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**REPORT TO: THE MORAY COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL 2015**

**SUBJECT: FIFTH REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS – PROPOSALS FOR COUNCILLOR NUMBERS AND BOUNDARIES**

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES)**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Council that the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) has published its revised proposals for councillor numbers and initial proposals for ward boundaries as part of the LGBCS's Fifth Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements and to ask the Council to consider its response to the consultation on the proposals
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section II (9) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all matters relating to elections, including electoral boundaries.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 **The Council is invited to consider its response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposal to retain the number of councillors in Moray at 26.**
- 2.2 **The Council is invited to consider its response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals for amendments to ward boundaries in Wards 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The LGBCS commenced its fifth review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements in 21 February 2014. As part of the review the LGBCS proposed in February 2014 to reduce the number of councillors from 26 to 25. Following consideration of this proposal at a Council meeting on 2 April 2014 (para 6 of the Minute refers) and submission of a response to the LGBCS by the Council, the LGBCS have considered their proposals and are consulting further on revised proposals for councillor numbers and ward boundaries.

- 3.2 With reference to councillor numbers the LGBCS have considered the ward design and have proposed to retain the current number of councillors at 26 'to allow for the retention of strong recognisable ward boundaries and maintenance of local community ties'.
- 3.3 With reference to ward boundaries the LGBCS have proposed the following:
- Make no changes to Wards 1 – Speyside Glenlivet, Ward 2 – Keith and Cullen and Ward 8 – Forres
  - Make no changes to any of the current ward names
  - Make minor changes at Spynie Hospital in relation to housing development (Ward 5 / 6)
  - Make minor changes at Burnside Cottages, Elgin (Ward 4 / 7)
  - Make minor changes at Westerton Cottages, Arradoul (Ward 3 / 4)
- 3.4 **Proposed amendment to the ward boundary between Ward 5 – Heldon and Laich and Ward 6 – Elgin City North**  
**Appendix 1**, Figure 1 shows the proposed amendment to the boundary between Wards 5 and 6. This affects approx. 102 properties in the housing development adjacent to Spynie Hospital including Duffus Place, Duffus Heights, Duffus Lane, Duffus Crescent and West Covesea Road, Elgin which would move from Ward 5 to Ward 6. The ward boundary line extends out north west to include future development in this area.
- 3.5 **Proposed amendment to the ward boundary between Ward 4 – Fochabers Lhanbryde and Ward 7 – Elgin City South**  
**Appendix 1**, Figure 2 shows the proposed amendment to the boundary between Wards 4 and 7. This affects one property Burnside Cottage which would move from Ward 4 to Ward 7. The current ward boundary passes through the middle of a distillery complex with houses at Linkwood, IV30 8RD. The proposed amendment rectifies this situation so all residential properties in this area are in one ward.
- 3.6 **Proposed amendment to the ward boundary between Ward 3 – Buckie and Ward 4 – Fochabers Lhanbryde**  
**Appendix 1**, Figure 3 shows the proposed amendment to the boundary between Wards 3 and 4. This affects 6 properties at Westerton Cottages, Arradoul, AB56 5BH which would move from Ward 4 to Ward 3. The current ward boundary runs behind Westerton cottages placing them in Ward 4. Pre 2007 these cottages were part of Arradoul community in the former Ward 18 – Buckie West. The ward boundary pre 2007 in this area ran down the middle of the road and the proposed amendment rectifies this issue.
- 3.7 The Council consultation by the LGBCS runs until 19 May 2015. After consideration of any response by the Council, the LGBCS will conduct a 12 week public consultation on the ward boundary proposals between July and October 2015.
- 3.8 Any amendment to ward boundaries by the LGBCS would come into force at the next scheduled local government elections in May 2017, with any further scheduled ward boundary review not due thereafter for 10 years.

#### 4. **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

(a) **Moray 2023: A Plan for the Future/Service Plan**

In relation to the Priority area (1) 'A growing , diverse and sustainable economy' the amendment to the ward boundary detailed in 3.5, recognises the growing population in this area and their local connection.

