

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Urgent Business Committee
<b>DATE</b>	30 October 2023
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	COM/23/300
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Angela Scott (Returning Officer)
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Vikki Cuthbert / Jenni Lawson
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	David Gow
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for changes to polling districts in response to the Boundary Commission for Scotland's 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes that, once the UK Parliament approves the Boundary Commission for Scotland's final recommendations, the new parliamentary constituency boundaries will come into effect at the next UK Parliamentary General Election; and -
- 2.2 Approves the recommended changes to polling districts as outlined in section 3 below.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

#### Background

- 3.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland is tasked by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 to undertake reviews of UK Parliamentary constituencies in Scotland. It has submitted its final recommendations for the 2023 review to the speaker of the House of Commons.
- 3.2 A UK Government draft Order containing the final recommendations is expected to be approved in November 2023 and come into force shortly after. Thereafter, the new constituencies will be used for the next UK Parliamentary General Election. For any by-election or recall petition that may take place

before the new boundaries are used at a UK Parliamentary General Election, existing constituencies must be used.

- 3.3 This report recommends changes to polling districts, in response to the recommended changes to the boundaries of Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South. The changes allow for registers to be produced on both current and new boundaries.

### **The Boundary Commission for Scotland Final Recommendations**

- 3.3 The recommendations for Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South have the two constituencies wholly within the Aberdeen City Council boundary.
- 3.4 The recommendations have the part of the Gordon constituency which is currently within the Aberdeen City Council boundary becoming part of Aberdeen North.
- 3.5 The recommendations have the boundary line between Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South moving in a number of areas. As a result, some changes to polling districts are necessary.

### **Recommended Changes to Polling Districts**

- 3.6 Polling Districts Code Changes

It is recommended the polling district code for the following polling districts is changed to reflect the change in constituency.

The second letter in the polling district code is used to indicate the UK Parliamentary Constituency. The letter 'G' is used to indicate Gordon, 'N' for Aberdeen North and 'S' for Aberdeen South. Therefore, for example, DG0101 will become DN0101.

<b>Moving from Gordon to Aberdeen North</b>	<b>Moving from Aberdeen North to Aberdeen South</b>	<b>Moving from Aberdeen South to Aberdeen North</b>
DG0101	CN0702 (in part, due to split)	DS0306
DG0102	CN0801	DS0308
DG0103	CN0802	CS0705 (in part, due to split)
DG0105	CN0803	CS0706 (in part, due to split)
DG0106	CN0805	
DG0107	CN0806	
DG0110	CN0807	
DG0201	CN0808	
DG0202	CN0809	
DG0203	SN1002	
DG0204	SN1003	

DG0205	CN1005	
DG0206	CN1202	
DG0207		
DG0208		

### 3.7 Polling Districts to be Split

The recommended boundary changes have the revised boundary running through a number of existing polling districts within Ward 7. It is necessary to divide these districts into smaller parts, maintaining both current and new boundaries. This is to allow for the production of registers on both current and new boundaries until such time as the new boundaries are used at a UK Parliamentary General Election. It is therefore recommended that the polling districts in Ward 7 be reconfigured as follows.

<b>Current Polling District Code</b>	<b>Current Polling District Name</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>New Polling District Code</b>	<b>New Polling District Name</b>
CN0701	RAEDEN	NO CHANGE	CN0701	RAEDEN
CN0702	MIDSTOCKET	Create new Polling District from CN0702 North section.	CN0702	MIDSTOCKET
CN0702	MIDSTOCKET	Create new PD from CN0702 South section (moving to South) (1)	CS0705	MIDSTOCKET SOUTH
CN0703	ASHGROVE	NO CHANGE	CN0703	ASHGROVE
CN0704	BERRYDEN	NO CHANGE	CN0704	BERRYDEN
CS0705	GILCOMSTON NORTH	Create new PD from CS0705 West Section	CS0706	DENBURN
CS0705	GILCOMSTON NORTH	Create new PD from CS0705 East Section (moving to North)	CN0707	GILCOMSTON WEST
CS0706	GILCOMSTON SOUTH	Create new PD from CS0706 North Section (moving to North) (2)	CN0708	GILCOMSTON EAST
CS0706	GILCOMSTON SOUTH	Create new PD from CS0706 South Section	CS0709	GILCOMSTON SOUTH

The changes above mean a change of polling place for electors in the following circumstances will be beneficial:

- (1) CN0702 South section (becoming CS0705) moving from Midstocket Parish Church to Silver City Church
- (2) CS0706 North section (becoming CN0708) moving from St. Mary's Cathedral to Silver City Church

For the vast majority of electors changing polling place, they will be closer to their new polling place. The poll card will highlight where electors have a change of polling place and it will also be advertised through a number of channels in collaboration with the Communications Team. All electors have the option of voting by post if this is preferable to attending a polling place.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Once Aberdeen North is expanded to include the polling districts within the Aberdeen City Council boundary that are currently within the Gordon constituency, this will increase the size of the constituency and the cost to the Returning Officer of running an election. It is expected that the funding made available to run UK Parliamentary elections would increase proportionately to cover these increased costs.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Once the final recommendations of the Boundary Commission for Scotland are passed by the UK Parliament, the Returning Officer will be required in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Recall of MPs Act 2015 to conduct UK Parliamentary elections and recall petitions based on the new constituencies.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **7. RISK**

The assessment of risk contained within the table below is considered to be consistent with the Council's Risk Appetite Statement.

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level</b>	<b>*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)</b>  <b>*taking into account controls/control actions</b>	<b>*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?</b>

<b>Strategic Risk</b>	No significant risks identified.			
<b>Compliance</b>	The recommendations of the boundary review must be complied with once they are enacted.	The Council will comply with its statutory duty.	Low	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Operational</b>	Some voters will attend a different polling place.	A change of polling place will be highlighted on the poll card and advertised through multiple channels. All electors have the option of voting by post.	Low	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Financial</b>	The Council is not reimbursed the full amount of additional expenditure caused by the extended boundaries.	The Returning Officer will claim all additional costs, although there is usually an element which is not accepted.	Low	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Reputational</b>	No significant risks identified.			
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	No significant risks identified.			

## 8. OUTCOMES

8.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	A Stage 1 Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Other</b>	Not required

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Boundary Commission for Scotland, 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies  
[www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/?q=reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies](http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/?q=reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies)

## 11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix A – Ward 7 Recommended Changes

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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