

Strategy & Resources Committee - Terms of Reference

Strategy & Resources Committee Thursday, 29 June 2023

Report of: Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer

Purpose: For recommending to Full Council

Publication status: Open

Wards affected: All

Executive summary:

This report proposes an amendment to the terms of reference of the Committee in order that it may resolve matters in relation to polling district reviews.

This report supports the Council's priority of: Building a better Council

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Recommendations to Committee:

That the amendments to the terms of reference for the Committee, as attached at Appendix A, be recommended to Full Council for adoption.

Reasons for recommendations:

The recommendations would enable the Committee to resolve matters relating to polling district reviews. Currently, the Committee can only recommend these matters to Full Council. Amending the terms of reference in line with the proposal at Appendix A will maximise the time available to Officers to implement changes to polling districts following the conclusion of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) electoral review before the May 2024 elections.

Introduction and background

1. The LGBCE are conducting an electoral review of the Council. This involves the review of ward boundaries and the proposal of new wards as a result.
2. It will be necessary for the Council to undertake a polling district review after the electoral review has been completed. This is to ensure the electoral register correctly reflects the new ward boundaries and will enable all voters to vote at the correct polling station at the May 2024 elections. A new electoral register will need to be published once these changes have been implemented. This is likely to be around the 1st March 2024.
3. The LGBCE will publish their final recommendations on 31st October 2023. It will be necessary to undertake a polling district review immediately after this so that the outcome can be presented to this Committee in January 2024.
4. The suggested change to the Committee's terms of reference will allow for the Committee to resolve changes to polling districts, without the need for ratification by Full Council. This will provide officers with the maximum amount of time available to update the electoral register and undertake necessary checks to ensure it is accurate before it is published.
5. It should be noted that any delay in either the electoral review or the polling district review may affect the implementation of the new arrangements before the May 2024 elections.

Conclusion

6. The Committee is invited to consider the proposed revision to the Committee's terms of reference in relation to polling districts at Appendix A to the report and recommend the amendments to Full Council for approval.

Key implications

Comments of the Chief Finance Officer

There are no significant financial implications associated with this report.

Comments of the Head of Legal Services

The above proposed amendment in conjunction with proposed changes to the Council's Constitution would mean that the Committee would be able to resolve matters relating to polling district reviews. The proposed changes as set out in Appendix A are therefore both reasonable and workable.

Appendices

Appendix A – copy of the relevant terms of reference for the committee with proposed amendments shown with track changes