
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	29 September 2016
Report By:	Head of Legal & Property Services	Report No:	GM/LP/126/16
Contact Officer:	Gerard Malone	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements: Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report informs the Council of the decision of the Scottish Ministers on 14 September 2016 to make Orders to give effect to the proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) to review local government ward boundaries as from the 2017 elections.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The LGBCS is an independent body which makes recommendations for local government administrative and electoral boundaries in Scotland. This is the fifth periodic review of local government electoral arrangements in Scotland since LGBCS establishment in 1973.
- 2.2 As parts of the Fifth Review, the Council decided to submit representations on the intended LGBCS review and these form **Appendix 1**.
- 2.3 The Council and eight other local authorities felt aggrieved as the LGBCS process and methodology and requested Scottish Ministers not to give effect to the LGBCS proposals – **Appendix 2**.
- 2.4 On 14 September 2016, the Council was informed of the Scottish Ministers' decisions to approve the LGBCS recommendations in 25 of the 30 Council areas that were proposed for alteration. The relative letter from the Minister for Parliamentary Business to CoSLA dated 14 September 2016 together with the relative press release from the Scottish Government are also appended for Members' information as **Appendix 3**.
- 2.5 The proposals for Inverclyde increase Councillor numbers to 22 and increase the wards to seven.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that

- 3.1 The Council considers the implications of the decision by Scottish Ministers and remits it to the Chief Executive to take such further action as may be considered appropriate in liaison with such other local authority areas as is necessary;
- 3.2 Meantime, that it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to give effect to such polling scheme amendments as are required in order to prepare for the May 2017 local government elections and that the Council notes that at least one special meeting of the Council may be needed to give effect to the consultation response timescales; and,
- 3.3 That further reports on the ward boundary reviews and its implications be reported to the Council in due course.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The LGBCS is an independent body which makes recommendations for local government administrative and electoral boundaries in Scotland. The present review is the fifth periodic review of local government electoral arrangements in Scotland since the establishment of the LGBCS in 1973.
- 4.2 In February 2014, the LGBCS began the current review with proposals for Councillor numbers in each Council within Scotland and Inverclyde Council made its representations, as noted, in **Appendix 1**. The LGBCS considered all representations made during that stage of the consultation process and then undertook a consultation on wards in March 2015. The Council's additional response at this step of the consultation process is also contained within **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3 In terms of the Council's discussions on these proposals, it was considered that there was already an appropriate level of representation within Inverclyde and this Council did not seek any increase in Councillor numbers. The LGBCS considered the Council's representations but decided in the interests of parity to proceed with the proposals for increase.
- 4.4 The proposals for wards have been developed by the LGBCS using electorate data as obtained from 2013. The number of electors registered in each Council electoral ward on that date has been used as the original basis for the proposals. The LGBCS had regard to the likely changes in numbers of electors by considering forecast electorate counts up to 2019.
- 4.5 The LGBCS proposals used population size in order to set Councillor numbers. The LGBCS proposals create categories of similar Councils in order to set ratios of Councillors to electors. The basis for this is population distribution and, as explained to the Council in previous reports, the LGBCS has used population distribution and levels of deprivation from the SIMD data in order to group Councils together. Population size, however, remains the most significant determinant of Councillor numbers and the design of wards.
- 4.6 The objective from the LGBCS is to attempt to standardise Councillor/electorate ratios throughout Scotland. The LGBCS also emphasises that it has sought to construct wards from complete local sub-geographies such as Community Council areas. The LGBCS has had regard to other locally significant boundaries such as community planning areas, neighbourhoods or natural communities.

5.0 WARDS – INVERCLYDE COUNCIL AREA

- 5.1 The LGBCS proposal which has been approved by Scottish Ministers as at 14 September 2016 provides for 22 Councillors within Inverclyde, with one four Member ward and six three Member wards thus increasing the number of wards in Inverclyde by one and increasing Councillor numbers by two.
- 5.2 The Order laid before the Scottish Parliament by Scottish Ministers provides the electoral wards as follows:

Ward No	Ward Name	Councillors	Electorate Sept 13	Actual Variation from Parity	Forecast Electorate	Forecast Variation from Parity
1	Inverclyde East	3	8,515	-2%	8,260	2%
2	Inverclyde East Central	3	8,084	-3%	7,841	-3%
3	Inverclyde Central	3	8,271	-1%	8,023	-1%
4	Inverclyde North	4	10,854	-3%	10,528	-3%
5	Inverclyde West	3	8,655	4%	8,395	4%
6	Inverclyde South West	3	8,832	6%	8,567	6%
7	Inverclyde South	3	8,030	-4%	7,789	-4%
	Totals	22	61,241	3%	59,403	3%

- 5.3 The Order gives effect to the proposals that were submitted by the LGBCS to Scottish Ministers in May 2016. The Order applies for all local government elections held on or after 4 May 2017 (i.e. including next year's local government elections).
- 5.4 Plans illustrating the ward boundary changes are attached as **Appendix 4**.
- 5.5 This Council always reviews its polling scheme arrangements after each election or referendum. The current decision will necessitate a review of the polling scheme and steps are already in hand to prepare for and bring forward a consultation process to give effect to the decision and its implications for the polling scheme. In terms of the timescales for the 2017 local government elections, the consultation process needs to be commenced as soon as possible and it would assist if Members would please note that, depending on the number and nature of responses, there will require to be at least one special meeting of the Council for the purpose of polling scheme review and consultation. These further details are being worked upon but the nature of any formal responses might also require a second special meeting in order to deal with the consultation timetable especially for all the arrangements needed in advance of the election.

6.0 OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES

6.1 Along with the discussions that have taken place at the CoSLA level in respect of the concerns at the methodology and processes of the Fifth Review, nine Councils wrote to the Minister for Parliamentary Business to express detailed concern and a copy of this letter forms **Appendix 2**.

6.2 The following Councils:

- East Renfrewshire Council
- Fife Council
- Inverclyde Council
- East Lothian Council
- South Lanarkshire Council
- North Lanarkshire Council
- Falkirk Council
- East Dunbartonshire Council
- Dumfries & Galloway Council

all expressed their concern that there had not been any form of meaningful or reasonable engagement or discussion relative to their individual and varying positions and that, irrespective of any proposed increases or decreases of Councillor numbers affecting these Councils, the methodology adopted by the LGBCS as the basis for its determination is considered to be fundamentally flawed or at least, lacking in any evidential basis. It was thought that the final proposals being made by the LGBCS were to the detriment of all of the communities reflected in the nine Council areas who were signatories to that letter.

