

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK
CROSS PARTY ELECTORAL REVIEW CABINET TASK GROUP

Minutes from the Meeting of the Cross Party Electoral Review Cabinet Task Group held on Monday, 11th December, 2017 at 4.00 pm in the Meeting Room 1, Second Floor, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

PRESENT: Councillor B Long
 Councillors J Collop, Mrs S Collop and Mrs S Fraser

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Moriarty and Mrs J Westrop

1 **MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The notes from the meeting held on 3 August 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

3 **MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34**

None

4 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION SUBMISSION OF BOUNDARIES FOR THE BOROUGH**

The Task Group considered the submission by the Local Government Boundary Commission, which was out for consultation until 15 January 2018.

The Task Group expressed its dissatisfaction in as far as the proposals put forward by the Borough Council had been worked out in accordance with the advice and guidance given by the Commission to have 54 Councillors, to limit the number of multi member wards, and to ensure the electoral equality was not above + or - 10% for each ward. The proposals put forward by the Commission included 3 member wards which the Council had expressed the wish to not have 3 member wards, and some of the percentage variances were high in comparison to those put forward. The Task Group considered that the Commission had greater weight to comments made by individuals, some of which were emotionally based, over the view of the whole Council.

Concern was expressed at the current variance for Brancaster ward which started out at -4%, and in the view of the Group would only

continue to decrease due to the continuing increase in the number of second homes for the area. It was considered that although Hunstanton started at a -5% it would have some development in the ward.

The issue of Gaywood North Bank ward was discussed. The Borough's proposals had broken down the existing large ward into 3 individual wards, which the Council considered would work better as smaller wards rather than with 3 members. The fact that the splits were not based on individual community groups was not considered a problem as it was often the case in urban areas. Following the comments submitted from 1 member the area had been returned to a 3 member ward. This change was not supported by the Group.

Recommended: That Cabinet be recommended to submit a letter to the Boundary Commission to express the above concerns.

The meeting closed at 4.45 pm