

Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

West Dunbartonshire Council Area



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Fourth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements

West Dunbartonshire Council Area

Constitution of the Commission

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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Mr Tom McCabe MSP
Minister for Finance and Public Service Reform

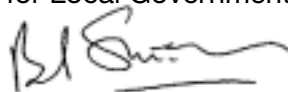
We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, present our proposals for future electoral arrangements for West Dunbartonshire Council area resulting from our review of local government electoral arrangements as required by section 4 (1) of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004.

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 West Dunbartonshire 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 West Dunbartonshire 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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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 West Dunbartonshire Council took place on 19 October 2004 at the Council headquarters in Dunbarton.
Part 2, paragraphs 1 – 3
- The concluded view of the Council following our first meeting was received by us on 10 November 2004.
Part 2, paragraph 4
- We provided the Council with our initial proposals for 6 wards in West Dunbartonshire Council area on 8 March 2005 and asked that a response be made within 2 months.
Part 2, paragraphs 13 – 14
- The West Dunbartonshire Council response to our initial proposals was received on 9 May 2005.
Part 2, paragraphs 15 – 17
- We published our provisional proposals for 6 wards electing 22 Councillors on 7 July 2005 and asked that representations be made to us by 29 September 2005.
Part 2, paragraphs 25 – 29
- We received 13 representations during the statutory consultation period of 12 weeks.
Part 2, paragraph 30
- Our consideration of representations.
Part 2, paragraphs 31 – 41
- We recommend 2 x three member wards and 4 x four member wards for West Dunbartonshire Council area thereby returning a total of 22 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 West Dunbartonshire 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 West Dunbartonshire 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 West Dunbartonshire Council should take place on either 19 October 2004 at 14:00 hrs or 26 October 2004 at 14:00 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 West Dunbartonshire Council area, of the 68,068 electors on the register at July 2004, 67,981 (99.87 percent) could be identified within the postcode geography held in our GIS. The residual number of 87 electors were contained in 13 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 West Dunbartonshire Council area could be used as the initial building blocks for reviewing electoral arrangements in that area.

Part 2 The Review in West Dunbartonshire Council Area

Meeting with the West Dunbartonshire Council

1. Our initial meeting with the West Dunbartonshire Council took place on 19 October 2004 at 14:00 hrs at the headquarters offices of the Council at Garshake Road, Dumbarton. We were represented at that meeting by Dr Ann Glen who was accompanied by Andrew Inglis 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. West Dunbartonshire Council submitted its concluded view on 10 November 2004 in the form of a letter from the Chief Executive. The Council noted the respective timetables proposed for the legislative consultation and for the review. The Council advised that it was satisfied with the general approach that the Commission intended to adopt in formulating proposals for ward boundaries.

Aggregation of Existing Wards

5. As required by the amendment to legislation, our Secretariat set out for us options for creating new 3 or 4 member wards by combining existing single member wards.
6. Aggregations of existing wards to the east of the Council area inevitably divided the area around Old Kilpatrick and Mountblow/Dalnottar and associated the electorate either with Dumbarton, or with Old Kilpatrick, Mountblow/Dalnottar and part of Duntocher. To the west, dividing the area on a north/south basis using the River Leven between Balloch/Jamestown and a point adjacent to the Murroch Burn divided Balloch and associated part of Redburn with a portion of Dumbarton Town although there were no direct transport links between those areas. On the other hand, dividing the area on an east west basis using the existing wards divided a number of communities notably at Alexandria and

Redburn, created an ill-defined division within Dumbarton, and associated part of that town with Old Kilpatrick, Mountblow/Dalnottar and part of Duntocher.

7. After consideration of these, and all the 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 not to continue with that approach since other alternatives could allow improvements:

- wards focussed on the Old Kilpatrick, Duntocher and Clydebank area would reflect the appropriate level of representation for that area and could have stronger, more clearly defined boundaries;
- no part of Old Kilpatrick would be associated with the contiguous built-up area of Dumbarton;
- Dumbarton could be contained within 2 wards;
- all of the settlements outwith Dumbarton lying to the east/north east of the River Leven could be contained in a single clearly defined ward; and
- better account could be taken of the expected new housing development.

8. As a consequence of our decision, our Secretariat then prepared alternative designs for revised wards using the methodology made known to the Council and bearing in mind all of the observations provided to us in its concluded view.

Initial Proposals

9. In the absence of any indication from the Council of the perceived communities within their area our Secretariat prepared draft proposals that made use of Community Council geography and other available information.

10. The area between Old Kilpatrick and the Council's eastern boundary contained sufficient electorate to return 11 members. It was not possible to design wards to conform completely with Community Council areas but there was potential for a single ward which contained all of the electorate north of the Great Western Road between the Council boundary and Old Kilpatrick, save for Gavinburn which was more directly linked to electors on the south-side of the A82. Between the Great Western Road and the River Clyde, the area could be divided into 2 wards by placing the boundary along the Forth/Clyde canal between Whitecrook and Linnvale, then following the railway line north of Kilbowie to a point adjacent to Mountblow, and thereafter turning northwards past Auchentoshan Cottages to join the Great Western Road. The resulting wards had well defined boundaries and the electoral parity was acceptable within the terms of the Statutory Rules.

