

HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE – 9TH MARCH 2011

Report of the Chief Executive

PROPOSED WARD NAME CHANGES

Purpose of Report

1. To consult both Area Committees on a proposal to change the ward names for the Lye and Wollescote and Cradley and Foxcote Wards.

Background

2. Following discussions with all of the ward members for Lye and Wollescote and Cradley and Foxcote, together with Councillors Millward and Sparks, I am proposing that the name of the Lye and Wollescote ward be amended to Lye and Stourbridge North and the name of the Cradley and Foxcote ward be amended to Cradley and Wollescote.
3. The reason for this proposal is that the majority of Wollescote falls within the Cradley and Foxcote ward and not Lye and Wollescote. It would also be more accurate to describe Lye and Wollescote as Lye and Stourbridge North. The existing ward names, therefore, do not correctly reflect the geographical make-up of their areas and have been somewhat anomalous since they were determined by the last Boundary Review.
4. It is important to emphasise, however, that the boundaries of both wards will not be changing as a result of this proposal. It is only the names of the wards that will be altered. If approved, the new names will be in use for the local elections and proposed Referendum on the 5th May 2011.
5. A final decision on the proposal will be taken at a special meeting of the Council to be held on 22nd March 2011. During February and early March we have been consulting with local communities and any representations received will be reported verbally at the meeting of Area Committees.

Finance

6. Very limited costs have been incurred in consulting on these proposals and such costs will be met by existing budgets.

Law

7. Section 59 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 enables the Council to change the name of any ward after reasonable steps have been taken to consult such persons as it considers appropriate on the proposed name.
8. A resolution to change a ward name must be taken at a special meeting of the Council and must be approved by a majority of at least two thirds of the members voting on it.

Equality Impact

9. There are no particular equality implications arising from this report.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that the Area Committees support the proposed ward names changes set out in paragraph 2 of this report.

John Polychronakis

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JOHN POLYCHRONAKIS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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List of Background Papers

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