

## **BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES**

Minutes of the meeting at 16:30 on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

### **Present:**

Mrs Justice Jefford	Deputy Chair
Aaron Sollis	Assessor (Ordnance Survey)
Huw Vaughan Thomas	Commissioner
Sam Hartley	Commissioner
Shereen Williams	Commission Secretary
Tom Jenkins	Commission Secretariat
Rhydian Fitter	Commission Secretariat
Cher Cooke	Commission Secretariat
Huw Blacker	Commission Secretariat
Math Williams	Commission Secretariat

**Time Started:** 16:32

**Time Finished:** 17:55

## **1. INTRODUCTION, OPENING REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 1.1. There were no declarations of interest made.

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 2.1. There were apologies for absence for Neil Park Assessor (Ordnance Survey).

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 3.1. The Commission **agreed** the minutes from the previous meeting held on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

## **4. ISSUES ARISING**

- 4.1. **Issue 1** - Public hearings – The Secretary **advised** that the Commission is currently meeting with various Media / Event providers to discuss the requirements of the hearings. It was also **agreed** upon that we would only provide translation from Welsh into English as part of the hearing, following the practise in the Senedd.

- 4.2. **Issue 2** – Appointment of AC's – The Commission was provided an update on the appointments and a 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 appointment start date has been requested.

## 5. RISK REGISTER

- 5.1. Consideration was given to the report by the HoPP and it was **noted** that the changes **agreed** at the last meeting had been made.
- 5.2. It was **noted** there were four changes to the risk register as below:
- 5.3. **BCW4**: mitigation changed to reflect the completion of the recruitment process and awaiting Ministerial appointment.
- 5.4. **BCW 5**: removed as the consultation portal is now live.
- 5.5. **BCW6**: due to high number of representations received, the Commission is utilising an additional translation company to ensure representations are being translated in a timely manner.
- 5.6. **BCW13**: Mitigation updated to reflect the communications strategy being implemented

## 6. Public Hearing Locations

- 6.1. The Commission considered the Public Hearings Location report by the HoPP.
- 6.2. Following a discussion on locations for public hearings, it was **agreed** that public hearings would be held in the following areas :-
- Aberystwyth
  - Bangor
  - Wrexham
  - Swansea
  - Cardiff
- 6.3. These locations reflected the 'hotspot' areas in the representations received in the first consultation period. It was **noted** that venues will be confirmed at a future date.

## 7. Guide to the Public Hearing

- 7.1. The Commission considered the Guide to Public Hearings Report by the HoPP.

- 7.2. It was **agreed** that those wanting to participate virtually will be asked to indicate the reasons why. It will then be within the discretion of the Assistant commissioners as to whether they can attend virtually.
- 7.3. It was **agreed** upon that the Commission will not permit any other streaming of the hearing, alongside photography.
- 7.4. It was **agreed** that the Commission needed to be prepared with the on-going pandemic that it would be able to switch to virtual hearings if the regulations on Public Health changed.
- 7.5. It was **agreed** to approve the Guide following the amendments discussed alongside other minor changes.

## **8. DISCUSSION ON ROLE OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS (ACs)**

- 8.1. A discussion was held on the role of ACs in the review. The Secretary informed members that ACs will be given all representations received in the first and second consultation period. Following the public hearings, the ACs will then prepare a report for the Commissioners to aid the development of the Revised Proposals.
- 8.2. It was **agreed** that the ACs would review all representations to ensure that the Commissioners continue to maintain their independence in the lead up to preparation of Revised Proposals.
- 8.3. It was **agreed** that the Commissioners will maintain access to the portal but will take no further actions until the ACs have submitted their report.

## **9. 2023 REVISED PROPOSALS REPORT SKELETON**

- 9.1. Consideration was given to the 2023 Revised Proposals Report Skeleton by the HoPP.
- 9.2. As a result of representations received relating to the reduction of the number of MPs and the misunderstanding that the Commission was responsible for the reduction, it was **agreed** that additional information will be included in the report to clarify the role of the Commission in developing constituencies.
- 9.3. It was **agreed** to approve the Report Skeleton following the amendments discussed alongside other minor changes.

## **10. 2018 LESSONS LEARNED REPORT – RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE**

- 10.1. Consideration was given to the Recommendations Update Report by the Secretary.

- 10.2. It was **noted** that most items have now been completed except for those requiring involvement from the Sponsor Division and Welsh Government.
- 10.3. It was also **agreed** that the Communications and Engagement Manager will prepare a report at the next meeting on the media coverage received recently and the accuracy of the media reports

## **11. BCW ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21**

- 11.1. Consideration was given to the Annual Report by the Secretary.
- 11.2. It was **agreed** to include the update to the Speaker of the House of Commons in the 2021/22 work programme.
- 11.3. It was **agreed** to approve the BCW Annual Report 2020/21 following minor amendments to be made by Secretary.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 12.1. The Secretary **advised** the Commission that the ACs will be invited to the Commission's office for an induction and this invitation will be extended to the Commissioners to meet with the newly appointed ACs.

**Next Meeting will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 4:30pm.**