

**LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR WALES
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING
HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2017 AT HASTINGS HOUSE.**

Present: Mr. Owen Watkin (Chair); Mrs. Julie May and Mr. Theodore Joloza. Mr David Powell contributed via telephone link.

LDBCW Officers attending: Mr Steve Halsall (Chief Executive); Mr Matt Redmond (Deputy Chief Executive); Mrs Rachel Williams (Business Support Manager).

Apologies: Mr Ceri Stradling.

Time Started: 09:30

Time Finished: 10:15

1. Declarations of Interest

- 1.1. No Declarations of Interest were made.

2. Gwynedd Electoral Review

- 2.1. The Chief Executive stated that a timetable for the local government reviews had been agreed with Welsh Government. The Initial Consultation Period for the Gwynedd Council Electoral Review has been agreed to commence on 10 February 2017 and conclude on 4 May 2017.
- 2.2. Gwynedd Council issued a letter to the Commission requesting that the Initial Consultation Period be extended to 30 June 2017, as Welsh local government elections will be held on 4 May 2017.
- 2.3. Gwynedd Council also expressed disappointment at the Commission's inadequate provision in respect of Welsh language services; however, it was noted that the Commission has complied with current Welsh Language Standards.
- 2.4. The Chief Executive has drafted a response to Gwynedd Council, explaining the Commission's timetabling and Welsh language provision difficulties.
- 2.5. The Commission considered five options in response to Gwynedd's request for an extension: (1) continue as timetabled, with no extension; (2) grant an extension for Gwynedd to the end of May 2017; (3) grant an extension to Gwynedd until 30 June 2017; (4) grant an extension to Gwynedd, and accept that Ceredigion Council and Powys Council – whose Initial Consultation Periods are equivalent to that of Gwynedd – may request extensions, which would require consideration; or, (5) grant an extension to Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Powys, pre-empting further requests.
- 2.6. The Chief Executive expressed reluctance to grant any extension, due to timetabling difficulties this will pose to the Secretariat. Were the Commission to grant an extension, Option 2 above would be preferable. Option 3 above would have a significant impact upon the timetable and the wellbeing of

Secretariat staff. Options 4 and 5 would also impact upon the timetable and Secretariat staff.

- 2.7. The Deputy Chief Executive explained the current timetable has been designed with stringent deadlines; no leeway is included for additional workload, which an extension would generate.
- 2.8. The Chair stated that the Commission is aware of the impact of the requested extension and the resultant pressures on the Secretariat staff.
- 2.9. The Commission considered that particular circumstances applied to Gwynedd Council in view of the timing of the review.
- 2.10. The Commission agreed that an extension of 30 June 2017 could jeopardise the overall timetable. It was resolved that an extension of 31 May 2017 be granted, and a Welsh language telephone conversation will be conducted with Gwynedd Council confirming the Commission's resolution.

3. Any Other Relevant Business

- 3.1. No Other Relevant Business.

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 21 February 2017