(b) **Policy and Legal**

Amendments to local government ward boundaries if adopted by the LGCBS will require a review by the council of polling district and polling place arrangements under the Representation of the People Act 1983.

The changes if adopted will have an impact on services such as Planning and Regulatory Services, e.g. public consultation based on ward boundaries.

(c) **Financial implications**

None.

(d) **Risk Implications**

If amendments to boundaries between Wards 5 and 6 are adopted by the LGBCS, the Council will require to review polling district and polling place arrangements in the west of Ward 6 – Elgin City North to ensure that the polling places in that area can accommodate additional voters during an election.

(e) **Staffing Implications**

None.

(f) **Property**

None.

(g) **Equalities**

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland is responsible for considering the equalities issues arising from their review of local government ward boundaries and the numbers of councillors for the area.

(h) **Consultations**

The Council is being consulted on proposals will impact on the existing ward boundaries.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland are seeking the view of the Council on its revised proposals for number of councillors and proposals for amendment of ward boundaries in Wards 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.**

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Background Papers: Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, Moray Council Area – Proposals for Wards (March 2015)

Ref: Elections/LGBCS/

### Appendix 1 – Maps of LGBCS proposed amendments to ward boundaries

Figure 1: Proposed amendment to the ward boundary between Ward 5 – Heldon and Laich and Ward 6 – Elgin City North (housing development near Spynie Hospital)

