

Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

Falkirk Council Area

Report to the Secretary of State for Scotland

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

**Report Number E98026
September 1998**

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

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Constitution of Commission

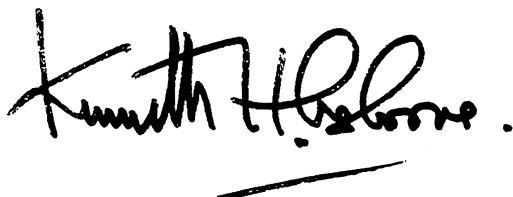
Chairman:	The Honourable Lord Osborne
Deputy Chairman:	Mr K J Clark CBE
Commissioners:	Dr E Graham
	Mr S McDowall CBE
	Mrs G Silver

The Rt. Hon Donald Dewar MP
Secretary of State for Scotland

We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for Falkirk Council area resulting from our Third Statutory Review of all Scottish local authorities.

In accordance with the provisions of section 18(3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, copies of our report, together with illustrative maps, are being sent to Falkirk Council with a request that the report and maps should be made available for public inspection at their offices. In addition, copies of our report, without maps, are being sent to those who received a copy of our consultation letter or who have subsequently expressed an interest by making detailed representations in respect of our provisional proposals which were published on 29 April 1998.

Notice is also being given in newspapers circulating in the Council area of the fact that the report has been made so that interested persons may inspect the report and maps at the Council's Offices.



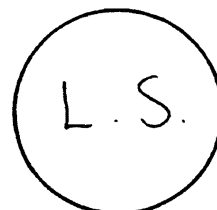
The Honourable Lord Osborne
Chairman
for Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland



R Smith
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September 1998



Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Falkirk Council Area

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Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Falkirk Council Area

Introduction

1. The Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 determined that on and after 1 April 1996, Scotland should be divided into local government areas as named and described in Schedule 1 to the Act and that, for each area, there should be a council consisting of a convener and councillors. It further determined that each council should have all the functions exercised immediately before 1 April in relation to their area by any existing regional, islands or district council.
2. On 1 April 1996 all local government areas existing immediately before that date which were regions and districts and all regional and district councils ceased to exist.
3. Schedule 2 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 also established that every local government area (other than areas of the old islands councils) should be divided into such electoral wards as may be specified in a direction made by the Secretary of State after carrying out such consultations as he considered appropriate. Those wards were to apply for the purpose of any election of councillors held before 'the relevant year of election' (defined as meaning the first year of ordinary election of councillors for the area in question occurring after the making of an order constituting the new electoral wards of that local government area in consequence of the review currently being undertaken by the Commission). In accordance with procedures that applied prior to the reorganisation in 1975, the views of councils were invited. Thereafter, the Secretary of State determined that, for the purpose of any election of councillors before the relevant year of election, 36 electoral wards were appropriate for Falkirk local government area. Additionally, the proposed wards should be as described in the report of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland to the Secretary of State for Scotland on its second statutory review of electoral arrangements for Falkirk District dated 5 May 1994.

Origin and Commencement of the Review

4. The Commission has a statutory duty under section 14 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to undertake periodic reviews of local authority electoral arrangements. The Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 amended section 20 and schedule 5 of the 1973 Act, directing that:

as soon as practicable after 1 April 1996, the Boundary Commission shall-

review the electoral arrangements for all local government areas for the purpose of considering the future electoral arrangements for those areas; and

formulate proposals for those arrangements.

5. This, therefore, is one of the statutory reviews required in terms of section 16(2) and Schedule 5 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended.
6. On 22 March 1996, the Scottish Office Development Department gave local authorities advance notice of the intention of the Commission to carry out a third statutory review of electoral arrangements. On 29 March 1996, we wrote to all councils to announce the commencement of the third statutory review of electoral arrangements and to explain the procedures to be followed. We also gave notice of the commencement of the review to all Community Councils, Electoral Registration Officers, Members of Parliament with a constituency interest and the Scottish headquarters of the political parties. In addition, public notice of the commencement of the review, which included an invitation to interested parties to apply to us for a copy of our consultation letter to councils, was given in newspapers.

Background

7. During the passage through Parliament of the 1994 Act, there was cross-Party understanding that we would review the number of councillors and boundaries of electoral wards for each council in time for changes to be implemented for the 1999 local elections. This was seen to be important because at the time of reorganisation, as mentioned above, the Secretary of State defined the electoral wards for the new councils and to a great extent based these on existing district wards. It was, however, recognised that using the existing district wards led to some councils being significantly over-represented in relation to other areas. Further, it also led to councillors within the same local authority areas representing wards with significantly different numbers of electors. Accordingly, our review was seen as important to ensure equity in representation across and within all local authorities. Further, the new authorities were now responsible for the provision of the full range of all services and, accordingly, consideration had to be given to determining an appropriate number of councillors for service provision to be effectively managed.
8. This review is, therefore, the first conducted by us which sets out to determine the appropriate number of councillors required for councils to operate efficiently and to establish the boundaries of electoral wards. To achieve both objectives our review was conducted in 2 main stages:

identification of a suitable methodology for determining numbers of councillors which, applied across all local authority areas, would be seen to be equitable and consistent; and

the division of each local authority area into the appropriate number of electoral wards in accordance with the statutory rules.

9. A copy of the statutory rules to be employed by us and the Secretary of State in considering proposals for electoral arrangements is provided at Appendix A.

Number of Councillors

10. In formulating proposals for the number of councillors we have been guided by two main principles:

effective management of councils; and

equity amongst electors.

11. We recognised that the number of councillors is crucial because there is, undoubtedly, some number below which it would be impossible for a council to discharge its duty to deliver services to its population and, conversely, there is also some number above which a council becomes unwieldy and cumbersome. We were influenced in this respect by the prior considerations of two other bodies.
12. The Royal Commission on Local Government In Scotland 1966-69, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord Wheatley, provided a basis by which the number of regional councillors and the size of constituency to be represented might be determined by taking into account the fact that population density varies widely in Scotland as a whole and within regions. The then accepted view was that council size should not generally exceed 75 members. In England and Wales the Redcliffe-Maude Commission, which reported to Parliament in 1969, also drew attention to the management problems of large councils and endorsed the recommendation of The Committee on the Management of Local Government that a maximum number of 75 councillors should be set.
13. After careful consideration we concluded that, in the Scottish context and to provide additional flexibility, an upper limit of 80 councillors should be set. We also concluded that a minimum number of councillors should be set, recognising that even the smallest local government areas are now responsible for a wide range of functions. Accordingly, we decided that the minimum number of councillors should be 18. Further, these limits should apply to all councils.
14. Regarding equity as between voters, we considered that ideally each elector's vote should possess the same weight and significance in local government elections throughout the country; furthermore, ideally, there should be similar mutual accessibility between electors and councillors. However, since Scotland is a country of great diversity, both geographically and demographically, a fact reflected in the areas for which councils created by the Act of 1994 are

responsible, and since we are satisfied that, in the interests of good local government, the number of councillors in any council must fall within certain limits, we concluded that these ideals are unattainable in practice. In this situation, recognising that a fair degree of homogeneity exists within certain groups of councils, which exhibit broadly similar geographic and demographic characteristics, we resolved to strive for equity in the senses mentioned within these groups, so far as that is possible within the constraints of the legislation under which we operate.

15. We, therefore, proposed a methodology which initially categorised council areas by density and distribution of population using data available from the 1991 Census of Population. Having classified council areas according to these criteria and adjusted the ratio of electors to each councillor to take account of similar characteristics, we have been able to achieve a broad equity of electorate across and within all council areas.
16. In our letter of 29 March 1996, all councils were informed of the proposed methodology and future pattern of representation for their council area. Councils were requested to make any representations they wished on numbers of councillors by 29 April 1996 so that a meeting could be arranged with the Deputy Chairman and Secretary to discuss the pattern of representation and any matters regarding our review that the Council wished to raise. Following visits to all councils by the Deputy Chairman and Secretary to discuss the proposed methodology and to consider alternatives which could be applied across Scotland, no alternative methodologies were offered but a number of councils suggested that the underlying classification should be amended to include an additional category.
17. At our meeting of 17 June 1996, we re-examined the criteria to be used to categorise mainland councils with similar characteristics in light of the representations made by a number of councils. We concluded that there should be 6 rather than 5 categories. The final categorisation of similar mainland councils was then agreed as follows:
 - Category 1 Large Cities Glasgow and Edinburgh.
 - Category 2 Cities Aberdeen and Dundee.
 - Category 3 Authorities with less than 60% of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **AND** an overall population density of one person or more per hectare.
 - Category 4 Authorities with **EITHER** 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons **OR** an overall population density of less than one person per hectare.

- Category 5 Authorities with 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons AND an overall population density of less than one person per hectare.
- Category 6 Authorities with 60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 10,000 or more persons AND an overall population density of less than 0.2 persons per hectare.

18. In addition to the 6 categories we then determined the ratio of councillors to electorate for mainland councils that would allow for efficient management and appropriate representation, as set out in paragraphs 11 - 14 above, and considered that the following would be appropriate:

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| • Category 1 | 1:6,000 |
| • Category 2 | 1:4,000 |
| • Category 3 | 1:3,500 |
| • Category 4 | 1:3,000 |
| • Category 5 | 1:2,500 |
| • Category 6 | 1:2,000 |

19. On 20 June 1996 we wrote to all mainland councils informing them of the revised criteria for determining councillor numbers and inviting them to prepare a draft scheme of electoral arrangements for their Council area. Following upon that, Aberdeen City Council brought a petition for Judicial Review of the decision taken by us at our meeting of 17 June, 1996 in the Court of Session. In it they sought a decree of declarator that that decision in relation to them was unlawful, ultra vires and null and void; they also sought a decree of reduction of the decision in relation to them and certain ancillary remedies. We resisted this petition, which was dismissed by the Court on 20 December 1996 after a hearing.

20. We considered the ratio of councillors to electors for the 3 islands councils at our meeting of 26 August 1996 and concluded that the appropriate ratio would be 1:750. On 28 August 1996 we wrote to these councils informing them of our decision.

21. Falkirk Council wrote to the Commission on 20 June 1996 to say that Provost Fowler requested a meeting to discuss the Commission's proposal that 32 wards was appropriate for its council area. We replied on 27 June 1996 saying that the matter of Council size had been considered very carefully and that representations already made by Falkirk Council had been taken into account before a final conclusion had been reached. The Commission considered that, in the circumstances, a meeting with Provost Fowler would serve no useful purpose.

22. The Council wrote to the Commission on 11 July 1996 asking that we provide details of the criteria used by the Commission to determine Council size. Details were provided to the Council on 17 July 1996.

Falkirk Council's Proposals

23. The Council submitted a scheme of electoral arrangements for 32 wards on 8 January 1997. The Council's proposals had been the subject of an extensive public consultation exercise. Copies of representations made to the Council were forwarded to the Commission. The Council stated that it continued to object strongly to the reduction in the number of elected representatives from 36 to 32.
24. The Council based its draft scheme on six community areas which it believed were geographically appropriate and considered by the communities to be logical and to reflect the de facto situation. Each area, based around a main town, had regard to school catchment areas etc., was largely self-contained and was said to have a strong sense of identity. The areas had local transport and communications links, formed a discrete service delivery area for the Council and were consistent with the Council's decentralisation proposals.
25. In determining its proposals, the Council had recognised the statutory rules and its strong sense of commitment to the division of the community into six areas, which, it believed, had the support of these communities. The Council concluded that the statutory criteria regarding parity had been satisfied, as nearly as may be, in four of the six areas and that, in all areas, community links were recognised. The Council acknowledged that the Commission could choose to disregard its proposals should it consider that obligations in relation to electoral parity were not met. However, the Council believed that if the Commission was to prepare a scheme which did not have regard to the six community areas, this could result in, for example, electors in Bo'ness and Polmont being part of the same ward, which would not best serve the electorate. The Commission was, therefore, urged to consider the principle of the six areas and, thereafter, the draft scheme based on this principle. The Council submitted that its draft scheme was an improvement on current arrangements and that rejection of the scheme, and in particular of the six area scenario, would increase the potential for the electorate to perceive that it had no influence on the issue.
26. Our initial analysis of the Council's draft scheme led us to conclude that, whilst we could appreciate the Council's methodology which divided its area into six community areas, the constraints imposed by giving prior consideration to other non-electoral boundaries had produced a scheme of electorate which was not acceptable in some areas in terms of the statutory primary rule concerning electoral parity. The Commission further concluded that, excluding the Cities, Falkirk Council area was one of the most densely populated and categorised as a mainly urban area. The range of divergence from electoral parity in Denny/Bonnybridge and Bo'ness was, therefore, inappropriate. The Commission's Secretariat was directed to seek the Council's assistance in devising an alternative scheme which produced better overall electoral parity.
27. Discussions were held with Council officials in an effort to resolve the parity issues but it was clear that the Council, which was committed to retaining the six

community areas, would be concerned with the possibility that these boundaries would be breached. Nevertheless, Council officials undertook to review the initial scheme submitted to the Commission.

28. On 26 March 1997, the Council submitted a modified scheme for our consideration and drew attention to the fact that its principle of maintaining six community areas had unqualified public support. The Council believed that departure from this principle would be contrary to the wishes of the public and would result in a loss of faith, on the part of the electorate, in the consultation process. The Council further believed that a review of electoral arrangements must produce a scheme which was actually and perceptually fair in terms of representation and that any scheme which failed this test would be discredited. The public would not, for example, be persuaded that it was appropriate to create a ward linking Bonnybridge with Shieldhill or Larbert. The Council believed that its revised draft scheme represented a significant improvement on its original proposals and the Commission was urged to adopt the revision.
29. Ten representations were received.
30. Bo'ness Community Council were of the view that three Councillors was an unacceptable decline in the democratic process but offered no alternative ward boundaries.
31. Brightons Community Council recommended that the Council's proposals for six wards in the area should be accepted. However, the division of Brightons village into three parts was unacceptable. The village boundaries were easily identifiable and they should not be impinged upon.
32. Blackness Area Community Council supported a 4 ward option for Bo'ness/Blackness and proposed that the name of Ward 13 should be 'Grange and Blackness'.
33. Grahamston Community Council wrote to say that it would be supporting a submission by Councillor Alexander which created two wards in its area based on natural boundaries. It appreciated that the proposals would create an imbalance in electoral parity but it concluded that traditional communities should be retained and not carved up as the Council proposed.
34. Bo'ness Labour Party considered that Bo'ness should have four wards. It believed that, if the area was covered by three wards, they would have the largest electorates in the Council area. It believed also that parts of the wards for Bo'ness would incorporate rural areas and this justified wards with fewer than 3,500 electors. It concluded that the increase in housing at the east end of the town was substantial. Any adjustments to the existing boundaries should be minimal and changes should reflect natural communities.
35. Councillor J Constable wrote on behalf of himself and Councillors Eaglesham and H Constable to support Bo'ness Branch Scottish National Party and Falkirk

Council Scottish National Party Liaison Committee. The Councillor agreed that neither a three ward nor a four ward solution would produce electoral parity but believed that the Scottish National Party's proposal embraced the broader picture of how four wards could be achieved in Bo'ness by remodelling Denny/Bonnybridge - which had no valid argument to be treated as a special case - and removing a ward. A map was provided which the Councillor believed showed boundaries which caused minimal disruption to existing boundaries, retained community links and allowed reasonable electoral parity.

36. Michael Connarty MP considered that Bo'ness should be represented by 4 councillors rather than the three designated in the Council scheme. Mr Connarty asserted that the Council had failed to include planned housing developments which would provide sufficient electorate to justify an additional ward. No alternative ward boundaries were offered for consideration but it was clear that the intention was that any revision of Bo'ness should not incorporate electorate which was not closely associated with the town.
37. The Scottish National Party, Falkirk Council Liaison Committee, submitted alternative proposals which were based on the six community areas determined by the Council. The Committee believed that, in Bo'ness, Denny and Falkirk, its proposals better matched the statutory criteria in terms of numerical parity and natural community boundaries and that the Council's submission had been influenced by political considerations.
38. The Scottish National Party, Bo'ness Branch, considered that it had solid and justifiable grounds for arguing that Bo'ness should continue to be represented by four Councillors. It stated that it was in accord with the Scottish National Party, Falkirk Council Liaison Committee's submission.
39. A letter was received which set out proposals for three wards in Bo'ness each containing approximately 3,454 electors. The correspondent, however, favoured the retention of four wards in this area.
40. We noted the views of those who considered that Bo'ness should have four rather than three wards but concluded that this would only be possible within the statutory rules if sufficient electorate elsewhere in the Council area could be associated with the town. We consulted the Council with regard to claims that it had not included substantial new housing in Bo'ness in its proposals and were informed that electorate which could be expected from new build occupied by 2001 had been accounted for. We asked the Council about the proposal from Blackness and Grange Community Council that Ward 13 be renamed 'Grange and Blackness'. There was no objection and, in line with our general policy regarding ward names, we agreed to the change of designation.
41. We considered the revised scheme submitted by Falkirk Council together with alternative proposals submitted by the Scottish National Party, Falkirk Council Liaison Committee, and concluded that both schemes had merit.

