

ANGUS COUNCIL

14 DECEMBER 2023

2023 REVIEW OF UK PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES

REPORT BY MARGO WILLIAMSON, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the final recommendations of the Boundary Commission for Scotland's review of UK Parliament Constituencies and the impact of the recommendations for Angus Council.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council:

- (i) note that that the Boundary Commission has carried out a review of the UK Parliament Constituencies in Scotland;
- (ii) note the 2023 Final Recommendations for the UK Parliament Constituencies as published by the Boundary Commission for Scotland on 28 June 2023, including the impact on the Angus area;
- (iii) note that the new boundaries will take effect at the next UK Parliamentary General Election, expected in 2024;
- (iv) approve the amendments to the polling districts identified;
- (v) note that the Electoral Registration Officer will make any necessary amendments to the Register of Electors;
- (vi) note that Angus Council will be designated to provide the Returning Officer for both the Angus and Perthshire Glens Constituency and the Arbroath and Broughty Ferry County Constituency.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

This report contributes to the following local priorities contained within Angus Council Plan 2023-2028:

- Caring for our people
- Caring for our place

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland is an independent, non-political body whose statutory purpose is to make recommendations for UK Parliament constituencies in Scotland. It was tasked to undertake a review of UK Parliament constituencies in Scotland required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended), with a requirement to submit to the Speaker a report containing its recommendations before 1 July 2023. The 2023 Review was conducted simultaneously and independently by the four UK Parliamentary Boundary Commissions and resulted in a UK Parliament elected from 650 constituencies. The Boundary Commission for Scotland began its 2023 Review of UK Parliament constituencies in Scotland in January 2021.

- 3.2 For each constituency, the Commission must recommend a name and its designation as a burgh constituency or a county constituency. The review does not affect Scottish Parliament boundaries, council area or ward boundaries or any services within them.
- 3.3 The Commission's Initial Proposals were published on 14 October 2021 and the Commission consulted on these during late 2021 and early 2022. In February and March 2022, the Commission also conducted five public hearings across Scotland as part of their secondary consultation. Following consideration of the proposals by the Special Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee on 17 November 2021, a representation was sent to the Commission on behalf of Angus Council by the Chief Executive on 23 November 2021 objecting to these initial proposals and offering a counter proposal for consideration.
- 3.4 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. The revised proposals were published on 8 November 2022 and considered by the Special Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee on 28 November 2022, and a further representation was sent to the Commission on behalf of Angus Council on 29 November 2022 raising a further objection to the proposals.
- 3.5 The Commission's 2023 Review Report was submitted to the Speaker of the House of Commons and to the Secretary of State for Scotland on 27 June 2023. The recommendations were also laid before the UK Parliament on 28 June 2023. A copy of the full Report is available via the following link <https://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/?q=reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies>.

4. PROPOSALS FOR 2023 REVIEW OF UK PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES IN SCOTLAND

- 4.1 At the Privy Council meeting on 15 November 2023, His Majesty the King made the Order in Council giving effect to implement the recommendations contained within the Report – the Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023.
- 4.2 Scotland has been allocated 57 constituencies for the 2023 Review, two less than at present. **Appendix 1** provides an overview of the final recommendations for the whole of Scotland.
- 4.3 In terms of the current Angus constituency, the final recommendations are:-
- “Angus and Perthshire Glens” constituency which will see Angus administering part of the Perth & Kinross Local Government area (See map at **Appendix 2** of this report).
 - a new “Arbroath and Broughty Ferry” constituency which will see Angus administering part of the Dundee City Local Government area (See map at **Appendix 3** of this report).

In terms of Angus existing wards, the “Angus and Perthshire Glens” constituency will comprise all of Wards 1-3, part of Ward 4, and all of Ward 8. It will also include all of Wards 3-4 and part of Wards 2 and 5 of Perth and Kinross existing wards. The electorate for the Angus and Perthshire Glens constituency is 77,006.

The new “Arbroath and Broughty Ferry” constituency will include part of Ward 4, and all of Wards 5-7. It will also include all of Wards 6 and 8 of Dundee City existing wards and part of Ward 7. The electorate for the Arbroath and Broughty Ferry constituency is 76,810.

Full details and a description of review by grouping of Council area is available within the Boundary Commission Report <https://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/?q=reviews/2023-review-uk-parliament-constituencies>.

The Order came into force on 29 November 2023 and the new parliamentary constituencies will take effect at the next UK Parliamentary General Election called after this date.

- 4.4 In terms of the recommendations, Angus Council Ward 4 is split over two constituencies. In terms of polling districts, the following is noted:-

ESA	Tealing Hall Ferry	part Angus & Perthshire Glens & part Arbroath & Broughty Ferry
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ESB	Murroes Hall	Arbroath & Broughty Ferry
ESC	Wellbank Hall	Arbroath & Broughty Ferry
ESD	Monifieth Church	Arbroath & Broughty Ferry
ESE	Gerard Hall	Arbroath & Broughty Ferry
WSA	Muirhead & Birkhill Hall	Angus and Perthshire Glens
WSB	Fowlis Easter Hall	Angus and Perthshire Glens
WSC	Strathmartine PS	Angus and Perthshire Glens
WSD	Auchterhouse Hall	Angus and Perthshire Glens

The above polling places are subject to review in terms of the Statutory Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts (Report 358/23 presented separately refers).

In order to apply the new UK parliamentary boundaries, polling district ESA will need to be split. The new boundary follows the path of the A90, meaning that the simplest and easiest split would be to take the part of ESA and merge with polling district ESB to create one larger polling district. The main residential area in the polling district is Tealing Village and electors here would be unaffected by this change as they would still vote at Tealing Hall.

There are currently approx. 550 electors (330 properties) in polling district ESA. Of these 550 electors, 139 have a postal vote.

There are no major developments in this area which would affect polling numbers or suitability of current polling places.

Murroes Hall is 4.1 miles from Tealing Hall along the B978.

Bus Services 22/139 runs from Tealing to Westhall Terrace where Murroes Hall is situated. However, this is a limited service which only runs until lunchtime each day.

There are no other suitable polling venues in this area.

All other boundaries are coterminous.

5. DESIGNATION OF RETURNING OFFICERS FOR NEW CONSTITUENCIES

- 5.1 Where a constituency is contained wholly within a single local authority area then electoral law provides that that local authority will provide the Returning Officer for the constituency and deliver parliamentary elections for the constituency. Where a constituency falls within more than one local authority area, the Secretary of State will designate by Order the local authority that will provide the Returning Officer for the constituency.
- 5.2 Designations are based on the number of electors belonging to each local authority within each constituency. Where a constituency falls within more than one local authority area, the broad approach is that the local authority with the most electors for the constituency will be lead authority and therefore provide the Returning Officer.
- 5.3 The Returning Officers (Parliamentary Constituencies)(Scotland) Order 2023 made on 30 November 2023 designated Angus Council to provide the Returning Officer for the Arbroath and Broughty Ferry County constituency and the Angus and Perthshire Glens constituency as Angus has the majority of the electors in both constituencies.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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List of Appendices:-

Appendix 1 – Overview Map of Recommended Constituencies for Scotland

Appendix 2 - Angus and Perthshire Glens Constituency Map

Appendix 3 - Arbroath and Broughty Ferry Constituency Map