



Committee: COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Date: THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2011

Venue: LANCASTER TOWN HALL

Time: 6.00 P.M.

A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for Absence**

2. **Appointment of Vice-Chairman**

3. **Minutes**

Minutes of meeting held on 30th March (previously circulated).

4. **Items of Urgent Business Authorised by the Chairman**

5. **Declarations of Interest**

6. **Principal Area Boundary Review – Lancaster and Wyre (Pages 1 - 11)**

Report of Head of Governance.

7. **Appointments to Committees and Changes to Membership**

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

(i) **Membership**

Councillors Karen Leytham (Chairman), June Ashworth, Melanie Forrest, Janet Hall, Roger Mace, Sylvia Rogerson and David Whitaker

(ii) **Substitute Membership**

Councillors Tony Anderson, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Geoff Knight, Jane Parkinson, Ian Pattison and Emma Smith

(iii) **Queries regarding this Agenda**

Please contact Jenny Kay, Democratic Services - 01524 582065 - jkay@lancaster.gov.uk.

(iv) **Changes to Membership, substitutions or apologies**

Please contact Members' Secretary, telephone 582170, or alternatively email memberservices@lancaster.gov.uk.

MARK CULLINAN,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE,
TOWN HALL,
DALTON SQUARE,
LANCASTER LA1 1PJ

COUNCIL BUSINESS COMMITTEE**PRINCIPAL AREA BOUNDARY REVIEW –
LANCASTER AND WYRE
30th June 2011****Report of the Head of Governance****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To enable the Committee to consider a request from the Local Government Boundary Commission for the Council's views on a suggested boundary review

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee considers whether it wishes to support the suggested review of the boundary between Lancaster and Wyre in the Lower Dolphinholme area, and authorises the Head of Governance to respond to the Boundary Commission accordingly.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 A letter has been received from the Local Government Boundary Commission with reference to a request made by a Wyre resident in 2007 for a boundary change to bring Lower Dolphinholme within the Ellel ward of Lancaster City Council rather than being in the Wyresdale ward of Wyre Borough Council. A copy of the letter of the 25th May 2011 with enclosures is at Appendix 1. The letter indicates that the Boundary Commission would not seek to start a review without the support of both Lancaster City Council and Wyre Borough Council. The views of this Council are therefore being sought.
- 1.2 The Boundary Commission conducts two types of review. In a principal area boundary review such as is being suggested, the boundary between two principal councils would be considered. In an electoral review, the electoral arrangements of a Council, such as the number of councillors, names, numbers and boundaries of wards, and number of councillors per ward are considered.
- 1.3 One of the reasons for conducting an electoral review is electoral imbalance between wards. Some Members may recall that in March 2011, the Council noted that the electoral imbalance in Ellel is currently greater than 45%, and resolved that officers make representations to the Boundary Commission to establish whether the Commission would be willing to undertake an electoral review of the district for implementation prior to the 2015 city council elections, and that it be suggested that this could be addressed by redrawing the boundary line in Ellel ward, without the necessity to review the whole district.
- 1.4 At the time the letter of the 25th May was received, no response had been received from the Boundary Commission in relation to the request for electoral review. Clearly the suggested principal area review could affect

further the electoral imbalance in Ellel, and the Head of Governance sought clarification from the Boundary Commission on this point. This resulted in a letter of the 6th June 2011, at Appendix 2, which indicates that a principal area boundary review would be carried out in advance of an electoral review.

- 1.5 The procedure for a principal area boundary review is for the Boundary Commission to undertake consultation, which normally lasts for a period of six weeks. Once the review has been completed the Commission makes recommendations to the Secretary of State. When considering what boundaries to recommend, the Commission must have regard to the need to secure effective and convenient local government and the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 The suggested boundary change is being put forward at the request of a Wyre resident on the basis that the change would reflect the identity and interests of the local community. The proposed change appears to be relatively minor, affecting relatively few electors whose transfer from one authority to another would have a negligible impact on electoral quality in either principal Council.
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to consider whether or not it would support the suggested boundary review.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 Copies of this report have been sent in advance to the ward members, and to the clerk to Ellel parish council, offering the opportunity to pass on their views to the Committee.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 The options open to the Committee are for it to take the view that it would either support or would not support the proposed review, and to authorise the Head of Governance to inform the Boundary Commission accordingly. Another option would be to refer the matter to full Council for consideration.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 The Committee's views are sought.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None arising directly from this report. The Boundary Commission would undertake a consultation process with affected residents if it were to proceed with a review.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Boundary Commission is at this stage seeking a view as to whether the Council would support a review. If a review is undertaken it will be undertaken by the Commission in accordance with the statutory requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As this would be a relatively minor change, it would not have any significant financial implications for the Council. Any administration costs associated with the changeover would be met from within existing budgets.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None

