
Report To:	The Inverclyde Council	Date:	30 November 2017
Report By:	Head of Legal & Property Services	Report No:	GM/LP/101/17
Contact Officer:	Gerard Malone	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies – Publication of Revised Proposals		

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 This report informs the Council of the Revised Proposals received from the Boundary Commission for Scotland for the 2018 review of UK Parliament Constituencies and advises that consultation responses are invited by 11 December 2017.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland (BCS) is an independent non-political body which makes recommendations for UK Parliament Constituencies in Scotland.

2.2 BCS is undertaking a review of UK Parliament Constituencies in Scotland and it is intended that a report with the BCS Final Recommendations will be submitted to the Secretary of State for Scotland in September 2018.

2.3 The Revised Proposals follow upon Initial Proposals which were considered by the Council at its meeting on 1 December 2016. The Revised Proposals recommend a proposed Inverclyde and Erskine county constituency as shown within Appendix 1.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the Council considers the Revised Proposals arising from the BCS 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies relative to the proposed Inverclyde and Erskine county constituency and remits it to the Head of Legal & Property Services to respond to the consultation, accordingly.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The BCS is one of the four UK Parliamentary Boundary Commissions which are simultaneously reviewing UK Parliament Constituencies. The BCS is an independent, non-political body which is undertaking the review in Scotland in terms of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. A report is to be submitted by the BCS to the Secretary of State for Scotland in respect of the Scottish UK Parliamentary Constituencies by September 2018.
- 4.2 The Council received on 17 October 2017 a copy of the Revised Proposals from the BCS. The consultation period for responses expires on 11 December 2017 and comments on the proposals are invited.
- 4.3 The BCS originally advertised Initial Proposals which were considered by the Council at its meeting on 1 December 2016 and a copy of the Council's public consultation response is attached as Appendix 2.
- 4.4 The revised proposals are for an Inverclyde and Erskine county constituency comprising the Inverclyde Council area together with Renfrewshire Council area Ward 10 and part of Ward 11 (Erskine and Inchinnan). From the initial proposals, the constituency boundary is accordingly changed at Bishopton, Erskine and at Largs. The constituency name is changed from Inverclyde to Inverclyde and Erskine.

5.0 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Upon receipt of the Revised Proposals, public display of the proposals has been undertaken in the Customer Service Centre and in the public libraries within Inverclyde.

6.0 PROPOSED INVERCLYDE AND ERSKINE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

- 6.1 The proposed constituency will have 77,184 electors within the area noted in paragraph 4.4 above.
- 6.2 The BCS review will result in a UK Parliament being elected from 600 constituencies in place of the current 650 and in Scotland 53 constituencies are proposed in place of the current 59. The 2018 review provides that:-
 - The legislation defines two constituencies in Scotland being Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency and Orkney and Shetland constituency;
 - The electorate of every other constituency in Scotland must be between 71,031 and 78,507 electors (i.e. within 5% of the UK-wide electoral quota of 74,769, unless its area exceeds 12,000 square kilometres); and
 - No constituency may exceed 13,000 square kilometres.
- 6.3 In terms of BCS principles for constituency design, account is taken of existing boundaries and it is an objective to design as many constituencies as practicable that do not cross a Council area boundary and which recognise existing community ties, take into consideration any local geography issues (for example, transport links, other electoral boundaries, administrative boundaries and natural features) and which consider any special geographical considerations, where appropriate. The BCS has developed its Revised Proposals using electorate data from 1 December 2015. The BCS took account of the ward boundaries in place from 2007 to 2017 in line with the legislation. New wards were introduced in May 2017 and these have been explored during the development of the BCS Revised Proposals.
- 6.4 Comments on the Revised Proposals, whether in support or not, can be made by the Council (and by any members of the public) by 11 December 2017 in the following ways:

- On the BCS consultation portal – www.bcs2018.org.uk;
- In writing to Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
EDINBURGH
EH12 5HD; and/or
- By email to: comments@scottishboundaries.gov.uk

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

7.1 None.

Financial Implications

One-off Costs

Appropriate signage will be funded from the budget for the refurbishment project.

