



Church Stretton

Town Council

From: Cllr John Luck

To: Strategy Committee

Date: 1st December 2022

Subject: Shropshire Electoral Review

The Electoral Divisions for the County of Shropshire are to be reviewed and the Council has asked for the views of local people and organisations. I have included the Review dates.

Earlier in the year Cllr. Cecilia Motley circulated a questionnaire about the boundaries of the Parish and Town Council areas as a precursor to this review

At the Strategy Committee meeting on the 7th of June 2022, we agreed that this Town Council would not make any approach to expand the parish boundary to encompass out neighbouring parishes, but should an approach be made by said parishes to be absorbed within Church Stretton CP we would be more than happy to assist them.

Church Stretton is currently within the Church Stretton & Craven Arms Division represented by two Unitary Councillors. In addition to responding as above it was felt that we should express the Town Council's view that being a binary division did not best serve the interests of this Parish and that we were desirous of becoming a separate Single Member Division (SMD)

The committee resolved to inform Shropshire Council of the Town Council's aspirations.

On 13th June 2022 an email response to that effect was sent to Shropshire council for the attention of Cllr. Motley.

As you can see the closing date for us to make representation is 30th January 2023. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for the 7th of March 2023.

It would appear that at present the preference is to retain the same number of Divisions as at present (74), though this is not set in stone. Clearly for us to become a SMD would mean some tinkering with the current Divisions.

In order to support our bid to become a SMD I have determined the following:

Each Unitary Authority is expected to serve approximately 3,500 electors. The current and forecast of electors are as follows with a variance of +/- 10%.

Ward/Parish	Currently	Forecast by 2028
Church Stretton (AS)	403	375
Church Stretton (N)	1614	1686
Church Stretton (S)	1648	1639
Church Stretton (LS)	291	289
TOTAL	3956	3989
Craven Arms (LHE)	73	72
Craven Arms (LHF)	1859	2195
Hopesay Parish	429	452
Onibury Parish	253	268
Sibdon-carwood Parish	95	58
Wistanstow Parish	642	664
Total	3351	3637
Grand Total	7307	7626

The Electoral Commission favours Single Member Divisions.

Factors that may influence the creation of SMB:

A strong Community Identity

Where the interests of a community are not met by a Binary Division

Factor that may influence the Status Quo:

The status quo is convenient for local governance

The members of the Strategy Committee are asked to re-affirm the commitment to become a SMD and to submit a document as part of the Initial Consultation by 30th January 2023 in pursuance of this goal.

	Date From:	Date To:
<p>Initial consultation</p> <p>You can give us your views on your local communities</p>	22 November 2022	30 January 2023
<p>Consultation on proposals</p> <p>You can give us your views on our proposed new pattern of wards</p>	25 April 2023	3 July 2023
<p>Final report</p> <p>We publish the Commission's recommendations</p>	26 September 2023	

Order laid in Parliament

This makes the recommendations law

TBC

Effective date

The new arrangements apply to elections after this date

May 2025