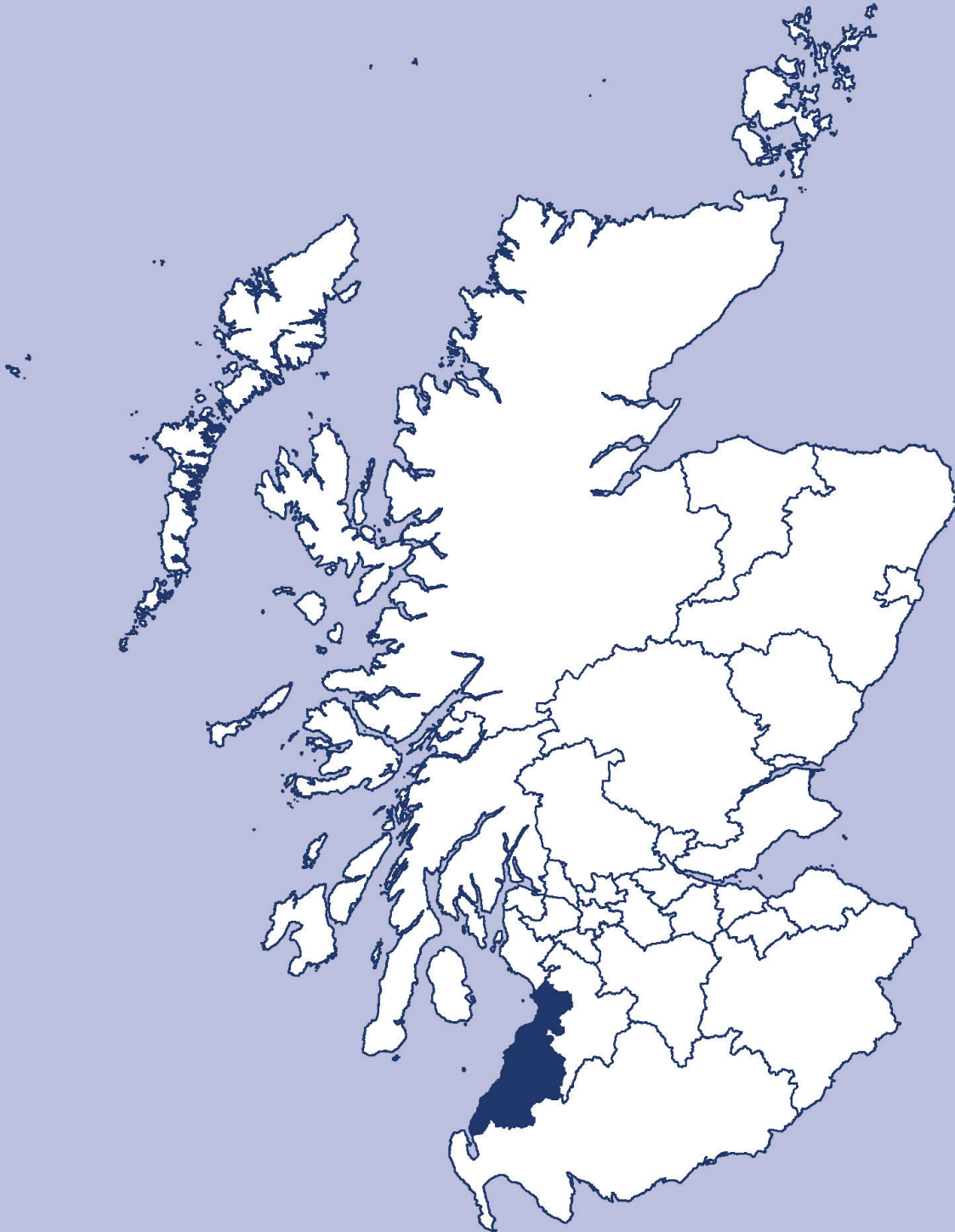


Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Final Recommendations



South Ayrshire Council Area

Report to Scottish Ministers

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Final Recommendations South Ayrshire Council Area

Membership of the Commission

Chair:	Ronnie Hinds
Deputy Chair:	William Magee OBE
Commissioners:	Roland Bean
	Professor Ailsa Henderson
	Dr Susan Walker OBE

Report Number E16028

May 2016

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

Scottish Ministers

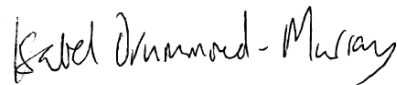
We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, present our recommendations for South Ayrshire Council area resulting from our Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements.

In accordance with the provisions of section 18(3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, copies of our report, together with illustrative maps, are being sent to South Ayrshire Council with a request that the report and maps should be made available for public inspection at its offices.

Notice is also being given in newspapers circulating in the council area of the fact that the report has been made so that interested persons may inspect the report and maps at the council's offices. The report is also available on our website and is being publicised on social media.



