

On the basis that the proposal to divide the Parish into different Divisions is opposed then the division of the Parish into Wards should also be opposed by the Council.

4.6 Members are invited to consider whether the proposed Division names are appropriate and if not to propose alternatives.

#### **5.0 Financial Implications**

5.1 None arising directly from this Report. The Council is reimbursed for the cost of the conducting County Council elections.

#### **6.0 Corporate Implications**

##### **Employment Implications**

6.1 None arising from this Report

##### **Legal Implications**

6.2 None arising from this Report.

## **Council Plan Implications**

6.3 None arising from this Report.

## **Risk Impact**

6.4 Not known.

## **7.0 Community Impact**

### **Consultation**

7.1 A formal process of consultation is being undertaken. This report seeks a resolution on the Council's consultation response. The Council has circulated the consultation to its list of outside bodies, Parish Councils and community groups.

### **Equality and Diversity Impact**

7.2 None arising from this Report. The Council has circulated the consultation to its list of outside bodies and community groups.

### **Social Value Impact**

7.3 Not known

### **Environmental Sustainability**

7.4 None arising from this Report.

## **8.0 Conclusions**

8.1 The Council respond to the consultation detailing the issues raised in this Report.

## **9.0 Background Papers**

Consultation website

[Derbyshire | LGBCE](#)