



GOVERNANCE (BOUNDARY REVIEW) SUB COMMITTEE

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

22 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT

Councillors P.M. Chandler (Chairman)  
P. Faulkner, M. Glancy, E. Holmes, J. Illingworth

Chief Executive  
Head of Communications  
Elections Officer, Senior Democracy Officer

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The Head of Communications opened the meeting.

BR1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence and all Members of the Sub Committee were present.

BR2 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Chandler was proposed, seconded and on being put to the vote, elected as Chairman of the Sub Committee for its duration.

(Councillor Chandler in the Chair)

BR3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

BR4 NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGMENTS FOR LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Head of Communications submitted and presented a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which enabled Members to consider the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBC) on new electoral arrangements for Leicestershire County Council and make comments to provide feedback during the consultation period.

The Elections Officer advised that the criteria for a review was set out in the booklet produced by the Boundary Commission which had previously been circulated to Members. The main considerations of a review were to improve electoral equality by equalising the number of electors each Councillor represented, reflect the community identity and provide for effective and convenient local government. She explained that this review was needed as there were variances in the electoral equality across the County and Melton was consulted on those areas that were affected within the Borough. The variance electorate threshold was 10% for a review and once a ward reached that threshold, a review was undertaken. She stated that the main change proposed for the town was in the Sysonby Ward which would be split and part would be in the east and part in the west. With regard to the rural divisions, there were changes to the Asfordby and Belvoir Divisions. The Asfordby Division was currently under-populated and therefore part of the Wymondham Ward would move into the Asfordby Division and this would help to equalise the electorate.

The Chief Executive advised that the divisions made were on recognised parish boundaries and due to this the changes made sense and could be managed comfortably. She further advised that the consultation was open to the public, the parishes and others, this meeting was to consider the Borough Council's view on these matters.

Members raised concerns at what they felt were illogical divisions, however it was advised that Members had no decision-making powers on the review and were only a consultee and should any other proposals be put forward, the Council may have to justify these at a Hearing.

It was noted that the Asfordby Division had hit the trigger point being at an 11-12% variance and this needed to be addressed.

A Ward Councillor affected said that he felt it was a pity to split a town ward which would make the Sysonby Ward in different wards at the two levels of local government.

The Elections Officer advised that the town ward change would bring the town into a better variance balance of 5% and 4% instead of the current 9% and 7%.

Members expressed concern at the proposed future changes to the Borough at this time due to the need for housing and that planning approvals could have an impact on all the ward electorates.

The Chief Executive advised that planning applications approved at the time of the review were included in the recommendations and such matters were monitored. She explained that should there be a significant change to a ward's electorate which approached the threshold, this would trigger a further review.

Members were broadly in agreement with the recommendations although they had some concerns as to the geographical divisions and additions such as Sysonby Ward and the Asfordby/Wymondham Ward and the odd shapes that were created across the Borough. However they understood that no matter how the areas were divided there would always be arguments for and against

the proposals and that the changes were needed to meet a proportionate electorate balance.

It was suggested that the name of the Asfordby Division be changed to reflect the inclusion of the new area as the current name implied just the village itself and its immediate surroundings. It was mentioned that there could be generic names for each area such as Melton North, South, East and West. Members were in agreement that it would help to change the name of the Asfordby Division due to it taking in a large area to the east which currently had no geographical connection with Asfordby. Several names were suggested including Melton Wolds.

Councillor Illingworth proposed to accept the recommendations subject to a change of name for the Asfordby Division to Melton Wolds as this would reflect the inclusion of its proposed new geographical area to the east.

Councillor Faulkner seconded the motion.

On the motion being put to the vote, all Members were in favour therefore the motion was carried.

**RESOLVED** that following consideration of the Boundary Commission's recommendations, these be accepted subject to a change of name for the Asfordby Division to Melton Wolds as this would help to reflect the inclusion of its proposed new geographical area to the east.

The Meeting which commenced at 5.00 p.m., closed at 5.20 p.m.

Chairman