

# **Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements**

## **Shetland Islands Council Area**

**Report to the Secretary of State for Scotland**

**Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland**

Report Number E98023  
September 1998

# **Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland**

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### **Shetland Islands Council Area**

#### **Constitution of Commission**

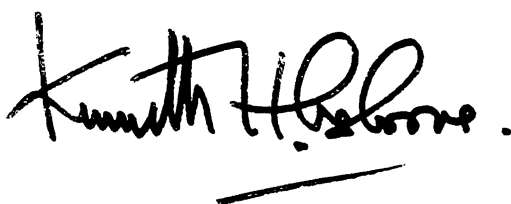
<b>Chairman:</b>	<b>The Honourable Lord Osborne</b>
<b>Deputy Chairman:</b>	<b>Mr K J Clark CBE</b>
<b>Commissioners :</b>	<b>Dr E Graham</b>
	<b>Mr S McDowall CBE</b>
	<b>Mrs G Silver</b>

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 Shetland Islands 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 Shetland Islands 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 10 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.



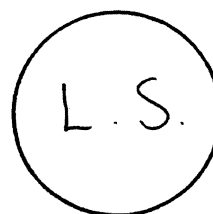
The Honourable Lord Osborne  
Chairman  
for Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland



R Smith  
Secretary

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September 1998



# **Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Shetlands Islands Council Area**

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# **Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Shetland Islands 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 the islands areas of Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles) 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. However, the 1994 Act determined that in the islands councils, councillors elected for the islands areas of Orkney, Shetland and Western Isles at the ordinary election held in 1994 should continue as Councils until the second ordinary election of councillors for the new councils held under section 5 of the 1994 Act. Under the existing structure, Shetland Islands Council, therefore, retained 26 councillors.

## **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. We proposed a council of 22 members for Shetland Islands Council area.

21. Shetland Islands Council wrote to us on 3 October 1996 expressing disappointment that we were unwilling to take on board the Council's view that the existing 26 wards formed the best representation for Shetland Islands area. However, the Council had given authority for the preparation of a draft scheme for 22 electoral wards and it was thought that, following consultations, a scheme would be available for discussion at the Council meeting scheduled for 10 December 1996.

## Shetland Islands Council's Proposals

22. The Council's proposals were received by the Commission on 12 December 1996. A Council official delivered the draft scheme and explained the process of consultation leading to the draft scheme to our Secretariat. The Council published its draft scheme on 20 December 1996 and asked that those wishing to make representations should provide a copy to the Commission. No representations were received.
23. We considered the Council's draft scheme together with the background information it had provided. It was clear from the documentation provided by the Council that perceived community considerations had had a considerable influence in the preparation of the Council scheme and had perhaps been over-emphasised to the detriment of the application of the statutory rules. In our consultation letters we specifically asked Councils to observe the statutory rules when preparing draft schemes which the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Commission, are obliged to observe when considering the revision of electoral arrangements.
24. In examining the detail of the scheme we noted, for example, that seven wards were justified for the immediate Lerwick area on the basis that it was considered the most densely populated community with a relatively smaller range of ward issues to take up the energies of local members. Whilst the average ward electorate forecast in the Council scheme for this area was 817 electors, numbers varied between 800 and 920 compared to electoral parity of 786. Similarly, outwith Lerwick, in what was described as the 'natural commuter zone', there was an expectation that the area justified a slightly lower than average electorate to absorb future increases. We noted that in two of the areas specifically mentioned - Whiteness/Weisdale and Sandwick/Levenwick - the forecasts of electorate at 2001 were 587 and 768 respectively. We noted also that, other than Tingwall, Nesting and Lunnasting, the forecasts of electorate in the proposed wards to the north and west of Lerwick lay between 548 and 647, which was substantially below parity. While there were constraints in some areas (for example, in island communities which could not easily be associated with mainland communities), there appeared to be no geographical or communications considerations which suggested that a closer approximation to parity could not be achieved in other areas.
25. In the remaining 'rural' areas, the Council considered that there were not likely to be significant changes in the size of the electorate, although in a few specific localities population reduction remained a significant concern and there were uncertainties about, for example, Unst. On the other hand, in Dunrossness we noted that the forecast of electorate at 2001 was 1,070. The Council recognised that this represented a significant divergence from parity. However, it was suggested that there had been a steady decline in electorate in the area during the last few years and projections over a number of years indicated that it would come closer to the Shetland wide average of 773. On the basis of the data

provided and recent electorate statistics we concluded that it would be highly unlikely that the electorate would reduce significantly for some time to come and, in any event, it was unlikely that this shift in electorate would occur during the period 1996 - 2001, which the statutory rules determine as the time-horizon for consideration of changes in electorate in this review.

26. Having considered the scheme submitted by the Council, we concluded that our Secretariat should consider whether it would be possible to produce a draft scheme of electorate for Shetland Islands Council area which more closely reflected the statutory rule regarding electoral parity, but bearing in mind any special geographical or other considerations.

### **Development of an Alternative Draft Scheme**

27. Our Secretariat reported that production of an alternative scheme of electoral arrangements was not a straightforward exercise and, although it had been possible to consolidate proposals for much of the area, the options for the Dunrossness area and for the mainland to the west and north of Lerwick had identified problems associated with settlement patterns which were not readily resolved. Electorate data were requested from staff of the Orkney and Shetland Joint Valuation Board and it was hoped that these would allow an acceptable compromise to be developed.
28. Following further examination of various options, our Secretariat proposed a scheme of electorate which we considered produced broadly acceptable electoral parity and well defined boundaries. We were informed that in developing the scheme it had been necessary to ignore Community Council boundaries and that there were instances, such as in the Voe area, where community boundaries were breached and/or community affiliations had been altered. These changes had only been considered, however, once it had become clear that existing boundaries, or boundaries set out in the Council's draft proposals, could not be maintained without there being a highly adverse effect on electoral parity. We concluded that the proposals submitted by our officers produced an acceptable solution for the Council area, bearing in mind geographical and community considerations, and that these proposals should be published as our provisional proposals.

### **Publication of Commission's Provisional Proposals**

29. Public notice was given of the publication of our provisional proposals on 10 April 1998. Shetland Islands Council was asked to make copies of the electoral ward boundary descriptions, electoral statistics and illustrative maps available for inspection at their offices. 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 8 May 1998.

