

**To: Council**

**On: 29 September 2016**

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**Report by: Director of Finance and Resources**

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**Heading: Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland- Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements**

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise elected members that the recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (“the Commission”) to the Scottish Government in relation to Renfrewshire following the Statutory Review have now been approved by the Scottish Ministers.
  - 1.2 The new arrangements as set out in this report will apply to future Local Government elections and by-elections taking place on or after 4 May 2017.
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## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council notes:-
  - a) that the Scottish Government has approved the electoral arrangements for the Renfrewshire Council area recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland; and
  - b) the action required to revise the Council’s polling arrangements as a result of the changes to ward boundaries.

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### 3. **Background**

- 3.1 The Commission recently concluded its Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements and submitted its final recommendations to the Scottish Government for approval in May 2016.
- 3.2 The detail of the Commission's final recommendations as they affected Renfrewshire was reported to the Council on 22 June 2016. A link to the relevant page on the Commission's website containing its final recommendations for Renfrewshire is provided
- [http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/reviews/5th\\_electoral/renfrewshire/](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/reviews/5th_electoral/renfrewshire/)
- 3.3 The Renfrewshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016 was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 14 September 2016 and the Order comes into force on 30 September 2016. The new electoral arrangements will apply to any election held on or after 4 May 2017.
- 3.4 Members will recall that the main changes to be implemented are:
- a) An increase in the number of councillors on Renfrewshire Council from 40 to 43
  - b) An increase in the number of electoral wards in the Renfrewshire Council area from 11 to 12; and
  - c) The additional ward being created in the south east of Paisley from areas that are currently within Wards 3 and 5.
- 3.5 Appendix 1 lists the new wards and the number of elected members to be returned in each of the wards.
- 3.6 The Council's arrangements for undertaking electoral events are set out in a Polling Scheme which was approved by Council on 27 February 2014. The Polling Scheme divides the Council area into polling districts and identifies polling places for each polling district. Taking into account the significant changes made by the Commission a review of the current Polling Scheme will be required to identify where polling districts may require to be redrawn and to identify the extent to which the changes will lead to voters being allocated to different polling places.
- 3.7 The review of the Polling Scheme will begin immediately and a report on the outcome of the review will be submitted to the next meeting of the Council on 15 December 2016.

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## Implications of the Report

1. **Financial-** There are no direct financial consequences arising from this report. However, the decision by the Scottish Government to approve the creation of three additional elected members for Renfrewshire will result in additional cost to the Council due to the additional elected members being entitled to a level of remuneration prescribed in legislation.
  
2. **HR & Organisational Development** None –
  
3. **Community Planning –**  
**Children and Young People –** None  
  
**Community Care, Health & Well-being -** None  
  
**Empowering our Communities –** The new electoral arrangements referred to in this report are intended to improve the democratic representation of communities within Renfrewshire  
  
**Greener -** None  
  
**Jobs and the Economy –** None  
  
**Safer and Stronger -** None
  
4. **Legal-** The report reflects the outcome of a statutory review of electoral arrangements undertaken to comply with the requirements of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
  
5. **Property/Assets -None -**
  
6. **Information Technology -None**
  
7. **Equality & Human Rights**

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because the report is only for noting. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

- 8. **Health & Safety** None –
- 9. **Procurement** None –
- 10. **Risk** -None –
- 11. **Privacy Impact** - None

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### List of Background Papers

- (a) Background Paper 1 – Report by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland dated 26 May 2016 following the Fifth Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements in Scotland.
- (b) Background Paper 2 – Report to Council on 22 June 2016 titled Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland – Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements.

The foregoing background papers will be retained within Legal and Democratic Services for inspection by the public for the prescribed period of four years from the date of the meeting. The contact officer within the service is Ken Graham, Head of Corporate Governance (ext 7360)

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## Renfrewshire Council Area

ward no	ward name	councillors	electorate sept 13	actual variation from parity	forecast electorate	forecast variation from parity
1	Renfrew North and Braehead	4	11,192	-8%	11,646	-4%
2	Renfrew South and Gallowhill	3	9,329	3%	9,054	-1%
3	Paisley Northeast and Ralston	3	8,954	-2%	8,676	-5%
4	Paisley Northwest	4	12,406	2%	12,466	2%
5	Paisley East and Central	3	8,930	-2%	9,726	6%
6	Paisley Southeast	3	9,276	2%	9,102	0%
7	Paisley Southwest	4	11,932	-2%	11,641	-4%
8	Johnstone South and Elderslie	4	12,174	0%	12,453	2%
9	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood and Lochwinnoch	4	11,785	-3%	11,549	-5%
10	Houston, Crosslee and Linwood	4	12,021	-1%	12,123	0%
11	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir and Langbank	3	9,095	0%	9,580	5%
12	Erskine and Inchinnan	4	13,349	10%	12,951	6%
	Total	43	130,443	3%	130,967	4%