

**FC14. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND:
FIFTH REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive presenting the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals for the Falkirk Council area as part of its 5th review of electoral arrangements.

Council had, on 13 May 2015 (ref FC9), continued consideration of the report to allow members further time to reflect on the Commission's recommendations and to consider alternative options.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Baillie J Paterson, moved that Council:-

- (1) rejects the Commission's proposals for a 30 member scheme of wards for the Falkirk Council area and requests that the number of councillors remains at 32;
- (2) reserves the right to make a further submission should the Boundary Commission reject the Council's request that the number of councillors remains at 32;
- (3) endorses the following additional representations to the Commission as set out in the report on:
 - (i) the Commission's response to the previous consultation on councillor numbers;
 - (ii) the timetable for the consultation; and
 - (iii) the electorate figures used in the consultation.
- (4) delegates to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Administration and the Leader of the Opposition, authority to conjoin in any action for judicial review of the Commission's decision making process if it is considered that this would be in the interests of Falkirk Council; and
- (5) authorises officers to inform the Commission of the anomaly in the boundary between Ward 4 (Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst) and Ward 5 (Bonnybridge and Larbert) in the Carronvale Road area and to ask the Commission to amend the boundary between these two wards to reflect the reality on the ground.

As an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved, in substitution for the motion, that Council:-

- (1) supports the retention of 32 Councillors but recognises that there will be disparity of views between political groups. Therefore, in order to reflect those views accurately it should be left to individual political groupings to make their own submissions; and
- (2) authorises officers to inform the Commission of the anomaly in the boundary between Ward 4 (Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst) and Ward 5 (Bonnybridge and Larbert) in the Carronvale Road area and to ask the Commission to amend the boundary between these two wards to reflect the reality on the ground.

On a division, 16 members voted for the motion and 12 voted for the amendment, with voting as follows:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray and Nimmo.

For the amendment (12) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, McCabe, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie and Turner.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.