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Legal

7.2 This review has been undertaken by the BCS in terms of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 and the Council has an opportunity to submit its written consultation response by 11 December 2017.

Human Resources

7.3 None.

Equalities and Diversity

7.4 None.

Repopulation

7.5 There are no direct impacts affecting the Council's repopulation strategies.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

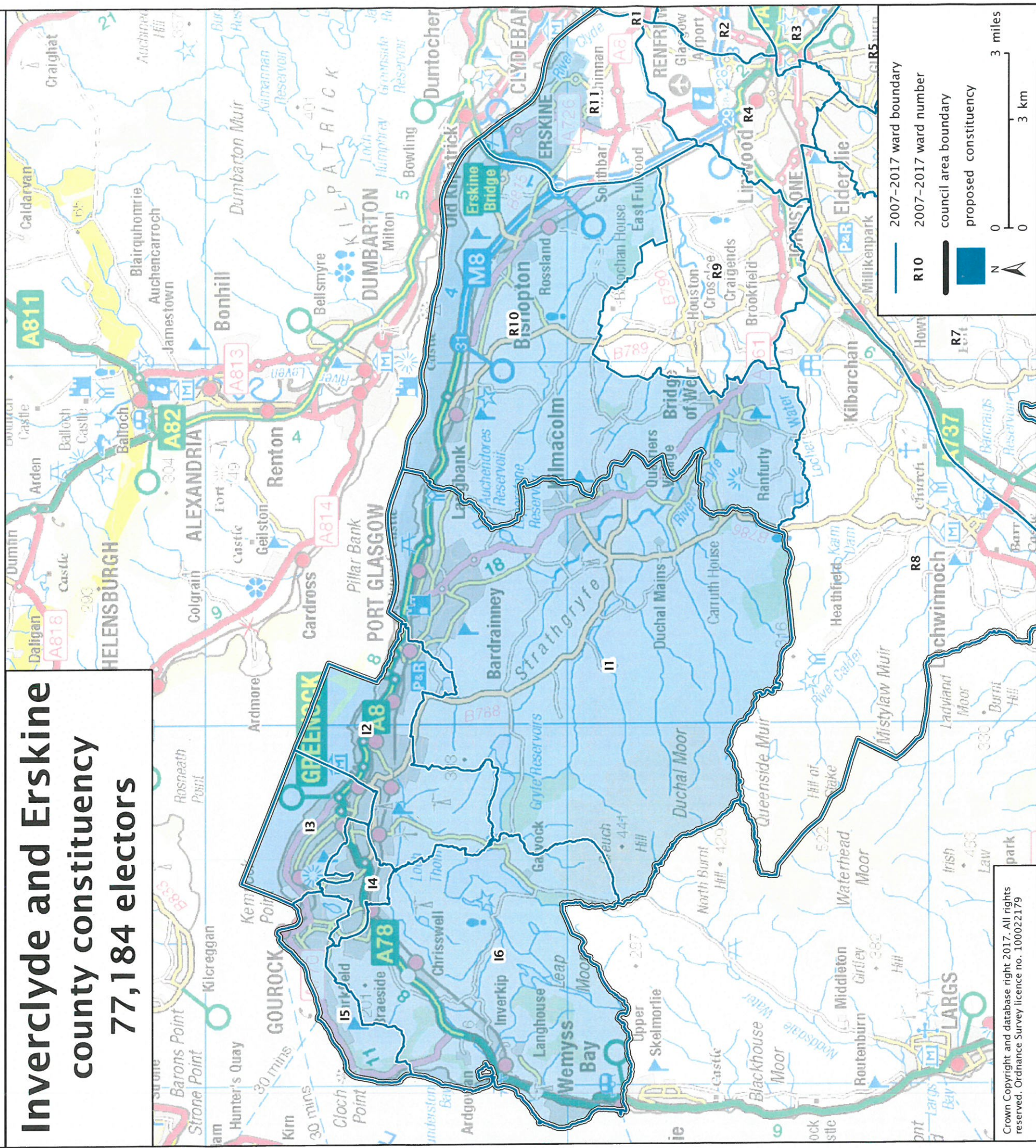
8.1 The Council has the opportunity to consider the BCS Revised Proposals and to submit a consultation response. The public consultation map will be on display for the Council meeting. The BCS has prepared a summary of Revised Proposals and a booklet specifying its policies and procedures and both have been made available within the Members' Library. The consultation portal sponsored by the BCS is as noted above: www.bcs2018.org.uk.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

Boundary Commission for Scotland
PUBLIC CONSULTATION
 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies - Revised Proposals

**Inverclyde and Erskine
 county constituency
 77,184 electors**



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We are undertaking a further 8 week period of public consultation on our revised proposals for UK Parliament constituencies in Scotland.

