

# ITEM 4

Commenced: 6.00pm  
Concluded: 6.30pm

## **Resources and Governance Board 23 January 2014**

Present      Councillor Martin (Chair)  
                 Councillors Ashburner, Radford, Davis, Russell, Roberts, Nawaz and Stanton

### **37/13      Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors L. Winter and Jones

### **38/13      Late items introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items

### **39/13      Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **40/13      Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2013**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **41/13      Call-in**

There were no items.

### **42/13      Council Cabinet Forward Plan**

Resolved to note the Forward Plan.

### **43/13      Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**

The Board received a report from the Acting Returning Officer which detailed the full review of polling districts and places which had a consultation period from 18 October to 22 November 2013. The proposals for polling districts and polling places took into account the comments received during the consultation process and were published on 6 December 2013.

A further consultation period had taken place between 6 December 2013 and 10 January 2014. No additional comments have been received.

Final recommendations for polling districts and polling places were to be put to Council for approval at its meeting on 29 January 2014.

The Council has a statutory duty to review all its polling districts and places every four years. The next review will take place from 1 October 2017. The board heard that after the consultation the following polling districts would change in the following ways:

#### **Allestree Ward**

- Polling districts will reduce from five to four
- The Woodlands Hotel will no longer be used

#### **Arboretum Ward**

- No proposed changes to polling district boundaries
- Venue changes are:  
The Council House will replace the Guildhall  
New Life Christian Centre on Normanton Road/Rosehill Street will replace the Madeley Centre on Madeley Street

#### **Blagreaves Ward**

- Minor changes to boundaries for BL3 and BL4 polling districts to ensure voter numbers remain within the Electoral Commission recommended 2,500 polling station electors per polling district guidelines

#### **Boulton Ward**

- In response to the consultation a change of polling place for BT2 polling district to the function room adjacent to The Brackens Hotel, Brackens Lane instead of the Landau Academy Moorhead

#### **Chellaston Ward**

- In response to the consultation a change of polling place, St Edmund's Parish Church, Sinfin Avenue will replace Shelton Junior School

#### **Littleover Ward**

- Merge two polling districts therefore reducing from five to four

#### **Normanton Ward**

- Minor changes to two polling district boundaries (NM2 and NM3) to ensure voter numbers remain within the Electoral Commission recommended 2,500 polling station electors per polling district

#### **Spondon Ward**

- Due to low number so electors two polling stations have been merged
- Polling place for this new district will be Edmund Hall
- In response to the consultation the polling place for SP3 and SP4 will be Spondon Scout Hut.

The board questioned the Acting Returning Officer regarding the process involved in researching prospective polling station venues who confirmed, a police officer had accompanied them on visits and many factors had been taken in account:

- Location
- Layout
- Accessibility
- Disability Discrimination Act compliance
- Parking facilities
- Security

The Board had a lengthy discussion about the proposed changes to some of the polling districts and places. This included changing the polling place in the Arboretum ward from Madeley Centre to New Life Christian Centre following Police advice. The Board welcomed and fully endorsed the proposed changes.

Where changes had been made to polling districts and or polling stations the board we reassured that the electorate would be notified.

Members also discussed the role of Election Commission who have a statutory duty to ensure elections are run in accordance with legislation. The Acting Returning Officer stated that Derby City Council had a professional, positive working relationship with the Electoral Commission and they would be welcomed at point during the election.

#### **Resolved to:**

- 1) agree the Acting Returning Officer's proposals for new polling arrangements in the City for Parliamentary and Local Elections as outlined in Appendix 4.**
- 2) recommend that Council approve the final proposals agreed by this board at its meeting on 29 January 2014.**

MINUTES END

