

**PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT SUB-COMMITTEE**

15 May 2002  
(6.00 – 6.45pm)

**PRESENT:** Councillors Howarth (Chair), Durrant, James, C Rosenstiel and Ward  
(alternate member for Councillor Taylor)

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL**

02/q/13      **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2002 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

02/q/14      **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bagnall and Taylor. Councillor Ward attended as an alternate member for Councillor Taylor.

02/q/15      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

02/q/16      **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No members of the public wished to address the Sub-Committee.

02/q/17      **PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW: THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE  
FOR ENGLAND'S FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAMBRIDGE  
CITY ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS/THE POLLING DISTRICT  
REVIEW PROCESS**

The Chief Executive and the Electoral Services Manager presented a report which summarised the final recommendations of the Boundary Committee for England on the future electoral arrangements for Cambridge, indicated the anticipated timetable for the Council conducting a review of polling districts in the city, and presented initial work done by officers on that review.

In answer to a question from Councillor C Rosenstiel, the Electoral Services Manager said that the Electoral Commission had been clear that the new ward boundaries would be in place in time for the May 2003 City Council elections. The officers were working towards a publication date of 1 December 2002 for the new Electoral Register, although it would only be possible to publish the Register after the Electoral Commission had laid the Implementation Order.

Councillor C Rosenstiel pointed out that, if a County by-election were called between 1 December and the implementation of the County review of divisions boundaries, it would need to be possible for a County Division Register to be produced based on the current boundaries; however, he accepted the officers' view that this was the most sensible way forward.

The Sub-Committee considered the draft polling district options as set out in section 6 of the report. Members commented as follows:

### **6.3 Abbey Ward**

No comments.

### **6.4 Arbury Ward**

An alternative polling station to the Good Shepherd Church should be found, as it was not convenient for many voters; Rosewood Chapel was suggested. The Barn Community Centre was not an ideal polling station, as it was not well known and it was in an area with a high volume of traffic; St Luke's Church was suggested as a possible alternative.

### **6.5 Castle Ward**

A new church was being built on Castle Hill, which the Returning Officer would investigate using once completed. In the meantime, the Returning Officer intended to continue to use the Castle End Mission.

### **6.6 Cherry Hinton Ward**

No comments.

### **6.7 Coleridge Ward**

A diagonal boundary across the E2 district should also be considered.

### **6.8 East Chesterton Ward**

Although it might be too small, Echo House should be considered as an alternative polling station to St Andrew's School, which was not convenient for many voters.

### **6.9 Kings Hedges Ward**

The Arbury Community Centre was not easily accessible for former East Chesterton voters who were now in Kings Hedges. A more conveniently located polling station should be sought for them.

### **6.10 Market Ward**

The Wesley Church was not easily accessible for some voters going to the polling station by car. It was suggested that the Returning Officer might consider the use of the Round Church.

### **6.11 Newnham Ward**

The boundary between the I1 and I2 districts should be moved further south, and a convenient polling station found for the large number of students living in I2.

### **6.12 Petersfield Ward**

No comments.

### **6.13 Queen Edith's Ward**

The boundary should be changed, so that the hospital was within the K1 district rather than K2. Some preference was expressed for Homerton College over Rock Road Library for the polling station in this area, since it was on the route into the city centre. However, it was pointed out that electors were more likely to be familiar with the Library, rather than the College. It was also pointed out that Homerton was an expensive option and that there were difficulties with parking.

### **6.14 Romsey Ward**

Both sides of Hemingford Road should be in the same district.

### **6.15 Trumpington Ward**

More investigation was needed to find suitable polling stations, although it was acknowledged that there were very few premises which could be considered. It was suggested that a two polling district option should be considered, with the split between Bentley Road and Porson Road.

### **6.16 West Chesterton Ward**

The whole of Milton Road should be in one district. It was suggested that the Returning Officer consider the St Raphael Club in Hawthorn Way as a possible polling station for the N2 district.

Councillor C Rosenstiel said that, once further work had been undertaken on the proposals, they should be discussed with representatives of the political parties within the city, including parties not represented on the Council.

**Resolved** (with no votes against) that

- 1) The polling district review be conducted to a timetable that allows for the publication of the 1 December 2002 Electoral Register on the new warding arrangements (provided that the Electoral Commission lays the Implementation Order prior to publication).
- 2) The Council only designate polling places in those areas where out of district polling is deemed necessary.
- 3) Officers carry out further work on the polling district review in light of members' comments listed above, before presenting the proposals to an informal meeting to be attended by members of the Civic Affairs Committee and representatives of political parties in Cambridge, including those parties not represented on the Council.
- 4) The final proposals be presented to the Civic Affairs Committee, taking into account comments made at the meeting described in 3) above.

02/q/18      **CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

This was the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, as it would cease to exist under the Council's new Constitution, which was due to be adopted on 23 May 2002. The Chair thanked all the members and officers who had been involved with the Sub-Committee for their hard work.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

**CHAIR**