

FC9. FIFTH REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS – FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA – PROPOSALS FOR WARDS

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.

The purpose of the current review is to consider whether there should be a change in any electoral arrangements in the area and focussed on:-

- the total number of Councillors to be elected to a Council;
- the number of boundaries and wards;
- whether 3 or 4 Councillors should be elected for each ward; and
- the name of each ward

The Commission's proposals for the Falkirk Council area were published on 19 March 2015 and the Council is required to submit its response by 19 May 2015. Thereafter, having considered Council's response, the Commission will consult with the public. It is anticipated that a final report will be submitted to Scottish Ministers in 2016 and will come into effect in time for the 2017 Local Government Elections.

The report summarised the methodology for the review, the consultation undertaken by the Commission and various response options. The report also highlighted the potential for legal challenge of the Commission's methodology. Finally, the report highlighted a boundary anomaly between wards 4 and 5 and set out a proposed alternative.

Following discussion, Council adjourned at 11.55 a.m. to allow the Chief Executive to ascertain if the Commission would extend its deadline for the submission of Council's response beyond 19 May 2015.

Council reconvened with all members present as per the sederunt.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Commission had agreed to extend its deadline for the submission of the Council's response to 31 May 2015.

Decision

Council agreed to continue consideration of the report to a Special meeting to be held before 31 May 2015.