

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

22 June 2016

**Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland – Fifth Statutory
Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements in Scotland – Final
Recommendations to Scottish Ministers for Wards In Perth and Kinross
Council Area**

Report by Head of Democratic Services

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report advises that on 26 May 2016, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland published its report to Scottish Ministers containing final recommendations for wards in the Perth and Kinross Council area in relation to the Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements. The Council has until 7 July 2016 to make comments to Scottish Ministers.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council's current electoral arrangements with 41 members in 12 multi-member wards are set out in The Perth and Kinross (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2006. The Order came into force on 14 July 2006 following the Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland ('the Commission'). The Review had been undertaken as required by the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 which introduced multi-member wards, and the final recommendations of the Review were reported to the Council on 29 March 2006 (Article 226 and Report 06/217 refer).
- 1.2 The Commission began the Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements in February 2014. Further detail on the Review is available on the Commission's website at http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/reviews/5th_electoral/timetable.asp.
- 1.3 The Council considered the Commission's proposals on 23 April 2014 (Article 251 and [Report 14/174](#) refer); 13 May 2015 (Article 310 and [Report 15/196](#) refer); and most recently on 7 October 2015 (Article 660 and [Report 15/424](#) refer).
- 1.4 On 7 October 2015, the Council agreed:-
 - (i) The revised proposals by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) for wards for the Perth and Kinross Council area, be noted.

- (ii) It be noted that there are no proposed changes to Ward 1 (Carse of Gowrie), Ward 6 (Strathearn), Ward 7 (Strathallan) and Ward 10 (Perth City South).
- (iii) It be noted that there are no proposed changes to ward names.
- (iv) The proposed changes to ward boundaries by Aberfeldy, Bamff and Logierait as suggested by the Council, be accepted.
- (v) It be agreed that the Council does not accept the proposals to reduce the number of councillors in Ward 8 (Kinross-shire) by 1 and agrees to maintain the Council's stated position that:
 - (a) given the GROS projected population increase for Perth and Kinross over the coming years, the Council feels that there is insufficient basis for a reduction in councillor numbers in Perth and Kinross and
 - (b) the "status quo" of 41 elected members should be retained for Perth and Kinross Council.
- (vi) The LGBCS be asked to:
 - (a) Take account of –
 - the precedent set in respect of another category 4 local authority, whereby the LGBCS agreed to retain the same number of councillors when the LGBCS methodology suggested a decrease of one, despite that authority's voter to councillor ratio being lower than that for this Council;
 - the local ties which will be broken by the LGBCS proposals for Ward 8 (Kinross-shire); and
 - the difficulty of identifying the boundary selected between Ward 8 (Kinross-shire) and Ward 9 (Almond and Earn);
 - (b) apply a special geographic consideration to Ward 8 (Kinross-shire); and
 - (c) give further consideration to the proposals to make changes to ward boundaries by Almondbank, Perth and north of Kinross.
- (vii) The Head of Democratic Services be instructed to respond to the Commission by 22 October 2015.

2. PROPOSALS

Commission's Final Recommendations

- 2.1 In a letter to the Chief Executive dated 24 May 2016, the Commission advised that on 26 May 2016, it had submitted to Scottish Ministers its final recommendations for the number of Councillors and the electoral ward boundaries in each of Scotland's 32 local authorities. The reports and further information regarding the recommendations are available on the Commission's website at http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/reviews/5th_electoral/.
- 2.2 The letter also advised that the Council would have 6 weeks to make comments to Scottish Ministers on the final recommendations (ie by 7 July 2016). At the conclusion of that 6 week period, Scottish Ministers will determine whether to make an Order giving effect to the Commission's recommendations either as submitted or with modifications.

