

Public Document Pack



Democratic Services
White Cliffs Business Park
Dover
Kent CT16 3PJ

Telephone: (01304) 821199
Fax: (01304) 872452
DX: 6312
Minicom: (01304) 820115
Website: www.dover.gov.uk
e-mail: democraticservices@dover.gov.uk

25 July 2014

Dear Councillor

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a meeting of the **ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE** will be held in the Council Chamber at these Offices on Monday 4 August 2014 **at 12.00 pm or upon the rising of the Cabinet, whichever is the later**, when the following business will be transacted.

Members of the public who require further information are asked to contact Rebecca Brough on (01304) 872304 or by e-mail at rebecca.brough@dover.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Brough", written over a white background.

Chief Executive

Electoral Matters Committee Membership:

Councillor P A Watkins (Chairman)
Councillor S S Chandler (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor M R Eddy
Councillor P J Hawkins
Councillor F J W Scales

AGENDA

1 **APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

To note appointments of Substitute Members.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** (Page 3)

To receive any declarations of interest from Members in respect of business to be

transacted on the agenda.

4 **MINUTES** (Pages 4 - 5)

To confirm the attached Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 December 2012.

5 **STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS**

To consider the report of the Head of Democratic Services (to follow).

6 **WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15**

To give consideration to the Work Programme of the Committee. The Head of Democratic Services will report verbally.

Access to Meetings and Information

- Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Council, its Committees and Sub-Committees. You may remain present throughout them except during the consideration of exempt or confidential information.
- All meetings are held at the Council Offices, Whitfield unless otherwise indicated on the front page of the agenda. There is disabled access via the Council Chamber entrance and a disabled toilet is available in the foyer. In addition, there is a PA system and hearing loop within the Council Chamber.
- Agenda papers are published five clear working days before the meeting. Alternatively, a limited supply of agendas will be available at the meeting, free of charge, and all agendas, reports and minutes can be viewed and downloaded from our website www.dover.gov.uk. Minutes are normally published within five working days of each meeting. All agenda papers and minutes are available for public inspection for a period of six years from the date of the meeting. Basic translations of specific reports and the Minutes are available on request in 12 different languages.
- If you require any further information about the contents of this agenda or your right to gain access to information held by the Council please contact Rebecca Brough, Team Leader - Democratic Support, telephone: (01304) 872304 or email: rebecca.brough@dover.gov.uk for details.

Large print copies of this agenda can be supplied on request.

Declarations of Interest

Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)

Where a Member has a new or registered DPI in a matter under consideration they must disclose that they have an interest and, unless the Monitoring Officer has agreed in advance that the DPI is a 'Sensitive Interest', explain the nature of that interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a DPI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation permitting them to do so. If during the consideration of any item a Member becomes aware that they have a DPI in the matter they should declare the interest immediately and, subject to any dispensations, withdraw from the meeting.

Other Significant Interest (OSI)

Where a Member is declaring an OSI they must also disclose the interest and explain the nature of the interest at the meeting. The Member must withdraw from the meeting at the commencement of the consideration of any matter in which they have declared a OSI and must not participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so or the meeting is one at which members of the public are permitted to speak for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the matter. In the latter case, the Member may only participate on the same basis as a member of the public and cannot participate in any discussion of, or vote taken on, the matter and must withdraw from the meeting in accordance with the Council's procedure rules.

Voluntary Announcement of Other Interests (VAOI)

Where a Member does not have either a DPI or OSI but is of the opinion that for transparency reasons alone s/he should make an announcement in respect of a matter under consideration, they can make a VAOI. A Member declaring a VAOI may still remain at the meeting and vote on the matter under consideration.

Note to the Code:

Situations in which a Member may wish to make a VAOI include membership of outside bodies that have made representations on agenda items; where a Member knows a person involved, but does not have a close association with that person; or where an item would affect the well-being of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc. but not his/her financial position. It should be emphasised that an effect on the financial position of a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc OR an application made by a Member, relative, close associate, employer, etc would both probably constitute either an OSI or in some cases a DPI.

Minutes of the meeting of the **ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Tuesday, 4 December 2012 at 10.00 am

Present:

Chairman: Councillor P A Watkins

Councillors: S S Chandler
G Cowan (In place of J H Goodwin)
P J Hawkins
F J W Scales

Officers: Democratic Services Manager
Team Leader – Electoral and Local Land Charges
Team Leader – Democratic Support

1 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor J H Goodwin.

2 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was noted that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, Councillor G Cowan had been appointed as substitute for Councillor J H Goodwin.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by Members.

Councillor P J Hawkins advised for information that she was the mother of the Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Labour Party for the Dover Constituency.

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 17 November 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the report on the Boundary Commission for England's revised proposals for new parliamentary constituencies following the consultation on its initial proposals.

The Committee was advised that the revised proposals for the renamed Dover and Deal constituency had an electorate of 78,522 and contained all of the existing Dover District Council wards with the exception of Little Stour & Ashstone and Sandwich wards which would form part of the revised East Thanet constituency. The new Dover and Deal constituency would include only a single Shepway District Council ward (North East Downs) as the Elham and Stelling Minnis ward previously proposed for inclusion was now to remain with the Folkestone and Hythe constituency in order to balance the size of the two constituencies. The Boundary Commission England had rejected proposals from the Labour Party for the inclusion of the Barham Downs ward of Canterbury City Council within the Dover and Deal Constituency.

As the closing date for responses to the consultation was prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Council, the Committee was advised that its views would be submitted to the Boundary Commission England and the Council would be asked to reconfirm them at its meeting to be held on 12 December 2012.

The consensus of opinion was to support the proposals for the new Dover and Deal CC name as well as the inclusion of the Little Stour & Ashstone ward and the Sandwich ward within the Thanet constituency.

It was moved by Councillor G Cowan and duly seconded

That the Council respond to the consultation on the revised proposals to urge for the inclusion of the Barham Downs ward within the new Dover and Deal Constituency.

On being put to the vote it was LOST.

It was moved by Councillor S S Chandler, duly seconded and

RESOLVED: That it be recommended to the Council that it endorse the views of the Electoral Matter Committee in respect of the Boundary Commission England's revised proposals for parliamentary constituencies as follows:

- (a) That support be expressed for the new constituency name of Dover and Deal CC.
- (b) That the decision to accept the representation previously submitted by the Council in response to the initial proposals with regard to the inclusion of both Little Stour and Ashstone and Sandwich wards within a Thanet constituency be welcomed.
- (c) That the inclusion of the North East Downs ward within the constituency of Dover and Deal be supported.

The meeting ended at 10.15 am.