

Constitutional and Nomination Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2012

Present:

Councillor Curley - In the Chair
Councillors Andrews, J. Battle, Leese, Hassan, Watson and Wheale

CN/12/24 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2012.

CN/12/25 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies

In October 2011 the Committee had considered proposals being put forward by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) for changes to the number and the boundaries of Greater Manchester parliamentary constituencies (Minute CN/11/14). The Council's responses to those initial proposals had not supported any of the BCE proposals for Manchester constituencies, and alternatives had been suggested to them.

The BCE published revised proposals on 16 October 2012. Under the revised proposals seven of the proposed Greater Manchester seats contain Manchester wards, but only one is wholly within Manchester (Manchester Withington). Manchester wards made up the largest part of four cross-boundary constituencies (Blackley & Broughton, Manchester Central, Manchester Gorton & Reddish North). Crumpsall ward was incorporated in the Bury South seat and Whalley Range transferred to Stretford & Urmston. In these new proposals the existing Manchester Withington and Wythenshawe & Sale East seats would be retained unchanged and only four wards would change constituency, compared with nine in the 2011 proposals. Those four wards contain 41,761 electors (12.1% of all Manchester electors, compared with 27.5% under the initial proposals).

However, the Committee was not able to support fully the revised proposals, having the view that the residents of Crumpsall and Whalley Range wards would have their local ties to Manchester broken if they were in other constituencies.

Decisions

1. To disagree in part with the proposals of the Boundary Commission for England for the treatment of the Crumpsall and Whalley Range wards in the review.
2. To request that officers explore whether there is a coherent and comprehensive alternative proposal in line with the principles previously

agreed by the Council that would retain those two wards within Manchester parliamentary constituencies, and which could then be submitted to the BCE.