6.3 The above Councils are considering their individuals positions and there is currently liaison amongst these in respect of any future actions. This position will have to be the subject of any future updates to the Council and, meantime, it is requested that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to consider joining any such co-ordinated actions as may be considered appropriate in the circumstances.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

7.1 There will be extra costs associated with an increase in Councillors. The funding for this should be clarified as part of the 2017/18 Budget settlement.

Financial Implications:

One Off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
To be determined	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Possible accommodation alterations and infrastructure

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Services to Members	Remuneration Travelling expenses/ training etc.	2017	£41,000; £3,000	n/a	Increase in remuneration because of two additional Councillors. Provides for 10% increase in overhead budgets.

Legal

- 7.2 The Council will require to make formal alterations to its polling scheme and these will be the subject of community consultation and reporting back to, at least, one special meeting of the Council dependent on the nature of any responses received.

Human Resources

- 7.3 None.

Equalities

- 7.4 None.

Repopulation

- 7.5 The revised boundaries and Councillor numbers takes account of proposed forecasts for electorate numbers within Inverclyde and, accordingly, seek to address and sustain local democracy within this area.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 This report has been endorsed by the Corporate Management Team.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 None.

Our Ref: GM/AJ

Your Ref:

Date: 22 April 2014

Environment, Regeneration & Resources
Acting Corporate Director: Alan Puckrin

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Secretary
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Also by email to:
LGBCS@scottishboundaries.gov.uk

Dear Dr. Buchanan

**FIFTH ELECTORAL REVIEW
INVERCLYDE COUNCIL**

I thank you for your consultation document on the Fifth Review.

I write to advise you that Inverclyde Council considered the terms of the Fifth Electoral Review at its meeting on 10 April 2014. The Council noted with interest the detailed background to the Fifth Review together with the recommendations for the numbers of Councillors in each Council within Scotland based upon a methodology that, for the first time, takes into account levels of deprivation as well as population distribution.

Following the Council's detailed consideration of the Fifth Review proposals, the Council unanimously decided to recommend to you a continuation of the present, existing number of twenty Elected Members for Inverclyde Council. The Council did not support the draft proposal for an increase in Councillors to twenty two. It is the Council's view is that the workload distribution within its existing multi-member wards is sufficient and adequate at this time and that an increase in Councillors is not justified by the burden of extra expenditure which would arise as a consequence. The Council understands the Commission's objectives for parity, insofar as possible and also appreciates that there will be a detailed review of ward boundaries as the Fifth Review progresses. The issues of parity within the existing multi-member wards can be reviewed in terms of boundary scrutiny at that time without there being a need for an increase in Councillors.

Accordingly, I have been requested to write to you to intimate the Council's views as above. The Council also notes that it will have an opportunity to engage with you in the consultation on the ward boundaries in the future in terms of your review timetable.

Please contact me at any time in order to expand or clarify on any point referred to above. It would be of assistance if you would kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Head of Legal & Property Services

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Our Ref: GM/KB

Your Ref:

Date: 18 May 2015

Ms Isabel Drummond-Murray
Secretary
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Environment, Regeneration & Resources

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Dear Ms Drummond-Murray

Fifth Electoral Review – Inverclyde Council

I thank you for your Proposals for Wards booklet of March 2015 relative to Inverclyde Council.

I write to advise you that the Council considered the detailed terms of your March 2015 proposals at its meeting on 14 May 2015. The Council noted your proposals for wards in the Inverclyde Council area with reference to forecast electorates, the details of the electorate data and the proposed ward boundaries. As from our previous correspondence in terms of the April 2014 proposals, the Council considered your proposals in the light of the methodology that you have proposed and the general description of the approach you have provided in respect of proposals for wards in Scotland.

The Council fundamentally disagrees with your proposals and wishes me to note its continued concern in respect of your methodology and its intended effect on Councillor numbers. The Council maintains its opposition to your proposed increase in Councillor numbers as it believes that your methodology, which places Inverclyde Council and Glasgow City Council together as outliers in your assessment as being flawed. This Council, which is one of the smallest within Scotland, is placed within the same category as the largest in Scotland whereas its usual and standard comparators and benchmarks for statistical comparison, especially in relation to deprivation and economic effect, are within Category 4 (as opposed to Category 5) of your assessment. This Council should be placed within the same category as West Dunbartonshire, Renfrewshire, North Lanarkshire, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, Clackmannanshire and Dundee in relation to the effects of deprivation and should not be assessed, alone and uniquely with Glasgow. The effect of the classification criteria should realistically provide a ratio of Councillors to electors of 3,000 rather than the intended ratio of 2,800. The methodology that you have used to provide this classification is unproven and is strongly questioned in relation to effect on Councillor-workload and, also, deprivation distribution internally within any local authority area.

It is fair to recognise that one of the biggest impacts in respect of deprivation involves the Elected Member workload with housing issues (as the whole range of deprivation factors are often linked with housing) whereas Inverclyde Council maintains its position as a Strategic Housing Authority yet has no operational involvement in housing estate management because of the large scale voluntary transfer which took place in/...

in 2007 as part of the Council's initiative to transfer its housing stock with tenants' consent after a full process of consultation to a Registered Social Landlord within the area. Obviously, there is a significant continuing workload with housing matters and this is a key element of Councillor duties, but nevertheless it is noteworthy that your deprivation criteria do not take account of the particular circumstances of those authorities which have completed large scale voluntary transfers. The housing function is not the single criterion upon which to base Elected Member workload, but its use is relevant to demonstrating the difficulty in reaching a broad assessment based upon SIMD criteria without looking at specific, individual issues affecting particular areas. Again, it is willingly offered that in other functions, for example in relation to planning implementation and policy, in many respects there can be a significantly high workload in certain local areas; or, in addition, in relation to the integration of health and social care there can be many significant and specific heavy workload items for Councillors in connection with the wide range of Council involvement in these functions. These points are brought to your attention to illustrate this Council's concern at your criteria which places Inverclyde Council and Glasgow City Council within the same range whereas it can be equally and justifiably claimed, at the very least, that the application of the 3,000 Councillor / elector ratio (in terms of Category 4) would produce no change whatsoever to Councillor numbers within Inverclyde. Inverclyde Council maintains its strong wish that you maintain Councillor numbers for this area at twenty and that with no increase.

Your criteria do not take account of the distribution of deprivation within Inverclyde and there are variations which are very local in effect and impact and the present level of Councillor numbers already satisfactorily and acceptably meets the levels of electorate demand and Councillor availability that you seek.

From the Council's review, the following issues are brought to your attention:

- It is recognised there is an anomalous boundary at Inverkip Marina which excludes the water area at the Marina complex from the constituency boundary. I have been requested to write to the Boundary Commission for Scotland to address this matter to include this area within the constituency boundary and to eliminate the need for various applications which may have been made for Declarations of Local Connection – this matter will be separately progressed in relation to that area.
- It is noted that you have estimated electorate numbers for 2019 as can be seen from the table of your proposals. The Council is concerned to bring to your attention that the amount of new housing that is proposed for the southwest area of Inverclyde will in itself affect forecast electorate numbers within ward boundaries and it is requested that you take this impact of local demographic change and proposals for future housebuilding in that area into account in your proposals.
- The proposals for seven wards (a) do not reflect the distribution of SIMD data zones within local geographies; and (b) do not reflect natural ward boundaries, even in overview of the area, in respect of, for example, the existing more natural boundary at Bakers Brae at the east and your proposals move this westwards without there being local community or geographic reasons to Bank Street and Wellington Street, Greenock. The Council accepts it is very difficult to reflect in whole variations in SIMD data zones within wards and that is the issue. The increase in Councillor numbers and the new proposals do not provide sufficient rationale for adoption. Existing boundaries, together with the existing number of Councillors, reflect existing east / central Greenock boundaries. Also, for example, Auchenbothie Road in Port Glasgow is proposed now to be split in respect of the length of that road on the boundary. It would be preferable to retain both sides of that road within the ward and existing polling districts.
- The/...

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- The Council accepts there are a variety of ways to propose ward boundaries and incorporate the increased number of Councillors. Equally valid, if Councillor numbers were maintained at twenty, it would be possible to look at ward boundaries and to adjust these to take account of recent effects on population movement and to seek more even distribution amongst the existing wards. The Council would look at any innovative proposals in order to assist the fair distribution of electorate and Councillors which take account of local geographies and communities. The Council's point remains that the existing number of Councillors is sufficient to address re-drawing of boundaries to reflect parity at the electorate / Councillor ratio of 3,000
- The Council's preference is that twenty Councillors be retained with a review of existing wards based upon population distribution. The Council does not accept that deprivation data alone reflects the caseload of Councillors. The proposed ratio of 3,000 is more applicable to the Inverclyde situation and comparative data zones and your proposals should be revised to take account of these representations, accordingly.

I trust the above is of assistance to you in respect of your consultation. Please contact me at any time in order to clarify any aspect of the Council's position. I look forward to hearing from you further in due course.

Yours Sincerely

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal & Property Services

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Date: 28 June 2016



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Joe FitzPatrick MSP,
Minister for Parliamentary Business,
St Andrew's House,
Regent Road,
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Mr FitzPatrick,

**Fifth Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland**

This letter is written jointly by the undernoted Councils. It is the request of these Councils that Scottish Ministers do not approve, insofar as these Councils' areas are affected, the final proposals submitted to you for consideration by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) in relation to its Fifth Review.

All of the undernoted Councils have submitted representations to the LGBCS relative to its Fifth Review. It is appreciated that the LGBCS wishes to propose its reviews of both Councillor numbers and ward boundaries in order to meet its views on local government electoral arrangements in Scotland. Within the process and timetable of this LGBCS review, each of the undernoted Councils has already made their individual and detailed submissions on the review. It would, in normal circumstances, be accepted that the individual submissions from each local authority would suffice, but there are two critical issues which require these local authorities to write to Scottish Ministers directly and jointly:

- (a) none of the Councils believe there has been any form of meaningful or reasonable engagement or discussion whatsoever relative to their individual positions as set out in their respective responses; and
- (b) that, irrespective of any proposed increases or decreases of Councillor numbers affecting these Councils, the methodology adopted by the LGBCS as a basis for its determination is fundamentally flawed or, at least, lacking in any evidential basis and, despite the individual Council representations which have been made, the final proposals are believed to be to the detriment of all of the communities, below.



Lorraine McMillan,
Chief Executive, East Renfrewshire HQ, Eastwood Park, Rouken Glen Road, Giffnock, G46 6UG

APPENDIX 2 contd.

It is not the purpose of this letter to seek to repeat the terms of each individual local authority's responses to the LGBCS: each of these, it is believed, has been consistently made by the Councils concerned in terms of their specification, detail and reasoning. Please note, each of these submissions do continue to be maintained by the individual Councils concerned. It is necessary to summarise, however, that there is no support from these Councils for the final proposals as made to you and that none of the Councils believe that the draft Fifth Review achieves effective and convenient local government, as explained fully to the LGBCS in the process of consultation that was undertaken. None of the Councils believe that either the methodology of the review or the approach undertaken by the LGBCS in its review balance effectiveness and convenience in electoral arrangements for any of the local authorities affected.

The Councils request that you bring these concerns to the attention of Scottish Ministers. The subscribers welcome any discussions direct with you or with the LGBCS in relation to the progress of the final proposals. This letter is written to you on the basis that changes to local communities should only be taken forward where communities have been adequately respected: in the proposed arrangements, at present, the undernoted Councils do not believe this standard has been achieved. The Councils are very concerned that the LGBCS focus on parity with implementation of the elector to councillor ratios will result in ward redesigns that will damage community ties and will have adverse impacts on established communities. Any progress through dialogue and discussion would be welcomed as it is not thought to be in the interests of any party that other remedies, such as judicial review, be considered or undertaken without every effort being made to find a solution which addresses the concerns of all.

Individually, or jointly, the subscribers welcome the opportunity to make any further submissions to you or to meet or have dialogue with yourself and/or representatives of the LGBCS. Concerns on this matter have been raised at COSLA and separate representations may also be received therefrom in similar vein. Nevertheless, given the timescales concerned, it was thought appropriate to write direct to you.

We thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Lorraine McMillan	Chief Executive of East Renfrewshire Council	
Steve Grimmond	Chief Executive of Fife Council	
John Mundell	Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council	
Angela Leitch	Chief Executive of East Lothian Council	

APPENDIX 2 cont'd.

Lindsay Freeland	Chief Executive of South Lanarkshire Council	
Paul Jukes	Chief Executive of North Lanarkshire Council	
Mary Pitcaithly	Chief Executive of Falkirk Council	
Gerry Cornes	Chief Executive of East Dunbartonshire Council	
Gavin Stevenson	Chief Executive of Dumfries and Galloway	

APPENDIX 2 contd.

Minister for Parliamentary Business
Joe FitzPatrick MSP

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Ms Lorraine McMillan
Chief Executive
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Your ref: LM/AT
Our ref: 2016/0021523
12 July 2016

Dear Ms McMillan

Thank you for your letter of 28 June expressing your concerns, and those of 8 other council chief executives, about the recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland for changes to the electoral arrangements for your and their areas.

I am aware of the concerns that your council and others have expressed about the methodology used by the Commission. I am also aware of the criticisms of the consultation process that have been expressed by yourselves and others. I have taken careful note of your comments, and will be giving very thorough consideration to the recommendations before deciding whether to implement them.

