

At the Special Meeting of the **WEST DEVON BOROUGH COUNCIL** held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILWORTHY PARK, TAVISTOCK** on **TUESDAY** the **15th** day of **JULY 2014** at **12 noon** pursuant to Notice given and Summons duly served.

Present Cllr C M Marsh – The Mayor (In the Chair)

Cllr S C Bailey	Cllr R E Baldwin
Cllr M J R Benson	Cllr W G Cann OBE
Cllr D W Cloke	Cllr C Hall
Cllr T J Hill	Cllr L J G Hockridge
Cllr A F Leech	Cllr J R McInnes
Cllr M E Morse	Cllr D E Moyse
Cllr C R Musgrave	Cllr T G Pearce
Cllr P J Ridgers	Cllr P R Sanders
Cllr J Sheldon	Cllr D Whitcomb

Head of Paid Service
Monitoring Officer
Democratic Services Manager

CM 25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs K Ball, A Clish-Green, M V L Ewings, D M Horn, J B Moody, N Morgan, R J Oxborough, L B Rose, R F D Sampson, Cllr D K A Sellis, E H Sherrell and D M Wilde.

CM 26 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Mayor invited Members to declare any interests in the items of business to be considered during the course of the meeting, but there were none made.

CM 27 ELECTORAL REVIEW – DRAFT WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

A report was considered that presented the recommendations of the Political Structures Working Group in respect of the draft warding arrangements as proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).

The Chairman of the Political Structures Working Group introduced the report and took the Council through the key points of the draft submission.

In discussion, reference was made to:-

- (a) the level of attendance. Some Members expressed their disappointment at the level of attendance at this meeting for such an important matter;

- (b) further correspondence received from a Tavistock Town Councillor. The Council considered the contents of the correspondence received and concluded that it would not be appropriate to look at including the level of detail which was outlined at this stage in the Council Submission;
- (c) the importance of all interested parties submitting their evidence based representations to the Boundary Commission before the deadline of 21 July 2014;
- (d) the Council's proposals constituting a simple and effective approach to the Review. Since the Review had been an unwanted distraction which had been imposed upon the Council (especially as there was a general consensus that the current arrangements were working fine), a number of Members commented that the Working Group's proposed alternative was the only viable solution. In reaching this view, Members had not taken this decision lightly and recognised that there were (albeit small) additional costs associated with increasing the total membership by one Member. Nonetheless, when considering the criteria set down by the Commission, the Council's proposal was felt to be the only workable option;
- (e) the reasons why the Council should not support the Boundary Commission's recommendations. During the debate, a number of Members reiterated the following reasons for concern which were referred to in detail in the Council's draft submission:
- low proportion of Single Member Wards;
 - sheer size of the Bridestowe and Dartmoor Wards;
 - scepticism regarding the projected electorate figures to 2019; and
 - the need to keep communities together.
- (f) the quality of the Council's draft submission. A number of Members wished to extend their thanks to the Democratic Services Manager for his efforts in producing an excellent draft submission.

It was then proposed by Cllr J R McInnes, seconded by Cllr R E Baldwin and upon being submitted to the Meeting was declared to be **CARRIED** and **"RESOLVED** that the draft response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England proposals on the future electoral arrangements for West Devon Borough Council (as outlined at Appendix 2 of the presented agenda report) be endorsed, subject to any further comments which are agreed during the meeting."

(The Meeting terminated at 12.25 pm)

Mayor