

COUNCIL MEETING – 27 FEBRUARY 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CORPORATE POLICY COMMITTEE: CHESHIRE EAST ELECTORAL REVIEW - WARDING PROPOSALS

RECOMMENDATIONS: That Council

- 1 approve the proposals for the future warding of Cheshire East, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, as the Council's submission to the Boundary Commission; with the following amendment: that Wilmslow East" ward name be changed to "Wilmslow East and Dean Row", to retain the identity of Dean Row.**

- 2 that the Electoral Review Sub-Committee be granted delegated authority:**
 - (a) to make any further changes to the proposals arising from the Council meeting on 27th February, or which become necessary after that meeting; and**

 - (b) to respond on the Council's behalf to any further informal or formal consultation by the Boundary Commission which relates to the second period of consultation.**

Extract from the Minutes of the Corporate Policy Committee meeting on 13 February 2024

5 CHESHIRE EAST ELECTORAL REVIEW - WARDING PROPOSALS

The Committee considered the recommendations of the Electoral Review Sub-Committee in respect of warding proposals for Cheshire East, which was undertaken in response to an electoral review of Cheshire East Council's electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. The final approval of the Council's submission was intended to be given by full Council on 27th February 2024.

A number of visiting members addressed the committee in relation to the proposals, summarised below.

Councillors Liz Wardlaw, Sally Holland and David Brown each addressed the committee in relation to the proposals for Congleton. Each councillor highlighted the positive benefits of maintaining the current two-ward arrangements for Congleton (as the Sub-Committee's recommendations would). This arrangement was felt to be inclusive, well known amongst local communities and promoted improved social, economic and health benefits, as well as evenly dividing elector numbers and councillor workloads. It was stated that any splitting of wards would create a division within communities and therefore committee

members were encouraged to support the warding proposals for Congleton, as recommended by the Electoral Review Sub Committee.

Councillors Sarah Bennett-Wake, Liz Braithwaite, Mary Brooks, Brian Puddicombe, Judy Snowball, Rob Vernon each spoke against the proposals for Macclesfield, as recommended by the Electoral Review Sub Committee and urged the committee to support the proposed amendment to be put forward by Cllr Wilson (Warding Option 1), which was supported by 9 out of the 12 Macclesfield Ward Councillors. Members highlighted the impact that both proposals for Macclesfield would have on local communities and on Councillors' workloads and asked the committee to take into consideration the views of local ward members and residents.

Councillor David Edwardes addressed the committee on behalf of Councillor Emma Gilman and stated that both local ward councillors for Tytherington were in support of the proposals of the Electoral Review Sub Committee. Councillor Edwardes indicated that supporting the proposed amendment for Macclesfield (Option 1) would have a detrimental impact on Tytherington resulting in a loss of community identity.

Councillor Ken Edwards spoke in relation to the proposed Bollington and Rainow ward. Councillor Edwards spoke against the proposals of the Electoral Review Sub Committee which he felt would divide Bollington between two wards, reduce electoral equality and reduce the sense of community cohesion.

Members debated the proposals put forward by the Electoral Review Sub Committee and a number of amendments put forward by committee members in relation to Macclesfield, Knutsford and Wilmslow. It was proposed, seconded and subsequently resolved that the proposed "Wilmslow East" ward name be changed to "Wilmslow East and Dean Row" to retain the identity of Dean Row.

RESOLVED (by majority):

That the Corporate Policy Committee:

1. Recommends to Council that Council approve the proposals for the future warding of Cheshire East as set out in Appendix 1 to the report as the Council's submission to the Boundary Commission; with the following amendment: that Wilmslow East" ward name be changed to "Wilmslow East and Dean Row", to retain the identity of Dean Row.
2. Delegates authority to the Electoral Review Sub-Committee to make any further required changes to the proposals, and to approve any outstanding proposals and to deal with any matters which arise, following the Corporate Policy Committee's meeting and prior to the consideration of the proposals by full Council, and also in respect of any outstanding proposals which have not been finalised in time for consideration by Council.

3. Recommends to Council that the Electoral Review Sub-Committee be granted delegated authority:
 - (a) to make any further changes to the proposals arising from the Council meeting on 27th February, or which become necessary after that meeting; and
 - (b) to respond on the Council's behalf to any further informal or formal consultation by the Boundary Commission which relates to the second period of consultation.

Note: since the meeting of the Corporate Policy Committee the Warding Proposals Report and the map of the proposed ward have been updated to reflect the proposed change of ward name from "Wilmslow East" to "Wilmslow East and Dean Row". The updated versions are included with this minute.