

Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Sub-Committee

Agenda

Date:	Wednesday, 9th November, 2011
Time:	10.00 am
Venue:	Municipal Executive Suite - Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe CW1 2BJ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests in any item on the agenda.

3. **Public Speaking Time/Open Session**

In accordance with Procedure Rules Nos.11 and 35 a period of 10 minutes is allocated for members of the public to address the meeting on any matter relevant to the work of the meeting. Individual members of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes but the Chairman or person presiding will decide how the period of time allocated for public speaking will be apportioned where there are a number of speakers. Members of the public are not required to give notice to use this facility. However, as a matter of courtesy, a period of 24 hours' notice is encouraged.

Members of the public wishing to ask a question at the meeting should provide at least three clear working days' notice in writing and should include the question with that notice. This will enable an informed answer to be given.

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4. **Minutes of Previous meeting** (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2011.

5. **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places** (Pages 5 - 6)

To consider the representations received and make a final recommendation to the Constitution Committee on the outcome of the Review.

(There are no Part 2 items)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the
Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Sub-Committee
held on Tuesday, 4th October, 2011 at Fred Flint Room, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor A Martin (Chairman)
Councillor W Livesley (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors R Cartlidge, P Whiteley and B Murphy (for Cllr Moran)

Officers

Lindsey Parton, Registration Service and Business Manager
Natalie Bown, Policy Officer
Paul Mountford, Democratic Services Officer
Rose Hignett, Senior Elections Officer
Sandra Hobbs, Senior Elections Officer
Marion Hancock, Elections Officer

Apologies

Councillors A Moran and D Topping

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

7 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present.

8 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2011 be approved as a correct record.

9 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

At the previous meeting, the Officers had reported that the Boundary Commission for England had announced its intention to carry out a review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. For Cheshire East, this would be based on the former ward boundaries. The Officers had sought legal advice on the possibility of postponing the review of Polling

Districts and Places. The legal advice was that the review should proceed as planned.

Members had also considered a schedule of proposed changes submitted and had agreed a number of specific changes. They had also agreed that proposed changes of a technical administrative nature should be dealt with by the Officers without the need for further consultation with Members.

The schedule of changes had now been updated to reflect Members' comments and amendments and was resubmitted for Members for further consideration. Members noted a number of additional proposals and representations.

Broken Cross and Upton – Councillors L Brown and M Hardy had objected to the proposed use of Macclesfield Cricket Club because of parking problems and had submitted counter proposals for the Sub-Committee's consideration. It was noted, however, that this would have significant implications for the rest of the ward. It was agreed that the Cricket Club be used on the basis that disabled electors would be encouraged to use the top car park and others would be encouraged to use the lower car park.

Crewe St Barnabas – Councillor R Cartlidge had proposed that a new polling station be created at Beechmere retirement village. However, the Officers had received representations from Beechmere that the building was unsuitable as it dealt with vulnerable adults and the doors had to be locked at 5.00 pm each day. It was therefore agreed that the proposal be not pursued.

Crewe West – the Labour Party had made representations that the polling station be reinstated at Edleston Primary School, having been removed at the school's request. It was agreed that electors should return to Edleston Primary School but that should there be issues in the future this would be reconsidered.

Crewe South – following representations by the Labour Party, the Officers would be considering the feasibility of using the YMCA, Gresty Road and New Life Church, Fuller Drive as polling stations.

Councillor R Fletcher had also made representations with regard to the Alsager ward and Officers had responded to him direct.

Members then considered the eight wards in the north of the Borough which had not been considered previously pending the receipt of the legal advice on the review. The Officers reported that the current Boundary Commission review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries would not have a significant impact on the polling arrangements for the north of the Borough.

Poynton East and Pott Shrigley – it was agreed that St Martin's Church Hall should continue to be used until another suitable venue for a polling station could be found.

Wilmslow Dean Row – Councillor P Whiteley mentioned that Dean Oaks Primary School was not a good venue for parking or disabled access. He suggested that the electors be transferred to Dean Row Community Centre. This was agreed.

Wilmslow West and Chorley – Councillor P Whiteley suggested that the Cricket Club at Upcast Lane may have access problems but should be investigated and considered as an alternative venue to Ashdene Primary School. The Officers were asked to consider the suggestion in consultation with Councillor Whiteley.

Subject to the resolution of the issues mentioned, the schedule of proposed changes would now be uploaded onto the Council's website as part of the four week consultation process which would end on 4th November. At the end of the consultation period, a further meeting of the Sub-Committee would be convened to consider the outcome with a view to making recommendations to the Constitution Committee. In this respect, the Constitution Committee would be recommending to Council that the Committee be granted delegated powers to make a final decision on the review at its meeting on 17th November.

The Officers circulated a revised list of consultees and a draft consultation letter for Members' consideration. The proposed consultees were as follows:

Disability groups
Local political parties
Members of Parliament
National Association of Parish Councils
Cheshire Association of Parish Councils
All town and parish councils in Cheshire East
All Cheshire East Councillors

RESOLVED

That

- (1) subject to the amendments and actions agreed, the revised schedule be approved for consultation purposes and published on the Council's website; and
- (2) the list of consultees and the draft consultation letter circulated at the meeting be approved.

10 **NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED

That the next meeting be held in week commencing 7th November 2011, the date and time to be determined in consultation with Members.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.55 pm

Councillor A Martin (Chairman)

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting:	9 th November 2011
Report of:	Democratic Services Manager
Subject/Title:	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

1.0 Report Summary and Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 2nd June 2011, the Constitution Committee authorised the publication of the notice of the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review and appointed this Sub-Committee with delegated powers to undertake the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places as required by the Electoral Administration Act 2006. Public notice of the Review was published on 30th June 2011.
- 1.2 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a statutory duty for local authorities to carry out a review of their Polling Districts and Polling Places by 31st December 2007; and at least every four years thereafter.
- 1.3 The Sub-Committee has met on 15th September and 4th October 2011 to formulate proposals for Polling Districts and Polling Places for public consultation. These were published on 7th October 2011, for a four week period of consultation ending on 4th November 2011.
- 1.4 Disability Groups, Local Political Parties, Members of Parliament, Parish Councils and Cheshire East Councillors have been consulted on the proposals.
- 1.5 Council at its meeting on 13th October 2011 agreed that the final decision concerning the outcome of the Review be delegated to the Constitution Committee at its meeting on 17th November 2011.
- 1.6 All representations received will be collated and published after 4th November and circulated at the meeting.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 To consider representations received and make a final recommendation to the Constitution Committee on the outcome of the Review.

3.0 Wards Affected

- 3.1 All wards

4.0 Local Ward Members

4.1 As above

5.0 Policy Implications

5.1 None.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 Costs incurred will be met from existing budgets.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Risk Management

8.1 Undertaking this Review is a statutory duty. Delegating the power to conduct the Review to a Sub Committee of the Constitution Committee was considered the most effective way for the Review to be conducted, and will ensure that representations received can be fully considered. This approach will also ensure sufficient flexibility to ensure that the process is completed by the statutory deadline.

9.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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