

**Boundary Commission for Scotland
Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, Edinburgh
Monday 18 July 2016**

Present

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chairman
Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner
Mrs Paula Sharp, Commissioner
Ms Michaela Gordon, Ordnance Survey, Assessor to the Commission

Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary
Colin Wilson, Secretariat

Apologies

1. Tim Ellis, Registrar General, National Records of Scotland, had submitted apologies.

Minutes of the previous meeting

2. The minutes of the 13 June 2016 meeting were agreed, subject to minor amendment.

Matters arising

3. The Secretary informed the Commission that dates for the meeting of UK Boundary Commissions had been confirmed: the dinner would take place on 8 December in Belfast with the meeting on 9 December. It was agreed that Paula Sharp and Ailsa Henderson would represent the Commission.
4. The Corporate Plan for 2016-17 had been agreed with the Scotland Office and would now be published on the Commission's website.

Consultation Portal (presentation)

5. The Commission welcomed Tim Bowden, Boundary Commission for England, to the meeting; he provided an update on progress with development of the consultation portal and a demonstration of its functionality. The Commission asked for a number of points around functionality to be explored and Tim Bowden undertook to look into these. The Secretariat were asked to copy the draft FAQs to the Commission for their comments.

**Constituency grouping – Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Dundee City
– (Paper 2016/22)**

6. The Commission considered 2 options for 2 constituencies exactly covering Aberdeen City council area; 2 options for 5 constituencies exactly covering the combined extent of Aberdeenshire, Angus and Dundee City council areas; and 1 option for 7 constituencies exactly covering the combined extent of Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus and Dundee City council areas.
7. The Commission agreed that Option 1 aimed to retain a Banff and Buchan constituency and required the division of fewer wards than the other options.
8. The Commission noted that Option 2 divided Arbroath between constituencies and that it split a number of wards.
9. The Commission considered that Option 3 created an "over-stretched" constituency that included Aberdeen City with Braemar in Aberdeenshire.
10. The Commission preferred Option 4 to Option 5 in Aberdeen City council area as it followed a traditional north-south constituency design.
11. The Commission agreed to adopt Option 1 as its Initial Proposals for constituencies in the combined area of Aberdeenshire, Angus and Dundee City council areas, and Option 4 as its Initial Proposals for constituencies in Aberdeen City council area subject to identification of satisfactory proposals elsewhere in Scotland.
12. The Commission suggested a proposed constituency name of Angus Glens and Dundee East instead of the proposed Dundee East and the Glens.

Constituency grouping – South Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway (Paper 2016/23)

13. The Commission considered 4 options for 8 constituencies exactly covering the combined extent of South Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway council areas.
14. The Commission noted that Option 1: offered less disruption to existing constituency boundaries; placed Dumfries within a single constituency; created a better shaped Dumfries and Galloway constituency; retains the existing constituency boundary between Airdrie and Coatbridge; and required the division of fewer wards.
15. The Commission considered Options 2, 3 and 4 but believed that they did not consider as many existing constituency boundaries as Option 1 and that local ties may be broken by Coatbridge, Motherwell and Rutherglen.
16. The Commission agreed to adopt Option 1 as its Initial Proposals for constituencies in the combined area of South Lanarkshire, North Lanarkshire and Dumfries and Galloway council areas, subject to the consideration of the boundary between the proposed Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency and the Airdrie South and Motherwell North constituency and the identification of satisfactory proposals elsewhere in Scotland.

Consultation on Initial Proposals – Public Hearings and Display Points (Paper 2016/24)

17. The Commission considered Paper 2016/24 and agreed: a press release should be issued; that public notices placed in the press were unlikely to add value to the consultation process and should not be used; that the norm should be one display point per constituency except where geographically large; that each display point have a poster no larger than A3; that only paper copies of display material be made available at display points; that display points be used in an area even if the proposed constituency remains unchanged; that social media

and the Commissions website should be used to publicise Initial Proposals; public hearings should only be scheduled for a single day; and further thought should be given to locations of public hearings once further work had been done on constituency designs.

18. The Deputy Chair would look into arrangements for liaising with Sheriffs Principal over their availability for the hearings. The Commission asked the Secretariat to consult political parties over options for providing copies of Initial proposals to MPS, with the presumption that a meeting should be arranged in the House of Commons.

Scotland Office Audit and Risk Management

19. The Secretary updated the Commission on the recent meeting of the Scotland Office Audit Committee and its consideration of the recent internal audit of financial management, reporting and risk management of the Commission. The Secretary was working with the Scotland Office sponsor team to take forward implementation of the recommendations contained in the report and would bring an update to a future meeting.

Finance Update (Paper 2016 / 25)

20. The Commission noted the finance update.

Any other business

21. The Commission noted the updated project plan and agreed that the provisional date for publication of the Initial Proposals should be 20 October.
22. The next meeting will be held on Friday 5 August at 10.30am.

Secretariat

July 2016