42. In assessing the Council's scheme we noted that, in the 24 wards outwith the Bo'ness and Denny/Bonnybridge areas, electoral parity was acceptable. Ward boundaries were well defined across the Council area. It was clear, however, that the west and south of the Council area was over-represented, the cumulative divergence from parity in the area amounting to -88% with the largest divergences from parity in contiguous built-up areas. Conversely, in Bo'ness there was a cumulative divergence from parity of 35%. We concluded that further consideration was necessary in the Denny/Bonnybridge and Bo'ness areas.
43. In the Scottish National Party, Falkirk Council Liaison Committee's scheme, we noted that 23 of the 32 wards produced good electoral parity and, overall, the scheme showed well-defined boundaries. However, the scheme treated Bo'ness as a special case; the area was over-represented and the cumulative divergence from electoral parity amounted to -65%. There were also some moderately large divergences from electoral parity elsewhere in the Council area.
44. Overall, we considered that both schemes had merit but we concluded that the position in Denny/Bonnybridge and Bo'ness was not acceptable in terms of the statutory rules. We directed our Secretariat to examine the possibility of achieving better electoral parity across the whole Council area adopting wards from either the Council or the Scottish National Party scheme where it was possible and practical to do so.
45. Our Secretariat examined both schemes in detail and concluded that it would not be possible to use a mixture of wards from the schemes submitted by the Council and the Scottish National Party. It appeared that it might be possible to resolve the Denny/Bonnybridge and Bo'ness parity issues identified in the Council's draft scheme without amending the boundaries of Wards 1 - 12, 16 - 20, 27, 29 and 32. However, an examination of the scheme submitted by the Scottish National Party indicated that it would not be possible to resolve the main problem in the Bo'ness area and minor problems elsewhere without a major revision across the whole Council area.
46. In preparing a revision of the Council's draft scheme, our officers sought to bring the wards in Denny/Bonnybridge closer to parity and made consequential adjustments to the boundaries of wards lying to the south of the Council area. The wards in Bo'ness were also revised and an area around Maddiston/Whitecross associated with Bo'ness. We observed that parity in the Denny/Bonnybridge area had been significantly improved. In the Bo'ness area we noted that the proposal produced three wards close to parity. Overall, we considered that the revised proposals were broadly acceptable.

Publication of Commission's Provisional Proposals

47. Public notice was given of the publication of our provisional proposals on 29 April 1998. Falkirk Council was asked to make available for inspection at its offices copies of the electoral ward boundary descriptions, electoral statistics and

illustrative maps. Additionally, copies of our proposals were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had expressed an interest. We asked that any comments should be made to us by 27 May 1998.

Consideration of Representations

48. Eighty-three representations were received:

- **Blackness Community Council** wrote to say that it was pleased its submission had been accepted. We noted the comment.
- **Brightons Community Council** stated that it agreed with the reduction in the number of Councillors but it considered that the division of Brightons between Wards 29 and 31 would result in two Councillors attending to community affairs and that this would be divisive and confusing. The Community Council considered that there were grounds for the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner to conduct a local hearing.

We noted the views expressed but concluded that there were no good reasons for conducting a local hearing.

- **Grahamston Community Council** wrote to say that the provisional proposals not only compromised the feeling of community spirit within Grahamston but were also in breach of the statutory rules regarding local ties. The catchment area for the Community Council bore little resemblance to the electoral wards within the Council area. This would lead to the watering-down of commitments, reversing what the Community Council saw as a central government emphasis to increase the involvement of Community Councils in decentralised decision making. Alternative boundaries were proposed.

We noted that, in developing proposals for revised electoral arrangements, we cannot be constrained by the boundaries of Community Council areas etc. which are a matter for the Council. We noted also that it was not possible to accept the alternative boundaries proposed in isolation. If the alternative boundaries were adopted, there would need to be consequential changes to adjoining wards where few or no representations had been made regarding our provisional proposals. We concluded, therefore, that we were unable to adopt the changes proposed.

- **Maddiston Area Community Council** considered that it was disgraceful that we had carved through its village to reach parity. Natural boundary lines, such as the Canal and post codes, needed to be looked at. Taking the top half of Maddiston and Whitecross village and lumping it with Bo'ness, then removing the name Muiravonside, which was one of the oldest parishes, added insult to injury. The Community Council believed that the Commission had assured it that communities were paramount and that

parity would be reached by looking at urban areas. A petition against the provisional proposals was being organised.

We noted the views expressed but concluded that our proposals were equitable across the whole Council area.

- **Shieldhill and California Community Council** wrote to say that there were no links between Shieldhill and Bonnybridge and that, in order to travel to Bonnybridge to visit a Councillor, it would be necessary to use two bus services. A Bonnybridge Councillor would not know about Shieldhill and could not, therefore, adequately represent Shieldhill views. Darnrig Ward was unacceptable.

We noted the Community Council's views but concluded that our proposals were equitable across the whole Council area.

- **Councillor Buchanan** vigorously objected to the proposed Darnrig Ward. It would be a logistical nightmare to get from Shieldhill to Greenhill and High Bonnybridge. Falkirk Council's scheme should alleviate any concerns we might have on electoral parity. The proposals were preposterous enough but, as an amateur historian, the Councillor was mystified by the name. Identity was important and the Commission was taking away the historical identity of Greenhill and High Bonnybridge. The areas of Shieldhill and Greenhill/High Bonnybridge had no community ties and the vast majority of the populace of the latter settlements had never been to Shieldhill, were unsure of its location and knew nothing about it. Communities had been thrown aside and there would be confusion and difficulties with Parliamentary Constituencies. Postal codes were important and this would also cause confusion. The Commission's proposals were just a piece of nonsense. The Commission should adopt the Council's proposals. A petition was being circulated in the communities.

We noted the Councillor's views. We noted that the name 'Darnrig' had been suggested from within the council area. With regard to the Council's scheme, we remained of the view that there was a need to reflect better the statutory rule regarding electoral parity across the Council and concluded that our provisional proposals were equitable. We noted that, in revising electoral arrangements for local government areas, the Commission is not constrained by the boundaries of Parliamentary Constituencies which are the responsibility of the Boundary Commission for Scotland. We noted also that postal codes have no defined boundaries and are of no relevance in determining revised electoral arrangements.

- **Councillor J Constable** wrote to say that there was very strong concern expressed within the Scottish National Party Group and local Party Branches and asked for a meeting with Commissioners to discuss the

matters. Councillor Constable later forwarded 27 proforma letters from residents of Bo'ness who objected to the provisional proposals.

We noted the Councillor's remarks and the proforma letters from those in Bo'ness objecting to our provisional proposals. The Commission's general policy is to consider representations submitted in writing unless there are exceptional circumstances where additional information is required. The representations considered that the only means of obtaining such information was through a local inquiry but we concluded that, in this instance, there were no reasons which would justify conducting a local enquiry.

- **Councillor Cook** wrote to say that the provisional proposals were of concern to the people of the proposed Wards 16 and 30. They should be reconsidered.

We noted the views expressed but were not able to make adjustments in this area which produced wards which better satisfied the statutory rule regarding electoral parity.

- **Provost Fowler** wrote on behalf of the community of Maddiston to object to the proposed division of the area between Wards 16 and 31. He believed that one of the main components of village life was the retention of complete communities and urged that the Commission retain Maddiston with Brightons in a single ward, using the Union Canal as the eastern boundary.

We noted the views expressed but were not able to make adjustments in this area which produced wards which better satisfied the statutory rule regarding electoral parity.

- **Councillor Short** wrote to oppose the Commission's proposals which were considered impracticable and unacceptable by the people concerned, particularly in Wards 16 and 30.

We noted the views expressed but concluded that our proposals were equitable across the whole Council area.

- **Falkirk West Conservative and Unionist Association** expressed the view that proposals for Ward 3 were acceptable. Whilst it would have been preferable if the boundaries of wards to the south of the Council area had remained as they presently exist, the Association recognised that this was not possible given the reduction in wards. The Association suggested that, given the area covered by Ward 3, it would be more appropriately named 'Woodlands'. Council officials informed us that 'Woodlands' had been the name used in the scheme which the Council had put to public consultation. In line with our general policy regarding the designation of

wards, we agreed that the name should be changed to 'Woodlands' as requested.

- **The Bo'ness Branch of the Labour Party** wrote to congratulate and thank us for the decision to retain four wards for Bo'ness. The Party recognised that the retention of existing ward boundaries was not an option and acknowledged that there was a need to alter boundaries to ensure electoral equity in neighbouring wards. It noted the harmonious relationship between Blackness and Bo'ness and was prepared for the area to be linked with other communities. It was, however, thought that Ward 16 should lose that part of Maddiston which lay within its boundaries but that the link with Whitecross should be maintained. It was noted that this would result in a ward which did not meet electoral parity but it believed that other compensatory adjustments could resolve the position.

We noted the Bo'ness Branch's comments on our proposals for the Bo'ness area. We carefully re-examined the possibility of removing Maddiston from Ward 16 and adjusting other boundaries to maintain good electoral parity. We concluded that it was not possible to make compensatory adjustments which satisfied the statutory rule regarding electoral parity in the areas in question. We were, therefore, not prepared to revise our provisional proposals in this area.

