

REPORT TO: CITY COUNCIL - 14TH NOVEMBER, 2011

REPORT ON: SIXTH PERIODICAL REVIEW OF UK PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO 489-2011

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To outline the proposals by the Boundary Commission for Scotland and to make any representations to the Commission thereon.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Council note the proposals and that political parties or individuals make their own representations to the Boundary Commission for Scotland if so desired.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 None.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 This Review was announced in March 2011 and is governed by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986.

4.2 The UK Parliament decided to reduce the number of UK Parliamentary Constituencies from 650 to 600 (Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011 refers). In Scotland this means there will be 52 constituencies - a reduction of 7. Of these 2 are defined in legislation namely the Western Isles and Orkney and Shetland. The remaining 50 constituencies must have between 72,810 and 80,473 electors. This is plus or minus 5% of the UK quota figure of 76,641.2 - the quota being the total UK electorate divided by the number of constituencies.

4.3 The legislation sets specific requirements for the design of constituencies and the Commission has endeavoured to:-

- design as many constituencies as practicable that do not cross a Council area boundary
- recognise existing community ties
- take into consideration local geography (eg transport links, other electoral boundaries, administrative boundaries and natural features)
- consider special geographical considerations where appropriate

4.4 Due to the reduction in the number of constituencies and the requirement of nearly equal numbers of electors in each constituency it is not possible to leave constituencies as they currently are. In developing its initial proposals across Scotland the Commission has tried to minimise the number of constituencies which combine parts of different Council areas and in this regard the Commission has had to divide 29 local government wards, each between two constituencies and when dividing wards the Commissioners followed community council boundaries or other recognisable boundaries.

4.5 As far as the Commission's proposals for the area of the City Council are concerned the current boundary between the two existing constituencies has been altered to follow Forfar Road and Claverhouse Road instead of Mains Loan, Kingsway and Old Glamis Road. In the region of 1,000 electors will therefore be in a different successor constituency.

4.6 This means that only Ward 5 (Maryfield) will be split between two constituencies with wards 1 to 4 in the proposed Dundee East and the Glens constituency and Wards 6 and 8 entirely within the proposed Dundee West and Gowrie constituency.

- 4.7 The proposed Dundee East and the Glens constituency will also comprise Wards 1, 4 and 5 from Angus Council and will have an electorate of 76,953.
- 4.8 The proposed Dundee West and Gowrie constituency will also contain Wards 1 and 2 from Perth and Kinross Council with an electorate of 79,159.
- 4.9 The electorates used in the review are based on the electorate as at 1st December, 2010.
- 4.10 A public hearing is to be held in the City Chambers on Tuesday, 29th November in respect of Angus, Clackmannanshire, Dundee City, Fife, Perth and Kinross and Stirling Council areas.
- 4.11 Comments on the proposals themselves must be sent to the Boundary Commission for Scotland by 4th January, 2012.
- 4.12 Maps will be on display at the meeting. For further information the Commissions initial proposals can be found on their website - www.bcomm-scotland.gov.uk/6th_westminster.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of sustainability, strategic environmental assessment, anti poverty, equality impact assessment and risk management and there are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and the Director of Finance have been consulted.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Boundary Commission for Scotland - Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Summary of Initial proposals (October 2011) and Policies and Procedures Document (May 2011)

David Dorward
Chief Executive

DATE: 18th October, 2011