

DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES WORKING GROUP

29 November 2022

Commenced: 4.00pm

Terminated: 4.25pm

Present: Councillors Cooney (In the Chair), Costello, Feeley, Kitchen, North, Ward and Warrington.

Apologies for Councillors Fairfoull, McNally and Ryan.
Absence

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Working Group held on 26 September 2022 be approved as a correct record.

7. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING STATIONS

Members considered a report of the Chief Executive/Returning Officer, which advised Members that following the Council meeting on 4 October 2022 a period of consultation had taken place on the statutory review of polling districts and polling stations. It was explained that the review had been brought forward so that changes could be agreed at Council on 6 December 2022. The review focused on the implications of the Local Government Boundary Review and the new ward boundaries that would be used for the May 2023 Borough Council and subsequent elections. The report summarised the outcome of the consultation

Following the meeting of Council in October Ward Councillors were provided with data and options for their wards and asked to comment on options either directly or at a meeting. In most cases there were limited changes solely to reflect changes in ward boundaries for following the Boundary Commission Review.

Particular areas requiring further input from the Working Group were identified as:

Dukinfield Ward – whether to have a polling station at Itrain or to have a mobile on/or near the site of the former polling station at Old Hall Chapel (which was no longer usable);

Stalybridge South Ward – whether to include those electors who were previously part of the Longdendale Ward in the existing STSTH4 (voting at Stalyhill Primary School) or to create a new polling district for the 400 electors.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council agree the following changes to Polling Districts and Polling Stations to be implemented for use in the new register of electors and for elections after 6 December 2022:
Ashton Hurst

(i) That HURST3 polling district be expanded to account for the new ward boundary and that HURST4 polling district be reduced to account for ward boundary change.

Ashton St Michael's

(ii) That the polling districts remain the same other than to reflect new ward boundaries
(iii) That Albion Church be used as the polling station for STMIC3 polling district

Ashton Waterloo

(iv) That the boundary between polling districts WAT3 and WAT2 be amended to incorporate part of Newmarket Road that was an anomaly and would be better served

by Waterloo Primary School in WAT2 polling district. The WAT3 polling district to be split as it was too large, with an additional polling station at Richmond Leisure Centre.

Audenshaw

- (v) That the size of polling district AUD5 be increased to account for the new Ward Boundary and the size of polling district AUD2 be decreased to account for the new Ward Boundary.

Denton North East

- (vi) That polling district DENNE2 be increased in size to account for the new Ward Boundary, and the size of polling district DENNE4 be decreased to account for the new Ward Boundary

Denton South

- (vii) That Denton South polling district DENS1 be increased to account for the new Ward Boundary.

Denton West

- (viii) That polling district DENW1 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary.

Droylsden East

- (ix) That polling district DROYE4 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary.

Droylsden West

- (x) That polling district DROYW1 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary.

Dukinfield/Stalybridge

- (xi) That polling district DU/ST3 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary.

Dukinfield

- (xii) That the number of polling districts in Dukinfield Ward be increased from 4 to 5 with a mobile polling station on the site of Old Hall Chapel replacing the existing polling station and the addition of a polling station at Jigsaw Hub on Wellington Parade with polling district boundaries being redrawn to ensure that electors were able to vote at most convenient polling station.

Hyde Godley

- (xiii) That the polling district known as NEW3 be renamed GOD2 and the rural area of GOD2 be moved into GOD3 and GOD3 be redrawn to reflect small boundary changes with Hyde Werneth Ward.
- (xiv) That the small number of electors who used to vote at Hyde Flowery Centre but are now part of Hyde Godley ward be allocated to GOD2 with polling station at St Paul's RC Primary School.

Hyde Newton

- (xv) That polling district NEW2 be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary, keeping the remaining polling district boundaries the same apart from the minor changes suggested by Ward Members and making no changes to the polling stations within the Ward. The district currently referred to as NEW5 to become NEW3.

Hyde Werneth

- (xvi) That WER4 polling district be redrawn to reflect the new Ward Boundary taking on the Kingston area, keeping the remaining polling district boundaries the same apart from the minor changes suggested to correct the anomalies in WER5.

Longdendale

- (xvii) That the new area from moved from Hyde Godley be a new polling district named

LDALE7, other than those properties identified as more conveniently voting at Ken Ward Centre, these properties to be moved to LDALE2 polling district. LDALE3, 4 and 5 to be adjusted in line with the new ward boundary. Also, subject to discussions with the school proposed to replace Hollingworth Community Centre with the Children's Centre at Hollingworth Primary.

Mossley

(xviii) That no changes be made.

Stalybridge North

(xix) That the boundaries around STNTH5 be redrawn to reflect the Ward Boundary changes. To change the polling station from Buckton Vale Primary School to Buckton Vale Bowls Pavilion.

Stalybridge South

(xx) That St Paul's Church replace St Paul's Primary School as polling station for STSTH3, and those electors previously part of Longdendale Ward form a new polling district and a suitable polling station for the polling district be identified

8. REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENT FOR SELECTION OF CIVIC MAYOR

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive, which sought Members views on reviewing the arrangements for the selection of the Civic Mayor which was last reviewed in 2022. Members agree that the method of identifying the Civic Mayor for future years should be reviewed by the Chair of Council Business and Chief Executive and that the views of all Members be sought during the review with a view to submitting options and proposals to a future meeting of the Working Group prior to consideration by Council. Reference was made to the different methods that were used at other Greater Manchester Councils that including length of service and political balance in calculations.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Chair of Council Business and Chief Executive undertake a review of the method of identifying future Civic Mayors;**
- (ii) That the views of all Elected Members be sought during the review; and**
- (iii) That a report on the outcome of the review be submitted to a future meeting of the Working Group prior to consideration at full Council.**

CHAIR