

SOUTH RIBBLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING – 24 JULY 2013

REPORT OF THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE

The Boundary Committee met on the afternoon of Monday 8 July 2013.

1. Finalise Recommendations for Revised Ward Boundaries for Submission to Council.

Further to min. no.10, 1 July 2013, the Chairman proposed to deal with the revised ward boundaries by each of the five neighbourhood areas in turn with an aim to identify any aspects of consensus. Whilst all members of the committee recognised the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) was more likely to accept the council's proposals if they had cross party support, however, it was unlikely that there would be complete consensus from all three parties. There was then a general discussion on each of the five areas.

Following on from the meeting on 1 July there was all party support for the warding arrangements in the Western Parishes as proposed by the Conservative group. In view of a change to the New Longton and Hutton East ward it was suggested the title of this ward be amended to New Longton, Hutton East and Whitestake ward.

In respect of the Central area, there was then consensus on the Conservative group's proposed warding arrangements for the two wards of Farington East and Farington West. Moving to the Central area's remaining new ward of Lostock Hall and Tardygate, whilst accepting this as a three member ward the Labour group suggested an alternative which moved 739 electors in to Walton-le-Dale (in the Eastern neighbourhood area). The electorate figures for the revised wards (including those in Eastern) would apparently be within the tolerances. There was then a general discussion, but no agreement as this subsequently impacted on the electorate figures for the proposed wards in the Eastern area.

The committee then turned to the Eastern neighbourhood area. Bearing in mind the above discussion regarding the ward of Lostock Hall and Tardygate it was agreed that it was too late in the process to come to agreement. The Labour group then indicated that it would submit its own suggested revised ward boundaries for the ward of Lostock Hall and Tardygate and, those wards in the Eastern neighbourhood area.

The next area considered was the Penwortham neighbourhood area. The committee debated two proposals, firstly by the Conservative group and then a joint proposal by the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups. Whilst there was a degree of similarity, an area of major discussion was Kingsfold. Similar to above the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups indicated that they would submit a joint alternative for the revised ward boundaries for those wards in the Penwortham neighbourhood area.

The Chairman confirmed that the plans illustrating the council's revised ward boundaries would not be available to the public before they were submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC). Following which they would form part of the LGBC's 12 week consultation process.

In response to an enquiry regarding possible names for wards in the Leyland area, it was suggested to change the name of the ward of Leyland St Marys to Leyland St Andrews (as this was now the relevant church in the ward), Leyland St Ambrose was still appropriate and there was a proposal to amend the name of the ward of Moss Side to Moss Side and Midge Hall.

The Chairman advised the committee that it now appeared Chorley council was prepared to re-enter dialogue regarding the boroughs' boundary anomalies at Buckshaw Village which might come forward as part of this review, if time permitted.

It was decided that:-

As previously discussed the revised warding arrangements for the borough be grouped in the

council's five neighbourhood areas. The following proposed warding arrangements be submitted for approval to the meeting of the council to be held on 24 July 2013 for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission by 5 August 2013:

1. that the revised warding arrangements for the Western Parishes neighbourhood area as proposed by the Conservative Group be the council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission (unanimous);
2. that the revised warding arrangements for the two wards of Farington East and Farington West in the Central neighbourhood area as proposed by the Conservative Group be the council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission (unanimous);
3. i) that the revised warding arrangements for the ward of Lostock Hall and Tardygate in the Central neighbourhood area and those wards in the Eastern neighbourhood area as proposed by the Conservative Group be the council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission (6 for, 3 against, 1 abstention); and

ii) that the Labour group reserved its right to submit its own proposals, relating to the ward of Lostock Hall and Tardygate in the Central neighbourhood area and those wards in the Eastern neighbourhood area, to the Local Government Boundary Commission;
4. i) that the revised warding arrangements for the Penwortham neighbourhood area as proposed by the Conservative Group be the council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission (6 for, 4 against); and

ii) that the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups reserve their right to submit a joint alternative proposal for Penwortham neighbourhood area to the Local Government Boundary Commission;
5. that the revised warding arrangements for the Leyland neighbourhood area ward of Moss Side as proposed by the Conservative Group be the council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission (unanimous);
6. i) that the remaining revised warding arrangements for Leyland neighbourhood area as proposed by the Conservative Group be the council's submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission (6 for, 4 against); and

ii) that the Labour group reserved its right to submit its own proposals, for the remaining wards in the Leyland neighbourhood area, to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

Members are asked to:

1. Approve the above recommendations of the Boundary Committee; and
2. Authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chairman of the Boundary Committee to finalise the council's submission for Revised Ward Boundaries to the Local Government Boundary Commission by 5 August 2013.

2. Forthcoming Meetings

Members noted the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) Timetable. This included the council having to submit its proposed revised ward boundaries to the LGBC by 5 August 2013, hence the need for Council to approve the Boundary Committee report from this meeting at its meeting on the 24 July 2013.

Following which the LGBC would meet on 10 September 2013. The LGBC would then open a period of consultation on the draft recommendations from 15 October 2013 to 6 January 2014 (12 weeks). To consider this, further meetings of the council's Boundary Committee had been scheduled for Tuesday 22 October 2013 and Monday 4 November 2013.

I hereby commend the report of the Boundary Committee to the Council.

COUNCILLOR MRS MARGARET SMITH
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOUNDARY COMMITTEE