

LGBCE (25-26) 4th meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2025 at 9:30am
In the DoubleTree by Hilton, Pentonville Road, London

Commissioners present:

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

LGBCE officers present:

Ailsa Irvine	Chief Executive
Rachel Barker	Director of Reviews, Strategy & Engagement
Bipon Bhakri	Director of Corporate Services
Alison Evison	Review & Programme Manager
Richard Buck	Review Manager
Hayley Meachin	Communications and Engagement Manager
Jonathan Ashby	Senior Review Officer
Angela Hendry	HR Lead (minutes)

Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Brendan Connell-French.

Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the LGBCE's meetings on 20 May 2025 and 17 June 2025

The minutes of both meetings were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Actions from previous Commission Board meetings

The following actions were reported on:

- Stakeholder survey: the results are included in the Q1 performance report, and an assessment of the performance of the new survey will be brought to the Board in August.
- Strategic discussion on review programming: work is underway to develop the session which will be included on the agenda for the September Board/Leadership Team away day.
- Formally pursue with MHCLG the consistent use of terminology in relation to wards/divisions: further work ongoing to understand the legal changes that would be required to enable this, to inform further engagement with MHCLG.

1. Chair's report

The Chair reported on the Commission's attendance at the LGA conference in Liverpool, and noted the positive engagement with colleagues across the local government community and the success of the ESRI Sweet demonstration at our stand.

2. Operational report - LGBCE(25/26) 022

The Chief Executive presented the operational report for July and the Board noted its content.

- The Board will formally consider the request for an electoral review from Dorset Council at the August 2025 meeting.
- The Chief Executive updated that the outstanding pension information had been received, enabling the Annual Report & Accounts to be finalised and reviewed by the NAO. The ARA will be laid in Parliament on 15 July.
- In response to a question on the SharePoint project, it was confirmed that a data cleanse had been completed prior to the migration, as part of the records management project.
- In response to a question on FOI requests, it was agreed that where the FOI request is in relation to an electoral review, the relevant Lead Commissioner should be made aware of and provided with a copy of the request.

3. Q1 performance report – LGBCE(25/26) 023

The Director of Corporate Services presented the Q1 report and the Board noted its contents.

- The Board welcomed the presentation and scope of the report.
- There was support for the development of targets for the performance measures. It was proposed that this be considered once the baseline

performance against the new measures had been established, as part of the 2026/27 planning process.

- There was a discussion about stakeholder feedback, including how we were capturing feedback on other aspects of our work beyond reviews, such as in relation to local government reorganisation. The team undertook to explore how future reports can provide a more rounded picture of feedback, drawing from a range of different sources beyond our core stakeholder survey.

4. Hybrid working policy evaluation & office accommodation – LGBCE(25/26) 024

The Board discussed the hybrid working policy and office accommodation report and provided feedback on the findings and action plan.

- The Board expressed their continued support for hybrid working, and welcomed the Leadership Team's commitment to ensuring that the policy is consistently implemented.
- It was noted that it would be useful to have data on office occupancy and desk usage to inform future consideration of our office space requirements.
- There was appetite for further work to ensure that we are getting the most out of how we are working and making hybrid working as effective as possible – for example, by developing our understanding of how it enables us to achieve our objectives and what works well when we get together in person.
- It was agreed to have a further discussion on the type of organisation we want to be and how our ways of working can help us to achieve that at the strategic awayday in September.

5. ARC membership – LGBCE(25/26) 025

The Board agreed to appoint Liz Treacy as Chair of ARC for a period of one year, commencing on 17 September 2025.

The Board agreed to the re-appointment of David Horne as the Independent Member of ARC for one year, commencing on 23 August 2025.

6. Commission Board workplan

It was noted that there may be a Remuneration Committee meeting on the same date as the August Board meeting, subject to all the information needed to inform discussions being available in sufficient time. There will also be an informal session after the formal meetings, focussed around LGR.

The strategic awayday for Commissioners and Leadership Team will be on 11 and 12 September in Leeds.