

Boundaries Panel

Tuesday 28 March 2019 at 7pm

PRESENT: Councillors Shaw (chair), Ahmed, Busuttil, Lusuardi, Rice, Sabiers, Woodroffe and Young.

Also Present: Keith Fraser (Head of Democratic Services), Ross Jackson, (Head of Elections) and Linda Zimmerman, Democratic Services.

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Conlan and Helen Harris (Director, Legal and Democratic Services)

2. Matters to be Considered in Private

There were none.

3. Urgent Matters

There were none.

4. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

5. Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Boundaries Panel held on 25 October 2018 be agreed as a true and correct record.

6. Approval of response to the Local Government Boundaries Commission for England draft proposals for Ealing Wards

Keith Fraser, Head of Democratic Services, introduced the report setting out the proposed response to the Local Government Boundaries Commission for England's draft recommendations for Ealing's ward boundaries.

Members were informed that there were over 100 pages of responses largely accepting the proposals put forward by Ealing Council, particularly ensuring that high streets were not split across more than one ward. The proposed changes to the ward names had also been accepted. The Panel noted that the Commission was particularly impressed with Ealing's presentation and that the Association of Electoral Administrators had looked at Ealing's model.

Some of Ealing's proposals had not been accepted by the Commission and these were detailed in the appendices to report.

Keith Fraser advised members that where the Council's original submissions had been rejected by the Commission, the Council would need to put forward compelling arguments with supporting evidence for the Commission to consider changing its recommendation.

Members discussed the following:

3A Northolt Mandeville and Northolt West End

The Panel accepted the Commission's proposal

The minutes should be read in conjunction with the agenda for the meeting. They are subject to approval and signature at the next meeting of this Committee.

3B Central Greenford, Greenford Broadway and North Greenford

The Panel accepted the Commission's proposal.

3C Acton and Hanger Hill (Acton Green, East Acton, Hanger Hill, North Acton, South Acton)

The Panel agreed to recommend to the Commission a further modest proposal for this area to include the Brenham club footprint in one ward, as detailed in 3C of the report. This proposal did not affect any voters.

3D Ealing Broadway and Ealing Common

Members did not agree with the Commission's proposal and agreed to recommend to the Commission that the boundary unites around St Stephen's Church in line with local knowledge. The area around St Stephen's Church has distinct architectural characteristics of imposing Victorian dwellings with the church at the heart of the estate.

3F North Hanwell, Perivale and Pitshanger

Members discussed the location of Copley Close and differing views were put forward regarding Copley Close being located in North Hanwell ward:

AGAINST:

- Copley Close had been part of Cleveland Ward for many years and that the residents' association had concerns that the boundary change would damage their relationship with local councillors;
- the area was going through a large regeneration period and the residents association had concerns that this would impact greatly.
- Residents did not feel a connection with Hobbayne ward.
- Children living in Copley Close attend local schools in Cleveland ward
- 2 children's centres in Cleveland ward were attended by children living in Copley Close

IN FAVOUR:

- Physical division of the railway line
- Copley Close has a Hanwell post code

Members noted that the commission did not take postcodes into account. Keith Fraser advised that either proposal would comply within the parameters of electoral equality.

Members voted and agreed by a majority of 6:2 to recommend that Copley Close is located within the Pitshanger Ward (Cleveland).

Naming of Wards

West Southall Ward.

Members unanimously agreed to recommend to the Commission that the proposed West Southall ward be named "Southall West"; this would give consistency with the naming convention of the other Southall wards

Pitshanger Ward

Members unanimously agreed to recommend to the Commission that this ward name reverts back to "Cleveland" as it was named after a local park and was more representative of the area; it would also avoid confusion with Pitshanger Lane and Pitshanger Manor.

Acton Green

Members had differing views and discussed the options for naming the proposed Acton Green Ward.

In favour of Acton Green name:

Acton Green would be a good compromise as Southfield would only represent the north of the ward

In favour of Southfield name:

Members considered reverting to Southfield name as Acton Green was only representative of part of the ward whereas Southfield united the ward with a road and a primary school.

Members voted and agreed by a majority of 5:2 to accept the commission's recommendation of the Acton Green name.

Resolved:

That the Boundaries Panel:

- i) subject to the recommended changes detailed above, to approve the Council's submission to the LGBCE attached at the appendix to the report.
- ii) requests that members forward supporting evidence and reasons for requests for changes to the Commission's recommendations, to the Head of Democratic services by Monday 1 April 2019.
- iii) authorises the Director of Legal and Democratic Services to make any final changes to the submission required by this Panel and to make the submission to the LGBCE on behalf of the council within the deadline
- iv) recorded its thanks to Keith Fraser, (Head of Democratic Services) on his last meeting of the Boundaries Panel prior to his retirement, for all his work on this Panel and on the Boundaries Panel working group.

Reason for Decision and Options Considered

The LGBCE is an independent body, responsible for determining the electoral arrangements of local authorities across England. The LGBCE aims to review all areas about once every fifteen years (the last review in Ealing was in 1999), and it is now London's turn within the LGBCE's programme. The review will cover the overall number of councillors, the names, number and boundaries of wards, and the number of councillors in each ward. The LGBCE makes recommendations, and the final decisions will be taken by parliament. In practice, parliament nearly always accepts LGBCE recommendations.

The LGBCE has taken a view on Council size and produced draft recommendations for ward boundaries.

The LGBCE proposal was published on 5th February 2019. All representations must be submitted by 15th April 2019

The Council, political parties, and the public are all entitled to put forward their views on the proposals. The proposal is available on the Ealing Website.

<https://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/6194/Committee/20/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

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Information on the proposals has been publicised by the council and sent to all public buildings in the Borough.

All information about the review is available on the LGCBE website – including details of how to comment on the proposals, including an online form

<http://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/greater-london/greater-london/ealing>

The Commission's criteria for considering a response are set out below

Statutory criteria

- Delivering electoral equality for local voters – this means ensuring that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters so that the value of your vote is the same regardless of where you live in the local authority area.
- Interests and identities of local communities – this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, avoid splitting local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable.
- Effective and convenient local government – this means ensuring that the wards can be represented effectively by their elected representative(s) and that the new electoral arrangements as a whole, including both the council size decision and warding arrangements, allow the local authority to conduct its business effectively.

Councillor Shaw (Chair)

The meeting ended at 7:45pm