- **Braes Labour Party** wrote to say that the proposals for Ward 16 and Ward 30 were disturbing. Trying to link Whitecross and Maddiston with Bo'ness and Shieldhill with Bonnybridge, totally ignored any sense of community which these areas had. There was no direct public transport and journeys would be difficult and costly. It believed also that there would be an adverse effect on the way that the Council provided services. We were asked to reconsider our proposals.

We noted the views expressed by Braes Labour Party but were not able to make adjustments in this area which produced wards which better satisfied the statutory rule regarding electoral parity.

- **The Scottish National Party, Bo'ness Branch**, wrote to say that there was an exceptional case for Bo'ness retaining four wards despite the adverse impact on electoral parity and that this could be justified under the statutory rules which state that regard should be taken of any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary. Bo'ness and Blackness have a very keen sense of identity, perhaps born of their uniquely separate geographical location and long-established local history and traditions. The case for preserving local identity as an important part of community life stood and it was argued that the variety of characteristics required four members to provide adequate representation. The Branch was appalled at the proposals to create a Kinneil/Whitecross Ward which were greeted with disbelief in the areas affected. To divorce the three estates at the south west shoulder of Bo'ness from the

Borrowstoun Mains estate would disrupt the very clear community links between them. Bo'ness Branch of the Scottish National Party argued that Bo'ness is a classic example of the reasoning behind Schedule 6 and that the proposals were seriously at variance with the spirit of the Act. The Commission should revise its proposals and keep the Bo'ness community intact. Bo'ness Scottish Nationalist Party further indicated that it would like to place its views before a Public Local Enquiry.

We noted the views expressed. We concluded that we had sufficient information available to allow us to make recommendations regarding revised electoral arrangements for Falkirk Council area and that there was no justifiable reason for the appointment of an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local enquiry. We concluded also that there were no special geographical reasons which would allow us to deviate from the statutory rule regarding electoral parity. As we mention above, after carefully re-examining the area, we were not able to make adjustments which produced wards which better reflected the statutory rule regarding electoral parity and we were, therefore, not prepared to revise our provisional proposals.

- **The Scottish National Party, Falkirk Council Liaison Committee,** wrote to say that it believed that Commissioners had considered only the options placed before them by Falkirk Council. The fact that only Falkirk Council had been asked to revise its original proposals gave the Labour-controlled Council an unfair advantage as well as sending a clear message that the Council's proposals would form the basis of the Commission's decision at the expense of all other submissions. The Committee found such action an unfortunate precedent in that the winners of one election are awarded the privilege of playing a disproportionate role in the formulation of boundaries for the next elections. Background papers were provided which it was thought would demonstrate that the Council's unbiased submission was in fact that of the Labour Party.

The Committee considered that the geographical location of Bo'ness and Blackness warranted four wards and believed that the proposals it had submitted achieved this with the least disruption to existing boundaries and communities. It stated that it opposed the Commission's proposals for Kinneil/Whitecross Ward in terms of paragraph 1.3b of the statutory rules. These communities had no previous ties, no history of shared interests and no common goals to justify the proposal. It submitted that its proposals were superior because the government is committed to decentralisation and environmentally friendly policies and it is wrong to put in place a ward which prohibits the use of public transport, there being no direct bus links between Bo'ness and Whitecross. It supported a submission from the Laurieston Branch of the Scottish National Party which it considered would clear up an anomaly in the Commission's proposals with no effect on parity. It opposed the proposals for Darnrig Ward and considered that Commissioners should consider such issues as transport and infrastructure links between communities. It believed that its proposals for Falkirk were

a more realistic compromise between the need to ensure parity and the recognition of community boundaries. It resubmitted its original proposals for the Council area and hoped that they would be recognised by the Commission.

As we mention above, very careful consideration was given to the draft scheme of electoral arrangements and alternative proposals submitted by the Liaison Committee and others prior to the publication of our provisional proposals. The Liaison Committee considered that we had failed to apply the statutory rules concerning the fixing of boundaries and having regard to community ties properly. We noted that these rules are subject to consideration of the primary rule concerning electoral parity and that there were no special geographical considerations which made it possible to deviate from the application of the primary rule. We concluded that there was no justifiable reason why wards in the Bo'ness area should not be revised in such a way that achieved, as far as practicable, as close an approximation with electoral parity as was possible. Accordingly, we were not prepared to adopt the Scottish National Party scheme of electorate for Falkirk Council area.

- **The Scottish National Party, Laurieston Branch** requested that an area comprising East and West Beancross farms should be included in Ward 27.

We noted that the proposal produced a well-defined boundary and had no impact on electoral parity. We noted also that, following consultation, the Council had maintained the southern boundary of Ward 10 along the line of the former burgh boundary, rather than the line of the M9 as had been originally proposed. We further noted that no objection to the provisional proposals had been received from electorate in the area in question. We concluded, therefore, that our provisional proposals in this area should not be altered.

- Thirty-seven proforma letters were received opposing Millburn Street being incorporated into Town Centre Ward because there were a number of senior citizen residents who would have to walk uphill for approximately one mile to vote. The area had been in Ladysmill Ward for some time and should now be in Middlefield Ward.

We noted the views expressed but were not prepared to amend our provisional proposals because the proposed alteration had an adverse effect on electoral parity.

- **Victoria Primary School Board** wrote to express concerns that the proposals for Grahamston meant that the main catchment area for the school was being fragmented by splitting it between three, rather than two, wards. It stated that the local authority ethos for schools is for them to be the focus of the community. By breaking away areas like, for example, Castings, children would find themselves attending a school where they are

not part of the community. The effect of the changes could lead to friction between communities.

We noted the School Board's view. We noted that the Electoral Review is concerned with revising boundaries for electoral arrangements and could not be constrained by irrelevant issues such as School Board catchment area boundaries which were for Falkirk Council's consideration.

- A letter was received expressing concern about breaking close ties with neighbouring communities of Shieldhill, together with a petition objecting to the provisional proposals which was signed by 239 Shieldhill residents.

We noted the views expressed but, as we mention above, we concluded that our provisional proposals were equitable across the Council area.

- **The Council** wrote to say that, whilst adopting to a significant degree the Council's original proposals, the provisional proposals were unacceptable. They contained two Wards (16 and 30) which, it was believed, did not accord with the statutory rules. The Council believed that, in considering electoral parity, the greatest emphasis should be placed on the statutory requirement that the numbers of electors shall be 'as nearly as may be' the same in each electoral area. The Council, however, was aware of and also took into account the supplementary rules that existed which state that, 'subject to the provisions for parity, regard shall be had to the fixing of boundaries and local ties'. The Council believed that the provisional proposals failed, in the case of Wards 16 and 30, to have regard to local ties which would be broken by the fixing of a particular boundary.

The Council believed that the division of its area into six community areas was perceived, without argument by these communities to be logical and to reflect the position as it stands. The Council had regard not only to the Schedule 6 rules but also to its strong commitment, and to the commitment of its communities, to the division of its area into six community areas. A substantial proportion of the Council's service delivery areas were breached by the Commission's proposals and local ties were severed. The Commission's proposals, in terms of parity, were only superior to a degree to those of the Council and parity could be achieved only to an extent, whereas the Council had regard to community ties as was undoubtedly intended by the legislation. A list was provided detailing each service delivery affected by the Commission's proposals which served to emphasise the grave detrimental effect which the provisional proposals would have on certain parts of the community. The Council believed that it was ironic that proposals which would further aggravate the vexed question of democratic legitimacy of local Councils was being promulgated by the Commission. We were asked to amend our provisional proposals or, alternatively, recommend to the Secretary of State that an Assistant Commissioner be appointed to hold a local hearing.

We carefully considered the Council's detailed submission in response to our provisional proposals. We concluded that the Council area was generally compact and mainly urban and that there were no special geographical considerations which would justify the divergences from parity in the Council's proposals for the Denny/Bonnybridge and Bo'ness areas. We concluded also that areas designated by the Council for service delivery, which were not subject to the rules concerning local electoral arrangements, should not subsequently unduly influence the consideration of revised electoral arrangements, particularly when such recognition constrained the application of the statutory rule regarding parity. We noted that in the Denny/Bonnybridge and Bo'ness areas representations opposing the provisional proposals had been few.

We concluded that our provisional proposals for the Council area were equitable, that there was sufficient information available to allow the Commission to consider representations and make final recommendations and that there were no justifiable reasons for requesting that the Secretary of State appoint an Assistant Commissioner to conduct a local hearing.

