

**LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES MEETING
HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2017 AT HASTINGS HOUSE**

Present: Mr Owen Watkin (Chair); Mr Ceri Stradling; Mr David Powell; and Mrs Julie May.

LDBCW Officers attending: Mr Steve Halsall (Chief Executive); Mr Matt Redmond (Deputy Chief Executive); Mr Dave Carr (Finance Manager); Mr Ralph Handscomb (Review Officer); Mr Ross Evans (Review Officer); Mrs Cher Cooke (Review Officer); Mr Daniel Mosley (Review Officer); Mr Farhan Khan (Review Officer); Deb Jones (Business Support Officer) and Mrs Caroline Redmond (Office Assistant).

Time Started: 09:30

Time Finished: 16:50

Apologies: Mr Theodore Joloza.

1. Declarations of Interest

1.1. No Declarations of Interest were made.

2. Chair's Briefing

2.1. The Chair briefed the Commission on the recent One Voice Wales conference he attended last week. The Cabinet Secretary made a speech where he welcomed the Commission's 'Guidance on Community Reviews', which has recently been published for consultation, saying that it was an important piece of work which would be useful for Councils in the future.

2.2. The Chair briefed the Commission on a recent IRP meeting he attended, which discussed the role of Councillors across the UK.

3. Minutes of the Commission meeting held on 26 September 2017

3.1. It was **Resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2017 as a correct record of the matters considered.

4. Issues Arising

4.1. Consideration was given to the report dated 11 October 2017 by the Chief Executive on Issues Arising.

4.2. It was **Resolved** to accept the Report as a whole noting the issue for later discussion in the meeting, and updated progress was also noted on the following issues:

- **(Issue 1) Staffing** – Interviews for the Business Support Manager to be completed on 13 November 2017. The recently appointed Review Officer is unable to start and therefore the Commission agreed that the remaining reviews can be conducted within the Commission's resources.
- It was further **Resolved** to remove the additional post from the staff structure.
- **(Issue 3) Welsh Language Standards** – The Commission's complaints policy has been published. The Policy and Procedures will be published in due course.
- **(Issue 6) Inter-Commission Meeting 2017** – Final arrangements are to be organised.
- **(Issue 8) Community Review Guidance** – This was published on the 28 September, and is currently undergoing consultation with stakeholders.

5. Welsh Language White Paper Response

- 5.1. Consideration was given to the Report dated 3 October 2017 by the Chief Executive
- 5.2. The Commission **Agreed** the response, with a slight amendment. This will now be translated and the response will be sent to the consultation.

6. Sustainable Procurement Policy

- 6.1. Consideration was given to the Report dated 30 September 2017 by the Business Support Officer.
- 6.2. The Commission **Noted** the policy and recommended several amendments to the Policy wording to reflect the Commission's economic, environmental and ethical considerations, in addition to updating specific references to current European Union regulations.
- 6.3. The Commission **Agreed** the policy, with the above modifications.

7. Human Resources Policies

- 7.1. Consideration was given to the Report dated 11 October 2017 by the Business Support Officer

- 7.2. The Commission **Noted** the delegation of responsibility over approval of HR policy versions and updates, and recommended that the Corporate Hospitality Policy and Data Protection Policy should require Commission-level approval.
- 7.3. The Commission **Agreed** the delegation of HR policy approvals, with the inclusion of the above changes.

8. Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill

- 8.1. Consideration was given to the Report dated 11 October 2017 by the Chief Executive.
- 8.2. The Commission **Noted** the Consultation and **Agreed** the proposed response.

9. Risk Management – Risk Register

- 9.1. Consideration was given to the Report dated 24 October 2017 by the Finance Manager. It was considered that the Register accurately reflected the current risks to the Commission's corporate objectives. It was **agreed** that no change was required.
- 9.2. The Commission **Noted** the report.

10. Budget Report

- 10.1. Consideration was given to the Report dated 24 October 2017 by the Finance Manager. The estimated underspend was considered and there was discussion regarding current and future staffing issues and the requirement recently raised by the landlord for the Commission to undertake redecoration of Hastings House at the end of the current lease. It was considered that a more accurate estimate of the final underspend would be available by December.
- 10.2. The Commission **Noted** the report.

11. Powys Electoral Review

- 11.1. Consideration was given to the Report dated 13 October 2017 by the Review Officer.
- 11.2. The Commission **Agreed** to Option 1 for the Town of Ystradgynlais which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Aber-craf and Ystradgynlais, Cwm-Twrch and, Ynyscedwyn.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Improved electoral parity in the area, whilst utilising the existing electoral arrangements.
- Retains the most single-member wards as well as providing for the lowest level of disruption to the area.

- 11.3. The Commission Agreed to Option 5 for the Llangors area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Bronllys and Felin-Fach, Llangors with Bwlch, Crickhowell with Cwmdu and Tretower, Yscir with Honddu Isaf and Llanddew, Llangattock and Llangynidr, Maescar and Llywel, Talgarth, Talybont-on-Usk and, Tawe-Uchaf.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Provides for the most effective and convenient arrangements for local government in the wider area.
- Retains a large number of the existing arrangements.
- Whilst it does create a multi-member ward in the Crickhowell area, in order to improve the electoral variance and due to the geography it is required to do so.
- It is acknowledged that this splits the Community of Cwmdu and District, yet it is believed that the Bwlch ward and the Cwmdu ward are focused in different directions, with communication links for Bwlch going more northwards and Cwmdu and Tretower focussed southwards along the A479.

