

From: Tony Parsons <Tony.Parsons@shropshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 February 2023 12:20
To: Graham White
Cc: Lezley Picton; Roger Evans; Julia Buckley; Duncan Kerr; David Minnery
Subject: LGBCE Version 5

Dear Graham,

Thank you for providing us with version 5 regarding the LGBCE review which retains the 75 seat proposed council, with a number of options for a variety of seats.

The Labour Groups position is that we support the proposed size of the Council and recognise the many difficulties in redrawing boundaries to achieve electoral divisions that meet the LGBC's conditions with regards to both size in terms of electors and community.

With regards to the following Options we are agreeable to either Option 1 or Option 2:-

Chirbury and Worthen
Loton
Llanymynech
Severn Valley West
Cleobury Mortimer East and West

In terms of Broseley we prefer Option 1 to Option 2 but understand that electoral numbers may make Option 1 too large. We also believe the Bayston Hill division should be coterminous with the Bayston Hill Parish Council area but again recognise the difficulties re the number of electors, a number of our councillors have already notified the LGBC of their views on this issue.

As for Shrewsbury we believe that Option 1 for the former Abbey Ward and Severn Valley East is something we cannot support for all the reasons already highlighted. This would involve the removal of a significant area of Shrewsbury into the Severn Valley Ward and lead to Unitary and Town electoral divisions not being coterminous. We do not believe this Option should be submitted to the LGBC and if it is we want it noted that the Labour Party opposes this Option.

We can support Option 2 for Former Abbey and Severn Valley East, but believe more work is needed to finalise the knock on effects in Monkmoor and Underdale and Abbey.

In terms of St Martins the current division is made up of the whole of St Martins Parish, along with two wards from Ellesmere Rural Parish Council - Dudleston Ward and Dudleston Heath Ward.

Due to the strong community links of wards NNA and NNB to St Martins, such as St Martins School where the majority of residents in St Martins send their children, St Martins Village Hall, the Miner's Institute, as well as the former mining houses along Moors Bank, it is imperative these two areas remain within the St Martins division.

As with Shrewsbury we oppose any proposal that suggests the removal of any part of St Martins Parish Council, from the St Martins Division boundary, as any segregation fails to recognise the needs of the St Martins community.

The two areas of Dudleston (NNC) and Dudleston Heath (NND), are both within the larger Ellesmere Rural Parish Council, and have strong links towards Ellesmere and The Meres. Criftins CE Primary school in Dudleston Heath, provides for children living within this area, and falls within the catchment area for The Lakeland's secondary school in Ellesmere, creating a strong community link between the two areas.

If there is a need to reduce the numbers of electors within St Martins division, it makes sense to return the most easterly ward to sit with its neighbouring Ellesmere Rural Council wards of Tetchill, and Welsh Frankton in The Meres Division.

This would lead to The Meres division being over the ideal figure but this could be balanced by transferring Harmer Hill, Myddle and Broughton Parish to Tern Division.

I hope our position is clear on this but if there is any confusion please get back to me.

Kind regards
Tony Parsons”

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