Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

Note of Meeting held on 25th October 2022 at 3.30pm

Erskine House, Belfast & Microsoft Teams

**In Attendance**

Mr. Justice Michael Humphreys, Deputy Chair to the Boundary Commission (MH)

Vilma Patterson, Boundary Commissioner (VP)

Siobhan Carey, Registrar General of Northern Ireland (SC)

Jim Lennon, Chief Survey Officer, LPS (JL)

Virginia McVea, Chief Electoral Officer (VMcV)

Heather McKinley, Secretary to the Boundary Commission (HMcK)

Andrea Richardson, Deputy Secretary to the Boundary Commission (AR)

Lyn McBride, Support Officer to the Boundary Commission (LM)

**Apologies**

Sarah Havlin, Boundary Commissioner (SH)

Angela McGrath, Commissioner of Valuation, LPS (AMcG)

# Welcome and Apologies

Attendees were welcomed to the hybrid meeting.

# Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

# Note of Previous Meeting

# Members agreed the note of the BCNI meeting held on 27th September 2022.

# Further Scenario Planning for the Third Consultation Launch

It had been agreed at the previous meeting to further consider the position regarding a possible Assembly election, and the impact of the pre-election period on the third consultation. There was a discussion on the current position and the options available to the Commission, and it was noted that the Secretariat were liaising with NIO Sponsor team on the direction of travel. It was agreed to defer any final decision on potentially delaying the consultation, so as to be in possession of the most up-to-date information.

Having agreed at the previous meeting that if an election was called in advance of the consultation launch, the launch should be postponed (in line with the electoral guidance), a comms plan for that scenario (if required) was also discussed and agreed.

# Overview of the Third Consultation Delivery Plan

It was noted that until there is a confirmed position regarding the possible election, the Commission must continue to prepare for launching the consultation as planned on Thursday 17th November, in line with the legislative timetable. Attendees were provided with an overview of the various consultation products and resources currently being finalised. These included:

* **Revised Proposals Report and Accompanying Static Maps** – further to the decisions by Commissioners on the revised proposals, it was noted that the Secretariat had worked closely with LPS in producing the map products and were grateful for that technical expertise.
* **Spatial NI Interactive Map –** it was noted that Spatial NI were currently working on updating this with the revised proposals, and the Secretariat expressed their thanks to LPS Spatial NI in supporting this resource.
* **A1 Map and Information Poster –** these were shown onscreen to attendees, and it was noted that they will bedisplayed at local council venues and libraries across NI in line with BCNI’s statutory duties – thanks to those organisations for their support were noted.
* **Other Publicity-** There will be emails to stakeholders, a press briefing, a press release and a tweet for the day of launch, along with a series of other tweets to encourage public engagement throughout the consultation. A promoted Tweet will also be used on social media to increase reach.
* **Citizen Space Online Portal -** A demonstration of this portal, which includes key information about the review and revised proposals, and allows the public to submit their representation online, was given.

Following discussion, attendees noted the range of products and publicity materials planned and agreed that they were good resources to encourage public engagement with the consultation.

# AOB

An update on staffing regarding the Office Manager vacancy was given.

# Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 29th November 2022 in Erskine House, Belfast.