I hope this is helpful.

I would be grateful if you could copy this reply to your fellow signatories.



JOE FITZPATRICK

Minister for Parliamentary Business
Joe FitzPatrick MSP



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14 September 2016

Dear David,

As you know, I have been considering the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's recommendations for changes to local government electoral arrangements that were published on 26 May, following completion of its Fifth Electoral Reviews. I am writing now to advise you of the decisions I have taken on those recommendations.

I met you and Michael Cook on 30 June, when you reiterated COSLA's concerns about the reviews process as well as the concerns of some councils about specific aspects of the recommendations. I have considered very carefully the representations that COSLA, SOLACE and others have made during and after the reviews process, but have concluded that it would not be right either to postpone implementing the Commission's recommendations or to reject them entirely. A major factor that has led me to this conclusion is that councillor numbers across Scotland have not been reviewed for nearly 20 years: given the changes in population distribution that have taken place since then, and those that are expected to take place in the next few years, I think that on the whole those changes ought to be reflected by updating local electoral arrangements.

Having said that, there are a few areas where I think this is outweighed by other considerations. In Argyll and Bute, Dundee City and Scottish Borders a large number of representations were made that aspects of the Commission's proposals would cut across strong and long-standing communities. I recognise the strength of those arguments, and so have decided not to make any changes to the electoral arrangements for those areas. Also, I have agreed to requests from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar and Shetland Islands Council for no changes to be made to the arrangements for their areas at this time as there are likely to be further changes flowing from our forthcoming Islands Bill, and in their view it would be unduly disruptive to make changes now and then again for the 2022 elections.

To summarise my decisions on the Commission's recommendations, I have:

APPENDIX 3 contd.

- accepted the recommendations to make no changes in 2 areas (Orkney Islands and West Lothian);
- decided not to accept the recommendations for changes in 5 areas (Argyll and Bute, Dundee City, Na h-Eileanan an Iar, Scottish Borders, and Shetland Islands), and so to keep the existing arrangements for those areas; and
- accepted the recommendations for changes for the other 25 council areas.

I have laid before the Parliament today Orders to give effect to the recommendations for change that I have accepted. These Orders will come into force on 30 September, and apply to elections held on or after 4 May 2017.

I appreciate that my decisions as described above are not what COSLA has been looking for. However, I hope that this letter is at least helpful as explaining those decisions and the approach I have taken in considering the Commission's recommendations. I have written in similar terms to SOLACE and the Scottish Local Government Partnership, and have also written to the Leader and Chief Executive of each council to advise them of my decision on the recommendations for their area.

Yours for Scotland

Joe FitzPatrick

News

September 14, 2016



Council ward boundaries agreed

Ministers decide on council ward boundaries.

Council ward boundaries across Scotland have been agreed, following Ministers' decisions on recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

The Commission published recommendations for changes to councillor numbers and ward boundaries in May, following completion of its fifth periodic review of local government electoral arrangements.

Changes were recommended for 30 of Scotland's local authority areas, and the Scottish Government has accepted all but five, meaning changes will be made in 25 council areas.

Given the existing commitment to an Islands Bill this Parliamentary year to ensure closer representation in island communities, Ministers have not accepted recommendations to make changes to the island authorities.

Parliamentary Business Minister Joe FitzPatrick said:

"Local government plays an important role in delivering key services across Scotland and it's important for the sake of democracy and for local service delivery that councils are as representative as possible of the communities they serve.

"That's why the Boundary Commission is legally obliged to hold regular reviews of council wards and councillor numbers, to ensure these reflect changes in population – this is the fifth such review since the Commission was created in 1973 and we are pleased to accept the vast majority of their recommendations.

"In a small number of cases – Argyll and Bute, Dundee City and Scottish Borders - we have listened to local representations and left boundaries as they currently stand, to ensure that strong historic ties in particular areas and communities are maintained.

"Significant concerns were raised about aspects of the Commission's proposals for those areas, in particular that they would not reflect local communities. While the Commission did try to address these in its final recommendations, it was clear from the responses to those recommendations that many of those concerns remained. We therefore decided that the better course would be to keep the status quo for those areas.

"In the case of the three island councils, we are committed to introducing an Islands Bill in this first Parliamentary year enabling the creation of 1- or 2-member island wards.

"We do not propose to pre-empt the Bill by changing ward boundaries in Orkney, Shetland or Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, so we are therefore not implementing any changes in those areas.

"However, we will be asking the Commission to look at electoral arrangements for the islands areas once the Bill has been enacted, with the aim of having any changes arising from the Islands Bill in place for the local elections in 2022.

"Our decisions will ensure updated electoral arrangements will apply for the local government elections in May next year, and I am confident these new structures will serve Scottish local government well in the years to come."

Background

The Local Government Boundary Commission is an independent body responsible for reviewing local government electoral arrangements every 8-12 years. The Commission's recommendations were set out in 32 reports, one for each local authority area. The reports and more information about the reviews can be found on the Commission's website at http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/reviews/5th_electoral/.

The Commission recommended changes for 30 of Scotland's local authority areas. The Scottish Government has accepted all but 5 of those recommendations. These decisions mean that changes to ward boundaries and/or councillor numbers will be made in 25 council areas:

