

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	13 th May 2015
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	5 th Reviews of Electoral Arrangements
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/15/016
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report brings to the Council the recommendation of the Electoral Boundaries Task Group in relation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals for wards in the Aberdeen City Council Area under the 5th Reviews of Electoral Arrangements.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council resolves to agree the proposals for wards in the Aberdeen City Council area presented in March 2015 by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific financial implications to this report.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The subject matter of the report concerns ward boundaries within the Aberdeen City Council Area and the allocation of elected member numbers to each ward.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The Council's Electoral Boundaries Task Group has met three times (11th December 2014, 31st March 2015 and 22nd April 2015) in relation to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's 5th Reviews of Electoral Arrangements.

In March 2014, the Council confirmed its acceptance of the Commission's proposal to increase the number of members of Aberdeen City Council to 45. In March 2015, the Council received the

Commission's proposals for wards in the City Council Area, attached is a copy of the summary booklet setting out these proposals.

The Commission seeks a response from the Council to the proposals by 19th May 2015. A 12-week public consultation on the proposals will be undertaken by the Commission between July and October 2015 with final recommendations being made to Scottish Ministers by May 2016.

The intention is to have the ward arrangements agreed in time for implementation for the local government elections in May 2017.

In essence through its recommendations for Aberdeen the Commission seeks to:

- improve overall forecast parity (i.e. the average number of electors per councillor);
- address forecast disparities in ward 8 (George Street/Harbour), ward 9 (lower Deeside) and ward 10 (Hazlehead/Ashley/Queens Cross);
- increase the number of councillors in ward 8 (George Street/Harbour) by 1;
- increase the number of councillors in ward 13 (Kincorth/Loirston) by 1;
- make changes to ward boundaries by Countesswells, Grandhome and Pittodrie;
- make no changes to the boundaries of wards
 - 3 (Kingswells/Sheddocksley)
 - 4 (Northfield)
 - 5 (Hilton/Stockethill)
 - 7 (Midstocket/Rosemount)
 - 11 (Airyhall/Broomhill/Garthdee)
 - 12 (Torry/Ferryhill)
 - 13 (Kincorth/Loirston)
- rename ward 10 (Hazlehead/Ashley/Queens Cross) to (Hazlehead/Queens Cross/Countesswells) but make no changes to other ward names.

The Electoral Boundaries Task Group considered the ward proposals from the Commission at its meetings on 31st March 2015 and 22nd April 2015.

The Task Group's recommendation to the Council is that the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals for wards in the Aberdeen City Council Area should be agreed.

6. IMPACT

The subject matter of the report will have an impact on the overall number of elected members and the ward boundaries of the Council. The report is likely to be of some public interest.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

The Council is asked to consider and form a view on proposals made by an external organisation.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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