



Mr D Buckle, Chief Executive  
SODC  
Benson Lane  
Crowmarsh Gifford  
Wallingford  
Oxon OX10 8QS

4<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Dear Mr Buckle,

As a result of the loss of Winterbrook following the latest Community Governance Review, Cholsey Parish Council voted to reduce its number of Councillors from 13 to 12. However, because this decision was not made before the final decision was made regarding Winterbrook we have been told by Legal and Democratic Services that this cannot be implemented until the next review, due to be conducted after the 2015 election.

This effectively means Cholsey Parish Council in the interim carrying a requirement for additional councillors for Winterbrook, which no longer forms part of the Parish.

I hope that it within your mandate to help us make sense of this situation by allowing us to reduce the number of councillors with effect from the next elections without having to wait until a further review is conducted.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Melanie Malcolm  
Clerk to Cholsey Parish Council

## Strategic Management Board



Listening Learning Leading

Ms M Malcolm  
Clerk to Cholsey Parish Council

Sent by email only to  
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David Buckle  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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10 September 2014

Dear Melanie

### Community Governance Review

Thank you for your letter of 4 September. I am afraid I am not going to be of much assistance. The advice that you have already been given is correct - because consideration of the number of councillors for Cholsey parish did not form part of the community governance review and was not covered by any decisions taken by council we cannot now make any changes.

The consequence of this is that Cholsey parish council will continue to have 13 members. These councillors will be elected from across the entire new parish area.

I think that the council will be sympathetic to a request to reduce the number of councillors but we can only do this as part of a new community governance review, and we do not intend to carry out another one until post the 2015 elections.

I am sorry that I cannot offer better news

Yours sincerely

David Buckle  
Chief Executive