

Mark Stone
Chief Executive
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Councillor Emily Smith
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Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter dated 17 November on behalf of South Oxfordshire District Council. I note their request for the Vale of White Horse District Council to include an item on our next council meeting agenda to support a boundary review between our two districts.

However, before bringing a proposal, even in principle, to seek a boundary review to full council Vale members would need to be fully apprised of any potential benefits, risks or other implications for the Vale of White Horse District Council and our residents.

The number of homes being built in and around Didcot is significant and a report detailing the Vale's options for supporting good governance and democratic representation for existing and new residents in the Didcot area, and whether reviewing the district council boundaries would help achieve this, would be required before any recommendations could be made.

With preparations well underway for district, parish and town council elections, and the creation of a new parish east of Harwell, I do not feel it appropriate to ask officers to start work on such a report this side of May 2023, especially as the views of the new Parish, which will hold its first elections in May, could be a material factor in any consideration.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Emily Smith
Leader of the Council

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