

FC41. Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland: Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive advising that the Minister for Parliamentary Business had accepted the Local Boundary Commission for Scotland's recommendations in regard to the Falkirk Council area following its Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements.

Council had previously considered reports on proposals (on 27 May 2015 (ref FC14) and 22 June 2016 (ref FC23) by the Commission to reduce the number of councillors in the Falkirk area from 32 to 30 and to make corresponding amendments to ward boundaries and had made representation to the Commission in opposition to those proposals. Notwithstanding that position, the Minister for Parliamentary Business had confirmed on 14 September 2016 that he had decided to accept the Commission's recommendations and to lay an Order before Parliament to that effect. The Falkirk (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016 will come into effect on 30 September 2016 for elections held on or after 4 May 2017.

For the Falkirk Council area, the Order will reduce the number of councillors from 32 to 30 with the boundary changes impacting principally on:-

- wards 2 (Grangemouth) and 4 (Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst) where the village of Skinflats will move from the former to the latter with a consequential reduction of councillors in the Grangemouth ward from 4 to 3, and
- wards 6 (Falkirk North) and 7 (Falkirk South) where Camelon will move from ward 7 to ward 6 while the town centre and Callander Park areas to the south of the Stirling and Edinburgh railway line will move in the opposite direction. The councillor cohort in the Falkirk South ward will consequently reduce from 4 to 3.

The report noted the concern expressed previously by COSLA and save other Council's on the methodology adopted in the review and touched on the potential to challenge the Minister's decision.

Decision

Council agreed to note the decision taken by Minister for Parliamentary Business, and take no further action in regard thereto.