- The legislation governing this review is the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986 (as amended).
- UK Parliament constituencies are being reduced from 650 to 600.
- A constituency must be no larger than 13,000 km².
- Constituencies must have between 71,031 – 78,507 electors, unless they are larger than 12,000 km² when they can have fewer electors.
- 2 Scottish island constituencies are set as Na h-Eileanan an Iar and Orkney and Shetland.
- Scotland will have 53 in place of the current 59 constituencies.

The proposed constituency boundary comprises: Inverclyde council area; and Renfrewshire council area ward 10 and part of ward 11 (Erskine and Inchinnan) where the boundary partly follows a community council area boundary and an historic ward boundary. From our Initial Proposals, the constituency boundary is changed at Bishopton, Erskine and Largs. The constituency name is changed from Inverclyde.

Tell us what you think of our proposals by 11 December 2017.

You can do this via -

consultation portal: www.bcs2018.org.uk

email: bcs@scottishboundaries.gov.uk

address: Boundary Commission for Scotland,
 Thistle House,
 91 Haymarket Terrace,
 Edinburgh,
 EH12 5HD

Further information is available on our website www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk

Twitter: @bcmmscot

Our Ref: GM/AI

Your Ref:

Date: 10 January 2017

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Ms Isabel Drummond-Murray
Secretary to the Commission
Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
EDINBURGH
EH12 5HD

Dear Madam

Inverclyde Council
2018 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies
Publication of Initial Proposals

I thank you for inviting the Council's response to the Boundary Commission for Scotland's (BCS) 2018 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies.

I confirm that the Council has considered your proposals for an Inverclyde and Largs County Constituency and, on its behalf, I write to intimate to you its unanimous opposition to this proposal.

The background to your Initial Proposal has been considered in detail with reference both to the legislative background and the BCS principles of constituency design: the Council rejects the whole premise of the BCS Initial Proposal. There is no adequate methodology explained within the Initial Proposal to support, in terms of either voter representation or the diverse social and other needs of different communities, the imposition of a standardised electoral quota that is not reflective of existing communities.

It is this Council's view that the existing Inverclyde County Constituency should be retained to meet the needs of its established community and for the best purposes of democratic representation and accountability.

It is the Council's belief that no substantive or democratic arguments have been put, other than the standardised numerical formula, to evidence any need or demand for such a significant change in representation and for such an expansion of existing boundaries.

Furthermore, in terms of a previous review, yet with the same apparent objectives in mind, it is noted that in December 2011 it was the BCS Initial Proposal to extend the Inverclyde County Constituency in a different direction in order to include Bishopton, Bridge of Weir, Langbank, Erskine and Inchinnan (resulting in a proposed electorate of 77, 647 at that time). Although this 2011 Initial Proposal did not proceed, it could be said to an extent that it was more reflective of existing communities as at that time. The reason for noting this point is that given the rationale for the 2011 proposal, as it is understood with regard to the same broad approach for an electoral quota, there is no explanation of any reasons for such a significant divergence of the affected communities in relation to the Initial Proposal for 2018.

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This Council unequivocally respects the needs for voter representation within this area and within the neighbouring local authority area of North Ayrshire. It is the Council's position that the existing Inverclyde County Constituency should be retained in the best interests of voter representation and this Council wholly rejects your proposed changes as outlined in your Initial Proposal.

I should be pleased if you would note the Council's position. If any aspect above requires clarification, please contact me at any point. I confirm that the Council will consider any revised proposals and will make representations in detail for any aspect of your review.

Yours faithfully



Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

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