

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council : 27 January 2010

Subject: First Periodic Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries – Revised Recommendations for Regions

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of the Boundary Commission for Scotland's revised recommendations for the boundaries of the Scottish Parliament Regions.

2. Background

2.1 In May 2009, the Boundary Commission for Scotland published its revised proposals for Scottish Parliament Constituency boundaries and issued its provisional proposals for the boundaries of the Regions.

2.2 The Council welcomed the revised proposals for the Dumbarton and Clydebank and Milngavie Constituencies which were in accordance with representations which it had submitted to the original proposals.

2.3 The proposals for the Regional boundaries were that Dumbarton Constituency be included within Highland Region and that Clydebank and Milngavie become part of the East Central Scotland Region.

2.4 The Council agreed to make representations on the proposed Regional boundaries to the effect that both constituencies should be included in either the East Central Scotland or the Glasgow list.

2.5 A local Inquiry was convened on 22 October 2009 and the Council agreed at on 30 September to be represented there.

2.6 Councillor Robertson addressed the Inquiry and answered questions from the Sheriff Principal and from representatives of other local authorities and political parties who were present.

3. Main Issues

3.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland has now advised of the outcome of the Inquiry, which is that both Dumbarton and Clydebank and Milngavie Constituencies will be included within the West Scotland Region, which also comprises Cunninghame North, Cunninghame South, Eastwood, Greenock and Inverclyde, Paisley, Renfrewshire North and West, Renfrewshire South and Strathkelvin and Bearsden Constituencies. This maintains the status quo

for our constituencies, which are currently within this Region, co-ordinated by the Regional Returning Officer at Renfrewshire Council. (The Boundary Commission's statement on the composition of each of the Regions is attached as the Appendix to this Report.)

3.2 Representations on the Revised Recommendations must be submitted to the Commission by 7 February 2010.

4. Personnel Issues

4.1 There are no personnel issues arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The revised proposals have no particular financial implications for the Council.

6. Risk Analysis

6.1 The retention of the status quo for this area minimises any risks for the organisation of the Regional poll.

7. Conclusions and Officers' Recommendations

7.1 It is advantageous for the conduct of the poll that both constituencies are contained within the same Region. The revised proposals do not give any cause for concern as sound traditions exist for the management of the Regional polls with the two local constituencies being part of this grouping.

7.2 It is recommended that the Council welcome the proposals in respect of the Regional boundaries.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 6 January 2010

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Appendix: Boundary Commission for Scotland: First Periodic Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries – Revised Recommendations for Regions

Background Papers: Reports by the Chief Executive to West Dunbartonshire Council on 27 May and 30 September 2009 and minutes thereof

Wards Affected: All wards