



**ALEXANDRA PARK AND PALACE STATUTORY ADVISORY AND CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE (SAC/CC)**  
**18<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

**Report Title:** Proposed changes to Haringey Ward Boundaries

**Report of:** Louise Stewart, Chief Executive Officer

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**Purpose:** To seek the Statutory Advisory Committee's comments the public consultation relating to Ward Boundaries and the impact on the SAC membership

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

N/A

**1. Recommendation**

1 To consider the proposed changes to the Haringey Ward Boundaries and the impact that they may have for the Park and Palace, and put forward issues or concerns to the Trust.

**2. Background**

2.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission has published draft recommendations for new wards, ward boundaries, and ward names for Haringey Council and is inviting comments from local organisations and community groups on these recommendations. The proposed changes mean that the names and boundaries of wards in Haringey could change. The consultation closes on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

2.2 Any submissions to the electoral commission need to be evidenced with information about community facilities, ties, organisations, and amenities and will be weighed against the legal criteria which the commission must follow when drawing up electoral arrangements:

- to deliver electoral equality: where each councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the council;
- that the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities;
- that the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

### **3. Impact assessment**

3.1 The changes propose that the majority of Alexandra Ward is merged with Fortis Green to form Muswell Hill North, Bounds Green Ward is made slightly larger to absorb some of Alexandra Ward.

3.2 The assessment of the Trust at this stage is that these changes will not have an impact on the ability of the Charity to deliver its objectives.

3.3 However, there is a potential impact on its governance structure. The Advisory Committee arrangements reflect those set out in the Alexandra Palace Acts and Orders (Alexandra Park and Palace Act 1985 - Schedule 1 – section 2) are;

2 elected members represent borough-wide interests

6 elected members are ward councillors from

- Alexandra
- Bounds Green (Although named Bowes Park in the Acts and orders)
- Fortis Green
- Hornsey Central
- Muswell Hill
- Noel Park

3.3 If the proposed changes happen it is assumed that the above arrangements will change to,

- Bounds Green
- Muswell Hill North
- Muswell Hill South
- Hornsey
- Noel Park

3.4 The Advisory Committee would have representation from 5 wards, but

- all wards bounding the Park remain included on the Committee
- appears to lose no overall area coverage of representation

### **4. Issues**

4.1 It is not certain from the Act what is most important

- that the wards bounding the Park are represented on the Committee
- the number of elected members on the Committee
- or the area coverage

4.2 As area coverage is not mentioned in any of the governing documents, it appears reasonable to assume that it is the number on the Committee. However this was determined by those wards that bounded the Park boundary. Therefore, one could conclude that the number on the Committee in future could reduce to five and the requirements of the Act of Parliament would still be met.

4.3 If the number of wards is key, and it is desirable to retain six wards on the Committee, then Woodside Ward would appear to make the most sense as the nearest other ward to the Park boundary. However, the addition of Woodside increases the range of coverage from the Park boundary than the original Ward coverage.

4.4 If the number of wards is key but inclusion of Woodside Ward is not a suitable option then a third borough wide Councillor Representative may provide an alternative sixth member of the Committee.

## **5. Can changes be made to the elected members on the Advisory Committee?**

5.1 The addition of Woodside Ward or the lack of Alexandra Ward representation is not provided for in the Act.

5.2 In any case this appears to require a change to Schedule 1 of the Act which according to schedule 1 section 14, the Trustee will require the permission of the Charity Commission or the chancery division of the high court expressed by order. Therefore, a resolution from the Trustees and of the Advisory Committee to make such amendments will be required. No legal opinion has been obtained at this point.

## **6. Next steps**

6.1 After this stage of consultation the Local Government Boundary Commission will consider whether to recommend the proposed changes for Parliamentary approval, or not. If put forward to Parliament then it is likely that the changes would come into force in May 2022.

6.2 It is almost three years before Alexandra Palace would need to make any changes to reflect the wards, if at all – as these are only proposals at this stage. So the only immediate task, is to consider making representations.

6.3 Therefore the Trust Board will consider these issues at its next meeting and whether to make a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission before the consultation closes on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

## **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 The Council's Assistant Director of Corporate Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report, and having consulted with the Council's Head of Electoral Services & Census Liaison, has no comments.

## **8. Use of Appendices**

The consultation can be viewed at: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/15479>