

# Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

## Renfrewshire Council Area





Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

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## Renfrewshire Council Area

### Constitution of the Commission

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Report Number E06025  
August 2006



<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Summary</b>	<b>Page 7</b>
<b>Part 1 Background</b>	<b>Pages 9 – 14</b>
	<b>Paragraphs</b>
Origin of the Review	1
The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004	2 – 4
Commencement of the 2004 Act	5
Directions from Scottish Ministers	6 – 9
Announcement of our Review	10 – 16
General Issues	17 – 18
Definition of Electoral Ward Boundaries	19 – 24
Electorate Data used in the Review	25 – 26
<b>Part 2 The Review in Renfrewshire Council Area</b>	<b>Pages 15 – 28</b>
	<b>Paragraphs</b>
Meeting with Renfrewshire Council	1 – 3
Concluded View of the Council	4 – 6
Aggregation of Existing Wards	7 – 15
Initial Proposals	16 – 21
Informing the Council of our Initial Proposals	22 – 23
Renfrewshire Council Response	24 – 25
Consideration of the Council Response to the Initial Proposals	26 – 39
Provisional Proposals	40 – 44
Representations	45
Consideration of Representations	46 – 68
<b>Part 3 Final Recommendation</b>	<b>Pages 29 – 30</b>
<b>Appendices</b>	<b>Pages 31 – 52</b>
Appendix A Extract from Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004	32 – 33
Appendix B Directions to the Commission	34 – 36
Appendix C Directions to Councils	37
Appendix D Schedule 6 Rules	38
Appendix E Review Timetable	39 – 40
Appendix F Illustrative Maps	41 – 52



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Mr Tom McCabe MSP  
Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform

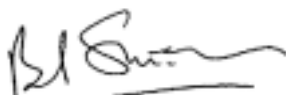
We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, present our proposals for future electoral arrangements for Renfrewshire Council area resulting from our review of local government electoral arrangements as required by section 4 (1) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.

In accordance with the provisions of section 18(3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, copies of our report, together with illustrative maps, are being sent to Renfrewshire Council with a request that the report and maps are made available for public inspection at their offices. In addition copies of our report and maps in the form of PDF images on CDROM are being sent to those who received a copy of our consultation letter. Further, those who made representations during the 12-week public consultation exercise have been informed that the report has been published.

Notice is being given in newspapers circulating in the Renfrewshire Council area that the report has been made and that interested parties may inspect the report and maps at offices designated by the Council throughout its area or by accessing these documents on our web site.



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August 2006





## Summary

- The review was called for by section 4 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.  
**Part 1, paragraph 1**
- The first Commencement Order, which signalled the start of the review process, was dated 20 August 2004.  
**Part 1, paragraph 5**
- Directions from the Scottish Ministers were issued to the Commission on 30 August 2004.  
**Part 1, paragraph 6**
- Our review of electoral arrangements was announced in a letter dated 6 September 2004 sent to each Chief Executive of the 32 Councils.  
**Part 1, paragraphs 10 – 16**
- The ward boundaries proposed by our review are based on topographical identifiers contained in the Ordnance Survey MasterMap large-scale digital plans.  
**Part 1, paragraphs 19 – 24**
- The July 2004 electoral register provided the base electorate for the review.  
**Part 1, paragraphs 25 – 26**
- Our first meeting with Renfrewshire Council took place on 7 October 2004 at the Council headquarters in Paisley.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 1 – 3**
- We provided the Council with our initial proposals for 11 wards in Renfrewshire Council area on 9 March 2005 and asked that a response be made within 2 months.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 22 – 23**
- The Renfrewshire Council response to our initial proposals was received on 4 May 2005.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 24 – 25**
- We published our provisional proposals for 11 wards electing 40 Councillors on 7 July 2005 and asked that representations be made to us by 29 September 2005.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 40 – 44**
- We received 295 representations during the statutory consultation period of 12 weeks.  
**Part 2, paragraph 45**
- Our consideration of representations.  
**Part 2, paragraphs 46 – 68**
- We recommend 4 x three member wards and 7 x four member wards for Renfrewshire Council area thereby returning a total of 40 elected members.  
**Part 3, paragraph 1**



## Part 1 Background

### Origin of the Review

1. The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 introduced proportional representation for local authority elections. As a consequence, we were required to review electoral arrangements for all local authorities in Scotland for the elections due to take place in May 2007. This Report presents our findings and recommendations resulting from the review of Renfrewshire Council area called for by section 4(1) of the 2004 Act.

### The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

2. The 2004 Act made a number of changes to the existing legislation, the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended. These changes are set out at Appendix A. However, some of the changes have a particular impact on the review process and it is perhaps worth noting the following provisions:

- at least 2 months before taking any steps to inform other persons of our draft proposals, or any interim decision not to make proposals, we should inform the Council of our proposals (or any decision not to make proposals); and
- before informing any other person of our initial draft proposals, we should take into consideration any representation made by the Council during the period of 2 months beginning on the day on which the Council was informed of our initial draft proposal.

3. Schedule 6 to the 1973 Act, as amended, was further amended by the 2004 Act so that:

- at 1(2), the number calculated by dividing the number of local government electors in each electoral ward of a local government area by the number of councillors to be returned in that ward shall be, as nearly as may be, the same; and
- at 1(3)(b), any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary but if, in any case, there is a conflict between those criteria, greater weight shall be given to the latter.

4. The full text of the Schedule 6 rules as amended is set out at Appendix D.

### Commencement of the 2004 Act

5. The Minister for Finance and Public Services signed the first Commencement Order in relation to the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 on 19 August 2004. As a consequence, Sections 4(1) to (4), 5(a) to (c) and (f) (Reviews of electoral arrangements) and Section 6 (Interpretation of Part 1) of the 2004 Act came into force on 20 August 2004. The Commencement Order also stated that, in exercising the functions conferred under the provisions referred to above, Scottish Ministers and the Commission should act on the assumption that the provisions of Part 1 of the 2004 Act are in force for all purposes.

## Directions from Scottish Ministers

6. On 30 August 2004, Scottish Ministers issued Directions to us in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 18(2A) and 18(2B) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended. The Directions apply during the current review to any consultation conducted by us in accordance with Section 18(2)(a) of the 1973 Act, with the Council of any local government area affected by a review under Part II of that Act. A copy of these Directions is at Appendix B.

7. Amongst other things, the Directions required us to inform each Council, within 14 days of the date of the Directions, in writing, in a letter sent by recorded delivery addressed to the Chief Executive, of the:

- timetable we proposed for the consultation;
- timetable we proposed for the review;
- general approach we proposed to adopt in formulating proposals for ward boundaries;
- information we would like to have available to use in formulating our proposals;
- assistance which each Council would be asked to render to us in the process of review; and
- such other matters we felt appropriate.

8. On 30 August 2004, Scottish Ministers similarly issued Directions to Councils that they should cooperate with us in the conduct of our review and, in particular, that they should:

- establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue which, where appropriate, may include meetings with us;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that any views expressed, or purporting to be expressed, by or on behalf of the Council to us are accurate;
- provide us with all such information as we may reasonably request; and
- provide us with all such information that the Council considered relevant, including any proposals or ideas a Council may have in relation to new ward boundaries, or otherwise in relation to the formulation of our proposals.

9. A copy of the Directions to Councils is set out at Appendix C.

## Announcement of our Review

10. We announced the start of our review of electoral arrangements in a letter to the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Council dated 6 September 2004. With regard to our initial consultation, we informed the Chief Executive that paragraph 7 (subject to paragraph 9) of the Ministerial Directions to us mentioned above stipulated that we should meet with the Council no later than 12 weeks from the date of our letter. We were required to offer each Council two dates for such a meeting and that such a meeting should take place during the Council's ordinary working hours.

11. We proposed that our meeting with Renfrewshire Council should take place on either 16 September 2004 at 10:00 hrs or 23 September 2004 at 10:00 hrs. We asked the Council to inform us of any other dates within the 12-week period determined by the Directions which should be avoided in the event of our initial dates being unsuitable. We noted that we expected that meetings would be held at the Council's offices but offered, if necessary, to accommodate a meeting at our offices in Edinburgh.

12. With regard to the proposed meeting, we informed the Chief Executive that we would be represented by a Commissioner accompanied by a member or members of our Secretariat. We asked for facilities to be made available which would allow us to make a short presentation to provide background information and to illustrate how we proposed to undertake the review.

13. With our letter we enclosed an outline timetable (Appendix E) which set out the main stages for our review. We also set out details of the general approach which we intended to adopt in considering how revised electoral wards suitable for returning 3 or 4 elected members might be constructed within the terms of the statutory rules, whilst seeking better to reflect local perceptions of natural communities where possible and practicable to do so. We set out our proposal to use information from the July 2004 electoral register as the base electorate for our review and our intention to make available to the Council geographic information systems (GIS) data files containing counts of electors for each postcode within the Council area which would facilitate spatial analysis of these data.

14. Bearing in mind the importance we attached to perceptions of community focus and our concept of the contribution that this focus might make to the delineation of more stable boundaries in the longer term, we asked the Council to identify and map what it considered to be the boundaries between communities within its area. We made it clear that we were particularly interested in such boundaries being identified within contiguous built-up areas, such settlements, or groups of settlements, being likely to merit more than one multi-member ward. We also asked for information which would allow us to make a forecast of the electorate within the Council area at 2009, as required by the legislation.

15. We asked the Council to nominate an official as the recognised point of contact so that the close working relationship necessary to conduct a successful review could be established. We asked if the Council would confirm whether the locations used at the last review in 1996/1998 to deposit material for public consultation remained appropriate and if they would provide details of alternatives where necessary. We also asked for a list of the newspapers circulating within the Council area normally used for the publication of Statutory Notices.

16. We asked the Chief Executive if, prior to our proposed meeting, we could be informed of any particular issues that the Council might wish to discuss with us.

## General Issues

17. Three developments have made it possible for us to reconsider the process and practices of reviewing local government electoral arrangements and of accurately defining the boundaries of proposed wards. Firstly, the availability of computer-based geographic information systems (GIS) provides us with the ability to analyse a variety of localised data and then to develop and explore options for revised electoral ward geography. Secondly, the GIS technology, used in conjunction with Ordnance Survey (OS) large-scale digital data also allows for the boundaries of wards to be more precisely defined than has hitherto been possible – thus obviating the need for written boundary descriptions. Thirdly, the Representation of the People (Scotland) (Amendment) Regulations 2002 provide us, for the first time, with formal access to information contained in electoral registers and,

importantly, allow us to obtain that information in an electronic format which can be managed and spatially examined by means of our GIS facilities.

18. Use of the GIS technology, large-scale digital mapping and electoral register data in examining, reviewing and defining ward boundaries is outlined below.

## Definition of Electoral Ward Boundaries

19. Defining ward boundaries can raise particular difficulties in areas where changes to the built geography are not reflected on available paper maps. In many parts of Scotland such changes are now occurring more rapidly than in the past, with considerable consequences for our boundary review work.

20. The introduction of OS MasterMap® large-scale digital mapping affords the opportunity for the first time for electoral ward boundaries to be defined by means of unique topographical identifiers (TOID®s) which accurately identify the position of the natural and built features depicted by the large-scale digital data. Accordingly, it is possible to identify the boundaries of electoral wards electronically by directly linking the line of any boundary to, for the most part, the OS TOID®s.

21. All Councils in Scotland now have full access to OS MasterMap®, as do all central government bodies, agencies and government-sponsored organisations with GIS facilities. Generally, all such bodies using large-scale digital mapping have a preference for boundary information to be defined against that background.

22. As a consequence:

- all of the proposed ward boundaries we recommend are directly related to digital information contained in the Topography layer of OS MasterMap®, which was supplied to us by OS in July 2004, except where circumstances demand that a line between 2 unconnected TOID®s is necessary, for example, in crossing a road or river;
- where part of a ward boundary and the boundary of the Council area are coterminous, that part of the ward boundary is the boundary of the Council area as depicted in the Administrative Boundaries theme of the Topography Layer of OS MasterMap® as supplied to us by OS in July 2004; and
- where applicable, the coastal boundary of a ward is defined by means of the low water mark springs as depicted in a large-scale digital data set (prepared on our behalf by OS from its large-scale digital information) except in areas where, historically, all or part of the Council's seaward boundary presently has a recognised off-shore definition.

23. We are aware that, at the time of this review, OS is undertaking a Positional Accuracy Improvement initiative (PAI) and that it does not expect to complete this work in Scotland until March 2006. Further, the results of the PAI will not be fully incorporated into the OS large-scale digital maps until later in that year. Even after this detailed work by OS, the position of residential property existing at the time of our review will remain within the ward as defined by our review. This provides better long-term accuracy than would be provided by written boundary descriptions.

24. Drawing these matters together, we have worked on the reasonable assumption that the boundaries of wards will be more accurately defined than has been possible at previous reviews

and that any future dispute over the line of a particular boundary will be capable of resolution by reference to deposited copies of the ward boundaries in digital form in conjunction with deposited copies of the OS MasterMap® data (Topography layer and Administrative Boundaries theme of the Topography layer and coastline data) mentioned at paragraph 22 above.

## Electorate Data used in the Review

25. As mentioned at paragraph 17 above, in preparation for this review, we investigated and tested the potential offered by GIS technology in the preparation of proposals for revised electoral arrangements. To make fullest use of GIS systems in our review activities it is necessary to have the basic numerical data, for the most part electorate information, in a format which allows them to be directly associated with digital mapping showing the underlying geography to which it relates. Ideally, our preference would have been to link addresses in the electoral register directly to the background geography by means of a geo-referenced address database. However, in the absence of a definitive national address database, and being aware of the shortcomings of available address-based GIS databases, we researched the potential for making use of postcode geography maintained by the General Register Office for Scotland (GRO(S)) as a means of identifying the number of electors on the electoral register at a level of resolution low enough for us to develop and consider proposals for the boundaries of revised electoral wards. Initial tests, involving matching the postcodes for addresses on the electoral register with the GRO(S) postcode geography files, indicated that we could successfully identify electors on the electoral register at the small-user postcode which contained their address and, as a consequence, establish accurate counts of electorate for these postcodes.

26. The availability of up-dated electoral register information on a monthly basis allowed us to associate information on the electoral register at July 2004 with the most up-to-date postcode geography available from GRO(S) (August 2004) thus minimising the potential for mismatches between the two data sets. As a consequence, at the start of our review in Renfrewshire Council area, of the 128,633 electors on the register at July 2004, 128,528 (99.92 percent) could be identified within the postcode geography held in our GIS. The residual number of 105 electors were contained in 19 postcodes which, as far as we could ascertain, were newly allocated by the Post Office and, as such, had not yet appeared in the latest Post Office Address Files which GRO(S) uses to update and maintain its postcode geography system. We were, therefore, confident that postcoded electorate data for Renfrewshire Council area could be used as the initial building blocks for reviewing electoral arrangements in that area.



## Part 2 The Review in Renfrewshire Council Area

### Meeting with Renfrewshire Council

1. Our initial meeting with Renfrewshire Council took place on 7 October 2004 at the headquarters offices of the Council at Paisley. We were represented at that meeting by Professor Hugh Begg who was accompanied by Bob Smith from our Secretariat.
2. We made a short illustrated presentation which set out the background to the review and the nature of our GIS systems, which provided us with the facility quickly and accurately to prepare proposals and examine alternatives. We demonstrated that the GIS allowed us to look closely at relevant matters such as the geography and topography, settlement patterns and communication links within Council areas. We explained that, as required by the Schedule 6 Rules, we needed information from the Council on house building, demolitions and known institutional development for the 5-year period to 2009 in order to form a view on the number of electors in the Council area at that time. We also invited Councils to provide information which would help us define areas recognised locally as communities. We set out our proposed timetable for the review, which envisaged 7 stages with completion by August 2006. A copy of the outline timetable is set out at Appendix E.
3. Following our presentation, we answered some general questions on matters relating to the review process. We also invited, and took careful note of, various views expressed in relation to the review in the Council area.

### Concluded View of the Council

4. The Ministerial Directions (Appendix B) issued on 30 August 2004 stated that each Council should, if it so desired, submit its concluded views on review matters to the Commission within one month of the date of our initial meeting.
5. On 22 October 2004 Renfrewshire Council provided details of housing development proposals and community boundary maps showing neighbourhoods and localities, settlement boundaries and addressable localities.
6. The Council informed us on 2 November that that they would further consider the review at a meeting to be held on 2 December 2004. On 7 December 2004 we were informed that the following motion had been approved:
  - 'Renfrewshire Council believes that the best interests of the people of Renfrewshire in relation to groupings of constituencies would be best served by having 12x3 member seats and 1x4 member seats. This arrangement would assist in preserving a "community focus" to multi- member constituencies.

This will maintain the integrity of having a 40 member Council.'

## Aggregation of Existing Wards

7. As required by the legislation as amended, our Secretariat set out for us options for creating new 3 or 4 member wards by combining existing single member wards.

8. Our Secretariat recognised that aggregations of existing wards in the extensive rural western area of the Council posed particular problems because of the predominance of smaller towns and the dispersed electorate in their rural hinterlands.

9. To the north of the Black Cart Water, the contiguous built-up areas of Erskine and Bishopton formed a focus for much of the adjoining rural electorate. However, one of the 6 existing wards contains electorate from both of these urban areas. Consequently, if the 4 wards that currently encompass all of Erskine were to be brought together, a large segment of Bishopton would be associated with that town. Similarly, if 3 of the wards covering Erskine were to be amalgamated, a very significant portion of Erskine would be placed within a ward containing all of Bishopton, Houston, and part of Crosslee. It was, therefore, possible to design a configuration of 2\*3-member wards in this area only if the resulting significant divisions within both Erskine and Crosslee were to be considered acceptable.

10. Bridge of Weir is covered by 2 existing wards, but Ward 33 contains Brookfield, and Ward 34 contains part of Crosslee and Craigends. Notwithstanding these divisions, both existing wards could only be brought together to form a 3-member ward by extending eastwards to incorporate part of Linwood, or southwards to incorporate Kilbarchan and a small segment of Johnstone. Alternatively, all of Linwood could be added to Bridge of Weir to create a 4-member ward leaving Crosslee divided. Similarly, combining Bridge of Weir with Wards 31 and 33 to the south would continue to divide Crosslee.

11. Johnstone is presently covered by 5 wards, save for a small industrial area at its northern boundary. Because 5-member wards are not permissible within the terms of the legislation it would have been, therefore, necessary to combine part of Johnstone with an adjoining area. Kilbarchan could be associated with Johnstone but this would have had adverse consequences for the design of wards around Bridge of Weir and further afield.

12. At Renfrew and Paisley, the contiguous built-up nature of these towns and the route of the M8 meant that the historical boundary could not be clearly defined in community terms. Part of Renfrew would have had therefore to have been associated with Paisley. Few options for aggregating complete wards were apparent. Further, simple aggregations of wards led to numerous arbitrary divisions of communities across Paisley and, bearing in mind issues around Linwood, part of the Ferguslie Park area of Paisley had to be associated with that town.

13. In many areas aggregations of existing wards did not produce a configuration which complied with the statutory rules concerning electoral parity, particularly when the forecast electorate resulting from the distribution of new-build housing and demolitions across the Council area was taken into account.

14. After consideration of these and all other relevant matters, we were not persuaded that our initial proposals should be based on a configuration dictated by a simple aggregation of existing wards. We, therefore, decided to consider other approaches which would allow for:

- the structure of wards within Paisley to reflect the neighbourhood boundaries identified by the Council;

- Erskine to be wholly contained within a single ward;
- Bridge of Weir and Bishopton to be wholly contained within a single ward;
- Houston, Crosslee and Craighends to be wholly contained within a single ward;
- Johnstone to be contained within 2 wards and associated with the western and south western rural communities rather than being divided between 3 wards; and
- account to be taken of the expected new housing and demolition information provided by the Council.

15. As a consequence of our decision, our Secretariat prepared alternative designs for revised wards using the methodology made known to the Council and bearing in mind the neighbourhoods and localities, settlement boundaries and addressable localities provided to us by the Council at the outset of our review.

## Initial Proposals

16. Our Secretariat proposed that all of Erskine should be contained within a 4-member ward bounded by the Black Cart Water, M8, M898 and the River Clyde. Similarly, Houston, Crosslee, Craighends, Brookfield and Linwood were to be combined to form a 4-member ward which did not split any identifiable settlements and where the southern portion of the ward would contain Linwood Industrial Estate.

17. All of Bridge of Weir and Bishopton were to be brought together in a 3-member ward comprising urban and rural electorates, the latter already focussing towards wards containing both urban centres.

18. The main railway line offered an appropriate division within the built-up area of Johnstone, which would allow Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch to be associated with the town along the main communication links to form a 3-member ward. This division of Johnstone would wholly contain 3 of the 7 neighbourhoods identified to us at the outset of our review. The remaining 4 neighbourhoods were associated with Howwood and the rural electorate to the south to form a 4-member ward.

19. Two wards, which would each return 3-members, were designed to cover the built-up areas of Renfrew and North Paisley lying west of the White Cart Water and north of the Glasgow City/Lochwinnoch railway line. In this area we noted the significant volume of proposed development along the northern boundary at the River Clyde. Of the 12 neighbourhoods identified to us at the start of our review only one, Kirklandneuk, would be divided by our proposed boundaries. An area bounded on the west by the Black Cart Water and on the east by the White Cart Water would bring together 13 of the neighbourhoods identified to us into a 4-member ward. This arrangement divided only one of these areas at the Paisley town centre along Storie Street and its continuation to Canal Street. Six of the neighbourhoods lying east of the town centre division at Storie Street were to be wholly combined to provide for a 4-member ward. The proposed ward would be bounded on the north by the Glasgow City/Lochwinnoch railway line and on the south by, for the most part, the A726. The remainder of the contiguous built up area of Paisley comprising 5 neighbourhoods would be brought together with the small area immediately to the south to provide for 2 wards each returning 4-members. The distribution of electorate in the area would, however, make it necessary to select a boundary that approximated to Glenburn Road.

20. Having carefully considered the revised ward geographies, we concluded that our Secretariat's proposals produced wards which were acceptable in terms of electoral parity, had well-defined boundaries and, as far as it was possible and practicable to do so, reflected the structure of communities identified by the Council. Accordingly, we agreed that they should be adopted, subject to 2 minor amendments, as our initial proposals. In the course of our deliberations we took fully into account the Schedule 6 rules, and the requirement placed upon us that we make recommendations which, in our view, are in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

21. Following full discussion it was agreed that our initial proposals for Renfrewshire Council area should comprise 11 electoral wards of which 4 would be 3-member wards and 7 would be 4-member wards as follows:

Ward Number a	Forecast Electorate b	Number of Elected Members c	Average Electorate per Member d	Divergence from Parity (%) e
1	9,795	3	3,265	1
2	10,605	3	3,535	10
3	12,935	4	3,234	0
4	12,880	4	3,220	0
5	13,480	4	3,370	4
6	12,090	4	3,023	-6
7	12,640	4	3,160	-2
8	10,165	3	3,388	5
9	12,070	4	3,018	-6
10	9,190	3	3,063	-5
11	13,130	4	3,283	2

## Informing the Council of our Initial Proposals

22. We submitted our initial proposals to Renfrewshire Council on 9 March 2005 illustrated by maps showing the boundaries of the proposed wards. We also provided details of the forecast of electorate for each ward at 2009, a GIS file containing the boundaries of each ward and a CDROM containing maps of the proposed ward boundaries in PDF image format. (A GIS file containing the GRO(S) postcode geography showing the 2004 electorate together with the expected new build/demolition etc data and the electorate for each postcode at 2009 arising from these components of change was also available to the Council to assist with the review process.)

23. We asked the Council to provide its views on our initial proposals within two months as specified in the legislation. Contact was maintained with the Council at officer level throughout this initial consultation period.

## Renfrewshire Council Response

24. We received Renfrewshire Council's written response to our initial proposals on 4 May 2005.

25. The Council considered that the boundaries proposed did not sufficiently recognise community ties and had not followed the principles laid out at our meeting with them. Further, the legislation

providing for this review required the Commission to provide reasons where their initial proposals were not formulated on the basis that each electoral ward consisted of a combination of existing electoral wards: the Council was not satisfied with the Commission's proposals in this regard. The Council restated its previous position that its area should comprise 12 wards with 3 members and one ward with 4 members, one of which comprised 3 existing wards linked by part of the Kilbarchan ward so that the geography of the area was contiguous.

## Consideration of the Council Response to the Initial Proposals

26. When we examined the Council's proposals as they affected Renfrew and Paisley we found that Ward 1 divided communities at both Gallowhill and Craigtree. That part of the former community north of the Glasgow City/Lochwinnoch railway line was included in Ward 3, and the major part of the latter was included in Ward 8. In Ward 2, communities were divided at the town centre of Paisley, Loanhead and Deanpark.

27. We observed that Ward 3 comprised 2 areas which were non-contiguous, save for the width of Penilee Road at the south of Hillington Industrial Estate. We noted also that the electorate in the northern portion of the proposed ward was separated from the southern portion by the M8, Hillington Industrial Estate, the Glasgow City/Lochwinnoch railway line and the Barshaw Golf Course. The southern portion of that proposed ward included part of Gallowhill lying to the north of the railway and it excluded parts of both Whitehaugh and Ralston/Oldhall, which were included in Ward 4. This arrangement divided identified communities.

28. When we turned to a further examination of Ward 4, we observed that the proposed boundary included part of Glenburn in the ward, the remainder being in Ward 5; and that it divided Carriagehill, Potterhill, Charleston and Dykebar. We noted that Ward 5 comprised the Glenburn neighbourhood, except for the portion within Ward 4, the major part of the Corsebar neighbourhood, with the remainder being within Ward 7, and a small sparsely populated area of predominantly open space.

29. Although the major part of Paisley Town Centre, West End and Oakshaw were placed within Ward 6, smaller portions were detached and included in Wards 1 and 4. Other communities which straddled the boundaries of Ward 4 and Ward 7 included Foxbar, Millarston and an area around Meikleriggs, which might more appropriately have been included within Ward 5.

30. Ward 8 contained all of Linwood and a significant portion of Ferguslie Park/Craigielee which was clearly part of the contiguous built-up area of Paisley and, as such, more closely associated with the electorate in the existing Ward 2.

31. Ward 9 contained the northern portion of Johnstone and an area of undeveloped land lying to the south of Elderslie and Johnstone Castle. The remainder of Johnstone was incorporated with Kilbarchan.

32. Bridge of Weir, Brookfield, Craigends and part of Crosslee were combined in Ward 11 with Lochwinnoch and Howwood. We noted that there were no direct A or B road connections between either Lochwinnoch or Howwood and Johnstone.

33. Ward 12 comprised Houston, part of Crosslee, Langbank, Bishopton and a substantial part of Erskine to the east of the Erskine bridgehead. Ward 13 comprised the remainder of Erskine enclosed by the M8, the Black Cart Water and the River Clyde.

34. When we examined electoral parity, we noted that the deviation shown in the Council's proposed 13-ward structure ranged between -12 per cent and 18 per cent compared with -6 per cent and 10 per cent in the 11-ward structure which we proposed. Although the Council proposed that only Ward 2 should return 4 members, we found that Wards 3 and 11 had sufficient electorate to justify 4 members. Further, Ward 1, at the centre of Paisley, was significantly over represented.

35. In considering the ward geography outwith the built-up areas of Renfrew and Paisley, we recalled that we had examined the configuration for Wards 12 and 13 as proposed by the Council during the process of determining our Initial Proposals. At that time, we concluded that it was not possible to give sufficient regard to the identifiable communities in the area, and that there were no sufficient reasons why, for example, Erskine and Crosslee should be divided between wards. We also noted that, if revised wards were restricted to aggregations of existing wards, the area around Houston, Craighends and Crosslee would be divided without good reason. At Bridge of Weir, we noted that the Council had moved away from straightforward aggregations of existing wards to link Bridge of Weir, Craighends and parts of Crosslee with Lochwinnoch and Howwood by incorporating part of the existing Kilbarchan ward into the configuration. Further examination revealed the poor internal transport links in the revised ward geography. In the area containing both Lochwinnoch and Howwood we observed that the main road and rail communication links were with Johnstone. We also recalled that it would be an inevitable consequence of moving to a system of STV-PR that in many Council areas, rural electorate would necessarily be associated with adjoining urban areas.

36. With regard to Ward 8, we were not convinced that linking Linwood with part of the Ferguslie Park/Blackstoun Road/Bankfort Road area was appropriate, bearing in mind the well-defined boundaries provided by the A737. In our view, Ferguslie Park should be associated with adjoining areas of Paisley.

37. In considering the Renfrew/Paisley area we noted the significant over-representation in Ward 1 at the centre of Paisley. We noted also the proposed configuration for Ward 3 combining areas of Renfrew and Paisley which, having regard to the barriers presented by the M8 and the Glasgow/Paisley railway line, appeared to have little in the way of existing community ties. Viewing Renfrew and Paisley in the round, we noted that the proposals offered by the Council paid little regard to the neighbourhood information that they had provided to us at the outset of the review. It was clear that simple aggregations of existing wards led to a configuration within which communities were divided, undermining our commitment to community focus in our deliberations.

38. Overall, we were not persuaded that the proposals submitted by the Council improved upon our initial proposals by demonstrating better regard to communities across the Council area. We were also concerned at the increase in the divergence from parity displayed in the Council's proposals; by the over-representation afforded to Ward 1 at the centre of Paisley; and by the fact that 3 of the wards proposed by the Council justified returning 4-members, thereby increasing the number of elected members in Renfrewshire Council to 42. With the use of our GIS system, we considered in depth whether it might be possible to bring together aspects of our proposals with those of the Council. However, we were not able to identify a configuration which satisfied the statutory rules. Drawing all of these matters together, we agreed that our initial proposals should not be amended.

39. In the absence of ward names from the Council, we agreed to go forward with names based upon those contained in a report by the Chief Executive to the Council amended as necessary to reflect differences in the ward geography.

## Provisional Proposals

40. Our provisional proposals for revised electoral arrangements in Renfrewshire Council area made provision for a Council of 40 elected members in 4 wards each returning 3 members and 7 wards each returning 4 members as follows:

Ward		Forecast Electorate	Number of Elected Members	Average Electorate per Member	Divergence from Parity(%)
Number a	Name b				
1	Renfrew North & Braehead	9,790	3	3,263	1
2	Renfrew South & Gallowhill	10,610	3	3,537	10
3	Paisley East & Ralston	12,940	4	3,235	0
4	Paisley North West	12,880	4	3,220	0
5	Paisley South	13,480	4	3,370	4
6	Paisley South West	12,090	4	3,023	-6
7	Johnstone South, Elderslie & Howwood	12,640	4	3,160	-2
8	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan & Lochwinnoch	10,160	3	3,387	5
9	Houston, Crosslee & Linwood	12,070	4	3,018	-6
10	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank	9,190	3	3,063	-5
11	Erskine & Inchinnan	13,130	4	3,283	2

41. We published our provisional proposals for revised electoral arrangements in Renfrewshire Council area on 7 July 2005. These differed from our initial proposals in that they contained minor changes necessary to fix the proposed boundaries to the OS MasterMap® TOID®s (see Part 1 paragraphs 19-24).

42. A statutory notice, detailing where our provisional proposals had been deposited for the public consultation and setting out the arrangements we had made for receiving representations, was published in the Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette Series, the Paisley Daily Express and The Extra. Copies of the documents and maps deposited for the public consultation were also placed on our web site. A short news release was issued on 6 July 2005. The Council was also provided with copies of the documentation and maps on CDROM, which it was free to distribute on a wider basis. Further, we provided the Council with GIS files containing the proposed ward boundary details.

43. All MPs and MSPs with a constituency interest were provided with copies of our provisional proposals on CDROM as were the headquarters organisations of the political parties represented at the Scottish Parliament. We also informed the Scottish Parliament Information Centre, Community Councils, Electoral Registration Officers and the Electoral Commission of our provisional proposals.

44. We asked that representations should be made to us within the 12-week period ending on 29 September 2005. We informed all concerned that representations could be made by writing to our Secretary at 3 Drumsheugh Gardens Edinburgh, EH3 7QJ, by email at, [renfrewshire@lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](mailto:renfrewshire@lgbc-scotland.gov.uk) by fax at 0131 538 7511, or by using the representations pro forma accessible on our web site at [www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk). Those making representations were asked to provide their full postal address including postcode.

## Representations

45. Two hundred and ninety-five representations were received during the statutory public consultation. The main points raised by these parties are summarised below:

### The Council

**Renfrewshire Council** submitted proposals which for the most part proposed amalgamations of existing wards to provide for 1\*4-member ward and 12\*3-member wards. It considered that this configuration would assist in preserving community focus and in maintaining the integrity of the 40-member Council. A decision to give greater priority to electoral parity than to communities would be a mistake and the Commission's proposals divided recognised communities in many areas. For example, Glenburn in Paisley was split; and the linkage of Bridge of Weir to Bishopton seemed arbitrary, whereas associating Bishopton with Houston would be more desirable. The Council believed that its own proposals had clearly identifiable boundaries and also recognised natural communities with strong local ties.

### Local Political Groups

**The Scottish National Party Council Group (SNPG)** provided proposals for all of Renfrewshire based on the principle of keeping communities together. The group believed that the Commission had strayed from that principle. The proposals consisted of amalgamations of existing single member wards and provided for 4\*4-member wards and 8\*3-member wards. Taking into consideration the planned growth of some communities, there was scope for adjustment of boundaries.

**Renfrewshire Scottish Socialist Party (RSSP)** proposed 7\*4 member wards and 4\*3 member wards. The Commission's provisional proposals split towns, including Johnstone and Renfrew, which had a strong sense of community. Communities in Paisley were also divided and a number of villages had been absorbed into larger urban areas with a consequent loss of their identity. A number of communities with industrial linkages and similar housing tenure had been associated with areas sharing no similar social characteristics. Its own proposals provided for proportionality by giving a spread of 3 and 4-member wards throughout the Council area. Johnstone, Blackhall & Hunterhill, Glenburn, Gallowhill and Bridge of Weir would be part of the same ward. The integrity of Kilbarchan, Howwood, Lochwinnoch and Elderslie would be preserved without amalgamation into urban areas. Linwood would retain its historic link with the regeneration site at the former car-plant. The proposals avoided working-class social and rented accommodation being subsumed into relatively affluent areas in both the east and west of Paisley and the associated democratic deficit that would result. The proposals avoided wards that crossed natural barriers.

### MPs/MSPs

**Murray Tosh MSP** supported the Commission's proposals in principle but believed that some local adjustments were needed to better represent communities. The Commission should not, however, amend the proposals to include a substantial number of 3-member wards nor should revised wards comprise simple amalgamations of existing wards.

## Community Councils

**Bishopton Community Council** expressed concern about the proposed move to a 3-member ward because that could result in their not having an elected member who lived in the village. Each village should have its own councillor.

**Bridge of Weir Community Council** felt that Bridge of Weir should be placed in a ward with the neighbouring village of Houston instead of being associated with the villages of Langbank and Bishopton.

**Houston Community Council** suggested that the boundary of Ward 9 be amended to include Brookfield, Bridge of Weir, Crosslee and Houston. The inclusion of Bridge of Weir and Brookfield maintained the rural character of the area.

**Howwood Community Council** objected to the proposals because the rural villages of Renfrewshire had distinct needs. Two alternative wards consisting of Bridge of Weir, Brookfield, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch & Howwood and Bishopton, Langbank, Houston & Crosslee were suggested. To compensate for this re-configuration, Johnstone could be divided into 2 wards together with Linwood and Elderslie.

**Kilbarchan Community Council** considered its problems were more akin to those of other landward villages rather than those encountered within Johnstone. The combination of Kilbarchan with Bridge of Weir, Brookfield, Howwood and Lochwinnoch would provide stronger representation for those villages.

**Lochwinnoch Community Council** stated that the village had significantly different interests from those of Johnstone. A better arrangement would be to link the local villages together, for example associating Lochwinnoch with Howwood, Kilbarchan, Brookfield and Bridge of Weir.

**Renfrew Community Council** objected that the town had been split in two. Gallowhill, which has traditionally been associated with Paisley, was included with Renfrew. It commented that the name of the northern ward should not include Braehead, which was simply a shopping centre.

## Other Representations

**A letter** was concerned that rural areas would lose their entire representation on the Council.

**One hundred and fifty-five letters** variously objected to the proposed division of the Royal Burgh of Renfrew because its identity would be undermined. Renfrew had little or nothing in common with Paisley and, therefore, should not be linked with Gallowhill. The ward should be named "Renfrew North".

**One hundred and twenty-two letters** objected to the proposal which linked the village of Howwood with part of Johnstone. Howwood should be in a ward together with the villages of Lochwinnoch, Kilbarchan and Bridge of Weir because these communities had more in common.

**Two letters** variously objected to the proposals linking Howwood to Johnstone. It would be more appropriate to include Howwood with other local villages such as Lochwinnoch and Kilbarchan.

**Three letters** objected to the proposal to place the village of Lochwinnoch with part of Johnstone. Lochwinnoch had more in common with the villages of Kilbarchan, Bridge of Weir and Howwood.

**A letter** objected on historical, ecumenical and practical grounds to splitting the current ward of Lochwinnoch and Howwood. These areas were the ancient parish of Lochwinnoch. There should be 2 wards comprising the villages: of Bridge of Weir, Brookfield, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch & Howwood, and Bishopton, Langbank, Houston & Crosslee.

## Consideration of Representations

46. Renfrewshire Council's representation had at its core an alternative configuration of wards that was the same as that received in response to our Initial proposals. The exceptions were:

- the boundary between Wards 1 and 3 was amended to incorporate an area of land at South Arkleston into Ward 3 thus providing a contiguous geography for Ward 3;
- Ward 4 comprised an aggregation of existing Wards 14, 15 and 17 (rather than 15, 16 and 17); and
- Ward 6 comprised an aggregation of existing Wards 11, 13 and 16 (rather than 11, 13 and 14).

47. It was clear to us that the Council's representation in response to our provisional proposals was not new, and it provided little in the way of additional evidence to support its position. Nevertheless, we agreed to review our findings. Our conclusions with regard to Wards 1- 3, 5 and 7 – 13 were unaltered. In short, we remained of the view that our proposals for these areas were in accord with the statutory rules regarding electoral parity and that they also better reflected community interests. In the Council's proposal, Ward 1 remained significantly over-represented and justified only 2 elected members; on the other hand, Wards 3 and 11 had sufficient electorate to justify returning 4 members.

48. We considered the Council's reconfiguration of Wards 4 and 6, noting that it better reflected community interests in areas where we had identified difficulties. However, there remained, in our view, a number of areas where communities continued to be divided. We further noted that no representations had been received from electors in the areas concerned.

49. When we considered the alternative proposals submitted by the Scottish National Party Group on Renfrewshire Council, we noted that 2 adjoining wards had sufficient electorate to justify returning a combined total of only 5 members whereas each had been allocated 3 members.

50. In reviewing the ward geography proposed by the SNP, we noted that Bishopton was divided between 2 wards and that there was no prospect of making any adjustment to address this issue within the terms of the statutory rules. In the 2 wards covering Renfrew we concluded that the boundaries between these wards divided the communities within Renfrew that had been identified for us by the Council. We considered that the 4 member ward which linked Linwood with a substantial area of Paisley brought together areas within Paisley which were not well-connected, divided communities in the Ferguslie Park/Blackstoun Road/Bankfoot Road area and did not sit well given the strong natural divisions suggested by the pattern of motorway and trunk roads.

51. We noted that at Whiteheugh and Oldhall the ward as proposed by the SNP, raised the same community issues that we observed in the Council's proposals for the southern portion of its

Ward 3 at Gallowhill, Whitehaugh and Ralston/Oldhall. We were particularly concerned about the geography of the wards which covered the centre of Paisley, Hunterhill & Blackhall and Millarston/Castlehead where the combined areas had sufficient electorate to return 7 members although the SNP Group had allocated only 6. We also considered that there remained a number of community issues between wards, for instance, at Dykebar.

52. With regard to the SNP's proposals for south-west Paisley, the ward appeared to be well contained but did reflect some community divisions when reviewed against the pattern of neighbourhoods provided to us by the Council. We noted that almost all of Johnstone was contained within one ward, except for the Elderslie area, which was brought together with Howwood, Lochwinnoch and Kilbarchan. We considered that the ward geography was unacceptable in terms of the statutory rules.

53. When we moved on to consider the proposals submitted by the Renfrewshire Scottish Socialist Party (RSSP), we found that the ward parity data ranged between -11 per cent and 14 per cent, and that 7 of the 11 wards were more than  $\pm 10$  per cent from parity. We noted that Ward 1 contained sufficient electorate to return 5-members. Wards 7, 9 and 11 were significantly under-represented and Wards 3, 5 and 8 were over-represented.

54. In reviewing the ward geography proposed by the RSSP, we recalled that we were obliged to work within the terms of the statutory rules and must only consider these criteria, namely: parity (except where special geographical considerations apply); any local ties that would be broken; and the desirability of fixing easily identifiable boundaries.

55. Bearing in mind our statutory obligations, we observed that, among the wards proposed by the RSSP within Renfrew and Paisley, only Wards 1 and 2 did not cross the boundaries of any of the neighbourhoods identified to us. We noted 3 community divisions within Ward 3 although, in each case, the proposed boundaries were easily recognisable. In Ward 4 there was a significant division of Glenburn, and the boundary between Wards 4 and 5 did not sit easily. We noted also that the proposed Ward 6 divided 2 of the neighbourhoods at the Town Centre/West End and at Millarston/Meikleriggs.

56. The RSSP's Ward 7 divided Johnstone, associating the Elderslie area with Linwood in an arrangement that provided for a substantial under-representation and did not best reflect communities in an area where main road and rail links divided the proposed ward on a north/south basis. Ward 8 encompassed the remainder of Johnstone in an over-represented 4-member ward.

57. In the remaining wards across the Council area we observed that no identifiable communities were divided. However, Ward 9 was also under-represented in bringing together Bridge of Weir, Kilbarchan, Howwood, Lochwinnoch and an area to the south-west. We noted in passing that bringing together Wards 7 and 9 produced an area with sufficient electors to justify 8 members rather than the 7 allocated.

58. In concluding our consideration of the RSSP's proposals, we noted that the proposed Ward 10, covering Erskine, retained clearly defined boundaries and did not divide any community. We also noted that although the geography of Ward 11 caused no community divisions, it was significantly under-represented.

59. When we considered the representations that opposed the division of Renfrew between Wards 1 and 2, we found that it was not possible within the terms of the statutory rules to design a single ward which encompassed all of the Renfrew area, which had sufficient electorate to justify 5 members.

60. In looking at the various representations regarding the west and south-west of the Council area, we agreed that the general thrust was that an alternative should be devised by creating 2 wards comprising the various 'village' areas. It was suggested that Bridge of Weir, Brookfield, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch & Howwood could be included in one ward, and Bishopton, Langbank, Houston and Crosslee in another. However, on examination, we found that a consequence of that configuration would be that Johnstone would need to be associated with Linwood and consequently that area be divided to create 2 wards.

61. In the absence of any detailed maps or descriptions supporting this alternative scheme, we used community council geography to delineate the possible boundaries of these 2 "village" wards and also re-configured the Johnstone/Linwood areas to create 2 alternative wards. The electorate in the combined area justified 14 members.

62. Creating a southern ward that encompassed Bridge of Weir, Brookfield, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch & Howwood, and a northern ward that comprised of Bishopton, Langbank, Houston & Crosslee revealed a geography that did not divide any of the communities involved. However, we noted that the divergence from parity in the southern ward was significant, and in our view not acceptable within the terms of the statutory rules. We also noted that in order to create 2 wards which best reflected parity and neighbourhood focus in the combined Linwood and Johnstone area, it was necessary to adopt a less satisfactory boundary alignment than in our provisional proposals.

63. We examined alternative boundaries in the area covering Bridge of Weir, Houston, Crosslee and Craighalls, which potentially offered scope to resolve the imbalance in electorate in the southern "village" ward. However, we were unable to establish acceptable wards within the terms of the statutory rules.

64. We also considered the creation of a ward containing Brookfield, Bridge of Weir, Crosslee and Houston. This reconfiguration required a significant revision of our proposals for Wards 9 and 10. However, we noted that although parity was acceptable in the Bridge of Weir, Houston etc, area, that for the adjoining ward which incorporated Linwood, Bishopton and Langbank was not. We also had particular reservations concerning the geography of that ward, especially in relation to north-south communications, and noted in passing that we had rejected a similar proposal developed by our Secretariat when our initial proposals were being prepared.

65. We considered the representations seeking to amend the name "Renfrew North and Braehead" to "Renfrew North."

66. We noted the representation from Murray Tosh MSP.

67. Bringing all of the above together we agreed that:

- our reasons for rejecting the configuration submitted by the Council in response to our initial proposals remained valid and that the minor modifications displayed in the revision submitted in response to our provisional proposals did not affect our earlier decision;
- the alternative proposals offered by the SNP did not better reflect the requirements of the Schedule 6 rules, and they did not provide an improved community-based structure;
- the alternative proposals offered by the RSP could not be adopted primarily because they did not meet with the requirements of the Schedule 6 rules concerning electoral parity in 7 of the 11 wards proposed;

- whilst we had sympathy with those representations concerning the ‘villages’ to the west and south west of the Council area, the alternative ward configurations in the areas concerned resulted in electoral parity which was significantly worse than that resulting from our provisional proposals and, further, the electoral parity and revised ward geography in the Johnstone and Linwood area was not, in our view, improved; and
- the name of Ward 1 should be changed from “Renfrew North and Braehead” to “Renfrew North”.

68. In reaching our conclusions we also observed that although a number of groups and organisations had offered alternative proposals for revised electoral arrangements across the Council area, there had been no adverse public representations arising from within Paisley or from Erskine, Bishopton, Langbank, Bridge of Weir, Houston, Crosslee, Craigends, Johnstone or Linwood. The only exception was a body of representations concerning the interface between Renfrew and Paisley.



## Part 3 Final Recommendation

1. Having conducted the fourth statutory review of electoral arrangements for Renfrewshire Council area in accordance with the procedures described in Parts 1 and 2 above, we recommend that future electoral arrangements for the said Council area should provide for a Council of 40 elected members in 4 wards each returning 3 members and in 7 wards each returning 4 members as follows:

Ward		Forecast Electorate	Number of Elected Members	Average Electorate per Member	Divergence from Parity(%)
Number a	Name b				
1	Renfrew North	9,790	3	3,263	1
2	Renfrew South & Gallowhill	10,610	3	3,537	10
3	Paisley East & Ralston	12,940	4	3,235	0
4	Paisley North West	12,880	4	3,220	0
5	Paisley South	13,480	4	3,370	4
6	Paisley South West	12,090	4	3,023	-6
7	Johnstone South, Elderslie & Howwood	12,640	4	3,160	-2
8	Johnstone North, Kilbarchan & Lochwinnoch	10,160	3	3,387	5
9	Houston, Crosslee & Linwood	12,070	4	3,018	-6
10	Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank	9,190	3	3,063	-5
11	Erskine & Inchinnan	13,130	4	3,283	2

2. The boundaries of the proposed electoral wards are described in the form of digital data as set out at Part 1 paragraph 22 of our report. These data files, which have been securely stored on magnetic media at the date of publication of our report, comprise GIS files in shapefile format containing the features copied from the OS MasterMap®, large-scale digital data as supplied to us at July 2004. A full copy of the OS MasterMap®, Topography Layer, the Renfrewshire Council area boundary depicted in the Administrative Boundaries theme and the low water mark ordinary springs large-scale digital data (prepared on our behalf by OS from its large-scale digital information) has similarly been secured on magnetic media. These secured data files ensure that the proposed ward boundary polyline shapefiles data can be verified against the July 2004 version of the large-scale base mapping from which the proposed ward boundaries are derived.

3. A statutory notice, detailing where our report has been deposited for inspection was published in the Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette Series, the Paisley Daily Express and The Extra. A news release announcing the publication of our report was also issued.

4. A map at the print size and scale set out below has also been deposited for public inspection at the locations set out in the statutory notice:

- Renfrewshire Council area A0 scale 1:27,000

5. Our report and the map detailing the recommended ward boundaries, together with individual maps of each of the recommended wards, are available on our web site at [www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk) and can be viewed or downloaded free of charge within the constraints imposed by Crown copyright.

## Appendices

- Appendix A Extract from Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004
- Appendix B Direction Under Section 18(2A) of The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
- Appendix C Direction Under Section 18(2A) of The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973
- Appendix D Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended  
Schedule 6 – Rules to be observed in considering electoral arrangements
- Appendix E Review Timetable
- Appendix F Illustrative Maps

## Appendix A

### Extract from Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

#### 4 Reviews of electoral arrangements

- (1) As soon as practicable after the commencement of this section the Boundary Commission shall-
  - (a) review the electoral arrangements for all local government areas for the purpose of considering future electoral arrangements for those areas, and
  - (b) formulate proposals for those arrangements.
- (2) Part II of the 1973 Act applies to a review under subsection (1) as it applies to a review under section 16 of that Act except that section 17 of that Act has effect as if it required-
  - (a) the Boundary Commission to submit a report on any review before such date as the Scottish Ministers may direct, and
  - (b) the Scottish Ministers to make an order under section 17 giving effect to the proposals of the Commission under subsection (1) (whether as submitted to them or with modifications).
- (3) The Boundary Commission shall, when complying with section 18(2)(aa) of the 1973 Act on a review under subsection (1), also inform the council of the reasons for any differences between-
  - (a) their draft proposals, and
  - (b) the draft proposals which would have been made had they been formulated on the basis that each electoral ward of a local government area is to consist of a combination of existing electoral wards (the rules set out in Schedule 6 to that Act having been disregarded in so far as those rules conflicted with that basis).
- (4) The Boundary Commission shall disregard subsection (3) when formulating proposals for future electoral arrangements under subsection (1).
- (5) The 1973 Act is amended as follows-
  - (a) in section 16(2) (duty of Boundary Commission to carry out periodic reviews of electoral arrangements), for “Schedule 5 to this Act” substitute “section 4(1) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 9)”,
  - (b) in section 18 (procedure for reviews)-
    - (i) in subsection (2), after paragraph (a) insert-

- “(aa) at least two months before taking any steps under paragraph (b) below to inform other persons of any draft proposals or any interim decision not to make proposals, inform the council of any local government area affected by the review of those proposals or that decision;
- (ab) before taking any such steps, take into consideration any representation made to them by such a council during the period of two months beginning on the day on which the council is informed under paragraph (aa);”,
- (ii) after subsection (2) insert-
  - “(2A) The Scottish Ministers may give directions to-
    - (a) the Boundary Commission,
    - (b) the council of any local government area affected by a review, in relation to consultation under subsection (2)(a) above.
  - (2B) Such directions may be given generally or in relation to particular reviews or particular aspects of reviews.”,
- (c) section 20 is repealed,
- (d) in subsection (1) (interpretation) of section 28, in the definition of “electoral arrangements”, after “councillors”, where second occurring, insert “, the number of councillors for each electoral ward”,
- (e) in subsection (2) (review of electoral arrangements to be carried out in compliance with certain enactments) of that section-
  - (i) after “Act”, where first occurring, insert “or section 4(1) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 9)”, and
  - (ii) for “section 5 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994” substitute “section 1 of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (asp 9)”,
- (f) Schedule 5 is repealed,
- (g) in sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 1 of Schedule 6, for the words from “of”, where fourth occurring, to the end of that sub-paragraph substitute “calculated by dividing the number of local government electors in each electoral ward of that local government area by the number of councillors to be returned in that ward shall be, as nearly as may be, the same.”, and
- (h) at the end of sub-paragraph (3) of that paragraph insert-
 

“but if, in any case, there is a conflict between those criteria, greater weight shall be given to the latter.”

## Appendix B

### **DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 18(2A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973**

1. The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 18(2A) and (2B) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (“the Act”), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby give the following directions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (“the Commission”).
2. These directions apply in relation to any consultation carried out by the Commission, in accordance with section 18(2)(a) of the Act, with the council of any local government area affected by a review under Part II of the Act (“the council”).
3. In carrying out any such consultation, the Commission shall comply with the requirements set out in paragraphs 4 to 12 below.

#### **Information to be provided by the Commission**

4. The Commission shall, within 14 days of the date of this Direction, inform the council in writing, by letter, by recorded delivery, addressed to the Chief Executive of that council of the following–
  - (a) the timetable proposed by the Commission for that consultation;
  - (b) the timetable proposed by the Commission for the review to be conducted by the Commission under section 4(1) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004;
  - (c) the general approach the Commission proposes to adopt in formulating its proposals for ward boundaries;
  - (d) the information the Commission would like to have available to use in formulating those proposals;
  - (e) the assistance which that council would be asked to render to the Commission in the process of the review; and
  - (f) such other matters as the Commission considers appropriate.

#### **Process of consultation with the council**

##### **General**

5. The Commission shall take all reasonable steps to establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue with the council for the purposes of the review. That dialogue may be conducted in person, orally, in writing or otherwise.

6. In the course of the consultation, the Commission shall encourage the council-
  - (a) to establish, and communicate to the Commission, any proposals or ideas that the council may have in relation to new ward boundaries, or otherwise in relation to the formulation of the Commission's proposals; and
  - (b) to provide such factual information held by the council as the Commission or the council think relevant in relation to the formulation of the Commission's proposals.

### Meeting with the council

7. Subject to paragraph 9, the Commission shall meet with the council no later than twelve weeks after the date of the letter sent in terms of paragraph 4.
8.
  - (1) The Commission shall propose to the council 2 dates, and the times on those dates, on which that meeting might take place.
  - (2) Where the council indicates that those proposals are unsuitable then the Commission shall offer 2 further dates, and the times on these dates, on which the meeting might take place.
  - (3) All of the dates and times proposed by the Commission under this paragraph shall be within the ordinary working hours of the council.
  - (4) Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the Commission and the council meeting at any time which is not within the ordinary working hours of the council where the Commission and the council so agree.
9. The Commission is not required to meet with the council where-
  - (a) the council indicates that it does not wish to meet the Commission; or
  - (b) the council fails to respond to any proposal made under
    - (i) paragraph 8(1), during the period of 14 calendar days beginning with the day on which the council received that proposal; or
    - (ii) paragraph 8(2), during the period of 7 calendar days beginning with the day on which the council received that proposal.

### Formal written views of the council

10.
  - (1) The Commission shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that they have received the concluded view of the council in writing on the matters raised in the consultation by no later than-
    - (a) the end of the period of four weeks beginning with the date of any meeting held in accordance with paragraph 7; or

- (b) in the event that, in terms of paragraph 9, no meeting took place between the Commission and the council, the end of the period of four weeks beginning with -
  - (i) the date on which the council indicated that it did not wish to meet the Commission; or
  - (ii) the date on which the period referred to in paragraph 9(b)(i), or if applicable, 9(b)(ii) ends,whichever may apply.

- (2) Where the Commission have not received the concluded view referred to in sub-paragraph (1), within the timescale provided for in that sub-paragraph, the Commission may disregard any conflict in the views that have been expressed by, or purportedly by, the council where, in the opinion of the Commission, those views conflict.

11. Where the Commission is of the opinion that it has not received the concluded view of the council it shall notify the council of that fact no fewer than 7 calendar days before the end of the consultation.

12. For the purposes of these directions, the Commission shall assume that a view expressed as being the concluded view of the council is the concluded view of the council if that view is expressed in a letter from the Chief Executive of the council to the Commission.

Andrew P Kerr

A member of the Scottish Executive

Edinburgh  
30th August 2004

## Appendix C

### **DIRECTION UNDER SECTION 18(2A) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973**

1. The Scottish Ministers, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 18(2A) and (2B) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (“the Act”), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby give the following directions.
2. These directions apply in relation to any consultation carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (“the Commission”), in accordance with section 18(2)(a) of the Act, with the council of any local government area affected by a review under Part II of the Act (“the council”).
3. In taking part in such a consultation, the council shall comply with the requirements set out in paragraph 4 below.
4. For the purposes of enabling the Commission to exercise the functions conferred upon them by virtue of section 18(2)(a) of the Act, as read with the Scottish Ministers’ direction to the Commission dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 2004, the Council shall co-operate with the Commission and shall in particular:-
  - (a) establish and maintain an ongoing dialogue which, where appropriate, may include meeting with the Commission;
  - (b) take all reasonable steps to ensure that any views expressed, or purporting to be expressed, by it or on its behalf to the Commission are accurate;
  - (c) provide the Commission with all such information as the Commission may reasonably request; and
  - (d) provide the Commission with all such information as the Council considers relevant, including any proposals or ideas the Council may have, in relation to new ward boundaries, or otherwise in relation to the formulation of the Commission’s proposals.

Andrew P Kerr

A member of the Scottish Executive

Edinburgh  
30 August 2004

## Appendix D

### Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended Schedule 6 – Rules to be observed in considering electoral arrangements

1. (1) This schedule applies to the consideration by Scottish Ministers or the Boundary Commission of 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 calculated by dividing the number of local government electors in each electoral ward of that local government area by the number of councillors to be returned in that ward shall be, as nearly as may be, the same.
  - (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 but if, in any case, there is a conflict between those criteria, greater weight shall be given to the latter.
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.

## Appendix E

### Review Timetable

**Stage 1:** Initial consultation with Councils and the early establishment of an ongoing dialogue between the Commission and Councils for the purpose of the Review.

Councils are given full opportunity to communicate to the Commission any proposals or ideas that they may have in relation to the design of new wards. The Commission outlines the methodology underlying its intended approach to the Review.

Clarification of general review issues, both technical and administrative. Exchange of factual information between the Commission and Councils relevant to the design of proposed wards.

Discussion/exchange of information for any areas of concern.

**12 weeks**

**Stage 2:** Development of initial proposals by the Commission for each Council area with ongoing consultation between the Commission and Councils as necessary on emerging issues.

Preparation of maps, supporting documentation and GIS files of proposed ward boundaries for Councils once the Commission has completed drafting its initial ward schemes.

**10 weeks**

**Stage 3:** Initial proposals released to Councils. Two months allowed for the Council to comment on proposals, offer amendments and or alternatives. Further discussions with Council as required throughout this stage to clarify emerging issues relating to the initial proposals.

**9 weeks (2 months)**

**Stage 4:** Full consideration by the Commission of issues arising through stage 3 which might lead to revision/adjustment of initial proposals. Further liaison with Councils taken forward on a needs basis

**8 weeks**

**Stage 5:** Publication of the Commission's provisional proposals as part of the statutory public consultation process. Analysis of representations received. Seek Council views on aspects of representations and the impact they have on the provisional proposals as required.

**12 weeks**

**Stage 6:** Full analysis of representations received by the Commission.

Commission determines where a need has arisen for local inquiries, organises and conducts inquiries and reviews its provisional recommendations in light of inquiry reports.

Publication of revised recommendations where the Commission makes significant changes to its provisional proposals.

Consider representations received within 1 month.

Move to final recommendations where possible.

**20 weeks**

**Stage 7:** Complete final recommendations for all Council areas.

Complete review process, write and submit reports.

## Appendix F

### Illustrative Maps

Ward 1 – Renfrew North

Ward 2 – Renfrew South & Gallowhill

Ward 3 – Paisley East & Ralston

Ward 4 – Paisley North West

Ward 5 – Paisley South

Ward 6 – Paisley South West

Ward 7 – Johnstone South, Elderslie & Howwood

Ward 8 – Johnstone North, Kilbarchan & Lochwinnoch

Ward 9 – Houston, Crosslee & Linwood

Ward 10 – Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank

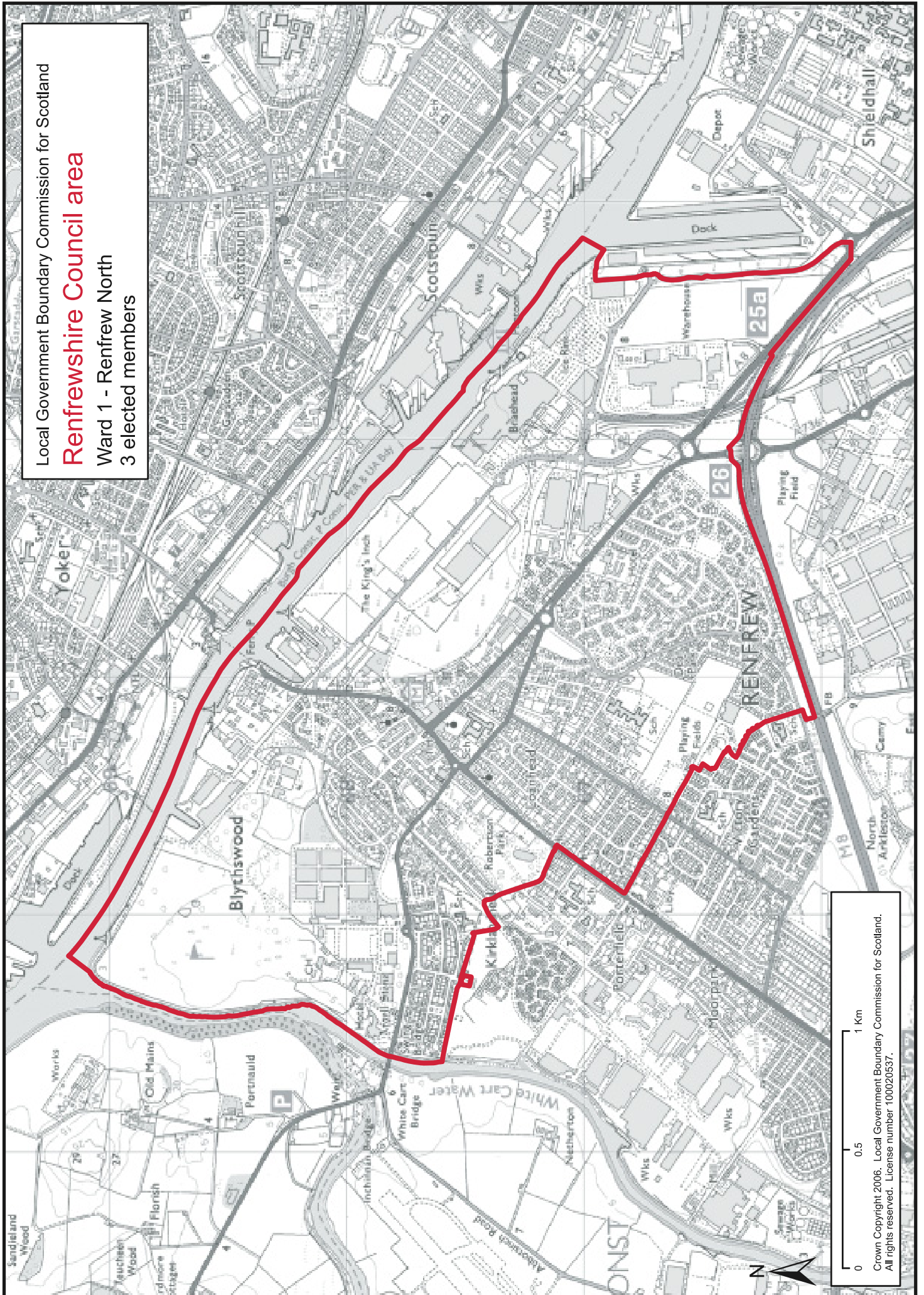
Ward 11 – Erskine & Inchinnan

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Renfrewshire Council area

Ward 1 - Renfrew North

3 elected members



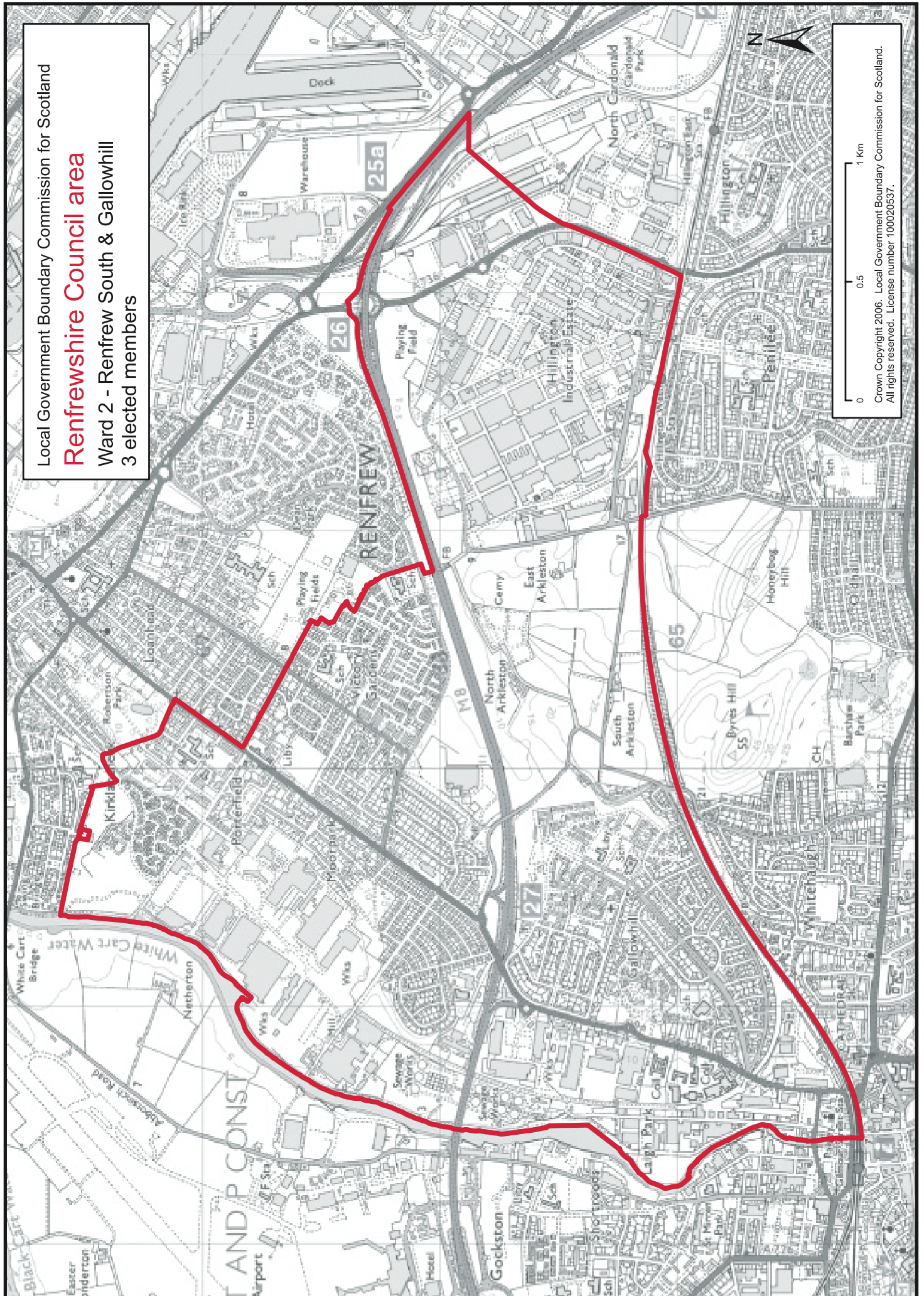
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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Renfrewshire Council area

Ward 2 - Renfrew South & Gallowhill

3 elected members



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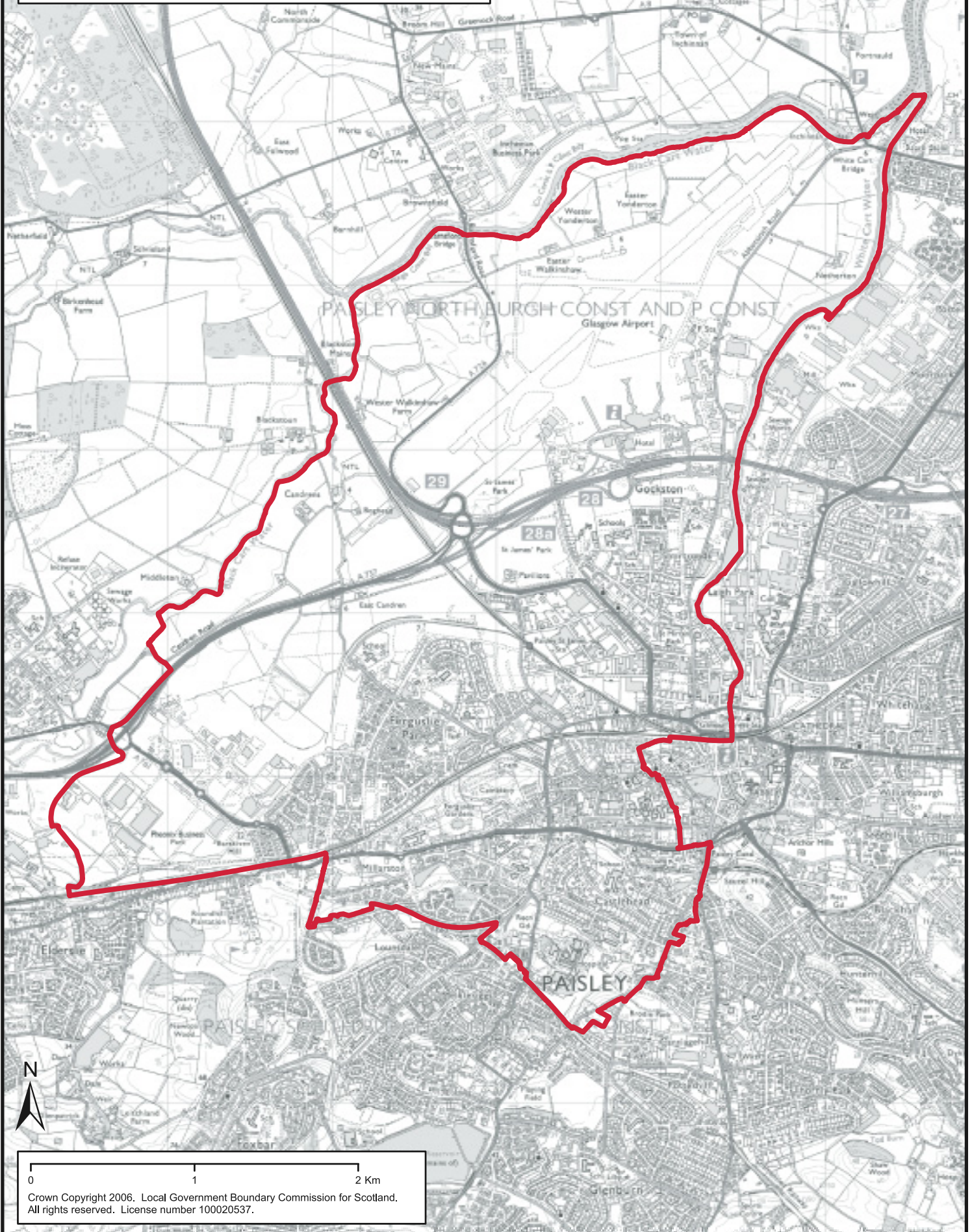


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Renfrewshire Council area

Ward 4 - Paisley North West

4 elected members

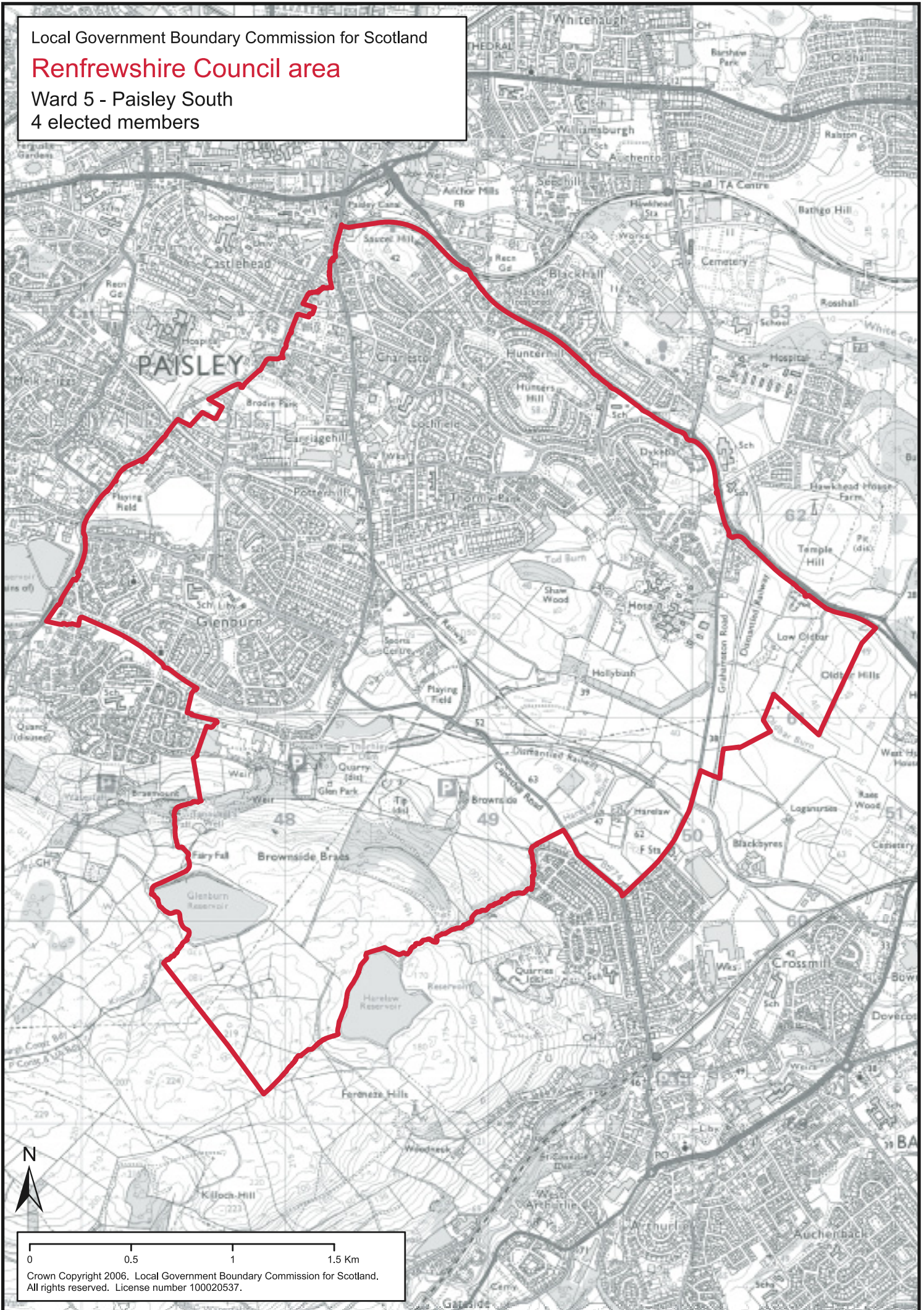


Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

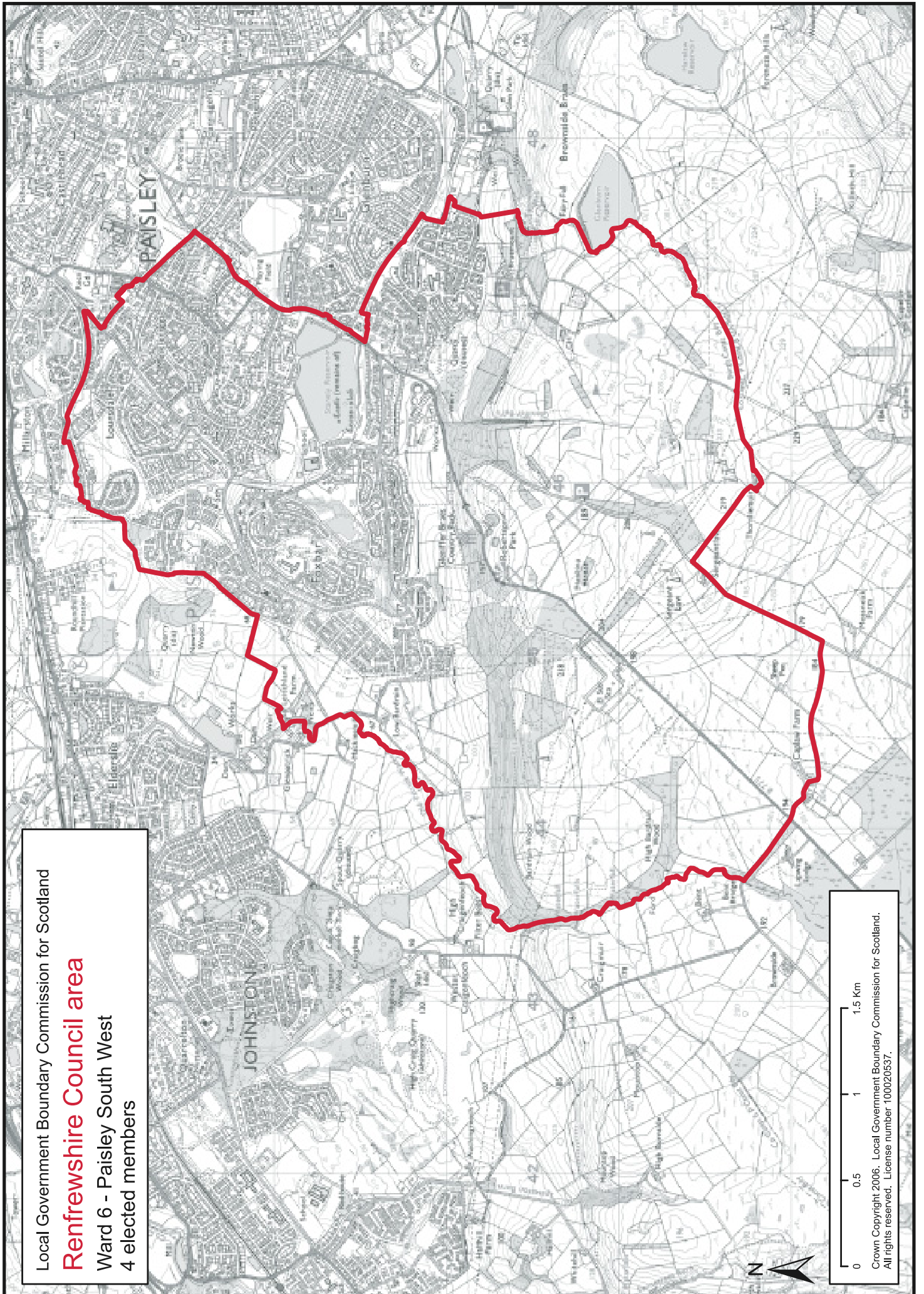
## Renfrewshire Council area

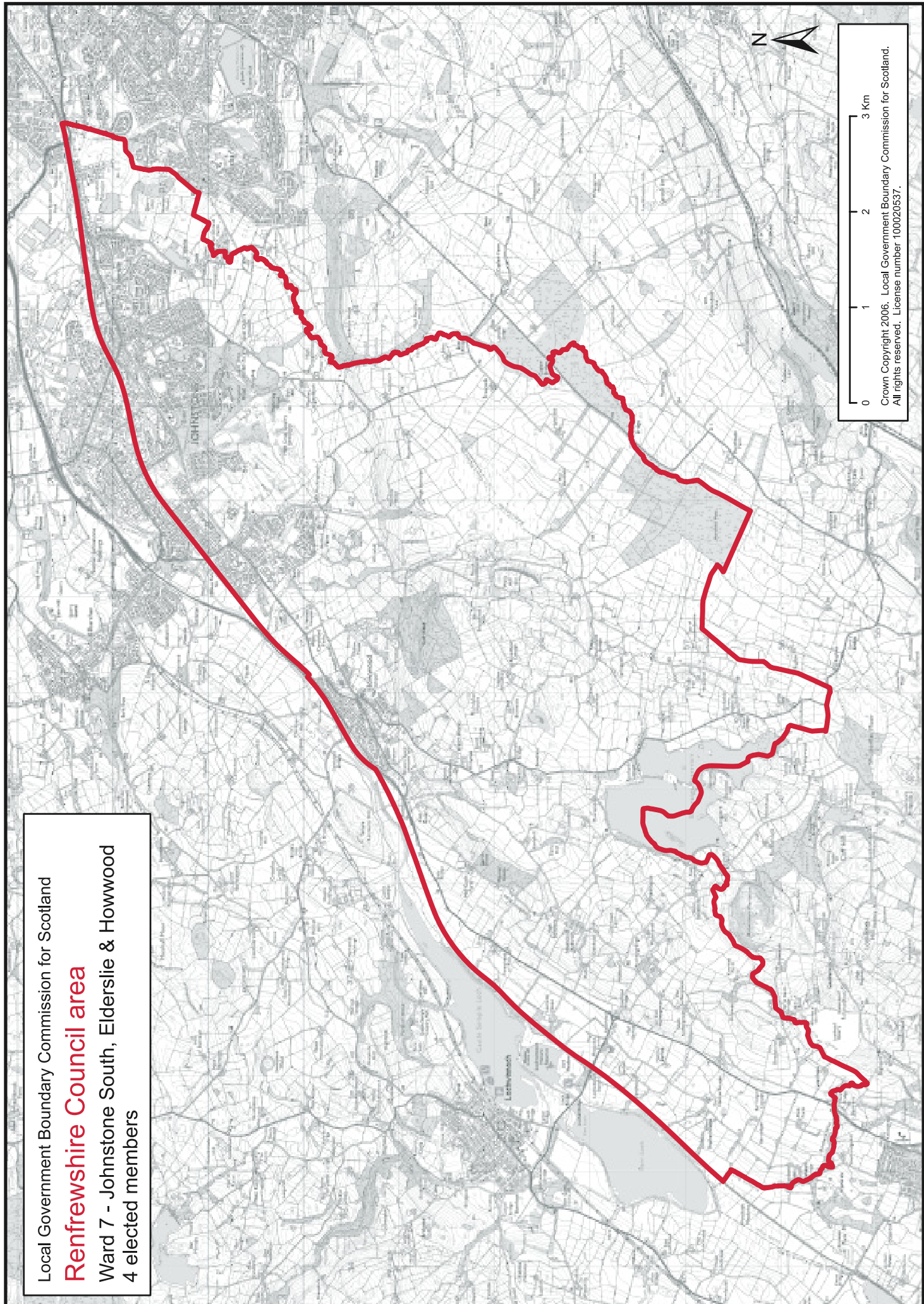
Ward 5 - Paisley South

4 elected members



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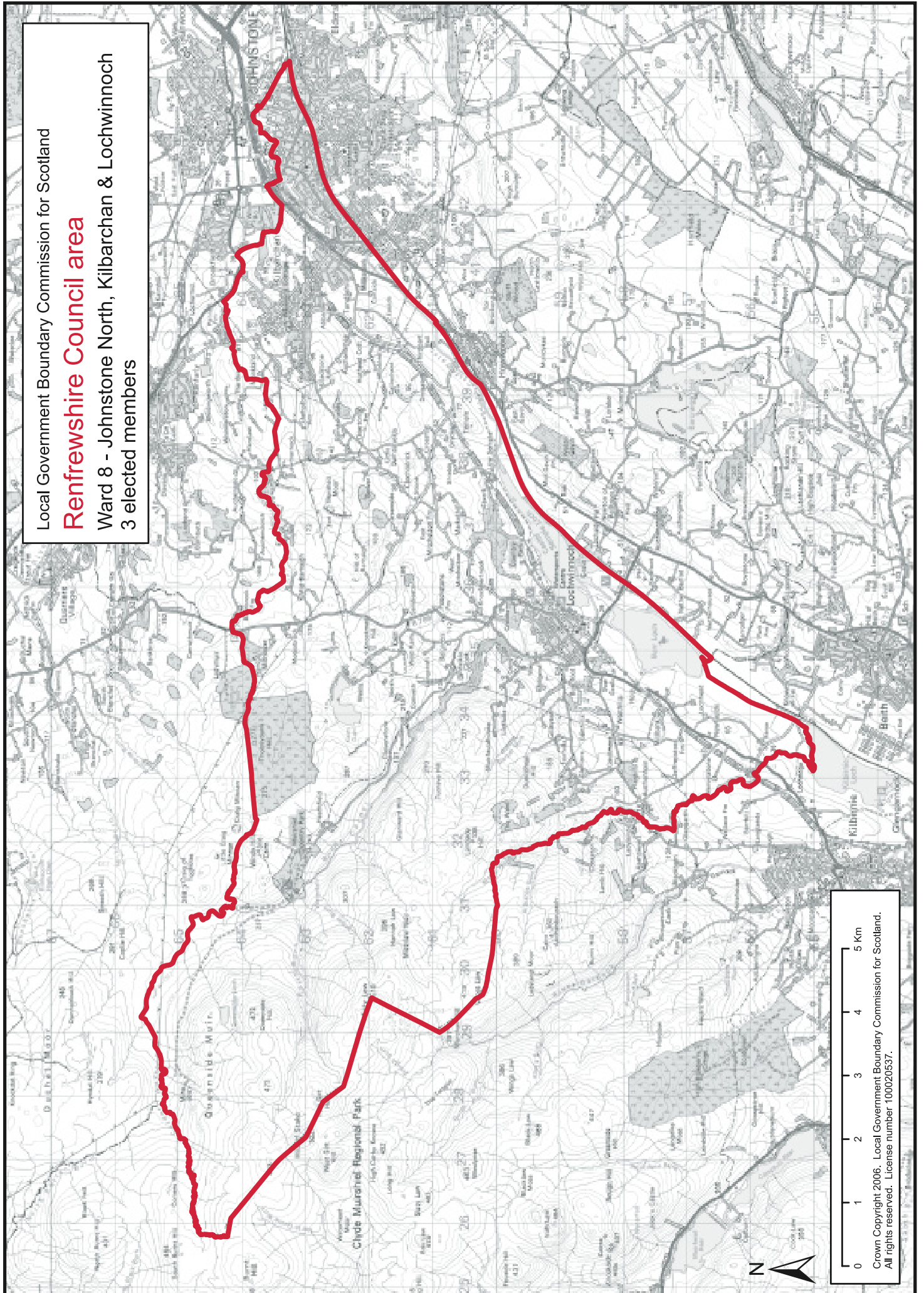
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
**Renfrewshire Council area**  
Ward 7 - Johnstone South, Elderslie & Howwood  
4 elected members

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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Renfrewshire Council area

Ward 8 - Johnstone North, Kilbarchan & Lochwinnoch  
3 elected members

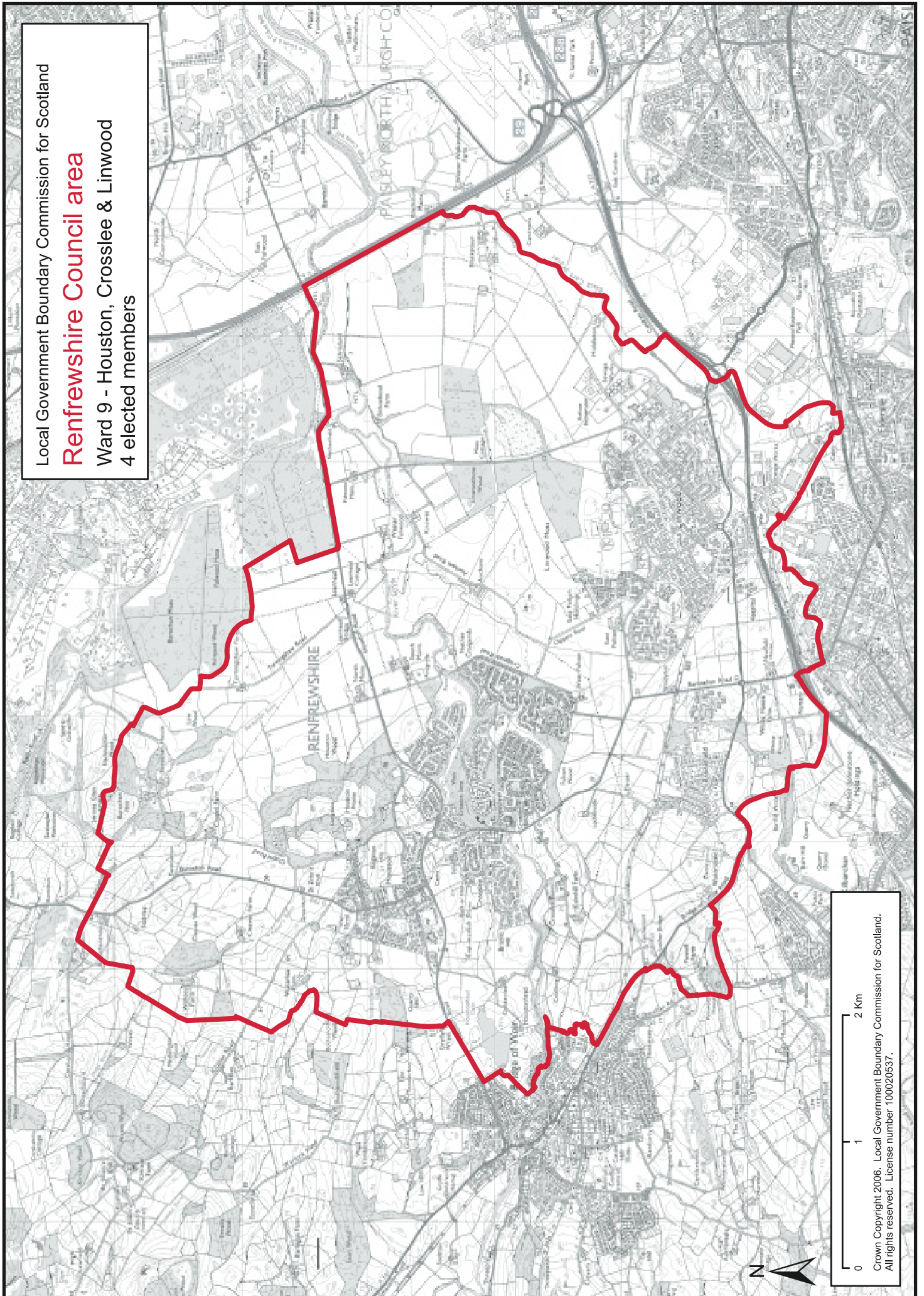


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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Renfrewshire Council area

Ward 9 - Houston, Crosslee & Linwood  
4 elected members

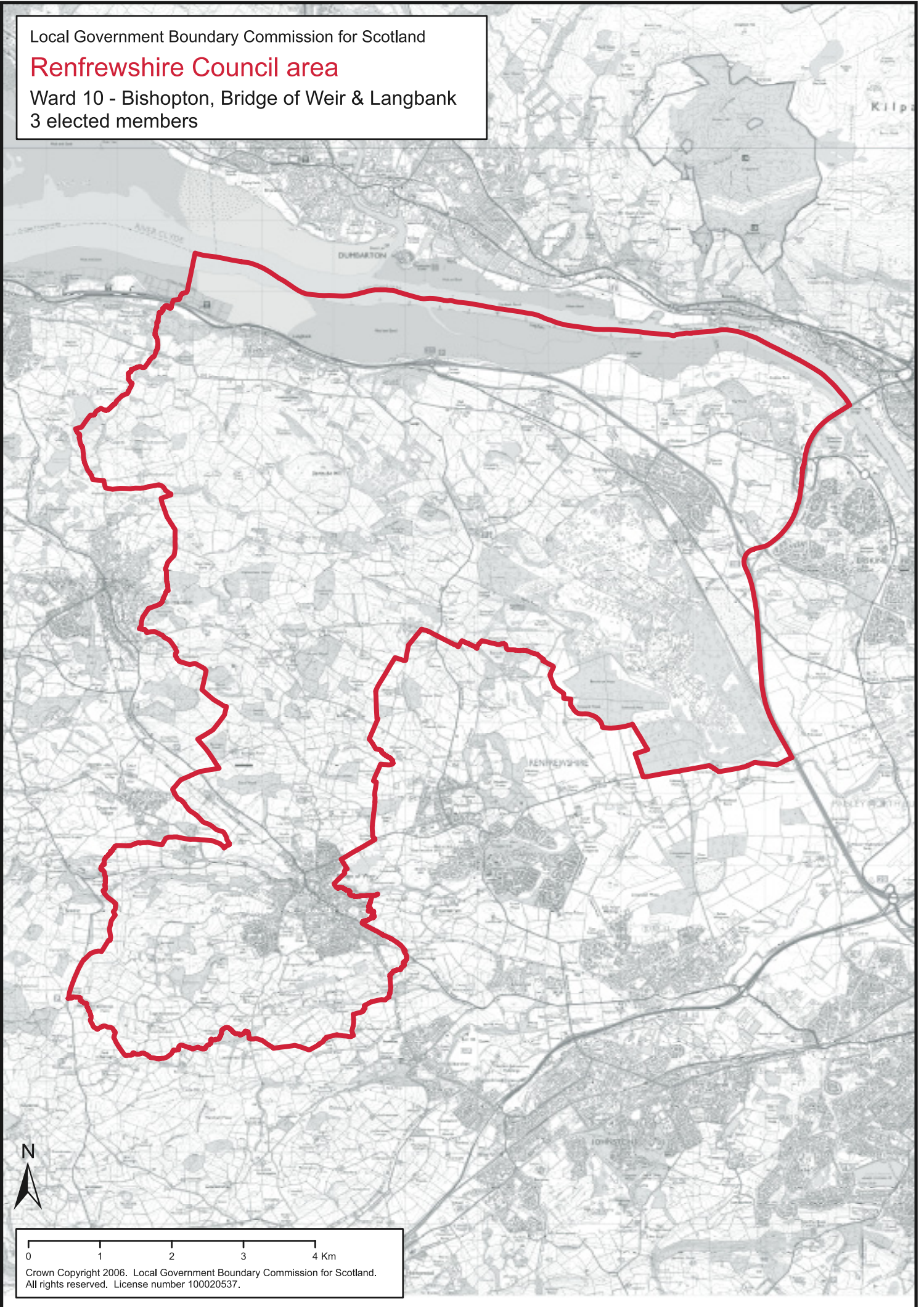


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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Renfrewshire Council area

Ward 10 - Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank  
3 elected members



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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

## Renfrewshire Council area

Ward 11 - Erskine & Inchinnan

4 elected members

