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16 NOVEMBER 2015

Present: Councillors Chowney (Chair), Forward, Cartwright, Hodges, Poole and Atkins

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Cooke

27. SECOND PHASE OF THE BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Sustainability Policy Officer presented the report of the Director of Corporate Services and Governance on the second phase of the boundary review.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) had instigated an electoral review for East Sussex County Council and the boroughs and districts within the county. The review had been undertaken in two parts. The first part of the review related to council size. On 22 September 2015 the LGBCE confirmed that it had agreed to the proposed council size recommended by Full Council of 32 councillors for Hastings and 8 county councillors.

The second part of the review, which was still ongoing, considered ward numbers, boundaries and names. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the wards within the borough provided equality of representation, reflected community interests and identities and provided for convenient and effective local government. The LGBCE had invited the council to submit its comments on warding patterns as part of a consultation between 22 September 2015 and 30 November 2015.

Appended to the Director of Corporate Services and Governance's report was a map detailing the proposed amendments to be made to each ward in order to achieve electoral equality. The alternative options for specific ward changes proposed by Councillors were set out in the report. The Sustainability Policy Officer advised that a further representation had been received in respect of changes to Silverhill ward, the details of which would be circulated to all members for consideration.

Cabinet noted that alternative options had been presented for Hollington and Wishing Tree wards and West St Leonards and Maze Hill wards, however, members chose not to make any recommendations to Full Council as to which option should be submitted to the LGBCE. Instead, Cabinet agreed that all proposals, together with the alternative options, would be submitted to Full Council for consideration, before recommendations were submitted to the LGBCE.

Councillor Cartwright proposed approval of the recommendations to the report, which was seconded by Councillor Poole.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:-

- 1) Cabinet recommend to Full Council to approve the proposed changes to the ward boundaries to achieve greater electoral equality across the borough,**
- 2) No recommendations be made by Cabinet regarding the alternative options presented for Hollington and Wishing Tree wards and West St**

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Leonards and Maze Hill wards but to let Full Council debate these options and come to a view about which option(s) to put forward to the LGBCE, and;

- 3) 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**

The reason for this decision was:

Of the boroughs 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 electoral equality throughout the borough.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 5.08 pm)