

BOUNDARY REVIEW COMMITTEE**Minutes of a meeting of the Boundary Review Committee held on Thursday, 21st February, 2013 at 6.00 p.m. at Addenbrooke House, Telford, Shropshire**

PRESENT: Councillors K.T. Blundell, S. Davies, N.J. Dugmore, A.J. Eade, A.D. McClements and R.A. Overton and R.J. Sloan.

BRC-27 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman

BRC-28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

BRC-29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

BRC-30 BOROUGH ELECTORAL REVIEW

The meeting received a short report outlining broad proposals for a number of areas. The main principles on which any submission would be assessed were:

- Delivering electoral equality for local voters – each local councillor representing roughly the same number of people, ensuring that the value of a persons vote would be the same regardless of where they lived in the local area.
- Reflecting interests and identities of local communities- establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible maintained local ties and where boundaries were easily identifiable.
- Promoting effective and convenient local government – ensuring that new wards or electoral divisions could be represented effectively by councillors and that new electoral arrangement as a whole allowed the council to conduct its business effectively.

The Chairman opened the meeting by asking members of the Committee to bear in mind that electorate projections would need to be addressed consistently when considering warding options. A group discussion took place regarding each area.

North Telford – Apley Castle, Donnington, Hadley & Leegomery, Ketley & Oakengates, Muxton, Priorslee, St Georges and Wrockwardine Wood & Trench

- Discussion took place on the possibility of dividing the current Hadley & Leegomery ward into a 2 member Hadley and 1 member Leegomery ward with the current Beveley area being moved to the Ketley ward.
- Development around Trench Lock area could be moved to Wrockwardine Wood/Trench
- The current 3 member Ketley & Oakengates ward could be divided to provide 2 member Ketley & Beveley and Oakengates & Ketley Bank wards.
- The current 2 member Lawley & Overdale ward could be divided by moving Overdale in to a 2 member Ketley & Overdale ward.
- There was further discussion on Lawley and Horsehay & Lightmoor areas and how those areas could be warded to best serve the communities in those areas.
- There was general consensus that if possible the Donnington Wood element of Muxton ward would be better placed in Donnington ward. The Humbers area could be moved from Donnington ward in to Muxton or adjoining ward.

Rural – Ercall Magna and Wrockwardine

- Both wards were within the 10% tolerance and no changes were suggested

South Telford – Brookside, Cuckoo Oak, Dawley Magna, Horsehay & Lightmoor, Ironbridge Gorge, Lawley & Overdale, Madeley, Malinslee, The Nedge and Woodside.

The area, in total,

- Ironbridge Gorge ward needed to take on electors to be within tolerance. Possible options were to take on from Roberts Road area currently in Madeley ward or to take on from Lightmoor area currently in Horsehay & Lightmoor.
- Members were divided on current 2 member Horsehay & Lightmoor ward.
- There was some discussion as to the current 3 member Nedge ward as to whether this should remain a 3 member ward or whether it was possible to break up this area in to single/two member ward (s)
- Members discussed whether the Stirchley electorate currently in Brookside ward could be moved to The Nedge or associated wards
- It was generally agreed that the town of Madeley was properly reflected as a 2 member ward.

Wellington – Arleston, College, Dothill, Ercall, Haygate, Park and Shawbirch

- There was agreement that proposed adjustments between the 7 wards could provide a practical solution.

Newport – Newport East, North, South and West, Church Aston & Lilleshall and Edgmond.

- The area currently contained too many electors for 4 single member wards but too many for 3 single member wards.

- The surrounding wards of Church Aston & Lilleshall (+10%) and Edgmond (-10%) could potentially be adjusted.
- Options for change were limited as Newport was bordered by the Borough council boundary.

The Chairman and members agreed that it would be preferable for a Council submission to be agreed by the whole Committee.

RESOLVED –

- a) **That the Chairman make a verbal report to 7 March Full council meeting outlining the consultation timetable and that the Boundary Review Committee would submit a Council response by this date and that Full council endorse the submission at the 2 May meeting**
- b) **That further work take place to consider a suitable warding pattern for Newport, South Telford and North Telford**
- c) **That further work take place with particular consideration being given to arrangements for Hadley & Leegomery area**

BRC-31 NEXT MEETING

5 March at 6.30 pm, meeting room 7, ground floor Darby House.

The meeting ended at 7.04 p.m.

Chairman:

Date: