

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING GROUP

Wednesday, 18th August, 2010

Present: Cllr M S Worrall (Chairman), Cllr M J Dobson (Vice-Chairman), Cllr D W P Evans, Cllr Miss A Moloney, Cllr M R Rhodes, Cllr A K Sullivan and Cllr D Thornewell.

Councillors Luker and Mrs Simpson were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Aikman and Heslop.

PART 2 - PRIVATE

**ER
10/005** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**ER
10/006** **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Electoral Review Working Group held on 17 June 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**ER
10/007** **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

Further to Minute ER 10/004, the Chief Executive presented the responses received in respect of the recent public consultation regarding the review of polling districts and polling places in the Borough. It was noted that of the 18 responses received, there were no objections or alternative proposals presented. However attention was drawn to one slight re-wording of the description of the polling place "Snodland-North East (CK)" which would be made to clarify that this included both odd and even numbered properties from 49 to 251 on Saltings Road. Members were advised that the final proposals would be presented to the General Purposes Committee on 6 September and subsequently to the Council on 2 November with the appropriate changes made effective on 1 December 2010.

RECOMMENDED: That the final proposals set out at Annex 2 to the report be commended to the Council for approval.

FORTHCOMING ELECTORAL AND BOUNDARY REVIEWS

The report of the Chief Executive gave details of forthcoming electoral and boundary reviews which were likely to have an impact upon the Borough. Reference was made to the review of wards to be co-ordinated by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England during 2011 in order to address the imbalance in number of electors represented by each councillor. In order to ensure that the final proposals appropriately reflected local circumstances, it was noted that considerable review and assessment work would take place prior to the commencement of the formal process.

Comparative information was provided on size of council and electorate per councillor across the Kent authorities. Members were therefore invited to start considering the size of Council in terms of the number of Borough Councillors to be in place from the elections in May 2015.

The Group was also advised that a review of parliamentary constituency boundaries would take place at the same time as the review of ward boundaries although a local review of county divisions was unlikely to be undertaken at that stage. Reference was made to the timing of parish boundary reviews and Members were concerned to ensure that parish, parish ward and borough ward boundaries were co-terminous from the 2015 elections wherever possible.

RECOMMENDED: That the report be released for consultation with all Members and their political organisations for feedback by the end of December 2010 on a range of sizes in terms of number of councillors considered appropriate for the Council in May 2015.

The meeting ended at 2010 hours