

COUNCIL

THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2017

MINUTE FOR CONFIRMATION

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2017

51. Polling District and Places Review

Councillor David Renard, the Leader of the Council, and the Director of Law and Democratic Services, submitted a joint report seeking Cabinet's authorisation to (a) undertake a review of polling places within the wards of Blunsdon and Highworth, (b) create new polling districts within the Blunsdon & Highworth, Chiseldon & Lawn and St Margaret & South Marston wards, and (c) re-adjust the boundary of SAB & SAD polling districts in St Andrews ward.

It was noted that a polling district review is carried out every 4 years in accordance with regulation and that a limited review is undertaken each year, following on from the Council's elections, to look specifically at issues raised in connection with polling districts, places or stations. This review was necessary as the recent Community Governance Review created some anomalies between new parishes and existing polling district areas. It was further noted that, in addition to it being good practice to keep the location of polling stations under constant review, in case venues cease to be available, the report also set out specific issues that had been brought to the attention of the Returning Officer.

Resolved – That Council be recommended to:

- (1) Endorse the recommended changes to Polling Places within the Borough as follows:
 - a. Blunsdon & Highworth Ward - that the polling place for electoral registers BHG & BHI be moved to Westrop School from Highworth Youth Centre.
- (2) Endorse the recommended changes to Polling Districts within the Borough as follows:
 - a. Blunsdon & Highworth Ward - that new polling districts BHJ and BHK be created to correspond with the parish boundary, both BHJ and BHK fall within South Marston Parish Council.
 - b. Chiseldon & Lawn Ward - that an adjustment to the polling district boundary for CLB be made to create the polling district CLD to correspond with the parish boundaries, CLB falls within Chiseldon Parish Council and CLD within Central Swindon South Parish Council.

- c. Ridgeway Ward – that new polling district RWE be created to correspond with the parish boundary, RWE falls within for Central Swindon South Parish Council.
 - d. St Margaret and South Marston Ward - that new polling districts SME, SMF and SMG be created to correspond with parish boundaries, SME falls within Stratton St Margaret Parish Council, SMF within South Marston Parish Council and SMG within Nythe, Eldene and Liden Parish Council.
 - e. St Andrews Ward – that an adjustment to the polling district boundary for SAB and SAD be made to create a more convenient Electoral Register.
- (3) Note that the Director of Law and Democratic Services (as Returning Officer) will implement the proposed changes for future Borough, Parish and Parliamentary elections.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.

MINUTE FOR NOTE

CABINET

WEDNESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2017

47. Fire safety in high-rise residential blocks of flats

Councillor Cathy Martyn, the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety, and the Corporate Director of Communities and Housing, submitted a joint report advising Cabinet on the existing fire safety measures that are in place to the Council's residential blocks of flats, which ensure that they are safe to live in. It also set out the proposed activities to improve fire safety following the Grenfell Tower fire, in response to the resolution at Council of 13th July 2017 (Council Minute 19, 2017/18 refers). The report also sought Cabinet's approval for the proposed fire safety improvements to comply with current benchmark standards and further enhance fire safety, which will also help to make sure that residents feel safe.

Councillor Martyn introduced the report, setting out the background, including the consultation that had taken place with the Adults' Health, Adults' Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the ongoing communications with tenants and leaseholders.

Following her introduction of the report, Councillor Martyn, supported by the Head of Property Maintenance and the Fire Service Area Manager, responded to questions put by Councillors Emma Bushell, Oliver Donachie and Bob Wright on the following issues:

- the funding of the proposed fire safety improvement works, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, and the lobbying of Central Government for additional resource for this unforeseen budget pressure;
- the materials used in panelling at the David Murray John Tower;
- the “stay put policy” and the consistency of advice given to residents on how to respond in the event of an alarm;
- the need to keep communal areas clear in 3 and 4 storey residential blocks; and
- the proposed use of a rescue chair to evacuate residents at Rueben George Hall.

Resolved – (1) That the fire safety improvement works and the requisite budget of £1,066,380, as set out in the summary of fire safety costs shown in Appendix 1 to the report, be authorised.

(2) That a revenue budget of £50k be allocated to appoint a consultant for a sample of intrusive type 4 fire risk assessment surveys to be carried out, which will provide a comprehensive fire safety report for the different types of flats.

(3) That resources be increased and a revenue budget of £40k be allocated for a temporary post to manage fire safety activities for a 12 month period, as a one-off cost.

(4) That future fire risk assessments be carried out to a type 3 level to ensure that the communal areas (common parts) and a sample of flats are included within the fire risk assessment for each block of flats, which is to be an ongoing cost of £20k per annum.

(5) That the Head of Housing Services be authorised to prioritise future fire safety work arising from more in-depth fire risk assessments, as part of the annual budget setting process for future capital programmes of work.

(6) That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Safety report these decisions to Council in response to the resolution of 13th July 2017.

The reasons for the decision and alternative options are as set out in the report to the meeting.