

## LGBCE (16)3rd Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 15 March 2016 at 9:30am, in Room 29, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP

Commissioners Present  
Professor Colin Mellors (Chair)  
Alison Lowton  
Peter Maddison  
Sir Tony Redmond  
Professor Paul Wiles CB

### LGBCE Officers Present:

Jolyon Jackson CBE	Chief Executive
Lynn Ingram	Finance Director
Marcus Bowell	Communications Manager
Richard Buck	Review Manager
Jo Porter	Review Manager
Mark Cooper	Review Officer (item 2)
Emily Starkie	Review Officer (item 3)
David Owen	Review Officer (item 4)
Alex Hinds	Review Officer (item 5)
Dean Faccini	Business Assistant (minutes)

## Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Tim Bowden, Review Manager.

## Declarations of interest

The Finance Director and the Review Manager (Johanna Porter), declared an interest in item 5, Hampshire. They both left the room for that item.

## Minutes of LGBCE meeting on 23 February 2016

The minutes were agreed as a correct record, and were signed by the Chair.

## Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

### 1. Operational Report - LGBCE (15)25

The Chief Executive presented the Operational Report for March 2016 and the Commission noted its content.

The Chief Executive briefed the Commission on his recent meeting with the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Preliminary meetings with Allerdale Borough Council, Horsham District Council and West Berkshire Council had taken place. Those authorities would be included within the review programme and allocated to a Lead Commissioner. It was noted that Harborough District Council was missing from the review schedule. This would be rectified by the Review Manager.

The Chief Executive updated the Commission on the review of Cambridgeshire County Council. Peter Maddison declared an interest and left the room during this discussion.

In view of concerns that had been raised, the Commission was minded to undertake a further round of consultation subject to a formal proposal by officers and further consideration of the precise nature of this consultation at the next Commission meeting.

### 2. South Lakeland Draft Recommendations - LGBCE (16)26

The review of South Lakeland District Council had commenced on 20 October 2015. According to the latest available electoral figures, 30 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent with Broughton ward having a variance of 16 per cent.

At its meeting on 20 October 2015, the Commission had been minded to agree a council size of 51 and the Draft Recommendations being considered had been prepared on the basis of such a council size.

In preparing the draft scheme, the team had taken into consideration both the submissions it had received and the statutory criteria. The Draft Recommendations proposed a pattern of 17 three-member wards in total.

It was noted that the Council had been specifically advised of the presumption of three-member wards as a consequence of its current electoral pattern and that this might prove challenging given the topography of the area. The Council had indicated its intention to stay with the existing election cycle.

The Commission considered the recommendations in detail informed by the statutory criteria and taking into account the advice of officers and the submissions received.

It agreed the Draft Recommendations as presented.

**Agreed**

Draft Recommendations for South Lakeland District Council as presented.

### 3. East Cambridgeshire Final Recommendations - LGBCE (16)27

The review of East Cambridgeshire District Council had commenced on 16 June 2015. According to the latest available electoral figures, 37 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent with one ward, Dullingham Villages, having a variance of 48 per cent.

At its meeting on 16 June 2015, the Commission had been minded to agree a council size of 28 and had subsequently, on 20 October 2015, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 23 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all of the submissions into account, it was felt that there was sufficient evidence to move away from the Draft Recommendations in some aspects and these changes were reflected in the Final Recommendations put to the Commission for consideration.

The Final Recommendations proposed a pattern of two three-member, ten two-member, and 2 single-member wards in total.

The Commission considered the Final Recommendations in detail, informed by the statutory criteria and taking into account the submissions received following publication of the Draft Recommendations.

It agreed the Final Recommendations as presented with amendments in the following areas:

- A change to the boundary between Ely East and Ely North area.
- The formation of a two-member Sutton ward and a single-member Haddenham ward.
- The single-member wards of Fordham and Isleham will form a two-member ward named Fordham & Isleham.
- The parish of Burrough Green will move from Bottisham to Woodditton.

**Agreed**

- Final Recommendations for East Cambridgeshire District Council as presented.

- To defer the date of publication until the Commission has given consideration to the proposal of a further round of consultation for the Cambridgeshire County Council review at April's Commission meeting.

#### 4. Leicestershire Final Recommendations - LGBCE (16)28

The review of Leicestershire County Council had commenced on April 2015. According to the latest available electoral figures, 33 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on April 2015, the Commission had been minded to agree a council size of 55 and had subsequently, 20 October 2015, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 127 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all of the submissions into account, it was felt that there was sufficient evidence to move away from the Draft Recommendations in some aspects and these changes were reflected in the Final Recommendations put to the Commission for consideration.

The Final Recommendations proposed a pattern of two two-member wards, and 51 single-member wards in total.

The Commission considered the Final Recommendations in detail, informed by the statutory criteria and taking into account the submissions received following publication of the Draft Recommendations.

