

**Minutes of the Commissioners' decision meeting for final recommendations on the
South West region
14 May 2018**

Present

Mr Justice Andrew Nicol, Deputy Chair
David Elvin QC, Commissioner
Neil Pringle, Commissioner
Sam Hartley, Secretary to the Commission
Tony Bellringer, Deputy Secretary to the Commission
Tim Bowden, Head of Reviews
Bibi Burahee, Review Manager

Overview

The Commissioners noted the overview information from the paper presented by the Secretariat.

Conservatives supported all revised proposals, and Labour supported all but Exeter.

The review team presented the proposed final recommendations for each sub-region to the commissioners. It was noted that these proposals had been agreed following briefings and discussions with the lead commissioner for the region, Neil Pringle.

The commissioners noted the presentation, and in particular the following points of contention.

Bath and NE Somerset and Somerset sub region

In Somerton and Frome, residents of Frome suggested that they don't look south to Somerton, but there is no viable alternative that does not disrupt neighbouring popular proposed constituencies. Agreed no change.

Did not feel there was sufficient evidence to change name of Yeovil and South Somerset back to just Yeovil, notwithstanding that it was an unchanged constituency, as they had previously agreed there was evidence supporting a change.

North Somerset sub region

No changes other than name (below).

Bournemouth, Dorset, Poole, and Wiltshire

Considered suggestions to move parish of Box, but this did not seem possible without causing significant disruption to surrounding constituencies.

Considered alternatives around the north of Christchurch, but did not appear to be viable alternatives that did not cause more disruption elsewhere.

Bristol

No significant counter-proposals that worked numerically.

Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire

Looked at counter proposal from local MP, but that had a detached ward and didn't really work numerically.

People from Longlevens and Elmbridge wards had been unhappy about being moved into Tewkesbury. This had been necessary to bring the Quedgeley wards back into Gloucester, and was felt to be preferable as changed constituency of fewer electors.

Considered alternatives around Dursley, Thornbury and Yate constituency, but although proposed constituency was less than ideal, there again did not seem to be any alternative that did not create significant disruption for multiple surrounding reasonable constituencies.

Cornwall, Devon, Isles of Scilly, Plymouth and Torbay sub region

Other than Cornwall-Devon crossing that was numerically unavoidable, the main issue had been composition of Exeter, where Labour party and local MP had suggested no need to change. Agreed to retain the existing constituency, on basis of statutory factor of having regard to existing constituencies.

Swindon

No significant issues.

Name changes

Agreed Weston super Mare: should have lower case 's' to reflect the naming of the local authority wards.

Agreed Trowbridge and West Wiltshire

Agreed Chippenham and North Wiltshire

Agreed Devizes and East Wiltshire