

**Please note that some information in these minutes has been redacted for one of the following reasons:**

**1) Because it relates to the Committee's decision-making process of part of a current review. This information will be released when the relevant review is completed.**

**2) It constitutes legal advice to the Boundary Committee which is privileged and therefore is not disclosed.**

## BCFE (08) 7th Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 15 May 2008  
at 9.00am at the Beauchamp Hotel, 24-27 Bedford  
Place, London, WC1B 5JH

Present:

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

Also present:

Archie Gall	Director
Tim Atkinson	Senior Adviser
Tim Bowden	Review Officer
Kalim Anwer	Review Officer
James Ansell	Review Officer (items 1 – 5)
Paul Kingsley	Review Adviser (items 1 – 5)
Sam Hartley	Review Manager
Alison Wildig	Review Manager
William Morrison	Review Assistant
Louise Footner	Lawyer (items 1 – 8)

Sam Younger	Chairman, The Electoral Commission (observing) Items 1 – 7
-------------	---

## 1. Opening remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Committee members and staff to the Committee meeting.

## 2. Minutes of the last meeting: 30 May 2008 BCFE (08) 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting

- 2.1 Minutes from the previous meeting were not yet available.

## 3. Matters arising

- 3.1 There were no matters arising.

## 4. Cornwall: Report by Review Officer – Council size

- 4.1. The Review Adviser and the Committee members with a particular interest in the Cornwall review updated the Committee on their meetings with council size proponents in Cornwall on 12 May 2008.
- 4.2. The Committee considered the further information received at those meetings and since. The Committee concluded that there was as yet insufficient evidence available to it to take a decision on an appropriate council size for a new unitary Cornwall authority. Following consideration of the options available, the Committee agreed that a public consultation on a range of council size options be conducted in order to gain more evidence on the issue. The Committee recognised that such a consultation would delay the review and acknowledged that there was now little chance of new electoral arrangements being in place for elections in May 2009.
- 4.3 The Review Manager said that a draft consultation document and plan would be put to the Committee at its meeting on 27 May 2008.

## 5. Wiltshire: Report by Review Officer – Council size

- 5.1. Professor Ron Johnston declared a potential interest in the Wiltshire review and took no part in the Committee's deliberations.
- 5.2 The Review Officer and the Committee members with a particular interest in the Wiltshire review updated the Committee on their meeting with Wiltshire County Council on 13 May.
- 5.2 The Committee was informed that the meeting had proved useful. Further information in support of the proposed council size of 98

members had been provided. Unfortunately, this information had not featured in the Council's follow-up letter. It was agreed that the Review Officer would request a formal letter containing the information and evidence discussed at the meeting on 13 May, and that this would be taken into consideration at the next Committee meeting. In the meantime, work should proceed with on a scheme for the county on the basis of 98 members.

## 6. Structural review legal advice – Louise Footner, Lawyer

- 6.1 The Commission's Lawyer updated the Committee on recent legal advice sought from Counsel.

█ [REDACTED]

█ [REDACTED]

## 7. Structural reviews – Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk

- 7.1 The Committee considered in detail the responses to its requests for information from all proponents. Following extensive discussions on the concepts for each of the review areas, the Committee reached initial views on its draft proposals. Conclusions on draft proposals would be reached at its meeting on 21 May.

## 8. Any other business

- 8.1. The Committee expressed its thanks and good wishes to Tim Kershaw, Review Manager, who was leaving the Commission that day.

## 9. Next meeting

9.1. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee will be on 21 May 2008 and will be held in Westminster Archives at 10:30am.

**The Boundary Committee for England  
May 2008**