

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland commences its public consultation on councillor numbers as part of its Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland commences a 12 week period of public consultation today, on its proposals for the number of councillors on each council.

The Commission began its Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements in February 2014, when it met with each individual council to discuss its recommendations for the number of councillors on each council.

The reviews will result in recommendations to Scottish Ministers for the number of councillors on each council and the number and boundaries of wards for the election of those councillors. They will not look at the external boundaries of council areas.

The last set of reviews was completed in 2006 following the introduction of multi-member wards for Scottish council elections. The number of councillors on each council was last reviewed shortly after the councils' establishment in 1996.

The reviews will look at each of Scotland's 32 local authorities.

The Commission has drawn up recommendations for the number of councillors on each council based on a methodology that, for the first time, takes into account levels of deprivation as well as population distribution. Using these factors, similar councils are grouped together for the purpose of determining councillor numbers.

In 2015 the Commission will consult with councils and the public on its proposals for the number and boundaries of wards.

When reviewing electoral arrangements the Commission is required to take account of the following factors:

- the interests of effective and convenient local government;
- within each council, each councillor should represent the same number of electors as nearly as may be;
- local ties which would be broken by making a particular boundary;
- the desirability of fixing boundaries that are easily identifiable; and
- special geographical considerations.

The Commission expects to make its recommendations to Scottish Ministers in 2016, and that the resulting wards will be available for the local government elections in May 2017.

Ronnie Hinds, Chair of the Commission, said: "There have been many changes in Scotland since our last reviews, and it is important that electoral arrangements for Scottish councils take account of those changes as part of ensuring effective local democracy. We have been encouraged by the discussions we have held with councils on these proposals and look forward to hearing the views of the public over the next 12 weeks"

council area	existing	proposed	change
Aberdeen City	43	45	2
Aberdeenshire	68	70	2
Angus	29	27	-2
Argyll and Bute	36	33	-3
Clackmannanshire	18	18	0
Dumfries and Galloway	47	43	-4
Dundee City	29	31	2
East Ayrshire	32	32	0
East Dunbartonshire	24	22	-2
East Lothian	23	21	-2
East Renfrewshire	20	18	-2
Edinburgh, City of	58	63	5
Eileanan an Iar, Na h-	31	28	-3
Falkirk	32	30	-2
Fife	78	75	-3
Glasgow City	79	85	6
Highland	80	72	-8
Inverclyde	20	22	2
Midlothian	18	18	0
Moray	26	25	-1
North Ayrshire	30	33	3
North Lanarkshire	70	77	7
Orkney Islands	21	21	0
Perth and Kinross	41	40	-1
Renfrewshire	40	43	3
Scottish Borders	34	32	-2
Shetland Islands	22	22	0
South Ayrshire	30	27	-3
South Lanarkshire	67	64	-3
Stirling	22	23	1
West Dunbartonshire	22	22	0
West Lothian	33	34	1

Contact for Further Information:

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Information on the review can also be found on the Commission's website:
www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk