

# Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Boundary Commission for Northern Ireland

Tuesday 23 February 2016 @ 2.00pm

The Bungalow, Stormont House, Stormont Estate, Belfast

### Present:

The Hon Madam Justice McBride (Deputy Chairperson, BCNI)  
Dr Bill Smith (Commissioner, BCNI)  
Sarah Havlin (Commissioner, BCNI)  
Graham Shields (Assessor, Chief Electoral Officer for Northern Ireland)  
Alan Bronté (Assessor, Commissioner of Valuation for Northern Ireland)  
John Deyermond (Assessor, Chief Survey Officer of Land & Property Services)  
Jos Ijpelaar (Northern Ireland Statistics & Research Agency)  
Eamonn McConville (Secretary, BCNI)  
Kris Todd (Deputy Secretary, BCNI)  
Tim Johnston (Secretariat, BCNI)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Deputy Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, on 12 January 2016, were agreed. No matters arising.

### 3. Update from the Secretary

The Secretary advised the meeting that the posts of Deputy Secretary and Office Manager had been filled in the period following the previous meeting and that the advertisement for the remaining vacant secretariat position, the Administrative Officer post, is to be published on 29 February.

The Secretary also advised the meeting that work with Land & Property Services (LPS) was well underway on an appropriate Geographic Information System (GIS). This will enable the two Commissioners to commence modelling of the new boundaries as soon as possible following the formal commencement of the 2018 Review on 24 February 2016.

#### **4. Commencement of the 2018 Review**

The Deputy Chair provided an update on the publication of the Office for National Statistics' (ONS') figures. The electoral figures would be received on the morning of 24 February 2016, with an announcement to follow later that day. An advanced notice of the announcement was issued to elected representatives across NI and to local Councils on 23 February.

#### **5. Lines to take – Paper BC (16)4**

Paper BC (16)4 was discussed and amendments agreed. The 'FAQ' document was approved for use.

#### **6. Decision on the Shared Consultation Portal – Paper BC (16)5**

The Secretary gave an overview of the history of the portal project and the options/costs paper provided by the Project Team. A brief demonstration was then given of the tools already available on the LPS website and elsewhere. After some discussion around the costs and benefits of each course of action, it was agreed that BCNI would only stay on board with the Portal project if it was at no cost.

The meeting then discussed how enquiries from potential contributors for use of a GIS would be managed. It was agreed that BCNI could not facilitate such a request. The meeting discussed the likely recourse of referring such requests to LPS. Mr Bronte agreed to look into this issue and advise the Commission accordingly. In the meantime potential contributors can avail of datasets on the LPS website via Spatial NI.

#### **7. AOB**

On the issue of remote access to the GIS system for the Commissioners, the Secretary advised that this is being explored with LPS. It was also confirmed that a secure room, and appropriate technical support, would be provided to the Commissioners by LPS in Lanyon Plaza.

A 'Register of Interest' will be circulated to the Deputy Chair and the commissioners for completion.

#### **8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to be arranged for late June 2016.