## Consideration of Representations

30. Nineteen letters were received:

- **Councillor Stove** wrote to say that it could not be easy trying to satisfy everyone's wishes to keep small villages and parishes intact. Whilst he had sympathy with areas like Voe and Sandwick, unless the Council offered something constructive to tackle the numerical problem, then there seemed little option to the proposals we had made. Our proposals for the Clickimin Ward had his support.
- **Aithsting and Sandsting Community Council** felt that our proposals did not take into account geographical, historical, social or community needs in trying to achieve areas which satisfied electoral parity. At its meeting it had been pointed out that electoral numbers in any area are not steady and could vary considerably. It was ludicrous to suggest that Twatt and Clousta should be included with Sandness and Walls when the only link was across Aithsting and Sandsting and all community links such as shops, schools, and community hall were in Aithsting. The whole of the west side should be made into one area with two councillors. The Community Council asked that the present boundaries be retained for Community Council elections irrespective of boundaries for elections to Shetland Islands Council.
- **Delting Community Council** wholly accepted the need to reduce the number of councillors but objected strongly to the revised boundaries which disregarded the needs of the Shetland community by carving up many long established communities. Linking Muckle Roe and Busta with Northmavine was totally unacceptable in view of its endlessly long historical link with the Brae community and the fact that Busta is an integral part of the village. Lunnasting being linked with Delting East would break up a community which has always had a close association with the part of Voe which is now in Delting West. Voe itself had been cut in two. Our proposals ignored geography, socio-economic structure, population synergy and remoteness from one village to another. The boundaries would also create extra work for councillors who would need to cover a larger area with communities of different needs and this was surely not justified purely to keep electoral parity. The Community Council could find no evidence that uneven electoral representation had been detrimental to the community. Shetland's communities were all individual and all had differing needs and the Community Council failed to see how playing a 'numbers game' provided effective representation. The proposed boundaries were not approved by the Community Council which fully supported the original proposals by Shetland Islands Council which, although numerically imperfect, received total assent within the community. The Community Council also forwarded a petition from the residents of Muckle Roe stating that parity of numbers should not be the overriding justification for transferring them to Northmavine Ward and asking that we redraw the boundaries.

- **Dunrossness Community Council** wrote to say that it unanimously opposed our proposals and favoured the locally brokered solution which had been agreed by the Shetland Islands Council. Members of the public had been consulted, as were Community Councils, to achieve a workable solution to reducing the number of wards. The Community Council agreed that, although the number of electors would exceed parity if the locally agreed plan was adopted, this was not of prime importance. The number of electors would reduce over the next few years and the Community Council felt that it was important to recognise community, historical, physical and geographical issues when determining boundaries.
- **Gulberwick and Quarff Community Council** were concerned that the proposals for Shetland as a whole submitted by the Council following extensive consultations had appeared to have been completely ignored. The Commission's proposals were ludicrous as they split up long-established communities and amalgamated parts of existing wards with areas with which they had no historical, physical or social connection. It could not be accepted that achieving parity should be the only consideration when no two wards were the same in terms of geography, physical composition, socio-economic structure, population profile, remoteness from centre, historical relationships and other characteristics. Our proposals, in the case of Whalsay and Skerries, recognised that parity was not always achievable. Our proposals to place the rural crofting communities of Gulberwick and Quarff in a new ward with a large urban housing scheme defied logic. Similarly, splitting the distinct physical community of Sandwick was ludicrous. The proposals did nothing to rectify any real or perceived democratic deficit and would cause great resentment and confusion if implemented. Unless we reconsidered and adopted the proposals submitted by the Council, we should consult further and hold a local meeting to hear representations. The proposals submitted by the Council were drawn up after one of the most successful consultation exercises in recent years.
- **Lerwick Community Council** pointed out that the current register of electors for the area would give an average of 818 electors per ward in Lerwick if it were divided into seven wards which was only 38 away from electoral parity and was nearer in parity terms than our proposals for Whalsay & Skerries, and Northmavine, Muckle Roe and Busta. The Community Council considered that we had failed to act in accordance with the statutory rules and our views were so far removed from the local consensus that it had no option but to ask the Secretary of State to intervene in the matter. According to the legislation, the number of wards in a local government area was not prescribed and the Community Council were of the view that Shetland should have either 23 or 24 wards which would better match the existing social, historic and geographic divisions in Shetland. The Local Government Act did not seek to ensure that the electorate in Scotland has equal representation in local government areas and the Community Council understood that Edinburgh and Glasgow were to have 6,000 electors per electoral area as opposed to 780 per area in Shetland.

Other areas in Scotland would have fewer electorate than Edinburgh and Glasgow but considerably more than Shetland. The Community Council did not have a problem with an independent body determining that the number of electoral divisions in Shetland should generally be in line with other island authorities but it was not for the first time that ignorant and ill-advised proposals for Shetland had been seen. The Community Council, therefore, would seek the support of the new Scottish Parliament in removing the imposition of our arrogant autocracy. The Community Council remained of the view that the boundaries shown on its plan dated 9 February 1997 were the most sensible and most democratic for Lerwick and Shetland.

- **Northmavine Community Council** wished to point out that the Shetland Islands Council, in agreement with Community Councils had submitted to us proposals for ward boundaries which benefited from detailed local knowledge and felt it was needless to make the changes we proposed. Our proposals might make sense from a demographic point of view but made no sense in practical terms on the ground. Rural Shetland was made up of numerous small townships which were linked by a service and administrative infrastructure which was long established and worked well within existing wards. The emphasis should be on the fact that many of these townships are so small and scattered that services can only be provided economically by being linked to townships in the vicinity. The Community Council felt that Busta and Muckle Roe had all their links with the Delting area.
- **Nesting and Lunnasting Community Council** wrote to reiterate that the existing boundaries were preferred but that it was prepared to accept the revisions in the Shetland Islands Council's proposals. Our proposals, however, made absolute nonsense of local geographic circumstances and had not taken the slightest notice of local wishes and priorities. Proposals which cut existing villages in half made it obvious that we were concerned only with a numbers issue but to people whose democratic functions were threatened by bureaucracy numbers were irrelevant. It was of no consequence in Shetland that there happened to be an imbalance in electoral numbers. It was more important that communities were able to function along existing lines which were historic and were so because of local geography. The Community Council considered that people and not numbers should be the prime concern and it was hoped that we would come to terms with the strong feelings and desires of local communities and bring forward proposals more in line with local needs.
- **Sandwick and Walls Community Council** submitted a petition of residents who wished our proposals to be reconsidered.
- **Sandness Community Council** objected in the strongest possible terms to our proposals and supported the scheme submitted by the Shetland Islands Council which provided for 22 wards without affecting their area. The geographical boundary for the west side of Shetland should be the hill at Tresta and the west side should be retained and served by two councillors representing the area

covered by two community councils. Major changes had already been made to electoral arrangements in recent years and it was felt that the present division for the west side was working well. Our proposals led to a feeling of resentment, a genuine fear of a loss of identity and poorer representation. A study of population dynamics indicated rising school rolls, stable population trends and a high proportion of under 18 year olds. Job opportunities made it possible for young people to stay in the area and this would lead to a rise in the number of voters and thus to an electoral imbalance which our proposals sought to avoid.

- **Tingwall and Whiteness Community Council** wrote to say that it would prefer to retain the present structures for its area. It objected to Whiteness and Weisdale being separated because there were strong community and geographical reasons for them remaining together. Should the area be divided, it should be along the lines of Whiteness, Weisdale and Stromfirth and Tingwall, Girsta, Nesting and Lunnasting.
- **Yell Community Council** appreciated that the proposed changes had no bearing on the island of Yell but wished to add voice to the concerns raised by those communities which found themselves being, to all intents and purposes, split. In small communities such changes could cause many problems and should be avoided.
- **Councillor McElvogue** had consulted the respective Community Councils and several individuals locally and stated that no-one was happy with our proposals. The Councillor asked that we reconsider the scheme which was agreed locally and also by Shetland Islands Council.
- **Shetland Islands Council** wrote to say that it endorsed most of the comments we had received from the community of Shetland and, in particular, Community Councils. The community of Shetland had assisted greatly in the production of a draft scheme which regularised a number of irreconcilable difficulties which were mainly a result of large divergences from parity following the second statutory review. Our decision to establish a ratio of electors per councillor in this review had no regard to the representations made by the Council and inevitably created substantial problems in its application at community level. It was the Council's belief that we had insisted on setting a low electoral ratio which was not low enough to match the average number of electors found in most communities in Shetland and we should, therefore, adopt a flexible approach, be less obsessed with percentage divergences and concentrate on what the divergences mean in terms of actual numbers of electors. It was submitted that, if the way in which the Council had established links with communities through its electoral processes, funding regimes and service provision, was a mystery to the Commission and if a better understanding of the need for the required flexibility could be presented, an Assistant Commissioner should be appointed. The Council could then present its own scheme, as amended at its meeting on 6 May 1998, to achieve support by us for ultimate approval by the Secretary of State. It was further

believed that the Labour Administration, in the pursuit of modernising governance at all levels, placed legitimate demands on local government to reaffirm existing closeness with its communities, build new relationships and seek out new ways of delivering its business and services but always with the focus at community levels.

The Council provided a copy of a report compiled by its Administrative Services Division and informed us that it unanimously accepted the recommendations in the report with some modification in respect of proposals concerning the Sandwich/Dunrossness areas. The report noted that the Council had consistently rejected our proposals for revised electoral arrangements based on 22 wards on the grounds that establishing a ratio of electorate to councillors at 750:1 per ward would be unworkable having regard to the effect that it would have on communities if parity was pursued with vigour. The report believed that the Council's contribution on the matter had been ignored by us. It set out the background as to how the process of consultation addressed the need to achieve parity while drawing attention to anomalies, local ties and geographic considerations. It believed that the draft scheme submitted by the Council substantially achieved the objective of meeting the statutory requirements regarding parity etc. but that we had rejected the Council's representations.

The report mentioned a visit by the Convener and Divisional Manager, Administrative Services, to the Commission during which they had requested that the Commission have careful regard to the effect its proposals would have on local government in the Council area by causing considerable disruption to the work of the Council in partnership with Community Councils and their communities. It was noted that our officers listened carefully but did no more than invite the Council to submit revised proposals and were unable to indicate whether or not we would move from our position of considering the three Islands Councils as a single category with a ratio of councillors to electors of 1:750. Attention was drawn to the apparent lack of rigour applied during previous reviews, particularly in the review in 1992 which increased the number of Councillors from 24 to 26, and to the fact that our officers reported that the Commission was applying the rule concerning electoral parity equally across Scotland. The report summarised representations made in response to our provisional proposals.

The report proposed that the Council make representations to persuade the Commission and the Secretary of State, that the Commission's proposals were not predicated by either statute or as a logical extension of the pursuit of sound local government for the Council area. A further option for consideration was to pursue judicial review in the event that the representations made by the Council were not upheld.

The report also gave consideration to identifying wards with the greatest degree of divergence from electoral parity. This had resulted in a proposal to split much of the former Dunrossness area into two wards in a way which

prevented the bizarre splitting of Sandwick, thereby leaving Gulberwick, Quarff and Cunningburgh intact. The effect of the proposals would reduce the divergence from parity in Dunrossness to 17% and would result in a divergence from parity of 21% in Sandwick. In the North Mainland it was noted that, in Whiteness/Weisdale, electoral increases had reduced the divergence from parity to 23% and that the trend continued to move towards parity. In Walls and Sandness, recent changes in the electorate indicated a current divergence from parity of -27% but that this would be offset in Sandsting and Aithsting where increases had exceeded projections. In Northmavine, the current divergence from parity was -22%.

It was further submitted that, although there were a large number of electoral wards in Shetland with a divergence from parity in the order of 15% - 24%, this was justified by our decision to impose a change in the number of wards and by the exceptionally low ratio of electors to councillors compared with mainland Councils.

The Council wrote also on 14 May enclosing a revised plan which had the approval of the Community Councils of Gulberwick, Quarff & Cunningburgh, Sandwick, and Dunrossness.

- **Shetland Conservative and Unionist Association** asked that we reconsider a number of our proposals. The parishes of Whiteness and Weisdale should not be split. It is one community sharing a primary school, public hall, churches, football team and a host of other clubs and associations. Our proposals would lead to unnecessary conflict. The parishes of Sandwick and Cunningburgh were quite separate and independent and, historically, there was rivalry between the two areas. Combining areas with such long-standing differences would not only be an injustice to the residents, it would make a councillor's job very difficult. It was difficult to understand why the rural areas of Gulberwick and Quarff should be lumped into a ward containing the urban suburbs of Lerwick where priorities were going to differ greatly. The addition of Clousta to Walls and Sandness was quite anomalous because Clousta was associated geographically, economically and socially to Aith or Bixter.
- **Jim Wallace MP** wrote that we were probably aware from the reaction to our provisional proposals that they found little favour in Shetland. Mr Wallace objected to what he considered the slavish way we had sought parity of numbers. He acknowledged that the general requirement of the legislation was to pursue parity and hoped that he did not have to remind us that the statutory rules required attention to be given to readily identifiable boundaries, the recognition of local ties and the fact that there was specific allowance for a departure from the parity requirement where special geographical conditions appeared to render a departure desirable. He contended that insufficient regard and weight had been given to these important factors. He stated his understanding that the rough estimate of 780 electors per ward was based on numbers originally deemed to be suitable for the Western Isles and this had been applied across the three island areas. He concluded that there was no

need to rationalise boundaries in the Island authorities because, unlike the mainland, they were already unitary authorities and the question must be asked how this review could differ so materially from the Second Statutory Review given that the area was unchanged, the population was not too dissimilar and the same statutory rules applied. All this, he argued, raised the possibility that some other consideration could well have been in play. Mr Wallace further argued, with regard to the statutory rule regarding parity, that it was the circumstances of Shetland alone which mattered and that we should not try to fit Shetland into some numerical pattern derived from another local government area.

