

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL - 9 MAY 2005

LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 - REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS: STAGE 3

Report by Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To submit for consideration of Council, (i) the Local Government Boundary Commission's initial proposals for nine multi-member wards within East Ayrshire; and (ii) the recommendations of the Council's Member/Officer Working Group on Review of Ward Boundaries in respect of the Boundary Commission's initial proposals and suggested ward names.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland in accordance with a Direction issued under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 is carrying out a review of Local Government Ward Boundaries within Scotland.
- 2.2** The Council established a Member/Officer Working Group to work with the Boundary Commission in developing multi-member ward proposals for East Ayrshire.
- 2.3** The Council in accordance with Stage 1 of the review timetable, submitted on 9 November 2004 proposals for nine multi-member wards within East Ayrshire.
- 2.4** The Boundary Commission submitted its initial proposals for nine multi-member wards for consideration by East Ayrshire Council. The Council had two months to respond and require to make any submission no later than 9 May 2005. Arrangements have been made with the Boundary Commission to receive the Council's submissions today following conclusion of the Council meeting.
- 2.5** On receipt of the Boundary Commission's initial proposals, full details on the proposals, related maps and an issues paper was circulated to all political groups within East Ayrshire Council for comments. Details of the information issued to the political groups are provided under Appendices I, II and III to this report.

Appendix I – Provides details on the Boundary Commission's, initial proposals i.e. Ward numbers, forecast of electorate as at 2009 and number of elected members. (Details of East Ayrshire Council's Ward Reference information and number of Members as per the Council's submission are also given).

Appendix II – Provides information on the differences between the Boundary Commission's initial proposals and the Council's submission.

Appendix III – Details the reasons applied by the Boundary Commission in not formulating new multi-member awards based on a combination of existing electoral awards.

Maps of the Boundary Commission's initial proposals will be available at the meeting.

- 2.6** Following receipt of any submissions made by East Ayrshire Council the Boundary Commission in terms of Stage 4 of the review timetable (copy attached as Appendix IV) will give full consideration of the Council's submission and where appropriate carry out further consultation with the Council in this regard. This period will take approximately 8 weeks. At the conclusion of this exercise the Boundary Commission will proceed to Stage 5 of the review timetable which is the full statutory public consultation process.

3. MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES

- 3.1** The Member/Officer Working Group met on 28 April 2005 and having given consideration to the submissions made by the Boundary Commission made recommendations as detailed within the Minutes of the meeting provided under Appendix V to this report.

4. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL

- 4.1** To consider the recommendations of the Working Party as detailed within Appendix V to the report.
- 4.2** In respect of any proposed amendments to the Boundary Commission's initial proposals, the Council is required to provide reasons for such amendments.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1** No specific financial implications arising out of this report.

6. LEGAL AUTHORITY

- 6.1** The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended and the Directions from the Scottish Ministers provide for the Council to participate within the review process.

7. POLICY IMPLICATIONS - Nil.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Council is requested to:-

- (i) approve the recommendations of the Working Party namely to support the Boundary Commission's initial proposals for nine multi-member wards within East Ayrshire as detailed within the Appendix to the Working Party's Minutes contained under Appendix V to this report, as a basis for the statutory public consultation process to be carried out by the Boundary Commission;
- (ii) to approve the proposed ward names as recommended by the Working Party detailed within the Minutes of the Working Party contained within Appendix V to this report;
- (iii) that the Chief Executive be authorised to intimate the Council's decision to the Boundary Commission in terms of the consultation process;
- (iv) to note the continuing remit of the Member/Officer Working Group on Review of Ward Boundaries to assist in the review process, with a particular emphasis in supporting the forthcoming public consultation exercise; and
- (v) to otherwise note the report.

Fiona Lees
Chief Executive

BW/SM
5 May 2005

(Encs 5)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter dated 7 March 2005 from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland to the Chief Executive.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers relative to this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on telephone number 01563 576135. Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager, on telephone number 01563 576135.