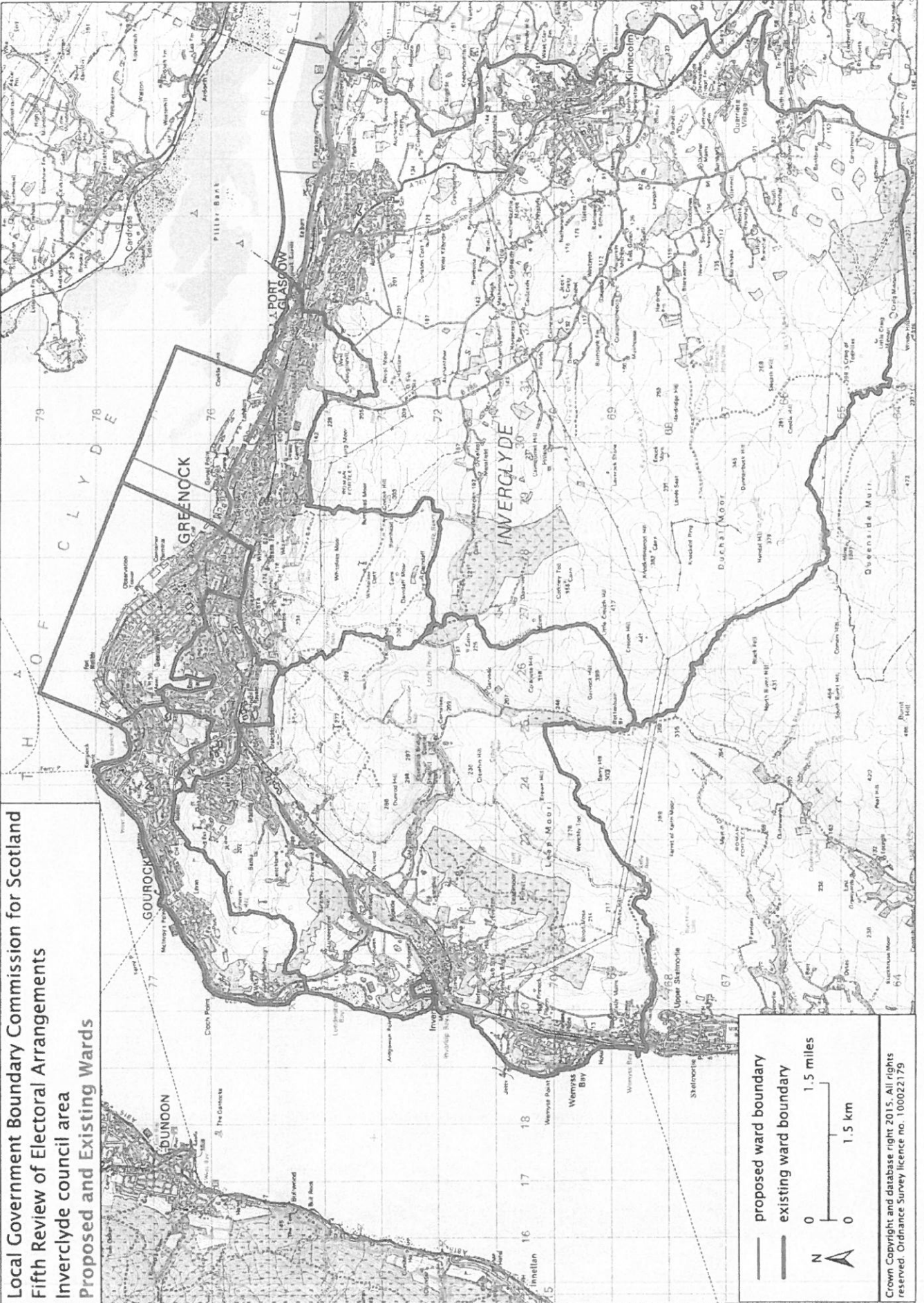
Aberdeen City
 Aberdeenshire
 Angus
 Clackmannanshire
 Dumfries and Galloway
 East Ayrshire
 East Dunbartonshire
 East Lothian
 East Renfrewshire
 Edinburgh
 Falkirk
 Fife
 Glasgow City
 Highland
 Inverclyde
 Midlothian
 Moray
 North Ayrshire
 North Lanarkshire
 Perth and Kinross
 Renfrewshire
 South Ayrshire
 South Lanarkshire
 Stirling
 West Dunbartonshire

The changes mean councillor numbers remain largely the same, changing from 1223 to 1227.

