
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

CUSTOMER SERVICES

29 SEPTEMBER 2016

**FIFTH STATUTORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
REVIEW**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report advises members of the decision of Scottish Ministers in respect of the proposed changes to Councillor numbers and Ward boundaries.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To note:-

1. The decision of Scottish Ministers to retain the status quo for Councillor numbers and the Ward boundaries.
2. That the Leader has written to the Minister for Parliamentary Business to record the appreciation of the Council and the people of Argyll and Bute, for responding positively to the concerns raised.

**FIFTH STATUTORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
REVIEW**

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report advised members of the decision of Scottish Ministers in respect of the proposed changes to Councillor numbers and Ward boundaries.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To note:-

1. The decision of Scottish Ministers to retain the status quo for Councillor numbers and the Ward boundaries.
2. That the Leader has written to the Minister for Parliamentary Business to record the appreciation of the Council and the people of Argyll and Bute, for responding positively to the concerns raised.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 The Policy and Resources Committee of 20 August 2015 agreed to:-

1. Maintain its objection in principle to the proposals that will reduce councillor numbers in Argyll and Bute by 3, notwithstanding the previous submission of a technical response.
2. Further reinforce the Council's position regarding the apparent disregard by the Local Government Boundary Commission to deprivation, rurality and Island issues as well as natural community links within the boundaries of Argyll and Bute.
3. Support community engagement activity to encourage a wide response to the Public Consultation.
4. A letter being issued to all 16 MSPs who represent Argyll and Bute signed by the Leader, Depute Leader, and Leader of the main opposition group requesting that they support the Council's position and asking that, when the matter comes before Scottish ministers by way of an order before finalisation by the Scottish

Parliament, the status quo is maintained for Argyll and Bute in terms of councillor numbers and ward boundaries.

4.2 The Council meeting of 30 June 2016 agreed to:-

1. Maintain its strong objection to the proposals and to the Local Government Boundary Commission's final recommendations for the Argyll and Bute area.
2. Approve the terms of a letter to Scottish Ministers.
3. Approve the terms of a petition and invited all members to add their signature.
4. Send the letter together with the petition to Scottish Ministers, requesting maintenance of the status quo in terms of councillor numbers and ward boundaries before the finalisation of any recommendations by the Scottish Government.

4.3 Scottish Ministers have now decided:-

"The local authority areas for which Ministers have not accepted the Commission's recommendations for change are:

- Argyll and Bute;
- Dundee City;
- Na h-Eileanan an Iar;
- Scottish Borders; and
- Shetland Islands.

9. As regards the Argyll and Bute, Dundee City and Scottish Borders local authority areas, Ministers are again aware of the strong local concerns have been expressed about the recommendations and the impact it is felt that the recommendations would have on local community ties. In particular, there has been strong local opposition to the proposed changes to ward boundaries affecting parts of the Argyll and Bute area, the West Ferry/Broughty Ferry areas of Dundee City, and around Hawick in the Scottish Borders. Ministers have therefore decided to take account of those concerns by not making any changes to the electoral arrangements for these council areas.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy – None
- 5.2 Financial – None
- 5.3 Legal – None
- 5.4 HR – None
- 5.5 Equalities – None
- 5.6 Risk – None
- 5.7 Customer Service - None

Executive Director of Customer Services
Douglas Hendry

16 September 2016

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APPENDICES

None