
Report To:	The Inverclyde Council	Date:	11 June 2009
Report By:	Chief Executive	Report No:	LA/374/09
Contact Officer:	Elaine Paterson	Contact No:	01475 712139
Subject:	First Periodical Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Review Recommendations		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the progress of the First Periodical Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries and in particular to advise on the revised recommendations for constituencies published on 21 May 2009.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Provisional proposals in respect of the review were published by the Scottish Boundary Commission in February 2008.
- 2.2 Following a consultation period, a local inquiry into the proposals and the comments elicited through the consultation exercise was held in early September 2008.
- 2.3 Revised proposals have now been published and a further consultation period is now necessary and representations should be lodged before 21 June 2009.
- 2.4 The revised recommendations with respect to the proposed Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency remain unchanged from the provisional proposals which were reported to the Council at its meeting on 12 June 2008.
- 2.5 Members are advised that when relevant Members were consulted as part of the delegated powers procedure in June 2008 consideration was given to the title for the proposed constituency. Although the title does not wholly reflect the geographical area covered by the constituency, it was considered that this was a matter of minor importance in the overall proposals.
- 2.6 Since the Council was supportive of the provisional proposals, and so advised the Boundary Commission, the revised recommendations do not require any further comment from the Council.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council note the revised recommendations published by the Boundary Commission for Scotland on 21 May 2009.

John W Mundell
Chief Executive

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The background to the present review of the Scottish Parliament Boundaries, which is due to conclude by June 2010, is outlined in the report to Council of 12 June 2008. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The provisional proposals, as well as the revised recommendations, envisage a Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency comprising Inverclyde Council electoral Wards 1 (part), 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. The total electorate, based on 2007 figures, of the proposed constituency would be 56,350.
- 4.3 The remainder of Ward 1, an area principally covering Kilmacolm, will fall within the proposed Renfrewshire North & West Constituency. There are approximately 3,150 electors in the affected area of Kilmacolm.
- 4.4 It should be noted that the review relates only to the Scottish Parliamentary Boundaries and to elections to the Scottish Parliament.
- 4.5 The proposals result in the majority of the electorate of Inverclyde Council falling within the same Scottish Parliamentary constituency with a smaller proportion than currently is the case falling within a Scottish Parliamentary constituency the vast majority of which falls within the boundaries of Renfrewshire Council.
- 4.6 Members who wish to view the relevant maps and documentation in more detail may do so by visiting the Boundary Commission for Scotland's website at www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk. In addition, maps may be viewed at:- Inverclyde Council General Office, Municipal Buildings, Clyde Square, Greenock, PA15 1LX, Port Glasgow Library and Kilmacolm Library.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Legal: The present exercise is a statutory exercise in terms of the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004.
- 5.2 Finance: the costs associated with Scottish Parliamentary Elections are funded by the Scotland Office and therefore there are no costs to the Council associated with the revised recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM NO.

Report To: The Inverclyde Council

Date: 12 June 2008

Report By: Head of Legal & Administration

Report No: LA/147/08

Contact Officer: Elaine Paterson

Contact No: 01475 712139

**Subject: Use of Powers Delegated to the Chief Executive – First Periodical
Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries – Response to Consultation**

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive for approval to submit a response to the Boundary Commission for Scotland on the provisional proposals for Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies which affect the Inverclyde Council Area.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Boundary Commission issued a consultation paper in relation to its provisional proposals to review Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies.
- 2.2 This is the first such review and the consultation deadline was 14 March 2008.
- 2.3 The specific proposals in relation to the Inverclyde area are outlined in the body of this report and the suggested draft response is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive was approved by the Chief Executive and Councillors McCabe, McKenzie, Brooks and Blair.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the committee note the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive for approval to submit the draft response to the Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Head of Legal & Administration

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 This is the first periodical review of Scottish Parliamentary Boundaries. The original boundaries were defined in 1995 and significant changes in the distribution of population and changes to Local Government areas has led to this comprehensive review.
- 4.2 The Electoral Quota is 54,728 which is calculated by dividing the Local Government electorate in terms of the 2007 Electoral Register by 71 (excluding Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands). The Boundary Commission aims to minimise proposals for constituencies which comprise parts of more than one Local Authority area but where this cannot be achieved, some or all of a Local Authority area may be included in a constituency which contains parts of a contiguous Council.
- 4.3 Inverclyde Council area is currently covered by two County Constituencies, namely Greenock & Inverclyde and West Renfrewshire. Greenock & Inverclyde lies wholly within the Inverclyde Council area, whilst West Renfrewshire comprises all of Ward 1 and part of Ward 2, together with a large area which falls within Renfrewshire Council area. The electorate living within Inverclyde Council area who fall within the West Renfrewshire constituency is approximately 13,000.
- 4.4 The proposals being consulted upon will retain the Greenock & Inverclyde County constituency. However, it is proposed that the boundaries of this constituency will be altered to take in all of the Ward 2 and approximately 10,000 additional electors who currently reside in Ward 1. An area of Ward 1 which covers principally Kilmacolm will form part of a County constituency which is to be named Central Paisley & West Renfrewshire. There are approximately 3150 electors who live within Inverclyde Council area who are affected by this proposal.
- 4.5 In short, these proposals result in the majority of the electorate of the Inverclyde Council area falling within the same Scottish Parliamentary constituency with a smaller proportion than is currently the case falling within a Scottish Parliamentary constituency the vast majority of which falls within the boundaries of Renfrewshire Council.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no major implications for the Council apart from a small impact for the management of future elections to the Scottish Parliament.

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For the attention of Dr Hugh Buchanan

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Our Ref: EP/MS

Your Ref:

Date: 10 March 2008

Dear Dr Buchanan

First Periodical Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Publication of Provisional Proposals for Constituencies

Further to your letter of 7 February 2008, I would advise that the undernoted represents the views of the Inverclyde Council.

In general, the Council are supportive of the proposals. Whilst it would be preferable for the whole of the Inverclyde Council area to be included within one County Constituency, it is recognized that this is not practicable given the total electorate for living within Inverclyde.

Yours sincerely

John W Mundell
Chief Executive