

BCFE (09) 14th Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at 10.30 am on 2 September 2009,
at Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London, SW1P
2HW

Present:

Max Caller CBE (Chair)
Joan Jones CBE
Professor Colin Mellors
Dr Peter Knight CBE DL
Jane Earl

In attendance:

Archie Gall	Director
Bob Posner	Legal Counsel
Joleen Bull	Implementation Officer (Item 6)
Gareth Nicholson	Media and Public Affairs Officer
Richard Buck	Review Manager
Sam Hartley	Review Manager
Paul Kingsley	Review Adviser (Item 3)
Megan Bayford	Review Assistant

1. Declarations of interest

Noted: as previously declared, that the Chair owned a holiday cottage in Suffolk. There were no other declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of previous meetings

Resolved: the following minutes of previous meetings were agreed

- the minutes of BCFE (09) 10th
- the minutes of BCFE (09) 11th (subject to a minor amendment)
- the minutes of BCFE (09) extraordinary meeting
- the minutes of BCFE (09) 12th
- the minutes of BCFE (09) 13th

3. Confirmation of Cornwall further consultation proposals – BCFE (09) 43

Noted: that the Committee formally consider the proposals which had been agreed in correspondence for further, limited consultation in Cornwall.

Resolved: the Committee formally agreed the further proposals.

4. Implications of Suffolk Judicial Review - BCFE (09) 44

Noted: the Committee welcomed the paper.

5. Activities in support of establishment of LGBCE – BCFE (09) 45

Noted: the allocation of Committee members to activities in support of the the establishment of the LGBCE.

Resolved: the Committee agreed the proposed allocation of tasks.

6. Consideration of implementation of electoral review recommendations by the LGCBE – BCFE (09) 46

Noted: that the timetables for forthcoming reviews be re-examined having regard to Parliamentary timetables for the laying of electoral change Orders.

Resolved:

1. that the Committee would hold a discussion at a later date regarding the review process/timetable as a whole and how it might be revised given the constraints of the new order-making procedure.
2. that the Committee decided in principle not to have a period of public consultation after confirming its final recommendations, but would allow for a short period of ‘technical consultation’ to verify the content of draft electoral change Orders.

7. Draft LGBCE Corporate Plan and estimate – BCFE (09) 47

Noted:

3. that comments on the draft Plan had been received from CLG, as one of the Committee’s stakeholders
4. that a number of drafting amendments be incorporated into the Plan and consideration be given to an additional performance measure relating to the number of authorities requiring an electoral review.
5. that the plan would be signed off by the Committee at its meeting on 30 September, prior to submission to the Speaker’s Committee.

8. Electoral review workshops for parish & town councils in Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester – BCFE (09) 48

Noted: that the electoral review workshops had been of benefit but could not be fully assessed until towards the end of the reviews. Workshops for future reviews would need to be considered on a case-by-case basis and having regard to resources.

9. Operational report – BCFE (09) 49

Resolved:

6. the assignment of lead Committee members to the Stoke, Northampton, South Derbyshire, West Somerset and Sedgemoor reviews.
7. that due to timetable issues in light of the likely order-making process for the LGBCE, there would not be a dedicated consultation period on council size for those reviews.

8. that the issue of having a council size consultation period as a matter of principle should be addressed during a future discussion on the review process as a whole.

September 2009