- 2.3 The Commission's report sets out the review process in detail, including the representations received in respect of the provisional proposals. The report also sets out the Commission's consideration of these representations.
- 2.4 The Commission developed its final recommendations following consideration at its meetings on 9 November 2015 and 19 April 2016 – copies of papers and minutes are available on the Commission's website at http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/publications/meeting_papers/index.asp.
- 2.5 Copies of the Commission's report to Scottish Minsters were supplied to group leaders, and Councillors were made aware that the report to Ministers was available to download from the Commission's website.
- 2.6 Copies of the report were made available at display points in the Council area.
- 2.7 The Commission's recommendations are that the future electoral arrangements for the Council area should provide for a Council of 40 Councillors in 12 wards, comprising 4 wards each returning 4 members and 8 wards each returning 3 members as follows:

Ward no.	Ward name	Councillors	Electorate Sept 13	Actual variation from parity	Forecast electorate	Forecast variation from parity
1	Carse of Gowrie	3	7,428	-11%	7,827	-10%
2	Strathmore	4	11,855	6%	12,430	7%
3	Blairgowrie and Glens	3	8,640	3%	8,993	3%
4	Highland	3	7,139	-15%	7,469	-14%
5	Strathtay	3	8,678	3%	8,965	3%
6	Strathearn	3	8,515	1%	8,824	1%
7	Strathallan	3	7,923	-6%	8,544	-2%
8	Kinross-shire	4	10,023	-10%	10,656	-8%
9	Almond and Earn	3	7,280	-13%	7,935	-9%
10	Perth City South	4	12,585	12%	12,737	9%
11	Perth City North	3	9,406	12%	9,439	8%
12	Perth City Centre	4	12,433	11%	12,619	8%
	Total	40	111,905	9%	116,438	7%

2.8 In summary, the recommendations –

- (1) make changes to ward boundaries by Aberfeldy, Bamff and Logierait, as suggested by the Council.
- (2) amend the ward boundary by Almondbank.
- (3) retain the existing Kinross-shire ward boundary;
- (4) amend the ward boundaries in Perth, with the Perth City North ward becoming a 3-member ward, and a minor change to the boundary between the Perth City South and the Perth City Centre wards in the south of Perth to follow the A912 Edinburgh Road.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland commenced in February 2014, with the Commission's final recommendations being submitted to Scottish Ministers on 26 May 2016.

3.2 The Council has 6 weeks from 26 May 2016 to comment to Scottish Ministers on the Commission's final recommendations.

3.3 It is recommended that the Council –

- i) Notes the final recommendations to Scottish Ministers by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland for wards for the Perth and Kinross Council area.
- ii) Notes that there are no proposed changes to Ward 1 (Carse of Gowrie), Ward 6 (Strathearn), Ward 7 (Strathallan) and Ward 8 (Kinross-shire).
- iii) Notes that there are no proposed changes to ward names.
- iv) Agrees to accept the proposed changes to ward boundaries by Aberfeldy, Bamff and Logierait as suggested by the Council.
- v) Agrees that the Council's preferred position is that it does not accept the proposals to reduce the number of councillors by 1 but agrees to maintain the Council's previous position that:
 - (a) given the GROS projected population increase for Perth and Kinross over the coming years, the Council feels that there is insufficient basis for a reduction in councillor numbers in Perth and Kinross and
 - (b) the "status quo" of 41 elected members should be retained for Perth and Kinross Council.
- vi) Gives further consideration to the proposals to make changes to ward boundaries by Almondbank, Perth, and in Perth City.
- vii) Instructs the Head of Democratic Services to submit the Council's comments to Scottish Ministers by 7 July 2016.

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	N/A
Corporate Plan	N/A
Resource Implications	
Financial	N/A
Workforce	N/A
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	N/A
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	N/A
Strategic Environmental Assessment	N/A
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	N/A
Legal and Governance	N/A
Risk	N/A
Consultation	
Internal	N/A
External	N/A
Communication	
Communications Plan	N/A

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals set out in this report do not relate directly to the achievement of priorities in the Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement.

Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals set out in this report do not relate directly to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the proposals set out in this report.

Workforce

- 2.2 There are no workforce implications arising directly from the proposals set out in this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.3 There are no asset management implications arising directly from the proposals set out in this report.

3. Assessments

- 3.1 No assessments have been undertaken in relation to the proposals set out in this report.

Legal and Governance

- 3.2 There are no legal and governance implications arising directly from the proposals set out in this report.

Risk

- 3.3 No key risks have been identified in relation to the proposals set out in this report.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The final recommendations by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland were circulated to group leaders on 25 May 2016.

External

- 4.2 There has been no external consultation in relation to the proposals set out in this report.

5. Communication

- 5.1 There is no requirement for the Council to undertake communications activity in relation to the proposals set out in this report.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers other than those referred to in this report were relied on in preparing the report.

3. APPENDICES

None