

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 as a result of 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

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

Members 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 note the report and recommend it to Council on 29 January 2014.

MINUTES END