

Constitutional and Nomination Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2010

Present:

Councillor Curley – In the Chair

Councillors Ashley, J Battle, Commons, Karney, Leese, Hassan, S. Murphy, Shannon and Whitmore.

CN/10/20 Urgent Business

To note the Chair had agreed to receive as urgent business a report concerning the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places: Draft Final Proposals

CN/10/21 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 29 July 2010.

CN/10/22 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places: Initial Proposals

A report of the Chief Executive was submitted presenting the final proposals on the statutory review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

The Committee was informed that a late representation had been received regarding the designation of polling places for districts WTA and WTB (Withington Ward) after the closing date. Members agreed that the Chief Executive should take this late representation into account in addition to those mentioned in recommendation 8 of the report.

The Head of Democratic and Statutory Services introduced the report and explained that the final proposals had been developed in consultation with a cross-party member working group and had taken into account representations received from ward councillors, polling station staff and other key stakeholders, including Manchester Disabled Person's Access Group and premises managers.

The Committee was requested to consider proposals for interim arrangements for any poll arising out of the casual vacancy in the Hulme Ward scheduled for 4 November 2010. Following further consultation with ward councillors, the City Council proposed to designate Martenscroft Early Excellence Centre as the polling place for HUE for the by-election (rather than Wesleyan Holiness Centre) as set out in the report. The revised arrangements for the Hulme by-election would therefore be as follows:

District	Electorate at 1st May	Existing Polling Place	Designation of Polling Place for 4th November
HUA	3381	New Hope Fellowship Church	New Hope Fellowship Church
HUB	336	Webster Primary School	Wesleyan Holiness Centre
HUC	4064	Hulme Library	Hulme Library (double station)
HUD	962	St Peter's Chaplaincy	Union Hall Evangelical Church
HUE	2842	Martenscroft Early Education Centre	Martenscroft Early Education Centre

In relation to polling district GSA in the Gorton South Ward, the Committee noted that Sunnybrow Lodge was the proposed Polling Place instead of the current Gorton South Neighbourhood Office.

A member sought clarification about the process for determining the accessibility of polling places, and the extent to which reasonable adjustments could be made to make a building accessible before an alternative venue would be sought. The Head of Democratic and Statutory Services advised that where a premises is in a suitable location and otherwise offers good facilities for voting, reasonable adjustments would be made to ensure the polling place was accessible. However, in certain circumstances, such adjustments would not be viable and an alternative venue would be sought in consultation with ward councillors. The designation of a polling place may also be reviewed in the event that a more suitable venue becomes available in the polling district.

A member requested that where possible, the final proposals submitted to Council should include polling places for those polling districts, which had yet to be resolved.

Decision

1. To note the submissions made to the Council in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places for the City of Manchester.
2. To note the final proposals in respect of the review.
3. To recommend to the Council the adoption of parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places as set out in the scheme contained in Appendix one.
4. To recommend to the Council the approval of the reasons given in the report for the decisions taken in respect of the designation of parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places.
5. To recommend to the Council that the scheme contained in Appendix one be adopted in relation to local government elections.

6. To recommend to the Council that the Chief Executive be requested to publish such notices and other documentation required by law on completion of the review.
7. To recommend that the Council request that the Electoral Registration Officer make the necessary adaptations to polling districts in the 1st December 2010 electoral register and give notice of such alteration on that date.
8. To note that final proposals have yet to be made in respect of the polling places for proposed polling districts WTA, WTB, CLD, HBJ, NOD and SHH and recommend to the Council that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to designate polling places for those districts which have not been resolved by 13 October, in consultation with Ward Councillors, group leaders and the Chair of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee.
9. To recommend to the Council that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place, prior to the next full review, in consultation with Ward Councillors, group leaders and the Chair of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee.
10. To approve the proposed interim designation of polling places for Hulme Ward for the purposes of any poll arising out of the election to fill the present casual vacancy in the Ward.
11. To thank all officers and elected members involved in the review and to acknowledge the huge amount of work undertaken by them.

CN/10/23 Membership of Committees

Members sought clarification regarding the process undertaken in relation to the appointment of the co-opted member of the Audit Committee. The City Solicitor undertook to provide further information about the appointment of members of the Committee.

Decision

1. To request the Council to agree to suspend Procedural Rule 25.1 in relation to the following decisions (marked *) which involve reconsideration of a decision taken by the Council within the previous six months.
2. To recommend the Council to make the following changes in appointments to Committees of the Council: -

Committee	Member appointed	Member removed
Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Mr David Rolland appointed to co-opted	

	vacancy of Secondary Sector Parent Governor	
Health and Well Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Vacancy (Lib Dem)	Councillor Dobson*

3. To note the appointment of Councillor Royle to serve on the Executive Standing Consultative Panel in place of Councillor Ali*.
4. To approve the appointment of Mr Stephen Downs as a co-opted member of the Audit Committee, subject to the provision of further information regarding this appointment, to members of the Committee.