

LGBCS Paper 2465**Request for Administrative Boundary Review
Howe Road, Kilsyth****Purpose**

1. The Commission is invited to consider the correspondence regarding a request for an administrative area boundary review between North Lanarkshire council area and East Dunbartonshire council area.

Background

2. Jamie Hepburn MSP for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth wrote to the Commission in May 2018 regarding a discrepancy regarding the boundary between North Lanarkshire council area and East Dunbartonshire council area at Howe Road, see Appendix A.
3. North Lanarkshire Council officers had contacted Mr Hepburn regarding road safety issues in this area.
4. Mr Hepburn suggested amending the council area boundary so that North Lanarkshire Council would take sole responsibility for the maintenance of Howe Road. Mr Hepburn suggested amending the boundary to the side of the road. His proposal would not affect any electors.
5. The boundary currently follows the Board Burn which runs in a parallel direction to Howe Road. The current council area boundary in this area follows an existing Scottish Parliament constituency boundary, as well as historic UK Parliament constituency boundaries and an historic district boundary, see Appendix B.
6. The Secretariat wrote to both North Lanarkshire Council and East Dunbartonshire Council seeking their views on Mr Hepburn's concerns.
7. In recent history the Commission has only conducted administrative area boundary reviews where the boundary has crossed through a property, these include: Fithiebank (2009) Robroyston (2009), Cardowan (2009) and Keltybridge (2015). The exception to this was the recent Cardowan (2018) administrative area reviews where a large number of local residents submitted a strong reasoned argument in support of a review.

Council responses

8. In their response North Lanarkshire Council state that both Councils have worked together to improve safety on the road and the boundary does not hinder their collaborative approach, see Appendix C. North Lanarkshire Council advise they have similar agreements with other neighbouring Councils.
9. East Dunbartonshire Council also mentioned the inter-council relationship regarding the boundary in this area and were ambivalent about amending the boundary, see Appendix D.

Conclusion

10. North Lanarkshire Council originally raised concerns regarding road maintenance in this area with Mr Hepburn.

11. Mr Hepburn suggested amending the boundary to the road-side. However a road-side boundary does not offer a strong boundary, could be liable to change and may raise further issues such as road drainage. There are no other easily identifiable natural features or historic boundaries that the boundary could otherwise follow in this area.
12. Both Councils state there is a shared agreement to maintain the road in this area and other areas.
13. This request does not concern a boundary that either crosses through a property or which has been the subject of a large number of requests from the public.

Recommendation

14. The Secretariat recommends that the Commission:

- agrees not to proceed with an administrative area boundary review because both Councils state there is a co-operative agreement in place to maintain the road and no compelling argument to amend the boundary.
- writes to Jamie Hepburn MSP, North Lanarkshire Council and East Dunbartonshire Council to advise them of that decision.

**Secretariat
November 2018**



Jamie Hepburn MSP

Working for the people of
Cumbernauld & Kilsyth

Ronnie Hinds CPFA
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
Edinburgh
EH12 5HD

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

9 May 2018

Dear Mr Hinds,

I am writing to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland to highlight a discrepancy with the boundary between East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire on the B802 Howe Road between Auchinstarry and the Blackwood roundabout.

It has come to my attention that there appears to be a stretch of approximately 500m of the Howe Road, from 40m south of the railway viaduct northwards, which is within the boundary of East Dunbartonshire Council.

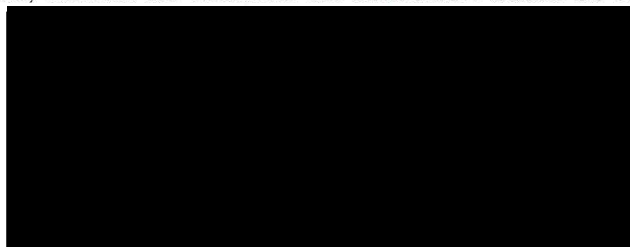
I was made aware of this through correspondence with North Lanarkshire Council officers regarding road safety issues on the road where it was raised that the stretch of road in question was part of East Dunbartonshire.

From the map enclosed this appears to be the case, with the boundary running along the path of the Broad Burn.

