

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 (09) 15th Meeting

Minutes of meeting held at 9.00 am on 30 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
Gareth Nicholson	Media and Public Affairs Officer
Richard Buck	Review Manager
Sam Hartley	Review Manager
Paul Kingsley	Review Adviser (Items 6 and 9)
Arion Lawrence	Review Officer (Item 8)
James Ansell	Review Officer (Items 5 and 7)
Jessica Metheringham	Review Officer (Item 4)
Tim Bowden	Review Officer (Item 10)
Megan Bayford	Review Assistant

1. Declarations of interest

Noted: Joan Jones declared an interest in the review of Stoke-on-Trent and took no part in the discussion of that item.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Resolved: the following minutes of previous meeting were agreed:

- the minutes of BCFE (09) 14th

3. LGBCE Corporate Plan sign-off – BCFE (09) 50

Resolved: having been delegated by the Electoral Commission, the Committee formally agreed the draft of the corporate plan subject to minor amendments and that it be sent to the Speaker’s Committee.

4. Overview report – BCFE (09) 51

Noted: the Committee welcomed the paper.

Resolved:

1. that an amended version of Appendix A should be appended to the minutes of meeting,
2. that future overview reports contain historical comparisons.

5. Cheshire West & Chester draft recommendations – BCFE (09) 52

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. Cheshire East draft recommendations – BCFE (09) 53

[REDACTED]

[Redacted text block]

7. Cornwall final recommendations post-consultation – BCFE (09) 54

[Redacted text block]

8. Bedford council size – BCFE (09) 55

Noted: the Committee noted the report.

Resolved: that the Committee is minded to recommend a council size of 40 for Bedford.

9. Central Bedfordshire council size – BCFE (09) 56

Noted: the Committee noted the report.

Resolved: that the decision on council size for Central Bedfordshire be deferred until the next meeting after the Chair and Professor Mellors meet with lead members and officers of Central Bedfordshire.

10. Mansfield council size – BCFE (09) 57

Noted: the Committee noted the report.

Resolved: that the Committee are minded to recommend a council size of 36 for Mansfield.

11. Stoke-on-Trent council size – BCFE (09) 57

Noted:

1. that the lower end of the Transition Board's recommendation would require a radical change in the council's way of working.
2. that the Committee should adopt a council size that ensures the best transition, but anything too near the status quo would not be helpful.
3. that the Committee will wait until the Order for full council elections is signed and then issue their 'minded to' letter to the Chief Executive of Stoke-on-Trent to begin Stage One of the review.

Resolved: that the Committee are minded to recommend a council size of 45 for Stoke-on-Trent.

12. Transfer of BCFE out of EC – BCFE (09) 59

Noted: the updates on each area outlined in the paper.

13. Operational report – BCFE (09) 60

Noted: the updates outlined in the paper.

Resolved: that the Committee shall meet one extra day in February 2010.

14. Any other business

Resolved: that the erratum to the draft recommendations for County Durham is accepted.

October 2009