

Boundary Commission for Scotland

Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, Edinburgh

Monday 12 December 2017

Present

Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner
Mrs Paula Sharp, Commissioner

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

Apologies

1. The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chairman, Mr Tim Ellis, Registrar General, National Records of Scotland and Ms Michaela Gordon, Ordnance Survey, Assessor submitted apologies.

Declarations of Interest

2. There were no declarations of interest.

Minutes of the previous meeting

3. The minutes of the 7 November 2016 meeting were agreed.

Matters arising

4. The Secretary gave an update following the recent meeting of the UK Boundary Commissions in Belfast on 8 and 9 December 2016. Attendees from the Commission found it an interesting opportunity to hear from the other UK Commissions currently undertaking public consultations as part of the 2018 UK Parliament Review. One matter that was noted in particular was the way in which equality issues were promoted in all aspects of the Commissions' work and the Secretary agreed to consider this further.

2018 Review Progress Report (Oral Update)

5. The Commission received an oral update from the Secretariat on the 2018 Review Initial Proposals consultation period. The update included:
 - summary of comments raised at the 5 public hearings;
 - press coverage since the last meeting;
 - specific areas where public comments had been submitted; and
 - the use of social media.

6. It was agreed that the Secretariat would continue to monitor media coverage and responses to the consultation. Any draft alternative constituency groupings would be considered initially at the Commission's next meeting in February 2017.

Progress Report to the Speaker (Paper 2016/49)

7. The Commission discussed the annual Progress Report to the Speaker and agreed the content subject to some minor amendments.

2017 Project Plan (Paper 2016/50)

8. The Commission considered the latest Project Plan. It was agreed that the Secretary would consult the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) regarding use of Twitter and its work with partner organisations to promote the consultation before it closes. The Commission also agreed that a press release be published early in the new year to encourage further responses before the consultation closes on 11 January 2017. The Commission suggested that the Secretariat seeks ways to improve the impact of the Commission's social media presence ahead of further consultation periods. The Commission agreed to discuss the timing of further consultation periods at its next meeting in February 2017.

Finance Update

9. The Secretary gave a brief finance update, noting that there was forecast underspend for 2016-2017 and it was agreed that a finance update paper and draft corporate plan would be shared with the Commission via email.

Any other business

10. The Secretary agreed to canvass for dates for the next meeting to be held in February 2017.

Secretariat

December 2016