

LGBCE (10) 1st Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 15 April 2010, in the
Boothroyd Room in Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street,
London, SW1P 2HW

Present:

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

Also present:

Alan Cogbill	Chief Executive
David Hewitt	Director of Finance
Archie Gall	Director of Reviews
Sam Hartley	Review Manager
Richard Buck	Review Manager
Sarah Vallotton	Business and Committee Services Manager
Paul Kingsley	Review Adviser
Jessica Metheringham-Owlett	Review Officer
Arion Lawrence	Review Officer
Will Morrison	Review Officer
Tim Bowden	Review Officer
Kalim Anwer	Review Officer
Bola Ojaye	Implementation Officer
Daniel Knag	Implementation Officer
Gareth Nicholson	Press and Public Affairs Officer
Eleanor Gregory	Minutes

1. Introduction

1. the LGBCE's Director of Finance, David Hewitt, was introduced and welcomed by the Commission.

2. Minutes from the Boundary Committee for England 's meeting on 18 March 2010

1. the minutes were agreed as a correct record.

Governance

3. Welcome and Chair's report

Noted:

1. The Chair welcomed members and staff to the inaugural meeting of the Commission
2. The Chair orally presented his report
3. The Secretary of State had appointed Dr Peter Knight as Deputy Chair for a period of seven months
4. The Speaker had indicated that draft LGBCE Orders in the House of Commons should be laid in his name
5. The Chair and Director of Reviews would be attending an inter-commission meeting the following week with the Boundary Commissions across the UK.
6. The Commission discussed planned working groups consisting of Commissioners and officers to test and challenge the review process

4. Appointment of Audit Committee

Noted:

1. The Chair proposed Jane Earl as Chair of the Audit Committee
2. The Chair proposed Joan Jones and Prof Colin Mellors as members.

Agreed:

3. The appointments were agreed
4. Recruitment for the independent member of the Audit Committee would begin

5. Appointment of Remuneration Committee

Noted:

1. The Chair proposed that the whole Commission act as the Remuneration Committee in the first instance
2. The Commission discussed the pay supplement for the Commissioners
3. The Chair tabled the formal decision of the Speaker for the next financial year.

Agreed:

4. The composition of the Remuneration Committee was agreed

6. Formal adoption of Governance Framework - LGBCE (10) 01

Noted:

1. The Chief Executive presented the Governance Framework and asked the Commission to formally adopt it
2. The Chief Exec updated the Commission on the FOI policy and the lease of its new offices in Layden House

Agreed:

3. To accept the Governance Framework subject to amendments.
4. The amended version is to be circulated
5. The Governance Framework should be subject to a formal review in 12 months
6. Once the minutes of the Audit and Remuneration Committees are cleared by the respective Chairs, the minutes should be brought to the Commission meeting

7. Commissioner/Staff Responsibility - LGBCE (10) 02

Noted:

1. The Chief Exec presented the paper on Commissioner and Staff responsibilities
2. The Commission discussed the wording, roles and implications of the document on the current work processes

Agreed:

1. To review the current review process
2. To accept the paper as a working document, subject to minor amends outlined by Commissioners

8. Future Business – LGBCE (10)03

Noted:

1. the Director of Reviews presented the future business plan; focusing on the upcoming Commission meetings and setting the new timetable for next year's Commission meetings
2. The Commission discussed proposed finance, budgetary and service provider issues

Break: 10:30

Resumed: 10:40

Reviews

9. Declarations of Interest

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

10. Operational Report - LGBCE (10) 04

Noted:

1. The Director of Reviews informed the Commission of the progress on the electoral reviews of County Durham, Stoke-on-Trent, Mansfield, Bedford and Central Bedfordshire, Northampton, Sedgemoor, South Derbyshire and West Somerset, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester
2. The operational report would now also be used as a brief for the Speaker's Committee representative in the House of Commons
3. The Review Manager updated the Commission on the consultation activities planned in Stoke-on-Trent
4. The Director of Reviews updated the Commission on the structural review orders and judicial review against the Secretary of State
5. The Commission discussed the progress of the judicial review

Agreed:

6. The paper was noted

11. Background Paper on implications of LDEDC Act 2009 - LGBCE (10) 06

Noted:

1. The Director of Reviews presented a paper on the changes to Parliamentary legislation in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, which the Commission must take into account in reaching conclusions on draft and final recommendations
2. The Commission discussed the background paper

Agreed;

3. The paper was agreed

12. Overview report

Noted:

1. The Review Assistant presented the Electoral reviews overview report
2. The Chair requested clearer charts of the electoral reviews
3. The report was noted

13. Sedgemoor draft recommendations – LGBCE (10) 08

Noted:

1. Twelve submissions had been received, including a district-wide scheme from the Council, but little evidence had been provided.