- 11.4. The Commission Agreed to Option 2 for the Brecon area which contains the proposed electoral ward of:

Brecon

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- The proposal follows the representation received from the Town Council.
- Whilst it is a multi-member, it is in an urban area which allows for effective multi-member representation.

- 11.5. The Commission Agreed to Option 2 for the Builth area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Builth, Llanafanfawr with Garth and, Llanwrtyd Wells.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- The proposal retains single members across the area.
- Recognises the rural and urban divide between Builth and the larger rural area surrounding it.
- Whilst it does split the Community of Treflys, it provides for the most effective set of arrangements for the wider area, whilst improving the overall electoral variance and it is believed that Garth and Buelah are separate settlements.

- 11.6. The Commission Agreed to Option 4 for the Mid Powys area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Abbey Cwmhir, Llanbadarn Fynydd and Llanbister, Aberedw, Dissert and Trecoed and Llanellwedd, Knighton with Beguildy, Glasbury, Glascwm, Llanbadarn Fawr and New Radnor, Llangunllo with Norton, Llanyre and Nantmel, Old Radnor and Painscastle, Presteigne and Rhayader.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Leads to an effective set of arrangements for the wider area with greater electoral equality.
- Respecting the integrity of most of the communities,
- Whilst it does split the Town of Presteigne, it was decided that to respect the urban and rural divide within the area this was required in order to improve the overall level of electoral variance whilst providing for different urban and rural electoral wards.
- Notes the range of internal communication links throughout the proposed areas.

- 11.7. The Commission Agreed to Option 1 for Llandrindod Wells area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Llandrindod North and Llandrindod South.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Improves the electoral variance in the area.
- Whilst it proposes a multi-member it is in an urban area which facilitates an effective multi-member representation.

- 11.8. The Commission Agreed to Option 5 for the Kerry area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Churchstoke, Llandinam with Dolfor, and Kerry

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Provides for single-member wards across the area.
- Whilst it does split the Community of Kerry it is based on existing communication links between the Dolfor ward and the Community of Mochdre which is part of the existing Electoral Ward of Llandinam.

11.9. The Commission Agreed to Option 2 for the Llandinam area - which will now be called the Llanidloes Area (following the decision made on the Kerry and surrounding area). It contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Carno and Llanbrynmair, Caersws, Glantwymyn, Llanidloes with Llangurig, Llanidloes Without and Trefeglwys, and Machynlleth.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- The population centre within Llanidloes and Llangurig is relatively close together and is concentrated which would ensure an effective multi-member electoral ward.
- There are good communication links within the proposed area.
- Significant improvements in electoral variances.

11.10. The Commission Agreed to Option 1 for Newtown area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Newtown East, Newtown Llanllwchaiarn North, Newtown Llanllwchaiarn West and, Newtown Central and South.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Retains a large amount of the existing electoral wards.
- Improves the overall variance in the area.

11.11. The Commission Agreed to Option 2 for the Montgomery area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Dolforwyn, Forden and Montgomery, and, Trelystan and Trewern.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Provides for all single members in the area.
- Improves the overall electoral variance in the area.

- This proposal does split the Community of Forden, but doing so enables the creation of three single-member wards, as opposed to the alternative option (option 1) which would result in a multi-member ward representing Montgomery up to Middletown.

11.12. The Commission Agreed to Option 3 for the Welshpool area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Welshpool Castle, Welshpool Gungrog, and Welshpool Llanerchuddol.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Accepting the boundary change proposed by Welshpool Town Council creates three single-member wards which provide for a better electoral variance.

The Commission accepted the consequential changes to Welshpool Town Council.

11.13. The Commission Agreed to Option 1 for the Berriew area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Berriew and Castle Caereinion, Guilsfield, and Rhiwcynon

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Provides an effective set of arrangements with the least amount of disruption to the existing electoral arrangements.
- Improves the overall electoral variance.
- Ensures the integrity of the communities in the area.

11.14. The Commission Agreed to Option 1 for the Llanwddyn area which contains the proposed electoral wards of:

Banwy, Llanfihangel and Llanwddyn, Llandrinio, Llandysilio, Llanerfyl and Llanfair Caereinion, Llanfyllin, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant and Llansilin, Llansantffraid and, Llangyniew and Meifod.

The following reasons were noted in support of the decision:

- Provides for single-member wards throughout this area.
- Improves the electoral variance in the area.
- Good internal communication links within the wards proposed.

11.15. The proposed names will be agreed by email; before being sent to the Welsh Language Commissioner for comments before the Draft Proposal Report is brought to the Commission next month.

12. Reviews Progress Report

12.1. Consideration was given to the Report dated 24 October 2017 by the Deputy Chief Executive.

12.2. The Commission **Noted** the report.

13. Calendar of Events

13.1. The Commission **Noted** the calendar.

14. Any Other Business

14.1. There was no other business to discuss.

Date of Next Meeting: 21 November 2017