Information Services:

None

Property:

None

Open Spaces:

None

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The report has been prepared by the Monitoring Officer in her role as Head of Governance, and there are no specific Monitoring Officer comments to add.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letters from Boundary Commission 25th
May and 6th June 2011

Contact Officer: Mrs S Taylor

Telephone: 01524 582025

E-mail: STaylor@lancaster.gov.uk

Ref:

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Mr Cullinan
Chief Executive
Lancaster City Council
Town Hall
Dalton Square
Lancaster
Lancashire LA1 1PJ

ST, please advise
Ⓜ

25 May 2011

Dear Mr Cullinan

Principal Area Boundary Review – Lancaster and Wyre

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is considering its current work programme with regard to principal area boundary reviews (PABRs). These are reviews in which changes to the boundary between principal authorities are considered and recommendations made to the Secretary of State under section 8 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

Across the country there are a number of anomalous boundaries that the Commission is seeking to address where there is local support for a change. These range from minor anomalies to significant changes affecting thousands of electors. The LGBCE is currently considering the anomalies that it has a record of.

I enclose a copy of correspondence from a resident of Wyre Borough who requests that the boundary between Wyre and Lancaster is amended and accordingly invite your views on the desirability of a review in this area.

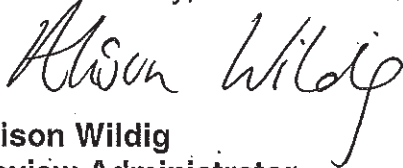
The Minister for Local Government has said 'where any recommended boundary change is agreed by all the principal authorities concerned, the Secretary of State will implement it, providing there is clear evidence that it represents value for money, and public support for it has been robustly demonstrated'.

Accordingly, we will not seek to start such a review without the support of both Wyre Borough Council and Lancaster City Council and I am writing in similar terms to Wyre.

We have published guidance on the conduct of Principal Area Boundary Reviews, which is available on our website www.lgbce.org.uk which you may find helpful.

I look forward to receiving your views on this matter and would be happy to discuss the issues initially on the phone if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Wildig
Review Administrator
alison.wildig@lgbce.org.uk
020 7664 8537

PABR / OH



Lower Dolphinholme
Lancaster
LA2 9BX

31 May 2007

Dear

The Boundary Commission forwarded us your e-mail dated 1 May 2007 to Jim Corry at Wyre Borough Council regarding the boundary between Wyre and Lancaster.

The boundary between Wyre and Lancaster can only be amended by a Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR). At the moment the Boundary Committee have no plans to carry out a PABR of Wyre or Lancaster. We will, however, keep your comments on file should a PABR be conducted.

Please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Joe McHenry
Review Assistant
jmchenry@electoralcommission.org.uk
020 7271 0512

Cc Jim Corry, Wyre Borough Council

Civic Centre,
Breck Road,
Poulton-le-Fylde,
Lancashire FY6 7PU

Tel: Poulton (01253) 891000
Fax: Poulton (01253) 899000
Textphone: Poulton (01253) 887636
Website: www.wyrebc.gov.uk



The Secretary,
Boundary Commission for England,
1 Drummond Gate,
LONDON,
SW1V 2QQ

Jim Corry CPFA
MANAGING DIRECTOR

Our Ref: JC/MMH

Your Ref:

Please ask for Verena Henderson

Date: 17 May 2007

Email: vhenderson@wyrebc.gov.uk

Dear Sir,

I enclose a copy of an email from one of our residents concerning the recent district elections.

I would be grateful if you could respond directly to her as I have already replied.

Thanking you.

Yours faithfully,

Managing Director

Encl. Copy of email from Ms. [REDACTED] Dolphinholme, Lancashire.

Corry, Jim

From: Barton, Verena
Sent: 01 May 2007 15:35
To: Corry, Jim
Subject: FW: FAO James Corry[Scanned]

*Verena Barton
PA to Managing Director and Leader
Wyre Borough Council
Poulton-le-Fylde,
Lancashire FY6 7PU*

-----Original Message-----

From: Swann, Lynne **On Behalf Of** Centre, Contact
Sent: 01 May 2007 10:26
To: Barton, Verena
Subject: FW: FAO James Corry[Scanned]

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Posted At: 30 April 2007 10:07
Posted To: MailRoom
Conversation: FAO James Corry[Scanned]
Subject: FAO James Corry[Scanned]

Dear Mr Corry

I am a Wyre Borough Council resident, living in Lower Dolphinholme, one of a very small number of Dolphinholme properties which falls under Nether Wyresdale / Wyresdale / Wyre, as opposed to the majority of our village which falls under Ellel / Lancaster City Council.

