

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING: 9 NOVEMBER 2004

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

Report by Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To submit for consideration of Council, options of possible community/ward configurations in response to Stage 1 of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposed review of ward boundaries in terms of the Review of Electoral Arrangements under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 and to obtain the Council's concluded view thereon.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** In terms of the Direction from Scottish Ministers to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, the Commission is required to receive the concluded view of the Council on any matters raised during the consultation exercise under Stage 1 of the review.
- 2.2** In terms of the Direction received by East Ayrshire Council from the Scottish Ministers, the Council is required, amongst other things, to provide the Commission with all such information as the Council considers relevant, including any proposals or ideas the Council may have, in relation to new ward boundaries, or otherwise in relation to the formulation of the Commission's proposals.
- 2.3** To progress the Council's responsibility in terms of the review, the Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 30 September 2004 (Item 30, Page 1022, 03/07), established a Member/Officer Working Party to meet with the Boundary Commission and to prepare information for submission to the Boundary Commission in terms of the Direction.
- 2.4** Following a meeting with the Boundary Commission, the Working Party have considered a range of information and community/ward configurations for submission to the Boundary Commission and in terms of its remit requires to submit a report to Council to obtain the concluded view of the Council in accordance with the Boundary Commission's review process.
- 2.5** The concluded view of the Council requires to be lodged with the Boundary Commission by Wednesday 10 November 2004.

3. THE REVIEW PROCESS

- 3.1** The review timetable has been submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for its information but key dates are referred to in this section of the report for Members' information.
- 3.2** It is important for Members to note that the submission of information to the Boundary Commission in accordance with this stage of the process is only the beginning of a review that will take two years and is expected to conclude in August 2006.
- 3.3** There will be a number of opportunities during the review process for the Council to input into the review and comment on the community/ward proposals.
- 3.4** Details of these stages are given below with estimated dates.

STAGE 3: FEBRUARY 2005 - The Council is expected to receive the Boundary Commission's initial proposals of ward configurations. The Boundary Commission will also provide for Council's use detailed GIS information on maps and electoral statistics on a post code basis.

At this stage, the Council will be offered two months to comment on proposals and offer amendments and/or alternatives. There will be ongoing consultation between the Council and the Boundary Commission as required.

STAGE 4: BETWEEN APRIL/MAY 2005 - Full consideration by the Commission of issues raised by the Council at Stage 3. Revisions/amendments as required and further consultation with the Council as required.

STAGE 5: MAY/JUNE 2005 - Formal statutory publication of the Boundary Commission's provisional proposals. Boundary Commission will analyse public representations and seek the Council's views on representations and any impact that the representations may have on the provisional proposals. This stage lasts 12 weeks - up to mid-August 2005.

The Boundary Commission will analyse all representations received and, if required, conduct local inquiries at which the Council will have an opportunity to make representations as considered appropriate. The Boundary Commission will again publicise any revised recommendations that make significant changes to their provisional recommendations and again consider representations made.

4. PROPOSED SUBMISSIONS TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION

- 4.1** **Appendix 1** of the report provides details on the community/ward configurations options agreed by the Working Group for submission to the Council for its consideration. The information also includes anticipated electorate based on new build information for 2004-09.

Maps of all the identified options together with a map and supporting information on new build details and anticipated electorate for 2004-09 have been circulated to all political groups within East Ayrshire. A further set of these maps are on display within the main Meeting Room.

- 4.2 Appendix 2** provides details on the venues for the display of Boundary Commission information together with local newspaper details which is required by the Boundary Commission in respect of its statutory publication requirements.

Members are asked to note that the Working Party also intends to develop a local promotional initiative supplementing the Boundary Commission's statutory publication of ward proposals to ensure that the information on the Boundary Commission's proposals are conveyed as widely as possible throughout East Ayrshire.

