

BCFE (08) 9th Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 27 May 2008
at 10.30am at Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street,
London, SW1P 2HW

Present:

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

Also present:

Archie Gall	Director
Graham Essex-Crosby	Local Government Adviser (Items 8-10)
Gareth Nicholson	Media Relations Officer
Alex Robertson	Head of Media and Public Affairs (Items 8-10)
Ann Devine	Senior Legal Officer (Items 1-7)
Sam Hartley	Review Manager
Alison Wildig	Review Manager
William Morrison	Review Assistant
Paul Kingsley	Review Adviser (Items 1-7)
Jessica Metheringham	Review Officer (Items 1-7)
James Ansell	Review Officer (Items 1-7)
Arion Lawrence	Review Officer (Items 1-7)
Tim Atkinson	Senior Review Adviser (Items 8-10)
Tim Bowden	Review Officer (Items 8-10)

1. Opening remarks

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed Committee members and staff to the meeting, and wished to convey his congratulations to Kalim Anwer on the birth of his daughter.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: 21 May 2008 BCFE (08) 8th Meeting

- 2.1 Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1 The Committee noted that Professor Ron Johnston had undertaken an analysis of the CURDs research produced for Exeter City Council.

4. Cornwall: Council size consultation

- 4.1. The Committee discussed the nature of the planned public consultation over council size in Cornwall.
- 4.2. The Committee agreed to consult the public and stakeholders specifically on council size, without targeting the consultation on 90 and 130. This would result in the timetable for this review being extended. A further period of consultation would be needed on electoral arrangements following a decision by the Committee on council size.

5. Wiltshire: Draft recommendations (BCFE (08) 17)

- 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 Committee gave further consideration to the evidence produced by the County Council in support of a 98-member council. It noted that the minutes of a meeting between the Council and members of the Committee has been helpful in clarifying the case for 98 councillors, and asked that these be confirmed as a true record of the discussion by the County Council.
- 5.3 On the basis that the County Council were able to confirm the record, the Committee indicated that they were minded to approve the proposed draft recommendations and would be in a position to confirm their decision when the documented evidence was available

6. Shropshire: Draft recommendations (BCFE (08) 18)

- 6.1 The Committee confirmed its provisional decision to base its draft recommendations on a council size of 74 members.
- 6.2 In considering the Review Team's proposals for draft recommendations, the Committee noted that the geography and transportation routes in the county made the achievement of good electoral equality difficult if community identities were to be reflected. Accordingly, there would be a number of divisions with particularly high variances.
- 6.3 The Committee agreed the proposed draft recommendations subject to clarifications on the naming of some divisions.

7. West Sussex: Draft recommendations (BCFE (08) 19)

- 7.1 The Committee considered and agreed the Review Team's proposals for draft recommendations.

8 Structural reviews communications strategy (BCFE (08) 20)

- 8.1 The Head of Media and Public Affairs said that the paper set out a number of handling options for the publication of the Committee's draft proposals on 7 July.
- 8.2 The Committee agreed that principal local authorities affected by the structural reviews should receive an advance copy of the draft proposals, to prepare their response to press and media enquiries. The Committee agreed to adopt the approach set out in Option 1, of the paper.

9 Any other business

- 9.1. The Chair said that he wished to place on record the Committee's thanks and best wishes to Tim Atkinson on his departure from the Boundary Committee.

10. Next meeting

- 10.1. The next scheduled meeting of the Committee will be on 19 June 2008 in the Boothroyd Room, Trevelyan House at 10.30am

**The Boundary Committee for England,
May 2008**