(Implementation Officer: Bill Walkinshaw)

APPENDIX I

STV PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION: EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL AREA FORECAST ELECTORATE AT 2009 (INCLUSIVE OF DEVELOPMENT DATA AS SUPPLIED BY THE COUNCIL)

EAC REF	BOUNDARY COMMISSION			
	INITIAL PROPOSALS			
EAC REF	WARD NO	FORECAST ELECTORATE	DEVIATION FOR PARITY	MEMBERS
Ward 2 - Cumnock/New Cumnock (4)	1	11,540	-4	4
Ward 1 - Doon Valley (3)	2	9,110	1	3
Ward 3 - Mauchline, Catrine, Sorn Muirkirk Etc (4)	3	11,600	-3	4
Ward 5 - Northern Area (3)	4	9,730	8	3
Ward 4 - Irvine Valley (4)	5	11,770	-2	4
Ward 8 - East Kilmarnock plus Hurlford etc (4)	6	12,370	3	4
Ward 7 - Kilmarnock South (3)	7	8,660	-4	3
Ward 6 - Northwest Kilmarnock (3)	8	9,150	2	3
Ward 9 - West Kilmarnock (4)	9	12,160	1	4
Total		96,090*		32

*The forecast electorate figures have been rounded.

PARITY	
PER MEMBER:	3,000
PER 3 MEMBER WARD	9,010
PER 4 MEMBER WARD	12,010

BW/FM

APPENDIX II

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW: STAGE 3

DETAILS OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S INITIAL PROPOSALS AND EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S ORIGINAL SUBMISSION

For ease of reference I have given both the Boundary Commission Ward No and East Ayrshire Council Ward No and name as follows:- BC1/EAC2 - Cumnock and New Cumnock - 4 Member Ward

1. BC1/EAC 2 - CUMNOCK AND NEW CUMNOCK - 4 MEMBER WARD

- (i) Northern boundary north of Cumnock moved further north towards Auchinleck to follow the line of the Auchinleck Burn.
- (ii) DV11 Ochiltree etc included within this ward (removed from EAC Ward 1 Doon Valley).
- (iii) Northern boundary north of Ochiltree, south of Mauchline, moved further north from the Diplo I Burn north to the River Ayr and northwest to the railway line, the effect of which has placed approximately six properties (Turnhill, Braehead, Syke, High Clews) into BC Ward 1 (formerly within EAC Ward 3 - Mauchline, Catrine, Sorn etc).

2. BC2/EAC 1 - DOON VALLEY - 3 MEMBER WARD

- (i) DV11 Ochiltree etc removed from this ward (included in EAC Ward 2 - Cumnock and New Cumnock).
- (ii) Boundary between BC Wards 1 and 2 within the Carsphairn Forest slightly altered - instead of following Linn Water now follows Rowkelly Burn - no properties affected.

3. BC WARD 3/EAC WARD 3 - MAUCLINE, CATRINE, SORN ETC: 4 MEMBER WARD AND BC WARD 5/EAC WARD 4 - IRVINE VALLEY: 4 MEMBER WARD.

- (i) Small amendment to boundary between these Wards - instead of turning south at Craighead following burn southward to Roddinghead then east to Killohead - **NOW** flows from Craighead, follows eastward along Cessnock Water until meets up at Killohead. Approximately four properties originally in proposed EAC Ward 4 - Irvine Valley now in proposed Boundary Commission Ward 3 - properties affected: Rigghead, Bruntwoodmains, Bruntwood and Bruntwoodhill. Plus further east one property similarly affected - Lawdyke - no major effect.

