

**Boundary Commission for Scotland
Minutes of Meeting held at Thistle House, Edinburgh
Monday 5 September 2016**

Present

The Hon Lord Matthews, Deputy Chairman
Professor Ailsa Henderson, Commissioner
Mrs Paula Sharp, Commissioner
Ms Michaela Gordon, Ordnance Survey

Isabel Drummond-Murray, Secretary
Colin Wilson, Secretariat
Laura Cregan, Secretariat
Douglas Campbell, Secretariat

Apologies

Mr Tim Ellis, Registrar General, National Records of Scotland submitted apologies.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs Sharp and Professor Henderson declared interests in Paper 2016/33.

Minutes of the previous meeting

1. The minutes of the 5 August 2016 meeting were agreed, subject to minor amendments.

Matters arising

2. The Secretary updated the Commission regarding the Scottish Ministers' consideration of the Local Government Boundary Commission's Recommendations for the Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements. The Commission noted that a decision is expected in the near future.
3. The Secretary gave a further update regarding progress with the Scotland Office review of corporate governance, including risk management and financial oversight. A meeting with Scotland Office and Scottish Government was held on 18 August and a number of action points are being taken forward by the Secretary on the Commission's behalf. A revised draft risk management policy would be circulated once available.

Constituency grouping – East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow City and West Dunbartonshire (Paper 2016/30)

4. The Commission considered 3 options for 8 constituencies exactly covering the combined extents of East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City council areas.
5. Options 1 and 2 provided for constituencies that recognised the Glasgow City Council area boundary, with both options proposing 6 constituencies wholly within Glasgow City Council area. Option 3 provided for a constituency that contained West Dunbartonshire Council area with part of Glasgow City, 2 constituencies containing parts of East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City council areas, and 5 constituencies wholly within Glasgow City Council area.
6. Option 1 was discounted by the Commission as the design resulted in the unnecessary splitting of more wards than Options 2 and 3. The Commission also believed that Option 1 created an oddly-shaped constituency boundary near Bearsden.
7. The Commission dismissed Option 3 as it created constituencies that unnecessarily included parts of Glasgow City Council area with other council areas.
8. The Commission agreed that the design of Option 2 could potentially be improved by a number of minor amendments. These included to the boundary of the proposed West Dunbartonshire & Bearsden constituency as it meets the proposed Milngavie & Kirkintilloch constituency to north of Bearsden and to the west of the A809. In addition the Commission asked that the Secretariat investigate the possibility of aligning the proposed boundary between the Glasgow North and Glasgow West constituencies more closely with the existing constituency boundary near Summerston.
9. The Commission agreed to adopt Option 2 - subject to the minor amendments outlined above as its Initial Proposals for constituencies in East Dunbartonshire, West Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City council areas, subject to identification of satisfactory proposals elsewhere in Scotland.

Constituency grouping – East Lothian (Paper 2016/32)

10. The Commission considered one option for constituencies in East Lothian Council area: a constituency that exactly covers the extent of the council area, is within 5% of the Electoral Quota and is the same as the existing constituency in the area.
11. The Commission agreed to retain the existing East Lothian constituency as its Initial Proposals for a constituency in the East Lothian council area, subject to identification of satisfactory proposals elsewhere in Scotland.

Constituency grouping – City of Edinburgh and West Lothian (Paper 2016/33)

12. At its previous meeting the Commission preferred Option 2 (Paper 2016/31) for City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas but believed the design could be improved by reviewing the boundaries of Edinburgh North and Leith constituency and Edinburgh West constituency by Ravelston and between Edinburgh South West and Central constituency and Edinburgh East constituency by Sciennes.
13. The Commission considered 2 alternative constituency designs by Ravelston but preferred Option 1. Option 1 created a constituency boundary that followed a

community council boundary, that may better retain local ties in the area, and it also created a more recognisable constituency boundary.

14. The Commission also agreed to adopt the proposed boundary by Sciennes as it followed a community council boundary and may maintain local links in the area.
15. The Commission agreed to adopt the constituency boundaries proposed in Option 2 of Paper 2016/31, with the addition of those boundaries described above and presented in Paper 2016/33, as its Initial Proposals for constituencies in the combined area of City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas, subject to identification of satisfactory proposals elsewhere in Scotland.