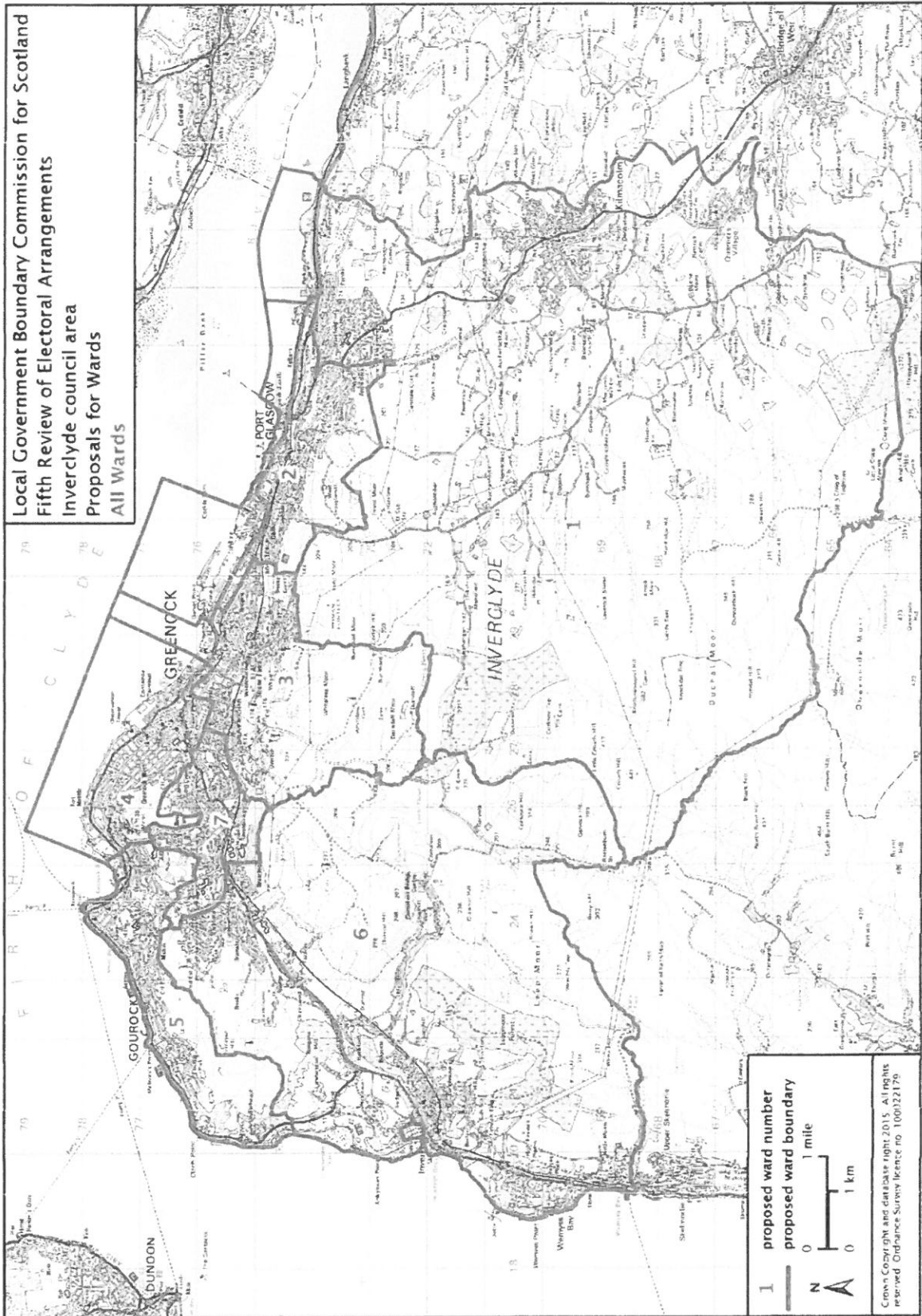
Contact

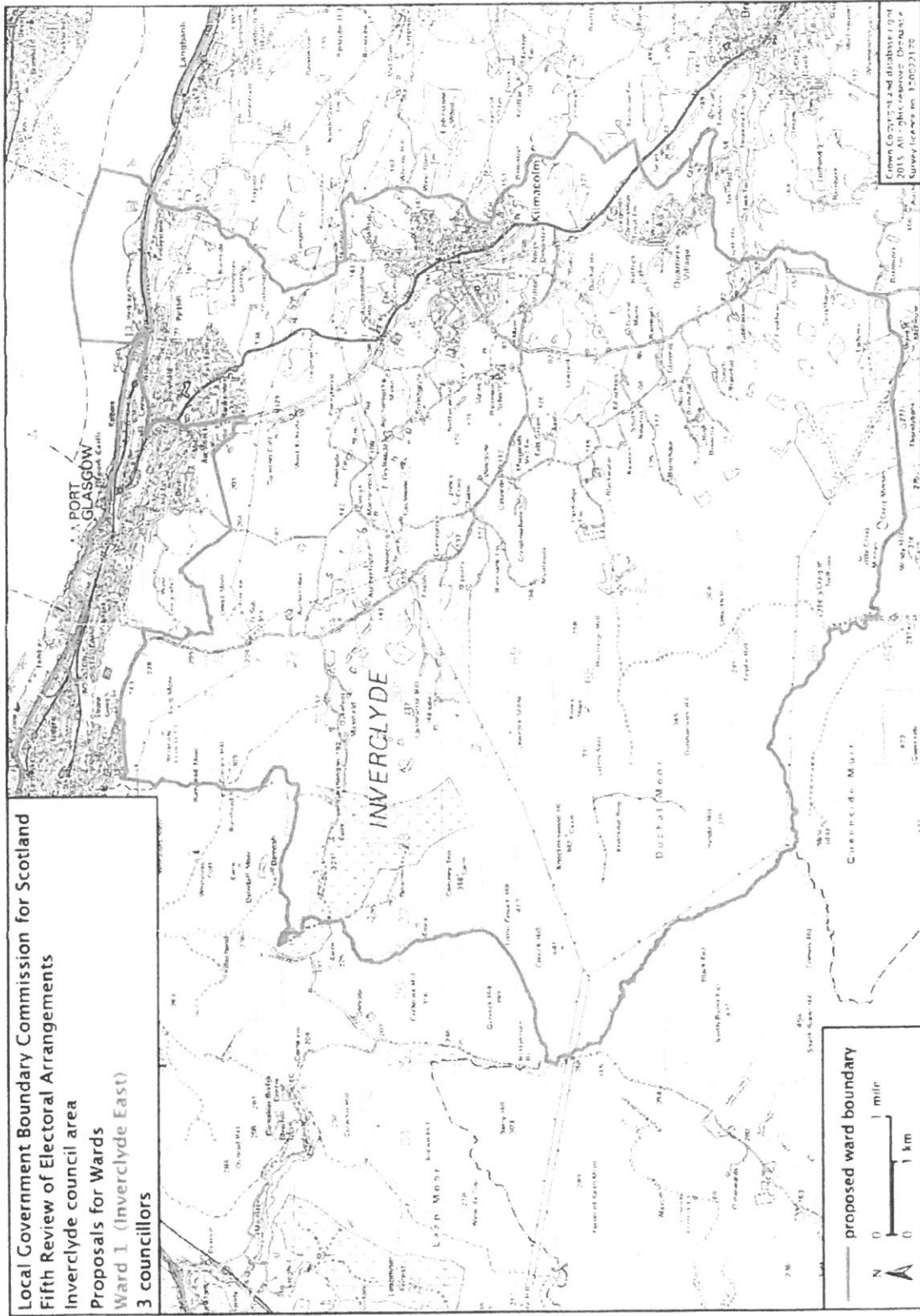
Annalena Winslow: 0131 244 2322 / 07580 331 420

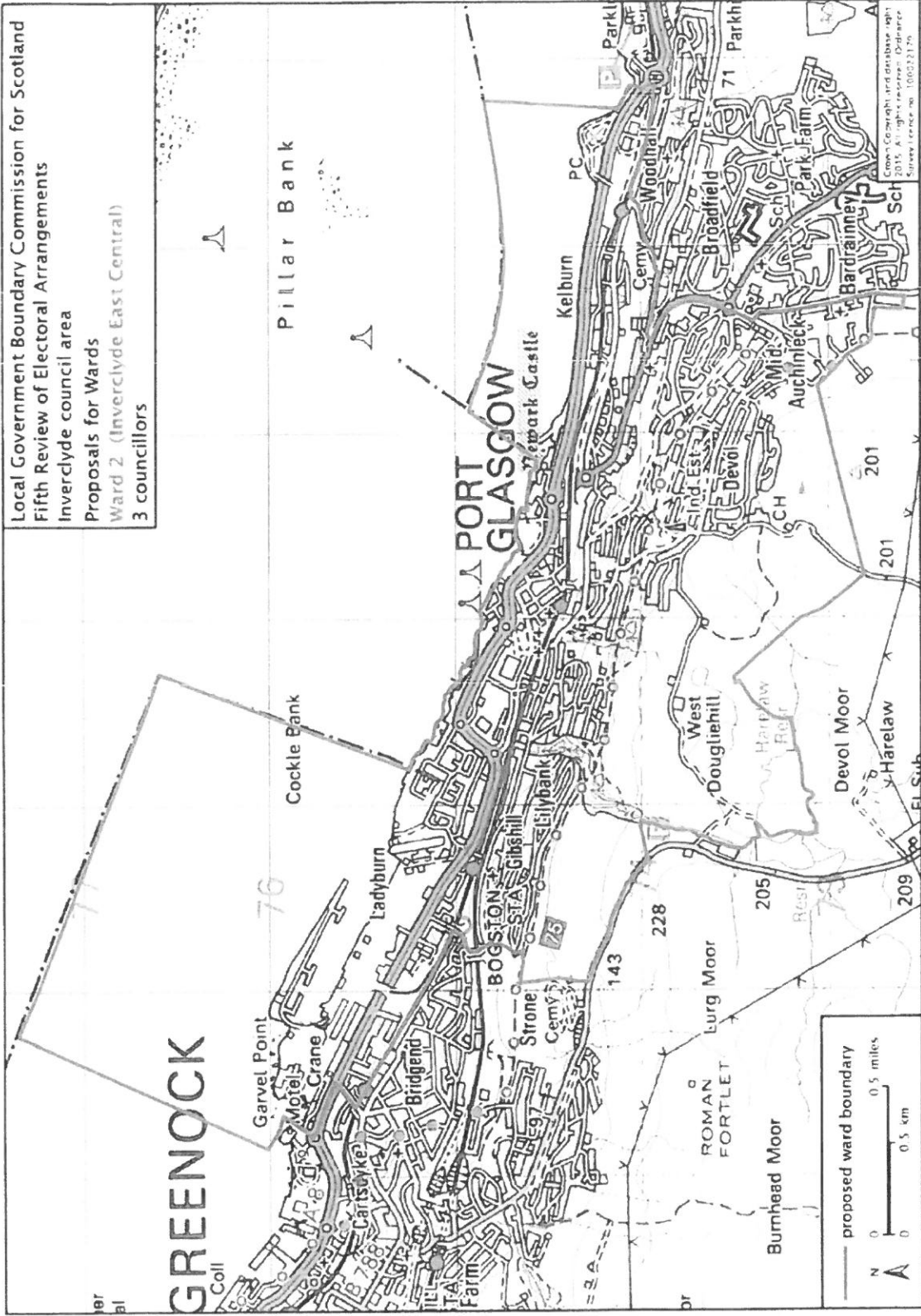
**Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
Inverclyde council area
Proposed and Existing Wards**