4. BC WARD 5/EAC WARD 4 - IRVINE VALLEY: 4 MEMBER WARD AND BC WARD 6/EAC WARD 8 - EAST KILMARNOCK AND HURLFORD ETC: 4 MEMBER WARD

- (i) Boundary at Barleith has been amended. Boundary Commission proposal follows river course, small area, no major effect.
- (ii) Kirklandside Hospital and Dollars Row removed from EAC 8, East Kilmarnock Etc to Irvine Valley Ward.

5. BC AND EAC WARDS 7 AND 9 - KILMARNOCK SOUTH/WEST KILMARNOCK

- (i) Small boundary changes in respect of following the A71 instead of the River Irvine - no major effect.

6. BC WARD 6/EAC WARD 8 - EAST KILMARNOCK AND HURLFORD ETC: 4 MEMBER WARD AND BC AND EAC WARD 9 - WEST KILMARNOCK: 4 MEMBER WARD

- (i) BC proposals involve moving southward boundary of EAC Ward boundary 8 which originally followed Welbeck Street/Glebe Avenue/Mackinlay Place/Samson Avenue and then eastwards along London Road to the M77 being extended south to Queens Drive. The effect is to include KL43 (Mackinlay Place, Nursery Avenue, Nursery Gardens, Samson Avenue, Glenapp Quadrant, Linfern Avenue East and West, Osprey Drive, Finch Place, Bunting Place) and **PART** of KL42 namely the north side of Queens Drive ie Scott Ellis Playingfields, Kilmarnock Academy Playingfields and part of the retail park eg Vardys etc to be contained within EAC Ward 8 East Kilmarnock and Hurlford etc which is now BC6.
- (ii) BC proposals include relocating KL23 from EAC Ward 8/BC Ward 6 to EAC and BC Ward 9 effectively removing the area involving Old Irvine Road, Lindsey Street, part Woodstock Street, Grange Street, Bank Street, Nelson Street etc, the boundary between Wards following the pedestrian King Street north.

7. BC WARD 8/EAC WARD 6 - NORTHWEST KILMARNOCK: 3 MEMBER WARD AND BC WARD 9/EAC WARD 9 - WEST KILMARNOCK

- (i) The Boundary Commission's proposals involve moving the boundary between these two Wards northwards from Balmoral Road/Witch Road to Campbelltown Drive, Western Road. Effectively removing Hillhead area from EAC Ward 6 to EAC Ward 9. This is effectively KL17 (Pottery Place, Kirn Road, Stafford Street, Hillpark Drive, Bath Street etc).

8. BC WARD 8/EAC WARD 6 - NORTHWEST KILMARNOCK: 3 MEMBER WARD AND BC WARD 6/EAC WARD 8 - EAST KILMARNOCK AND HURLFORD ETC: 4 MEMBER WARD

- (i) BC proposals between these two Wards involves the relocating boundary from Glasgow Road/Beansburn/Dean Street east to follow the river, ie the Fenwick Water south into the Kilmarnock Water, effectively relocating KL27 from EAC Ward 8 to EAC Ward 6 (High Street, Boyd Street, Fullarton's Lane, Cuthbert Place, Ingram Place, Turner Place, Landsborough Drive, Woodlands Grove etc).

9. BC WARD 8/EAC WARD 6 - NORTHWEST KILMARNOCK: 3 MEMBER WARD

- (i) Boundary extended northwest to southern part of Fenwick following A77 and northwest to the Woodhill Burn and the B751 - a few properties affected.

APPENDIX III

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL BOUNDARY REVIEW: STAGE 3

REASONS FOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE COMMISSION'S INITIAL PROPOSALS AND A SCHEME DEVELOPED FROM THE AGGREGATION OF EXISTING WARDS

1. The aggregation of existing Wards creates a division in the community of Hurlford, which, in the Commission's proposals, is contained within a single Ward.
2. The aggregation also separates the two communities of Cumnock and New Cumnock, whereas the Commission has contained both in the same Ward.
3. The aggregate scheme places the rural community of Little Fenwick within the Ward containing much of North Kilmarnock, whereas the Commission's proposals contains Little Fenwick in a rural Ward.
4. Within Kilmarnock the aggregation of existing Wards produced anomalous boundary lines, whereas the Commission's proposals create boundaries which follow defined ground features such as the A71, the A735 and Kilmarnock Water etc.
5. The Commission's proposals also take account of changes in the distribution of electorate due to new housing etc.
6. In its concluded view, the Council's submitted information regarding community and Ward boundaries which the Commission has, where practicable, taken account of in developing its initial proposals.

