

Islands Reviews: Project planning

Action

1. The Commission is invited to note the outline project plan for the Islands Reviews as well as other upcoming reviews.

Background

2. The Islands Reviews will be conducted in two phases, initially Na h-Eileanan Iar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands council areas, and then Argyll & Bute, Highland and North Ayrshire council areas.
3. A draft outline project plan is attached at Appendix A. This sets out indicative timings for the main stages of the Islands Reviews. Appendix A also provides a schedule of other review work.
4. There is some uncertainty with the scale of the review work. During the 5th Reviews only one round of consultation was held on ward designs. While the Secretariat is planning on the assumption there will be two rounds this time, it is worth noting that in the 5th Reviews, the Commission recommended no changes to ward boundaries in Orkney Islands council area and minor changes within the Shetland Islands. It seems possible therefore that these Reviews could be concluded without a secondary stage of consultation.
5. The previous Interim Electoral Reviews, conducted in 2010, took approximately 9 months to complete. These reviewed 10 wards in 8 council areas, recommending changes to 1 ward. The next Interim Reviews are scheduled to commence in 2020.
6. The plan shows an indicative schedule for review of Dundee City and Scottish Borders council areas. However, the submission of the 5th Reviews reports meets the statutory requirement to review these areas every 8 to 12 years. It may be more appropriate, therefore, to consider the need for Interim Reviews in these areas, rather than full reviews, to focus only on wards where there may be unacceptable parity. The merits of a full review under the existing legislation, when the 5th Reviews recommendations were not accepted, may need to be considered; the potential option to use 2 or 5 member wards may help address some of the issues that arose, particularly in Dundee, and awaiting that legislation before any full review may be sensible.
7. It is possible that the Secretariat could be undertaking reviews of Scottish Parliament boundaries, UK Parliament constituencies, Interim Reviews and an Islands Review simultaneously. This would have a significant impact on resources. Decisions on the Scottish Parliament review timing, and clarity on the BCS workload for Westminster, will enable planning for the possible overlaps to be undertaken. Costs for Interim Reviews and for any additional full reviews are not included in the draft Corporate Plan for 2018-21.
8. The next Scottish Parliament election is expected in May 2021. The next UK Parliament election is currently scheduled for May 2022. Local government elections are also expected in May 2022 but if a clash with the UK election remains likely then the local government date is likely to be put back, and take account of any outcomes from the SG electoral reform consultation on term lengths.