It was also contended that, because of a numbers fixation, there had been some glaring anomalies. In the North mainland the separation of Muckle Roe and Busta from Delting ignored traditional community ties as well as the fact that Busta was closely connected with the village of Brae. As a consequence, Delting had been divided in a way which split Voe and linked Lunnasting with Delting East breaking a traditional association with Voe. The separation of Whiteness from Weisdale was another example of a failure to recognise age old community ties which manifested themselves in a number of ways, such as school catchment areas. The proposals to split the village of Sandwick invited disbelief in a rural area where there was surely no need to draw a line through a community. This too resulted in Gulberwick and Quarff being linked to Lerwick, creating a ward which combined landward crofting/farming tradition with part of a town.

Mr Wallace was aware that the Council's proposals had been submitted after close consultation with the community which managed to meet a requirement to reduce the number of councillors while maintaining community links. Lerwick Community Council had submitted proposals which detailed how Lerwick and Bressay could be divided into seven wards without having to incorporate Gulberwick and Quarff. Although the counter-proposals did not fit the numbers straitjacket, the divergence from parity was not as great as in existing council wards. It was hoped that we would realise that, in a rural area with scattered population, a small number of electors added to or subtracted from a ward could give rise to a relatively large percentage variation. The special circumstances of geography made it desirable not to follow strict parity.

Mr Wallace urged that we re-think our provisional proposals or at least ask the Secretary of State to appoint an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting. At the end of the day, it was the people of Shetland who would have to live with the proposals and they were the only ones who would conceivably feel prejudiced by divergences in the size of electoral wards. He believed that no such prejudice would be felt if the Council's proposals were accepted. Indeed the opposite was the case. In fostering healthy democracy, local people were saying that community links were more important than electoral parity. If we persisted in putting forward our provisional proposals or something similar he would urge the Secretary of State to reject them.

Mr Wallace further wrote asking that we pay close attention to the specific concerns set out in the representations made by Sandness and Walls Community Council and Aithsting and Sandsting Community Council.

- **Councillor Smith** stated that, whilst our intention to split the parish of Sandwick in two may make numerical sense, it failed in all other ways to satisfy the rules of common sense, the application of geography and the provenance of history. Sandwick had been a geographical entity since pre-history, a parish since the coming of organised Christianity and a cohesive community for centuries. What we proposed had caused anger, disgust, ridicule and a measure of hilarity. Whilst our reasoning was understood, it was believed that the decision could be changed within the terms of the statutory rules. We were asked to reconsider our proposals and adopt those prepared by Shetland Islands Council which had been formally adopted by all Community Councils and unanimously approved by the full Council.
- A letter was received stating that the correspondent was concerned, with others, about the effect that splitting the parish of Sandwick asunder would have on the present and future generations. The proposal to reduce the number of wards from 26 to 22 was very carefully considered by Community Councils under the guidance of a Council officer and it was considered that the recommendations ratified by the Council met with our requirements and with the local situation. Accordingly, the Sandwick Community Council deplored our proposals to achieve parity of numbers which would result in the community losing its strong sense of identity, purpose and direction. The present Councillor would be left without a ward and this would mean that the Council would be bereft of a very able and competent member. No one from the Commission consulted the Community Council and, before we make our final proposals, an Assistant Commissioner should be appointed to hold a local meeting and hear representations.
- A letter was received which expressed concern at our proposal to make each ward in Shetland equal in terms of parity. The writer believed that, whilst this may be sensible to someone remote from the area, it was not so to those within close-knit communities which were obviously geographically differentiated from their neighbours. The village of Sandwick had been linked to Levenwick in the past and all parties were happy for this to continue. Our proposals had caused every emotion from downright disbelief to anger. Shetland Islands Council was not made up of political parties and comprised largely independent members. Electors did not place a high priority on numerical parity but preferred to identify with a councillor who was looking after their village and interests. Sandwick was happy to retain the status quo and we should, therefore, reconsider our proposals in light of the strong feeling in the community and look again at the proposals which were submitted by Shetland Islands Council.

31. We carefully considered the views expressed by the Council, Community Councils and others in response to our provisional proposals. With regard to the various requests that we conduct a local enquiry, we concluded that such an exercise was unlikely to resolve any of the issues raised which were broadly focused, for example, on the appropriate ratio of electors to councillors for Island authorities, community ties and/or historical associations/divisions and perceived rivalries, breaching of boundaries determined for Community Council and service provision purposes and the significance of deviation from electoral parity when dealing with small numbers of electorate in wards relative to constituency sizes elsewhere in Scotland.
32. In determining the number of councillors appropriate for the Islands Councils, we consulted initially with Council officials in all of the areas and, thereafter, each Council formally. We took account of the perceived constraints of geography, topography and communications on islands' communities and this was reflected in the determination of a ratio of electorate to councillors significantly lower than that applied to Council areas on the Scottish mainland, which also display patterns of widely dispersed settlements and township communities. In the overall context of the Shetland Islands Council area, we considered that, apart from a few areas where it was evident that there were further significant constraints associated with geography, topography or communication links, there were no additional or special geographical circumstances which would allow us to deviate significantly from the application of the primary rule concerning electoral parity.
33. We concluded that the arguments set out in the representations made to us in respect of our provisional proposals did not justify the adoption of the Council's proposals for revised electoral arrangements in Shetland Islands Council area as requested.

## **Final Recommendation**

34. Having conducted the third statutory review of electoral arrangements for Shetland Islands 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 22 members.
35. The designation of the electoral wards that we recommend for Shetland Islands Council, together with information as to the 1996 electorate and forecast 2001 electorate of the proposed wards are set out at Appendix B to this report.

36. The boundaries of the proposed electoral wards are described in Appendix C and the following illustrative maps accompany this report:

<b>Map</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Scale</b>
1	Shetland Islands Council Area	1:100,000
2	Shetland Islands Council Area	1:50,000
3	Lerwick	1:10,000
4	Voe	1:10,000
5	Sandwick	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.