Final Recommendation

49. Having conducted the third statutory review of electoral arrangements for Falkirk Council area in accordance with the procedures described above, we **recommend** that future electoral arrangements for the said Council should provide for a Council of 32 members.
50. The designation of the electoral wards that we recommend for Falkirk Council, together with information which we have received from the Council as to the 1996 electorate and forecast 2001 electorate of the proposed wards, are set out at Appendix B to this report.
51. The boundaries of the proposed electoral wards are described in Appendix C and the following illustrative maps accompany this report:

Map	Area	Scale
1A	Falkirk Council Area	1:25,000
1B	Falkirk Council Area	1:25,000
2	Falkirk Council Area West	1:10,000
3	Falkirk Council Area Central	1:10,000
4	Falkirk Council Area East	1:10,000

**Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973: Schedule 6
(As amended by the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994)
Rules to be Observed in Considering Electoral Arrangements**

1. (1) This Schedule applies to the consideration by the Secretary of State or the Boundary Commission of the electoral arrangements for election of councillors of local government areas.
 - (2) Having regard to any change in the number or distribution of electors of a local government area likely to take place within the period of five years immediately following the consideration, the number of local government electors shall be, as nearly as may be, the same in every electoral area of that local government area.
 - (3) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) above, in considering the electoral arrangements referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above regard shall be had to-
 - (a) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable;
 - (b) any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary.
2. The strict application of the rule stated in paragraph 1(2) above may be departed from in any area where special geographical conditions appear to render a departure desirable.

Falkirk Council Area Proposed Electoral Wards

Number	Name	Electorate	
		1996 (Actual)	2001 (Estimated)
a	b	c	d
1	Camelon	3,629	3,474
2	Summerford	3,603	3,578
3	Woodlands	3,450	3,602
4	Town Centre	3,674	3,585
5	Hall Glen	3,721	3,562
6	Dawson	3,657	3,585
7	Grahamsford	3,313	3,539
8	Middlefield	3,650	3,590
9	Zetland	3,724	3,595
10	Beancross	3,625	3,550
11	Inchyra	3,719	3,560
12	Dundas/ Kerse	3,563	3,553
13	Grange and Blackness	3,191	3,258
14	Dean	3,317	3,203
15	Borrowstoun	3,499	3,349
16	Kinneil and Whitecross	3,306	3,280
17	Forthside	3,266	3,579
18	Kinnaird	3,550	3,613
19	Carrongrange	3,571	3,622
20	Tryst	3,606	3,560
21	Larbert	3,419	3,446
22	Herbertshire	3,437	3,542
23	Denny	3,482	3,381
24	Denny South	3,354	3,297
25	Bonnybridge	3,458	3,395
26	Banknock	3,019	3,135
27	Laurieston	3,452	3,318
28	Polmont	3,415	3,377
29	Redding and Westquarter	3,017	3,335
30	Darnrig	3,340	3,512
31	Reddingmuirhead, Brightons and Rumford	3,096	3,217
32	Avon	3,479	3,330
Total		110,602	110,522

**Falkirk Council Area
Proposed Electoral Wards
Descriptions of Boundaries**

Notes:

In the following description of boundaries:

- ♦ a reference to a road, footpath, railway line, river, burn or canal shall, where the context so admits, be construed as the centre line of the feature concerned; and
- ♦ the following abbreviations are used:

EW for Electoral Ward

NG Ref for National Grid Reference as published on Ordnance Survey Maps.

**Ward 1
Camelon**

Commencing at the point where the Glasgow to Falkirk and Stirling railway crosses beneath the Forth and Clyde Canal at NG Ref NS 8518 8031, then following the centreline of the railway track northeastward to the Carmuir West Junction; then northeastward along the centre of the Glasgow to Falkirk (Grahamston) branch railway line to Carmuir East Junction; then eastward along the centreline of the Stirling to Falkirk railway track to the bridge across the A9 Stirling Road, Falkirk; then southward along the centreline of Stirling Road to its junction with Main Street, Camelon; then eastward along the centreline of Main Street, Camelon to its junction with Union Road; then southward along the centreline of Union Road to Lock 16 on the Forth and Clyde canal; returning westward along the centre of the Forth and Clyde canal to the point where it crosses over the Glasgow to Falkirk and Stirling railway and point of commencement.

**Ward 2
Summerford**

Commencing at the boundary with EW 1 - where the Glasgow to Falkirk (Grahamston) railway bridge crosses the A9, Stirling Road, Falkirk and following the centreline of Stirling Road northwestward to and northeastward along a track leading to a footbridge across the River Carron at NG Ref NS 8668 8133; then generally northeastward along the said river to its confluence with an unnamed burn flowing

northward from Cauldhame; then generally southward along the said unnamed burn to the field boundary leading east from Cauldhame; then eastward along the said field boundary to and generally southward along the Mungal Burn to where it is crossed by the Northern Distributor Road; then southwestward along the centreline of the said road to the roundabout at the start of the said road; then southeastward along the centreline of Camelon Road to and southwestward along Glenfuir Road to a point due northwest of the point where western and rear curtilages of Nos 25-27 Rosebank Avenue meet; then southwestward to and southward along the western curtilage of the said property and continuing southward along the rear curtilages of the western most properties on Springfield Drive and the continuation thereof in a straight line to the Antonine Wall; then westward along the said wall to and northwestward along the centreline of Westburn Avenue to its junction with Blinkbonny Road; then southward along the centreline of the said road to and southeastward along the centreline of Windsor Road to its junction with Balmoral Drive; then southward along the centreline of the said drive to a point on Bantaskine Street in line with the curtilage between Nos 81 and 83 Bantaskine Street; then southward to and along the said curtilage and the continuation thereof in a straight line to the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line; then westward along the centreline of the said railway line to where it crosses the Rowantree Burn; then generally northward along the said burn to where it is crossed by the Falkirk to Glasgow railway line; then eastward along the centreline of the said railway line to the southern boundary of EW 1; then eastward and generally northward along the southern and eastern boundaries of the said EW boundary to point of commencement.

**Ward 3
Woodlands**

Commencing on the eastern boundary of EW 2 at the junction between Blinkbonny Road and Westburn Avenue; then southeastward along the said EW boundary and continuing eastward along the centreline of Westburn Avenue to and southwestward along the centreline of Majors Loan to Rennie Street; then eastward along the centreline of Rennie Street to and southward along the centreline of Griffiths Street to Cow Wynd; then generally southwestward along the centreline of Cow Wynd and its continuation as High Station Road to and southward along the centreline of

Glen Brae to Slamannan Road; then westward along the centreline of the said road to and southeastward along the centreline of the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line to where it is crossed by Glen Brae; then southward along the centreline of the said brae and its continuation as the B8028 to where it crosses the Glen Burn; then generally westward along the said burn to where it is crossed by the B803; then northward along the centreline of the said road to a point NG Ref NS 8686 7837 in line with the western boundary of a strip of woodland; then northward to and along the said boundary to Lochgreen Road; then northeastward along the centreline of the said road to and generally westward along the centreline of Greenbank Road to and westward along the centreline of a track to the south of Tamfourhill Wood to a point in line with the eastern boundary of the said wood; then northward to and along the said boundary and the continuation thereof in a straight line to the southern boundary of EW 2; then eastward and generally northward along the southern and eastern boundaries of the said EW to point of commencement.

Ward 4 Town Centre

Commencing on the eastern boundary of EW 2 where the Northern Distributor Road crosses the Stirling to Falkirk railway line; then southeastward along the centreline of the said railway line to a point NG Ref NS 8901 8021 due south of the western perimeter of the industrial area at Ladysmill; then northward to and generally northeastward and eastward following the said western perimeter and the northern perimeter of the said industrial area to Victoria Road; then southeastward along the centreline of the said road to and generally eastward along Queen Street to its junction with Thornhill Road; then southeastward along the said road to a point in line with the southern boundary of Victoria Park at NG Ref NS 8952 8037; then northeastward to and along the said boundary of the said park to and southward along the western boundary of The Forth Centre to the access path at the eastern curtilage of No28 Grangemouth Road; then southwestward and southeastward along the said path to the A904 (Grangemouth Road); then southwestward along the said road to where it is crossed by the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line; then southeastward along the said railway line to a point in line with the southern boundary wall of Callendar Park (Callendar Wood); then westward to and

along the said boundary wall to its intersection with a path to the west of the Reservoir (covered) leading from Hallglen Road to Estate Avenue; then generally northwestward along the said path to and westward along Estate Avenue to a path leading to Kemper Avenue; then southwestward along the said path to and northward along Kemper Avenue to its junction with Arnot Street; then westward along the said street and St Crispin Place to and southwestward along Cow Wynd to the northern boundary of EW 3; then generally northwestward along the said boundary to and generally northeastward along the eastern boundary of EW 2 to point of commencement.

Ward 5 Hall Glen

Commencing on the eastern boundary of EW 3 and the southern boundary of EW 4 at the junction between Griffiths Street and Cow Wynd; then generally northeastward and southeastward along the southern boundary of EW 4 to and southeastward along the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line to where it crosses the Westquarter Burn; then generally southwestward along the said burn to where it is crossed by the Union Canal; then westward along the said canal to the eastern boundary of EW 3; then generally northward along the said boundary of the said EW to point of commencement.