Conclusion

9. The Commission is invited to consider and offer any comments on the outline project plan.

**Secretariat
May 2018**

BCS/ LGBCS Reviews - with Islands Reviews staggered

Activity Name	Start Date	Finish Date	2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				2023				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Westminster Reviews																											
consult revised proposals	17-Oct-17	11-Dec-17																									
consider representations	01-Jan-18	21-May-18																									
prepare final report	01-Feb-18	15-Aug-18																									
Submit final report - 5 Sept	01-Sep-18	30-Sep-18																									
Commence 2023 Review	15-Feb-21	15-Feb-21																									
2023 Review	16-Feb-21	01-May-23																									
Submit final report	01-Sep-23	30-Sep-23																									
Islands Reviews - Orkney, Shetland & Western Isles																											
Planning, risk, policies and procedures etc	01-May-18	15-Dec-18																									
Pre-consultation - meet 3 councils	01-Jun-18	31-Jul-18																									
Develop ward proposals	01-Sep-18	30-Nov-18																									
Preparation for publication - council consultation	01-Oct-18	31-Dec-18																									
Council consultation on wards	01-Jan-19	28-Feb-19																									
Consideration of council responses	01-Mar-19	30-Mar-19																									
Preparation for publication - public consultation	01-Feb-19	30-Apr-19																									
Public consultation on wards	01-May-19	31-Jul-19																									
Local inquiries wards	tbc	tbc																									
Consider responses + prepare Final Report	01-Aug-19	30-Oct-19																									
Preparation for publication	01-Nov-19	31-Dec-19																									
Submit Final Report	01-Feb-20	28-Feb-20																									
<i>If further consultation required</i>																											
Develop revised ward proposals	01-Aug-19	31-Oct-19																									
Preparation for publication - council consultation	01-Nov-19	30-Nov-19																									
Council consultation on wards	01-Dec-19	31-Jan-20																									
Consideration of council responses	01-Feb-20	28-Feb-20																									
Preparation for publication - public consultation	01-Jan-20	28-Feb-20																									
Public consultation on wards	01-Mar-20	31-May-20																									
Local inquiries wards	tbc	tbc																									
Consider responses + prepare Final Report	01-Jun-20	31-Aug-20																									
Preparation for publication	01-Sep-20	31-Oct-20																									
Submit Final Report	01-Dec-20	31-Dec-20																									
Islands Reviews - Argyll & Bute, Highland, North Ayrshire																											
Planning, risk, policies and procedures etc	01-Jan-19	31-Mar-19																									
Pre-consultation - meet 3 councils	01-Feb-19	31-Mar-19																									
Develop ward proposals	01-May-19	31-Jul-19																									
Preparation for publication - council consultation	01-Jun-19	31-Aug-19																									
Council consultation on wards	01-Sep-19	31-Oct-19																									
Consideration of council responses	01-Nov-19	30-Nov-19																									
Preparation for publication - public consultation	01-Nov-19	31-Dec-19																									
Public consultation on wards	01-Jan-20	31-Mar-20																									
Local inquiries wards	tbc	tbc																									
Consider responses + prepare Final Report	01-Apr-20	31/06/20																									
Preparation for publication	01-Jul-20	31-Aug-20																									
Submit Final Report	01-Oct-20	31-Oct-20																									
<i>If further consultation required</i>																											
Develop revised ward proposals	01-Apr-20	31/06/20																									
Preparation for publication - council consultation	01-Jul-20	31-Jul-20																									
Council consultation on wards	01-Aug-20	30-Sep-20																									
Consideration of council responses	01-Oct-20	31-Oct-20																									
Preparation for publication - public consultation	01-Sep-20	31-Oct-20																									
Public consultation on wards	01-Nov-20	31-Jan-21																									
Local inquiries wards	tbc	tbc																									
Consider responses + prepare Final Report	01-Feb-21	30-Apr-21																									
Preparation for publication	01-May-21	01-Jun-21																									
Submit Final Report	01-Aug-21	30-Aug-21																									
Scottish Parliament - IF submitting 2022																											
commence review	01-Oct-19	31-Oct-19																									
develop IPs constituencies	01-Oct-19	31-Mar-20																									
consult IPs constituencies	01-May-20	31-May-20																									
consider representations	01-Jun-20	30-Aug-20																									
local inquiries (constits)	01-Sep-20	31-Dec-20																									
develop RPs constituencies/IPs regions	01-Jan-21	31-May-21																									
consult RPs constituencies	01-Jun-21	30-Jun-21																									
consult IPs regions	01-Jun-21	30-Jun-21																									
develop FPs constituencies	01-Jun-21	30-Jul-21																									
consult further proposals	01-Aug-21	30-Aug-21																									
local inquiry	01-Sep-21	30-Sep-21																									
consider representations	01-Oct-21	30-Nov-21																									
consult revised proposals regions	01-Jan-22	30-Jan-22																									
prepare final report	01-Feb-22	30-Apr-22																									
publish report	01-May-22	01-May-22																									
Interim Reviews																											
commence review - tbc	01-Jan-21	30-Sep-21																									
Rolling Reviews - Dundee City, Scottish Borders																											
commence review - tbc	tbc	tbc																									

- Notes**
 Islands Bill - Royal assent expected June/July 2018
 Scottish Parliament Election - May 2021
 UK Parliament/ Local Govt Election - May 2022
 Commission Meetings/ Council meetings

