

CGR 3

Parishes Affected

Abingdon-on-Thames

Matter to be considered

Reviewing the allocation of councillors to and the names of parish wards

Impact on district and county council boundaries

None

Summary of parish council responses

Abingdon-on-Thames town council has requested that we review the allocation of councillors made by the LGBC to each parish ward and rename two of the parish wards.

Summary of other responses

None

Recommendation

To rename Fitzharris North parish ward as Fitzharris Wildmoor

To rename Fitzharris South parish ward as Fitzharris Ock

To give delegated authority to the chief executive to publish proposals for the allocation of councillors to parish wards having first consulted with the working group and representatives of the town council

Justification

The town council considers that the references to Wildmoor and Ock are better than the suffixes of north and south for the two Fitzharris wards and the working group agrees with this.

The working group agrees with the town council that the allocation of councillors to town wards by the LGBC is unsatisfactory. The LGBC has allocated three councillors to each of the parish wards despite variations in the electorate from around 1800 to around 5600. This would result in a very unequal distribution of councillors. The town council does not wish to change the boundaries of the wards but does wish to see a different distribution.

Unfortunately, the working group is not in a position to make a recommendation for consultation at this meeting. In part, this is because the new electoral registers with up to date electoral figures are only now being finalised. For this reason the working group proposes delegation to the chief executive to publish proposals for the allocation of councillors to parish wards in Abingdon having first consulted with both representatives of the town council and the working group. He anticipates this will be within a short period of the main consultation commencing.