

## LGBCE (24-25) 11th meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024 at 2:00pm  
All Commissioners and officers attended the meeting via Teams

### Commissioners present:

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

### LGBCE officers present:

Ailsa Irvine	Chief Executive
Alison Evison	Review & Programme Manager
Richard Buck	Review Manager
Hayley Meachin	Communications and Engagement Manager
Jonathan Ashby	Review Officer and Mapping Lead
Tom Rutherford	Review Officer and Review Process Lead
Paul Kingsley	Review Officer (for item 1)
Mark Cooper	Review Officer (for items 2 & 5)
Brendan Connell-French	Review Officer (for item 4)
Nicole Holt	Review Officer (for item 6)
Rafa Chowdhury	Finance Lead (minutes)

### Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Kathryn Trower, Interim Director of Corporate Services. Alison Evison gave apologies for the latter part of the meeting, from 3:15pm.

### Declarations of interest

Colin Mellors and Wallace Sampson noted their respective engagement in work across Yorkshire, as recorded on the register of interests.

Wallace Sampson declared an interest in item 3, Wakefield Draft Recommendations, and item 5, Bradford Final Recommendations, and took no part in the discussion of those items.

Colin Mellors declared an interest in item 5, Bradford Final Recommendations, and item 6, Kirklees Final Recommendations, and took no part in the discussion of those items.

## 1. South Tyneside Final Recommendations – LGBCE (24-25)085

The review of South Tyneside Council had commenced on 18 April 2023. According to the latest available electoral figures, 22 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 18 April 2023, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 54 and had subsequently, on 19 September 2024, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 293 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

At its meeting on 12 March 2024, the Board agreed new Draft Recommendations. Following publication of the new Draft Recommendations, 76 submissions had been received which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all the submissions into account, it was felt that there was sufficient evidence to move away from the new Draft Recommendations in some aspects, and these were reflected in the Final Recommendations put to the Board for consideration.

The Final Recommendations proposed a pattern of 18 three-member wards.

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

### **Agreed**

The Board agreed the Final Recommendations for South Tyneside Council as presented.

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

## 2. Barnsley Final Recommendations – LGBCE (24-25)086

The review of Barnsley Council had commenced on 17 October 2023. According to the latest available electoral figures, 19 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 17 October 2023, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 63 and had subsequently, on 25 April 2024, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 225 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all the submissions into account, for the reasons highlighted in the team's report, it was felt 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 21 three-member wards.

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, and was minded to agree them.

### **Agreed**

The Board agreed the Final Recommendations for Barnsley Council as presented.

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

### **3. Wakefield Final Recommendations – LGBCE(24-25)087**

*Wallace Sampson left the meeting and took no part in the discussion on this item.*

The review of Wakefield Council had commenced on 14 November 2023. According to the latest available electoral figures, 29 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 14 November 2023, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 63 and had subsequently, on 25 April 2024, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 40 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all the submissions into account, for the reasons highlighted in the team's report, it was felt 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 21 three-member wards.

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, and was minded to agree them.

### **Agreed**

The Board agreed the Final Recommendations for Wakefield Council as presented.

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

*Wallace Sampson returned to the meeting at the conclusion of this item.*

#### 4. Vale of White Horse Final Recommendations – LGBCE(24-25)088

The review of Vale of White Horse Council had commenced on 12 December 2023. According to the latest available electoral figures, 33 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent, with one ward having a variance of over 30 per cent.

At its meeting on 12 December 2023, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 38. At its meeting on 21 May 2024, the Board agreed to move away from its original opinion on council size and instead agreed to a council size of 39 since this allowed for a better warding pattern. It also agreed Draft Recommendations at that meeting.

Following publication, 26 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all the submissions into account, for the reasons highlighted in the team's report, it was felt 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 4 three-, 10 two-, and 7 single-member wards.

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, and was minded to agree them.

#### **Agreed**

The Board agreed the Final Recommendations for Vale of White Horse as presented.

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

*Alison Evison left the meeting.*

#### 5. Bradford Final Recommendations – LGBCE(24-25)088

*Colin Mellors and Wallace Sampson left the meeting and took no part in the discussion on this item. This item was chaired by the Deputy Chair, Andrew Scallan.*

The review of Bradford Council had commenced on 20 June 2023. According to the latest available electoral figures, 23 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 20 June 2023, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 90 and had subsequently, on 14 November 2023, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 191 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

At its meeting on 21 May 2024, the Board agreed to a period of further limited consultation focusing on the areas of Baildon, Bingley and Shipley, and the six southernmost wards of the city (Bowling & Barkerend, Queensbury, Royds, Tong Street, Wibsey & Odsal and Wyke). The Board agreed, in principle, to the Final Recommendations for the remaining areas of the city.

Following publication of the Further Draft Recommendations, 400 submissions had been received which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all the submissions into account, for the reasons highlighted in the team's report, it was felt 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 30 three-member wards.

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

### **Agreed**

The Board agreed the Final Recommendations for Bradford Council as presented.

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

*Wallace Sampson returned to the meeting at the conclusion of this item.*

## **6. Kirklees Final Recommendations – LGBCE(24-25)089**

*This item was chaired by the Deputy Chair, Andrew Scallan.*

The review of Kirklees council had commenced on 19 September 2023. According to the latest available electoral figures, 13 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 19 September 2023, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 69 and had subsequently, on 13 February 2024, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 155 submissions had been received commenting on the Draft Recommendations which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

At its meeting on 18 July 2024, the Board agreed to a period of further limited consultation focusing on the Huddersfield and Dewsbury areas, and agreed in principle the Final Recommendations for remaining areas of Kirklees.

Following publication of the Further Draft Recommendations, 43 submissions had been received which had been considered carefully in the context of the statutory criteria.

Taking all the submissions into account, for the reasons highlighted in the team's report, it was felt that there was sufficient evidence to move away from the Further 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 23 three-member wards.

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

### **Agreed**

The Board agreed the Final Recommendations for Kirklees Council as presented.

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

*Colin Mellors returned to the meeting at the conclusion of this item.*