

Boundaries Panel

Tuesday, 31 August 2021 at 7pm

This was a hybrid meeting taking place in the Council Chambers, Ealing Town Hall.

PRESENT: Councillors Summers (Chair), Ball, Conti, Kelly and Woodroffe.

Also present: Councillor Mahmood was also in attendance.

Panel Member attending remotely: Councillor Sabiers.

1. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Cllr Mahfouz and Cllr Nagpal provided apologies for absence.

2. Matters to be Considered in Private

There were none.

3 Urgent Matters

To note the forthcoming by-election for the Hobbayne Ward on 16 September 2021. The Director of Legal and Democratic services had taken a decision following consultation with the chair of the Boundaries Panel on a polling place change in this ward for this election.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

5 Minutes

Resolved: that the minutes of the last meeting of the Boundaries Panel held on 23 February 2021 be agreed as a true and correct record.

6 Boundaries Panel report Polling District and Polling Place Review 2022

Helen Harris introduced the report, stating that there were proposed changes to polling districts and polling places. It was explained that any arrangements agreed at this meeting would go out for public consultation from 10th September 2021 to 11th October 2021. The Elections Team would proactively seek representation during the

public consultation. The findings from the consultation would be reported back to the Panel in mid to end of October 2021.

It was further explained that there was no statutory requirement to agree revised polling place arrangements before the new register was published in December 2021. However, the Elections Team planned to include the revised arrangements in the new register in order to minimise confusion for electorates and to reduce the cost of postage.

Resolved

That the Boundaries Panel:

- i) Agreed the arrangements for polling districts and polling places on the 24 new wards, as set out in Appendices B and C to the report subject to the following amendments and as detailed in the appendix to the minutes attached:
 - a) Polling Place CB, Southfield Primary School/AD, Acton Vale Community Centre –The Head of Elections to carry out a site visit to investigate the viability of splitting the electorate between CB and AD and to liaise with the chair of the Boundaries Panel on his findings.
 - ai) Following consultation with the chair of the Boundaries Panel, the director of Legal and Democratic Services was authorised to approve an alternative location for CB if it was not viable to use Acton Vale Community Centre for both AD and CB polling districts.
 - b) ED – agreed to split this polling station between The Polygon, St Mary’s Road, Ealing W5 and The Assyrian Centre, 1 Temple Road, Ealing W5.
 - c) ID – Horsenden Hill Golf Club would no longer be used as a Polling Station but the electorate to be combined with IC, Temporary Polling Place, Whitton Avenue East.
 - d) JB – St Nicolas Church Hall, Federal Road, Perivale to be retained and to reinstate Lee Road, Perivale temporary polling place for this electorate.
 - e) KA – to be merged with KB
 - f) KB – to be merged with KA and located on the North Ealing school site.
 - g) KE and KF – The Head of Elections to carry out a site visit to investigate the viability of using West London, University Sports Pavillion, W13 8EL as the polling place for both KE and KF polling districts.
 - h) MD – to revert to temporary polling station at 666 Greenford Road, Greenford.
 - i) QC – Petts Hill Community Centre, Newmarket Ave, Northolt to be retained and to reinstate Blenheim temporary Polling Place for this electorate.

j) UC – Elections team to check and confirm that both entrances to Oaklands Primary school would be open during elections.

ii) Approved the proposals to go out for public consultation.

iii) Agreed that the period of the public consultation would be one month.

iv) Noted that the outcome of the public consultation would be presented to a future meeting of Boundaries Panel, at the end of October 2021, for consideration.

v) Noted that the new arrangements would come into effect at the local government elections scheduled to be held in May 2022.

vi) that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services, following consultation with the Chair of the Boundaries Panel, be authorised to make any necessary amendments to the locations of polling stations following the investigations by the Head of Elections as detailed in resolution i) above.

Reasons for Decisions and Options Considered

Following conclusion of the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) review of Ealing Council ward boundaries (of which final recommendations can be found on the LGBCE website) the council was required to undertake a full review of all polling districts and polling places on the new ward boundaries which would come into force for the local elections in 2022. As part of the Returning Officer's (RO) preliminary review, all existing polling places and newly proposed polling places, were assessed. The information taken into account was detailed in the report.

Councillor Summers (Chair)

The duration of the meeting was from 7pm to 9:18pm.