

**Minutes of the Commissioners' decision meeting for final recommendations on the  
Yorkshire and the Humber 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  
Glenn Reed, Review Manager

**Overview**

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

Conservatives supported all but two constituencies, Labour opposed in Grimsby only, and Liberal Democrats only opposed in a couple of areas.

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.

**Humberside sub region**

Considered counter-proposal from Aaron Fear for Kingston upon Hull constituencies, which would retain two existing constituencies. Our revised proposals keep the Bransholme area together, so agreed to retain revised proposals.

Labour national party opposed to the proposals in Grimsby and Cleethorpes, but also felt there should not be split wards in the area. Local Labour parties in Grimsby and Cleethorpes took opposing views on a suggested split of Sidney Sussex ward. Decided to retain our proposals, as there was not a strong case for splitting a ward.

**North Yorkshire sub region**

Keeping North Yorkshire whole and more unchanged constituencies in the revised proposals was welcomed. Only real remaining area of difficulty was whether Filey ward should go into Scarborough and Whitby constituency or the Thirsk and Malton constituency. Difficulty is that putting Filey into Scarborough would require another ward (most likely Derwent Valley) into Thirsk and Malton. Noted that Filey was in existing Thirsk and Malton constituency, and

there had been no previous suggestion in consultation that Derwent Valley might be moved. Agreed to retain the revised proposals.

### **West and South Yorkshire sub region**

#### **West Yorkshire**

Was some difficulty in relation to the Guiseley and Rawdon ward - the ward with the largest electorate in the region. Was considered a Leeds ward, but proposed for inclusion in a Bradford constituency. However, did not feel there was convincing evidence to change, particularly as it formed the lynchpin for solving a number of constituencies in the area.

Considered an alternative that had been put forward in relation to Shipley, which had some merit, but produced significant problems around the Bingley area, so was not adopted.

Constituencies in Bradford had been particularly difficult to construct in a satisfactory way. One Bradford ward needed to go into the Pudsey constituency, and Bradford Moor seemed to be virtually indistinguishable from neighbouring Leeds area. Tong and Wyke wards needed to go in with Spen, to allow creation of a constituency that more closely resembles the existing Bradford South, which respondents had said was still not perfect, but much improved from initial proposals.

Considered a counter proposal to swap Bingley Rural ward and Idle and Thackley ward. This seemed sensible, given the evidence put forward about the nature of each ward and where they associated with, and the Commissioners agreed this change.

Upper and Lower Calder constituencies had been generally supported. Colne Valley had had Penistone ward included, as one of the necessary crossing points with South Yorkshire. Was some opposition, but no realistic alternative put forward.

#### **South Yorkshire**

Although revised proposals were based on suggestion of local Labour MPs, Conservative party did not oppose.

Doncaster area had also been largely based on local Labour MP suggestions, with some amendments, based on examination of local area.

Difficulties around Barnsley, in particular how to deal with Penistone. Problem is that alternative solutions for this area create serious problems for neighbouring areas. Noted that even existing arrangement splits the borough between four constituencies.

#### **Name changes**

Agreed Goole, Howden and Axholme: geographically most of the constituency is historic Howdenshire, which area would otherwise not be recognised in the name.

Agreed Cleethorpes and Great Grimsby South: Larger portion of the constituency was the Cleethorpes element, so that should be the first part of the name.

Agreed Wakefield Rural: Featherstone was just one small part in the north east of the constituency.

Agreed Wentworth and Hoyland: As River Dearne was no longer in the constituency, this was a better name, reflecting both boroughs that had wards in the constituency.

Agreed Colne Valley and Penistone: Recognises cross-county nature of constituency.

Agreed Halifax and North Calderdale: Better descriptor than the river, retaining Halifax in the name.

Agreed South Calderdale and Queensbury: recognises inclusion of sizeable Bradford ward.