- 4.3** In response to information sought from the Boundary Commission it is also intended to submit GIS digital map information on other locally used boundaries, namely Local Committee areas and Community Council boundaries, to assist the Boundary Commission in its review process.
- 4.4** Following discussion with the Boundary Commission the Working Party has agreed that the figure to determine anticipated electorate in respect of new build developments between 2004 and 2009 ie the agreed dwelling count factor be 1.75 and that the Boundary Commission be advised accordingly. Information on the new build and anticipated electorate has been circulated to all Groups and is also displayed within the main Meeting room.

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) agree, for the purposes of Stage 1 of the review process, a set of community/ward proposals to assist the Boundary Commission in the formulation of its proposals;

- (ii) agree that the related GIS maps associated with the approved community/ward proposals, together with the new build/anticipated electorate information, be submitted to the Boundary Commission;
- (iii) to note that the GIS map information on Community Council boundaries and Local Committee boundary areas will be submitted to the Boundary Commission to assist them in their view;
- (iv) to note that the submission of the above information at this stage is in compliance with the Directions issued by the Scottish Ministers and that the review process provides further opportunities for the Council to amend or provide alternative ward/community configurations;
- (v) in recognising the further opportunities open to the Council as referred to under (iv) above and paragraph 3.4, to submit the information and options agreed by Council as the Council's concluded view in terms of Stage 1 of the review process;
- (vi) that the Chief Executive be authorised to submit this information to the Boundary Commission as the Council's concluded view; and
- (vii) to otherwise note the report.

Fiona Lees
Chief Executive

3 November 2004

BW/FM

Enc(2)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter dated 6 September 2004 from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland to the Chief Executive.
2. Direction under Section 18(2) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 1973 dated 30 August 2004 from the Scottish Ministers to East Ayrshire Council.

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

Implementation Officer: Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager

APPENDIX I

OPTIONS FOR WARD/COMMUNITY CONFIGURATIONS

The figures detailed are existing ward electorate as at July 2004 (the agreed date intimated by the Boundary Commission) and the “add on” figures are estimated electorate associated with new build 2004-09. The ward names and numbers are purely to assist identification at this stage of the review and no recommendations are being made.

Ward 1 “Doon Valley”

Option 1: 3 Member Ward

Comprising -	Wards	25	3099 + 254	
		30	3025 + 152	
		31	2551 + 21	
	DV11 Ward 26 Ochiltree		<u>975 + 65</u>	
	Total		9650 + 493	= 10143
Electorate per Member:			3217	3381
Existing Average Electorate per Member			2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build			3005	

Comments

- Community focus OK
- Rural by 3 Member Ward (Cumnock and Doon proposals entail 1x3, 2x4 if remaining with existing boundary)
- Electorate per Member compared to existing average high

Option 2: 4 Member Ward

Total from Option 1		9650 + 493	
Plus Ward 32		<u>2849 + 81</u>	
Total		12499 + 574	= 13073
Electorate per Member		3125	3269
Existing Average Electorate		2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005	

Comments

- Community focus - consider
- Electorate still high - but may impact on Wards 2/3

SNP Option: 4 Member Ward

As per option 2 **but with DV11 Ward 26 - Ochiltree excluded** (ie Wards 25, 30, 31, 32). Total electorate 12,032. Electorate per member 3,008.

Ward 2 “Cumnock and New Cumnock”

Option 1: 4 Member Ward

Comprising - Wards	28	2864 + 115	
	29	2601 + 14	
	32	2849 + 81	
DV12 Ward 26 Skares Netherthird & Craigens		<u>1921 + 5</u>	
	Total	10235 + 215	+ 10450
Electorate per Member		2559	2613
Existing Average Electorate per Member		2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005	

Comments

- Community focus OK
- Electorate per Member compared to existing average high

Option 2 “Auchinleck and Cumnock”: 4 Member Ward

Comprising - Wards	27	2776 + 270	
	28	2864 + 115	
	29	2601 + 14	
DV12 Ward 26 Skares Netherthird & Craigens		<u>1921 + 5</u>	
		10162 + 404 =	10566
Electorate per Member		3388	2642
Existing Average Electorate per Member		2886	
Average Electorate per Member including new build		3005	

Comments

- Community focus ok
- Electorate per Member compared to average - low being 363 below parity (12.08%).