**Shetland Islands Council Area  
Proposed Electoral Wards**

Number	Name	Electorate	
		1996 (Actual)	2001 (Estimated)
a	b	c	d
1	Sound	734	760
2	Clickimin	797	797
3	North Central	783	844
4	Breiwick	831	831
5	South Central	791	791
6	Harbour and Bressay	703	736
7	North	723	755
8	Upper Sound, Gulberwick and Quarff	715	764
9	Unst and Island of Fetlar	721	721
10	Yell	834	820
11	Northmavine, Muckle Roe and Busta	700	700
12	Delting West	765	743
13	Delting East and Lunnasting	779	757
14	Nesting, Whiteness, Grisla and Gott	770	818
15	Scalloway	873	862
16	Whalsay/Skerries	848	894
17	Sandsting, Aithsting and Weisdale	732	714
18	Walls, Sandness and Clousta	860	877
19	Burra/Trondra	748	778
20	Cunningsburgh and Sandwick	751	789
21	Sandwick, Levenwick and Bigton	776	788
22	Dunrossness	774	763
<b>Total</b>		<b>17,008</b>	<b>17,302</b>

**Shetland Islands 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  
Sound**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 4383 4154 at triangulation point 174 on Hill of Dale; then eastward in a straight line to the junction of Wester Loch Drive and a footpath leading along the western shore of Loch of Clickimin at NG Ref HU 4628 4099; then southward and south eastward along the said drive to and south westward along South Road (A970) to its junction with a footpath leading to Ruddy Park at NG Ref HU 4621 4043; then south eastward along the said footpath to and south eastward along an unnamed road to a point in line with the northern curtilage of No 26 Nedersund Road; then north eastward to where the northern and western curtilages of the said property meet; then south eastward along the western curtilages of Nos 26 and 25 Nedersund Road to the southern curtilage of Nos 25 and 23 Nedersund Road; then generally north eastward along the southern curtilages of Nos 25, 23, 21, 20, 18-16, 13-10 and 7-5 Nedersund Road to where the western and southern curtilages of No 3 Nedersund Road meet; then eastward to the junction of the said road and Kantersted Road; then north eastward and northward along Kantersted Road to a cul-de-sac, part of Kantersted Road serving Nos 15-33 Kantersted Road; then north eastward along the said cul-de-sac and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to an undeterminable point on the centreline of Brei Wick; then generally south eastward along the centreline of Brei Wick to and southward along the centreline of Bressay Sound to an

undeterminable point to the southeast of Ruggen; then south westward in a straight line to a point in line with the centreline of Voe of Sound; then north westward along the centreline of the said sound to an undeterminable point in line with the western boundary of the properties known as Sand; then northward to and along the said boundary to and continuing northward along a field boundary to where the western and southern curtilages of No 9 Sands of Sound meet; then northward along the rear curtilages of Nos 9-3 Sands of Sound to a point on the rear curtilage of No 3 Sands of Sound in line with the north eastern boundary of Sound Gospel Hall at NG Ref HU 4619 4010; then westward to and north westward along the said boundary to Oversund Road at NG Ref HU 4613 4015; then generally northward along the said road to and south westward along South Road (A970) to a point in line with the rear curtilages of the houses on the eastern side of Upper Baila at NG Ref HU 4602 4031; then northward to and along the said rear curtilages to the northern curtilage of No 49 Fogralea; then north westward in a straight line to the point of commencement.

**Ward 2  
Clickimin**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 4628 4099 on the northern boundary of EW 1 at the junction of Wester Loch Drive and a footpath leading along the western shore of Loch of Clickimin; then generally north eastward along the said footpath to a point in line with the southern boundary of Clickimin Camp Site at NG Ref HU 4654 4137; then westward to and westward, north westward, northward, north eastward, eastward and south eastward along the southern, western, northern and eastern boundaries of the said camp site to a footpath leading to North Lochside (A970), south of Bruce Crescent; then generally northward and north eastward along the said footpath to and southward along the A970 to a point at NG Ref HU 4671 4118; then south eastward in a straight line to and south eastward along Cairnfield Road to Clickimin Road; then south westward along the said road to and southward along the A970 to its junction with the A969; then south eastward in a straight line to an undeterminable point on the centreline of Brei Wick and the eastern boundary of EW 1; then generally south westward, north westward and northward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 3  
North Central**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 4720 4170 at the junction between Freefield Road and Commercial Road; then north eastward along Commercial Road to and south eastward along Market Street to Harbour Street; then south westward along the said street to and north westward along King Harald Street to King Haakon Street; then south westward along the said street to and southward along Burgh Road to a point in line with the northern boundary of Gilbertson Park; then westward to and along the said boundary to and northward along Gilbertson Road to Anderson Road; then westward along the said road to and southward and westward along Robertson Crescent and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the A970 and the eastern boundary of EW 2; then northward along the said EW boundary to a point in line with the rear curtilages of the properties on the northern side of Bruce Crescent at NG Ref HU 4679 4166; then north westward to and generally north westward along the rear curtilages of Nos 10-26 Bruce Crescent to a point in line with the western curtilage of No 1 Burgess Street; then north westward to and along the said curtilage to and north eastward along the rear curtilages of Nos 1-17 Burgess Street to the northern curtilage of No 17 Burgess Street; then eastward along the said curtilage and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to North Road; then northward along the said road to a point in line with the northern curtilage of No 80 North Road; then eastward to and along the said curtilage and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the A970; then northward along the A970 to a point in line with the southern boundary of an Electricity Sub Station; then eastward to and along the said boundary and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to an undeterminable point on Bressay Sound in line with Freefield Road; then southward in a straight line to and along the said road to the point of commencement.

**Ward 4  
Breiwick**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 4698 4096 at the junction between Clickimin Road and Cairnfield Road; then south eastward along Cairnfield Road to and generally eastward along South Road, Scalloway Road and Hillhead to and north eastward along Church Road to Commercial Street; then north eastward along the said street to a point in line

with the western curtilage of No 30 Commercial Street; then northward to and north eastward along the said curtilage and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to an undeterminable point on the centreline of Bressay Sound; then generally south eastward, southward and south westward along the centreline of the said sound to the eastern boundary of EW 1; then north westward along the said EW boundary to and north westward and north eastward along the eastern boundary of EW 2 to the point of commencement.

**Ward 5  
South Central**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 4690 4152 on the southern boundary of EW 3 at the junction between Anderson Road and Robertson Crescent; then generally eastward along the said EW boundary to the junction between Harbour Street and Market Street; then south eastward along Market Street to and south westward along King Erik Street to Lower Hillhead; then southward along Lower Hillhead and Hillhead to the northern boundary of EW 4; then generally south westward along the said EW boundary to and generally north westward and northward along the eastern boundary of EW 2 to the southern boundary of EW 3; then eastward and northward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 6  
Harbour and Bressay**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 4720 4170 on the eastern boundary of EW 3 at the junction between Freefield Road and Commercial Road; then northward along the said EW boundary to an undeterminable point on Bressay Sound in line with the southern boundary of an Electricity Sub Station; then generally northward and north eastward along the centreline of Bressay Sound to an undeterminable point northeast of the Holm of Beosetter and northwest of Score Head; then due east in a straight line to the eastern boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then southward along the said Council boundary to an undeterminable point south east of Bard Head; then due west in a straight line to a point in line with the centreline of Bressay Sound; then generally northward to and along the centreline of the said sound to the eastern boundary of EW 1; then northward and north westward along the said EW boundary to the eastern boundary of EW 4; then north eastward

and generally north westward, south westward and westward along the eastern and northern boundaries of EW 4 to the eastern boundary of EW 5; then north westward along the said EW boundary to and north westward and westward along the eastern boundary of EW 3 to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 6 includes the island of Bressay and Isle of Noss.