Constituency grouping – Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling (Paper 2016/21)

16. Following initial consideration at the meeting of 13 June 2016 the Commission considered Paper 2016/21. It outlined an amended version of Option 1 from paper 2016/16, that was discussed as Option 3. Option 3 was an option for 5 constituencies exactly covering the combined extent of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas.
17. The Commission was content that Option 3 was a suitable alternative but had asked the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of refining the boundary between the Clackmannanshire and Stirling North and Stirling South and Falkirk North constituencies to the south of Stirling. The Commission agreed that whilst Option 3 split a number of wards it was advantageous to have a well-defined boundary rather than one that exactly followed ward or community council boundaries. The division of Stirling wards 5 to 7 in the area generally utilises community council boundaries that have been existent since at least 2003, so the route of the boundary would not be novel to local residents.
18. The Commission agreed to adopt Option 3 as outlined above as its Initial Proposals for constituencies in the combined area of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling council areas, subject to identification of satisfactory proposals elsewhere in Scotland.

Constituency grouping – Fife and Perth and Kinross (Paper 2016/37)

19. At its meeting in August the Commission considered 3 options for 5 constituencies exactly covering the combined extents of Fife and Perth and Kinross council areas.
20. The Commission agreed that Option 1 split few wards between constituencies and appeared to offer the greatest degree of continuity of existing constituency boundaries. The Commission believed the design of Option 1 could be improved and asked the Secretariat to prepare an alternative version that amended the boundary by Ladybank and Methil.
21. The Commission considered paper 2016/29 and the new design, Option 4. The Commission was content with the amended boundaries presented at both Ladybank and Methil in Option 4.
22. The Commission agreed that the proposed changes had the benefit of requiring the division of only 1 ward between constituencies; the Cupar and St Andrews constituency is similar to the existing UK Parliament constituency in the area; the Perthshire constituency resembles the existing UK Parliament constituency of Perth and North Perthshire, expanded to contain all of Perth and Kinross ward 5 (Strathtay) and aligned to the northern boundary of Perth and Kinross ward 6 (Strathearn); and finally the proportion of electors from each council area in

Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency is well-matched: 46% of electors are in Perth and Kinross council area and 54% in Fife council area.

23. The Commission asked the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of aligning the boundaries between Dunfermline constituency and Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency.
24. The Commission agreed to adopt Option 4, subject to minor amendments, between Dunfermline constituency and Kinross-shire and Cowdenbeath constituency, as its Initial Proposals for constituencies in the combined area of Fife and Perth and Kinross council areas, subject to identification of satisfactory proposals elsewhere in Scotland.

Naming of Constituencies (Paper 2016/34)

25. The Commission agreed minor changes to constituency names. These included: Gordon and Deeside (previously Aberdeenshire Central); Angus Glens and Dundee East (previously Dundee East and the Glens); Argyll, Bute and Lochaber (previously Argyll and Lochaber); Dundee (previously Dundee Central); Cunninghame East (previously East Renfrewshire and Irvine Valley); Paisley (previously Paisley and Barrhead); Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston (previously Livingston and Pentland); Falkirk (previously Falkirk South); Stirling South (previously Stirling South and Falkirk North); North East Fife (previously Cupar and St Andrews); Glasgow South East (previously Glasgow Southeast); Glasgow South West (previously Glasgow Southwest); Cunninghame West (previously Cunninghame South); Airdrie South and Wishaw (previously Airdrie South and Motherwell North); Monklands West (previously Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill); Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Monklands East (previously Airdrie and Cumbernauld); Ayr and Carrick (previously Ayr, Troon and South Ayrshire); West Dunbartonshire and Bearsden North (previously West Dunbartonshire and Bearsden).
26. The Commission agreed to amend the designation of four of its proposed constituencies. The constituencies of Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston and Linlithgow were amended from burgh to county constituencies. The constituencies of Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy and Hamilton and Motherwell were amended from county to burgh constituencies. The Commission noted that all county constituencies are larger than all burgh constituencies.

Preparation for public consultation (2016/35)

27. The Secretariat provided the Commission with a further demonstration of the consultation portal.
28. The Secretariat updated the Commission on preparations for the Public Consultation and the Commission discussed the draft materials to be used during the consultation.
29. The Commission agreed to hold Public Hearings in Ayr, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness, subject to the availability of Sheriffs Principal. These venues were chosen as they have a broad geographical range across Scotland but also have sufficient transport links to facilitate attendance by interested parties.

BCS Annual Report (Paper 2016 / 36)

30. The Commission noted the Commission's Annual Report and agreed it, subject to a number of minor amendments.

Finance Update (Paper 2016 / 38)

31. The Commission noted the finance update.

Any other business

32. The next meeting will be held on Monday 3 October at 10.30am.

Secretariat

**September
2016**