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Our Ref: LA/Boundary Extension/Ramsey
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Dear Mr Whiteway

Re: Proposed boundary extension application

Following receipt of the application on the 13th December 2020, the Department have now read through the detailed report and are content with the application to be considered further, which you will be aware means a requirement to prepare a draft Order which would then be used as the basis of discussion around the proposed boundary extension at a future public inquiry.

Before this application can be progressed to that public inquiry however, the Department seek clarification and further detail from Ramsey Town Commissioners. Upon review it was felt that the following information was lacking from the application and which would be required to enable an Order to be drafted namely the following:-

- 1) It wasn't clear from the paperwork received what the Commissioners see the electoral ward boundaries to be in future? If indeed there is a proposal to incorporate the residents in the affected areas into the current North and South Wards of the Town. If of course there is no such proposal to change the ward boundaries could that be clarified too please?
- 2) A consequential follow on question from 1 above is will there be any changes to the number of local authority members in Ramsey to reflect the proposed boundary change?
- 3) With the assumption that the Commissioners are looking to take into consideration that those currently in Maughold and Lezayre will be paying significantly lower sums in their rates has consideration be given to how many years will be set out to equalise the rates for everyone and at what factor? This would be expected to be over at least 5 years.

- 4) Additionally there was reference within the application document to a previous boundary extension application which went to public inquiry in the past. It was suggested that a proposal was made to include Glen Auldyn within the Ramsey boundary which was rejected. The Department by way of this letter seek to have sight of this document, as background information, so as to assist the Chairman of the Inquiry in their deliberations once he or she has been appointed.

The intention is to send a copy of Ramsey Commissioners' application as presented to the Department to the Lezayre Commissioners and Garff Commissioners as we propose to follow Section 6(2) of the 1985 Act where it states that before making an order the Department shall consult with every local authority whose district is affected by the proposed Order, and shall hold an Inquiry. The 2 local authorities concerned will be asked to consider and respond to the application and to focus their responses on the six criteria provided previously. To assist with this process if your Commissioners wished to set out to summarise how each of the 6 criteria are being addressed for each aspect of the application (within the application) in a separate document this could aid understanding and of course be forwarded on to the other authorities for their assistance.

Once the responses are received the inquiry process will be able to progress to the drafting of an Order and then to putting out a public notice seeking comments from the public. As a guide to the likely timetable of the consideration of this boundary extension application please see a draft timetable, please note some of these dates have already slipped due to the most recent COVID -19 lockdown and may need to be extended further in future, but we will be aiming to follow these stages as set out in the attached.

Please let me apologise on behalf of the Department for the delay in responding to your application, I hope you can understand the reasons for this delay. Please let me know if you require anything further on this at this time and I look forward to receiving the Commissioners further correspondence on this application.

Yours sincerely



Steve Willoughby
Executive Officer