

ELECTORAL WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.00 pm on 12 SEPTEMBER 2012

Present: Councillors R Chambers, A Dean and E Hicks and J Ketteridge.

Also in attendance: Councillor E Godwin and J Menell.

Officers in attendance: J Mitchell (Chief Executive), L Bunting (Democratic Services Officer) and P Snow (Democratic and Electoral Services Manager).

EWG20 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was proposed that Councillor Chambers be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year. This was agreed.

EWG21 APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Davey, J Freeman, M Lemon and J Rose.

EWG22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

EWG23 FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW

The Democratic and Electoral Services Manager presented a report which outlined the options for a new warding scheme to operate from the next ordinary election in 2015. He reported that although the LGBCE's final recommendation on council size would not be known until October, the Council must work on the assumption that 39 would be the final number of councillors to be agreed and consider warding arrangements accordingly. It was expected that the Council's final decision on a revised warding scheme would be taken at the Full Council meeting on 11 December 2012. The consultation would run until 14 January 2013.

Members were asked to examine the options in the report in order to provide preliminary conclusions to enable further work on preparing a revised warding scheme.

After discussion during which Members made various suggestions, Councillor Ketteridge considered that the matter affected all members and proposed that the report be sent to all members for their comments. The Working Group discussed the implications of this and it was agreed that the report should be sent to all members with a time limit of one week for proposals to be received.

Members agreed the guiding principles set out in paragraph 12 of the report as a basis for preparing a new warding scheme for agreement.

The meeting ended at 7.40 pm.