

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES

Minutes of the meeting at 10am on Tuesday 13th December 2022 via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

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| Mrs Justice Jefford | Deputy Chair |
| Pam Whitman | Assessor (Ordnance Survey) |
| Huw Vaughan Thomas | Commissioner |
| Sam Hartley | Commissioner |
| Shereen Williams | Commission Secretary |
| Tom Jenkins | Commission Secretariat |
| Paul Elliott | Commission Secretariat |
| Carys Vaughan | Commission Secretariat |

Time Started: 10.13

Time Finished: 11:53

1. INTRODUCTION, OPENING REMARKS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1.1. The Secretary declared an interest in Pontardawe as a property owner.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 2.1. There were apologies for absence from Neil Park, Assessor (ONS) and Huw Blacker, Commission Secretariat.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 3.1. The Commission **agreed** the minutes from the previous meeting held on, Wednesday 27th July 2022.

4. ISSUES ARISING

- 4.1. The Secretary provided updates on Issues arising from the Commission meeting of Wednesday 27th July 2022.

Issue 1 – Meeting with Assistant Commissioners

- 4.2. It was **noted** that a meeting was held on the 13th September 2022 with the Assistant Commissioners to provide an informal briefing on the revised proposals.

Issue 2 – Revised Proposals Publication Dates for other Commissions

- 4.3. The Commissioners were informed that the publication date for the other UK Commissions revised proposals were as follows:
BCE – 08 September 2022
BCS – 16 November 2022
BCNI – 17 November 2022

5. RISK REGISTER

- 5.1. Consideration was given to the report dated 23 November 2022 by the HoPP and the Risk Register was **noted**.
- 5.2. It was **noted** that BCW11 had been removed from the Risk Register as the Commission has closed its final consultation period.
- 5.3. It was **agreed** to remove BCW19 from the Risk Register as it no longer impacts the Commissions work for the 2023 Review.
- 5.4. **Action:** The HoPP to remove BCW19 from the Risk Register.

6. OPTIONS FOR FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1. The Commission considered the report dated December 2022 by the HoPP.
- 6.2. The Commission considered schemes as shown in the Options Paper.
- 6.3. The Commission Secretariat responded to questions from the Commissioners.
- 6.4. After consideration and discussion, the Commission **agreed** on a Scheme for the Final Recommendations that will be set out by the Commission in its Final Recommendation Report.
- 6.5. The Commission considered the names for the new proposed constituencies and agreed both a name and an alternative name in the alternative language for each constituency where appropriate.
- 6.6. It was **agreed** that the Commission will highlight in the Final Recommendations Report that legislation restricts the Commissions ability to solve all issues presented in the representations received.
- 6.7. The Commissioners requested the Final Recommendations Scheme Stats be sent to them.

- 6.8. The Deputy Chair thanked the Secretariat for their work in formulating the Options paper.
- 6.9. **Action:** The HoPP to send the Final Recommendations Scheme Stats to Commissioners.

7. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT SKELETON

- 7.1. The Commission considered the report dated December 2022 by the HoPP.
- 7.2. The Commissioners to send additional comments and amendments for the draft final recommendations report to the HoPP. The updated draft report is to be submitted to the Commissioners by the 11th January 2023.
- 7.3. **Action:** The Commissioners to send the HoPP additional comments and amendments for the draft final recommendations report.
- 7.4. **Action:** The HoPP to send the updated version of the draft final recommendations report to the Commissioners by the 11th January 2023.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1. It was **agreed** the next meeting would be held at 10am on 25th January 2023.
- 8.2. It was **agreed** that the Commission will conduct interviews to assess what processes went well or could be improved in order to pass on lessons learnt for future reviews. It was **noted** that some recommendations from previous lessons learnt were used for policy and practice for the 2023 Review.
- 8.3. The Secretary informed the Commissioners that the Commission had identified alternative office accommodation but are unable to obtain this accommodation due to restraints in the budget. The Commission has been selected as one of many public bodies who have the option of moving to the newly renovated secure top floor of CP2 (WG building). The Commission has looked at this space and has questions and concerns including parking, ICT and physical separation. The Commission has requested barriers be put in place to ensure the Commission is separate from WG Ministers and colleagues. Discussions are ongoing with WG and the Commission are waiting for more information including floor size and how this will work in practice. DLUHC has been informed of the potential move. The Commissioners **agreed** with the Secretariat's concerns and emphasised that the Commission is an independent public body. Huw Vaughan Thomas enquired if the new UK Government Cardiff hub would be suitable accommodation for the Commission. The Secretary **agreed** to look into this.
- 8.4. **Action:** The Secretary to enquire if office accommodation in the new UK Government Cardiff hub is appropriate for the Commission.