If confirmed, this presents a number of difficulties – the Howe Road on either side of this stretch is within North Lanarkshire, all houses along this stretch of road are also in North Lanarkshire and the only way to access the portion of road within East Dunbartonshire is to go through North Lanarkshire. This means that North Lanarkshire Council are unable to maintain the entirety of this road and as East Dunbartonshire Council have to maintain a road which is used primarily by North Lanarkshire residents.

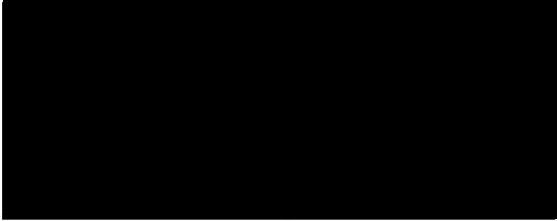
A common sense alteration to align the local authority boundary with the line of the road would have minimal adverse impact as there do not appear to be any houses between the Broad Burn and the road in the area in question but would ensure that North Lanarkshire Council would be assume responsibility for the entire road.

I would be grateful if you could confirm that this section of the road is within East Dunbartonshire and, if so, advise on whether an alteration could be made to ensure that

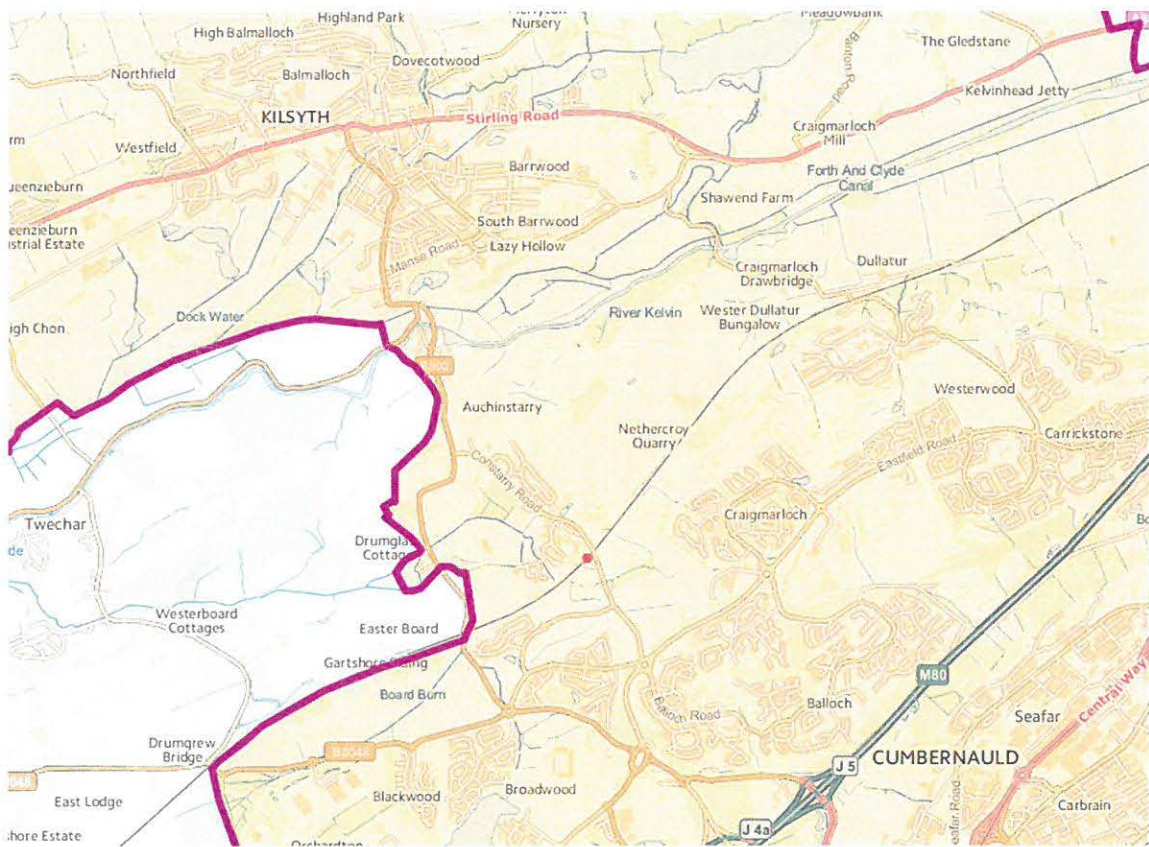


this apparent anomaly is resolved.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter and I await your response in due course.

