

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements – Final Decision for Midlothian by Scottish Ministers**Report by Chief Executive****1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the final decision made by Scottish Ministers in regard to Midlothian in the Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

2 Background

2.1 The Fifth Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Review Commission for Scotland commenced in February 2014. On 19 March 2015 the Review entered a consultation period with Councils. In respect of Midlothian the Commission proposed:

- *To improve overall forecast parity (for each ward);*
- *To adopt suggestions from Midlothian Council to amend the ward boundary at Gladstone's Gait, Bonnyrigg;*
- *To make no changes to Ward 1 - Penicuik, Ward 3 - Dalkeith, Ward 4 - Midlothian West and Ward 6 - Midlothian South;*
- *To make no changes to the number of Councillors in each ward; and*
- *To make no changes to ward names.*

2.2 On 12 May 2015 the proposals were considered by Midlothian Council when it agreed:-

- (a) That any detailed comments on the proposals be fed back to the Chief Executive by no later than Tuesday 19 May 2015;*
- (b) To welcome the proposed ward boundary changes at Gladstone's Gait, Bonnyrigg; and*
- (c) To otherwise note the proposals.*

3 Update and Scottish Ministers' Decision

- 3.1** A further statutory public consultation period was held by the Boundary Commission ending on 22 October 2015 when no responses were received specifically relating to Midlothian. Accordingly, the Commission decided to retain their proposals as their final recommendations to Scottish Ministers.
- 3.2** On 14 September 2016 Scottish Ministers intimated that they had accepted the Boundary Commission's recommendations in respect of Midlothian and accordingly had laid before Parliament an Order to give effect to the recommendations - The Midlothian (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016 – to come into force on 30 September 2016, and apply to elections held on or after 4 May 2017.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

There are minimal, if any, resource implications from the Boundary Commission recommendations.

4.2 Risk

There are no additional risks arising from the proposals.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☒ None of the above

4.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable.

4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Maintaining the *status quo* should have no impact.

4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not relevant.

4.7/

4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland in reaching its recommendations carried out full public consultation proposals (via their interactive consultation portal and by inviting email/written submissions) in accordance with its statutory provisions.

4.8 Ensuring Equalities

The Commission in carrying out the Review aimed to ensure as far as possible electoral parity and to take into account of deprivation and population distribution.

4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not relevant.

4.10 IT Issues

There are no IT issues arising as a consequence of the proposals in this report.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1** The Council is asked to note the “*Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements – Final Recommendations*” in respect of Midlothian which have been accepted by Scottish Ministers and which accord with the earlier decision of Midlothian Council made on 12 May 2015.

15 September 2016

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Background Papers:

- Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements – Final Recommendations; and
- Letter dated, 14 September 2016, from Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, Minister for Parliamentary Business to Councillor David O'Neill, President, COSLA.