SNP Option: 3 Member Ward

Wards 26, 28 and 29. Total electorate 8,560. Electorate per Member 2,854.

Ward 3 “Mauchline, Catrine, Sorn, Muirkirk, Auchinleck”

Option 1: 4 Member Ward

Comprising - Wards	22	2941 + 132	
	23	2941 + 44	
	24	2553 + 14	
	27	<u>2776 + 270</u>	
	Total	11211 + 460 =	11671
Electorate Per Member		2803	2918
Existing Average Electorate per Member		2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005	

Comments

- Community focus OK
- Electorate per Member compared to existing average OK

Option 2: 3 Member Ward

Comprising - Wards	22	2941 + 132	
	23	2941 + 44	
	24	<u>2553 + 14</u>	
	Total	8435 + 190 =	8625
Electorate per Member		2109	2875
Existing Average Electorate per Member		2886	
Average Electorate per Member including new build		3005	

Comments

- Community focus ok
- Electorate OK.

SNP Option

Proposals support Option 1

Ward 4 "Irvine Valley"

Option 1 (04) : 4 Member Ward

Comprising -	Ward	13	2687 + 62	
		20	2703 + 116	
		21	2884 + 183	
		12	2790 + 24	
		19	<u>2925 + 51</u>	
	Total		13989 + 436	= 14425

Minus KL31 from Ward 12 Moscow	303 (to Northern Area) + 15	
KL33 from Ward 12 Crookedholm	629 (to Kilmarnock West) + 9	
KL34 from Ward 12 Hurlford North	401 (to Kilmarnock West)	
Most of Ward 19 Hurlford	<u>2734</u> (to Kilmarnock West) + 44	
	estimate based on ERO info	
	9922 + 436 - 15 - 9 - 44 = 10290	
Electorate per Member	2481	2573
Existing Average Electorate per Member	2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build	3005	

Comments

- Electorate comparisons - possibly low side
- Community focus - significant numbers from Hurlford/Crookedholm to Kilmarnock (3764) will impact on Kilmarnock Wards

Option 2 (05)

Comprising Wards	13	2687 + 62	
	20	2703 + 116	
	21	2884 + 183	
W12 (less KL33/34: 1030 + 9		1760 + 15	
W19 (less Hurlford: 2734 est + 44		191 + 7	
W4 (KL9)		<u>1046 + 127</u>	
	Total	11271 + 510	= 11781
Electorate per Member		2818	2946
Existing Average Electorate		2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005	

Comments

Community focus OK. Question re Fenwick etc (KL9)
Electorate OK

SNP Proposals: Loudoun Valley Ward: 4 Members

Ward 12 (KL34)	401	
Ward 12 (KL32)	1,457	
Ward 13	2,687 + 62	
Ward 19	2,925 + 51	
Ward 20	2,703 + 116	
Ward 21	<u>2,884 + 104</u>	
	13,057 + 333 = 13390	

Electorate per Member	3,265	3348
Existing Average Electorate per Member	2,886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build	3,005	

The electorate per Member is high in comparison to parity figure.

