



REPORT TO: MORAY COUNCIL ON 6 DECEMBER 2023

SUBJECT: INFORMATION REPORT: 2023 REVIEW OF UK PARLIAMENT CONSTITUENCIES – REVISION OF POLLING DISTRICTS

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Council of the revision of Ward 2, 3 and 4 polling district prefixes in light of the agreed 2023 Boundary Commission review of UK Parliament Constituencies.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Council in terms of Section II (9) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to all election matters.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Section 18(3) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires each Local Authority in Scotland to designate a polling place for each of its polling districts and to review these within 16 months of 1 October 2013 and every 5 years thereafter. The next Polling Station Review is due to commence on 1 October 2023 and be complete by 31 January 2025.
- 2.2 On 27 June 2023, the Boundary Commission lodged its final proposals for the changes to Boundaries in relation to UK Parliament Elections with the Speaker of the House of Commons.
- 2.3 The Government subsequently submitted the new UK Parliament constituency boundaries recommendations to the Privy Council before the end of October. At the Privy Council meeting on 15 November, His Majesty The King made the Order in Council - the Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023 (SI 2023/1230) - to implement the recommendations in the reports across the UK. The Order will come 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. Until then, any parliamentary by-elections will be run on existing boundaries.
- 2.3 The new boundaries see the existing Moray Constituency being split into two new constituencies, namely, Aberdeenshire North and Moray East and Moray West, Nairn and Strathspey.

Aberdeenshire North and Moray East Constituency

- 2.4 The Aberdeenshire North and Moray East Constituency will include Wards 2, 3 and part of Ward 4, east of the River Spey in Moray along with Aberdeenshire Council Wards 1, 2, 3, part of Ward 4, 5 and 6.

Moray West, Nairn and Strathspey Constintuency

- 2.5 The Moray West, Nairn and Strathspey will include Moray Wards 1, part of Ward 4 west of the River Spey, 5, 6, 7 and 8 and include part of Ward 17 and all of Wards 18 and 20 from Highland Council.

- 2.6 In preparation for the changes, Local Authorities have been advised, where electoral areas are being split by the new proposed constituencies, the affected Polling Districts are constructed in such a way that the prefixes reflect the current and new proposed Boundaries.

- 2.7 Currently the Council use the following prefixes to identify the existing constituencies:

M	Scottish Parliament Constituency - Moray	M	UK Parliament Constituency - Moray
B	Scottish Parliament Constituency – Banffshire and Buchan Coast	M	UK Parliament Constituency - Moray

- 2.8 In order to prepare for the UK Parliament boundary changes some Polling Districts in Wards 2, 3 and 4 moving to the new proposed Aberdeenshire North and Moray East Constituency will need to have the prefixes amended as follows:

M	Scottish Parliament Constituency - Moray	M	UK Parliament Constituency – Moray West, Nairn and Strathspey
M	Scottish Parliament Constituency – Moray	A	UK Parliament Constituency – Aberdeenshire North and Moray East
B	Scottish Parliament Constituency – Banffshire and Buchan Coast	A	UK Parliament Constituency - Aberdeenshire North and Moray East

- 2.6 Moray and Aberdeenshire Council's share the same ward numbers in the new proposed Aberdeenshire North and Moray East Constituency, so to differentiate, any of polling districts with the BA prefix which are the same will have either an M (Moray) or an A (Aberdeenshire) at the end to denote the local authority.

- 2.7 No changes are required to the Wards included in the new Moray West, Nairn and Strathspey Constituency.

3. **PROPOSALS**

3.1 The full detail of the amendments to polling districts are detailed below;

Ward 2 – Keith and Cullen

Current	Polling District	New
BM0201	Portknockie	BA0201M
BM0202	Cullen and Rathven Rural	BA0202M
BM0203	Deskford	BA0203M
MM0204	Newmill	MA0204
BM0205	Grange	BA0205M
MM0206	Fife Keith	MA0206
MM0207	Keith and District	MA0207
BM0208	Rothiemay	BA0208M

Ward 3 – Buckie

Current	Polling Station	New
BM0301	Buckpool - Arradoul	BA0301M
MM0302	Westerton - Arradoul	MA0302
BM0303	Buckie West	BA0303M
BM0304	Buckie East	BA0304M
BM0305	Buckie South	BA0305M
BM0306	Portessie	BA0306
BM0307	Findochty	BA0307

Ward 4 - Fochabers Lhanbryde

Current	Polling District	New
MM0401	Lhanbryde and Pitgaveny	No Change
MM0402	Urquhart	No Change
MM0403	Garmouth and Kingston	No Change
MM0404	Speybay	MA0404
MM0405	Portgordon	MA0405
MM0406	Fogwatt	No Change
MM0407	Mosstodloch	No Change
MM0408	Fochabers	MA0408
MM0409	Clochan	MA0409

3.3 As there are no proposed changes to the locations of the Polling Stations within the Polling Districts at this time, no consultation was required.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

- 4.1 The amendments detailed in section 3, will come into force at the next General Election, to be called no later than January 2025. If a Westminster By Election is required prior to the next General Election it will be run based on the current UK Parliamentary Boundaries. The Returning Officer is therefore making plans to run elections using either of the boundaries.
- 4.2 The Elections Team have been working with the Electoral Registration Officer to be able to produce Electoral Registers on 1 December 2023 for both the 'old' and 'new' boundaries.
- 4.3 Following the completion of the statutory Polling Place Review a further report will be presented to the Council early in 2024.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

There are no implications for these plans arising from these proposals.

(b) Policy and Legal

Section 18(3) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 requires each Local Authority in Scotland to designate a polling place for each of its polling districts and to keep these under review.

(c) Financial implications

None arising from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

A polling place review must be completed and agreed by the end of January 2025.

(e) Staffing Implications

None arising from this report.

(f) Property

None arising from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

None arising from this report.

(h) Consultations

Depute Chief Executive (Education, Communities and Organisational Development) and the Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 **Following a review of current polling district arrangements, taking into account the proposed UK Parliamentary Constituency Boundary changes current laid before Parliament amendments have been made to**

the polling district prefixes in Wards 2, 3 and 4 affected by the proposed changes.

Author of Report: Tracey Sutherland, Democratic Services Manager
Background Papers:
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