

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the ELECTIONS PANEL held at Cabinet Room, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon on Tuesday, 14 October 2003

PRESENT: Councillor (none) - Chairman

Councillors I C Bates, P J Downes, D Harty,
M F Newman, K Reynolds and J Taylor

APOLOGY(IES): T D Sanderson

IN ATTENDANCE: (none)

6. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 25th June 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

The Panel considered a report by the Executive Director of Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute book) together with details of provisional recommendations published by the Boundary Commission, outlining changes to all seven existing parliamentary constituencies in the area covered by the counties of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Panel were advised that as a result of the Periodic Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire, the Boundary Commission had determined that the parliamentary constituency boundaries should be realigned with the District Ward boundaries. Having considered the provisional recommendations for Huntingdonshire, the Panel supported the proposals for changes to the existing constituencies of Huntingdon and North West Cambridgeshire. These changes included the transfer of the new District Wards of Earith, Sawtry and Upwood and The Raveleys to the North West Cambridgeshire Constituency, currently divided between the Huntingdon Constituency and North West Cambridgeshire Constituency and also the transfer of the District Ward of Ellington to the North West Cambridgeshire Constituency.

In considering the proposals, the Panel expressed concern with the potential impact of the planned growth through planning permissions and Local Plan allocations over future years in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and suggested that a request be conveyed to the Boundary Commission to consider the case for an early rather than later general review of these constituencies in light of the foregoing comments. Whereupon, the Panel

RESOLVED

- (a) that the provisional recommendations published by the Boundary Commission for changes to existing Parliamentary Constituencies of Huntingdon and North West Cambridgeshire be approved; and
- (b) that the Boundary Commission be advised of the concerns of the Panel as outlined above.

**8. EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS 2004:
APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL RETURNING OFFICER**

By way of a report by the Executive Director of Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Panel were acquainted with arrangements for the conduct of European Parliamentary Elections in June 2004. In so doing, Members were advised that the Chief Executive had been reappointed Regional Returning Officer (designate) for the Eastern Region. In recognising the heavy personal commitment and responsibility which this involved it had been deemed necessary to review the situation locally. Whereupon, the Panel

RESOLVED

that full Council be recommended to approve the appointment of Mr Peter Watkins, Executive Director of Central Services, as Local Returning Officer for the Huntingdon Constituency in connection with the conduct of the elections for the European Parliament in June 2004.

Councillor (none)
Chairman