11. To the west of the Council area, Dumbarton had to be divided between 2 wards. The built-up area of the Vale of Leven posed particular problems. However, in considering the town of Dumbarton it was evident that the area could be divided along the River Leven, thus bringing together Dumbarton North, Silverton & Overton and Dumbarton East Community Council areas. The addition of Milton & Bowling Community Council area (save for a sparsely populated portion to the north of Gavinburn) and that part of Bonhill Community Council area which comprised for the most part Vale of Leven

Industrial Estate produced a ward, with well defined boundaries to the east of the River Leven. A second ward was created by combining Dumbarton West, Renton and Alexandria Community Council areas together with that part of Balloch and Haldane Community Council located to the west of the River Leven. The remainder of the Council area to the north and north east of Redburn and Strathleven Park made up a third ward, which although not ideal in terms of electoral parity, provided for strong boundaries with a minimal division of communities.

12. Following full discussion it was agreed that our initial proposals for West Dunbartonshire Council area should comprise 6 electoral wards of which 2 would be 3-member wards and 4 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	10,970	3	3,657	15
2	12,460	4	3,115	-2
3	12,940	4	3,235	2
4	8,785	3	2,928	-8
5	12,145	4	3,036	-4
6	12,490	4	3,123	-2

Informing the Council of our Initial Proposals

13. We submitted our initial proposals to West Dunbartonshire Council on 8 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.)

14. 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.

The West Dunbartonshire Council Response

15. We received West Dunbartonshire Council's written response to our initial proposals on 9 May 2005.

16. The Council considered that our initial proposals were unacceptable and submitted a 7-ward alternative for our consideration. The Council's view of the initial proposals and the reasons for rejecting them were as follows:

- the composition of 3 wards for Clydebank (Wards 4-6) appeared to be reasonable insofar as the boundaries of the proposed wards followed strong geographical boundaries and also combined natural communities;

- there was deviation from parity of 8% in Ward 4 (Clydebank area) and a considerable deviation of 15% in Ward 1 (north of the Council area);
- the proposal for Ward 2 which associated parts of Balloch, Alexandria and Renton, and all of Dumbarton west of the River Leven covered an extensive urban area combining a number of communities that had no existing or historical linkages;
- as much of Dumbarton as possible should be retained within one ward, particularly given the urban renewal and regeneration initiatives that were taking place in and around the town centre;
- at Balloch it was more appropriate to include the relevant part of Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park within a single ward; and
- although the use of strong physical boundaries for each ward was acknowledged, there were shortcomings with the proposals in terms of community focus, administrative function and parity.

17. The Council submitted alternative proposals for wards which it considered linked appropriate communities, had a clear community focus, and improved parity. The Council's alternative scheme comprised six 3-member wards and one 4-member ward. In the Council's view, the additional ward permitted a more flexible approach ensuring that both parity and community focus featured strongly.

Consideration of the Council Response to the Initial Proposals

18. We examined our initial proposals together with those prepared by the Council and noted the similarities in the Clydebank area. We also noted that the Council acknowledged that the boundaries of the wards which we proposed followed strong geographical features and combined natural communities.

19. Our proposals for Clydebank comprised one 3-member ward and two 4-member wards, whereas, the Council's alternative proposed two 3-member wards and one 4-member ward. The Council's proposal separated part of Old Kilpatrick from the rest of the Clydebank area, which it included in a ward accommodating Dumbarton. The Council's proposals divided communities in the Mountblow and Dalmuir areas.

20. We agreed that, from a community perspective, Old Kilpatrick sat more appropriately within a ward that included the adjoining Clydebank communities. The electorate within Clydebank (inclusive of Old Kilpatrick) was sufficient to return 11 members. We concluded that our initial proposals better reflected community considerations and the level of representation that was justified for the Clydebank area. Accordingly we were not persuaded to amend our proposals for Clydebank and the eastern extent of the Council area.

21. In considering the remainder of the Council area, we accepted the Council view that Balloch, together with relevant part of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, should be contained within a single ward. Accordingly, we agreed to amend our initial proposals in that respect.

22. As a consequence of the change in the Balloch area, we noted that the area comprising Dumbarton, Bellsmyre, Alexandria, Bonhill and Renton had sufficient electorate to return 8 members. This required the division of Dumbarton between two 4-member wards, and we noted the Council's preference for as much of the town as possible to be contained within a single ward.

23. Bearing that preference in mind, we agreed that the area should be divided along the A82(T), with Bellsmyre, the Council Offices and High Overtoun, being included in a ward which also contained Alexandria, Bonhill and Renton. The remainder of Dumbarton together with Bowling formed the second 4-member ward. We noted that it would have been desirable to create a 5-member ward, a solution which might better have suited the distribution of electorate between Dumbarton and its northern neighbours, but that option was not open to us.