**Ward 7  
North**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 4383 4154 on the northern boundary of EW 1 at triangulation point 174 on Hill of Dale; then north eastward in a straight line to the junction between Ladies Drive and the A970; then north eastward in a straight line to a field boundary on the north shore of the Loch of Kebister at NG Ref HU 4563 4463; then generally north westward along the said field boundary and its prolongation in a straight line to an undeterminable point on the centreline of Dales Voe; then north eastward along the centreline of the said Voe to an undeterminable point north east of Green Holm; then south eastward in a straight line to an undeterminable point northeast of the Holm of Beosetter and northwest of Score Head on the northern boundary of EW 6; then generally south westward and southward along the northern and western boundaries of EW 6 to the northern boundary of EW 3; then south westward and southward along the northern and western boundaries of EW 3 to and generally westward and south westward along the northern and western boundaries of EW 2 to the northern boundary of EW 1; then north westward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 8  
Upper Sound, Gulberwick and Quarff**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 4383 4154 on the western boundary of EW 1 at triangulation point 174 on Hill of Dale; then generally south eastward and north eastward along the western and southern boundaries of EW 1 to the western boundary of EW 6; then generally southward and eastward along the western and southern boundaries of EW 6 to the eastern boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then southward along the said Council boundary to an undeterminable point due south east of where the Mill Burn, flowing from the eastern shoreline of Loch of Fladdabister, enters the

North Sea; then north westward in a straight line to and generally north westward along the said burn to the eastern shoreline of Loch of Fladdabister; then generally westward, southward and north westward along the eastern, southern and western shoreline of the said Loch to where an unnamed burn flows from the western shoreline at NG Ref HU 4322 3363; then generally westward along the said unnamed burn to where it is crossed by the A970; then westward in a straight line to summit point 224 on Sheens of Breitoe at NG Ref HU 4195 3372; then south westward in a straight line to summit point 262 on Muskna Field at NG Ref HU 4049 3276; then due west in a straight line to an undeterminable point on the centreline of Clift Sound; then generally northward along the centreline of the said sound to an undeterminable point due west of triangulation point 216 on Scrae Field; then eastward in a straight line to the said triangulation point at NG Ref HU 4179 3615; then northward in a straight line to summit point 132 on Bersa Hill at NG Ref HU 4187 3813; then north eastward in a straight line to the junction between the A970 and B9073 at NG Ref HU 4379 3939; then northward in a straight line to the point of commencement.

**Ward 9  
Unst and Island of Fetlar**

Commencing at an undeterminable point on the northern boundary of Shetland Islands Council in line with the centreline of Bluemull Sound; then eastward and southward along the northern and eastern boundaries of the said Council to an undeterminable point due east of The Rumble at NG Ref HU 4845 7656; then due west in a straight line to an undeterminable point in line with the centreline of Colgrave Sound; then northward to and generally northward along the centreline of the said sound to the east of Hascosay and Linga and west of Sound Gruney to an undeterminable point east of Linga and south west of Holm of Heogland in line with the centreline of Bluemull Sound; then north westward to and generally northward along the said sound to the east of Linga and the prolongation thereof in a straight line northward to the point of commencement.

**Ward 10  
Yell**

Commencing on the northern boundary of Shetland Islands Council and the western boundary of EW 9 at an undeterminable point

in line with the centreline of Bluemull Sound; then generally southward along the said EW boundary to the southern boundary of EW9 at an undeterminable point on the North Sea; then eastward to and generally north westward and northward along the centreline of Yell Sound to the south of Orfasay and Holm of Copister, north of The Rumble and Samphrey, west of Bigga, Wester Land Taing, Sligga Skerry, Uynarey and Holm of West Sandwick, east of Brother Isle, Little Holm, Muckle Holm and Gruney and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the northern boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then eastward along the said Council boundary to the point of commencement.

#### **Ward 11**

##### **Northmavine, Muckle Roe and Busta**

Commencing at an undeterminable point on the northern boundary of Shetland Islands Council and the western boundary of EW 10 in line with the centreline of Yell Sound; then southward along the said EW boundary to an undeterminable point north of Brother Isle in line with the centreline of Sullom Voe; then generally south westward along the centreline of the said voe to the west of Brother Isle, Tinga Skerry, Little Roe and Ungam and east of Lamba, to a point in line with an unnamed burn flowing into Ell Wick; then southward to and generally southward along the said unnamed burn to where it is crossed by the A970 at NG Ref HU 3442 6780; then eastward along the A970 to its junction with an unnamed road leading to Busta; then south eastward in a straight line to an undeterminable point on the centreline of Busta Voe; then generally southward along the centreline of the said voe to the east of Linga to and generally westward along the centreline of Cole Deep to the south of Muckle Roe and the north of Papa Little to the centreline of Swarbacks Minn; then generally westward and north westward along the centreline of Swarbacks Minn and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the western boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then northward and eastward along the western and northern boundaries of Shetland Islands Council to the point of commencement.

#### **Ward 12**

##### **Delting West**

Commencing at an undeterminable point on the western boundary of EW 10 and the eastern boundary of EW 11 on the centreline of Yell Sound to the north of Brother Isle; then

southward along the said sound to the east of Tinga Skerry and west of Brother Isle to where the Mill Burn, flowing from Loch of Mioness, enters the said sound at NG Ref HU 4190 7906; then southward in a straight line to the summit point on Hill of Crooksetter at NG Ref HU 4200 7564; then southward in a straight line to a point where an unnamed burn is crossed by the B9076 at NG Ref HU 4218 7276; then southward in a straight line to the summit point on Hill of Neegrath at NG Ref HU 4216 7171; then south westward in a straight line to summit point 204 on Hill of Oxnabool at NG Ref HU 4158 7066; then westward in a straight line to the confluence of Burn of Easterbutton and Burn of Westerbutton at NG Ref HU 3964 7050; then generally southward along Burn of Westerbutton to its source at NG Ref HU 3918 6881; then southward in a straight line to summit point 252 on Button Hills at NG Ref HU 3932 6844; then southward in a straight line to triangulation point 245 on Souther Hill at NG Ref HU 3964 6673; then south eastward in a straight line to a field boundary at NG Ref HU 4038 6501; then south eastward, southward and south eastward along the said field boundary to its intersection with the Burn of Susetter; then generally southward along the said burn to its confluence with a tributary at NG Ref HU 4058 6437; then generally south eastward along the said tributary to its intersection with a field boundary at NG Ref HU 4066 6434; then south eastward and southward along the said field boundary to a field boundary at NG Ref HU 4065 6393; then south eastward along the said field boundary to a point in line with the rear curtilage of Olnafirth Primary School and School House; then south westward to and along the said rear curtilages to a field boundary to the rear of the properties known as Fairview and Hazelbank; then south eastward along the said field boundary and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the A968; then generally southward along the A968 to and generally south eastward along the A970 to the B9071 at NG Ref HU 4135 6258; then south eastward and generally north eastward along the B9071 to where it crosses the Drida Burn at NG Ref HU 4251 6308; then southward in a straight line to Mossy Hill at NG Ref HU 4253 6055; then south westward in a straight line to summit point 209 on Hoo Kame at NG Ref HU 4209 5894; then south westward in a straight line to summit point 275 on Gruti Field at NG Ref HU 3909 5858; then north westward in a straight line to summit point 143 on East Hill of Burrafirth at NG Ref HU 3691 5923; then

north westward in a straight line to a point where the Mill Burn flows from the western shore of Loch of Quiensetter at NG Ref HU 3596 6008; then generally north westward along the said burn to where it enters the Sound of Houbansetter; then westward to and generally north westward along the centreline of the said sound to the east of Papa Little to the southern boundary of EW 11; then generally north eastward along the southern and eastern boundaries of EW 11 to the point of commencement.

**Ward 13****Delting East and Lunnasting**

Commencing at an undeterminable point on the western boundary of EW 10 and the eastern boundary of EW 12 on the centreline of Yell Sound to the north of Brother Isle; then south eastward and eastward along the western and southern boundaries of EW 10 to an undeterminable point north east of Lunna Holm; then south westward in a straight line to the east of Longa Skerry and Swarta Skerry to an undeterminable point in line with the centreline of Lunning Sound; then southward along the centreline of Lunning Sound to the west of Score Holm and Hunder Holm to an undeterminable point in line with the centreline of Dury Voe; then westward to and north westward along the centreline of the said voe to the north of Swarta Skerry to an undeterminable point in line with the south eastern boundary of the property known as South Tararet; then south westward in a straight line to and along the said boundary and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the B9075 at NG Ref HU 4511 6278; then south westward in a straight line to summit point 127 on Riven Hill at NG Ref HU 4454 6194; then north westward in a straight line to the point where the Drida Burn is crossed by the B9071 and the eastern boundary of EW 12; then generally south eastward and northward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 14****Nesting, Whiteness, Grisla and Gott**

Commencing at an undeterminable point on the centreline of Dury Voe where the eastern and southern boundaries of EW 13 meet; then south eastward along the centreline of the said voe and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the south of Muckle Fladdicap and the north of Muckle Billan to the eastern boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then southward

along the said Council boundary to the northern boundary of EW 6; then eastward along the said EW boundary to and north westward and south westward along the northern and western boundaries of EW 7 to the junction between Ladies Drive and the A970 at NG Ref HU 4470 4286; then south westward along the A970 to where it crosses the Burn of Dale at Bridge of Fitch; then south westward in a straight line to the summit point on Hill Steinswall at NG Ref HU 4179 4178; then north westward in a straight line to Gallow Hill at NG Ref HU 4104 4275; then south westward in a straight line to summit point 107 on Hill of Burwick at NG Ref HU 3938 4167; then due west in a straight line to and generally north eastward along the centreline of Stromness Voe to and across the A971 and continuing generally north eastward along the western shoreline of Loch of Strom to where the Stromfirth Burn enters the said loch; then generally northward along the said burn to where it is crossed by an unnamed road leading between Gillaburn and Girlsa at NG Ref HU 4079 5117; then north eastward in a straight line to the summit point on Hill of Skurron at NG Ref HU 4194 5293; then north eastward in a straight line to the junction between the A970 and B9075 at NG Ref HU 4315 5363; then generally northward along the A970 to the southern boundary of EW 12; then eastward and northward along the southern and eastern boundaries of EW 12 to and generally eastward along the southern boundary of EW 13 to the point of commencement.

**Ward 15****Scalloway**

Commencing at an undeterminable point due west of summit point 107 on Hill of Burwick on the centreline of Stromness Voe where the southern and western boundaries of EW 14 meet; then generally eastward along the southern boundary of EW 14 to and generally south westward along the western boundary of EW 7 to the western boundary of EW 8; then southward and generally south westward along the said EW boundary to an undeterminable point on the centreline of Clift Sound; then northward along the centreline of the said sound to and northward across the B9074 leading from the A970 to Burland on Trondra, to East Voe of Scalloway; then northward and south westward along the centreline of the said voe to the south of Merry Holm, Green Holm and Papa Skerry, the north of Trondra, Papa and West Head of Papa to an undeterminable point in line with the centreline of Sandy Voe;

then south eastward to and along the said voe to the west of West Head of Papa and Papa and the east of Spoose Holm, Oxna and Bullia Skerry to an undeterminable point south east of the said skerry; then south westward in a straight line to the north of Fugla Ness and south of the Steggies to the western boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then northward along the said Council boundary to an undeterminable point in line with the centreline of The Deeps south of Sanda Stour and north of Hildasay; then north eastward to and along the centreline of The Deeps passing between the said islands and continuing eastward to the south of North Havra and north of Hildasay to the point of commencement.

**Ward 16**

**Whalsay/Skerries**

Commencing at an undeterminable point where the eastern boundary of EW 13 meets the northern boundary of EW 14 south of Hunder Holm, on the centreline of Dury Voe; then north eastward along the eastern boundary of EW 13 to the southern boundary of EW 10; then eastward along the said EW boundary to and continuing eastward along the southern boundary of EW 9 to the eastern boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then southward along the said Council boundary to the northern boundary of EW 14; then north westward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 17**

**Sandsting, Aithsting and Weisdale**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 3508 6067 on the southern boundary of EW 12, where the Mill Burn flowing from the western shore of Loch of Quiensetter enters the Sound of Houbansetter; then generally south eastward and eastward along the said EW boundary to the western boundary of EW 14; then generally south eastward and south westward along the said EW boundary to the northern boundary of EW 15; then generally westward and south westward along the said EW boundary to the western boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then north westward in a straight line to an undeterminable point south westward of and in line with the centreline of Gruting Voe; then north eastward to and along the centreline of Gruting Voe to the west of Muckle Flaes and east of Green Head to an undeterminable point on the centreline of the said voe in line with the Seli Voe; then north eastward to and along the centreline of the said voe to the south of Holm

of Gruting to where the Burn of Selivoe enters the said voe; then generally eastward along the said burn to where it is crossed by an unnamed road leading to Setter at NG Ref HU 2980 4879; then generally north westward along the said unnamed road to and generally north eastward along an unnamed road leading between Gruting and Sefster to its junction with the A971 at NG Ref HU 3005 5239; then generally north eastward along the A971 to its junction with the B9071 at Park Hall; then south westward along the B9071 to and south eastward along an access road to the property known as Panama and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to an undeterminable point on the centreline of Efrith Voe; then eastward along the said voe to and south eastward along the centreline of Bixter Voe to a point in line with the western curtilage of the property on the northern shore of the said voe known as The Bungalow; then north eastward to and generally northward along the said curtilage and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the A971; then south eastward along the A971 to and generally northward along the B9071 to a point in line with a field boundary at NG Ref HU 3331 5341; then northward to and generally north westward along the said field boundary to a track at NG Ref HU 3304 5414; then northward in a straight line to the confluence of the Mouldry Burn and a tributary at NG Ref HU 3287 5561; then generally northward along the said burn to and generally westward and northward along the southern and western shoreline of Loch of Vaara to where the Burn of Vaara flows from the western shoreline of the said loch; then generally north westward along the said burn to and north westward along the western shoreline of Loch of Clousta to an unnamed watercourse leading to a Tidal Pond at NG Ref HU 3125 5848; then westward along the said unnamed watercourse to and continuing westward along the centreline of the said tidal pond and across a causeway to The Briggs; then generally westward along the centreline of The Briggs to North Voe of Clousta; then generally westward and north westward along the centreline of North Voe of Clousta to the north of Green Holm, Linga, Long Skerry and Neean Skerry and the south of Green Point, Trea Wick, Gruna and Black Stane and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the western boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then northward along the said Council boundary to the southern boundary of EW 11; then generally south eastward and eastward along the said EW boundary to and generally

south eastward along the southern boundary of EW 12 to the point of commencement.

Note: EW17 includes the islands of Vementry and Papa Little

### **Ward 18**

#### **Walls, Sandness and Clousta**

Commencing at an undeterminable point northwest of Papa Stour, on the western boundary of Shetland Islands Council and the western boundary of EW 17; then generally south eastward and south westward along the said EW boundary to the western boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then northward along the said Council boundary to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 18 includes the islands of Foula, Papa Stour and Ve Skerries.

### **Ward 19**

#### **Burra/Trondra**

Commencing at an undeterminable point on the southern boundary of EW 15 on the centreline of Sandy Voe to the east of Oxna and west of Papa; then generally north westward, eastward and south westward along the said EW boundary to and south westward along the western boundary of EW 8 to an undeterminable point on the centreline of Clift Sound due west of summit point 262 on Muskna Field; then continuing south westward along the centreline of the said sound to the west of Holm of Maywick and east of South Harva to an undeterminable point south of South Harva and Little Harva and north west of Taing of Maywick; then due west in a straight line to the western boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then northward along the said Council boundary to the southern boundary of EW 15; then north eastward and generally north westward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

### **Ward 20**

#### **Cunningsburgh and Sandwick**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 4049 3276 on the southern boundary of EW 8 at summit point 262 on Muskna Field; then generally north eastward and south eastward along the said EW boundary to the eastern boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then southward along the said Council boundary to an undeterminable point

south east of Bannock Hole on No Ness; then north westward in a straight line to and northward along the centreline of Sand Wick to the point where the Burn of Sandwick enters Sand Wick at NG Ref HU 4340 2367; then generally northward along the said burn to where it is crossed by an unnamed road east of the property known as Smithfield; then generally south westward and north westward along the said unnamed road to its junction with the A970 at NG Ref HU 4204 2502; then north westward and south westward along the A970 to where it crosses the Burn of Breitoe at NG Ref HU 4028 2447; then northward along the said burn to and generally north westward along the Red Burn to a point at NG Ref HU 3928 2517; then north westward in a straight line to and generally northward and westward along the Burn of Deepdale to where it enters the Clift Sound; then north westward in a straight line to the east of the Holm of Maywick to the eastern boundary of EW 19; then northward along the said EW boundary to and eastward along the southern boundary of EW 8 to the point of commencement.

Note: EW 20 includes the island of Mousa

### **Ward 21**

#### **Sandwick, Levenwick and Bigton**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 3801 2591 on the southern boundary of EW 20 at the point where the Burn of Deepdale enters the Clift Sound; then generally south eastward along the said EW boundary to the eastern boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then north westward in a straight line to a point NG Ref HU 4118 1846 on the Stack of Cambar; then north westward in a straight line to a field boundary at NG Ref HU 4110 1850; then westward and south westward along the said field boundary to the eastern boundary of the properties at Braefield at NG Ref HU 4084 1832; then generally north westward, westward and southward along the eastern, northern and western boundaries of the said properties to an access road leading to the said properties; then westward along the said access road to and north westward along an unnamed road leading to the A970 to its junction with the A970; then southward along the A970 to a point in line with the northern boundary of the properties at Maryland; then generally westward, southward and eastward along the northern, western and southern boundaries of the said properties and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the A970; then southward along the A970 to a point in line with the northern boundary of the

properties at Gusselton; then westward to and generally westward, southward and eastward along the northern, western and southern boundaries of the said properties and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the A970; then southward along the A970 to and north westward along the B9122 to where it crosses an unnamed burn flowing into Loch of Brow at NG Ref HU 3929 1629; then generally south westward along the said unnamed burn to and generally southward and westward along the eastern and southern shoreline of the said loch to an unnamed burn flowing from the southern shoreline of Loch of Brow to Loch of Spiggie; then generally westward along the said unnamed burn to and generally westward along the southern shoreline of Loch of Spiggie to an unnamed burn flowing from the southern shoreline of the said loch at NG Ref HU 3722 1586; then generally westward along the said unnamed burn to a point at NG Ref HU 3601 1592; then westward in a straight line to Scarfi Taing and the prolongation thereof in a straight line to the western boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then northward along the said Council boundary to and eastward and north eastward along the southern boundary of EW19 to the southern boundary of EW 20; then south eastward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

**Ward 22**

**Dunrossness**

Commencing at NG Ref HU 3989 1922 on the southern boundary of EW 21 at the junction of an access road to Braefield and the A970; then south eastward along the said EW boundary to the eastern boundary of Shetland Islands Council; then generally southward, westward and northward along the eastern, southern and western boundaries of Shetland Islands Council to the southern boundary of EW 21; then generally south eastward and northward along the said EW boundary to the point of commencement.

Note : EW 22 includes Fair Isle