

**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AT MEETINGS
WORKING GROUP**

HELD: 21 DECEMBER 2015

Start: 4.00pm

Finish: 4.45pm

PRESENT: Councillor Pendleton (Chairman)
Councillor Westley

Officers: Borough Solicitor (Mr T. Broderick)
Electoral and Administration Services Manager (Mr T Lyнан)
Assistant Member Services Manager (Mrs J Denning)

12. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Oliver.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the last meeting of the Working Group held on 28 September 2015 be agreed as a correct record.

15. EXTENDED TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED That the extended terms of reference be noted as follows:

“(b) To undertake a formal review of:

- the elected membership of this Council
- current ward boundaries
- the number of members per ward

To assess the most appropriate, efficient, effective, democratic and cost effective membership structure for West Lancashire Borough Council.

(c) To, as part of the review, consider the pros and cons of ‘all-out’ or ‘en-bloc’ elections versus the current ‘rotation’ elections and make recommendations for consideration by Members and residents via public consultation.”

16. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Consideration was given to the report of the Borough Solicitor, which referred to the request that Members take steps towards the preparation of a report to Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny and Council on the steps considered necessary to carry out an electoral review.

Comments and questions were raised in respect of the following:

- Reviews undertaken by Knowsley and South Ribble Councils
- Financial implications and potential savings
- Lancashire County Council's ongoing review
- Timing
- All out elections for the Borough (and Parishes) and implications in terms of costs

- RESOLVED
- A. That the report and appendices be noted, in particular, that the triggers for an automatic electoral review by the Local Government Commission are not met.
- B. That a meeting be arranged in January 2016 to consider further progress, including:
- feedback from Knowsley and South Ribble, either by telephone link or visit, on the process they have undertaken and the views of their members (preferably the Chairman of the relevant body that carried out the review on behalf of the Council) and officers, in relation to the review and the reduction in the number of Councillors
 - the costs of elections by thirds and the potential for savings on an all-out elections model, including the potential savings if Parishes had all out elections during the same year.
 - Examples of the impact on ratio should 3 member wards be reduced to 2 compared to the current ratios.
- C. That a meeting be arranged possibly in January/February 2016, to consider the draft report to be submitted to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Council, which should consider the matters referred to in B. above and include relevant timescales for submitting a request to the Boundary Commission, taking into account the timescales of the compulsory statutory review to be undertaken in 2019/20 and the Commissions indication that a review for West Lancashire would not take place before 2017.