Ward 5 "Northern Area"

Option 1 (02) : 4 Member Ward

Ward	1	2999 + 357	
	2	3058 + 112	
	3	3045 + 182	
KL9 Ward 4 North Kilmarnock		<u>1046</u> (excludes KL10 Southcraigs & KL11 Wardneuk to North K/K) + 127	
	Total	10148 + 778 =	10926
Add KL31 Ward 12 Moscow		<u>303 + 15</u>	
Total		10451 + 793 =	11244
Electorate per Member		2613	2811
Existing Average Electorate per Member		2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005	

Comments

- Community focus - inclusion of Moscow - links Waterside. Recognised Community Council area
- Electorate comparisons ok

Option 2 (05): 3 Member Ward

Comprising Wards	1	2999 + 357	
	2	3058 + 112	
	3	<u>3045 + 182</u>	
	Total	9102 + 651	= 9753
Electorate per Member		3034	3251
Existing Average Electorate		2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005	

Comments

- Electorate high side
- Community focus OK
- If 3 member Ward creates flexibility for another 4 Member Ward (if both W8/W9)

SNP Proposals

Support Option 2

Ward 6 “Northwest Kilmarnock”: 3 Member Ward

Comprising - Ward	6	2956 + 539	
	7	2446 + 106	
KL10 & KL11 Ward	4	<u>3322</u>	
	Total	8724 + 645	= 9369
Electorate per Member		2908	3123
Average Electorate per Member		2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005	

Comment

- Community focus OK - resolve present anomaly, bring back Wardneuk and Southcraigs into an urban Kilmarnock Ward.
- Electorate comparisons OK
- Transfer of electorate significant - effect is that on 2 existing Wards require to make up new 3 Member Ward

SNP Proposals

Kilmarnock North: 4 Member Ward

Comprising Ward 6	2,956 + 539
Ward 7	2,446 + 106
Ward 4 (KL10)	2,112
Ward 4 (KL11)	1,210
Ward 8 (KL21)	343 + 205

Ward 9 (KL53)	241 (Estimated)
Ward 10 (KL 27)	<u>598</u>

TOTAL **9,906 + 850 = 10756**

Electorate per Member	2,477	2689
Existing Average Electorate per Member	2,886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build	3,005	

Comments - Community focus ok. The electorate low compared to the parity figure.

Ward 7 “South Kilmarnock: 3 Member Ward

Comprising Ward	16	2870 + 13	
	17	2906 + 88	
	18	<u>2785 + 0</u>	
	Total	8561 - 101	= 8662
Electorate per Member		2854	2888
Average Electorate per Member		2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005	

Comment

- Community focus OK
- Electorate comparisons OK

SNP Proposals

Support this option

Ward 8 “East Kilmarnock and Hurlford and Crookedholm”

Option 1: 4 Member Ward

Comprising - Wards	9	2875 + 0	
	10	2837 + 26	
	11	<u>2635 + 0</u>	
KL 33 from Ward 12 Crookedholm		629 + 9	
KL 34 from Ward 12 Hurlford North		401	
Most of Ward 19 Hurlford		<u>2734 estimate + 44</u>	
Total		12111 + 79	= 12190

Electorate per Member	3028	3048
Existing Average Electorate per Member	2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build	3005	

Comments

- Community focus - Hurlford and Crookedholm within same Ward but within Kilmarnock ward however close proximity to urban boundary
- Electorate comparisons OK
- Proposed 4 Member ward for predominantly urban area considered acceptable - geographical argument
- If not accepted and Hurlford and Crookedholm removed back to new Irvine Valley ward option - this ward would revert to a 3 Member ward
- Also amendments to new wards 5 and 9 will effect Member numbers in order to achieve total of 21.

Option 2: A 3 Member Ward, excluding Hurlford and Crookedholm

Comprising Wards	9	2875 + 0		
	10	2837 + 26		
	11	<u>2635 + 0</u>		
		8347 + 26	=	8373
Electorate per Member		2783		2791
Existing Average Electorate per Member		2886		
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005		

Comments

- Community Focus - OK
- Electorate a little low
- Other comments as per above particularly any change to new wards 5 with impact on number of Members.

SNP Proposals

Kilmarnock East Ward: 3 Members.