Ward 6 Dawson

Commencing at the point where the Carron Road, Falkirk crosses the River Carron; then generally northeastward and southeastward along the said river to its confluence with Ladysmill Burn; then generally southward and southwestward along the said burn to where it meets the Forth and Clyde Canal; then southwestward along the said canal to a point in line with eastern boundary of the Telephone Engineering Centre on The Roundel; then southward to and along the said boundary and the continuation thereof in a straight line to Etna Road; then southwestward along the said road and its continuation as Dalderse Avenue to and northwestward along the B902, Grahams Road, Main Street Bainsford and its continuation as Carron Road, Falkirk to point of commencement.

Ward 7 Grahamsford

Commencing on the western boundary of EW 6 at the point where Carron Road, Falkirk crosses the River Carron; then generally southeastward and northeastward along the western and southern boundaries of the said EW to the junction between Dalderse Avenue and Thornhill Road; then southeastward along Thornhill Road to a point in line with the northern curtilage of Nos 370 to 380 Thornhill Road; then southwestward to and along the said curtilage to the rear curtilage of the said properties; then generally southeastward along the rear curtilages of Nos 380 to 346 Thornhill Road to the rear curtilage of Nos 1 to 5 Thistle Street; then southward along the said curtilage to and westward along Thistle Street to a point in line with the rear curtilage of Nos 2 to 12 Thistle Street; then southward to and along the rear curtilage of Nos 2 to 12 Thistle Street, the rear curtilages of Nos 8 to 10 Wallace Place and the western curtilage of No 93 to 115 Wallace Street to Wallace Street; then eastward along the said street to a point in line with the western curtilage of No 92 to 94 Wallace Street; then southward to and southward and eastward along the western and southern boundaries of the said property to and southward along the western boundary of Firs Park football ground to the northern boundary of EW 4; then generally southwestward and westward along the said boundary of the said EW to and generally northward along the eastern boundary of EW 2 to where it meets the River Carron; then generally northeastward along the said river to point of commencement.

Ward 8 Middlefield

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 6 at the junction between Thornhill Road and Dalderse Avenue; then generally northeastward along the said boundary of the said EW to where it meets the railway line from Dalderse to Fouldubs Junction; then southeastward along the said railway line to where it is crossed by Laurieston Road; then southward along the said road to its crossing of the railway line from Fouldubs Junction to Falkirk (Grahamston); then southwestward along the said railway line to a point in line with the road leading south past the TA Centre; then southward to and along the said road to the northern boundary of EW 4; then generally northwestward along the said EW boundary to

and generally northward along the eastern boundary of EW 7 to point of commencement.

Ward 9 Zetland

Commencing on the eastern boundary of EW 6 at the confluence between Ladysmill Burn and the River Carron; then generally eastward along the said river to a point NG Ref NS 9200 8238; then southeastward in a straight line to and eastward along Dalgrain Road to a point NG Ref NS 9208 8231; then southward in a straight line to and northeastward along South Bridge Street to a point in line with a path leading along the eastern boundary of a timber yard, across Earls Road, to a footbridge over the Falkirk (Grahamston) to Grangemouth railway line and continuing to the southern end of Dundas Street; then northeastward along the said street to and southeastward along Wallace Street to Abbots Road; then southwestward along the said road to and southward along Burnbank Road to Montgomery Street; then southwestward along the said street, its continuation as Tedder Street and the continuation thereof in a straight line to Beancross Road; then southeastward along the said road to and westward along the slip road from the A905 to the M9 motorway; then northwestward along the said motorway to the point where it crosses the unnamed burn northeast of Newlands Cottage; then generally southwestward and westward along the said burn, and passing to the south of Newlands Cottage to the Falkirk (Grahamston) to Grangemouth railway line and the eastern boundary of EW 8; then generally northeastward and northwestward along the said EW boundary to and generally northeastward along the eastern boundary of EW 6 to point of commencement.

Ward 10 Beancross

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 9 and the M9 motorway at junction 5 where it meets the slip road to the A905; then generally northeastward along the southern boundary of EW 9 to the junction between Montgomery Street and Burnbank Road; then eastward to and across the footbridge over the Grange Burn and continuing eastward along a path to the junction of Craigleith Road and Myreton Road; then eastward along Myreton Road to and generally southward along Bowhouse Road to Torwood Avenue; then southeastward along Torwood Avenue to a point in line with the

eastern curtilage of the Church of the Holy Rood; then southward to and southward and westward along the eastern and southern curtilages of the said Church to a point in line with a path leading along the eastern boundary of Grangemouth High School; then southward to and along the said path to and eastward along Tinto Drive to a point in line with the rear curtilages of the western most properties in Grampian Crescent; then southward to and along the said rear curtilages and their continuation as the rear curtilages of properties in Kinloch Place and the western curtilage of No 16 Fintry Road to Inchyra Road; then southwestward along the said road to the roundabout at junction 5 on the M9; then generally westward along the A905 to an unnamed road leading past West Beancross Farm; then northwestward along the said road to and northwestward along the M9 to point of commencement.

Ward 11 Inchyra

Commencing on the eastern boundary of EW 9 at the junction of Wallace Street and Abbots Road; then northward along Abbots Road to and southeastward along Dalratho Road to Drummond Place; then southeastward along the said place to and eastward along Henry Street to Abbotsgrange Road; then generally southward and southeastward along the said road to and northeastward and eastward along Kersiebank Avenue to Oxgang Road; then northward along the said road to a point in line with the northern curtilage of Nos 95 to 105 Oxgang Road; then northeastward to and along the northern curtilage of the said property and the continuation thereof in a straight line to the northern section of Abbotsinch Road; then northeastward along the said road to and southeastward along Bo'ness Road (A904) to where it crosses the River Avon; then generally southwestward along the said river to where it is crossed by Wholeflats Road (B904); then westward along the said road to and southwestward along Inchyra Road to the eastern boundary of EW 10; then northward and westward along the eastern and northern boundaries of the said EW to and generally northward along the eastern boundary of EW 9 to the point of commencement.

Ward 12 Dundas/Kerse

Commencing on the eastern boundary of EW 9 on the River Carron at NG Ref NS 9200 8238;

then generally northeastward along the said river to the northern boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally southeastward along the said Council boundary to the mouth of the River Avon; then generally southwestward along the said river to and generally northwestward, southwestward and northwestward along the northern boundary of EW 11 to the eastern boundary of EW 9; then northwestward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

Ward 13 Grange and Blackness

Commencing at NG Ref NT 0029 8116 at the junction between Erngath Road and Dean Road; then northwestward and northeastward along Erngath Road to and eastward along Grange Terrace to Stark's Brae; then northeastward along the said brae to and northward and northeastward along Boundary Street and its continuation as a track to its intersection with a path leading to East Pier at NG Ref NT 0069 8180; then northeastward in a straight line to the northern boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally eastward, southward and westward along the northern, eastern and southern boundaries of Falkirk Council to a point in line with the eastern boundary of West Lothian Golf Course; then northward to and northward and westward along the eastern and northern boundaries of the said Golf Course to where it meets a track leading to Kinglass Cottage; then northward along the said track to and northward and westward along a drain line to a point in line with the eastern curtilages of the eastern most properties in Braefoot Road, Catherine Grove and Nos 29 and 44 Ritchie Place; then northward to and along the said curtilages to Borrowstoun Road; then northward across the said road to and northward along Gauze Road to and northwestward along Kinglass Avenue to point of commencement.

Ward 14 Dean

Commencing at the junction between Grangemouth Road and Snab Lane; then northward along the said lane and the continuation thereof in a straight line to the eastern boundary of EW 12; then northeastward along the said EW boundary to the northern boundary of Falkirk Council; then eastward along the said Council boundary to the western boundary of EW 13; then generally southwestward and southeastward, along the

said EW boundary to the junction between Erngath Road and Dean Road; then southwestward along Dean Road to and southward along Linlithgow Road to Douglas Drive; then westward along the said drive to and northwestward along Bo'mains Road to Forthview Crescent; then westward along the said crescent to a point in line with the southwestern curtilage of No 30 Bo'mains Road; then northwestward to and along the said curtilage and the curtilages of Nos 28-24 Bo'mains Road to the rear curtilage of No 2 Kinneil Drive; then northwestward and westward along the rear curtilages of Nos 2-30 Kinneil Drive to and across the access road between Kinneil Drive and Forthview Crescent to the rear curtilage of No 32 Kinneil Drive; then westward and southwestward along the rear curtilages of Nos 32-68 Kinneil Drive to Crawfield Avenue; then northwestward and northeastward along the said avenue to Dean Road; then southwestward along the said road to and northward along Snab Brae to point of commencement.

