

Constitutional and Nomination Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2018

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

Apologies: Councillors Flanagan, Leese, B Priest and Reeves

CN/18/1 Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2017.

CN/18/2 Polling District Changes

The Committee received the report of the Chief Executive, via the Council summons, which said that following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) Electoral Review of Manchester, the Manchester (Electoral Changes) Order 2017 has now been enacted making provision for 32 new ward boundaries to come into effect at the local elections on 3 May 2018.

The Committee also received an updated version of Appendix 2D, in which pages 9 to 11 had been revised and updated in relation to the proposed 4DEB and 4DEG polling districts in Didsbury East Ward.

Although the LGBCE's Electoral Review of Manchester concluded that the Council should continue to be represented by 96 councillors in 32 wards, in practice there will be extensive changes to existing boundaries, and whilst some ward names will continue to be used, a number of newly named wards are also being established.

In preparation for these new ward boundaries coming into effect, the Committee were told it has been necessary to undertake an interim review of the city's parliamentary polling districts, the sub areas into which each ward is divided and also the polling places, the buildings in which polling stations are located by the Returning Officer. The review has been conducted simultaneously with a review of local government polling districts and polling places.

The interim review has taken place a year in advance of the compulsory review of polling districts and polling places which all local authorities have a duty to complete every 5 years, in accordance with the Fixed Term Parliament Act 2011. The last compulsory review in Manchester was undertaken in the autumn of 2013, meaning the next compulsory review is required at the same point in 2018.

At its meeting on 4 October 2017, this Committee authorised the initiation of the interim review with a consultation period running between 9 October 2017 and 8 December 2017. For reasons of clarity and transparency the interim review has followed the same steps as a compulsory review.

The report and the Appendices 1 to 3 set out the final draft proposals for changes to polling districts and polling places together with ward maps showing the proposed polling districts. This is with the exception of the polling place for 3LOG in the new Longsight ward (currently GSE in Gorton South).

The Committee expressed satisfaction with the detailed content of the report, and thanked the Elections Team for the work that had taken place to produce such a comprehensive review.

Decisions

1. To note the final proposals in respect of the review.
2. To note the submissions made to the Council in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places for the City of Manchester.
3. To recommend to the Council the adoption of parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places as set out in the scheme contained in Appendices 1 and 2 and in the maps at Appendix 3.
4. To recommend to the Council that the scheme contained in Appendices 1 and 2 and in the maps at Appendix 3, also be adopted in relation to local government elections.
5. 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.
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 requests that the Electoral Registration Officer reflects the approved revised scheme of polling districts in the Electoral Register which is being re-published on 1 February 2018, in preparation for the local elections taking place on 3 May 2018.
8. To note that final proposals have yet to be made in respect of the polling place for the 3LOG polling district in the new Longsight ward and therefore to recommend to the Council that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive to designate this polling place in consultation with relevant 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 relevant ward councillors, group leaders and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination Committee.