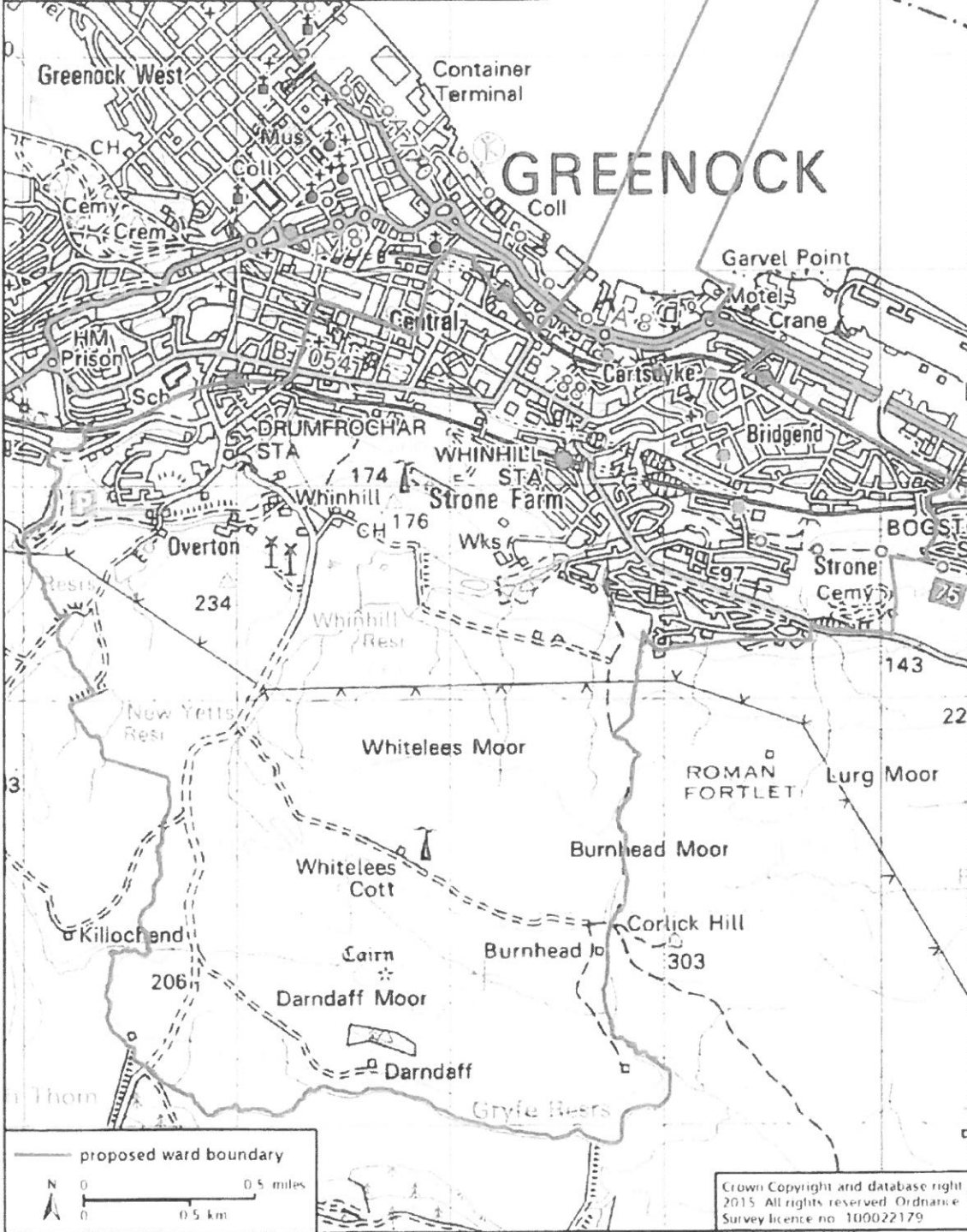
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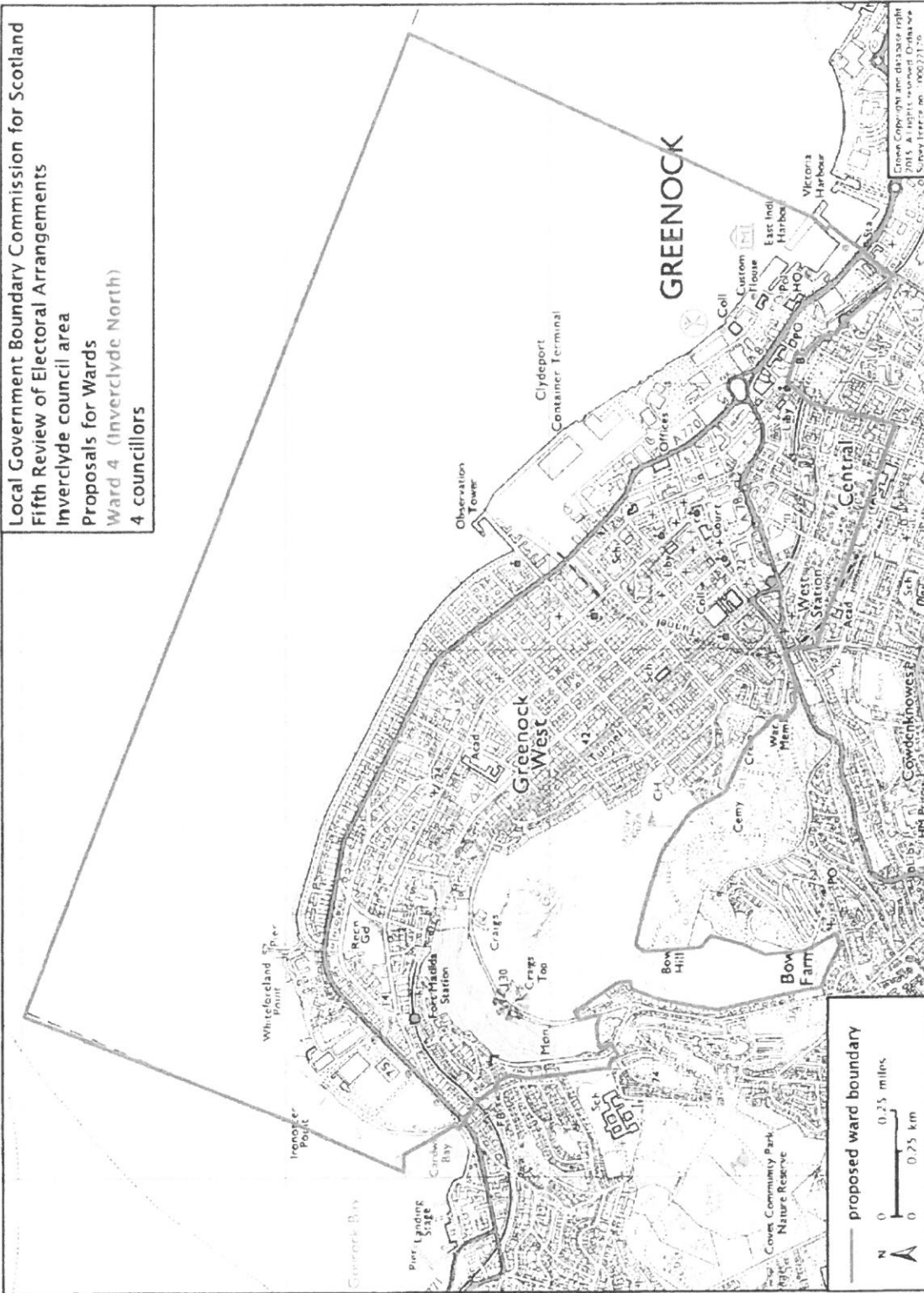


