



Constitutional and Nomination Committee

Date: Wednesday, 30 January 2019

Time: 9.00 am

Venue: The Council Antechamber, Level 2, Town Hall
Extension

Everyone is welcome to attend this committee meeting.

Access to the Council Antechamber

Public access to the Council Antechamber is on Level 2 of the Town Hall Extension, using the lift or stairs in the lobby of the Mount Street entrance to the Extension. That lobby can also be reached from the St. Peter's Square entrance and from Library Walk. **There is no public access from the Lloyd Street entrances of the Extension.**

Membership of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee

Councillors - Karney (Chair), Curley, Flanagan, Lanchbury, Leech, Leese, S Murphy, N Murphy, Razaq and Reeves

Agenda

1. Urgent Business

To consider any items which the Chair has agreed to have submitted as urgent.

2. Appeals

To consider any appeals from the public against refusal to allow inspection of background documents and/or the inclusion of items in the confidential part of the agenda.

3. Interests

To allow Members an opportunity to [a] declare any personal, prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests they might have in any items which appear on this agenda; and [b] record any items from which they are precluded from voting as a result of Council Tax/Council rent arrears; [c] the existence and nature of party whipping arrangements in respect of any item to be considered at this meeting. Members with a personal interest should declare that at the start of the item under consideration. If Members also have a prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interest they must withdraw from the meeting during the consideration of the item.

4. Minutes

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2018.

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5. Polling Districts and Polling Places: Proposed changes to the current scheme.

The report of the Chief Executive is attached.

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6. Membership of Council committees and representation on joint boards and joint committees

To consider proposed changes to the membership of committees and joint boards / joint committees.

(Note if the changes proposed involve re-consideration of a decision taken by the Council with the previous 6 months the Committee will need to request the Council to suspend Procedural Rule 25.1).

Information about the Committee

The Constitutional and Nomination Committee deals with the appointment of councillors to serve on committees and certain external organisations.

The Committee also considers proposed changes to the Council Constitution and recommendations for the granting of civic honours to individuals and organisations. Business for consideration at a meeting is set out on the agenda sheet.

Copies of the agenda are available beforehand from the reception area at the Main Entrance of the Town Hall in Albert Square and may be viewed on the Council's website up to seven days prior to the date of the meeting (see web information below). Some additional copies are available at the meeting from the Committee Officer.

It is the Council's policy to consult people as fully as possible before making decisions which affect them. Members of the public do not have a right to speak at meetings but may do so if invited by the Chair. If you have a special interest in an item on the agenda and want to speak, tell the Committee Officer, who will pass on your request to the Chair.

Agenda, reports and minutes of all Council meetings can be found on the Council's website www.manchester.gov.uk

Joanne Roney OBE
Chief Executive,
3rd Floor, Town Hall Extension,
Lloyd Street,
Manchester, M60 2LA

Further Information

For help, advice and information about this meeting please contact the Committee Officer:

Beth Morgan
Tel: 0161 234 3043
Email: b.morgan@manchester.gov.uk

This agenda was issued on **Tuesday, 22 January 2019** by the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit, Manchester City Council, Level 3, Town Hall Extension (Mount Street Elevation), Manchester M60 2LA.

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Constitutional and Nomination Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 28 November 2018

Present: Councillor Karney (Chair) – in the Chair

Councillors: Curley, Flanagan, Leech and N Murphy

Apologies: Councillor Lanchbury, Leese, S Murphy, Razaq and Reeves

CN/18/16. Minutes

Decision

To approve as a correct record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2018.

CN/18/17. Polling Districts and Polling Places: proposed changes to the current scheme and proposed timing of the next compulsory review

The report detailed how as part of preparations for the local elections taking place on 2 May 2019, work has been undertaken by officers to ensure that polling places have the suitable access, space and facilities for electors. This work has been based on practical considerations relating to the availability of polling places as well as feedback from local councillors and comments received from polling station inspectors and other senior officers who worked at the 3 May 2018 local elections. This work has also considered the most suitable timings for the next compulsory review of polling districts and polling places.

The designation of the city's polling districts and places is the responsibility of the Council and the relevant functions are delegated to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee in the Scheme of Delegation. This includes the Council's duties under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to divide constituencies into polling districts and the power to divide wards into polling districts at local elections. The Electoral Commission advises that polling districts for UK parliamentary and local government elections should always be the same. It therefore follows that any review of parliamentary polling arrangements should be conducted simultaneously with one of local government arrangements.