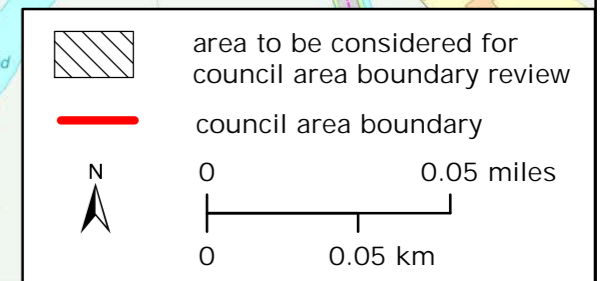
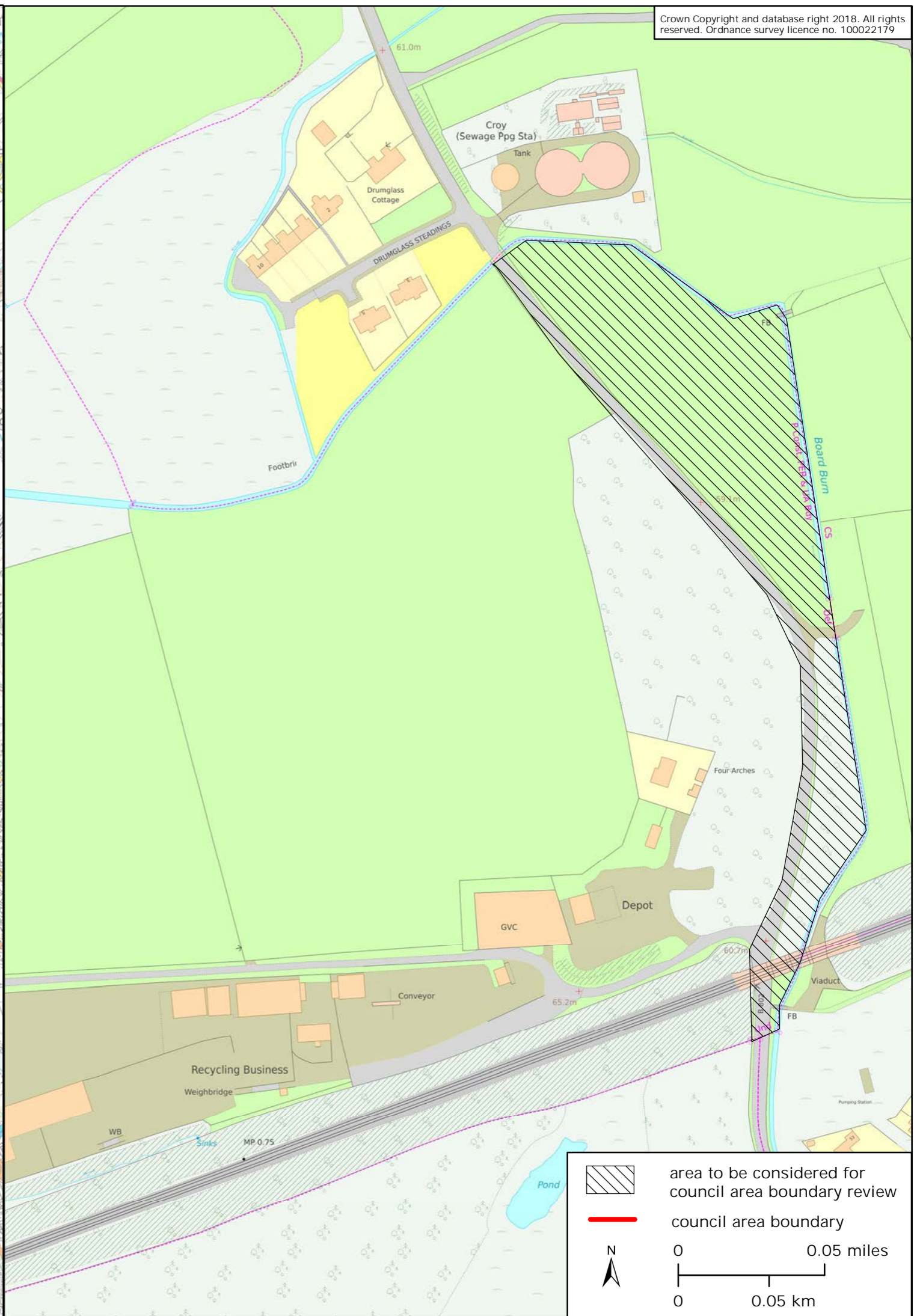