I wish to complain about the fact that we are governed by Wyre and not by Lancaster and the lack of attention we receive from your Borough.

I am conscious that there are local elections this Thursday but the only canvassing we have received is from a liberal democrat candidate for Ellel, whose team must have mistakenly but understandably assumed that we were part of Ellel. We have received no communiques from either of the two candidates for Wyresdale Ward.

It is quite clear that we are not considered to be consequential by Wyre Borough Council nor by the people who wish to be our elected representatives. The people of all of Dolphinholme, not just 95% of it, feel part of Lancaster and not part of Poulton. We all wish to walk to our polling station, not just 95% of us. It is not right nor sensical that the small number of us who live on the wrong side of the River Wyre must drive to Scorton, a village with which we have no particular affinity or connection.

Wyre empties our bins and takes away our recycling, which is good and your conservation and planning officers deal with any building issues that arise. But that is the end of it. It is non-sensical that the Wyre / Lancaster boundary line doesn't skirt around our village boundary, rather than rigidly following the line of the River.

The lack of interest from the two electoral candidates simply reinforces this anomaly.

I am passionately interested in politics, at both a local and a national level and I always vote ... but this year I

02/05/2007

am minded to spoil my ballot paper since it is quite clear that the only choice I have is between two people who are not interested in me, my family or our village.

I would be grateful if you would give this note serious consideration, pass its sentiments on to the Boundaries Commission and pass it on Dr Hesketh and Ms Ronson. One of them might have had two votes from my household, not to mention the other householders in Lower Dolphinholme, many of whom I am sure will feel as I do.

Yours sincerely,


Lower Dolphinholme
Lancaster
LA2 9BX
Tel 01524 

The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England

Mrs Sarah Taylor
Lancaster City Council
Head of Governance
Town Hall
Dalton Square
Lancaster LA1 1PF

6 June 2011

Dear Mrs Taylor

Electoral Review and Principal Area Boundary Reviews affecting Lancaster

Thank you for your letter of 17 March and email of 3 June regarding potential reviews of Lancaster.

Electoral Review

I note that your Council requests an electoral review to address the electoral imbalance in Ellel ward in time for elections in 2015.

The Commission has been developing its work programme for the next two years and has received quite a number of requests from local authorities seeking an electoral review, to the extent that in formulating the programme, it has had to prioritise them.

In developing its review programme, the Commission has had regard for the need to ensure that its programme delivers electoral equality for voters in local authority elections across England. In order to meet that objective, the Commission has looked to first address those requests from local authorities in which the electoral variances are the most extreme. While I note the information you have provided concerning Ellel ward, given the above, we have been unable to include Lancaster in the Commission's two-year programme.

However, given that there is an electoral imbalance in Ellel ward and your council's desire for a review to be undertaken in time for elections in 2015, the Commission will take into account your request when deciding which reviews to undertake following the completion of its two year programme.

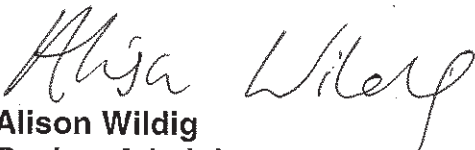
I note that it is your council's desire for the review to consider Ellel ward only. The LGBCE cannot commit to looking at only one or two specific wards when it conducts an electoral review. However, the LGBCE has outlined in its guidance (published May 2011) three 'types' of electoral review, to reflect that there are different scales of change required. If an electoral review of Lancaster is undertaken, it may be appropriate that it is categorised as a 'type A' review, where no change in council size is necessary. This will of course be a matter to be considered when any review is undertaken. For your information, more details about the 'types' of review can be found in our 'electoral reviews: technical guidance', available on our website.

Principal Area Boundary Review (PABR)

As I said in my previous letter, the LGBCE would only conduct a PABR if both Lancaster and Wyre councils supported such a review. If there was authority support and the LGBCE decided to conduct a review, it would be our intention to conduct it in advance of any electoral review being carried out so that the new external boundaries could be used when determining warding patterns as part of the electoral review.

The LGBCE has not agreed its programme of PABRs but will do so taking into account all relevant factors, including whether an electoral review is scheduled to be conducted in any affected area. Accordingly, your council may wish to consider the desirability of a PABR being undertaken on its boundary with Wyre, in principle. If, on the basis that the LGBCE conducts a review, it will be our priority to complete it in advance of any electoral review.

I hope that this letter is helpful, I would be happy to discuss the issues I have raised if that would be useful.



Alison Wildig
Review Administrator
alison.wildig@lgbce.org.uk
020 7664 8537