On occasion, it may be necessary to change the designation of a polling place outside the statutory review process or meeting of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee. This usually occurs as a result of premises being closed or unexpectedly becoming unavailable, often at short notice, or if an unscheduled poll takes place. Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place in such circumstances, in consultation with group leaders, ward Councillors and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination Committee, as agreed by Council at its 24 January 2018 meeting.

It was originally intended for the Council to conduct its next compulsory review of parliamentary and local polling districts and polling places in the autumn of 2018. However, after taking into considerations points set out in the report, it is proposed to the Committee that the compulsory review begins in July 2019, with consultation taking place during the summer/autumn of 2019. Proposals agreed would then come into effect on 1 December 2019, when the electoral register is published.

Decisions

1. To note the background to the proposed timetable for the next compulsory review of polling districts and polling places.
2. To authorise the initiation of a review of the parliamentary polling districts and polling places within the Council's area, and that this be combined with a review of the equivalent local government polling arrangements, beginning in July 2019, with further details of the timetable and process to be brought to the Committee, closer to the time.
3. To approve the changes to the current scheme as set out in paragraphs 5.1, 5.1.1, 6.1 and 6.1.1 of the report submitted, to come into effect on 1 December 2018.
4. To adopt the changes, referred to in decision 3 (above), to the scheme for both parliamentary and local elections.

CN/18/18. Membership of Council committees and representation on joint boards and joint committees

Decisions

1. To request the Council to agree to suspend Procedural Rule 25.1 to allow the following decisions 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.

Membership of Committees

The Committee reviewed the membership of committees.

Decision

To recommend the Council to make the following changes in appointments to Committees and Joint Committees of the Council.

Committee	Member removed	Member appointed
Planning and Highways Committee	Councillor Strong	

Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee		Councillor Douglas
GM Housing, Planning and Environment Scrutiny Committee	Councillor Wilson	

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Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 30 January 2019

Subject: Polling Districts and Polling Places: proposed changes to the current scheme

Report of: The Chief Executive

Summary or Purpose of the report

To propose changes to the current scheme of polling places for four polling districts in the Gorton and Abbey Hey, Longsight, Old Moat and Sharston wards.

Recommendations

1. To approve the changes to the current scheme as set out in paragraphs 4.1, 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 5.1, 5.1.1, 6.1 and 6.1.1 – being:
 - Gorton and Abbey Hey Ward - the polling place for 3GAE be Active Me Studios on Abbey Hey Lane
 - Longsight Ward – the polling place for 3LOG be Gorton Primary School on Mount Road
 - Old Moat Ward – the polling place for 4OMC be Withington Girls' School on the corner of Wellington Road and Victoria Road
 - Sharston Ward - the polling place for 5SHB be Manchester College Wythenshawe Campus on the corner of Hollyhedge Road and Brownley Road
2. To adopt the changes, referred to in recommendation 1 above, to the scheme for both parliamentary and local elections.

Wards Affected:

Gorton and Abbey Hey, Longsight, Old Moat and Sharston.

Alignment to the Our Manchester Strategy Outcomes (if applicable)

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The Our Manchester Strategy sets out the vision for the city to 2025. Local elections provide the opportunity for eligible Manchester residents to elect Councillors to represent them and therefore to influence how the strategy is delivered.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
	The Council's scheme of polling districts and polling places is a key part of the city's

A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	governance arrangements. The updated scheme will recognise and reflect feedback following 3 May 2018 local elections and any changes in availability of polling places.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

Financial Consequences – Revenue

It is anticipated that the costs of the proposed changes to polling place arrangements will be neutral, given the costs of the new polling place designations will not be greater than the costs of existing arrangements.

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

Contact Officers:

Joanne Roney OBE
Chief Executive
j.roney@manchester.gov.uk

0161 234 3006

Fiona Leddon
City Solicitor
fiona.ledden@manchester.gov.uk

0161 234 3087

Emma Burnett
Head of Electoral Services
e.burnett@manchester.gov.uk

0161 234 3146

Background documents (available for public inspection):

None

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of preparations for the local government elections taking place on 2 May 2019, work has been undertaken by officers to ensure that polling places have the suitable access, space and facilities for electors. This work has been based on practical considerations relating to the availability of polling places in the current scheme and feedback from stakeholders.

