

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES MEETING HELD ON  
9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008 AT CARADOG HOUSE, CARDIFF**

Commissioners

Mrs. S G Smith (Chair)  
Mr P J Wood (Deputy Chair)  
Rev H M Davies

Secretariat

Mr. E H Lewis (Secretary)  
Mr. S R Halsall  
Mr. D Carr  
Mr. R Handscomb  
Mrs. Abbie Prescott-Bird

Members welcomed Mr Handscomb who had recently joined the Commission's Secretariat.

**1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

1.1 There were no new interests declared.

1.2 The Secretary reported that he had recently become aware that it was the practice in the other UK boundary commissions for members and staff to declare the area in which they lived as an interest and not take part in any discussions or decision making about those areas. The Commission considered that as the Secretariat staff only provided Members with information and were not involved in the decision making process it may not be necessary for them to declare an interest. The possible choices in respect of Members' involvement in reviews which included their areas of residence were:

- To declare an interest but still participate in the discussion;
- To declare an interest and not participate but remain present during the discussion; or
- To declare an interest and leave the meeting room whilst the area is being discussed.

The Commission considered that this policy could become problematic unless it was restricted to the community in which the member lived rather than the whole of the local authority area.

1.3 **It was agreed** that the Secretary would investigate best practice about members' interests and report his findings to a future Commission Meeting.

**2. MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2008**

2.1 These were agreed subject to requested changes.

**3. MATTERS ARISING**

**Anglesey Community Review**

3.1 The Secretary advised that he had written to Canolfan Bedwyr thanking them for their assistance, as agreed at the last meeting.

### **Transformation of the Commission's IT system**

- 3.2 The Commissioners were informed that the transformation of the Commission's IT system by Merlin had now been finished and appeared to be satisfactory.

### **Blaenau Gwent Community Review**

- 3.3 It was reported that the Secretariat had undertaken a site visit to Blaenau Gwent and that a report of the findings would be presented at the October meeting.

### **Sustainable Procurement**

- 3.4 This initiative was ongoing with Investors in People being adopted and all staff attending Sustainable Procurement training.

## **4. WREXHAM FURTHER COMMUNITY REVIEW**

- 4.1 The Commission noted and agreed the final version of the Report and Proposals for the Wrexham further community review. **It was agreed** that the report would be published as soon as possible.

## **5. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS 2008**

- 5.1 The Secretary reported that he had undertaken this review after the last local government elections. When compared (after taking into account any reduction of seats) with the 2004 review of community council election results the following points were noted:

- The number of non-contested seats had stayed the same; and
- There was no change to the number of vacant seats.

- 5.2 **It was agreed** that the review findings should be discussed at the Members' meeting with the WAG Minister. **It was agreed** that the Secretary would incorporate the review report into a letter to the Minister to be sent before the meeting.

- 5.3 The Secretary reported that he had agreed to provide the Electoral Commission with a copy of the review findings and that they had also agreed to provide the Commission for equivalent information in respect of Welsh unitary authority elections. **It was agreed** that a copy of the review would be sent for information to all local authority chief executives and electoral registration officers, One Voice Wales and the Welsh Local Government Association, and that they would be informed of the Commission's intention to bring it to the Minister's attention.

## **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 6.1 The Commission had been asked by Conwy CB Council for an extension to the end of November for the representations deadline for the Conwy Community review. The Commission considered that they would need to consider the representations

at their November meeting and therefore extending the deadline to the end of that month would not be possible. **It was agreed** that the review deadline could be extended until the end of the first week of November which would then allow time for the representations to be prepared for the November meeting. It was agreed that Conwy Council would be informed of the amended deadline date.

## **7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

7.1 Dates for future meetings were as agreed as follows:

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 10:45 a.m.