

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

23 April 2014

**Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland – Fifth Statutory
Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements in Scotland – Proposed
Councillor Numbers****Report by Head of Democratic Services****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report advises of proposed councillor numbers for Perth and Kinross Council in relation to the Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, and seeks the Council's views on the proposal.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 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 In a letter dated 6 June 2013, the then Chair of the Commission, Peter Mackay, provided the Chief Executive with an update on the planning for the Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements. This letter was circulated to group leaders and was reported for information to the Modernising Governance Member / Officer Group on 17 July 2013.
- 1.3 The Group asked that the Head of Democratic Services seek clarification from the Commission on the calculation used to determine councillor numbers and also the potential effect on that calculation of Perth having been awarded city status. The Council determined the boundary for the bid for city status on 11 February 2011 (Article 111 and Report 11/73 refer). The Head of Democratic Services spoke with the Secretary to the Commission, Hugh Buchanan, on 26 July 2013 who advised that the Commission would look at the electorate numbers for the designated Perth City area in the context of the electorate numbers for the rest of the Perth and Kinross Council area. The Commission were supplied with a copy of Report 11/73.

- 1.4 A further update on the planning for the Review was provided in a letter dated 6 February 2014 from the new Chair of the Commission, Ronnie Hinds. The letter explained that the Review would be conducted in two phases –
- Firstly, the Commission will consult and decide on councillor numbers for each council;
 - Secondly, the Commission will consult and decide on ward boundaries.
- 1.5 The Commission require to submit a final report to Scottish Ministers in May 2016, with a view to revised boundaries being in place for the scheduled Local Government Elections in May 2017.
- 1.6 On 21 February 2014, the Commission wrote with their proposals on councillor numbers – a copy of the letter is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report. The Guidance Booklet and other information concerning the Review can be found on the Commission’s website at www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk
- 1.7 The Commission arranged a meeting with the Council and this was held on 27 February 2014, attended by Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner and Colin Wilson, Casework Manager, Councillors Miller, Roberts, MacLellan and Cuthbert, the Chief Executive, the Head of Democratic Services and Brenda Murray, Local Development Plans Team Leader. The Commission representatives outlined the background and context for the review and provided opportunity for dialogue and clarification.
- 1.8 In particular, it was emphasised that in determining councillor numbers, the Commission had to have regard to –
- Minimum 18, maximum 85 councillors
 - 10% limit on change in councillor numbers in a council area
 - Categorisation of councils –
 - population distribution – settlements of 3000 or more
 - deprivation – Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation data
- 1.9 In addition, Scottish Ministers had indicated to the Commission that they would find it hard to justify an increase in the overall number of councillors in Scotland.
- 1.10 The Commission’s methodology is based on categorising each local authority in Scotland and applying the same formula to all local authorities in each category.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 As members will see from the attached letter, the Commission has proposed that the councillor numbers for Perth and Kinross Council be reduced from 41 to 40. In terms of the timetable for the first stage of the Review, the Council requires to respond to the Commission on the proposed councillor numbers no later than 23 April 2014.

2.2 Members will recall that on 26 February 2014, the Council agreed that the Chief Executive be authorised, in consultation with the Provost, the Leader of the Council and other Group Leaders, to make arrangements for a special meeting of the Council to be called before 23 April 2014 if required. Although the Commission were asked if the Council could submit a response after 23 April 2014, the advice was that if the Council responded after that date the Commission might not be able to consider that response before publishing their proposals for public consultation on 29 May 2014. Accordingly, it was considered that the Council should respond before the next scheduled meeting on 7 May 2014.

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.

3.2 As part of the first phase of the Review, the Commission are seeking the Council's views on proposed councillor numbers as set out at Paragraph 2.1 above.

- 3.3 It is recommended that the Council –
- a) Consider its response to the proposal by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland to reduce councillor numbers for Perth and Kinross Council from 41 to 40; and
 - b) Instruct the Head of Democratic Services to respond to the Commission immediately after this meeting.