Ward 15 Borrowstoun

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 14 at the junction between Crawfield Avenue and Bo'mains Road; then southward, eastward, northward and northeastward along the said EW boundary to and generally southeastward along the western boundary of EW 13 to the southern boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally southwestward along the said Council boundary to its intersection with Fishers' Brae (Track); then northward along the said brae and its continuation as Fisher's Road (Track) to an unnamed road leading past the property known as Rousland; then westward along the said road to and northward along an unnamed road to the west of Borrowstounmains Reservoir to Crawfield Road; then eastward along the said road to a point in line with the rear curtilages of the eastern most properties on Blair Avenue, Clover Place and Benjamin Drive; then northward to and along the said curtilages to and northward along the eastern curtilage of No 27 Benjamin Drive to the rear curtilages of Nos 27 to 43 Benjamin Drive; then westward along the said curtilages and the continuation thereof in a straight line to the Dean Burn; then generally northwestward along the said burn to where it is crossed by a footbridge at NG Ref NS 9887 8052; then northeastward along the said footbridge to and generally northeastward along a footpath to Crawfield Avenue; then

southeastward along the said avenue to point of commencement.

Ward 16 Kinneil and Whitecross

Commencing on the eastern boundary of EW 12 where the Bo'ness Road, Grangemouth (A904) crosses the River Avon; then generally northeastward along the said EW boundary to the western boundary of EW 14; then generally southeastward, along the said EW boundary to and generally westward, southeastward, southwestward and southward along the western boundary of EW 15 to the southern boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally southwestward along the said Council boundary to a point NG Ref NS 9546 7357 where the A801 crosses the River Avon at Torphichen bridge; then northwestward along the said road to and southwestward along the B825 to an unnamed road at NG Ref NS 9335 7513 leading past the properties known as Craigend and Snabhead; then northwestward along the said unnamed road to an access road to the opencast workings at NG Ref NS 9312 7537; then northwestward to and a along a field boundary to its intersection with the Manuel Burn at NG Ref NS 9221 7588; then generally northeastward along the said burn to where it is crossed by the B805 at NG Ref NS 9402 7668; then southward along the said road to and northeastward along Vellore Road to where it crosses a tributary of the Manuel Burn at NG Ref NS 9439 7676; then generally northeastward along the said tributary to the Manuel Burn; then eastward along the said burn to where it is crossed by the A801; then northeastward along the said road to and eastward along Glasgow to Edinburgh railway line to where it is crossed by an unnamed road to the south of the property known as Lathallan; then northward, eastward and northward along the said unnamed road, passing to the east of Avon Glen Quarry (disused), and the prolongation thereof in a straight line across the A803 to the M9 Motorway; then eastward along the said motorway to the railway line link between the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line and the private Bo'ness/Kinneil railway line; then northward along the said railway line to where it crosses the River Avon; then generally northwestward along the said river to the eastern boundary of EW 11; then generally northeastward along the said EW boundary to point of commencement.

Ward 17 Forthside

Commencing on the northern boundary of Falkirk Council and the western boundary of Letham Moss at NG Ref NS 8732 8613; then generally northward, eastward and southeastward along the said Council boundary to the northern boundary of EW 12; then southwestward along the said EW boundary to and generally westward along the northern boundary of EW 9 to the northern boundary of EW 6; then generally northwestward along the said EW boundary to a point NG Ref NS 8909 8297 on the River Carron in line with the western curtilage of a Post Office on Main Street, Carrenshore; then northeastward to and along the said curtilage to Main Street; then northwestward along the said street to and westward along the path running north of the end of Blackmill Crescent and along the rear curtilages of the properties on the northern side of Burnside Place to the point where the path meets Mill Road; then northward along the said road to and northwestward along Roughlands Drive to a point in line with the northern curtilage of No 90 Roughlands Drive; then eastward to and along the said curtilage of the said property and its continuation as the curtilages of properties on Skaithmuir Crescent, Skaithmuir Avenue, Nos 101, 103 and 80 Webster Avenue and Symington Place to the southern boundary of a field south of the property known as Bensfield; then generally northeastward along the said field boundary to Kincardine Road north of Carronshore Primary School; then generally northward along the said road to and northeastward along a track to the south of the property known as Cuttyfield to the M9 motorway; then northwestward along the said motorway to junction 7; then northwestward to and generally northwestward by way of field boundaries to the southern boundary of Letham Moss at NG Ref NS 8849 8545; then generally westward and northwestward along the southern and western boundaries of Letham Moss to point of commencement.

Ward 18 Kinnaird

Commencing on the western boundary of EW 17 and the western boundary of Letham Moss at a point NG Ref NS 8732 8613; then generally southeastward and southward along the western boundary of EW 17 to and southwestward along the northern boundary of EW 6 to a point on the River Carron where it is

crossed by Carron Road at the former Carron Ironworks; then northward along the said road to and westward along Stenhouse Road to Castle Drive; then northward along the said drive to the path at its northern end; then continuing northward along the said path to and eastward along another path leading to a Sports Centre to a point in line with rear curtilages of Nos 28 and 30 Holly Avenue; then northward to and along the said curtilages to a point in line with the north eastern curtilage of No 31 Holly Avenue; then northwestward to and along the said curtilage to the rear curtilage of the said property; then generally southwestward along the rear curtilages of the properties on the northern side of Holly Avenue to Ash Grove; then generally northward along the said grove to and westward along the path running along the rear curtilages of Nos 10 to 12 Rose Terrace to the paved track leading northward along the rear curtilages of the properties on eastern side of Bruce Drive; then northward along the said track to and northeastward along Johnston Avenue to Alloa Road; then northwestward along the said road to and northeastward along King Street to an unnamed road leading northwards between Corrie Avenue and Cluny Drive; then northwestward along the said unnamed road to and eastward and northeastward along Edward Avenue to the roundabout junction with Bellsdyke Road; then westward along the said road to a track leading past Hill O'Kinnaird Cottages; then northwestward and northward along the said track to the M9 Motorway; then generally northwestward along the said motorway to the northern boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally northeastward along the said Council boundary to point of commencement.

Ward 19 Carrongrange

Commencing on the western boundary of EW 18 at the junction between Johnston Avenue and the paved track running along the rear curtilages of the properties on the eastern side of Bruce Drive; then generally southward along the said EW boundary to and southwestward along the northern boundary of EW 7 to the northern boundary of EW 2; then generally westward along the said EW boundary to the confluence of How Burn with the River Carron at NG Ref NS 8707 8208; then northwestward along the said burn to the Mill Lade; then westward across the Mill Lade to the rear curtilage of No 7 Acorn Crescent; then generally northwestward along the rear

curtilages of the properties on the eastern side of Acorn Crescent, Oak Drive and Forbes Crescent to the eastern curtilage of No 9 Forbes Crescent; then northward to and generally northward along the How Burn to a point in line with the rear curtilage of No 5 Waverley Terrace; then northeastward to and northwestward along the rear curtilages of Nos 5 to 1 Waverley Terrace to and along the western boundary of Larbert West Church and the continuation in a straight line to Main Street, Stenhousemuir; then northeastward along the said Street to and southward along Sutton Park Crescent to Johnston Avenue; then northeastward along the said avenue to point of commencement.

Ward 20

Tryst

Commencing on the western boundary of EW 18 at the point where the M9 meets the northern boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally southeastward and southwestward along the said boundary of the said EW to and southwestward along the northern boundary of EW 19 and continuing southwestward along Main Street, Stenhousemuir to and along Main Street, Larbert to where it crosses the Glasgow to Stirling railway line; then northward along the said railway line to and eastward along the northern boundary of Falkirk Council to point of commencement.

Ward 21

Larbert

Commencing on the western boundary of EW 20 where the Glasgow to Stirling railway line meets the northern boundary of Falkirk Council; then southeastward and northeastward along the western and southern boundaries of the said EW to and southeastward along the southern boundary of EW 19 to the western boundary of EW 2; then generally southward along the said EW boundary to and westward along the northern boundary of EW 1 to where it is crossed by the A803; then westward along the said road to and northwestward along the A883 to a point in line with an unnamed watercourse northwest of the junction with Lochlands Loan; then northwestward to and along the said unnamed watercourse to and generally westward along the River Carron to where it is crossed by the M876 Motorway; then northeastward along the said motorway to where it is crossed by an unnamed road at NG Ref NS 8399 8285 south of Oakbank Wood; then generally westward along the said

unnamed road to a point in line with the western boundary of Mine Wood; then generally northwestward by way of field boundaries from the western boundary of Mine Wood to the eastern boundary of Pamphellgoat Wood; then generally northward along the eastern boundary of the said wood and the western boundary of the Tor Wood to the northern boundary of Falkirk Council; then eastward along the said Council boundary to point of commencement.