24. We concluded that our initial proposals subject to the agreed amendments outlined above should be adopted as our provisional proposals and published for public consultation. Following guidance from Council officers, we were able to agree suitable names for our proposed wards for the purposes of public consultation.

Provisional Proposals

25. Our provisional proposals for revised electoral arrangements in West Dunbartonshire Council area made provision for a Council of 22 elected members in 2 wards each returning 3-members and 4 wards each returning 4-members as follows:

Ward		Forecast Electorate c	Number of Elected Members d	Average Electorate per Member e	Divergence from Parity(%) f
Number a	Name b				
1	Lomond	8,950	3	2,983	-6
2	Leven	13,570	4	3,393	7
3	Dumbarton	13,840	4	3,460	9
4	Kilpatrick	8,780	3	2,927	-8
5	Clydebank Central	12,100	4	3,025	-5
6	Clydebank Waterfront	12,540	4	3,135	-1

26. We published our provisional proposals for revised electoral arrangements in West Dunbartonshire Council area on 7 July 2005. These differed from our initial proposals in that they reflected revisions to Wards 1-3 and, in addition, contained minor changes necessary to fix the proposed boundaries to the OS MasterMap® TOID®s (see Part 1 paragraphs 19-24).

27. 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 Clydebank Post and The Dumbarton & Vale of Leven Reporter. 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.

28. 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.

29. 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 west.dunbartonshire@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. Those making representations were asked to provide their full postal address including postcode.

Representations

30. Thirteen representations were received during the statutory public consultation. The main points raised by the various parties are summarised below:

The Council

West Dunbartonshire Council requested that its proposals be adopted as the future electoral arrangements for its Council area. The Council commented that our provisional proposals did not reflect community boundaries and the Council was particularly unhappy with the inclusion of Bellsmyre and High Overtoun in Ward 2. It preferred its own 7-ward option which it considered linked appropriate communities, each ward having a clear community focus. The additional seventh ward permitted a more flexible approach. For Clydebank, part of Old Kilpatrick was included with Duntocher, Hardgate and Faifley, with the remainder combining with Dumbarton. Dumbarton should be allocated 2 wards, the first comprising east and west Dumbarton, the town centre, Milton, Bowling and part of Old Kilpatrick, all focussed on the River Clyde, and the second comprising Bellsmyre, Townend, Silverton and Garshake/Barnhill. Alexandria was divided with Renton, Alexandria, Bonhill and Jamestown forming one ward, and Tullichewan, Levenvale, Balloch, Haldane and Gartocharn making up the other.

The Council's preference was aimed at maximising the number of 3-member wards and it was prepared to reduce its numbers to 21 councillors in order to facilitate that option. They considered that there had been a lack of community focus throughout the review process; and the issue of ward names should not be addressed until boundaries were finalised.

Councillors

Councillor O'Sullivan proposed that Ward 2 should be named 'Vale of Leven'. It was important to recognise that people in the Vale of Leven think of themselves as living in the vale rather than beside a river.

Councillor Rooney opposed the proposal to name Ward 1 'Lomond' as it failed to recognise Balloch's status as the gateway to the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. A campaign for changes to the signage and announcements on trains and buses, stations and timetables would remind both residents and visitors that they were within easy reach of the National Park.

Community Councils

Balloch & Haldane Community Council generally agreed with our proposals for Ward 1. However an area around Jamestown was contained within Ward 2. The Community

Council requested a minor amendment, with no implications in terms of electorate, which reunited the whole of Jamestown within Ward 1.

Bellsmyre estate had never been associated with the Vale of Leven and should be included within a Dumbarton town ward. Drumoak Castle had associations with Renton, not Dumbarton; and if the boundary between Wards 2 and 3 followed the Whiteleys Burn to the River Leven, the castle could be included within Ward 2. Dalmoak had ancient connections to Dumbarton.

Parkhall, North Kilbowie & Central Community Council objected to our provisional proposals for Wards 5 and 6 stating that it was against the east-west division which linked areas with very little common interest or traditional community grouping. Further, the proposals would destroy existing strong communities. A north-south division, using main roads such as Kilbowie road or Duntocher road as boundaries, was proposed thereby creating wards where communities had much more in common with the existing facilities.

Silverton & Overtoun Community Council objected to the provisional proposals for Ward 3 because:

- the continuity of the Community Council area was broken by the proposed Ward 3 boundary;
- the natural community of the town of Dumbarton was divided by the proposed Ward 3 boundary;
- the proposed boundary which annexed areas of Dumbarton was not easily identifiable or likely to be long lasting, or conducive to convenient or effective local governance, and it did not maintain electoral parity with the other wards within the Council area.

The Community Council suggested alternative structures that returned 23-members and 21 members, the latter being preferred if the Commission was unable to increase the level of representation of the Council.

The 23-member option avoided the uncomfortable linkage of Bellsmyre and High Overtoun with Alexandria, while 2*3-member wards covering Dumbarton town, Milton and Bowling were more acceptable and matched electoral parity. Ward 2 was reduced in size but would have similar parity to other 3-member wards.

