

MINUTES OF THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday 7 December 2017 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Councillor John Paschoud (Chair), Councillor Stella Jeffrey (Vice Chair),
Councillor Jacq Paschoud

Also Present: Kath Nicholson (Head of Law), Janet Senior (Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration), Jamie Baker (Electoral Services Manager)

Apologies: Councillors Brown

1. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were held as an accurate record.

2. Declarations of Interest

No interest were declared

3. Changes to polling places

Jamie Baker presented this report and appendix which proposes alternative venues for the polling for the local elections to take place. The committee discussed each venue appended and its suitability as a polling station. The Electoral Manager expressed that ideally a place will be chosen by the end of January 2018. In addition to the report, the following was discussed:

- 3.1. Ten Em Bee Sports Development Centre had an issue with lighting for voters and could be deterrent. The New Studio Club is recommended, and is just next door. The Committee were in agreement
- 3.2. Sandhurst Infants School is now reopen for refurbishment for voters to use as a polling station, however, St Andrews Church is just next door and cheaper to use. The Committee were in agreement.
- 3.3. Roseview Lounge in Ladywell is problematic as it is disruptive for vulnerable residents. It was suggested that it is moved to Prendergast Vale School which is on the ward boundary and being used as a polling place for DLC3 in Lewisham Central. Members suggested a move to St Mary's instead as using a double entrance at one venue for two polling stations would be difficult. Parking is also challenging around the school.
- 3.4. DLA4, The Portacabin on entrance to Hilly Fields, via Hilly Fields Crescent, is expensive and involves a lot of preparation. The Committee were in agreement to use Francis Drake Bowls Club which is immediately adjacent to where the portacabin is placed.

- 3.5. Moving to share the Church of the Good Shepherd or Brindishe School from St. Winifred's Infants School, (Hall) was suggested. Brindishe Lee was agreed.
- 3.6. Community Centre, (Fusion Table Tennis Area), Unit 2B is a poor quality venue for a polling station. Scotney Hall, Winslade Estate was agreed.
- 3.7. A move to Fusion Sports Centre at Forest Hill School from Our Lady and St. Philip Neri Primary School was suggested. Knights Academy however has a larger hall and more parking, so will be put forward for consideration.
- 3.8. Portacabin on High Level Drive to Sydenham High Junior School. The school has not yet facilitated a visit, and there is not a second option for the area. It is a small polling district and gets a high turnout.
- 3.9. Silverdale Hall is unavailable to use as the building is in poor repair and is scheduled for significant development works. It was suggested to use the Sydenham Centre, which is already a station. It is accessible and spacious. The Committee agreed.
- 3.10. A move from the Portacabin adjacent to allotments on Hafton Road to St Andrew's Church on Sandhurst Road and share with ECA5 was suggested. It is similar distance-wise. Walking distance is slightly longer so it was suggested that postal vote forms are sent to residents as an option along with notification of venue change.

RESOLVED the changes discussed are noted and endorsed.

4. Review of parliamentary constituencies boundaries

The Electoral Services Manager presented this report. The following was discussed. All parliamentary business is going ahead as planned. September 2018 is when they are due to present their findings to Parliament.

RESOLVED the committee endorse the draft response for submission.

5. Results of the annual electoral registration canvass

The Elections team undertook a thorough review of the last elections canvass and improved its delivery.

- 5.1. Technology was updated as mobile canvassing was used.
- 5.2. The response to online responses was increased by 10,000 which saves time and money. Emails were scheduled to be sent on the same day letters were received through the post.
- 5.3. Data mining helped identify an extra 5,000 people who were on other council records but not the register. Further work identified that the electoral register was often more current and reliable than the other data sources. Data mining bought about approximately £25k of savings – bought about due to matching

properties and names instead of printing and posting additional reminder forms.

- 5.4. The statistical results were: Total electorate = 199,030; HEF response rate = 87.22%; Total additions = 9,875; Total deletions = 17,346; Total amendments = 1,609

RESOLVED the Elections Committee noted the success of the 2017 annual canvass

6. Initial plans for the Mayoral and Local Elections on 3.5.18

The Electoral Service Manager gave a brief summary of the upcoming local elections

There will not be many changes from the last general election. The Mayoral Address Voting form will be sent to voters and will be changed to give more detail about the Council branding and the process of voting- the team are working with Communications to make the booklet more appealing.

Purdah begins on 27th March and all non-statutory business will be deferred.

Verification will be taking place overnight and the count process will begin the next morning.

The meeting finished at 7.35pm