

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE – 15 APRIL 2004

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Purpose

1. The purpose of this supplementary report is to set out comments received from elected members and others relating to the Boundary Committee's draft recommendations.

Background

2. The Boundary Committee published its draft recommendations on 24th February 2004 and requires comments by 26th April, 2004.
3. The Boundary Committee's report highlights a number of issues on which it would particularly welcome comments, as follows:-

Paragraph No.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 92. | The proposed two-member electoral division comprising the Birstall Wanlip, Birstall Watermead and Thurmaston Wards of Charnwood. |
| 107. | The proposed Gartree and Launde divisions of Harborough. |
| 133. | The proposed Ibstock and Appleby Division in North West Leicestershire. |
| 151. | The names of the Wigston Divisions, the Boundary Committee having suggested 'South Wigston', 'Wigston St. Wolstan's' and 'Wigston All Saints and Meadowcourt' respectively. |
| 163. | The proposal to divide Winstanley parish ward into two parish wards to reflect the proposed county divisions in that area of Blaby. |

Comments Received by the Council

4. All Members of the County Council have been invited to submit comments on the proposal so that these can be taken into account in developing the Council's response to the draft recommendations. A number of Parish Councils have also submitted their views. A summary of the comments is set out in Appendix A to this report. (In the interests of economy the details are attached for members only - copies can be made available on request).

County Council Network

5. A communication has been received from the County Council's Network (CCN) indicating that at its last meeting the CCN Council had discussed the matter of the Electoral Commission Periodic Reviews. At that meeting a quick 'straw poll' had been taken to canvass opinion and there had been unanimous support for the view that multi member proposals for County divisions was undesirable. In the light of this the CCN was asked to take this matter up with the Electoral Commission. Before doing so, however, the CCN is seeking member authority comments on the following questions:-
 1. Have multi-member electoral divisions been proposed for your County?
 2. If so, is the authority proposing or opposing their introduction?
 3. If the authority is not supportive, what are the factors which it has used to argue against such proposals?
6. The CCN required comments by 7th April and a response has been sent which answers question 1 but indicates that a response to questions 2 and 3 cannot be given until the Constitution Committee has been able to address the matter.

Recommendation

7. The Committee is asked:-
 - (a) to determine the basis of the County Council's response to the Boundary Committee on the draft recommendations.
 - (b) to determine the response to be given to the CCN questions referred to in paragraph 5 above.

Officer to Contact

David Pitt tel. 0116 265 6034.