2. Only the Council had proposed 48 members and a pattern of warding arrangements for the entire district. The team had concerns over the Council's scheme as it would result in 23% of wards being greater than +/- 10% by 2013
3. Given the shortcomings in the Council's proposal and the lack of evidence for community identity, the team has focused on achieving good electoral equality and strong boundaries that would provide for effective and convenient local government
4. The lead Commission member was content with the proposals having gained a better understanding of the area while on tour.
5. A paper on the implications for parish electoral arrangements was tabled

Agreed:

6. The draft recommendations for Sedgemoor

14. Northampton draft recommendations – LGBCE (10) 07

Noted:

1. During Stage One eight submissions had been received.
2. The ward boundaries put forward were clearly defined and reflected community identities
3. In the areas of Sunnyside/St Davids, Westone & Boothville and Semilon/Trinity minor amendments to the council's scheme were proposed. These were either to tie boundaries to clearer ground detail or to move boundaries to the rear of properties to better reflect community identities
4. For Midsummer Meadow Recreation Grounds, the team proposed moving the boundary to the river as this would create a stronger boundary and did not affect any electors.
5. In the North East-Rectory Farm ward, there was a need to confirm with the council whether development will be taking place in the area
6. the Commission discussed moving electors from Talavera to Rectory Farm. It considered further amendments to the area but due to the lack of certainty about future development sites decided to base its draft recommendations on the team's proposals

Agreed:

7. the draft recommendations for Northampton

15. Proposed name change to electoral division name in Shropshire – LGBCE (10) 13

Noted:

1. the Implementation Officer presented the report for the request for a ward name change
2. The Commission discussed the future policy for ward name change requests

3. The Director suggested that, in future, the Commission delegate decisions on ward name changes to the Chief Executive

Agreed:

1. the ward name change
2. to delegate future ward name change decisions to the Chief Executive, subject to a report to the Commissions on all decisions taken and referral to the Commission for its agreement of any decisions to decline consent

Lunch: 12:30

Resumed: 13:00

16. South Derbyshire draft recommendations – LGBCE (10) 09

Noted:

1. At Stage One the council had proposed a council size of 39 members although little evidence had been provided. The Committee sought further evidence and agreed on a council size of 36 as the basis of consultation for the review.
2. In Willington and Findern, the team proposed to retain the existing warding arrangements
3. In Stenson Fields, there was a planned development which has not been started which could affect electoral equality.
4. In Aston, the team proposed retaining the current three-member ward.
5. The team brought an alternative proposal for Swadlincote town to the Commission for consideration. This was a proposal submitted by the Labour Group.
6. The Commission discussed the merits of this proposal against the original one outlined in the paper.
7. The team recommended Castleton Park remain as in the Labour group proposal
8. The team proposed a boundary tidy in the area between Woodville and Midway which would not affect electoral variances. It would only affect 45 electors.

Agreed:

9. The original proposal put forward for Swadlincote town
10. The draft recommendations with exception of one modification to Castleton Park.

17. West Somerset draft recommendations – LGBCE (10) 10

Noted:

