

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the ELECTIONS PANEL held in Meeting Room 1, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon on Wednesday, 7th April 2004

PRESENT: Councillor I C Bates - Chairman
Councillors P J Downes, D Harty,
M F Newman and J Taylor

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors K Reynolds and T D Sanderson

11. MINUTES

Subject to replacement of the word "APOLOGIES" with the word "APOLOGY", the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 19th January 2004 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12. PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Further to Minute No. 03/05, the Panel considered a report by the Director of Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) together with a copy of draft recommendations published by the Boundary Committee for England, outlining the present position with regard to a periodic review of electoral arrangements for the County Council of Cambridgeshire.

The Panel were advised that following all representations submitted at Stage One, the Boundary Committee had proposed to adopt the District Council's proposal in full for Huntingdonshire which was based upon 19 Members in 13 multi-Member divisions.

Having been acquainted with details of the response prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council to the draft recommendations in respect of Huntingdonshire and the views of Councillors J A P Eddy and T V Rogers, the Panel expressed a preference for the District Council's original proposal which had been submitted and adopted in draft by the Boundary Committee.

Having regard to the proposed division names for Huntingdonshire, the Panel agreed with the suggested provisional name changes as outlined by Cambridgeshire County Council. Whereupon, the Panel

RESOLVED

- (a) that the original submission outlining the alternative scheme of 19 Councillors be reaffirmed with the Boundary Committee;
- (b) that the alternative division names as suggested by

Cambridgeshire County Council be approved for submission to the Boundary Committee.

13. THE CYCLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS IN ENGLAND

(The Chairman announced that he proposed to allow consideration of the following item as a matter of urgency, in accordance with Section 100 (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 in view of the need to inform Members of the results of a review undertaken by the Electoral Commission on a review of the cycle of local government elections in England and to allow an opportunity to make any representations as necessary).

The Panel considered a report by the Director of Central Services (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) on a review undertaken by the Electoral Commission on a review of the cycle of local government elections in England and its recommendations for change.

Members were acquainted with the background to the review, together with the options for change and implementation. Having regard to their recommendation that each local authority in England should hold whole Council elections, with all Councillors elected simultaneously, once every four years, the Panel suggested an alternative proposal whereby each multi-Member ward would elect all of their Members once every third year. Whereupon, the Panel

RESOLVED

- (a) that the contents of the report be noted; and
- (b) that the suggested alternative proposal for election of multi-Member wards once every third year be conveyed to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and copied to the Electoral Commission.

Chairman