

**DRAFT EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 17 NOVEMBER 2009****GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****4.00PM 17 NOVEMBER 2009****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****DRAFT MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Oxley (Chairman), Simpson (Deputy Chairman), Elgood, Fallon-Khan, Kemble, Mears, Mitchell, Randall, Simson and Taylor

Also in attendance: Councillor Bennett

44 ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY REVIEW – SALTDEAN

- 44.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Strategy & Governance concerning issues relating to a possible administrative boundary review of the Saltdean area (for copy see minute book).
- 44.2 The Chairman confirmed that recommendation 2.1(a) had been carefully worded to demonstrate the Council's strong support for Saltdean Residents' Association's (SRA) request and the need for it to be expedited; he added that while he understood the SRA's disappointment that the Council would not be conducting a survey, the reasons were detailed in the report and were primarily related to timing and the imminent changes to the Boundary Committee.
- 44.3 The Chairman invited Mr Lawrence O'Connor from the SRA to address the meeting. Mr O'Connor welcomed the Council's support, but was concerned that by not conducting a survey the strength of the support would not be evident to the Boundary Committee; it was also necessary to show the strength of resident support. Mr O'Connor requested that the Council begin looking in to the survey now with a view to conducting it nearer to 2011 and continue discussions with Lewes District Council (LDC) and East Sussex County Council (ESCC) in the hope that all three local authorities can agree on the survey and share the cost.
- 44.4 The Chairman advised that the Council would be prepared to communicate their support to the Boundary Committee in relation to any survey the SRA wished to carry out; if a review was approved, the Boundary Committee would

conduct their own survey and the Council had to carefully consider requests that would result in duplication of work because of the cost implications.

- 44.5 Mr O'Connor stated that the cost of another survey had significant resource implications for the SRA and that they would be concerned that it would be ignored in the same way as their previous survey.
- 44.6 The Chairman confirmed that discussions would be ongoing with LDC and ESCC, and the SRA, and that the Council would be prepared to bring a further report back to the Governance Committee to consider the progress.
- 44.7 Councillors Mitchell, Randall and Elgood thanked the SRA for their dedication to resolving the matter and gave their support for further consideration of it by the Governance Committee in the autumn of 2010 following further discussions with LDC and ESCC.
- 44.8 Councillor Mears commented that timing would be key to maximising the attention this is given by the Boundary Committee and that any survey would need to be conducted at a time that would fit in with the organisational changes to the Boundary Committee.
- 44.9 In response to a question from Councillor Elgood, the Head of Law confirmed he was not aware of any planned citywide administrative boundary review.
- 44.10 **RESOLVED –**

(1) That Governance Committee recommends that Cabinet:

- (a) Supports Saltdean Residents' Association's request for an administrative boundary review of the Saltdean area, and instructs officers to write to the Boundary Committee for England strongly supporting the request and asking for the review to be expedited; and
- (b) Notes Saltdean Residents' Association's request for the council to conduct a local referendum or survey on the matter and, whilst understanding the rationale for the request, not proceed with the proposal for the reasons set out in the report.
- (c) Reports its decision on (a) and (b) to Council, for information.
- (d) Communicates its decision on (a) and (b) to Lewes District Council and East Sussex County Council, also for information.

(2) That a further report comes back to the Governance Committee in autumn 2010.