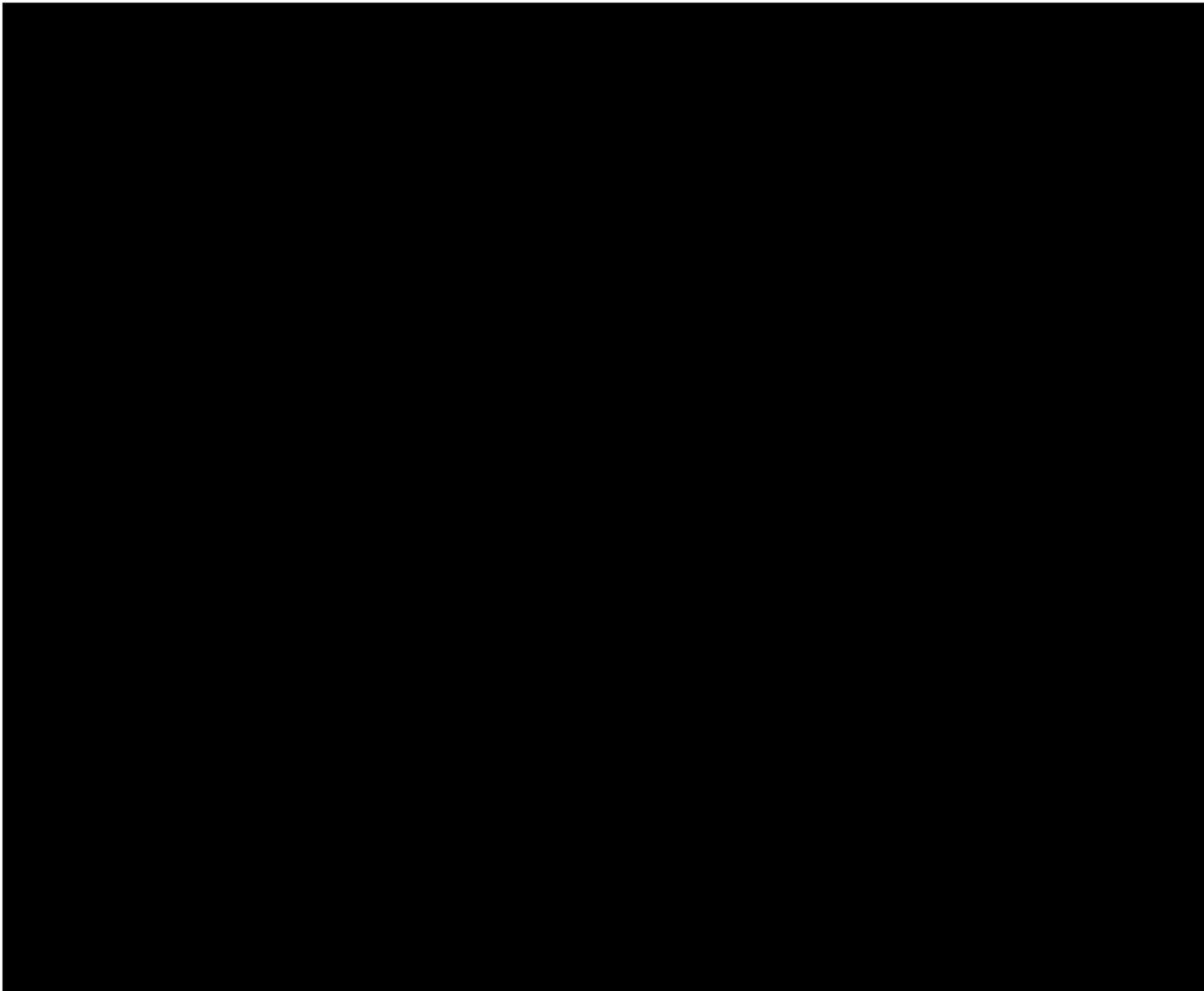
1. 10 submissions received at Stage One
2. The team proposed two amendments to the Council's submission

3. In Dulverton, the team recommended placing Elworthy with Brendon, as it would improve community identity, although it worsened electoral equality.
4. The Commission discussed the Elworthy proposal
5. The team recommended accepting the Council's proposal without amendment in Quantock
6. In Minehead, the team proposed an alteration to the Council's proposal to unite both sides of the high street in one ward

Agreed:

7. To place Elworthy with Crowcombe
8. The proposed changes in Minehead
9. The draft recommendations with minor modifications

18. County Durham final recommendations – LGBCE (10) 11



19. Cheshire East-final recommendations – LGBCE (10) 12

Noted:

1. That the paper had been received late

Agreed:

1. To defer the paper until the 2 June meeting.

20. AO B

1. Non e

14:40: Meeting closed