

LGBCS Paper 2529**Request for Administrative Boundary Review
Westerton Avenue, Glasgow****Action required**

1. The Commission is invited to consider a request for an administrative area boundary review between Glasgow City Council area and East Dunbartonshire Council area on Maxwell Avenue/Westerton Avenue at Netherton, Bearsden.

Background

2. A local resident wrote to the Commission in January 2020 citing a number of issues they had regarding the boundary between East Dunbartonshire and Glasgow City Council areas at Westerton Avenue, Netherton (see appendix A).
3. The resident, who currently resides within Glasgow City Council area, is requesting an administrative area boundary review because they have concerns regarding:
 - the school catchment area for the closest primary school, Westerton Primary, which currently sits within East Dunbartonshire Council area;
 - continuity with road safety issues. There are speed bumps on the East Dunbartonshire section of the road but not on Glasgow City Council's section of the road;
 - the existing council area boundary follows an historical boundary and does not consider recent developments and changes to the local infrastructure; and;
 - they have closer links to local amenities and Bearsden West Community Council within East Dunbartonshire Council area.
4. The resident resides on a street which changes name as it passes the council area boundary. The East Dunbartonshire section of the street is Maxwell Avenue while the Glasgow section of the street is Westerton Avenue. It would appear that the houses on Maxwell Avenue and Westerton Avenue were built at the same time. The street is approximately 1.25 miles long, the Maxwell Avenue section is approximately 1 mile long, while the Westerton Avenue section is about 0.25 miles long.
5. The resident who currently lives on Westerton Avenue is suggesting moving the council area boundary so that East Dunbartonshire Council would take sole responsibility for Westerton Avenue/Maxwell Avenue. Since the creation of the current 32 local authorities in 1996 the current council area boundary in this area follows an existing Scottish Parliament constituency boundary, an existing UK Parliament constituency boundary, as well as Bearsden West Community Council boundary (see appendix B for map of the area).
6. An administrative area review would affect approximately 90 electors.

School Catchment Areas

7. Westerton Avenue is currently within the Glasgow City Council primary school catchment area of Knightswood Primary (1.1 miles). Westerton Avenue by geographical proximity is closer to Westerton Primary (0.6 miles) which is within East Dunbartonshire Council area.

8. Westerton Avenue is currently within the Glasgow City Council secondary school catchment area of Knightswood Secondary (1.4 miles). The High School of Glasgow (1.4 miles) is also within Glasgow City Council area. The closest East Dunbartonshire Council secondary school is Boclair Academy (2.2 miles).
9. If a resident has a preference for their child to attend a school within another council area boundary then they have to apply for a placing request. A placing request to attend a school in a different council area will normally be granted unless all the spaces are already filled with pupils already living in the catchment area, or there are other special circumstances where a council has the right to refuse a placing request.
10. There are no catchment areas for council nurseries in Scotland, including nurseries attached to schools. The closest council nurseries to Westerton Avenue within Glasgow City Council area are Rowena Nursery (1.1 miles) and Pikeman Nursery and Family Learning Centre (1.4 miles). Both Rowena Nursery and Pikeman Nursery and Family Learning Centre are located within Knightswood Primary (1.1 miles) school catchment area therefore pupils normally go on to attend Knightswood Primary School. The closest council nurseries to Westerton Avenue within East Dunbartonshire Council area are Colquhoun Park Nursery (1.3 miles) where pupils normally either go onto attend Colquhoun Park Primary (1.3 miles) or Westerton Primary (0.6 miles). Westerton Nursery (0.7 miles) is a part-funded council nursery and these nursery pupils typically go to Westerton Primary School.

Road Safety

11. The resident has suggested a lack of cohesion with road safety on the street. East Dunbartonshire Council have initiated traffic calming measures on Maxwell Avenue with the introduction of speed bumps but there are no traffic calming measures currently in place on Westerton Avenue in Glasgow City Council area.
12. The speed bumps appear to commence from Westerton train station, continue along Maxwell Avenue and stop at the council area boundary.
13. The Commission recently considered a request to amend the boundary between North Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire Council areas to improve safety on a road, (see Paper LGBCS 2465, meeting of 3 December 2018). The Commission wrote to both Councils who advised they had worked together to improve safety on the road and the council area boundary does not hinder their collaborative approach. Both Councils stated there was a shared agreement to maintain the road in this area and other areas. North Lanarkshire Council advised they had similar agreements with other neighbouring Councils.

Historical Boundaries

14. The boundary in this area between Glasgow City and East Dunbartonshire Council areas has been in place since the creation of the current 32 local authorities in 1996.
15. Historical maps from the National Library of Scotland indicate that the county, now council area, boundary in this area has remained unchanged since the 1920's or 1930's. The historical maps also show that the dwellings on this road were built in the 1930's.

16. It is likely that a regional boundary of some description in this area predates both Westerton Avenue and Maxwell Avenue because different street names were given on either side of the boundary on the same road.