Ward 22

Herbertshire

Commencing on the northern boundary of Falkirk Council and the western boundary of EW 21 where they meet at the western boundary of the Tor Wood; then generally southward along the said EW boundary to where the M876 Motorway crosses the River Carron; then generally northwestward along the said river to where it is crossed by a bridge at NG Ref NS 8122 8332; then southeastward along the said bridge and continuing southeastward along a path to a point in line with Gill Park; then westward to and along Gill Park to the northern curtilage of No 37 Gill Park; then westward along the said curtilage to and southward along the western curtilages of Nos 37 to 47 Gill Park to a point in line with the northern curtilage of No 21 Haughs Way; then westward to and southward along the western curtilages of Nos 21 to 25 Haughs Way and the continuation in a straight line to Herbertshire Street; then westward along the said street to and southward along The Vennel to Broad Street; then westward along the said street and its continuation as Duke Street to Nethermains Road; then southwestward along the said road to its junction with an unnamed road leading under the M80 past St John's Gardens and Holm Cottage; then westward along the said road to and southward along the M80 to where it is crossed by Myothill Road; then westward along the said road to and northward and westward along an unnamed road running along the eastern and northern boundaries of Drumbowie Reservoir to the point where it crosses the Castlerankine Burn; then westward along the said burn to the western boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally northward and eastward along the western and northern boundaries of the said Council to point of commencement.

Ward 23

Denny

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 22 at the point where the River Carron is crossed by a dismantled railway line; then generally southeastward along the said EW boundary to where it meets the M876 Motorway; then southwestward along the said motorway to a point in line with the eastern boundary of Chacefield Wood; then northward to and generally northward and westward along the eastern and northern boundaries of the said wood and the continuation westward by way of field boundaries to Glasgow Road, Denny; then northward along the said road to and westward along the access road to the eastern end of Shanks Avenue to Shanks Avenue; then northwestward to and along Lochhead Avenue to and westward along Loney Crescent to and northward along Shanks Avenue to Anderson Drive; then southwestward along the said drive to and northward along Bulloch Crescent to a path running along the southern boundary of Nethermains Primary School; then westward and southwestward along the said path to the subway under Nethermains Road; then northward along the said road to and southwestward along Sclandersburn Road to the southern boundary of EW 22; then generally northward and northeastward along the said EW boundary to point of commencement.

Ward 24

Denny South

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 23 where Sclandersburn Road crosses the M80 Motorway; then generally eastward and southeastward along the said EW boundary to where it meets the M876 Motorway; then southwestward along the said motorway to and northward along the M80 Motorway to point of commencement.

Ward 25

Bonnybridge

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 21 and the eastern boundary of EW 23 where the River Carron is crossed by the M876 Motorway; then generally southeastward along the southern boundary of EW 21 to and southwestward along the western boundary of EW 1 to the western boundary of EW 2; then westward along the said boundary to where the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line crosses the

Rowantree Burn; then generally northward along the said burn to and westward and southwestward along the Forth and Clyde Canal to NG Ref NS 8172 7954 and a point in line with a path leading to Bonnybridge Road; then northwestward to and northwestward, northeastward and northwestward along the said path to and northeastward along Bonnybridge Road to a point in line with the rear curtilages of the properties on the western side of Dickburn Crescent; then northward to and generally northward along the said rear curtilages and the western curtilages of the western most properties of Alloway Crescent and the continuation thereof in a straight line to the southern boundary of EW 24; then northeastward along the said EW boundary to and northeastward along the eastern boundary of EW 23 to point of commencement.

Ward 26

Banknock

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 22 where the western boundary of Falkirk Council meets the Castlerankine Burn; then generally eastward along the said EW boundary to and southward and eastward along the western and southern boundaries of EW 24 to the western boundary of EW 25; then generally southeastward, southwestward and southeastward along the said EW boundary to where it meets the Forth and Clyde Canal; then southwestward along the said canal to where it crosses the Skipperton Burn; then generally southward, southwestward and southeastward along the Skipperton Burn to the eastern boundary of Castlecary High Wood; then southward along the said boundary of the said wood and the continuation thereof in a straight line to the southern boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally westward and northwestward along the southern and western boundaries of the said Council to point of commencement.

Ward 27

Laurieston

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 9 where the M9 Motorway crosses an unnamed burn northeast of Newlands Cottage; then southeastward along the said EW boundary to and continuing southeastward along the western boundary of EW 10 to where the A905 crosses the Polmont Burn west of Burnside Nursery; then generally southeastward along the said burn to where it is crossed by Station Road, Polmont; then southward along the said

road to and westward along the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line to a point in line with the western boundary of St Margaret's Primary School; then northward to and northward and eastward along the western and northern boundaries of the said School to Salmon Inn Road; then northwestward along the said road to a point in line with the rear curtilages of the properties on the southern side of Cranshaws Drive; then westward to and along the said rear curtilages to and northward along the western curtilages of the western most properties on Cranshaws Drive and the continuation thereof in a straight line to Gairloch Crescent; then generally northwestward along the said crescent to and northeastward along Westquarter Avenue to Polmont Road; then northwestward along the said road to where it crosses the Westquarter Burn; then generally northwestward along the said burn to where it is crossed by Park Crescent at NG Ref NS 9142 7921; then southward and westward along the said crescent to a point NG Ref NS 9129 7912 in line with an unnamed property on the southern side of Park Crescent; then southwestward to and southwestward and northwestward along the eastern and southern curtilages of the said unnamed property and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the Westquarter Burn; then southward and southwestward along the said burn to the eastern boundary of EW 5; then northward along the said EW boundary to and northward along the eastern boundary of EW 4 to the southern boundary of EW 8; then northward and northeastward along the said EW boundary to and eastward and northeastward along the southern boundary of EW 9 to point of commencement.

**Ward 28
Polmont**

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 11 at the junction between Inchyra Road (B9143) and Wholeflats Road; then southeastward along the said EW boundary to the western boundary of EW 16; then generally southeastward, westward, southward and southwestward along the said EW boundary to where it meets the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line; then westward along the said railway line to and generally northwestward along the eastern boundary of EW 27 to the southern boundary of EW 10; then generally northeastward along the said EW boundary to and northeastward along the southern boundary of EW 11 to the point of commencement.

**Ward 29
Redding and Westquarter**

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 27 at the point where the Westquarter Burn is crossed the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line; then generally northeastward eastward, southeastward and eastward along the said EW boundary to and eastward along the southern boundary of EW 28 to NG Ref NS 9417 7800 where Ercall Road crosses the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line; then southwestward along the said road to and northwestward along Maddiston Road and its continuation as Redding Road to where it crosses the Edinburgh to Falkirk (Grahamston) railway line; then northwestward along the said railway line to point of commencement;

**Ward 30
Darnrig**

Commencing on the western boundary of EW 2 where the Rowantree Burn is crossed by the Stirling to Glasgow railway line; then southward and eastward along the western and southern boundaries of the said EW to and generally southeastward and eastward along the western and southern boundaries of EW 3 to the southern boundary of EW 5; then eastward along the said EW boundary to where it meets the Westquarter Burn; then generally southward along the said burn to a drain line running to the south of the Works at Hillcrest; then southeastward along the said drain and the continuation thereof in a straight line to Main Street, Shieldhill (B810); then northeastward along the said road to a point NG Ref NS 9063 7729 in line with a field boundary; then southward to and southeastward and southward along the said field boundary and the continuation thereof in a straight line to the Polmont Burn; then southwestward along the said burn to where it meets the northern boundary of Gardrum Moss; then westward along the northern boundary of Gardrum Moss and Darnrig Moss to the Garbethill Burn; then generally westward along the said burn to the western boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally westward along the said Council boundary to and generally northwestward and northeastward along the eastern boundary of EW 26 to the southern boundary of EW 25; then northeastward, eastward and southward along the said EW boundary to point of commencement.

Ward 31

Reddingmuirhead, Brightons and Rumford

Commencing on the southwestern boundary of EW 29 at the point where the Westquarter Burn is crossed the Edinburgh to Falkirk (Grahamston) railway line; then southeastward and northeastward along the southwestern and southern boundaries of the said EW to and southeastward along the southern boundary of EW28 to the western boundary of EW 16; then southward and southwestward along the said EW boundary to where a field boundary meets the Manuel Burn southeast of the property known as Glenhead at NG Ref NS 9221 7588; then continuing southwestward, northwestward, northward and northwestward along the said field boundary and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to a point NG Ref NS 9195 7638 on California Road; then northeastward along the said road to the western entrance of an access road to Greenwells; then northward and northeastward along the said road to a point in line with a field boundary south of the access road to the property known as Crossgatehead; then northward to and along the said field boundary and the continuation thereof in a straight line to Sunnyside Road; then westward along the said road to its junction with an unnamed road leading to Waggon Road; then northward along the said unnamed road to and southwestward along Waggon Road to and northward along Wallacestone Brae to where it crosses the Polmont Burn; then southwestward along the said burn to the eastern boundary of EW 30; then generally northward along the said EW boundary to and generally northeastward along the eastern boundary of EW 5 to point of commencement.

Ward 32

Avon

Commencing on the southern boundary of EW 30 where the Garbethill Burn meets the western boundary of Falkirk Council; then generally northeastward along the said EW boundary to and northeastward, southeastward, southwestward and southeastward along the western boundary of EW 31 to the western boundary of EW 16; then southeastward, northeastward and southeastward along the said EW boundary to the southern boundary of Falkirk Council; then southwestward, northwestward and northeastward along the southern and western boundaries of the said Council boundary to point of commencement.