

MINUTES of a meeting of the ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING PARTY held in the Abbey Room, Stenson House, London Road, Coalville on WEDNESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 2023

Present: Councillor M B Wyatt

Councillors K Merrie MBE, S Sheahan, A C Woodman and J Legrys (Substitute for Councillor C A Sewell)

Officers: Mrs C Hammond, Ms K Hiller, Miss E Warhurst and Mr T Devonshire

## **8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Sewell. Councillor Legrys was in attendance as substitute.

## **9 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were no interests declared.

## **10 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023 were considered.

The minutes were affirmed.

## **11 ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE - COUNCIL SIZE SUBMISSION**

Clare presented the report and the results of the questionnaire.

Councillor Wyatt felt the results of the questionnaire could justify cutting the amount of Members down to 36.

Councillor Sheahan discussed the variation in other local authorities. The closest comparison cases, in terms of population size, had 39 Members so perhaps that was an appropriate number of Councillors.

Elizabeth clarified for Councillor Sheahan that the group must examine the specifications of what was suitable to NWLDC, comparisons with other local authorities were just for context. The purpose of this meeting, she added, included narrowing down from the Council size options of 36,38, 40 what we want examining further.

Councillor Woodman felt the evidence suggested that the size of Council and the committee structure was broadly correct. Councillor Merrie concurred with Councillor Woodman and added that Committees rather than constituent case work was more determinate of workload.

Clare noted that, when considering the survey data, the judgment of what was a proportionate workload was inevitably somewhat subjective and explained precisely what would guide the organisation's submission and what might be included within it.

Councillor Legrys said that his personal preference was for an odd number of Members distributed into multi-Member wards.

Elizabeth explained that whether the district used multi-Member or single-Member wards was something that the Boundary Commission had no preference on.

Chairman's initials

Councillor Wyatt emphasised that his preference was for single Member wards.

Members and Officers affirmed that increasing the size of the Council to 40 Members could be ruled out and that they were happy with the wording on for the Community Leadership section of the submission.

Clare intended to use data on committees from 2022 to negate impact of 2023 election on the data. Elizabeth added that this could be explained in the submission.

Clare discussed the consultant and Councillor Legrys asked that he be invited to attend the next meeting.

It was agreed that the Consultant be invited to the next meeting and that the completed draft submission be provided for comment.

## **12 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on Thursday, 14 December at 3:30pm.

It was agreed that the final meeting before the January submission date would be Wednesday, 10 January at 3:30pm.

The meeting commenced at 3.30 pm

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.08 pm