

**Boundary Commission for Scotland**

**Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, Edinburgh**

**Thursday 6 July 2017**

**Present**

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chairman  
Mrs Paula Sharp, Commissioner

Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary  
Douglas Campbell, Secretariat  
Laura Cregan, Secretariat  
David Logue, Secretariat  
Colin Wilson, Secretariat

Dominic Cuthbert, Ordnance Survey, Assessor

**Apologies**

Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner  
Tim Ellis, National Records of Scotland, Assessor

**Declarations of Interest**

1. Mrs Sharp declared an interest in Paper 2017/65. Professor Henderson declared an interest in Paper 2017/65 and Paper 2017/73.

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

1. The minutes of the 12 June 2017 meeting were agreed without amendments.

**Matters arising**

2. The Secretary advised that the Cabinet Office's Triennial Review is in the planning stage and will update the Commission as the Review progresses.
3. The Secretary advised that the Secretariat had an initial meeting with the Scottish Government IT department regarding updating their websites. The Secretary agreed to keep the Commission informed regarding this matter.
4. The Secretariat advised that it had received notice from the Commission's sponsor department that VAT has been retrospectively applied to recharges paid by the Scotland Office to the Scottish Government on the Commission's behalf from 2011-12. The Secretariat awaits further details from the sponsor department of the amounts applied and will table a further draft of the annual report when that information is received.
5. The Secretary gave an update on steps taken to raise the Commission's profile through social media channels. The Secretariat had had a useful

discussion with contacts at Ordnance Survey and have taken forward a number of suggestions to increase followers through unpaid channels. The Secretariat agreed to keep the Commission updated at future meetings.

6. The Commission heard that they had been unsuccessful following their short-listed nomination for a Holyrood "Connect" Citizen award. The Secretariat informed the Commission that they would be pursuing a possible application for a Civil Service Award in conjunction with the other UK Commissions, to recognise the collaborative working on the Consultation Portal for the 2018 Review.

### **Business Update**

7. The Commission noted that there have been a number of recent Parliamentary Questions relating to the 2018 Review.

### **Consideration of Revised Proposals North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Galloway council areas (Paper 2017/72)**

8. At its previous meeting the Commission agreed to adopt the alternative boundary proposed at Annan and Dumfries, set out in all Options, subject to confirmation from the Secretariat that the suggested boundaries could clearly be defined using recognisable features on the ground or existing boundaries.
9. A revised map of this area was presented to the Commission and the Commission agreed that the boundary shown, which follows Community Council boundaries which are locally recognised, was clear and should be adopted. The Commission agreed that this alternative boundary in Dumfries and Galloway better reflected local ties in the area, particularly by Dumfries.
10. Following consideration of Paper 2017/66 at its previous meeting the Commission had asked the Secretariat to develop Options 2 and 3 from that paper.
11. The revised Option 3 from Paper 2017/66 was developed as Option 4 in Paper 2017/72. The Commission agreed that Option 4 recognised local feeling by retaining Airdrie in a single constituency and in doing this recognised local ties in both Airdrie and Coatbridge, minimised changes to ward boundaries and split no wards in North Lanarkshire. However to accommodate these changes it was necessary to radically alter the proposals for North and South Lanarkshire in a way that retained no constituencies with exactly the same boundary as the Initial Proposals and also split 5 wards in South Lanarkshire.
12. The Commission agreed that, given these factors, Option 4 was not an improvement on the Initial Proposals.

13. The revised Option 2 from Paper 2017/66 was developed as Option 5 in Paper 2017/72. Whilst accepting the agreed change to the boundary in Dumfries and Galloway this Option was similar to the Initial Proposals in North and South Lanarkshire but takes account of opposition to the proposed boundary to the south of Airdrie and seeks to improve it by including Cairnhill and Monkland Glen community council areas within the Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Monklands East constituency. This change necessitates changes elsewhere and in North Lanarkshire, ward 20 Wishaw is split as the full extent of Cambusnethan and Coltness Community Council areas are included in the Airdrie South and Shotts constituency in order to maintain that constituency's electorate within the quota.
14. The Commission agreed that Option 5 had improved on the Initial Proposals in Dumfries and Galloway, mainly retained the Initial Proposals in Lanarkshire where there had been limited opposition and also recognised the responses of local people by Airdrie by altering the proposed boundary to the south of Airdrie.
15. The Commission considered constituency names and decided that it would consider names for all of its Revised Proposals at the next meeting.
16. The Commission considered Option 5 an improvement to its Initial Proposals, and agreed to adopt it as its Revised Proposals for its consultation on Revised Proposals for North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Galloway council areas.