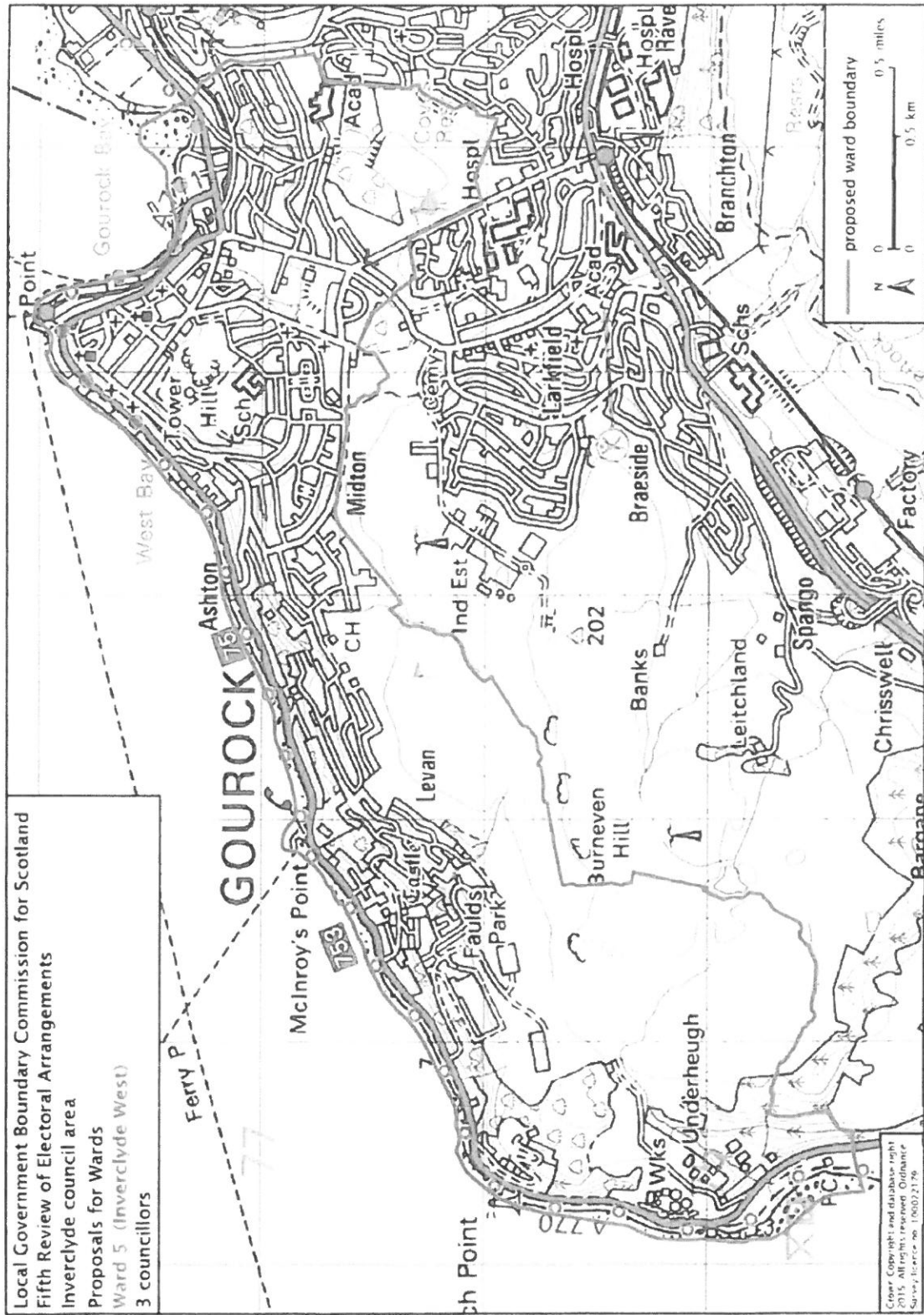


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
 Ward 3 (Inverclyde Central)
 3 councillors



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
 Ward 4 (Inverclyde North)
 4 councillors





Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Inverclyde council area
 Proposals for Wards
 Ward 5 (Inverclyde West)
 3 councillors

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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
Inverclyde council area
Proposals for Wards
Ward 6 (Inverclyde South West)
3 councillors

