

Constitutional and Nomination Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2014

Present: Councillor Karney - In the Chair
Councillors Flanagan, Lanchbury, Leese and Stogia

CN/14/01 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2013

CN/14/02 Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places: Draft Final Proposals

A report submitted by the Chief Executive provided the draft proposals for the statutory review of polling places and polling districts. The review process was approved by the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 11 September 2013.

The report explained that the Electoral Administration and Registration Act 2013 included a new provision altering the timing of statutory reviews of Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. This means that all local authorities have a duty to complete a statutory review of their polling districts and polling places between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015. These reviews will then take place on a five yearly cycle, reflecting the move to fixed term parliaments. Given that Local Government and European Parliamentary Elections are due to be held in May 2014 followed directly by the transition to individual electoral registration from July 2014 onwards, the review started as soon as possible within the new cycle to enable changes to be put in place in advance of the 2014 elections.

At its meeting on 11 September 2013, the Constitutional and Nomination Committee authorised the initiation of a statutory review of the city's parliamentary polling districts and polling places, which was combined with a review of local government polling districts. The review started on 1 October 2013 and will finish at the end of January 2014, so that changes in polling districts are reflected in the electoral register when it is published by 17 February 2014. Local councillors and other key stakeholder have been consulted on the proposed changes as part of this process.

The report and the enclosed appendices set out the Council's final proposals for changes to polling districts and polling places, with the exception of polling stations BAF in the Baguley ward, DWE in the Didsbury ward, LOE in the Longsight ward and MNE in the Miles Platting and Newton Heath ward. These are still subject to further investigation or discussion with premises. The appendices also include the consultation responses and the (Acting) Returning Officer's representations received by the Council during the review, which were all considered in developing the proposals.

The Committee agreed the recommendations and thanked the officers for their hard work in completing a detailed review within such a short timescale. They noted the need to continue reviewing the location of polling stations on an ongoing basis.

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 1 and in the maps found at Appendix 7 of the report.
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 1 be adopted in relation to local government elections.
6. To recommend to the Council that the Chief Executive is 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 amendments to polling districts for when the electoral register is published by 17 February 2014..
8. To note that final proposals have yet to be made in respect of the polling places for the BAF polling district in the Baguley ward, DWE polling district in the Didsbury ward, LOE polling district in the Longsight ward and MNE polling district in the Miles Platting and Newton Heath ward, and to recommend to the Council that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to designate those polling places in consultation with ward councillors, group leaders and the Chair of 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 Constitutional and Nomination Committee.