

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting: 4th October 2011
Report of: Democratic and Registration Services Manager
Subject/Title: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report summarises the key issues dealt with at the previous meeting and presents an updated version of the review schedule for the Sub-Committee's consideration.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee continue to develop proposals for the new Polling District, Polling Place and polling station arrangements for consultation.

3.0 Wards Affected

- 3.1 All wards are affected.

4.0 Local Ward Members

- 4.1 As above.

5.0 Policy Implications

- 5.1 Recent implementation of the Cheshire East Boundary Review and the conduct of local Elections based on the new ward boundaries in May 2011 means that this is now an opportune time to conduct the Review.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 Costs incurred will be met from existing budgets.

7.0 Legal Implications

- 7.1 The legal implications are set out in the body of this report.

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 Background

- 9.1 At the previous meeting, Members were presented with initial proposals for the Polling District and Polling Place arrangements in Cheshire East.
- 9.2 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. Officers were seeking legal advice on the possibility of postponing the review of Polling Districts and Places and would confirm the position at the following meeting.
- 9.3 Members had considered the schedule of proposed changes submitted at the previous meeting and had agreed a number of specific changes as well as making the following general comments:
1. the proposed changes should be costed so that the financial implications could be taken into account.
 2. The Council should adopt a policy of not using school buildings wherever possible so as not to disrupt education.
 3. technical changes to registers could be undertaken by Officers without the need for further consideration by Members, who would focus their attention on those changes where people would be required to move to a different polling station.
- 9.4 The Sub-Committee had agreed as follows:
- (1) the proposed approach to the review and timetable as set out in Appendix A to the report be approved;
 - (2) parish clerks be included in the consultation on the review;
 - (3) the legal position as regards postponing the review be confirmed at the next meeting;
 - (4) the schedule of changes be updated to reflect Members' comments and amendments and be resubmitted to the next meeting; and
 - (5) the next meeting be held in about two weeks' time on a date to be agreed.
- 9.5 An updated schedule of proposals is attached for the Sub-Committee's consideration.

9.6 The Officers will report on other aspects of the review at the meeting.

10.0 Access to Information

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

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