

EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW SUB- COMMITTEE ON 5TH JULY 2010

11 WILMSLOW COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW - PARISH AND WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Having agreed at the previous meeting to recommend the creation of parish councils for Handforth, Wilmslow and Styal, the Sub-Committee now gave consideration to the number of councillors to serve on each of the new parish councils, together with the warding arrangements.

The Elections and Registration Team Leader had prepared a briefing paper which had been circulated to Members. This provided comparator information on the size of parish councils to assist in determining the appropriate number of parish councillors for each of the three parishes. It also set out options for the warding of the proposed Wilmslow parish.

The comparator information listed a number of comparable towns and parishes throughout Cheshire East and gave electorate totals, electorate ratio per councillor and number of wards in respect of each.

The briefing paper set out two options for the warding of Wilmslow. Option 1 was based on the five traditional wards of the former Macclesfield Borough Council. Using a ratio of approximately 1,000 electors to one Councillor, the number of councillors for each ward had been determined.

The warding arrangements had been complicated by the fact that there was an ongoing Boundary Review. The final recommendations of the Boundary Commission were expected to be announced on 13th July. An electoral changes Order would then need to be laid in draft in both Houses of Parliament. The timescales for the laying of the order were not yet clear.

If the Boundary Commission proposals for Wilmslow were implemented, as anticipated, then adjustments would need to be made to the proposed wards. These adjustments formed the basis of Option 2 in the briefing paper. In essence, the number of wards in the Wilmslow parish would be reduced from five to four, and ward boundaries would no longer be coterminous with polling district boundaries within that parish. Given the uncertainty posed by the current Boundary Review, and the need to comply with the Governance Review timetable, it would be necessary for the Sub-Committee to put forward two alternative sets of proposals with regard to the warding of Wilmslow.

In considering both the numbers of councillors and the warding arrangements, Members had regard to the need to achieve electoral equality as far as possible whilst also ensuring that the size of each parish council reflected the particular needs and circumstances of the parish.

At the meeting, the Sub-Committee reviewed its previous recommendation, which had been endorsed by the Constitution Committee, that for the parish of Handforth, the election of parish councillors should be from the area of the parish as a whole. It was proposed as an alternative that Handforth be divided into three wards. It was felt that the four existing polling districts lent themselves to such an arrangement, which also reflected the geographical features of the parish.

Members were advised that if, following the announcement of the Boundary Commission's final recommendations, it became necessary to make further minor adjustments to electorate figures, polling district boundaries or proposed ward boundaries, it would be appropriate for the Officers to be authorised to agree these in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee and the Leader of the Council so as to avoid any undue delay with the Governance Review timetable.

RESOLVED

That the Constitution Committee be advised to recommend to Council that

(1) having regard to comparator information for parish councils in Cheshire East, and having regard to electoral equality, the number of councillors to serve on each of the new parish councils should be as follows:

- a. Handforth: 7 councillors
- b. Styal: 5 councillors
- c. Wilmslow: 15 councillors

(2) dependent upon the outcome of the Boundary Review, and bearing in mind the need to achieve overall electoral equality (i.e. the number of electors per councillor) as far as possible:

- a. if no changes are made to the current Cheshire East Council Ward boundaries, five wards should be created for the Wilmslow parish and named as follows:
 - i. Morley (comprising 3 councillors: polling districts 8FH1, 8FJ1, 8FG1);
 - ii. Lacey Green (comprising 2 councillors: polling district 8EK1);
 - iii. Dean Row (comprising 4 councillors: polling districts 8EA1, 8EB1, 8EC1, 8ED1, 8EE1);
 - iv. Hough (comprising 3 councillors: polling districts 8FC1, 8FD1, 8FE1, 8FF1); and
 - v. Fulshaw (comprising 3 councillors: polling districts 8FA1, 8FB1)
- b. if the anticipated final recommendations of the Boundary Committee in respect of Cheshire East Council boundaries are

implemented, four wards should be created for the Wilmslow parish and named as follows, to provide coterminous boundaries for electoral purposes:

- i. Wilmslow West (comprising 5 councillors: polling districts 8FH1, 8FJ1, 8FG1, 8FC1, 8FA1(part), 8FB1(part), 8FD1(part);
- ii. Lacey Green (comprising 2 councillors: polling districts 8EK1, 8EA1(part), 8FD1(part);
- iii. Dean Row (comprising 4 councillors: polling districts 8EA1(part), 8EB1, 8EC1, 8ED1, 8EE1); and
- iv. Hough (comprising 4 councillors: polling districts 8FD1(part), 8FA1(part), 8FB1(part), 8FE1, 8FF1)

(3) three wards should be created for the Handforth parish and named as follows:

- i. Handforth West (comprising 3 councillors: polling districts 8EG1, 8EJ1)
- ii. Handforth East (comprising 2 councillors: polling district 8EH1); and
- iii. Handforth South (comprising 2 councillors: polling district 8EF1)

and accordingly, the previous recommendation by the Sub-Committee and the Constitution Committee in relation to this matter should be disregarded; and

(4) subject to consultation initially with the Chairman of the Wilmslow Community Governance Review Sub-Committee, the Borough Solicitor be authorised, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any amendments required to electorate figures, polling district boundaries, or the proposed Wilmslow parish ward boundaries, should this be required as a result of the final outcome of the Boundary review.