
**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE
HELD ON 3 MARCH 2003**

EX.044/03 REVIEW OF POLLING ARRANGEMENTS

Portfolio Community Activities

Subject Matter

To consider a report from the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (LDS.8/03) detailing recommendations arising from the annual review of polling arrangements in the City.

He reported that a number of recommendations arising from the Council's review of parishes had been agreed by the City Council on 5 March 2002 and forwarded to the Secretary of State for approval. A number of the recommended changes to parish boundaries also affect City Ward and County Electoral Division boundaries and require Electoral Commission approval, following consideration by the Boundary Committee for England. However, the Boundary Committee was fully committed to reviews of Metropolitan Authorities and County Councils. It was anticipated that any agreed changes to City Ward boundaries could be in place for the 2004 elections.

In the meantime, the Secretary of State had approved most of the Council's recommendations in respect of parish boundaries and, although formal confirmation had not yet been issued, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister was preparing a statutory Order to allow these changes to be implemented in time for the Parish elections in May 2003. The creation of one new polling district, within the Stanwix Rural Ward, was necessary at this stage as a result of the Parish review. A further report on alterations to other polling districts would be prepared following the decision of the Electoral Commission on the proposals to realign City Ward boundaries.

The report then detailed a number of potential changes to polling places and made recommendations thereon.

The report was to be considered in detail by the City Council at their meeting on 4 March 2003.

Summary of Options Rejected

None

DECISION

1. That it is noted that the report is to be considered by the City Council on 4 March 2003.
2. That the following comments be referred to the City Council:-
 - (a) With regard to the proposals to transfer part of Harker Park from Stanwix rural Parish to Rockcliffe Parish and from the City Stanwix Rural Ward to Longtown and Rockcliffe Ward, Members asked that the possibility of providing a Polling Station in Harker be re-examined.
 - (b) Where portacabins are used as Polling Stations, investigations be made into providing attached shelters.
 - (c) The move away from using schools as Polling Stations was welcomed.

Reasons for Decision

To receive an update on the Council's review of parishes and consider the outcome of the annual review of polling places, in order that comments can be referred to the City Council for consideration.