APPENDIX IV

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW TIMETABLE (FROM STAGE 3)

Stage 3: initial proposals released to Councils. Two months allowed for the council to comment on proposals, offer amendments and/or alternatives. Further discussions with councils as required throughout this stage to clarify emerging issues relating to the initial proposals.

Nine weeks (2 months) – by 9 May 2005

Stage 4: Full consideration by the Commission of issues arising through stage 3 which might lead to revision/adjustment of initial proposals. Further liaison with Councils taken forward on a needs basis.

Eight weeks – by 4 July **(est)**

Stage 5: Publication of the commission's provisional proposals as part of the statutory public consultation process. Analysis of representations received.

Seek Councils' views on aspects of representations and the impact they have on the provisional proposals as required.

Twelve weeks – by 26 September **(est)**

Stage 6: Full analysis of representations received by the Commission.

Commission determines where a need has arisen for local inquiries, organises and conducts inquiries and reviews its provisional recommendations in light of enquiry reports.

Publication of revised recommendations where the Commission makes significant changes to its provisional proposals.

Consider representations received within one month.

Move to final recommendations where possible.

Twenty weeks – by 13 February 2006 **(est)**

Stage 7: Complete final recommendations for all Council areas. Complete review process. Write and submit reports.

Twenty Seven weeks – by 21 August 2006 **(est)**

APPENDIX V

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP ON REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2005 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Jackson (Chair), Jim O'Neill, Iain Linton, John Knapp, Stuart Finlayson and Tommy Farrell; Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; and Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager.

ATTENDING: Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Stephanie Young, Daniel Coffey and Eric Ross.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Jackson, Chair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1. There were submitted and approved as a correct record, the Minutes of meeting held on 2 November 2004 (circulated).

LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004 - REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS: STAGE 3

2. There was submitted a report dated 19 April 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of the Local Government Boundary Commission's initial proposals for nine multi-member wards within East Ayrshire.

Following discussion and having heard from the Administration Manager, it was agreed:-

- (i) to recommend to the special Council Meeting on 9 May 2005, to support the Boundary Commission's initial proposals for nine multi-member wards within East Ayrshire as detailed in the Appendix to these Minutes, as a basis for the statutory public consultation process to be carried out by the Boundary Commission, and to recognise East Ayrshire Council SNP Group's right to reserve their position and to make further comments on the initial proposals at the special Council meeting; and
- (ii) to recommend to Council the following proposed ward names:-

<u>BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S WARD NOS</u>	<u>PROPOSED WARD NAME</u>
1	Cumnock and New Cumnock
2	Doon Valley
3	Ballochmyle
4	Annick
5	Irvine Valley

<u>BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S WARD NOS</u>	<u>PROPOSED WARD NAME</u>
6	Kilmarnock East and Hurlford
7	Kilmarnock South
8	Kilmarnock North
9	Kilmarnock West and Crosshouse

The meeting terminated at 1411 hours.

APPENDIX

BOUNDARY COMMISSION - INITIAL PROPOSALS

WARD NO	FORECAST ELECTORATE	DEVIATION FOR PARITY	MEMBERS
1	11,540	-4	4
2	9,110	1	3
3	11,600	-3	4
4	9,730	8	3
5	11,770	-2	4
6	12,370	3	4
7	8,660	-4	3
8	9,150	2	3
9	12,160	1	4
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*The forecast electorate figures have been rounded.

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RB/SM