

Shadow Dorset Council

Task and Finish Group on Boundary Review

Minutes of the meeting held at South Walks House, Dorchester on Monday, 23 July 2018

Present:

Spencer Flower (Chairman)
Gerald Duke, Sherry Jespersen, Paul Kimber, Barry Quinn and Peter Wharf

Officers Attending: Lee Gallagher, Peter Jackson, Richard Jones and Kirsty Riglar.

Apologies for Absence

28 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Alison Reed (Weymouth and Portland Borough Council).

Minutes

29 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 May 2018 were confirmed.

LGBCE Consultation

30 The Group received an update report on the LGBCE consultation which had reflected over 95% of its content from the submission made in May 2017. It was recognised that LGBCE had kept their proposal in line with the criteria for reviews and had not reflected changes to the Weymouth and Portland area as summarised in the councillor roadshow responses. Members and officers were commended for their hard work throughout the review process which had been positively received by LGBCE, which was vindicated by the level of content in the proposals which mirrored the original submission.

It was reported that the County Council had debated the consultation and support had been agreed for the proposals, with an emphasis being made on the process being applied correctly. Alternative views in respect of Weymouth and Portland were discussed by the County Council and members were encouraged to make individual representations to the consultation.

Cllr Paul Kimber, as a local member for Portland, took the opportunity to raise the ongoing concerns of councillors in Weymouth and Portland in respect of the preference for single member wards. Members noted the concerns and confirmed that local representations should be made through the LGBCE portal.

Cllr Gerald Duke, as a local member for Dorchester, also highlighted that there were alternative views in respect of Dorchester but these would be raised as part of the consultation separately outside of the meeting.

A summary of the variations within the LGBCE proposals from the original submission were considered, as attached as an annexure to these minutes. The changes were accepted by the Group as satisfactory and it was confirmed that there was no reason to object to them.

It was noted that a report would be submitted to the Shadow Executive Committee on 21 August 2018 which would echo the Group's recommendation that the consultation should be supported. Cllr Kimber indicated at this point that he was not in favour of supporting the consultation due to his ongoing concern regarding Weymouth and Portland, but noted the opportunity to respond to the consultation as an individual.

Clarification was provided regarding the public status of the reports being considered at the meeting. It was confirmed that the agenda for the meeting was restricted due

to it not being a formal meeting of the Shadow Dorset Council, but that the consultation document itself was publicly available via the LGBCE website.

Resolved

That the Shadow Executive Committee be recommended to:

(1) Support the recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for the electoral arrangements for Dorset Council from 2 May 2019, subject to the inclusion of Appendix 3 of the report in the response.

(2) Provide any feedback to be considered by as part of the review, specifically in relation to the impact on services and communities currently served by Dorset County Council.

(3) Note that individual representations to the consultations can be made through the consultation portal at consultation.lgbce.org.uk, by emailing reviews@lgbce.org.uk or by writing to the commission.

Work Programme

31 The Group discussed its work programme and felt that as the report to support the proposals would be sent to the Shadow Executive on 21 August 2018 there was no further business to be considered.

Resolved

That, as a result of completing its work programme, the Boundary Review Task and Finish Group be closed.

Meeting Duration: 5.30 pm - 5.55 pm