

**REPORT TO:** CITY COUNCIL - 13TH SEPTEMBER 2010

**REPORT ON:** INTERIM REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS - WARD 3 (WEST END)

**REPORT BY:** CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**REPORT NO:** 555-2010

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek the views of the Council in regard to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's interim proposals as regards Ward 3 (West End).

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 It is recommended that the Council concur with the interim proposal not to make any changes to the electoral arrangements meantime.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no financial implications.

## **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 In April 2010 the Commission agreed that interim reviews should be carried out in 10 wards distributed across 8 Council areas, one of which was Ward 3 (West End).

4.2 The reason for coming to that decision was electoral disparity from the Council average and this is fully explained in LGBCS paper 2149 attached.

4.3 The Commission Secretariat met with officers in May and outlined initial thoughts on what changes might be considered and requested information on households etc which was subsequently provided.

4.4 Following receipt of the information, the Commissioner's Secretariat produced the above mentioned paper which was considered by the Commission in July.

4.5 The Commission reached an interim decision not to make any proposals for changes meantime as disparity had improved since December 2009 and was forecast to improve further by 2015 when the next full review of arrangements would be carried out. In addition there are high forecast level of changes to dwellings in the Council area generally.

4.6 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 requires that when reaching an interim decision not to propose any changes to electoral arrangements, the Commission must inform the Council of that decision and take into consideration any representations made during a two month period. However, as notification was sent during the summer recess, the Commission has extended the period for representation by the Council to 22nd October 2010.

4.7 Thereafter, there is a public consultation period of 12 weeks from November 2010 to February 2011 prior to final recommendations and the report to Scottish Ministers by June 2011.

4.8 As regards the comments on Council size in paragraph 6 of the attachment, members should note that this does not indicate that the Commission has decided to use the same methodology as in previous reviews. In fact the Commission expects to conduct a separate consultation on appropriate methodology for determining Council size prior to any future review of Council sizes.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This report has been screened for policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management and there are no major implications.

## **6.0 CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 The Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

David Dorward  
Chief Executive

DATE: 16th August 2010

## Interim Electoral Review – Dundee City council area Initial Proposals

### Action required

1. The Commission is invited to:
  - consider two alternatives for proposed courses of action with respect to ward 3 of Dundee City council area and agree how to proceed with the Interim Review.

### Background

2. At its April 2010 meeting, the Commission considered LGBCS Paper 2145, and agreed that Interim Reviews should be carried out of 10 wards distributed across 8 council areas. West End (ward 3) of Dundee City council area was identified as one of the wards for review.
3. Wards for Interim Review were identified by applying a methodology comprising a set of 4 criteria:
  - the electoral disparity of the ward from the council area average is more than 10% ;
  - the electoral disparity of the ward is more than 5% different from the forecast disparity for the ward ;
  - the ward's future forecast disparity is more than 15% from the council area average ;
  - the magnitude of the average annual change in electorate for the ward is more than 20 electors per year.
4. A map showing the electoral arrangements for the whole council area can be found at Appendix A. Ward 3 is located immediately to the north of the River Tay at the western most extent of Dundee City council area. It is expected to have a divergence from parity of -8.3% at 2015 and is surrounded by wards 2, 4 and 5 which are expected to have divergences from parity at 2015 of -9.3%, -5.1% and 19.9% respectively (see Appendix B).
5. Data received from Dundee City Council on dwelling changes suggests that there is likely to be significant changes in the distribution of electorate between wards over the next 5 year period and that these will have the greatest impact in wards 2, 3 and 5 (see Appendix B).

### Electorate at local authority level

6. The total council size of Dundee City Council is 29 councillors. Strict application of the appropriate category (1 councillor to every 4,000 electors), under the Commission's process for calculating council size, to the December 2009 electorate for Dundee City council area would suggest a council size of 27. At the commencement of the Third Statutory Review in 1996, when the process for calculating council size was introduced, the electorate for the council area was 116,038, justifying 29 seats.
7. Between the start of the Fourth Statutory Review and the present time, the electorate for the council area has fallen. In 2004, the electorate was 110,710

and has fallen to 106,867 by May 2010. The actual electorate at December 2009 was 10,288 electors lower than the forecast electorate at 2009 used for the Fourth Statutory Review. By May 2010 electorate was 9,743 short of the projection at 2009.

8. Appendix C provides analysis of the electorate in Dundee City Council area between 2004 and 2009 and shows that the projections on which recommendations were made following the Fourth Statutory Review were generally excessive. In all 8 wards there has been a shortfall from the electorate projected for 2009 and this shortfall is more prevalent within wards 2-5. Since 2004, these 4 wards have lost significantly more electors than other wards with Dundee City council area. It is interesting to note that wards 2-5 cover the more central areas of the city. The highest shortfall has been experienced in ward 2 amounting to 2,617 electors.

**Data which identified wards for review**

9. In Paper 2145, electorate data from December 2009 was collated for all wards. The Dundee City council area average electorate per councillor was 3,666. For ward 3 the respective electorate per councillor is 3,180.
10. The criteria at paragraph 3 applied to the December 2009 data for the three wards is shown in the following table:

	Disparity (%)	2009 disparity minus forecast (%)	future forecast disparity (%)	rate of change (electors per cllr per annum)
Ward 3	-13.3	-6.9	-19.3	-75

Negative figures indicate fewer electors per councillor than the council area average.

**Review data at May 2010**

11. Since the April meeting, the Secretariat has received electorate data for May 2010 from Electoral Registration Officers. Since a General Election took place on 6 May, there was a significant increase in the number of registered electors in the months immediately prior to the election in most areas.
12. At May 2010, average electorate per councillor for Dundee City council area was 3,685 (total electorate 106,867). For ward 3, the respective electorate per councillor is 3,271.
13. The table below shows that the position within ward 3 has improved from that depicted by the December 2009 data:

	Disparity (%)	2010 disparity minus forecast (%)
Ward 3	-11.2	-4.8

Negative figures indicate fewer electors per councillor than the council area average.

14. Local authorities have submitted data to the Secretariat, at ward level, on expected new build and demolitions over the next 5 years. The Secretariat has also taken the most recent figures published by GROS for the number of dwellings and divided this by the electorate for the local authority area to calculate an occupancy figure to apply to new build and demolition planned to occur during the 5-year horizon. The calculated new build and demolition electorates have then been added to each appropriate ward electorate at May 2010.
15. The Secretariat has also used the population projections for each council area, which are published by GROS, to calculate a ratio for application to the electorate of a local authority area to determine its projected electorate at 2015. This projected electorate at 2015 is then used to scale the electorate data at ward level, calculated in paragraph 12, to determine final projected electorate at ward level at 2015. Full details of the methodology can be found at Appendix D. A table at Appendix B shows the resulting data for Dundee City Council.

### **Statutory requirements**

16. When making proposals for electoral arrangements, the statutory requirements are set out in Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The Schedule requires the Commission to have regard to changes in the number or distribution of electors in the 5 years following a review. The Schedule also requires that the electorate per councillor in each ward in the council shall be "as nearly as may be, the same". The full text of the Schedule appears at Appendix E.

### **Local factors**

17. The Secretariat met with council officers from Dundee City Council on 18 May 2010 during which there was a general discussion on the steps involved in undertaking Interim Reviews of electoral arrangements. The Commission also advised council officers of the affected ward that was the subject of review and outlined a number of initial thoughts on what remedial action might be taken. Council officers provided some general background concerning the affected area.
18. The Secretariat has examined the possibility of reducing the level of representation of Dundee City Council by one and reducing ward 3 from a 4 to a 3 member ward (see Appendix F). However, this on its own, would not address the problem and further widespread revisions to the current boundaries would be required to produce acceptable electoral arrangements. The Secretariat suggests that consideration of change of this magnitude should be deferred to the next statutory review of electoral arrangements which is due to commence sometime after 2014.
19. Although Ward 3 has been identified for review under the agreed methodology, due to the magnitude of the overall circumstances occurring within that ward, it is not in isolation in failing to meet its projected electorate at 2009 and in having a significant loss of electors from its total electorate at 2004 (see Appendix C). Wards 2-5 were short of their projected electorates at 2009 by between 1,699 and 2,617 electors (2,347 in ward 3) and have lost between 600 and 1,654

(1,293 in ward 3) of their electorate from 2004. In both of these observations, ward 3 is not the largest offender.

20. Looking at the whole council area, it is evident that overall the wards in the west side of the council area have lost electorate from 2004 and the wards in the east side of the council area have maintained the same level of electorate as at 2004.
21. Examination of the projected electorate at local authority level at 2015 suggests that there will be very little movement. However, change in dwellings data provided by the council suggests that there might be significant changes in the distribution of electorate at ward level, especially in ward 5. It is predicted that there is likely to be a significant increase in the number of dwellings within ward 3 and, should this be realised, it would reduce the divergence from parity of the ward to a more acceptable level.

### **Option 1**

22. Option 1 is to retain the status quo. Examination of the evidence would suggest that Dundee City council area's electorate will remain at the same level over the next 5 years but that the distribution of that electorate at ward level might change because of changes to dwellings. As it is predicted that there might be significant change in dwelling numbers, and such predictions can be less reliable, the Commission may conclude to wait until the next statutory review to see what actually happens before deciding on any necessary remedial action.
23. In any case, from the evidence collated to support this paper, it is predicted that the electorate of ward 3 will increase during the next 5 year period to a level which might prove acceptable to the Commission. The same evidence would suggest that by 2015 changes to electoral arrangements will be required in other wards.

### **Option 2**

24. Option 2 proposes a transfer of polling district WBC from ward 5 to ward 3 and would result in the movement of 907 electors (see Appendix G). Such a transfer would result in divergences from parity for wards 3 and 5 of -2.2% and 11.6% respectively at 2015. The suggested area of transfer was identified as one of several possibilities that were aired during discussions with council officers.
25. The proposal also has the attraction of reducing the potentially large electorate predicted for ward 5 at 2015. Furthermore, the proposal should be robust enough to remain valid should the levels of dwelling changes, expected to occur in both wards over the next 5 years, not fully materialise.

### **Conclusion**

26. The Secretariat considers that both Option 1 and Option 2 provide acceptable courses of action for the Commission to take.
27. Taking account of the evidence of an unchanged electorate at council level at 2015 and high levels of dwelling changes at ward level over the next 5 years suggests a period of change with respect to the distribution of electorate between wards of Dundee City Council. In such circumstances, the Secretariat would suggest that any remedial action is deferred to the next statutory review.

28. Further, indications are that the electorate of ward 3 will increase, should the expected levels of new development planned for the ward be completed during the next 5 years and this might be sufficient to persuade the Commission not to take any remedial action in the meantime.

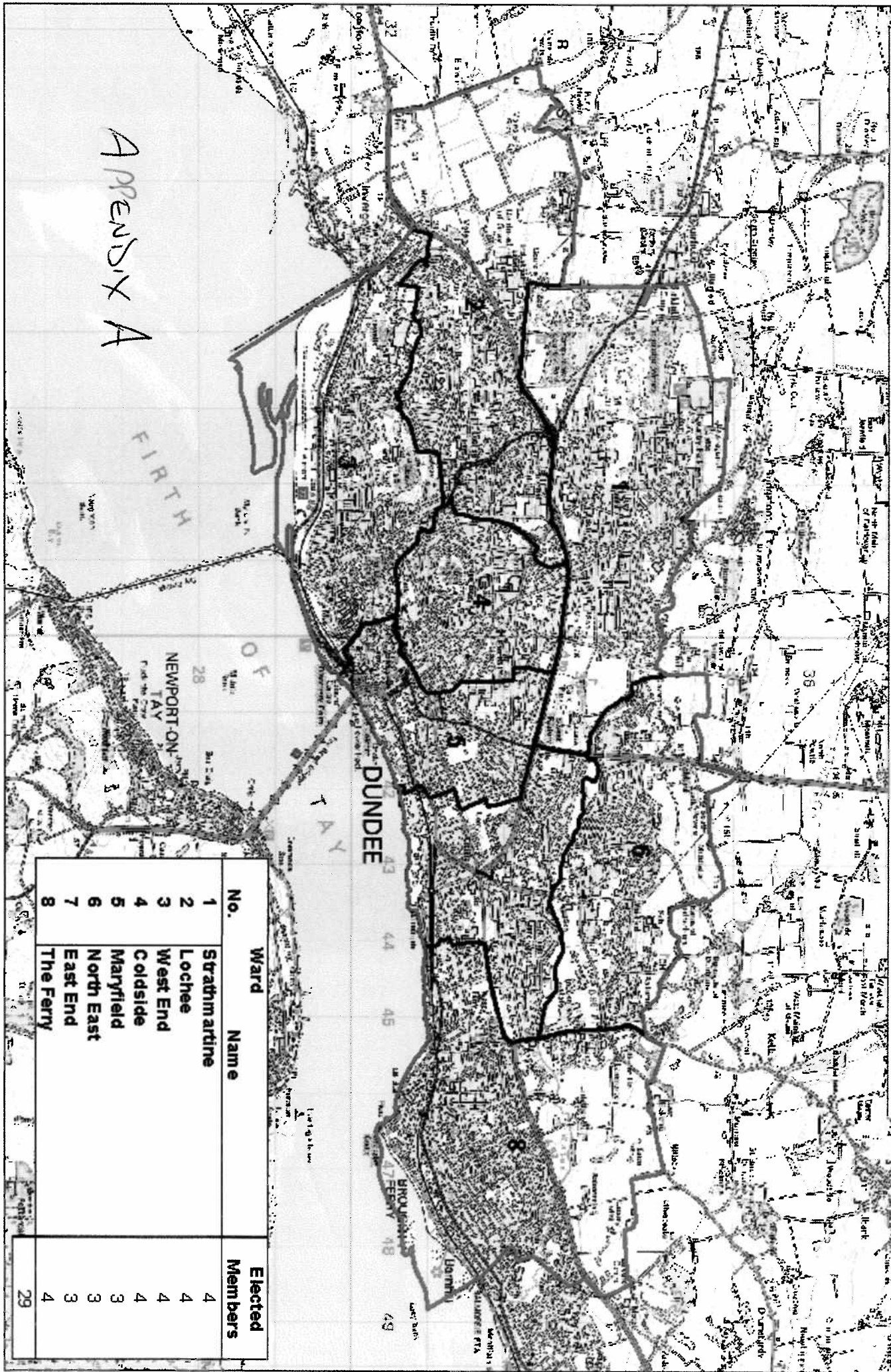
### **Recommendation**

29. The Secretariat **recommends** that the Commission:

- considers whether the proposed methodology is appropriate;
- accepts the outcomes of applying the methodology to the ward electorate data; and
- agree to the course of action proposed by Option 1.

Secretariat  
July 2010

**Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland - Single Transferable Vote - Proportional Representation**  
**Electoral arrangements for Dundee City Council area**



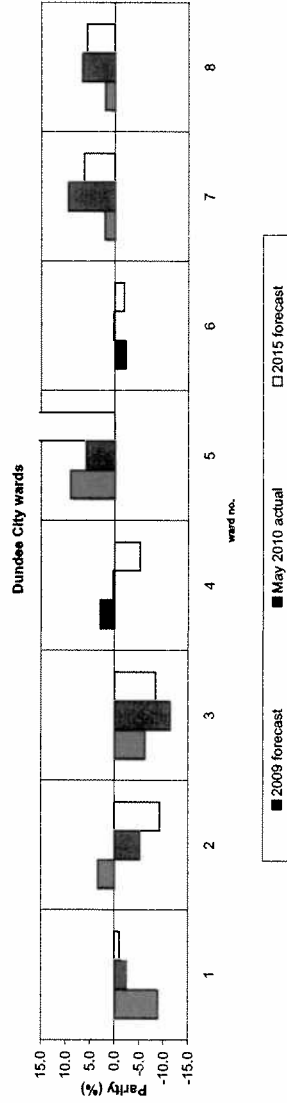
APPENDIX A

No.	Ward Name	Elected Members
1	Strathmartine	4
2	Lochee	4
3	West End	4
4	Coldside	4
5	Maryfield	3
6	North East	3
7	East End	3
8	The Ferry	4
		29



2010 Interim Review of Electoral Arrangements  
Dundee City

No. Code	Ward Name	Constituency	LGCS 2009 forecast (without attainments)		LGCS May 2010 actuals		Modelling data		LGCS 2015 forecast				
			Electorate	Per cent	Electorate	Per cent	2010 dwellings	2010 occu. factor	2015 raw popn.	2015 popn.	Electate	Per cent	
29			115,420	3.980	106,867	3.685	73,096	1.45	113,145	142,756	142,277	106,508	3.673
1	QJMA Strathmartine	4	14,514	3,629	14,390	3,598	-2.4	727	15,444	14,538	3,635	-1.0	
2	QJMB Lochee	4	16,455	4,114	13,994	3,499	-5.1	116	14,162	13,332	3,333	-9.3	
3	QJMC West End	4	14,942	3,736	13,083	3,271	-11.2	840	14,301	13,462	3,366	-8.4	
4	QJMD Coldside	4	16,386	4,097	14,792	3,698	0.4	9	14,805	13,937	3,484	-5.1	
5	QJME Maryfield	3	13,022	4,341	11,703	3,901	5.9	1605	14,030	13,208	4,403	19.9	
6	QJMF North East	3	11,673	3,891	11,077	3,692	0.2	280	11,483	10,810	3,603	-1.9	
7	QJMG East End	3	12,192	4,064	12,111	4,037	9.6	224	12,436	11,706	3,902	6.2	
8	QJMH The Ferry	4	16,236	4,059	15,717	3,929	6.6	528	16,483	15,516	3,879	5.6	



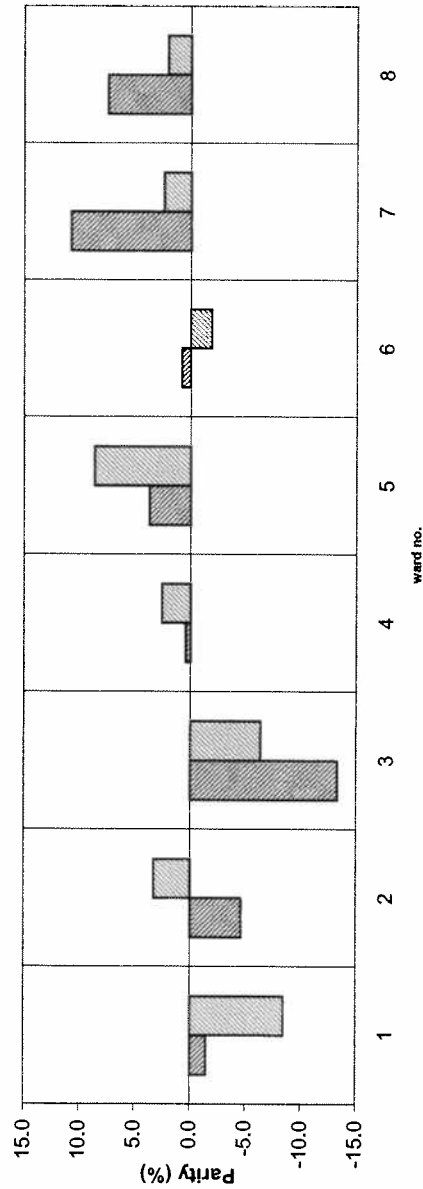
APPENDIX B

Dundee

Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements  
Dundee

Ward			LGBCS 2004 actuals			LGBCS Dec 2009 actuals			LGBCS 2009 forecast			2009 act/forecast		
No	Code	Name	Electrate	Per Cncllr	Parity	Electrate	Per Cncllr	Parity	Electrate	Per Cncllr	Parity	Electrate	Per Cncllr	Parity
			110,710	3,818		106,322	3,666		116,610	4,021				
1	RBMA	Strathmartine	13,917	3,479	-8.9	14,451	3,613	-1.5	14,730	3,683	-8.4			7.0
2	RBMB	Lochee	15,460	3,865	1.2	13,993	3,498	-4.6	16,610	4,153	3.3			-7.9
3	RBMC	West End	14,011	3,503	-8.2	12,718	3,180	-13.3	15,065	3,766	-6.3			-6.9
4	RBMD	Coldside	16,379	4,095	7.3	14,725	3,681	0.4	16,500	4,125	2.6			-2.2
5	RBME	Manfield	12,006	4,002	4.8	11,406	3,802	3.7	13,105	4,368	8.6			-4.9
6	RBMF	North East	11,056	3,685	-3.5	11,083	3,694	0.8	11,830	3,943	-1.9			2.7
7	RBMG	East End	12,272	4,091	7.2	12,187	4,062	10.8	12,355	4,118	2.4			8.4
8	RBMH	The Ferry	15,609	3,902	2.2	15,759	3,940	7.5	16,415	4,104	2.1			5.4

Dundee wards



Dec 2009 actual      2009 forecast

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

LGBCS Paper 2148 - Appendix D

Appendix D - Methodology for forecasting ward electorates

This is the methodology used by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland to forecast ward electorates during its Interim Reviews of electoral arrangements during 2010.

Step	Description	Variable
1	Calculate local government electorate per ward, excluding attainers, at 1 May 2010 from electoral register.	E
2	Calculate electorate for council area by adding ward data.	EC
3	Tabulate Council area dwelling count from GROS: Table 2 of <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/household-estimates-statistics/household-estimates-2009/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/household-estimates-statistics/household-estimates-2009/index.html</a> (data for 2009 published May 2010). We use count of dwellings rather than households (dwellings include vacant property and second homes) since the forecast change data from councils is also about dwellings rather than households. More detailed data (by multi-member ward) is available from Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics ( <a href="http://www.sns.gov.uk">www.sns.gov.uk</a> ). However, we do not use this since we do not try to model variations in electors per dwelling across council area.	D
4	Calculate electorate per dwelling occupancy factor for council area.	$N=EC/D$
5	Get new build and demolitions data from council per ward for 5 years to May 2015 and hence change in number of dwellings per ward.	C
6	Calculate raw forecast electorate per ward	$R=E+(C*N)$
7	Calculate council area raw forecast electorate by adding ward raw forecasts.	RC
8	Tabulate current (2010) population (PC) and projected population for 2015 (PP) from GROS population projections for Scottish areas. Latest available is 2008 based, published February 2010 <a href="http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/popproj/2008-based-pop-proj-scottish-areas/index.html">http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/statistics/publications-and-data/popproj/2008-based-pop-proj-scottish-areas/index.html</a> .	PC PP
9	Calculate scaling factor so that electorate change over period is consistent with GROS projected population change for period.	$S=(EC*PP)/(PC*RC)$
10	Calculate forecast ward electorates by applying scaling factor to each raw forecast ward electorate.	$F=S*R$
11	Calculate council area forecast electorate by adding forecast ward electorates.	FC

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

LGBCS Paper 2148 - Appendix D

Worked example

An imaginary council area, with 4 wards

Step	Data	Calculation	
1	2010 electorates Ward 1 - 10,000 Ward 2 - 10,000 Ward 3 - 10,000 Ward 4 - 10,000		E
2		Council area total = $10,000+10,000+10,000+10,000$ $=40,000$	EC
3	Dwelling count 2009 - 32,000		D
4		Electorate per dwelling = $40,000/32,000$ $=1.25$	N
5	Change in dwellings per ward Ward 1 - 4,000 Ward 2 - 0 Ward 3 - 0 Ward 4 - 0		C
6		Raw forecast electorates Ward 1: $10,000 + (4,000*1.25)=15,000$ Ward 2: $10,000 + (0*1.25)=10,000$ Ward 3: $10,000 + (0*1.25)=10,000$ Ward 4: $10,000 + (0*1.25)=10,000$	R
7		Council area raw forecast electorate $15,000+10,000+10,000+10,000$ $=45,000$	RC
8	2010 population - 50,000 2015 population - 55,000		PC PP
9		Scaling factor $(40,000*55,000)/(50,000*45,000)$ $=0.9778$	S
10		Forecast electorates Ward 1: $15,000*0.9778 = 14,666$ Ward 2: $10,000*0.9778 = 9,778$ Ward 3: $10,000*0.9778 = 9,778$ Ward 4: $10,000*0.9778 = 9,778$	F
11		Council area forecast electorate $14,666 + 9,778 + 9,778 + 9,778$ $=44,000$	FC

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

LGBCS Paper 2148 - Appendix E

Appendix E - Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 - Schedule 6

SCHEDULE 6

*RULES TO BE OBSERVED IN CONSIDERING ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS*

- 1 (1) This Schedule applies to the consideration by the Secretary of State or the Boundary Commission of the electoral arrangements for election of councillors of local government areas.
- (2) Having regard to any change in the number or distribution of electors of a local government area likely to take place within the period of five years immediately following the consideration, the number calculated by dividing the number of local government electors in each electoral ward of that local government area by the number of councillors to be returned in that ward shall be, as nearly as may be, the same.
- (3) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) above, in considering the electoral arrangements referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above regard shall be had to —
- (a) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable;
  - (b) any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary,
- but if, in any case, there is a conflict between those criteria, greater weight shall be given to the latter.
- 2 The strict application of the rule stated in paragraph 1(2) above may be departed from in any area where special geographical considerations appear to render a departure desirable.

Ward No	Name	Cllrs	Elect 2015	Div
1	Strathmartine	4	14,538	-4
2	Lochee	4	13,332	-12
3	West End	3	13,462	18
4	Coldside	4	13,937	-8
5	Maryfield	3	13,208	16
6	North East	3	10,810	-5
7	East End	3	11,706	3
8	The Ferry	4	15,516	2
		28	106,508	
	3 member ward	11,412		
	4 member ward	15,215		

APPENDIX F

# Appendix G

