

Minutes of a meeting of the Constitution Committee held at County Hall, Glenfield on Tuesday, 10 March 2015.

PRESENT

Mr. N. J. Rushton CC (in the Chair)

Dr. R. K. A. Feltham CC
Mr. S. J. Galton CC

Mr. Max Hunt CC
Mr. J. B. Rhodes CC

17. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2014.

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

18. Question Time.

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 35.

19. Questions asked under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

The Chief Executive reported that no questions had been received under Standing Order 7(3) and 7(5).

20. Urgent Items.

There were no urgent items for consideration.

21. Declarations of interest.

The Chairman invited members who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda for the meeting.

It was noted that all members had personal interests in Item 6 Electoral Review of Leicestershire County Council.

22. Electoral Review of Leicestershire County Council.

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive, the purpose of which was to seek the views of the Committee on the proposed submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) regarding Council size. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 6' is filed with these minutes.

The Committee was advised that the Electoral Review had come about because more than 30% of the Council's divisions had an electoral imbalance of more than 10%. The first stage of the Review had begun which involved deciding Council size. In making this decision the following would be taken into account:

- (i) The Council's decision making processes.
- (ii) The scrutiny arrangements and Regulatory committees.
- (iii) The local representational role of members
- (iv) Electorate forecasting for 2021

The Committee were advised the following:

- (i) A company called Edge Analytics had been engaged to undertake electoral forecasting for 2021 and they had presented their findings to the Working Party. Discussion had taken place with the LGBCE regarding the inclusion of housing developments in Blaby and North West Leicestershire which had outline planning permission. As a result of those discussions the figures from Edge Analytics on the projected electorate for Blaby and North West Leicestershire had been revised. A copy of the revised figures was circulated and is filed with these minutes.
- (ii) Based on the revised figures, the Council size which would give the best average variation would be 42 followed by either 49 or 55. The Working Party had agreed to a Submission on Council size based around 55 Councillors. The Submission, if agreed, would go before the County Council on 25 March 2015 for approval.
- (iii) Officers were working on a proposed County Council scheme for electoral division boundaries which would be presented to the Working Party on 30 March. In devising a scheme the main issue officers had to take into account was seeking to achieve electoral equality. Electoral divisions could not cross district boundaries however parishes and town councils could be split.
- (iv) It was open to political parties to produce their own scheme to be submitted to the LGBCE alongside the County Council scheme.
- (v) Two member divisions would be considered where these offered the opportunity for achieving electoral equality.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the report on the Electoral Review of Leicestershire be noted.
- (b) That the submission to the LGBCE in relation to Council size be submitted to the County Council for approval.

23. Establishment of a Local Pension Board.

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive regarding the proposed establishment of the Local Pension Board. A copy of the report marked 'Agenda Item 7' is filed with these minutes.

The County Solicitor explained that the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) (Governance) Regulations 2015 required that a Local Pension Board be established by 1 April 2015. The Board required 2 members from the County Council and Mr A. M. Kershaw CC and Mr D. Jennings CC had been nominated.

RESOLVED:

That the County Council be recommended to approve:

- (a) The terms of reference of the Local Pension Board, as set out in Appendix A to the report, and the approval of Messrs Jennings and Kershaw thereto;
- (b) The renaming of the Pension Fund Management Board as the Local Pension Committee.

3.00 - 3.15 pm
10 March 2015

CHAIRMAN