

LGBCE (22-23) 02 Meeting

Minutes of meeting held on 29 April 2022, at 09:30 am. All Commissioners and officers attended the meeting via Teams.

Commissioners Present

Professor Colin Mellors OBE (Chair)
Susan Johnson OBE
Peter Maddison QPM
Amanda Nobbs OBE
Andrew Scallan CBE
Steve Robinson

LGBCE Officers Present:

Jolyon Jackson CBE	Chief Executive
Lynn Ingram	Director of Corporate Services
Glynn McDonald	Communications & Public Affairs Manager
Alison Evison	Review & Programme Manager
Richard Buck	Review Manager
Richard Otterway	Review Manager
David Owen	Review Officer (item 2)
Jonny Ashby	Review Officer (item 3)
Angela Hendry	Office Manager/HR Lead (minutes)

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Lynn Ingram.

Declarations of interest

Amanda Nobbs declared an interest in item 3 Guildford and took no part in the discussions of that item.

1. Programme Review – LGBCE(22-23) 014

The Review Programme Manager introduced the Programme Review Report. Potential intervention authorities will come to the September meeting.

It was noted that there were a couple of authorities that needed clarification/alteration (e.g., Sedgemore to be removed and where Swale is located in five year programme).

It was noted that having a reasonable lead time was helpful to local authorities in terms of encouraging them to consider what they might achieve from a review and how best to prepare for it. Any impact on the electoral cycle was also important. Further consideration will be given by the team about how and when to communicate with the local authority in advance of proposed reviews.

It was noted that the Chief Executive was progressing the work being undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny on council size submissions.

Agreed

The Commission Board endorsed the proposed approach to the Programme and the allocations as set out.

It was agreed to include Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council in the 2022/23 programme.

2. Wigan Final Recommendations – LGBCE(22-23) 015

The review of Wigan Council had commenced on 16 February 2021. According to the latest available electoral figures, 12 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 16 February 2021, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 75 and had subsequently, on 16 November 2021, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 132 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 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 25 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 Wigan Council as presented.

Agreed

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

3. Guildford Final Recommendations – LGBCE(22-23) 016

Amanda Nobbs left the meeting and took no part in the discussion of this agenda item.

The review of Guildford Council had commenced on 19 January 2021. According to the latest available electoral figures, 14 per cent of wards had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 19 January 2021, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 48 and had subsequently, on 16 November 2021, agreed Draft Recommendations.

Following publication, 17 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 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 8 three-, 11 two-, and 2 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.

It agreed the Final Recommendations as presented.

Agreed

Final Recommendations for Guildford Council as presented.

Agreed

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

Amanda Nobbs returned to the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

4. Lancaster Council Final Recommendations – LGBCE(22-23) 017

The review of Lancaster City Council had commenced on 19 January 2021. According to the latest available electoral figures, 33 per cent of wards/divisions had variances greater than 10 per cent.

At its meeting on 19 January 2021, the Board had been minded to agree a council size of 60 and had subsequently, on 17 August 2021, agreed Draft Recommendations. The Further Draft Recommendations were, however, based on an increase in Council size to 61 since it was felt this could provide for a pattern of boundaries that better reflected the statutory criteria..

At its meeting on 18 January 2022, the Board agreed a period of Further limited consultation be conducted focusing on the areas of:

- University, Ellel, Bowerham, Scotforth and John O’Gaunt
- Castle, Marsh and Bulk
- Warton, Halton-with-Aughton & Kellet, Upper Lune Valley and Lower Lune Valley

Following publication, 23 submissions had been received commenting on the Further 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 team’s report, it was felt that there was sufficient evidence to move away from the Further Draft Recommendations in some small respects and these changes were reflected in the Final Recommendations put to the Board for consideration.

The Final Recommendations proposed a pattern of 11 three-, 12 two-, and 4 single-member wards in total.

It agreed the Final Recommendations as presented.

Agreed

Final Recommendations for Lancaster Council as presented.

Agreed

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

5. GLA Update – LGBCE(22-23) 018

The Review Manager Richard Buck introduced the GLA Update Report which considered a 16-member constituency option and the proposals for next steps.

The Commission Board agreed that the Chief Executive should make contact with the Chief Officer at the GLA to suggest a meeting to discuss the Commission's findings in respect of GLA constituency boundaries.

6. AOB

The Commission Board agreed a meeting on Derbyshire Dales for Thursday 5th May at 9:00am.

Close of Business