

Constitutional and Nomination Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2013

Present: Councillor Karney - In the Chair
Councillors Curley, Flanagan, Lanchbury, S Murphy, Stogia

CN/13/09 Urgent Business

Decision

To note that the Chair had agreed that consideration of Membership of Council committees and representation on joint boards and joint committees would be taken as urgent business.

CN/13/10 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2013.

CN/13/11 Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

A report submitted by the Chief Executive explained that the Electoral Administration and Registration Act 2013 made provision to alter the timing of statutory reviews of Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. All local authorities now had a duty to complete a statutory review of their polling districts and polling places between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015, and then to review them on a five yearly cycle. Local Government and European Parliamentary Elections were due to be held in May 2014. The elections would be followed by the transition to individual electoral registration from July 2014. Therefore, it was felt that the review had to be undertaken before the 2014 elections.

The report explained that the focus of the review would be to identify possible polling places and polling stations that meet the criteria relating to location, health and safety, facilities, accessibility and space. The review would also evaluate temporary polling stations to see whether their continued use and location were appropriate. The (Acting) Returning Officer for parliamentary elections had established a cross-party member working group of three councillors to assist with the review.

A proposed timetable for the review was set out. Formal notice would be given on 1 October. That would be followed by a period of consultation up to 10 December. Draft proposals would be presented to the Committee in January, and, if approved, to the Council.

Decisions

1. To note the background to the review and the proposed timetable and process, including the consultation arrangements.

2. To authorise the initiation of a review of the parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places within the Council's area and that this be combined with a review of polling districts for local government elections within the Council's area from 1 October 2013.
3. To note the establishment of a Member Working Group to assist the Returning Officer to develop his detailed proposals for the location of polling stations that will be submitted and published during the review's consultation period.
4. To delegate authority for undertaking the review to the Chief Executive.
5. To request that the Chief Executive reports back to the Committee upon completion of the review, so that the Committee can make final recommendations on polling districts and places to the City Council.

CN/13/11 Membership of Council committees and representation on joint boards and joint committees

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 and Joint Committees of the Council*

Committee	Member removed	Member appointed
Economy Scrutiny	Taylor	Boyes
Finance Scrutiny	Strong	
Health Scrutiny		Strong
Manchester and Trafford Joint Health Scrutiny		(as substitutes) M Murphy, Reid