#### **Consideration of Revised Proposals – Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife, Perth & Kinross and Stirling council areas (Paper 2017/73)**

17. The Commission considered Paper 2017/73 and the public response to the Initial Proposals in these council areas.
18. The Commission's Initial Proposals had designed 3 constituencies for Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas and 5 constituencies for Fife and Perth & Kinross council areas. The Commission considered Option 1 in Paper 2017/73 which combined the 2 groups of council areas, to create a single grouping of 8 constituencies and felt it was an improvement on the Initial Proposals as it: addressed opposition to the proposed Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency; minimised change to the Initial Proposals by retaining 3 constituencies with a minor change to one other constituency; and only split 2 wards, while the Initial Proposals split 5 wards.
19. The Commission noted that Option 1 divided Clackmannanshire council area between constituencies and asked the Secretariat to develop Option 1 further to create an Option for consideration that retained Clackmannanshire within

a single constituency. The Commission also deferred consideration of the boundary west of Kirkcaldy until its next meeting.

20. The Commission considered the suggestion to amend the constituency boundary by Buckhaven but agreed that the Initial Proposals had created a clear boundary to the west of Buckhaven. The alternative suggestion, amending the boundary to the east of Buckhaven, would result in part of the town being split between constituencies.

#### **Consideration of Revised Proposals – Argyll and Bute, Highland and Moray council areas (Paper 2017/74)**

21. The Commission considered Paper 2017/74 and the public response to the proposals in these areas.
22. The Commission discussed the alternative suggestions received as part of the public consultation on its Initial Proposals and agreed that only one suggestion could be reasonably considered in this grouping within the legislative guidelines for this review.
23. The Commission considered the details of Option 1 and were content that it improved on the Initial Proposals by respecting local ties in retaining the Kilmallie Community council area within a constituency with Fort William.
24. As such, the Commission agreed to adopt Option 1 as its Revised Proposals in its consultation on Revised Proposals for Argyll and Bute, Highland and Moray council areas.

#### **Consideration of Revised Proposals – City of Edinburgh / West Lothian council areas (Paper 2017/65)**

25. The Commission considered Paper 2017/65 and the public response to the proposals in these council areas.
26. The Commission discussed the two options presented. Option 1 set out the Initial Proposals un-amended. The Commission agreed that the advantages of Option 2 were that it avoided the division of ward 15 (Southside / Newington) between constituencies, so reducing to 3 the number of wards divided, and also that Marchmont and Sciennes and Morningside Community Council areas were not divided between constituencies.
27. The Commission therefore considered Option 2 an improvement to its Initial Proposals, and agreed to adopt it as its Revised Proposals for its consultation on Revised Proposals for City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas.

**Consideration of Revised Proposals – East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City and West Dunbartonshire council areas (Paper 2017/67)**

28. The Commission considered Paper 2017/67 and the public response to the Initial Proposals in these council areas.
29. The Commission's Initial Proposals comprised 2 constituencies for East and West Dunbartonshire council areas and 6 constituencies for Glasgow City Council area. The Commission considered a number of options, including the Initial Proposals, for constituencies in the combined area: 3 options for constituencies wholly within Glasgow City, 4 options for constituencies wholly within East and West Dunbartonshire and 1 option for constituencies in all 3 council areas combined.
30. The Commission considered how best to take into account the responses concerning East Dunbartonshire Council area, as the proposed division of Bearsden, the separation of Bearsden and Milngavie, the division of Craigton Village and its separation from Milngavie had been the primary issues in the area to be revealed during the consultations.
31. The Commission firstly considered Option 4, which contained 2 constituencies that linked parts of Glasgow City with East and West Dunbartonshire and noted that this would require changes around Yoker and Auchinairn where there had been no opposition to the initial proposals. The commission therefore agreed to retain Glasgow City Council area as a discrete grouping for the purposes of constituency design, independent from East and West Dunbartonshire council areas.
32. The Commission agreed that, of the options presented in Paper 2017/67, Option 6 best addressed the issues raised and improved on the Initial Proposals for East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire council areas. The Commission agreed that it improved local ties in Craigton Village and between Craigton Village and Milngavie, and provided a more easily identifiable boundary within Bearsden than the Initial Proposals.
33. The Commission then considered options for constituencies within Glasgow City Council area. Noting that Option 2 placed all of ward 6 (Pollokshields) in a single constituency, placed Craigton and Dumbreck in a south-western constituency with other communities in ward 6, placed Newlands in a south-eastern constituency and united Dowanhill, Hyndland and Kelvinside community council area in a single constituency through adoption of a new ward boundary, the Commission agreed that it offered an improvement on its Initial Proposals and agreed to adopt it as its Revised Proposals for the city.

34. The Commission agreed that Option 2 for Glasgow City and Option 6 for East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire would be improvements to its Initial Proposals, and agreed to adopt them as its Revised Proposals for its consultation on Revised Proposals for East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City and West Dunbartonshire council areas, subject to further consideration of constituency names.

**2018 Review – next steps (oral update)**

35. The Commission and the Secretariat discussed the timing of future tasks such as the naming of constituencies and the timing of the public consultation on Revised Proposals.

**Risk Register (Paper 2017/75)**

36. The Commission discussed the Risk Register and the Secretary agreed to make a number of amendments to the Register.

**Finance update (Paper 2017/76)**

37. The Commission noted the finance update and that the forecast is likely to be subject to a 20% uplift to account for VAT on recharges.

**Any other business**

38. The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 8 August 2017.

**Secretariat  
July 2017**