Ward 11	2,635		
Ward 10 (KL28)	754		
Ward 10 (KL29)	1,485 + 26		
Ward 12 (KL33)	629 + 9		
Ward 4 (KL9)	1,046 + 127		
	6,549		
Ward 9 (KL24 + KL25 + KL26)	1,543 (Estimated)		
Ward 12 (KL31)	<u>303 + 15</u>		
TOTAL	8,395 + 177	=	8572

Electorate per Member	2,799	2858
Existing Average Electorate per Member	2,886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build	3,005	

Comments - Community focus issues namely Fenwick, etc being included splitting Hurlford and Crookedholm. Electorate is within an acceptable range in regard to the parity figure.

Ward 9 “West Kilmarnock”

Option 1: 3 Member Ward

Comprising Wards	8	2670 + 311	
	14	3083 + 210	
	15	<u>3116 + 32</u>	
	Total	8869 + 553	= 9422
Electorate per Member		2957	3141
Existing Average Electorate per Member		2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build		3005	

Comments

- Community focus. No comment
- Electorate OK
- If Crosshouse to be included will alter to a 4 Member ward option below. This will also affect Ward 8.

Option 2: A 4 Member Ward Including Crosshouse

Total of Option 1 above	8869 + 553	
Plus Ward 5	<u>2615 + 105</u>	
	11484 + 658	= 12142
Electorate per Member	2871	3036
Existing Average Electorate per Member	2886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build	3005	

Comments

- Community focus. Possible issue re Crosshouse/Knockentiber etc joined with urban area of Kilmarnock. However contained within existing Local Committee area and are in close proximity.
- Electorate OK
- Any changes to this will impact on new ward 9 re numbers of members.

SNP Proposals

Kilmarnock Central: 4 Members

Comprising Ward 5	2,615	
Ward 8 (KL20)	1,356	
Ward 8 (KL22)	971 + 106	
Ward 14	3,083 + 210	
Ward 15	<u>3,116 + 32</u>	
	11,141	
Ward 9 (KL24 + KL23 + KL53)	1,141 (Estimated)	
TOTAL	12,282 + 348 =	12630
Electorate per Member	3,071	3158
Existing Average Electorate per Member	2,886	
Average Electorate per Member inc new build	3,005	

Comments - Parity comparison is acceptable. Community focus - possible issue re Crosshouse/Knockentiber etc joined with urban area of Kilmarnock. However contained within existing Local Committee area and is in close proximity.

APPENDIX II

POSSIBLE VENUES FOR DISPLAY OF BOUNDARY COMMISSION INFO: LINKED TO STATUTORY PROCESS

LOCAL COMMITTEE AREAS

- (1) Irvine Valley:** Newmilns Library, Craigview Road, Newmilns, KA16 9DQ
- (2) Doon Valley:** Dalmellington Area Centre, 33 Main Street, Dalmellington, KA6 7QX
- (3) Cumnock Area:** Cumnock Town Hall, Glaisnock Street, Cumnock
- (4) Northern Area:** Stewarton Library, Cunningham Institute, Stewarton, KA3 2PE
- (5) Kilmarnock North:** Onthank Community Education Centre, Kirkton Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 2DF
- (6) Kilmarnock Central:** Dick Institute, Elmbank Avenue, Kilmarnock, KA1 3BU
- (7) Kilmarnock South:** Bellfield Library, 79 Whattriggs Road, Kilmarnock, KA1 3RB
- (8) Council Headquarters:** London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU

Programme of information/reference to review Boundary Review – all other local libraries/local office, Council Web Site etc complimenting Boundary Commission publicity.

Possible 1/2 meetings Community Council/Local Committee – presentation.

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

The Editor, Cumnock Chronicle, 49 Ayr Road, Cumnock KA18 1ED; Phone/Fax:
01290 427696/01290 420832

The Editor, Ayrshire Post, 154 High Street, Ayr, KA7 1PX; Phone/Fax: 01292
261111/01292 611930

The Editor, Kilmarnock Standard, 1 Bank Place, Kilmarnock KA1 1HJ; Phone/Fax:
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