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Minutes of the meeting of the **ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE** held at the Council Offices, Whitfield on Monday, 4 August 2014 at 12.01 pm

Present:

Chairman: Councillor P A Watkins

Councillors: S S Chandler
M R Eddy
P J Hawkins
F J W Scales

Officers: Head of Democratic Services
Team Leader - Electoral and Land Charges
Team Leader – Democratic Support

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

There were no substitute members appointed.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received from Members.

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 4 December 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS

The Head of Democratic Services introduced the report on the Statutory Review of Polling Districts.

The Council was required to undertake a review of its existing scheme of Polling Districts (a geographical sub-division of an electoral area) by no later than 31 January 2015. While there was no requirement to sub-divide an electoral area, the Council must ensure that all electors had reasonable facilities for voting as were practicable, including designating a Polling Place for each Polling District.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that as part of the review, the Council would undertake a 5 week period of public consultation on the current Polling District scheme. The results of that consultation would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee for it to determine what recommendations it wished to ultimately make to the full Council.

RESOLVED: That the Polling District scheme be approved for consultation.

6 WORK PROGRAMME 2014/15

The Head of Democratic Services gave a verbal update to the Committee on items for the work programme during the municipal year 2014/15.

(a) Kent County Council Electoral Arrangements

The Committee was advised that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) was about to commence a review of the electoral arrangements for Kent County Council. It was stated that the outcome of this review was likely to impact on the County Electoral Division boundaries in Dover.

(b) Dover District Council Electoral Arrangements

The Head of Democratic Services advised that the Council had the option of approaching the LGBCE to request a review of its own electoral arrangements if it wished.

Councillor P A Watkins requested a report on these matters for the next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the proposed work programme be noted.

The meeting ended at 12.26 pm.