

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: FIRST PERIODICAL REVIEW OF CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE  
SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 5 DECEMBER 2007**  
**Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland, in pursuance of the Scotland Act 1998 as amended by the Scottish Parliament (Constituencies) Act 2004, has commenced a general review of the constituency boundaries for the Scottish Parliament. The Commission announced the commencement of the review on 3 July 2007, advising that it is required to submit its report to the Secretary of State for Scotland by 30 June 2010.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Report is to notify Members of the review and its implications and to outline the review process, for Members' information, in advance of the Commission publishing its provisional proposals for revised constituencies in Spring 2008.

**2. CURRENT POSITION, IMPLICATIONS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 The review will cover the 70 mainland constituencies and the Western Isles constituency as well as the eight regions. In terms of the 2004 Act, the Orkney Islands and the Shetland Islands are excluded from the constituency review. The review of the regions will, however, include all 73 constituencies.
- 2.2 The constituency review will include the Scottish Parliamentary constituencies of Falkirk East and Falkirk West, both of which fall within the administrative boundaries of the Falkirk Council area.
- 2.3 The Boundary Commission expects to publish its provisional proposals relating to the constituency review in Spring 2008, leading into a one month statutory consultation period thereafter. Determining local inquiries and allowing for minor modifications to final proposals is expected to take up to April/May 2008, with local inquiries being conducted and completed by September 2008 and inquiry reports and proposal modifications completed by December 2008.
- 2.4 The legislative requirements to consult widely and, where necessary, to hold local public inquiries, leads the Commission to conclude that its provisional proposals for the regions, which must comprise aggregations of whole constituencies, will not be published until June 2009, with the local inquiry process being completed by September 2009.
- 2.5 In terms of the 2004 Act, the Commission is required to submit a report on its review to the Secretary of State for Scotland not later than 30 June 2010.

- 2.6 The electoral quota for the review will be calculated using the electoral register in force at the enumeration date for the review, which was 3 July 2007. The electorate figure given at that time for the Falkirk Council area (both Falkirk East and Falkirk West constituencies) is 113,697. On the basis of the number of local government electors on the register (excluding Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands) at the time of the May 2007 elections, that number will be around 54,500. The Commission does not anticipate any significant increase or decrease from that figure.
- 2.7 With the statistics as detailed in the previous paragraph, Falkirk Council's theoretical entitlement is for 2.07 constituencies, suggesting that there will be minimal change likely to take place across the current Falkirk East and Falkirk West boundaries.

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **3.1 Members are requested to note:-**

- (1) the terms of the Report and the implications of the First Periodical Review of Constituencies for the Scottish Parliament being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for Scotland, and
- (2) that further update reports will be submitted to Council as the Review progresses.

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**Chief Executive**

**Date: 16 November 2007**

**Contact Officer: Dale Robb, Business and Members' Services Manager**

#### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1 Press announcement by the Boundary Commission for Scotland issued on 3 July 2007.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01324 50611 and ask for Dale Robb.