

REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL ON 15 MARCH 2006

SUBJECT: FOURTH STATUTORY REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS – THE MORAY COUNCIL AREA

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. Reason for Report

1.1 To invite the Council to consider the recommendations of Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's report which it has submitted to the Scottish Ministers on the review of electoral arrangements for the introduction of STV PR for local government elections in the Moray Council area .

1.2 This report is submitted to the Council in terms of Section II(9) of the Council's Administration Scheme in regard to all matters relating to elections.

2. Background

2.1 Members will recall the presentation by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland held on 7 October 2004 on the Review of Electoral Arrangements relating to the Moray Council Area following which the Council was invited to submit its concluded view. The Council's concluded view was submitted to the Commission on 9 May 2005 (summary attached at **Appendix 1**).

2.2 Following the submission the only concession made by the Commission following this Council's response relates to an area in Elgin South and thereafter the Commission entered into the public consultation process.

2.3 The public consultation process has now been completed and the Commission has produced a report which it has submitted to the Scottish Ministers on the review of electoral arrangements for the introduction of STV PR for local government elections in the Moray Council area .

2.4 A copy of the report and associated maps has been placed in the Members Library.

2.5 No further concessions have been made following the public consultation, other than acceptance of the suggested names for the new wards, and the report recommends that future electoral arrangements for The Moray Council area should provide for a Council of 26 elected members in 6 wards each returning 3 members and in 2 wards each returning 4 members as follows:-

Ward		Forecast Electorate	Number of Elected Members	Average Electorate per Member	Divergence from parity (%)
Number	Name				
a	b	c	d	e	f
1	Speyside Glenlivet	7,000	3	2,333	-12
2	Keith and Cullen	8,310	3	2,770	4
3	Buckie	7,740	3	2,580	-3
4	Fochabers Lhanbryde	7,920	3	2,640	-1
5	Heldon and Laich	10,180	4	2,545	-4
6	Elgin City North	8,190	3	2,730	3
7	Elgin City South	8,520	3	2,840	7
8	Forres	11,180	4	2,795	5

2.6 Under the terms of Section 17(2) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 any comments on the report should be made within the 6 week period beginning 9 March 2006, after which time Scottish Ministers will decide to make an Order giving effect to the proposals either as submitted to them or with modifications.

3. The Proposals

3.1 That the Council consider the recommendations of the report by the Boundary Commission on the review of electoral arrangements for the introduction of STV PR for local government elections in The Moray Council area.

4. Financial, Staffing, Environmental and Sustainable Implications

4.1 None.

5. Consultations

5.1 None.

6. Recommendations

6.1 **That the Council consider the recommendations of the report by the Boundary Commission on the review of electoral arrangements for the introduction of STV PR for local government elections in The Moray Council area.**

Author of Report: Moira Patrick, Principal Committee Services Officer
Background Papers: Letter from Local Government Boundary Commission for
Scotland dated 2 March 2006
Ref: MP /h:\mcouncil\reports\1503\Review of Electoral Arrangements

APPENDIX 1

**MORAY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PROPOSED LOCAL GOVERNMENT
BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND MULTI-WARD PROPOSALS**

Ward 1 - Suggested Name - Speyside Glenlivet

1. Consideration be given to including the Parish of Botriphnie and Boharm in Ward
2. Dallas to be included within Ward 8
3. Inchberry to be included within Ward 4

Ward 2 - Suggested Name - Keith & Strathisla or Keith Cullen

No change

Ward 3 - Suggested Name - Buckie

No change

Ward 4 - Suggested Name - Fochabers Lhanbryde

1. Consideration be given to following natural boundary of burn at Glassgreen. Everything south of burn should be incorporated within Ward 4.
2. Include Inchberry within Ward 4.
3. Consideration be given to Portgordon being included with Buckie since it has little in common with the rest of what is currently Ward 17 e.g. the area is covered by the Buckie ASG and traditionally the village looks towards Buckie

Ward 5 - Suggested Name - Laich Heldon

No Change

Wards 6 and 7 - Suggested Name - Elgin City North and Elgin City South

No change

Ward 8 - Suggested Name - Forres

No change