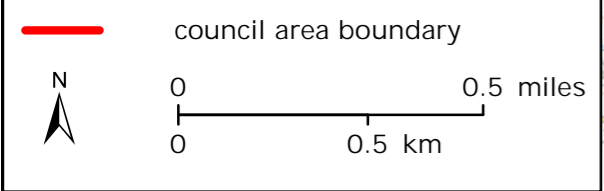
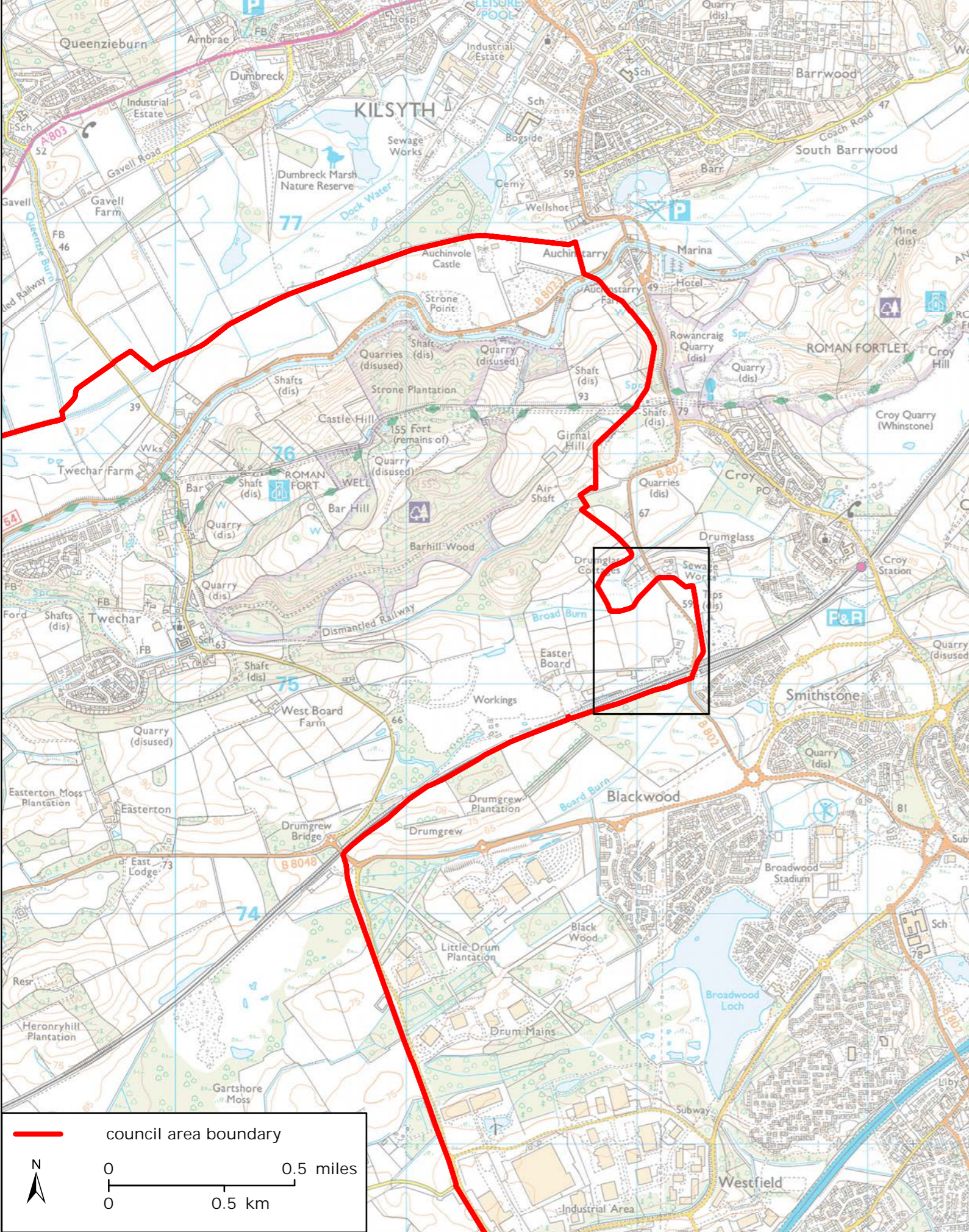