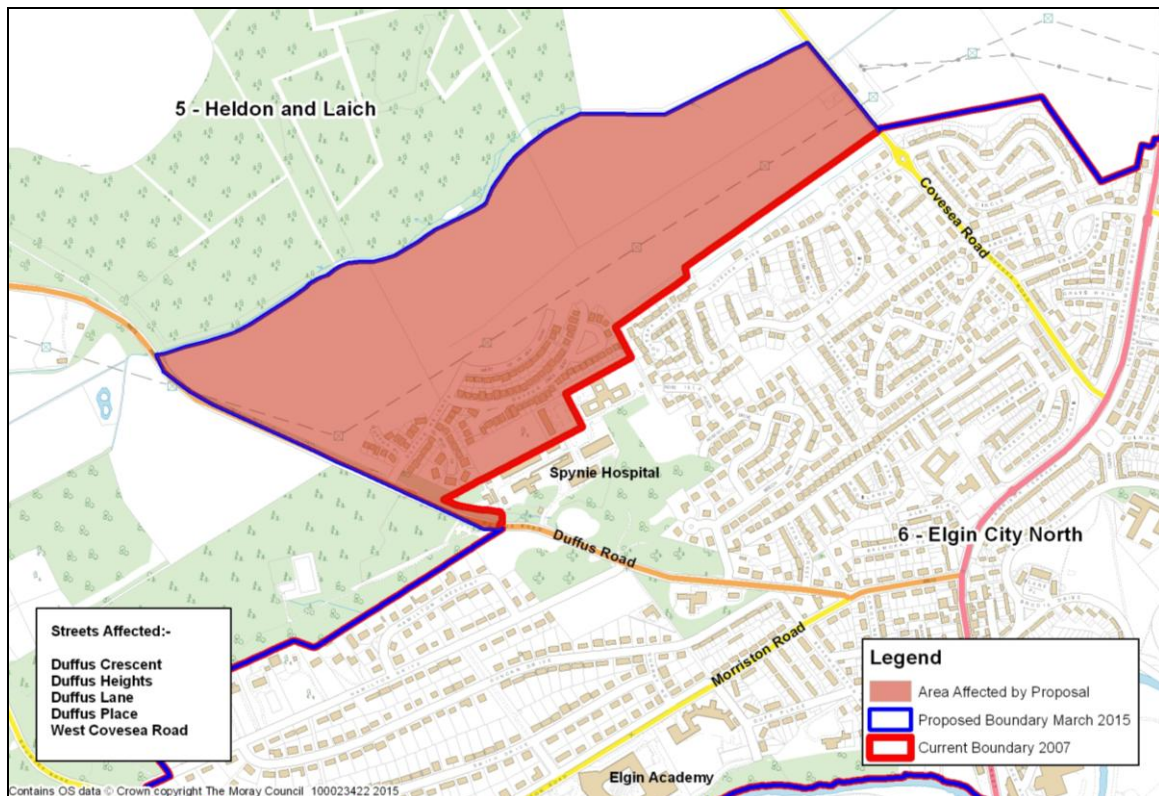


Figure 2: Proposed amendment to the ward boundary between Ward 4 – Fochabers Lhanbryde and Ward 7 – Elgin City South (Westerton Cottages)

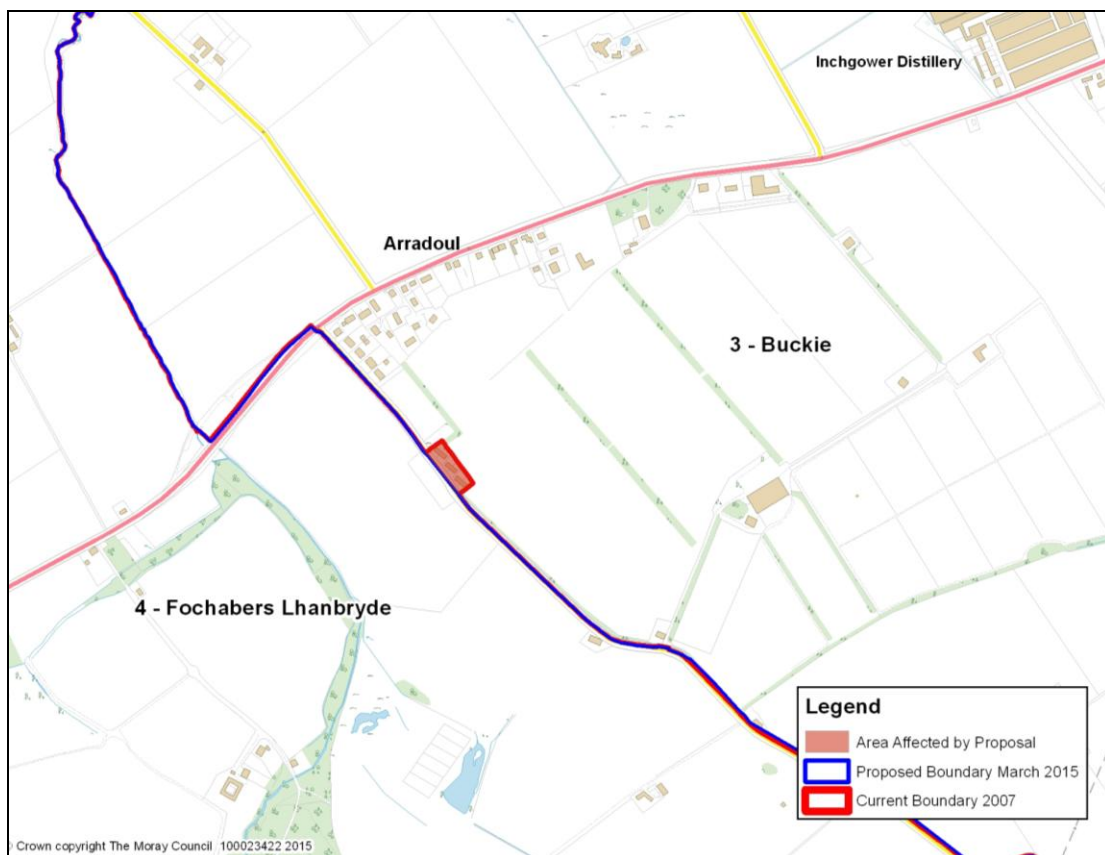


Figure 3: Proposed amendment to the ward boundary between Ward 3 – Buckie and Ward 4 – Fochabers Lhanbryde (Area at Linkwood Distillery)