Community Council areas

17. Westerton Avenue sits within High Knightswood and Anniesland Community Council area, the community council meet regularly at Netherston Community Centre (1.1 miles) within Glasgow Council area. The resident doesn't feel part of High Knightswood and Anniesland Community Council and feels that Westerton Avenue has stronger links with Bearsden West Community Council due to the closer proximity of their meetings which are held at Westerton Hall (0.8 miles).

Amenities

18. The resident utilises local amenities in nearby Westerton Village such as a library (0.7 miles), nursery (0.7 miles), community hall (0.7 miles), local shops etc (0.8 miles) which are within East Dunbartonshire Council area. The resident feels they have closer community links with Westerton Village area.

There are local amenities such as large supermarket (0.8 miles), leisure centre (0.6 miles), train station (1.0 mile) and local shops etc (0.8 miles) nearby in Anniesland, within Glasgow City Council area. The nearest dental practice is 0.6 miles and nearest medical practice is 0.7 miles. Both of these are situated in Anniesland as well.

Electoral Representation

19. The residents Councillor, MP and MSP all sit within Glasgow City Council area. Their polling district follows the same boundary as the council area boundary and their polling station is Temple Anniesland Church Hall (0.8 miles).

Recent consideration of the boundary at Netherston

20. The Commission recently considered the administrative area boundary at Netherston, along with several other boundary anomalies at its meeting of 23 July 2019. Paper LGBCS 2492 highlighted that the current council area boundary cuts across part of a dwelling at 213 Maxwell Avenue. The paper noted that this dwelling was originally built in the 1930s or 1940s on the county boundary (Dumbarton County and City of Glasgow County), now the council area boundary.

21. The Commission agreed not to undertake an administrative area boundary review at that time as neither the affected councils, nor any electors had raised any concerns with the existing arrangements.

Conclusion

22. 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.
23. This request does not concern a boundary that crosses through a property or has been the subject of a large number of requests from the public.

24. The boundary in this area has remained unchanged during several local government boundary re-organisations over the past 80+ years.
25. Neither Glasgow City Council or East Dunbartonshire Council have raised issues with the boundary in this area.
26. The differences in distance to travel to a Glasgow City school or East Dunbartonshire are minimal.
27. Councils generally make agreements to share services such as road-gritting where the same road enters another council area.
28. There has been extensive housing development to the south of Anniesland Industrial Estate but there are long-standing neighbourhoods adjacent to this.
29. The resident in their letter mentions they use local amenities in Westerton village (0.8 miles). Other close local amenities in their vicinity are located in Anniesland (0.8 miles) within Glasgow City Council area and include a leisure centre (0.8 miles), petrol station (0.7 miles), large supermarket (0.8 miles), medical centre (0.7 miles) as many other local shops/amenities.

Recommendation

30. The Commission is invited to consider the request for an administrative area review at Netherton and agree to write to the member of the public to advise them of that decision.

**Secretariat
July 2020**

Note: all distances mentioned are approximate distances from the individual's home.

Appendix A – letter from resident requesting administrative area boundary review

We would like to request a review of the boundary between Glasgow City Council & East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) on Maxwell Avenue/Westerton Avenue Glasgow. For your reference we live at 134 Westerton Avenue, G61 1HR and would like to see Westerton Avenue become part of EDC.

Our case for requesting this review is as follows;

- From the information we have been given this boundary line is historical and predates much of the housing and road infrastructure that now exists. It does not reflect the needs of the residents living in this area and cuts the same residential street in two different parts. Since these boundaries were drawn up there are now more logical boundaries, for example the Bearsden Road.
- Electoral Representation – the local community council for Westerton Avenue is High Knightswood and Anniesland, this covers a large area and meets at Netherton community centre (1.1 miles away). In its description it describes serving the High Knightswood, Temple and Anniesland areas, which one could argue Westerton Avenue is not really part of. On the other hand Westerton Avenue has strong links with Westerton village due to its close proximity (0.8 miles) to many local services, for example a library, nursery, community hall, local shops, etc. This is served by Bearden West Community Council who meet at Westerton Hall. Personally, we use many of those amenities and feel much closer to this community. However as we are outside of this community council we have no say on matters affecting our local area despite its geographical proximity and relevance to our daily lives. This is also the case for council elections and so on.
- Road Maintenance & Safety – there is a lack of cohesion on this due to the boundary's placement. For example EDC have initiated the introduction of speed bumps for Maxwell Avenue but not for Westerton Avenue as that becomes a Glasgow City Council road. Clearly traffic calming has been deemed necessary but only part of the street will benefit from these measures. It would more be efficient to maintain this road within one council.
- Education Services – with the current boundary, residents living within Glasgow City Council are outside of the catchment area for the closest primary school (Westerton Primary). This means having to make a placing requests which may or may not be granted. If your application is unsuccessful your catchment primary is Knightswood Primary (1.1 miles away). In addition to geographical distance, the closest council nursery for pre-school children living on Westerton Avenue is based at Westerton. Therefore any children living in this area become part of that learning community, for example developing friendships in the area and taking part in the transition activities with Westerton Primary. As a result of this, there are not strong links with Knightswood community/schools but yet this is the catchment area school. This seems illogical and unfair that children living on the same street may have to go to different schools. It would be logical to be part of EDC and therefore in the catchment area for the local school.

