

ANGUS COUNCIL

RESOURCES AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2004

BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR SCOTLAND
FIFTH PERIODICAL REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES IN SCOTLAND

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF LAW AND ADMINISTRATION

ABSTRACT

This Report informs the Council of the Boundary Commission for Scotland's **final** recommendations for Parliamentary Constituencies in the Angus and Dundee City Council areas.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to note the final recommendations of the Boundary Commission for Scotland in relation to the Parliamentary Constituencies in the Angus Council area and the Dundee City Council area.

2. BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 3 July 2003, the Council agreed to make further representations to the Boundary Commission for Scotland supporting the recommendation of the Assistant Commissioner, Sheriff Principal R A Dunlop, QC, following his Report of a public inquiry held on 31 October and 1 November 2002 in Dundee.

In addition to Angus Council's representation, the Commission received a further 115 representations (including a petition of 3,318 names) concerning its proposals. The two issues that attracted the most attention were:

- the decision not to combine Angus Council area, Dundee City Council area, Clackmannanshire Council area and Perth and Kinross Council area in order to create constituencies; and
- the decision to include the three Carnoustie wards in the Dundee East constituency.

The Commission carefully considered the representations and the issues raised. With regard to the combining of council areas, the Commission noted that, in his Report, the Assistant Commissioner was satisfied that the Commission's approach in crossing the local authority boundary between Angus and Dundee City was sound. The Assistant Commissioner was also of the view that, in designing the two Dundee constituencies, the statutory rules were best satisfied by the exclusion of the Perth and Kinross ward (East Carse) and the inclusion of the three Angus wards (Carnoustie). The Commission concluded that revised constituencies could be designed within the terms of the statutory rules by pairing Angus Council area with Dundee City area and there was no need to cross the boundary into the Perth and Kinross Council area.

With regard to the inclusion of the three Carnoustie wards in the proposed Dundee East constituency, the Commission has decided that, in the light of the Assistant Commissioner's report and in the absence of any new argument, it would not amend its provisional proposals for Dundee East burgh constituency and Angus county constituency.

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Commission's final recommendations for Angus Council area and Dundee City Council area will be embodied in the Report of the Fifth Periodical Review. The three constituencies (with June 2001 electorate) will be as follows:

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|----------------------------------|--------|
| • Angus county constituency | 64,591 |
| • Dundee East burgh constituency | 65,059 |
| • Dundee West burgh constituency | 67,751 |

4. THE NEXT STEPS

The Commission is not seeking further representations at this stage in respect of its final recommendations. However, before submitting its Report, the Commission will wish to re-appraise its final recommendations for constituencies throughout Scotland to ensure that all areas have been considered in a consistent manner. If the Commission decides, in the light of this re-appraisal, to make any further modifications to its recommendations, it will publish these locally and invite representations on them before submitting its Report to the Secretary of State in accordance with the statutory procedure.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this Report.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct human rights implications arising directly from this Report.

7. CONSULTATION

The Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Director of Planning and Transport have been consulted in the preparation of this Report.

CATHERINE A COULL
Director of Law and Administration

Note: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report are:

Letter dated 9 December 2003 to Chief Executive from Bob Smith, Secretary of the Boundary Commission for Scotland.