

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

COUNCIL- 3 NOVEMBER 2011

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPLEMENT REPORT ABOUT THE
REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES**

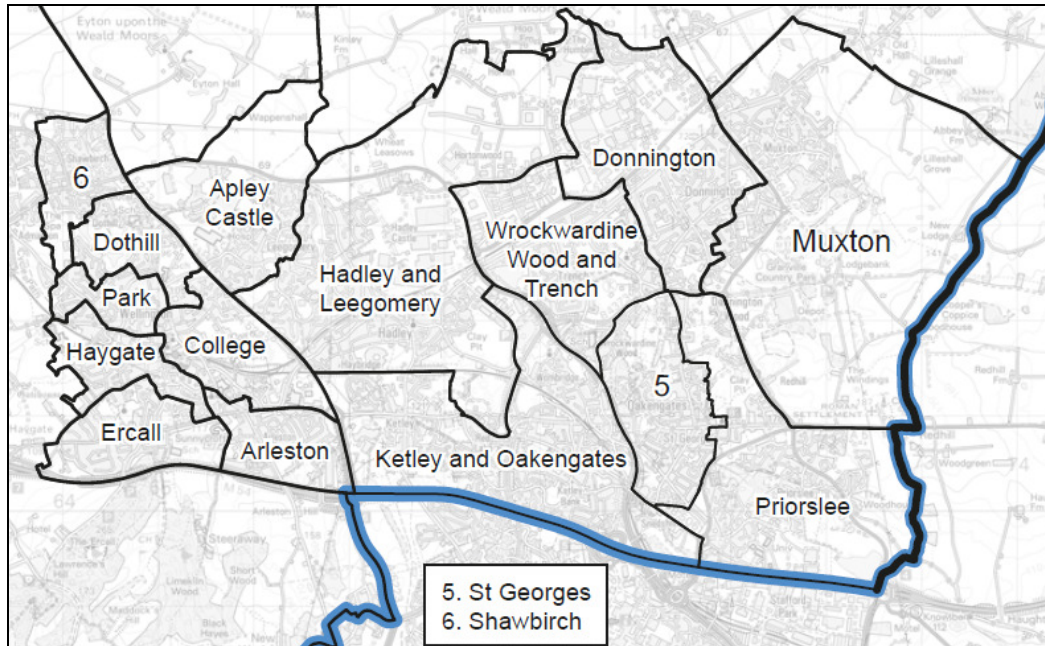
REPORT OF THE HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

1.0 DETAILS OF THE CABINET REQUEST

- 1.1 At the meeting of Cabinet on 20th October 2011, Cabinet Members agreed that officers be requested to provide further information to all members about alternative boundaries that would respect the identity of Telford as a town and would provide for a surrounding mixed market town and rural constituency.
- 1.2 This report provides details about how an alternative option might be presented within the overall envelope of the two proposed constituencies and presents arguments for and against this alternative proposal

2.0 RELEVANT CRITERIA

- 2.1 The criteria that the Boundary Commission for England are required to work to in recommending new constituencies are detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the main report to Council.
- 2.2 An alternative proposal could be to create two constituencies within the proposed 'envelope' of Telford and Wrekin and eastern Shropshire, but with boundaries that were redrawn to create a Telford constituency and a market towns/ rural constituency.
- 2.3 Such a proposal could meet the primary criterion, with the electorates of each constituency falling within the range between 72,810 and 80,473 – that is 5% either side of the electoral quota of 76,641. This would involve taking in Borough wards incrementally to the north of the M54, but to a point, too, where the rural constituency is also within quota. The following map extract and table show that this balance can only be achieved at a certain point.



Telford South area as shown in the present proposals has 44,377 electors – this is the starting point in this exercise	44377	Telford constituency running total:	Market Towns/ Rural constituency running total:
add ward:	add electors:		
Ketley and Oakengates	7125	51502	101190
St Georges	4678	56180	96512
Priorslee	4706	60886	91806
Wrockwardine Wood & Trench	5052	65938	86754
Donnington	4726	70664	82028
Hadley & Leegomery	7478	78142*	74550*
Muxton	4738	82880	69812

*the point at which the primary criterion is met

2.4 In respect of the secondary criteria:-

Special geographical considerations, including the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency

- The alternative constituencies would not be unduly large geographically and physical geography is not an issue.
- It could be argued that the market towns/ rural constituency would be somewhat more awkward in terms of shape and accessibility. Equally, though, it could be argued that the market towns/ rural constituency would bring together like towns and their rural hinterlands. Note the potential comparison with the retained North

Shropshire constituency – a similar constituency of market towns and rural areas;

Local government boundaries as they existed on 6 May 2010

- The alternative proposal is no different in this respect, with one proposed constituency wholly contained within Telford and Wrekin local authority and the other proposed constituency crossing the Telford and Wrekin and Shropshire boundary;

Boundaries of existing constituencies

- It could be argued that the retention of existing constituencies is more satisfactorily met in this proposal because the existing Telford and The Wrekin constituencies are effectively enlarged, and, in the process, the electors of only five of the Shropshire wards (Much Wenlock, Broseley, Bridgnorth West and Tasley, Bridgnorth East and Astley Abbots and Worfield) and the electors of only two of the Telford & Wrekin wards (Hadley and Leegomery and Donnington) would experience a change of constituency;

Any local ties that would be broken by changes in constituencies

- It could be argued that alternative proposals would create two constituencies that have their own individual interests and concerns: an urban, Telford constituency, and a constituency of rural/ market towns (Wellington, Newport, Albrighton, Shifnal, Broseley, Much Wenlock and Bridgnorth) and intervening rural hinterland. The argument may be less strong in respect of the allocation of the Wellington, Apley Castle and Muxton wards to the market towns/ rural constituency.

2.5 This supplemental report does not consider the names of alternative constituencies. Members will have their own views on this matter. In its guidance to the review, the Commission has laid down the following guidelines for the naming of constituencies: when constituencies remain largely unchanged, the existing constituency name should usually be retained; generally, the Commission considers that the name should reflect the main population centre(s) contained in the constituency, and the Commission adopts compass point names when there is not a more suitable name, such as in North Shropshire.