

Councillor Emily Smith
Leader
Vale of White Horse District Council

Mark Stone
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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By email: Emily.Smith@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

17 November 2022

Dear Emily,

At its meeting of 13 October 2022, South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) considered a motion from Cllr Mocky Khan regarding the location and impact of the existing boundary of the district council with Vale of White Horse at Great Western Park in Didcot.

As part of this motion a request was made of me to contact you about whether Vale of White Horse would include a motion confirming its support, in principle, for a request to be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR) to be undertaken.

Specifically the key element of the motion said “*Council resolves to request the chief executive to ask the Leader of Vale of White Horse if an item can be included on the next Council agenda for Vale of White Horse District Council to seek views on whether it would support, in principal, a request to the LGBCE for a PABR of the boundary between South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils to address the current geographical division of the community within Great Western Park.*”

In making this request, South Oxfordshire District Council also noted the following:

- “1 that the community of Great Western Park is currently split between those living in Didcot parish within South Oxfordshire District Council and those living in Harwell parish within Vale of White Horse District Council;
- 2 that a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a review of the boundaries of principal council areas, by means of Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR), must be made by all the principal councils concerned, in this case South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse district councils;
- 3 that any final decision on such a request would require consideration of a report from the chief executive covering the benefits of the proposal, the financial implications and evidence of support from the local community.”

As you will see, any request to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a Principal Area Boundary Review requires the support of the principal councils which would potentially impacted, which in this case are South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council.

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I would be grateful if you could consider this request and offer a written response that can be made available to SODC members. In line with the Councils approach to formal correspondence, this would also be included on the 'official correspondence' pages of the Council's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Stone", with a horizontal line underneath.

Mark Stone
Chief Executive