2.0 The designation of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

- 2.1 The designation of the city's polling districts and polling places within them is the responsibility of the Council and the relevant functions are delegated to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee in the Scheme of Delegation. This includes the Council's duties under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to divide constituencies into polling districts and the power to divide wards into polling districts at local elections. The Electoral Commission advises that polling districts for UK parliamentary and local government elections should always be the same. It therefore follows that any review of parliamentary polling arrangements should be conducted simultaneously with one of local government arrangements.
- 2.2 On occasion, it may be necessary to change the designation of a polling place outside the statutory review process or meeting of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee. This usually occurs as a result of premises being closed or unexpectedly becoming unavailable, often at short notice, or if an unscheduled poll takes place. Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place in such circumstances, in consultation with group leaders, ward Councillors and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination Committee, as agreed by Council at its 24 January 2018 meeting.
- 2.3 The allocation of polling stations within polling places is not a Council function and is the responsibility of the Returning Officer.

3.0 Context and Polling Place visits

- 3.1 Following the report which went to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee on 28 November 2018, a small number of further changes are required to the current scheme.
- 3.2 Officers have undertaken visits to the potential polling places in the polling districts where these changes are needed, to assess their suitability and to evaluate any alternatives which may exist.
- 3.3 When assessing the suitability of polling places an assessment of the following issues were taken into account:
- the proximity of the polling place to populated areas
 - accessibility
 - signage

- the management and configuration of the polling station
- the capacity of polling places to accommodate more than one polling station if necessary
- the number of electors within the district
- recent developments and population changes

3.4 The Committee is asked to consider the following proposals for the four new polling place designations as set out in sections 4 to 6 below.

4. MANCHESTER GORTON CONSTITUENCY

4.1 Changes are proposed for two polling places within the Manchester Gorton Constituency, in Gorton and Abbey Hey and Longsight wards.

4.1.1 Gorton and Abbey Hey Ward – polling district 3GAE

For future polls it is proposed that the polling place for 3GAE is Active Me Studios on Abbey Hey Lane. Electors currently vote at Abbey Hey Primary Academy which is located within the adjoining polling district 3GAD. This is an arrangement which has been in place following the loss of premises in 3GAE several years ago. Local councillors supported the reinstatement of a polling place in 3GAE to make it more convenient for electors and assist in encouraging voter participation.

Active Me Studios is centrally located within 3GAE and is already well used within the local community due to the classes it runs for local residents. The room to be used is of a good size and will be made fully accessible on polling day.

4.1.2 Longsight Ward – 3LOG

For future polls it is proposed that the polling place for 3LOG is Gorton Primary School on Mount Road. Electors currently vote at the Grange School, which is further down Mount Road on the edge of the polling district, with the entrance round the back of Mount Road rather than directly from it.

Gorton Primary School is better located on Mount Road, closer to the majority of electors. A new school is currently under construction on the site. However, there is already a permanent building, which has a suitable room in it. This is a large suitable space which will be made fully accessible on polling day. It also benefits from being directly accessible from Mount Road.

5. MANCHESTER WITHINGTON CONSTITUENCY

5.1 Changes are proposed for one polling place within the Manchester Withington Constituency, in Old Moat ward.

5.1.1 Old Moat Ward – polling district 4OMC

For future polls it is proposed that the polling place for 4OMC is Withington Girls' School on the corner of Wellington Road and Victoria Road. A re-designation is required in this polling district because the current polling place Fallowfield Bowling and Social Club is no longer available for use.

Withington Girls' School has offered the use of a suitable room in the newly built gymnasium area of the school. A larger space is also available if two polling stations are required. Both rooms are fully accessible. The school building is located across the road from the current polling place, and will be well known to local residents. Electors will use an entrance on Victoria rather than Wellington Road.

6. WYTHENSHAW AND SALE EAST CONSTITUENCY

- 6.1 Changes are proposed for one polling place within the Wythenshawe and Sale East Constituency, in Sharston ward.

6.1.1 Sharston Ward – polling district 5SHB

For future polls it is proposed that the polling place for 5SHB is Manchester College Wythenshawe Campus on the corner of Hollyhedge Road and Brownley Road. These premises are more centrally located than the current polling place Wythenshawe Community Church, which is on the edge of the polling district. Manchester College is well known to the local community and will be more conveniently situated for the majority of electors.

Manchester College Wythenshawe Campus has offered the use of the foyer area outside their campus theatre as the polling place. The space is large, accessible and will have its own entrance which can be accessed via the side of the main building close to Brownley Road.

7. BLACKLEY AND BROUGHTON AND MANCHESTER CENTRAL CONSTITUENCIES

- 7.1 No changes are proposed for any polling places in Blackley and Broughton and Manchester Central Constituencies.

8. Communication to electors

- 8.1 Changes to all polling places will be communicated to electors via their poll card. In addition, on polling day, signs directing electors to their new polling place will be attached to the previously use premises in Longsight, Old Moat and Sharston wards.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Recommendations to the Committee appear at the front of this report.

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