

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

**Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh
Tuesday 14 March 2017**

Present

Mr R Hinds, Chair
Mr R Bean
Prof. A Henderson
Dr S Walker

Ms I Drummond-Murray, Secretary
Mr C Wilson
Ms L Cregan
Mr D Campbell

Declaration of Interests

1. There were no changes to any declarations previously given.

Minutes of previous meeting

2. The Commission confirmed its agreement of the minutes of the 9 November 2016 meeting, subject to a minor amendment.

Matters arising

3. The Commission heard a report from the Secretary and Dr Walker following their attendance at the December 2016 meeting of the UK Boundary Commissions in Belfast. The Commission noted the comments raised regarding value for money consultation solutions. The Commission asked the Secretary to make arrangements to visit LGBCS to discuss rolling electoral reviews. The Chair noted his interest in attending this visit.

Business Update

4. The Secretary gave a brief update on the work of the Boundary Commission for Scotland (BCS) and its on-going 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies. The Commission heard that the BCS is currently in a second period of public consultation on its Initial Proposals which will conclude on 27 March 2017.
5. The Secretary gave a short update regarding the recruitment process for the position of Deputy Chair of the Commission which is currently vacant and for Commissioner appointments or re-appointments. Discussions are on-going with the sponsor department.
6. The Secretary had circulated a Local Government Information Unit article on the 5th Review of Electoral Arrangements; this was noted.

Consideration of 5th Reviews: Recommendations for future (Paper LGBCS 2407)

7. The Commission discussed Paper 2407 and agreed the content of the attached matrix, subject to a number of amendments which are to be taken forward by the Secretary.

Future review work (LGBCS Paper 2408)

8. The Commission discussed Paper 2408 which covered all aspects of review work likely to fall within the Commission's remit for 2017 and subsequent years. These include work on islands authorities in light of the planned Islands Bill; approach to future electoral reviews for local government; and Scottish Parliament boundaries once responsibility is transferred to the Commission. The Commission asked the Secretariat to progress a number of actions to inform consideration of these areas of work, and to arrange a meeting with the Minister for Parliamentary Business.
9. The Commission noted that Ministers were expected to renew the Direction not to undertake reviews of all council areas, which expires on 31 March 2017.
10. The Commission decided to further consider Dundee Civic Trust's request for an administrative area boundary review of Dundee City council area at their next meeting.

Research into councillor workload (LGBCS Paper 2409)

11. The Commission considered LGBCS Paper 2409 and agreed to publish the completed research as soon as is practicable.

Administrative Review: Cardowan/Stepps (Paper LGBCS 2410)

12. The Commission noted the responses received from Glasgow City and North Lanarkshire councils during the initial consultation. The Commission asked the Secretariat to commence the 12 week public consultation stage of the Review at an appropriate time after the conclusion of the Local Government Elections on 4 May 2017. The Commission also agreed to trial the Scottish Government consultation hub during the public consultation.

LGBCS Corporate Plan 2017-2018 (Paper LGBCS 2411)

13. The Commission considered the draft Corporate Plan for 2017-2018 and agreed it subject to a number of amendments.

Standing Orders (Paper LGBCS 2412)

14. The Commission considered Paper 2412 and requested that the Secretary prepare a draft Standing Order document for consideration at the next Commission meeting.

LGBCS Web Statistics (Paper LGBCS 2413)

15. The Commission noted Paper 2413 with interest and asked the Secretariat to continue to monitor website traffic.

Finance Update (Paper LGBCS 2414)

16. The Commission noted the current financial position.

Future Meetings

17. The Commission asked the Secretariat to canvass for suitable dates for the next Commission meeting in May or early June 2017 unless an earlier date is warranted by urgent business.

Any Other Business

18. There were no items of AOB for consideration.