

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council: 27 May 2009

Subject: Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm the publication, on 21 May, of the Boundary Commission for Scotland's provisional proposals for regions and revised recommendations for Scottish Parliament Constituencies and to invite the Council to make representations thereon.

2. Background

2.1 The Boundary Commission is required to review Scottish Parliament Constituency and Regional Boundaries by June 2010. The new constituencies will come into force at the next elections in 2011.

2.2 The provisional proposals for regions are being published for the first time.

2.3 The Commission's review of constituencies was first published on 14 February 2008. These proposals for West Dunbartonshire were as follows:-

- a) to link Clydebank Central and Clydebank Waterfront Wards with part of the Renfrewshire Council area in a North Renfrewshire and Clydebank Burgh Constituency, and
- b) to include Kilpatrick Ward with Dumbarton, Lomond and Leven Wards and two wards of Argyll and Bute Council in a Dumbarton and Helensburgh County Constituency.

2.4 At its meeting on 27 February 2008, the Council agreed to make written objections to the proposals and on 27 August 2008 it agreed to make a formal submission to the Local Inquiry. The Council made its submission to the Local Inquiry in Clydebank on 2 September 2008.

3. Main Issues

3.1 At the time of writing this report, the outcome of the Inquiry is not known although full details of the revised proposals will be available by the date of the meeting and will be issued with a supplementary agenda.

3.2 Publication of the proposals is followed by a one month consultation period which means that it is essential that they are considered by the Council at this meeting.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 There are significant implications for Clydebank if the Sheriff upholds the Boundary Commission's original proposals.

7. Conclusions & Officers' Recommendations

7.1 The outcome of the Local Inquiry will have a considerable effect on the electoral future of Clydebank, but the Council will still have the opportunity to make representations if the new proposals are unsatisfactory.

7.2 It is recommended that the Council considers the Boundary Commission's provisional proposals for regions and the revised recommendations for constituencies with a view to making representations thereon to the Commission by the deadline of 21 June 2009.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 6 May 2009

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Background Papers: Scotland Act 1998
Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004
Letters dated 7 Feb and 7 July from the Boundary Commission for Scotland
Report by the Chief Executive to West Dunbartonshire Council on 27 February 2008 and minute thereof
Report by the Chief Executive to West Dunbartonshire Council on 27 August and minute thereof
Letter dated 27 April from the Boundary Commission for Scotland on publication date for new proposals.

Wards Affected: All wards