

Strategic Management Board



Listening Learning Leading

The Owner/Occupier

David Buckle

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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4 March 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Community Governance Review

Government guidance states that it is good practice for local authorities to review the governance arrangements operating at parish level every ten years or so; this is known as a community governance review. It is now more than ten years since South Oxfordshire District Council carried out a district wide review. Council therefore agreed, in July 2013, to commence such a review and we have liaised with parish and town councils to seek their views on what arrangements they would like to put forward. In addition, we established a councillor working group that formulated recommendations in relation to a whole variety of proposals. Council considered these recommendations at its meeting on 20 February and agreed the formal draft proposals for consultation.

One of these draft proposals relates to a change to the parish boundary at Didcot, Long Wittenham, East Hagbourne and West Hagbourne which affects your property; we are therefore consulting all residents whose property lies within the affected area. I attach a report schedule that sets out the recommendation and justification, together with a map showing the proposed boundary change.

If you would like to make representations about these proposals you can do so by **31 May 2014** by email to cgr@southoxon.gov.uk. If you do not have access to email then please write to:

CGR
South Oxfordshire District Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Benson Lane
Crowmarsh Gifford
Wallingford OX10 8ED

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The Council will take the following assessment criteria into account when making its decisions:

- natural or man-made boundaries that help to define clearly one community from another
- housing developments that straddle parish boundaries, thereby resulting in people being in different parishes from their neighbours
- effective and convenient representation of local residents at parish level
- the LGBCE's proposals for the warding of South Oxfordshire for the purposes of district council elections
- the newly created county council electoral divisions
- views expressed in relation to any changes, particularly from those people directly affected
- the extent to which proposals reflect the identities and interests of the affected community.

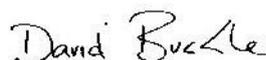
It is very important that any representations you make address these criteria.

Finally, we have produced a Frequently Asked Questions paper, which is available on our website at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/town-and-parish-councils/local-government-and-public-involvement>; we may add to this as new questions are raised.

If you require any further information, or need clarification on the review, please contact:

Steven Corrigan
Democratic Services Manager
Telephone 01491 823049
Email: steven.corrigan@southandvale.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Buckle'.

David Buckle
Chief Executive