

FULL COUNCIL

25 NOVEMBER 2015

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bruce Dowling) in the Chair, Councillors Rogers, Batsford, Cartwright, Charlesworth, Chowney, Cooke, Davies, Forward, Hodges, Howard, Poole, Pragnell, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Beaver, Lee, Beaney, Atkins, Edwards, Clarke and Dowling

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillors Clark, Charman and Fitzgerald

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor acknowledged that all members had some kind of interest in this matter.

20. TO APPROVE MINUTE 27 OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2015 IN RESPECT OF THE SECOND PHASE OF THE BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Mayor proposed that the council proceed as if in committee during the debate on this item, except for when a vote took place, when the meeting returned to Full Council.

The Mayor referred members to minute 27 of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 November 2015, when the report of the Director of Corporate Services and Governance on the second phase of the boundary review had been considered.

The Sustainability Policy Officer gave an overview of the review process. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) had instigated an electoral review for East Sussex County Council and the borough and district authorities within the county. The first part of the review considered council size, and on 22 September 2015 the LGBCE confirmed that it had agreed the proposed council size of 32 borough councillors and 8 county councillors, as recommended by Hastings Borough Council.

The second phase of the review was in relation to proposed changes to the warding patterns of the borough ward boundaries. Extensive engagement had been undertaken with all members to produce a series of options for ward area changes, in order to achieve greater electorate equality across the borough. Further alternatives had been put forward for changes in respect of Hollington and Wishing Tree wards and West Leonards and Maze Hill wards. The council was required to submit its recommendations to the LGBCE by 30 November 2015 as part of the first stage of public consultation. The proposed changes agreed by the LGBCE would then be subject to a second stage of public consultation in 2016.

Councillor Cartwright proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Chowney, in respect of the proposed ward changes where no alternatives had been put forward, as follows;

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the council adopts the options for ward area changes where no alternative proposals have been put forward, as set out in options 32, 84 and 90, 77, 26 and 86, 95 and 99, 64, 70 and 92, 93,

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96, 82 and 88, 78, 60, 94 and 44, 89 and 48 of the Cabinet report of 16 November 2015

Council debated the proposed changes to Hollington and Wishing Tree wards where three alternatives had been put forward. Councillor Cartwright proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Street, as set out in the resolution below;

RESOLVED (by 21 votes for, 8 against) that the three alternatives presented for Hollington and Wishing Tree wards be submitted to the LGBCE

Council debated the proposed changes for West St Leonards to Maze Hill wards where two alternatives had been put forward. Councillor Cartwright, proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Rogers, as set out in the resolution below;

RESOLVED (by 21 votes for, 8 against) that alternative 1, option 66 for West St Leonards and Maze Hill wards be recommended to the LGBCE

Councillor Cartwright proposed approval of a further recommendation, seconded by Councillor Street, as set out in the report of the Director of Corporate Services and Governance to Cabinet.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Director of Corporate Services and Governance be given delegated authority to finalise and submit the council's response to the LGBCE consultation on warding patterns and to thank officers for their efforts during the review process

The reason for this decision was:

Of the borough's sixteen wards, seven have an electoral inequality of -16% to -24%; the proposed changes to ward boundaries will help to ensure that we have greater electorate equality throughout the borough.

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at. 5.21 pm)