ELMBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Electoral Review Member Working Group

REPORT of a meeting held on 6 July 2015

Members of Working Group:

* A. Kelly (Chairman)
* B.J.F. Cheyne
* C.J. Elmer
* C.R. Sadler
* A. Davis
* J. O'Reilly
* Mrs. J.R. Turner

* Denotes attendance

(Mrs. C. Elmer, N.C. Cooper, Mrs. R.J.M. Lyon, S.J. Selleck, and Dr. P.J. Szanto were also present.)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Working Group appointed A. Kelly as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2015/16.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE ELECTORAL REVIEW MEMBER WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 4 MARCH 2015

The Minutes of the meeting of the Member Working Group held on 4 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (LGBCE) DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A FUTURE WARDING PATTERN FOR ELMBRIDGE

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)’s public consultation on Ward arrangements concluded on 31 March 2015. The LGBCE had published on its website the responses it had received, including the Council’s consultation response.

The Head of Democratic Services updated that on 30 June 2015, the LGBCE had published its draft recommendations on a warding pattern for Elmbridge that had commenced an eight week public consultation on the recommendations that would end on 24 August 2015. The Commission’s draft recommendations proposed that Elmbridge Borough Council should have 48 councillors in the future, twelve fewer than the current arrangements. The draft recommendations also outlined how those councillors should represent sixteen three-member wards across the Borough. The draft recommendations had been circulated to all Members of the Council, together with an annotated map.
The consultation was open to anyone who wants to have their say on new council wards, ward boundaries and ward names across Elmbridge. The Head of Democratic Services further updated that information on the LGBCE’s public consultation had been placed on the Council’s website, noticeboards across the Borough, Libraries and the Civic Centre Reception.

This meeting has been convened to facilitate initial consideration of the LGBCE’s draft recommendations for a future Warding pattern for Elmbridge, expected to be published on 30 June 2015.

AGREED that

(a) the Council submit a response to the LGBCE’s public consultation and that a further meeting of the Electoral Review Member Working Group be held on 13 July 2015 at 6 p.m. in order for recommendations to be submitted to the scheduled Meeting of the Council on 22 July 2015;

(b) with regard to Ward #7 (Oatlands Park and Burwood Park), that St. James’s School and Marlborough Drive Weybridge, be included in Ward #5 (Weybridge Riverside) as the access to it was within Ward #5;

(c) with regard to Ward #16 (Walton South), that Walton Hospital and the Health Centre car park in Rodney Road, Walton on Thames, be included in Ward #9 (Walton North) along with the Health Centre itself. In addition, the boundary be adjusted to include the following within Ward #9 (Walton North) rather than Ward #16 (Walton South):
   - Clements Road (3 electors)
   - Rodney Road (7 electors)
   - Newhall Gardens (28 electors)
   - Sidney Road 149 – 157A (11 electors)

(d) with regard to Ward #12 (Thames Ditton), Ward #13 (Long Ditton) and Ward #14 (Hinchley Wood & Weston Green), some Ward Members requested that the area including Lynwood Road be included in Ward #14 rather that Ward #13 and that the current polling district CB be included in Ward #12 rather that Ward #13. In addition, some Members requested that the area of Lower Green north of the railway line be included with Blair Avenue and part of Douglas Road in Ward #14 rather than Ward #15 (Esher). It was agreed that interested Members meet the Head of Democratic Services on Wednesday 8 July at 2 p.m. to further discuss this, together with appropriate electorate numbers and a strong reason to justify a proposal, and without impacting on surrounding Wards;

(e) with regard to names of wards, the name of Esher be recommended to change to Esher & Hersham Riverside, and that the name of Oatlands Park & Burwood Park be recommended to change to Oatlands & Burwood Park;

(f) no other changes to the remaining wards were proposed.
The meeting commenced at 6.00 p.m. and concluded at 6:38 p.m.

A. KELLY
Chairman

Officers in attendance

Ms. B. Greenstein  -  Head of Democratic Services
Miss A. Mammous   -  Electoral Services Manager
Mrs. P. Phillips   -  Committee and Member Services Officer
Mr. M. Clarke      -  Committee and Member Services Officer