

ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 APRIL 2018 AT THE KENNET ROOM - COUNTY HALL, TROWBRIDGE BA14 8JN.

Present:

Cllr Clare Cape, Cllr Richard Clewer (Chairman), Cllr Gavin Grant, Cllr Ashley O'Neill, Cllr Jonathon Seed (Vice-Chairman) and Cllr Stuart Wheeler

24 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ian Blair-Pilling, Ian McLennan and Graham Wright.

25 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018 were presented and after consideration it was,

Resolved:

To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record.

26 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations.

27 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

28 **Public Participation**

There were no questions or statements submitted.

29 **Electoral Review Update**

Updates were provided to the Committee from the Project Team on the progress of the Electoral Review.

Following Council on 20 February 2018 where a draft submission on council-size had been approved, further minor and additional drafting changes had

been agreed under delegation to the Director for Legal and Democratic Services in consultation with the Chairman, following a further workshop of the Committee.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England ('The Commission') were sent the final submission, and would be making a determination by the end of April 2018. They would then announce their 'minded to' decision on council size and begin a consultation on a pattern of divisions for that size from 1 May – 9 July 2018.

The Committee considered a draft briefing note setting out an intended council consultation process to help inform the preparation of a council submission. This note would emphasise that any interested parties should submit any representations directly to the Commission, but that the Committee invited any comments to also be sent to the council, to aid in its preparations, as well as the process of creating a submission.

The council approach would be to engage through the community area boards, with any information received considered through a series of workshops. Council would then approve a submission in early July 2018. Submissions would need to focus on providing electoral equality, community identity and cohesion, and effective and convenient local government. In particular, divisions would need to be as close as possible to an average electorate identified once the council was informed of the 'minded to' decision of the Commission.

The Committee sought additional details on the electorate projection figures that would be used in preparing a submission, with the numbers to be available down to polling district level. The Committee also discussed how the relevant information would be made available to the area boards and the public, and the nature and extent of the Commission's formal consultation. It was noted that in that consultation the council was simply a stakeholder.

The Committee also discussed the most effective method of additional engagement with parishes.

Resolved:

To note the approach to be taken with area board and parish council consultation ahead of the next phase of the Electoral Review.

30 **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 2.05 pm)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Kieran Elliott, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 718504, e-mail kieran.elliott@wiltshire.gov.uk

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