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18. West Sussex County Council Electoral Boundary Review

The Committee considered report [LDS/111](#) of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which informed the Committee of the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for division boundaries of West Sussex County Council (WSCC). The Committee was requested to consider whether it supported the Commission's draft recommendations as set out in Appendix A to the report.

Several members of the Committee were concerned that the Scheme did not appear to support the Boundary Commission's priority of electoral equality, with certain wards identified as having a variance of +10% in 2021 whilst others would have a variance of -8%. Other members of the Committee were of the view that although the variance was high for some wards, it was difficult to address as any alternative could create an unsuitably shaped division. It was also noted that 10% variance was within the tolerance set by the Boundary Commission.

Some disappointment was expressed that the Boundary Commission had used the railway line to separate some divisions even though the railway had several crossings and other divisions had been combined which were also separated by a railway line.

The Committee was informed that the County Council's Electoral Review Panel had submitted a revised version of the Scheme to the Boundary Commission, which took account of some of the issues which had been raised by Crawley Borough Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Lamb and seconded by Councillor Lunnon that the Committee support the scheme for WSCC divisions as set out in Appendix A to the report.

Councillor Ayling was not present at this point in the meeting and therefore did not take part in the vote.

At the request of Councillor Crow, and in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 24.5, the names of the Members voting for and against the proposal to support the draft recommendations for a scheme for WSCC divisions for Crawley as set out in Appendix A to the report were recorded as set out below:

For the Proposal:

Councillors M G Jones, P K Lamb, T Lunnon, A C Skudder and J Stanley (5).

Against the Proposal:

Councillors R D Burrett, D G Crow, C R Eade, R A Lanzer and K McCarthy (5).

Abstentions:

None.

With the vote being 5 for the proposal and 5 against the proposal the Chair used his casting vote, which was for the proposal.

The proposal was therefore CARRIED, and it was

RESOLVED

That the draft recommendations for the scheme for West Sussex County Council divisions for Crawley be supported as set out in Appendix A to report [LDS/111](#).

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