
**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE
EXECUTIVE
HELD ON 14 MARCH 2011**

**EX.044/11 UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
(LGBCE) CONSULTATION**
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Cross Cutting

Subject Matter

The Deputy Chief Executive submitted report CE.07/11 updating Members of the Executive on recent consultations carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

As Members would recall, the Executive had on 22 December 2010 considered report CE.38/10 concerning the consultations entitled "Along the Right Lines" and "Striking The Right Balance" and submitted a response prior to the December 2010 consultation deadline. The responses from all of the organisations, individuals and groups of individuals, which were generally positive and supportive of the proposals, had been published on the LGBCE website. All the indications were that the LGBCE would henceforth be conducting its business in accordance with the approach described in those documents.

The responses received from Cumbria were from the City Council's Executive, and the Leader and Deputy Leader (joint response) of the County Council. The web form responses appeared to be anonymous.

The Deputy Chief Executive reminded Members that they had suggested that the LGBCE were offered the opportunity to come to Carlisle and discuss their proposals with the Executive. The Commission responded positively and the Director of Reviews and a colleague had attended a recent meeting of the Joint Management Team to explain how the Commission would respond to the consultation and answer Members' questions.

He added that the strong and consistent message from the Commission was that any proposed changes must have clear evidence of public support and make sense in terms of effective and convenient local government. Where those criteria were met the Commission was ready to conduct reviews.

On behalf of the Executive, the Leader stated that the City Council should give consideration to the total number of Members elected to serve the Council. That was particularly important bearing in mind the current difficult economic climate and reduced

income levels facing the authority, which had necessitated implementation of initiatives including the Transformation Programme and Shared Services, and consequently reduced staffing levels.

He therefore proposed that, for the reasons outlined, the Executive recommend that the City Council give consideration to the potential for a significant reduction in the number of City Councillors; and submit a request to the Local Government Boundary Commission that it commence a far reaching electoral review into the size of the City Council.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder considered the above proposal to be appropriate in the current economic climate. The authority had changed enormously since membership was set at fifty two during the 1990s. Staffing levels at the City Council had reduced and Councillors should not be isolated from that process. The Portfolio Holder believed that it was important that Councillors demonstrated their support for staff at this difficult time.

In response to a Member's question, the Leader confirmed that increased partnership working would form part of the debate at Council on 26 April 2011.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

1. That the Executive noted the content of Report CE.07/11.
2. That the Executive recommended that the City Council, at its meeting on 26 April 2011, agree that a significant reduction in the number of City Councillors was required and that the Local Government Boundary Commission be requested to commence an electoral review of the matter.

Reasons for Decision

To inform Members of the up-to-date position on consultations carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.