

**APPENDIX xx to the minute of meeting of
the Policy and Resources Committee of
xx**

MINUTE of MEETING of the **SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE** of the **POLICY and RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held remotely on Monday 28 November 2022 at 10am.

Present: Councillors BETH WHITESIDE, BILL DUFF, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, LOIS SPEED AND IAN MCLAREN.

Councillor WHITESIDE, Convener, in the Chair.

1. APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Kenny Braes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/STATEMENT OF TRANSPARENCY

Councillor Duff declared a connection in relation to Item 4, Report No 403/22, as the Campaign Manager for an Angus Parliamentary Candidate at the last General Election. He indicated that he would participate in any discussion and voting on the item.

3. 2023 REVIEW OF UK PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

With reference to Article 4 of the minute of meeting of the Special Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee of 9 February 2022, there was submitted Report No 403/22 by the Chief Executive advising members of the Sub-Committee of the Boundary Commission for Scotland revised proposals for UK Parliamentary constituencies boundaries which were published on 8 November 2022. Representations and any counter proposals required to be made to the Commission by 5 December 2022.

The Report indicated that the initial proposals for the 2023 review were published on 14 October 2021 and the Commission had consulted on these during late 2021 and early 2022. During February and March 2022, the Commission conducted five public hearings across Scotland as part of their secondary consultation. A representation was sent to the Commission on behalf of Angus Council by the Chief Executive on 23 November 2021 objecting to the initial proposals and offering a counter proposal for consideration as outlined in Appendix 1 to the Report.

The Boundary Commission advised that all representations received during the consultation period and public hearings were fully considered by them in developing their revised proposals.

Following discussion and having heard from the Chief Executive and the Manager – Elections, Commercialisation and Facilities in terms of the revised constituency proposals, and also having heard members questions, concerns and proposals, the Sub Committee agreed:-

- (i) to note the Commission's revised proposals for UK Parliamentary Constituencies; and
- (ii) to authorise the Chief Executive to prepare and submit a response to the Commission in light of the following terms:-
 - (a) in relation to the initial proposals, to re-iterate that the original response issued to the Boundary Commission for Scotland dated 23 November 2021, remained the Angus position;

and to raise further objections as outlined in recommendations (ii) (b) to (d) as follows:-

- (b) that the revised proposals set out by the Commission continued to split the Angus local authority area across not only one but two other local authority boundaries;
- (c) that the revised proposals did not take account of the strong local ties to Arbroath which was the largest town in Angus and a popular tourist attraction with significant historical importance to the people of Angus;
- (d) that the proposed "North Tayside" constituency covered a significant area, with a lack of good roads to traverse the proposed constituency on an east, west axis and it was likely that elected representatives would be required to set up two constituency offices to maintain local ties with their constituents. Travel across the constituency and the requirement to set up additional constituency offices would come with significant additional cost;
- (e) to emphasise that there was no agreement to the revised proposals for the Dundee East and Arbroath constituency, but that there was reluctant agreement to accepting the proposed name; and
- (f) that should the revised proposals go forward to ministers for approval in the current format, the North Tayside constituency should be renamed Angus North, Strathmore and Highland Perthshire to acknowledge the wide variety of areas and communities merged into this one constituency.