

Minutes of the second meeting of 2021 of the Boundary Commission for England, held on 22nd and 23rd of March 2021

Mr Justice Peter Lane (Deputy Chair)
Sarah Hamilton (Commissioner)
Colin Byrne (Commissioner)
Tim Bowden (Secretary to the Commission)
Tony Bellringer (Secretariat)
Wotey Tannoh (Secretariat)
Daniel McKeon (Secretariat)
Emma Irwin (Secretariat)
Glenn Reed (Secretariat, regions Eastern, North West, South West, and Yorkshire and the Humber)
Roger Winter (Secretariat, regions London and North East)
Matthew Gutteridge (Secretariat, regions West Midlands, East Midlands, and South East)
Azimul Hussain (Secretariat, region South West)
Brendan Connell-French (Secretariat, region South East)
Daniel Fitter (Secretariat, region East Midlands)
Elliott Foster (Secretariat, region Yorkshire and the Humber)
Ewan Wightman (Secretariat, region West Midlands)
Hugh Markham (Secretariat, region Eastern)
Jo Miles (Secretariat, region London)
Mark Balfour (Secretariat, region North West)
Will Corran (Secretariat, region North East)

Monday 22 of March 2021

1. Welcome and minutes of the last meeting

1.1 The draft minutes of the Commission meeting on the 8 of February 2021 were agreed by members of the Commission.

2. Yorkshire and Humber

2.1 Presentation of regions and sub-regions, preferred and alternative schemes by Review Managers and Review Officers.

2.2 Having considered the papers and presentations, Commissioners agreed the preferred scheme should form its initial proposals with no changes. The proposals would result in the division of three wards between constituencies: Dalton ward in the Borough of Kirklees; Gipton and Harehills ward in the City of Leeds; and Richard ward in the City of Sheffield.

3. South West

3.1 Presentation of regions and sub-regions, preferred and alternative schemes by Review Managers and Review Officers.

3.2 Having considered the papers and presentations Commissioners agreed the preferred scheme should form its initial proposals, subject to an exchange of the Chiseldon and Lawn, and Ridgeway wards between the Swindon South and East Wiltshire constituencies. Also, as it was considered that it would not be appropriate for the Devonport ward to be included in the Plymouth Moor Side constituency, the Commission agreed that the Peverell ward should be divided between the Plymouth Moor View, and Plymouth Sutton and Devonport constituencies.

4. Eastern

4.1 Presentation of regions and sub-regions, preferred and alternative schemes by Review Managers and Review Officers.

4.2 Having considered the papers and presentations Commissioners agreed the preferred scheme should form its initial proposals with no changes.

5. West Midlands

5.1 Presentation of regions and sub-regions, preferred and alternative schemes by Review Managers and Review Officers

5.2 Having considered the papers and presentations Commissioners agreed the preferred scheme should form its initial proposals with no changes. Commissioners agreed that the alternative schemes for Warwickshire and Birmingham should be outlined in the initial proposals report in order to elicit responses from the public on the alternatives.

6. East Midlands

6.1 Presentation of regions and sub-regions, preferred and alternative schemes by Review Managers and Review Officers

6.2 Having considered the papers and presentations Commissioners agreed the preferred scheme should form its initial proposals, subject to further exploration of alternative schemes for Northamptonshire. Commissioners subsequently agreed outside of the meeting to an alternative scheme which included three ward splits, Silverstone, Irchester, and Finedon, which better preserved the existing constituencies in the county.

Tuesday 23 March 2021

7. South East

7.1 Presentation of regions and sub-regions, preferred and alternative schemes by Review Managers and Review Officers

7.2 Having considered the papers and presentations Commissioners agreed the preferred scheme should form its initial proposals, subject to the inclusion of the alternative scheme number one for the Isle of Wight. The Commissioners also asked the Secretariat for further exploration of alternative schemes for Buckinghamshire. Commissioners subsequently agreed outside of the meeting to an alternative scheme

which included a single ward split, Chiltern Ridges, and better preserved the existing constituencies.

8. London

8.1 Presentation of regions and sub-regions, alternate and preferred schemes by Review Managers and Review Officers

8.2 Having considered the papers and presentations Commissioners agreed the preferred scheme should form its initial proposals with no changes. Commissioners agreed that the alternative scheme, which included the Herne Hill ward into the Clapham and Brixton constituency, should be outlined in the initial proposals report, in order to elicit responses from the public on the alternative.

9. North East

9.1 Presentation of regions and sub-regions, preferred and alternative schemes by Review Managers and Review Officers

9.2 Having considered the papers and presentations Commissioners agreed the preferred scheme should form its initial proposals with no changes.

10. North West

10.1 Presentation of regions and sub-regions, preferred and alternative schemes by Review Managers and Review Officers

10.2 Having considered the papers and presentations Commissioners agreed the preferred scheme should form its initial proposals. This pattern divided three wards between constituencies, including that the Bowness and Levens ward in South Lakeland should be divided to avoid Lake Windermere being divided between constituencies, and that the Miles Platting and Newton Heath ward should be divided between the Manchester Central and Droylsden and Failsworth constituencies. Commissioners asked the Secretariat to explore further an alternative for the ward split on the Wirral. Commissioners subsequently agreed outside of the meeting to the division of the Upton ward between the Wallasey and Wirral West constituencies, rather than a division of the Hoylake and Meols ward.

11. Any other business

11.1 The Secretariat will circulate prospective constituency names and designations for all 543 proposed constituencies to Commissioners in further correspondence outside of the meeting for their approval.