Jamie Hepburn
MSP for Cumbernauld & Kilsyth (SNP)



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Request for review of council area boundary between East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire council areas



10 OCT 2018



[REDACTED]

Ms Isabel Drummond Murray
The Secretary of the Local Government
Boundary Commission for Scotland
Thistle House
91 Haymarket Terrace
EDINBURGH
EH12 5HT

Dear Ms. Murray,

**Boundary Between East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire Council –
B802 Howe Road Between Auchinstarry and the Blackwood Roundabout**

I refer to your letter dated 4 June 2018 and your telephone conversation with my colleague, Catherine Johnstone in respect of the request for a review of the boundary between East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire Council areas on the B802 Howe Road between Auchinstarry and the Blackwood roundabout.

I write to advise you that the maintenance responsibility for the road is split between North Lanarkshire Council and East Dunbartonshire Council, which is no different to other parts of the network where responsibility is already split and in some occasions the boundary is along the centre line of the road.

Concerns have been raised recently regarding road safety and the condition of the road, however, this is predominantly within the section operated and maintained by East Dunbartonshire Council and concerns have been highlighted for their consideration. That being said I would advise you that both authorities have been working collaboratively to identify measures that can be introduced to improve safety and the position of the boundary does not act as a barrier to the introduction of these improvements.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Extract from email correspondence between LGBCS Secretariat and East Dunbartonshire Council

Email from East Dunbartonshire Council dated 22 October 2018

I have circulated an information note to all elected members advising of the initial enquiry from North Lanarkshire to yourselves. The only question I got was in relation to your own area - regarding the number of voters required to trigger an Administrative Review. In general I believe that there is no great opposition to the proposal - however we'll await the formal process should you decide to commence a Review.

Relevant text from the information note

"An informal enquiry has been received from the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), who are investigating the details of a proposed administrative review of an area on the boundary between East Dunbartonshire and North Lanarkshire Councils. This is a small area (500m) of B802 Howe Road between Auchinstarry and the Blackwood roundabout which is currently within East Dunbartonshire. The remainder of the B802 Howe Road (i.e either side) falls under the North Lanarkshire Council boundary

Having checked with our Planning and Roads services it would appear that this proposed adjustment makes sense for all parties concerned, both sides of the road are green belt from our Local Development Plan, but also from a road safety and road maintenance perspective. Currently we have an agreement in place with North Lanarkshire Council for maintenance & repairs (signing & lining, cats eyes, street furniture etc).....

The attached maps show the area being referred to and also an indication of the area which would become part of North Lanarkshire.

It is proposed to intimate to the LGBC that the Council would have no objections to this proposal, which essentially moves the East Dunbartonshire boundary from the Broad Burn to the left-hand side of the B802. If the LGBC agree to an administrative review and the formal process begins, a report will be submitted to the Council for consideration."

I hope this is of some assistance

Email to East Dunbartonshire Council dated 31 October 2018

I take from what you say that there is no pressing reason from East Dunbartonshire's perspective why we should make any change? In other words, the status quo is not causing any problems between the two councils?

Isabel

Email from East Dunbartonshire Council dated 31 October 2018

I think we're quite ambivalent to be honest - you can see the sense of using the whole road as a distinguishable boundary rather than a culverted burn for part of it. I think the land ownership also straddles both local authorities, so if this does go to a review I don't think we'll be opposing it. Current operational arrangements require inter-council relationships and adjustments, but those

were made to accommodate the boundary - if the boundary were to be simplified via an Admin. Review there would be no need for the operational arrangements.

I hope this helps