

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on Thursday, 29 July 2021 at 6.00 pm in The Telford Room, Addenbrooke House, Ironmasters Way, Telford, TF3 4NT

Present: Councillors K T Blundell, N A Dugmore, E J Greenaway, V J Holt (Vice-Chair), A D McClements and R A Overton

In Attendance: P Griffiths (Project Manager), A Lowe (Associate Director: Policy and Governance, and K Robinson (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny))

Apologies: Councillors C Cassar

BRC41 Declarations of Interest

None.

BRC42 Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Final Submission

The Vice Chair asked Members to continue with the business of the previous meeting, which had been exempt, prior to receiving the Final Submission report from the Project Manager.

RESOLVED – that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 and 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Project Manager presented the draft submissions for wards across the Borough.

Members made various comments on the proposed arrangements and made some suggested amendments.

Following this, the public and press were permitted to enter the meeting.

The Project Manager presented the draft final submission report to the Committee.

The wards had been agreed and were included in the report, the proposals would increase the number of wards in the Borough but the number of Councillors would remain the same. The expectation was that new warding arrangements would be in place for the next elections in May 2023. The Boundary Commission for England would assess submissions. There were three primary criteria for the review to judge submissions by – electors per councillor, wards reflecting community interests and identity, and clear natural boundaries.

The proposal was for 33 wards represented by 54 councillors. A number of wards would be adjusted and a small number would remain unchanged. A number of examples were provided – a three-member Lawley ward would be created, as would a single member Horsehay ward, Ketley and Overdale would cease to exist, and Brookside would lose a member,

It was proposed that the recommendation in the report to delegate authority to the Associate Director in consultation with the Chair be amended to include the Vice Chair and read –

That the Committee delegates authority to the Associate Director: Policy & Governance, in consultation with the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Boundary Review Committee, to finalise the wording of the submission and submit the proposed warding pattern to LGBCE by 2 August.

A discussion followed the presentation:

A number of suggestions were made in relation to proposed ward names. Members suggested that the name of the proposed College & Arleston be changed to Arleston & College.

Following a vote it was, by a majority,

RESOLVED that – the proposed College & Arleston ward be named Arleston & College.

To represent the longstanding presence of a portion of Wrockwardine Wood in St Georges ward, it was recommended that reference be made to Wrockwardine Wood be made in the name of the ward.

Following a vote it was, unanimously,

RESOLVED that – St Georges ward be renamed St Georges & Wrockwardine Wood South.

Members discussed the name of the proposed Horsehay ward and suggested it be named Horsehay & Lighmoor to recognise the Lighmoor element of the ward.

Following a vote it was, unanimously,

RESOLVED that – the proposed Horsehay ward be named Horsehay & Lightmoor.

RESOLVED that –

a) The submission of the Council's proposed Borough warding pattern to LGBCE in the terms set out within this report be approved as amended.

b) Authority be delegated to the Associate Director: Policy & Governance, in consultation with the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Boundary

Review Committee, to finalise the wording of the submission and submit the proposed warding pattern to LGBCE by 2 August.

Members thanked Officers for their hard work on the report.

The meeting ended at 7.08 pm

Chairman:

Date: Date Not Specified