

Governance and Ethics Committee

Minutes - 24 June 2021

Attendance

Members of the Governance and Ethics Committee

Cllr Tersaim Singh (Chair)
Cllr Jonathan Crofts (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Dr Paul John Birch J.P.
Cllr Claire Darke
Cllr Celia Hibbert
Cllr Rita Potter
Cllr John Reynolds
Cllr Sandra Samuels OBE
Cllr Simon Bennett
Cllr Wendy Thompson

In Attendance

Cllr Paula Brookfield, Cabinet Member for Governance and Equalities

Employees

David Pattison	Director of Governance
Laura Noonan	Electoral Services Manager
Jacob Stokes	Democratic Services Assistant

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

- 1 Apologies for absence**
There were no apologies for absence submitted.
- 2 Declarations of interest**
There were no declarations of interest made.
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting**
That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 April 2021 be approved as a correct record.
- 4 Matters arising**
There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

5 **Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Update on implementation of Commission recommendations**

David Pattison, Director of Governance, outlined the proposed approach to the implementation of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) recommendations following an electoral review of the city.

The Director of Governance expressed concerns about the practical implementation of the LGBCE's recommendations and questioned whether there was enough time to effectively implement the new warding patterns between the Order being made in January/February 2022 and the all-out election in May 2022.

The proposed next steps, as detailed in section three of the report, were outlined to the Committee.

Councillor Dr Paul John Birch J.P. moved the recommendations within the report. Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE seconded the recommendations.

Councillor Jonathan Crofts put forward an amendment, requesting officers to prepare a report detailing the pros and cons of a four-year electoral cycle, to be submitted to the next meeting. The amendment was seconded by Councillor Wendy Thompson.

The amendment was discussed by the Committee. After discussion, the Committee was prepared to accept that the report suggested by Councillor Jonathan Crofts be considered at the next meeting to be informally discussed, without need for a formal amendment. The amendment was withdrawn.

Resolved:

1. That the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be requested that the implementation of the electoral review that was currently being undertaken be deferred from May 2022 to May 2023.
2. That the Local Government Boundary Commission for England be requested that if they agree to recommendation one that the "fallow year" be in May 2024.