It agreed the Final Recommendations as presented with amendments in the following areas:

- Modifications to the boundaries of:
  - Sileby & The Wolds
  - Syston Fosse
  - Syston Ridgeway
  - Thurmaston Ridgemere
- A change in name that sees Asfordby division renamed to Melton Wolds.
- The inclusion of the Limes Parish ward in the Coalville North division.
- Oadby & Wigston Borough will see a two-member Oadby division and single-member East Wigston, North Wigston and South & West Wigston divisions.

#### **Agreed**

Final Recommendations for Leicestershire County Council as presented.

## 5. Hampshire Final Recommendations - LGBCE (16)29

The review of Hampshire County Council had commenced on 19 May 2015. According to the latest available electoral figures, 44 per cent of divisions had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 19 May 2015, the Commission had been minded to agree a council size of 78 and had subsequently, 20 October 2015, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 150 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all of the submissions into account, it was felt that there was sufficient evidence to move away from the Draft Recommendations in some aspects and these changes were reflected in the Final Recommendations put to the Commission for consideration. It was also considered that there was sufficient evidence to undertake a period of further limited consultation focusing on the proposals for the Havant Borough and New Forest District areas before the Commission published its Final Recommendations.

The Final Recommendations proposed a pattern of two two-member, and 74 single-member wards in total.

The Commission considered the Final Recommendations in detail, informed by the statutory criteria and taking into account the submissions received following publication of the Draft Recommendations. It agreed to a period of further limited consultation focusing on the areas of Havant Borough and New Forest District.

It also agreed the Final Recommendations as presented with amendments in the following areas:

- A change in East Hampshire which sees amendments to the Alton Rural and Alton Town divisions.
- A change in Eastleigh which sees the Commission adopt three single-member divisions called Botley & Hedge End North, Hedge End & West South End and West End.
- A change to the divisional boundary in Rushmoor.
- A change in Test Valley which sees the transfer of Crampmoor from Romsey Town division to Romsey Rural division.
- A number of divisional name changes.

### **Agreed**

A period of further limited consultation focusing on the areas of Havant Borough and New Forest District.

## 6. Lancashire Final Recommendations - LGBCE (16)30

The review of Lancashire County Council had commenced on 16 June 2015. According to the latest available electoral figures, 39 per cent of divisions had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 16 June 2015, the Commission had been minded to agree a council size of 84 and had subsequently, 20 October 2015, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 145 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all of the submissions into account, it was felt that there was sufficient evidence to move away from the Draft Recommendations in some aspects and these changes were reflected in the Final Recommendations put to the Commission for consideration.

The Final Recommendations proposed a pattern of two two-member, and 80 single-member wards in total.

The Commission considered the Final Recommendations in detail, informed by the statutory criteria and taking into account the submissions received following publication of the Draft Recommendations.

It agreed the Final Recommendations as presented with amendments in the following areas:

- An amendment between the divisions of Pendle Hill and Brierfield & Nelson West area.
- A change to the boundary between Fylde East and Fylde South to include all of Newton-with-Clifton parish in Fylde
- A change to the Rossendale borough which sees changes to three of the borough's five divisions
- A change to Wyre borough which sees the parishes of Myerscough & Bilsborrow and Nateby moved from Wyre Rural Central to Wyre Rural East.
- A change to the boundaries in the boroughs of Chorley and Ribble Valley.

### **Agreed**

Final Recommendations for Lancashire County Council as presented.

## 7. East Sussex Review: Lessons Learnt - LGBCE (16)31

The Review Manager presented a report on the lessons learnt from the recent review of East Sussex County Council. This review was carried out in a co-ordinated process with each of the five districts within the county all reviewed simultaneously.

In addition to the report, the Review Manager confirmed that she was speaking with each of the five districts to gather their feedback on this type of review. A summary of the feedback would be presented to the Commission at a later date.

The Commission noted the report and acknowledged that it had been a valuable project.

## 8. Chair's Report

The Chair expressed thanks to all those who had been involved in putting together the Process Review proposals discussed at the previous day's workshop. He expressed particular thanks to the Finance Director who, together with Alison Lowton, had led the review group. The conclusions of the workshop would be taken forward as agreed.

The Chair confirmed that he would be meeting with the Speaker's Committee the following week.

## 9. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive confirmed that he and the Finance Director would be attending a meeting with Treasury later that day.

## 10. Finance Director's Report

The Finance Director updated the Commission on the Business Team's restructure within the organisation. The aim is for the restructure to take effect from April 2016.

The Commission was given an update on the revised year-end underspend.

## 11. Appraisals Outcome Report 2014-15 – LGBCE (16)32

The Chief Executive presented a report that highlighted the Performance Appraisal outcomes for staff during the period of 2014-15.

The Commission noted its content.

12. Future Business – LGBCE (15)33

The Commission noted its content.

AOB

There were no other items.

**Close of Business 13:00**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Melly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.