

## LGBCE (23-24) 3 Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 20 June 2023, at 11:15am, in LGBCE Board Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0TL.

### Commissioners Present

Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)  
Susan Johnson OBE  
Amanda Nobbs OBE  
Andrew Scallan CBE  
Steve Robinson  
Liz Treacy

### LGBCE Officers Present:

Jolyon Jackson CBE	Chief Executive
Alison Evison	Review & Programme Manager
Richard Buck	Review Manager
Richard Otterway	Review Manager
Paul Nizinskyj	Review Officer (item 4)
Paul Kingsley	Review Officer (item 5)
Rafa Chowdhury	Finance Lead (minutes)

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Kathryn Trower (Interim Director of Corporate Services).

### Declarations of interest

Collin Mellors declared an interest in item 3 (Bradford Council Size) and took no part in the discussions of that item.

### Minutes of LGBCE's meeting on 16 May 2023

The minutes were agreed as a correct record, and were signed by the Chair.

### Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

## Actions from the previous Commission Board meeting

The following actions were reported on:

- Consideration of the Equalities Act on the review process – To be discussed at the Board/Leadership Team awayday on 29 June 2023.
- Clarity on corporate plan objectives – CEO to discuss timescale with Interim DCS
- Progression on resilience and retention – CEO to discuss timescale with Interim DCS
- Future Commission Office accommodation requirements – CEO to discuss with Interim DCS
- Actions from the review undertaken by Sir Tony Redmond – Roles and responsibilities to be discussed at the Board/Leadership Team awayday on 29 June 2023. Vision will be discussed today during the Policy session. Value for money to be discussed at October Policy session.

### 1. Chair's Report

The Chair updated the Board on the progress for recruiting a replacement Chief Executive Officer.

### 2. Operational Report – LGBCE(23/24)027

The Chief Executive presented the Operational Report for June 2023 and the Commission noted its content.

- North Tyneside –The Commission Board agreed to further consultation.
- Worcestershire – The Commission Board agreed to extend the current consultation period by approximately two months at the request of the County Council. This was to allow time to take account of the final recommendations for the Worcester city area which are scheduled to be published in August 2023.
- Kirklees Council Size – The Commission Board agreed to defer consideration by two months to give the political groups time to make evidenced submissions.
- Recruitment and staffing - A new Review Assistant, Ben Russon, has been recruited and is scheduled to start at the Commission on 3 July 2023. A new Communications & Engagement Manager, Hayley Meachin, had been recruited and is scheduled to start at the Commission on 3 July 2023. Brendan Connell-French has started his role as a Review Officer.
- Lead Commissioner allocation of reviews - The Chair agreed the Lead Commissioner allocations.

### 3 Bradford Council Size - LGBCE(23/24)028

*The Chair left the meeting and took no part in the discussion in this item. This item was chaired by the Deputy Chair, Andrew Scallan.*

It had been agreed to review Bradford Council given the time elapsed since the last review.

Twenty three per cent of wards have variances greater than 10 per cent.

The current size of the Council is 90 members.

Following receipt of information about future governance and representational arrangements, it was recommended by the review team that there was sufficient evidence to support that the council size remain at 90 members.

The Board considered all the available evidence, and, on the basis of this evidence, it was minded to support a council size of 90 members.

**Agreed**

The Board agreed that a council size of 90 be used as the basis for the preparation of the Draft Recommendations.

*The Chair, Colin Mellors returned to the meeting.*

#### 4 Dudley Draft Recommendations - LGBCE(23/24)029

The review of Dudley Council had commenced on 13 December 2022.

At its meeting on 13 December 2022, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 72 and the Draft Recommendations being considered had been prepared by the review team on the basis of such a council size.

In preparing the draft recommendations, the team had taken into consideration both the submissions it had received and the statutory criteria. The Draft Recommendations proposed a pattern of 24 three-member wards in total.

The Board considered the recommendations in detail informed by the statutory criteria and taking into account the advice of officers and the submissions received.

It agreed the Draft Recommendations as presented.

**Agreed**

Draft Recommendations for Dudley Council as presented.

#### 5 Wokingham Final Recommendations - LGBCE(23/24)030

The review of Wokingham Council had commenced on 22 August 2022.

At its meeting on 22 August 2022, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 54 and had subsequently, on 24 January 2023, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 62 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all of the submissions into account, for the reasons highlighted in the report, the team considered that there was sufficient evidence to move away from the Draft Recommendations in some aspects and these changes were reflected in the Final Recommendations put to the Board for consideration. The Final Recommendations proposed a pattern of 18 three member wards in total.

The Board considered the Final Recommendations in detail, informed by the statutory criteria and taking into account the submissions received following publication of the Draft Recommendations.

It agreed the Final Recommendations as presented.

**Agreed**

Final Recommendations for Wokingham Council as presented.

The Board agreed to the laying of a draft Order before Parliament giving effect to its final recommendations for Wokingham Council.

## 6 Dorset Related Alterations - LGBCE(23/24)031

The Board considered the content of the Dorset Council Related Alterations paper. It was minded to agree to the related alterations as the changes proposed would promote effective and convenient local government.

**Agreed**

The Board agreed to the making of an Order implementing the related alterations.

## AOB

The following will be discussed at the Board/Leadership Team awayday on 29 June 2023

- Consideration of the Equalities Act on the review process
- Lessons Learned
- Roles and responsibilities