

**Minutes of the Commissioners' decision meeting for final recommendations on the
East Midlands region
22 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
Sam Amponsah, Review Manager
Alex Newton, Review Officer

Overview

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

It was noted that there had been the lowest level of response at revised proposals in this regions, and most of that had been support.

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.

Lincolnshire sub region

Inclusion of North Hykeham with Lincoln did not attract significant opposition, other than request to recognise latter in the name.

Derbyshire sub region

Revised constituencies of Bolsover and North East Derbyshire had not attracted any significant criticism. Issue in Amber Valley was what to do with Belper and Allestree wards. Numbers don't allow inclusion of Allestree ward with Derby without significant redrawing of map in the area.

Considered Liberal Democrat counter proposal, but did not appear to be strong evidence to support it, and would also switch the allocation of Allestree and Belper, which was not desirable. Ward switch and renaming in Derby at revised proposals attracted support. Recognised concerns of Dale Abbey that they had closer affinity with Erewash, but there was no justification to split the ward.

Nottinghamshire sub region

There had been a reasonable amount of representations in relation to Broxtowe and the eastern side of Nottingham. These included some counter proposals, but these all produced extremely radical changes to revised proposals that extended a long way, so were not accepted. Considered alternatives put forward for Clifton and south of Nottingham, but these would again require unpicking other neighbouring constituencies, which had generally been acceptable to people, so not agreed.

Looked at counter proposal for Sherwood and Newark area, but this again would introduce radical changes to areas that had been generally accepted so far, so not agreed. However, did agree to move Trent Valley ward into Nottingham East and Carlton constituency, as suggested by Liberal Democrats.

Leicestershire sub region

Had been contentious at initial proposals, but revised proposals had not elicited much response. Cross-county constituency of Daventry and Lutterworth had received some opposition: only one counter proposal, linking Market Harborough with Lutterworth, but not recommended, as doesn't appear to be any better in terms of how distributed, and disrupts a number of neighbouring constituencies, that seem quite settled in consultation so far. Do not see that there is an argument for splitting a ward north west of Wellingborough, and there have been no persuasive counter proposals put forward in relation to how Finedon might be kept within the Wellingborough constituency.

Name changes

Agreed Lincoln and North Hykeham, as recognised local feeling and different local authority.
Agreed Nottingham West and Beeston, as better reflection of the orientation.

Agreed North Rushcliffe and Clifton, as recognised the significant Nottingham city wards.

Agreed Harborough, Oadby and Wigston, as recognised the latter local authority's presence in the constituency.

Agreed Wellingborough and Rushden, recognising latter was in a different local authority.