

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE – 4 OCTOBER 2004

REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES: MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

Report by the Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To invite the Committee to make Elected Member appointments to the Member/Officer Working Group established by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 30 September 2004 to allow the Council to participate in the consultation process with the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland in regard to the proposed review of ward boundaries associated with the review of electoral arrangements under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 30 September 2004 gave consideration to a report providing details of the consultation process proposed by the Local Boundary Commission for Scotland in regard to the proposed review of ward boundaries. The report provided details of the review timetable and of the issues that the Boundary Commission would wish to discuss with East Ayrshire Council in terms of the review.
- 2.2** The Policy and Resources Committee agreed to establish a Member/Officer Working Group comprising of 9 members (6/2/1) to meet and work with the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.
- 2.3** Given the terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation whereby it is only Council which can make Elected Member appointments to Committees etc including Working Groups and the need to progress this matter immediately to allow the Working Group to meet with the Boundary Commission on 13 October, this Committee has been called to determine this matter.

3. PROPOSED MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP

- 3.1** The remit for the Member/Officer Working Group as approved by the Policy and Resources Committee is attached under the Appendix to this report, for information.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** Normal administrative costs associated with the operation of a Member/Officer Working Group.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY

- 5.1** The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended and Direction under Section 18 (2A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended provides for the Council to participate in the review process.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS – NIL

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** The Committee is asked to:-

- (i) appoint Elected Members to the Member/Officer Working Group on the Review of Ward Boundaries in terms of the review of electoral arrangements under the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004, as agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee on 30 September 2004; and
- (i) to otherwise note the contents of the report

Fiona Lees
Chief Executive
BW/LM

30 September 2004

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BACKGROUND PAPERS - NIL

Any person wishing further information on this report should contact Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager on 01563 576135.

Implementation Officer: Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager

APPENDIX

MEMBER/OFFICER WORKING GROUP: REVIEW OF WARD BOUNDARIES IN TERMS OF THE REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue with, and where appropriate, meet with the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland;
2. To take all reasonable steps to ensure that any views expressed or purporting to be expressed by the Council or on its behalf to the Commission are accurate;
3. To provide the Commission with all such information as the Commission may reasonably request; and
4. To provide the Commission with all such information on behalf of the Council as is considered relevant, including any proposals or ideas on behalf of the Council in relation to new ward boundaries, or otherwise in relation to the formularisation of the Commission's proposals.

AT NO STAGE OF THE REVIEW PROCESS SHALL THE WORKING GROUP HAVE AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT THE CONCLUDED VIEW OF THE COUNCIL AND THE WORKING GROUP SHALL BE REQUIRED TO REPORT TO THE FULL COUNCIL OR IF CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE, THE EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE TO OBTAIN THE CONCLUDED VIEW OF THE COUNCIL WHERE REQUIRED AT EVERY RELEVANT STAGE OF THE CONSULTATION PROCESS.

9 September 2004
BW/SR