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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the
Community Governance Review Sub-Committee
held on Friday, 6th March, 2020 at Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor J Bratherton (Chairman)
Councillor A Martin (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors L Crane, S Edgar, B Murphy, P Williams and D Edwardes (for Cllr Moreton)

Other Members present

Councillors B Evans and J Rhodes

Officers in attendance

Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services and Governance
Paul Mountford, Executive Democratic Services Officer
Rebecca Holtum, Project Manager
Phil Christian, Business Intelligence Manager

Also present

Dr Melvyn Humphreys, Association of Electoral Administrators

Apologies

Councillors D Marren and R Moreton

8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

9 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

10 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

That the minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

11 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW: PRE-CONSULTATION SURVEY RESPONSES AND NEXT STEPS

The Sub-Committee considered a report which provided an update on the pre-consultation survey and reminded members of the next steps and the process for proposal development.

A period of pre-consultation had been initiated on 28th October 2019, inviting any person or body interested in the review to provide a response to a survey. The survey itself was live for a period of 14 weeks and closed on the 31st January 2020. Details of the responses received were set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

In addition to the pre-consultation survey submissions, the preparatory data required to develop the Council's proposals had now been received, including electorate numbers; the number of councillor seats representing each ward; existing requests from parish councils for a review; and electorate growth forecasts. The data included all factors previously agreed as points of focus: known concerns of parishes; wards with significant variances to the average population density and/or councillor ratios; Local Plan developments; and known built-environment changes.

Subject to the approval of the Sub-Committee and the Constitution Committee, stage 2 of the review process would now commence: the preparation of draft recommendations for formal consultation.

Dr Melvyn Humphreys attended the meeting and provided his expert opinion on the approach to date and the next steps in the review process.

RESOLVED

That the Community Governance Review Sub-Committee recommends to the Constitution Committee that the pre-consultation survey responses be acknowledged and the initiation of the Council's proposals for all parish wards be agreed.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.36 pm

Councillor J Bratherton (Chairman)