

**NOTES OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN MEETINGS WORKING GROUP  
VISIT TO KNOWSLEY MBC  
HUYTON  
18 FEBRUARY 2016**

**PRESENT:**

**Councillors:**           **West Lancashire BC:**  
R Pendleton (Chairman) and D Westley

**Knowsley MBC:**  
A Moorhead (Leader) and M Murphy

**Officers:**               **West Lancashire BC:**  
Borough Solicitor (Mr T Broderick)  
Elections Manager (Mr T Lynan)  
Assistant Member Services Manager (Mrs J Denning)

**Knowsley MBC:**  
Assistant Executive Director – Governance (Mrs Y Ledgerton)

**1.0 BOUNDARY REVIEW – KNOWSLEY MBC**

1.1 Members of the Working Group and Officers from WLBC were welcomed by Members and an Officer from Knowsley MBC, the purpose of the visit was noted: to obtain their views and reasons as to why Knowsley decided to embark on a Boundary Review and to gain an understanding of the issues they faced during the process.

1.2 Knowsley provided details in respect of:

- The reasons for the review – savings and sustainability of the arrangements ie. to prevent any potential changes that may be imposed by the Boundary Commission as part of a future Parliamentary Boundary Review
- Options they looked at – Number of Members, size of Wards, Number of Members per Ward
- Timescales – the lengthy process for just the initial stages of evidence gathering which was started in June 2013
- The Membership of the body set up to consider – Senior Members and a Member from each geographical area
- The importance of Political Group consultation
- The Officer Project Team which had been put together from across the Council to consider the various elements of the review, as evidence was gathered prior to a formal review by the Boundary Commission
- The first meeting held with the Boundary Commission in December '13 where the Council set out the basic principles in relation to what change it wanted ie. to reduce the number of Councillors for Knowsley
- The reasons why Knowsley retained a 3 Member Ward structure ie. sustainability

- How the revised Ward Boundaries were drafted firstly by officers based on geography and established transport, education and community links, number of electors, projected elector figures and existing Polling Districts.
- The detailed preparation of the submission prior to the formal hand over to the Boundary Commission
- The much needed informal briefings for Town and Parish Councils
- The importance of Knowsley's own communications campaign to be sustainable and lean
- Saving to be eventually achieved in relation to Members Allowances
- The requirement from the Boundary Commission to ensure that adequate governance structures are in place following any change
- Elections by thirds in Knowsley
- Crucial to follow the guidance issued by the LG Boundary Commission
- Changes for Polling Districts and polling Places
- Register changes.

2.2 Members of the Working Group thanked Knowsley for receiving them.