

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on Thursday, 7 March 2019 at 6.00pm in Meeting Rooms G3/4, Addenbrooke House, Telford

Present: Councillors A D McClements (Chairman), K T Blundell, I T W Fletcher, R A Overton, and R J Sloan

In Attendance: D Bowen (Elections Team Leader), A Coburn (Solicitor: Commercial), J Eatough (Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning), and D Moseley (Democratic & Scrutiny Services Team Leader)

BRC-09 Apologies for Absence

Councillors N A Dugmore and G C W Reynolds

BRC-10 Declarations of Interest

None.

BRC-11 Minutes

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on 7 February 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

BRC-12 Community Governance Review – Newport Town Council – Final Recommendations

Members had previously considered this report at the meeting on 7 February 2019, when the Committee had agreed to undertake a site visit at the proposed boundary to make a more informed decision about the issues that had been raised. The site visit had taken place on Thursday, 21 February 2019.

Reflecting on the site visit and their personal knowledge of the area, some Members expressed converse views about the proposed boundary change. The view was put forward that the natural boundary was the A518 and the anticipated natural expectation of people living in the area in question would be that they were residents of Newport. This view was countered by the view that there were similar anomalies across the borough where the borough ward boundary did not match the parish boundary. The last Boundary Commission review had left some of these anomalies in the last review, focussing as it did more on parity of elector numbers. It was also noted that it was often the case that individuals resided in one parish area and used the facilities of another and also that as the proposed development was not yet completed, the views of the people living in the affected area could not currently be obtained.

Upon being put to the vote, it was by a majority:

RESOLVED – that the Final Recommendations, as shown in the document attached to the report, be adopted and published.

The Assistant Director: Governance, Procurement & Commissioning noted that the decision of the Committee would be report to the next Council meeting in July 2019.

BRC-13 **Temporary Changes To Polling Stations – Local Elections:**
Thursday, 2 May 2019

There were some 78 polling stations across the Borough, used at local and national elections, each of which was contacted in January 2019 to ensure availability for the May 2019 local elections. The report set out that two stations had declined the use of their premises, due to a change in the use of the premises or a business change preventing use as a polling station:-

- Lawley & Overdale Parish Council Offices (polling district THL)
- Lakeside Plant Centre, Priorslee (polling district TPP)

Additionally, since publication of the report, Newport Bowling Club (polling districts WNS, WNV and WSS) had temporarily declined its use for the May election only.

Members' approval was therefore sought for temporary changes to three polling stations for the May 2019 local elections:

- Lawley Village Primary Academy, Bryce Way, Lawley (polling district THL);
- Holy Trinity Academy, Teece Drive, Priorslee (polling district TPP); and
- Newport Infants School, Granville Avenue, Newport (polling district WNS, WNV and WSS)

The ongoing suitability of the proposed premises as future polling stations would be assessed alongside all other existing polling stations, when a full polling station / polling place review commenced in June 2019.

Members expressed regret that the changes proposed the use of schools as this presented safeguarding issues which often resulted in school closures. The Elections Team Leader explained the alternative options that had been explored and the reasons for discounting them and was able to offer some reassurance that Holy Trinity Academy would remain open since the polling station would be set up in the adjacent sports hall. Use of Lawley Village Primary Academy would result in partial closure only but Newport Infants School would close to pupils (not staff).

Members also discussed the need to ensure ease of accessibility of polling stations and the use of demountables. Members noted that the Polling Station/Polling Place Review would commence in June 2019 and that feedback from the May election would be taken into account.

Upon being put to the vote, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED – that the following premises be used as polling stations for local elections:-

- (i) Lawley Village Primary Academy, Bryce Way, Lawley (polling district THL);**
- (ii) Holy Trinity Academy, Teece Drive, Priorslee (polling district TPP);
and**
- (iii) Newport Infants School, Granville Avenue, Newport (polling district WNS, WNV and WSS)**

The meeting ended at 6.28pm

Chairman:

Date: