

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT ON: REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARIES - (a) BALDOVAN

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE PLANNING

REPORT NO: 431/2000

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update members on the current situation in regard to the Council's request for a review of the administrative boundaries and the outcome of a meeting between officers of the Council and representatives of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee supports a further application to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland seeking a review of the area of Baldovan as outlined within this report for its eventual inclusion in the city's boundary.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

There are no Local Agenda 21 implications affecting this report.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

The inclusion of additional land within the City Council's administrative boundary would provide greater scope for measures to assist the City's development and regeneration. It would also allow potential for the provision of new amenities and facilities aimed at enhancing the quality of life for the City as a whole. These would be achieved in edge of city locations, potentially accessible to those people dependent on public transport.

6. BACKGROUND

At the Policy & Resources Committee on 24 January 2000, the Council agreed to support a further application to the Local Government Boundary Commission of Scotland, for the areas of Liff and Ballumbie as previously delineated in Report No 706/1999 which had been agreed at the Policy & Resources Committee of 26 April 1999, to be included within the Dundee City Boundary and authorised the Chief Executive to write to the Local Government Boundary Commission requesting such a review.

Members will recall that the reason for the Local Government Boundary Commission refusing to proceed with consideration of the original application was on the basis that the combined total of electors within the three areas

submitted to the Commission, 79, exceeded the limits set in the Secretary of State's directive.

Subsequent to this initial response, the Council further agreed at a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on the 24 January 2000, to request a review to be undertaken of the Liff and Ballumbie areas and appended a further note outlining the case for these areas with more detailed maps to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Further to this application, a letter was received from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (attached) turning down this further request by the City Council for the review of Dundee City Council's administrative boundary with Angus Council.

The reason for refusing to proceed the review was given that the Commission was not persuaded that the reasons advanced by Dundee City Council provided justification for review of the boundary and accordingly the Commission did not intend to pursue the review at this time. However, the Secretary of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland extended an invitation to the Council to answer any further queries.

In response, the Chief Executive wrote to the Secretary of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland requesting a meeting between the Commission and officers of the Council in order to establish and explain the reasons regarding the refusal to consider Dundee's application

A meeting was subsequently held with the Depute Chairman of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland and his officers representing the Commission and the Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Corporate Planning and the Policy & Regeneration Manager, Planning & Transportation Department representing the City Council.

It was intimated by the Commission representatives at that meeting that the boundary amendments they were currently examining tended to be of a minor nature e.g. where boundaries passed through individual dwellings or individual properties. Although they felt the Commission would not be likely to look at areas where there were settlements close by, it might be prepared to look at areas that might be more "naturally" included within any change to administrative boundaries. These areas would have less than 50 electors and any proposed redesignated boundary would follow natural topographical or geographical boundaries.

In these circumstances it is essential that any revised application for a review of Administrative Boundaries should meet the topographical and geographical parameters as indicated by the Boundary Commission representatives. To this end the boundaries of the Baldovan area have been updated and altered to allow for a more "natural" perimeter. Electoral numbers have been updated with 34 electors in the revised area and text descriptions for the proposed new boundaries have been supplied (attached).

7. PROPOSALS

It is proposed that the area of Baldovan be forwarded for consideration for review by the Local Government Boundary Commission of Scotland for inclusion within the area of Dundee City Council. As previously outlined in Report No 706/1999 the inclusion of this area within the City Council's boundary would contribute to the overall development and regeneration of the city. It would help address the effects of out-migration and rising levels of disadvantage in the remaining population.

The **Baldovan** area provides a balance of an expansion opportunity situated in the north of the city and will assist in the regeneration of the Kirkton area by allowing for any northward spread.

This area will give more flexibility for a greenfield site development in tandem with ongoing brownfield redevelopment in urban renewal. This is within a cohesive framework, sustaining local communities, whilst achieving a range of development opportunities that one would expect to find in a functioning city market/environment.

8. EFFECTIVE AND CONVENIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Before making a proposal to the Scottish Executive for a change to a local authority's administrative boundary the Boundary Commission have to be satisfied that the change is desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

The proposed change to the City Council's administrative boundary is desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government for the following reasons:-

EDUCATION

In the case of Baldovan the local primary school is Strathmartine (Angus), sited to the west of the area. Pupils currently have the right, as priority 1 cases, to attend either Forfar Academy in Angus or Baldrigon Academy in Dundee for secondary education. Possible Dundee catchment area schools for Strathmartine children would be Macalpine, Sidlaw View or St Columba's primaries, while Lawside Academy as well as Baldrigon Academy would be available for secondary education.

It is difficult to generalise that all primary-aged children living in this area would have easier and more convenient access to a primary school in Dundee, although no particular difficulties can be envisaged for children making their way to one of the Dundee primary schools in the area. Clearly the access argument in terms of secondary schooling is a persuasive one. It is believed that placing requests made by parents in this area for Monifieth High School, already a significant number of miles distant from the area, are being rejected on the grounds of over capacity, realistically leaving the designated catchment area secondary school (Forfar Academy) as the only Angus option. This necessitates considerable travelling time for secondary-aged children in the area.

In general terms there are no capacity problems in any of the Dundee schools mentioned above. In addition it is possible to argue that primary children will benefit from the more positive experience of all - through education in a large primary school than they might have in a much smaller rural school; and in a similar context that larger schools are economically more viable.

SOCIAL WORK

In relation to the availability of Social Work services in the Baldovan area it is clear that in geographical terms it lends itself to being within the Dundee City Boundaries. The accessibility of homecare, daycare, childcare, respite care, care management and other services are within reasonable travelling distance of Dundee. Closer proximity to resources means service users can receive greater levels of support. This links closely with the Scottish Executive's policy direction on modernising community care i.e Better and Faster Decision Making, Caring for More People at Home, and Working Together Locally

Access to services under the present arrangements means clients travelling considerable distances to Monifieth, Forfar, Arbroath. Residents of this area are more likely to be registered with a Dundee GP who are linked into Dundee services. Angus Council staff are also affected in that a large part of the working day can be spent travelling to this location.

If this area has been identified for the development of large scale private housing development this will further blurr the boundaries between Angus and Dundee. It would therefore make sense to provide social work services to an area which in geographical terms was previously included within Dundee's boundary.

OTHER SERVICES

Although there are no local authority housing properties in the Baldovan area, residents could make use of Dundee City Council local area housing offices to pay Council Tax and access other Council services such as Special Collections from the Cleansing Department.

Residents would also have access to a more convenient library service, the closest being Kirkton Library as well as the mobile library which Dundee City Council provides directly to outlying areas of the City. City Information points are also located within the Council's libraries.

This area would appear to meet the criteria for an immediate boundary review and would meet the strategic requirement of the Tayside Structure Plan, 1993 and provide greater scope for employment measures to assist the city's featured development regeneration.

9. CONSULTATIONS

The appropriate Directors and Chief Officers have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

10. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Tayside Structure Plan 1993
Dundee Local Plan 1998
Rural Areas Local Plan 1994
Dundee District Local Plan (Draft) 1994

Director of Corporate Planning

Date

Dundee City Council Proposed Boundary Amendments 2000

Descriptions of Boundaries

Baldovan

Commencing at NG Ref. No. 3884 3447 on the Dundee City Council Boundary where the Dighty Water is crossed by Baldovan Road; then generally north then north-west along said road to its junction with an unnamed road at NG Ref. No. 3870 3476; then generally north then west along said road to its junction with an unnamed road at NG Ref. No. 3861 3529; then north from this point along the unnamed road to NG Ref. No. 3862 3554; then east from this point along a farm track to its junction at Old Glamis Road; then north along said road to its junction at Emmock Road; then generally east along Emmock Road to NG Ref. No. 4059 3521; then generally south from this point along the line of a stone wall to NG Ref. No. 4048 3466 on the Dundee City Council Boundary; then south then generally west along said boundary to point of commencement.+



LOCAL GOVERNMENT
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8 March, 2000

Dear Mr Stephen

Interim Review of Administrative Boundaries – Dundee City/Angus

I refer to your letters of 21 and 31 January.

With regard to the query raised in your letter of 21 January concerning the powers of the Commission, there is nothing in the legislation which would prevent the Commission from undertaking a number of reviews in any area simultaneously. Equally, however, were the Commission to receive multiple requests for the review of a Council's boundary in a number of disparate areas, the Commission could decide, for a variety of reasons, that it would be inappropriate to consider some or all such requests individually. For example, requests for a series of reviews along a Council's boundary could be indicative of an underlying fundamental problem which might be better addressed and rectified by taking a more strategic view, rather than attempting to make a series of piecemeal adjustments. There might also, perhaps, be a need to consider the efficiency and effectiveness of undertaking a series of sequential or concurrent reviews of a Council's boundaries.

Turning to your letter of 31 January regarding Dundee City Council's request that the Commission consider undertaking a review of its boundary with Angus Council at Liff and Ballumbie, I can confirm that the electorate figures quoted are those provided to the Commission by the Electoral Registration Officer and represent the number of electors on the 1999 Register, that is, the electoral register in force at the time the request was received from your Council.

I can now also inform you that, at its meeting on 6 March 2000, the Commission discussed your Council's request. The Commission directed me to inform you as follows:

Overall, the Commission is not persuaded that the reasons advanced by Dundee City Council in the Policy and Resources Committee Report and

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additional note included with your letter of 31 January 2000 provides justification for a review of the boundary between Dundee City Council area and Angus Council area at Liff and Ballumbie in advance of the statutory review of the boundaries of all authorities in Scotland which will take place in 2004.

Accordingly, the Commission does not intend to pursue a review of the boundary between Dundee City Council and Angus Council in the areas defined at Liff and Ballumbie at this time.

Should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Your sincerely



R Smith
Secretary