Author

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Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Bernadette Malone	Chief Executive	15 April 2014

If you or someone you know would like a copy of this document in another language or format, (on occasion only, a summary of the document will be provided in translation), this can be arranged by contacting Gillian Taylor



Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

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 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 Group leaders were involved in the meeting with the Local Government Boundary Commission on 27 February 2014.

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

Appendix 1 – Letter dated 21 February 2014 from Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.



Local Government Boundary

Commission for Scotland

Thistle House, 91 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 5HD

Chair: Ronnie Hinds CPFA

Secretary: Dr Hugh Buchanan MRICS

Gillian Taylor
Head of Democratic Services
Perth and Kinross Council
Council Offices
2 High Street
Perth
PH1 5PH

21 February 2014

Dear Gillian,

Fifth Reviews of Local Government Electoral Arrangements

Publication of Proposals for Councillor Numbers

I am writing further to the letter from the Chair of the Commission on 6 February 2014 to inform you of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals for councillor numbers. These proposals are the first stage of the Commission's Fifth Reviews of Local Government Electoral Arrangements for each of Scotland's 32 councils.

The Commission is consulting with councils on these proposals for a period of 2 months which starts on 21 February 2014, and ends on Wednesday 23 April 2014. Section 18 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 requires the Commission to consult with councils on its proposals for a period of 2 months before informing others of the proposals.

This letter has a set of enclosures:

- List of proposed councillor numbers for each of Scotland's 32 councils;
- News Release which we will issue to the media on Monday 24 February; and
- Guidance Booklet concerning the review.

The Commission has arranged a meeting with each council to discuss these proposals and the review. My colleagues look forward to that opportunity to explain the proposals in more detail.

Comments on the Proposals can be made in writing to the Commission by email to lgbc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk, or by letter to the address on this letter. All comments should be submitted as soon as possible, and not later than 23 April 2014 which is the end of the consultation period.

established by Parliament to advise Ministers on local government boundaries

phone: 0131 538 7510

email: lgbc@scottishboundaries.gov.uk

fax: 0131 538 7511

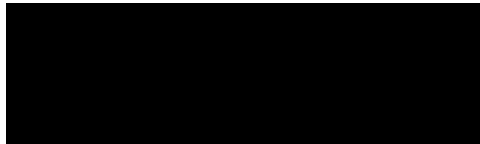
web: www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk

Please note that the News Release will be issued to the media on Monday 24 February, and is embargoed until 0001 hours on Tuesday 25 February. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that the embargo is observed.

I am also writing to others with an interest in the review to inform them that we are starting our consultation with councils on our proposals for councillor numbers. These include MSPs, political parties, electoral registration officers and community councils. As I have noted above, the legislation prevents the Commission from informing others of the content of the proposals until we have consulted with councils for a period of 2 months.

On behalf of the Commission, thank you for your assistance in the conduct of the Reviews.

Yours sincerely



Hugh Buchanan
Secretary

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

Proposed councillor numbers

council area	existing councillor numbers	proposed councillor numbers	change
Aberdeen City	43	45	2
Aberdeenshire	68	70	2
Angus	29	27	-2
Argyll & Bute	36	33	-3
Clackmannanshire	18	18	0
Dumfries & Galloway	47	43	-4
Dundee City	29	31	2
East Ayrshire	32	32	0
East Dunbartonshire	24	22	-2
East Lothian	23	21	-2
East Renfrewshire	20	18	-2
Edinburgh, City of	58	63	5
Eileanan an Iar, Na h-	31	28	-3
Falkirk	32	30	-2
Fife	78	75	-3
Glasgow City	79	85	6
Highland	80	72	-8
Inverclyde	20	22	2
Midlothian	18	18	0
Moray	26	25	-1
North Ayrshire	30	33	3
North Lanarkshire	70	77	7
Orkney Islands	21	21	0
Perth & Kinross	41	40	-1
Renfrewshire	40	43	3
Scottish Borders	34	32	-2
Shetland Islands	22	22	0
South Ayrshire	30	27	-3
South Lanarkshire	67	64	-3
Stirling	22	23	1
West Dunbartonshire	22	22	0
West Lothian	33	34	1
	1,223	1,216	-7

February 2014