Conversely the 21-member option was justified because it avoided linking Bellsmyre and High Overtoun to Alexandria. A single ward for Dumbarton town (excluding Milton and Bowling) was more acceptable, retaining all of the town within a naturally recognised community; and the increased divergence from parity was acceptable in the light of the community considerations. Bowling and Milton would be added to Ward 6; which would not unduly affect parity within this ward; and Ward 2 would be smaller but would have similar parity with other 3-member wards.

In the event that the Commission was unable to deviate substantially from its initial proposals, the Community Council would ask Scottish Ministers to appoint an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local public meeting to hear representations.

Political Parties and Associations

Clydebank branch of the Scottish National Party commended the Commission for maintaining the Clydebank & District boundary around Wards 4, 5 and 6. Attention to existing communities with which the electors identified was more likely to convince them to vote. Revised proposals for Wards 5 and 6 were suggested on north-south rather than east-west lines to reflect historical and community perspectives. If the Commission were to accept these revisions, the ward names should be reconsidered.

Members of the Public

Two letters supported the Commission's initial proposals.

A letter considered that the exclusion of a major part of Dumbarton, namely Bellsmyre, Garshake, Campbell Avenue and associated streets from the proposed Ward 3 divided natural communities. The correspondent had been born in Dumbarton, currently lived in a Dumbarton ward, and also worked in Dumbarton. If the Commission's provisional proposals were to be implemented the correspondent would not reside in the new Dumbarton ward.

A letter noted that in Ward 2, neither High Overtoun nor Bellsmyre had strong links with Renton, Alexandria or Bonhill and were far closer (in terms of transport links and geography) to other parts of Dumbarton.

Residents of High Overtoun and Bellsmyre were likely to have common interests with those of neighbouring areas such as Barnhill, Silverton, Crosslet and High Mains. High Overtoun and Bellsmyre would be only a small part of the electorate in the Vale of Leven area. There would be duplication of work on the part of elected members, where issues common to the north east of Dumbarton required to be dealt with by both the members of Ward 3 and of Ward 2.

A letter objected to the provisional proposals linking Overtoun and Bellsmyre with Alexandria. A councillor based in Alexandria would have little influence if residents were to experience problems with the local school, town centre or other matters. Bowling should be associated with Clydebank rather than Dumbarton; and Dumbarton town should be wholly within a 4-member ward.

A letter expressed disappointment that it was proposed that High Overtoun should be included within Ward 2, when the geography suggested that it would be better suited to being included with the rest of Dumbarton in Ward 3.

Consideration of Representations

31. We noted that the Council sought an explanation regarding the number of 4-member wards when its preference was for maximising the number of 3-member wards. Our proposals for the Council area were, as we explained at paragraphs 9–11 above, based on the geographical distribution of electorate as forecast for 2009 and on identifiable communities. We had no preconception of, or preference for, the number of either 4-member or 3-member wards which might emerge. The Council had not responded to our initial request to provide information on the extent of perceived communities within their area.

32. In relation to the Council's preference for 3-member wards and its willingness to reduce its representation so that this option would be possible, we noted that during the passing of the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004, Scottish Ministers indicated that they did not envisage that any change would be necessary to existing levels of representation. We also noted that the appropriate number of Councillors for each local authority had been determined at the time of the Third Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements by means of a formula which ensured equitable representation across the diverse range of authorities in Scotland and that no Council had taken issue with that methodology. Although the legislation did not preclude us from making recommendations regarding the appropriate number of Councillors in each local authority, with the above in mind we were not persuaded that a decrease was either necessary or desirable.

33. With regard to the representation that favoured a Council of either 21 or 23 members, and bearing in mind our comments above concerning the appropriate number of Councillors for local authorities, we were not persuaded by the evidence offered to us that either proposal was justified. Nor were we persuaded that the proposals produced a structure of wards that better reflected the community structure or better complied with the terms of the Statutory Rules.

34. We noted that we had given detailed consideration to the Council's alternative proposals when developing our provisional proposals for public consultation. We also noted that no additional evidence of any weight had been provided to support the Council's contention that its preferred proposals offered more suitable arrangements for West Dunbartonshire Council area. Nevertheless, we did re-examine the Council's proposals in light of all other representations received concerning our provisional proposals.

35. We noted that the electorate of the Council area was almost evenly split between 2 fairly well-defined areas. Ten Community Councils which extended from Balloch through Dumbarton to Milton and Bowling accommodated some 52 per cent of the electorate in the western area. Seven Community Councils covered Old Kilpatrick, Clydebank and the adjoining settlements in the eastern portion. Each area fully justified representation by 11 members.

36. We confirmed that, whilst the approach favoured by the Council did resolve some issues in the Vale of Leven, it undoubtedly created community issues in the Old Kilpatrick/Clydebank area. In addition, a number of the representations which we received, favoured the east/west division of the Council area, which associated all of Old Kilpatrick with the rest of the Clydebank area, that we proposed. There was, therefore, no good reason for supporting a view that part of the Old Kirkpatrick/Clydebank area should be linked with Milton and Bowling and in turn, with part of Dumbarton to the west.

37. In considering those representations arising from our proposals for Wards 1 – 3, we noted that we had adopted the Council's preferred option for Ward 1, which contained all of Balloch and the area which fell within the boundaries of the Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park. Bearing in mind the equitable division of elected members across the Council area to meet the wider community interests, because Ward 1 returned 3 members it was necessary for the remainder of the Council's westerly built-up area to be divided into 2*4-member wards. Further, we saw no scope for increasing the area of Ward 1 so that it allowed for 4-members without creating further community-based issues which could not readily be resolved.

38. We considered those representations that preferred our initial proposals for revised wards in the Balloch and Haldane area but noted that we had adopted our provisional proposals for this area following an initial consultation with the Council and did not now consider that reversing these proposals would gain greater acceptance over the wider area. We considered the representation

which asked for a small adjustment of the ward boundary Jamestown. After noting that a clearly identifiable boundary could be established, and that the number of electorate in the area had no impact on electoral parity we agreed that a amendment should be adopted.

39. We noted that there was support for our initial proposals for the Dumbarton, Bellsmyre, Alexandria, Bonhill, Renton and Bowling areas. We also noted the representations that objected to the boundary of Ward 3 dividing Community Council areas and the division of Dumbarton. We had some sympathy for a configuration of wards that would see Bellsmyre and High Overtoun in a ward that contained Dumbarton rather than associating these communities with Alexandria, Bonhill and Renton. This could only have been resolved by creating a 5-member ward, but the terms of the legislation precluded this. In the absence of such a provision it was necessary that Dumbarton be divided between 2*4 member wards. We noted the preference for 3*3-member wards that extended over this area, incorporated part of Old Kilpatrick and wholly reconfigured the wards we proposed for the Council's eastern communities but, after re-examination, we were still not persuaded that this configuration could be justified. We noted, however, that our provisional proposals placed most of Dumbarton within one ward, acknowledging the Council's response to our initial proposals, thereby having regard for the areas of urban renewal and the regeneration initiatives taking place in and around the town centre. We, therefore, confirmed that our proposals for Wards 1 – 3 should not be revised save for the small amendment at Jamestown mentioned above.

40. We considered the representations which suggested that Wards 4 - 6 should be reconfigured to produce a north/south rather than an east/west orientation. We noted that our proposals for Ward 4 contained all of the Faifley and Duntocher & Hardgate Community Council areas and the sparsely inhabited part of Old Kilpatrick and Milton & Bowling Community Councils which lay to the north of the Great Western Road. We noted also that the southern boundary of ward 4, the Great Western Road, was particularly strong and clearly defined. Further, although 3 Community Council areas straddled the boundaries of Wards 5 and 6, in two instances the areas involved contained few electors. We were unable to determine a solution which better reflected the Statutory Rules in terms of electoral parity and provided such clearly defined boundaries as those set out in our provisional proposals. Accordingly, we were not persuaded to amend our proposals for wards 4 - 6.

41. With regard to the 2 representations regarding ward names, we noted that we had received no objections from members of the public concerning the names of wards set out in our provisional proposals. Accordingly, we were not we were not persuaded of the need for change.

Part 3 Final Recommendation

1. Having conducted the fourth statutory review of electoral arrangements for West Dunbartonshire 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 22 elected members in 2 wards each returning 3 members and in 4 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	Lomond	8,950	3	2,983	-6
2	Leven	13,570	4	3,393	7
3	Dumbarton	13,840	4	3,460	9
4	Kilpatrick	8,780	3	2,927	-8
5	Clydebank Central	12,100	4	3,025	-5
6	Clydebank Waterfront	12,540	4	3,135	-1

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 West Dunbartonshire 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 The Clydebank Post and The Dumbarton & Vale of Leven Reporter. 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:

- West Dunbartonshire Council area A0 scale 1:23,000

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 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 30th 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 – Lomond

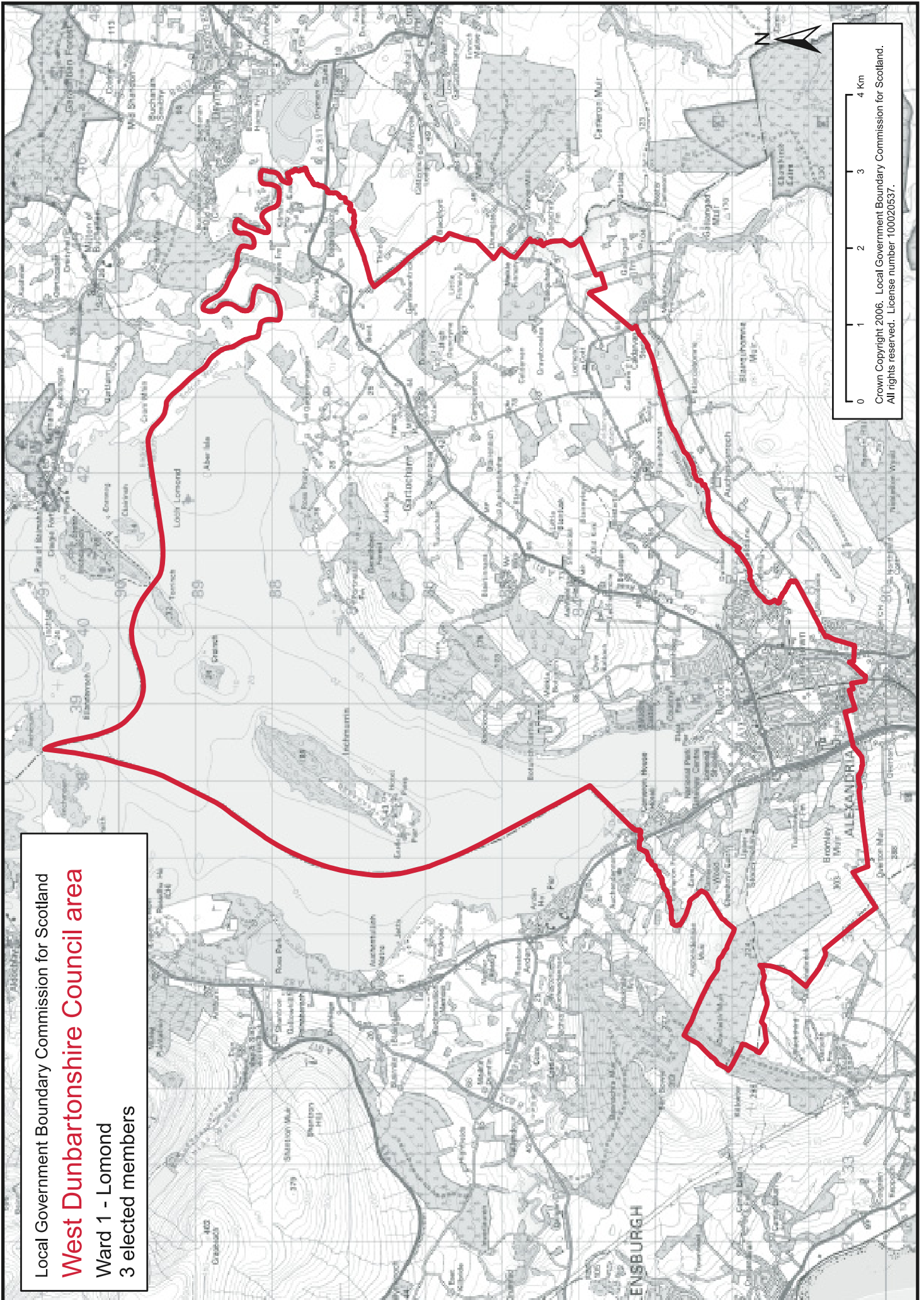
Ward 2 – Leven

Ward 3 – Dumbarton

Ward 4 – Kilpatrick

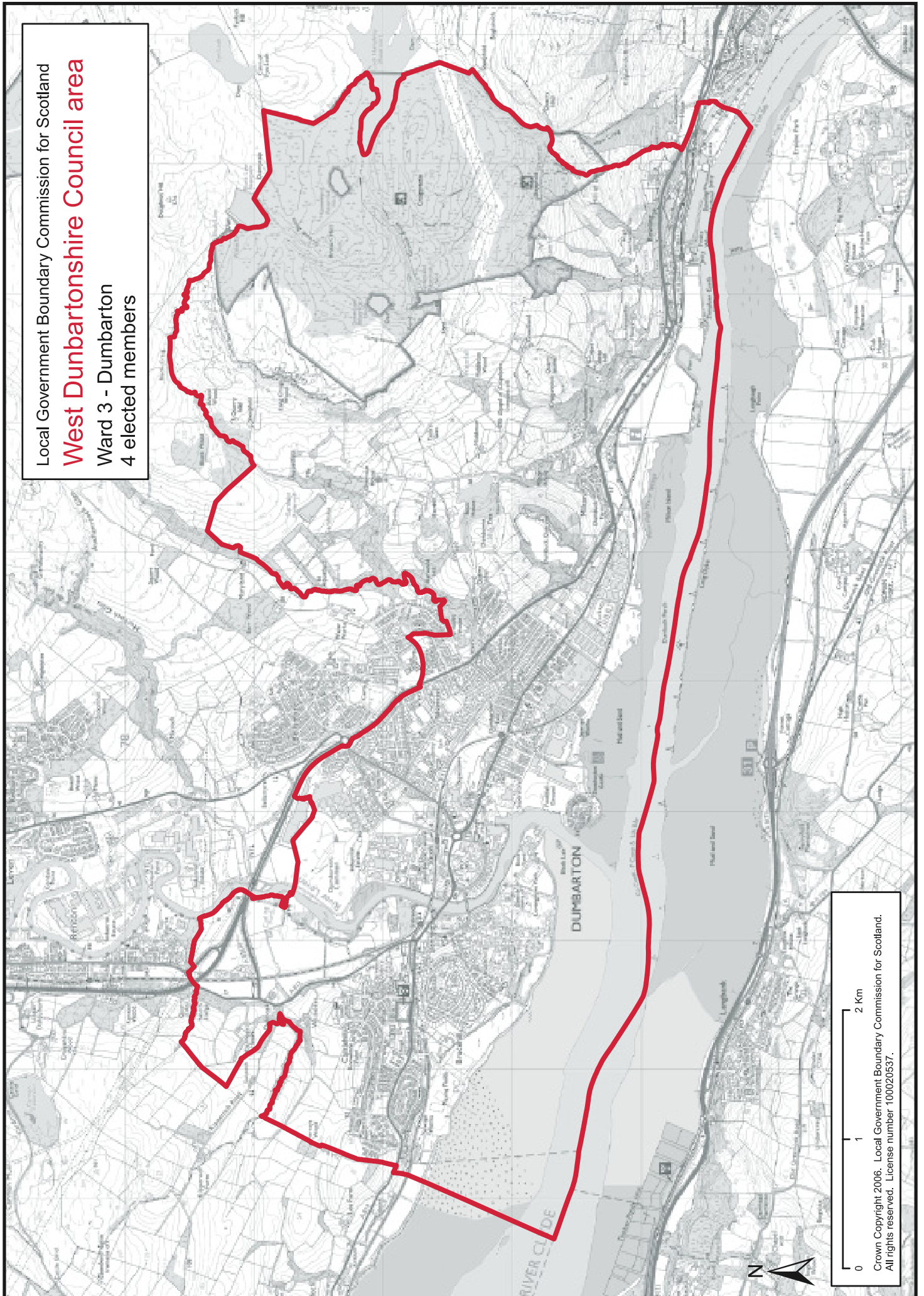
Ward 5 – Clydebank Central

Ward 6 – Clydebank Waterfront



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
West Dunbartonshire Council area

Ward 3 - Dumbarton
4 elected members



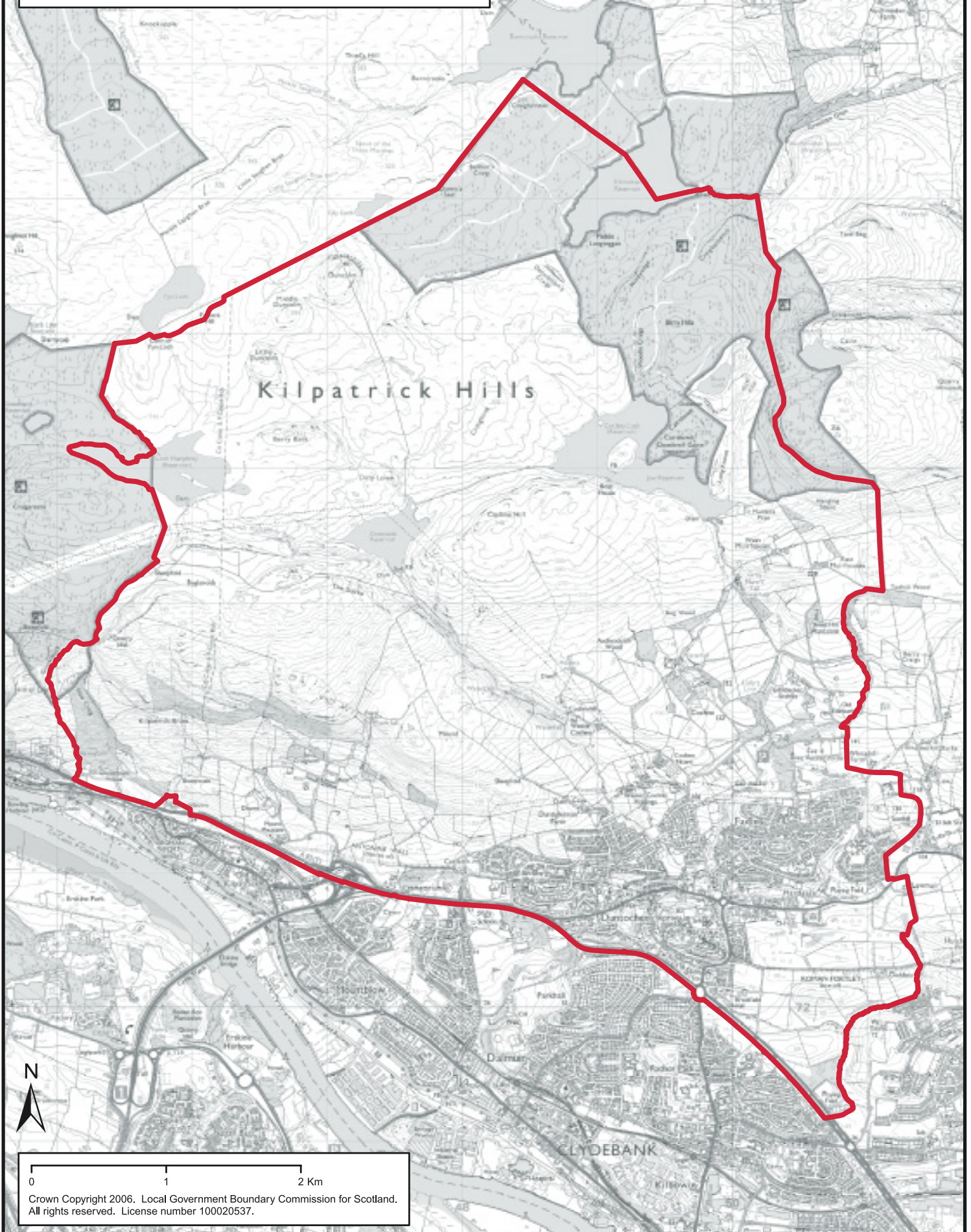
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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

West Dunbartonshire Council area

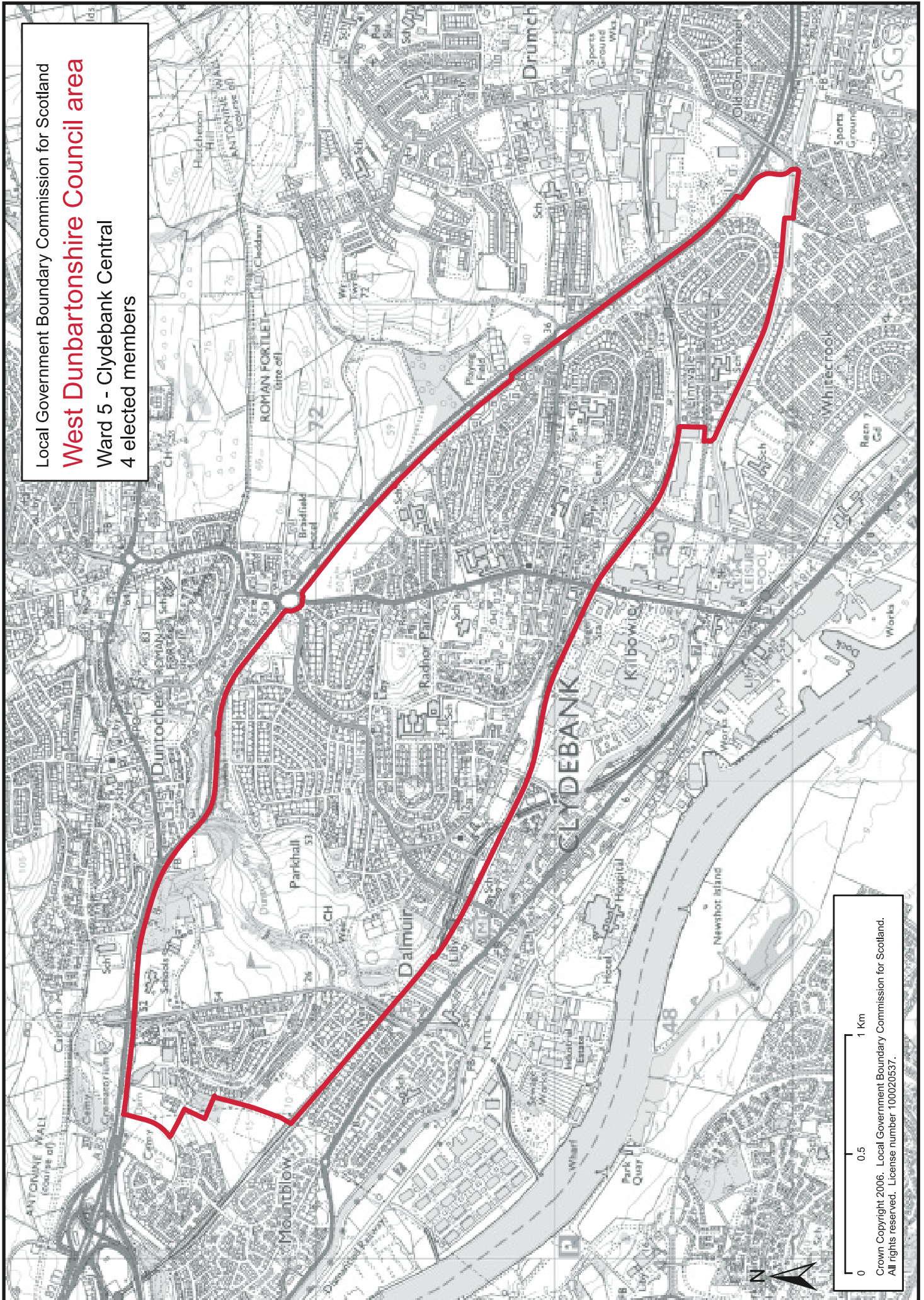
Ward 4 - Kilpatrick

3 elected members



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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
West Dunbartonshire Council area
Ward 5 - Clydebank Central
4 elected members



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