

## Shropshire Council

### Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name: Personal

### Comment text:

My comments relate to the 2 Shifnal divisions, Shifnal North and Shifnal South & Cosford. Although I live outside Shropshire Council area, I am a councillor on Shifnal Town Council, though these comments are my own personal ones and not related in any way to any views the Town Council may have on the Review or my role as a councillor. The Boundary Commission (BC) has stated its intention of keeping 74 Shropshire Council Councillors with a ratio of 1 member per 3500 electors, allowing for 10% variation or 11-12% if not seriously complicate matters. Thus :- 10% variation upwards =  $1/3850$  12% " " =  $1/3920$  The BC also state that divisions should reflect the interests and identities of communities. For the 2021 Unitary Election, electorate totals for the two Shifnal divisions were: • Shifnal North (part Shifnal Town + Sheriffhales parish) = 4650 electorate (this already constituted a variation of 25% above the BC proposed 3500 average and 16% above the maximum proposed by the Commission). • Shifnal South and Cosford (part Shifnal Town + Tong and Donington parishes) = 4641 electorate (same variations as for Shifnal North). The 2 Shifnal divisions together with Radbrook (4339 electorate) were the only Shropshire divisions with electorates above 4000 per member. Since the 2021 elections, there has been further significant increases in housebuilding/population/electors in the Shifnal so that the number of electors (and hence variation from the average) will be even greater. In their evidence to the Commission, Shropshire state that based on the 2022 electorate, the average Councillor/electorate ratio is  $1/3379$ , forecast to rise to  $1/3611$  by 2028. On the Shropshire 2022 average, the 2021 ratios for the 2 Shifnal divisions (which will undoubtedly have risen in the intervening year) are already some 27% higher than the current average. Shifnal South and Cosford includes Donington parish which includes RAF Cosford plus part of the actual built up part of the settlement of Albrighton. With regard to the Commission's comment that divisions should reflect the interests and identities of the local communities, this parish in particular has much more of a community identity and interests with Albrighton than Shifnal. To reduce the number of electors per member in the 2 Shifnal wards to come within the Commission's member/elector ratio and to better reflect the interests of the areas with their local communities, it would be appropriate for Donington Parish to be removed from Shifnal South and Cosford and added to Albrighton (unfortunately Albrighton was uncontested at the 2021 election so no details of the electorate number for that division is available. However, the 2019 population figure for the Albrighton division was 4464 compared to 5602 and 6299 for the 2 Shifnal divisions so it is assumed that the Albrighton division can be expanded). There are no electorate figures available for Tong PC which has community links with both Shifnal and Albrighton so I cannot say whether this parish should also be moved into Albrighton division. Without the detailed electorate data for each parish and electoral ward that Shropshire will have, it is difficult to propose how the two divisions remaining for the town council area (plus or minus Tong) should be divided. However, in view of the size of Shifnal North, this will need reducing in size to meet the  $1/3500$ - $3920$  target ratio figure which will mean amending the current southern boundary of the division). Recommend: that Donington (and Tong?) be removed from Shifnal South and Cosford and relocated to Albrighton division, with Shifnal South and Cosford being renamed Shifnal South. That the existing boundary between the 2 Shifnal divisions in the town of Shifnal be amended so that the ratio of member/ electors is comparable for the two divisions. Evidence for the recommendation: The existing Shifnal wards are already some 27% above the 2022 Shropshire Council average ratio and between 25%-16% above the average/maximum figures proposed by the Boundary Commission. This means that either the two wards must be amended in size to better reflect electorate numbers or divided into three divisions. The Commission state that divisions should reflect the interest and identities of the local communities. Shifnal South and Cosford includes the parish of Donington part of which includes the built up settlement of Albrighton which forms the adjoining division, and RAF Cosford. This parish clearly has far more interests and identity with Albrighton than Shifnal, so it would better reflect the parish's links with Albrighton for

that parish to be moved from Shifnal North and Cosford, to the Albrighton division. It would then be more reasonable from the local community point, for the two Shifnal divisions to be based solely on the town (and Tong?) and Sheriffhales (which by its location, has far more links to Shifnal than any other adjoining division). In view of the current number of electors in Shifnal North, the existing boundary between the two divisions in the town would need to be amended so that Shifnal North and the revised Shifnal South divisions had comparable member/elector ratios.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded