

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Thursday 16th March 2005, at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT Councillors D. Hancox (Chairman), Mrs. C. J. Spencer (Vice Chairman), Mrs. J. Dyer M.B.E., Mrs J. M. L. A. Griffiths, C. B. Lanham, N. Psirides J. P., G. G. Selway, and E. C. Tibby

7/05 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G. N. Denaro and P. M. McDonald.

8/05 **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND WHIPPING ARRANGEMENTS**

Councillor C. B. Lanham declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 as Member for Stoke Heath and as a resident of the areas concerned.

9/05 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on the 12th July 2005 were submitted.

RESOLVED that the Minutes be approved and confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:-

Minute 4/05 Declarations of Interests and Whipping Arrangements be amended to read

"Councillor C. B. Lanham declared a personal interest in agenda items 6 (1) and 6(2) as Member for Stoke Heath and as a resident of the areas concerned."

10/05 **PARISH REVIEWS**

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that at its last meeting members has considered requests from four Parish Councils within the District to review of the number of elected members for their authorities. The requests arose partly from the criterion of the Quality Parish Councils scheme that Councils qualifying for the scheme would need to have all their members elected. Some of the Parishes had experienced difficulties in attracting people to stand as Parish Councillors. The Parishes which had requested reviews were Beoley, Hagley, Lickey and Blackwell and Stoke.

A period of public consultation on any changes which were proposed had taken place and the results of the consultation were reported to members.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out all necessary procedures to enable the reduction the number of Beoley Parish Councillors from 9 to 7;
- (ii) The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out all necessary procedures to enable the reduction the number of Hagley Parish Councillors from 15 to 13;
- (iii) Subject to the approval of the Electoral Commission to the proposal, the Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out all necessary procedures to enable the reduction the number of Lickey and Blackwell Parish Councillors from 11 to 9;
- (iv) Subject to the approval of the Electoral Commission to the proposal, The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be authorised to carry out all necessary procedures to enable the reduction the number of Stoke Parish Councillors from 15 to 12;and
- (v) In respect of resolutions (iii) and (iv) above the Electoral Commission be requested to fast track its consideration of those matters to enable any changes to be implemented as soon as possible.

The Meeting closed at 6.25 p.m.

Chairman