Ronnie Hinds
Chair



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Part 1 Background

South Ayrshire Council Area

1. South Ayrshire Council area lies in the west of Scotland, along the coast of the Firth of Clyde. The council area borders Dumfries and Galloway to the south, and North Ayrshire and East Ayrshire to the north and east respectively. South Ayrshire Council area covers 1,235 square kilometres. South Ayrshire Council's headquarters are based in Ayr.
2. Over a fifth of the population (22.16%) of South Ayrshire Council area live outwith settlements of 3,000 or more people. It is therefore one of Scotland's more rural council areas.
3. Based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2012, the percentage of South Ayrshire Council area's population in Scotland's 15% most-deprived datazones is 10.8%. South Ayrshire Council area contains 17 datazones within the 15% most-deprived datazones in Scotland; these are located in Ayr, Girvan and Troon. This is an average level of deprivation compared to other council areas in Scotland.
4. The National Records of Scotland's (NRS) 2010 population projection (published in 2012) states that South Ayrshire Council area's population is projected to decrease from 112,673 in 2014 to 112,433 by 2019.
5. At the beginning of the review South Ayrshire Council area's electorate was 89,843 (at September 2013). The number of dwellings in the area was 54,202 (based on NRS 2012 data).
6. The existing electoral arrangements consist of 30 councillors representing 6 4-member wards and 2 3-member wards (see Appendix A: Existing and Recommended Wards).

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland

7. The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland was established under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as an independent body with responsibility for keeping under review local government arrangements in Scotland.
8. We are required to conduct electoral reviews of each council area at intervals of 8 to 12 years, as specified in Section 16 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. We last completed such reviews in 2006. Those reviews introduced multi-member wards but councillor numbers were not amended. Our Third Review, concluded in 1997, was the last time councillor numbers throughout Scotland were amended.

Legislative requirements

9. The legislation which sets out the rules for electoral reviews is Part II of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. When making our recommendations, we must consider the criteria set out in Section 13 and Schedule 6 of that Act.
10. Section 13 sets out that we should conduct our reviews with an overall aim of acting in the interests of effective and convenient local government. Schedule 6 sets out more specific requirements.
11. The full text of Schedule 6 is in Appendix B, and its requirements are:
 - the number of electors per councillor in each ward shall be, as nearly as may be, the same;
 - subject to this, we shall have regard to:
 - local ties that would be broken by fixing a particular boundary; and
 - the desirability of fixing boundaries that are easily identifiable with the first of these taking precedence over the second;
 - we may depart from the strict application of electoral parity to reflect special geographical considerations.
12. Each ward must elect 3 or 4 councillors.
13. When recommending ward boundaries we take into account the likely change in the number of electors in a council area within the 5 years immediately following our consideration.
14. There were no Ministerial directions in place when we conducted our reviews, but Scottish Ministers informed us at the start of the reviews that they would find it difficult to justify an increase in councillor numbers at that time. Our recommendations maintain overall councillor numbers in Scotland at a similar level as at present.

Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

15. This review is one of 32 being conducted across Scotland to make recommendations for the number of councillors on each council, the number of councillors in each ward, the boundaries of each ward and the recommended ward name.
16. Overall the recommendations provide for 1,219 councillors in 351 wards: a decrease of 4 councillors and 2 wards relative to existing arrangements.
17. Across Scotland as a whole, 94% of electors will be in wards where variation from parity is within 10% of the average for their council area, compared to less than 84% of electors under existing arrangements.
18. Across Scotland, the variation from parity between councillors will reduce from 6% currently to 5%. This means that representation of the electorate within council areas will be more evenly shared between councillors.

Issues considered

Effective and convenient local government

19. There is no statutory definition of effective and convenient local government. It is, however, the fundamental consideration for recommendations arising from any of our reviews.

20. Our approach recognised that effective and convenient local government has to balance effectiveness and convenience for a council, councillors and residents. For example:

- councils need to manage and deliver diverse services across their council areas;
- councillors need to be able to carry out their functions including representing the residents in their areas; and
- residents seek effectiveness and convenience when they use local services and participate in local democracy.

Determining councillor numbers in council areas

21. Our previous methodology for determining councillor numbers was based on population. Given the diversity found across the council areas in Scotland we categorised each council into one of 7 categories, and applied the same ratio of electors per councillor to all councils in a single category. This means we had different ratios of electors to councillors in, for example, Glasgow City and Na h-Eileanan an Iar.

22. Prior to the formal commencement of the Fifth Reviews of electoral arrangements, we conducted a public consultation in 2011 on how to determine councillor numbers for the Fifth Reviews. We consulted with the public, councils, MSPs, COSLA, political parties and other interested stakeholders. The responses to that consultation suggested that we should continue to take a consistent, objective and transparent approach to setting councillor numbers.

23. The responses generally indicated:

- no widespread support for a significant increase or decrease in councillor numbers;
- support for the continued categorisation of councils so that a common ratio of electors to councillors applies to all councils with broadly similar characteristics;
- support for a reduction in the number of categories from the 7 used previously;
- suggestions of various factors, including deprivation and rurality, to be used in a transparent methodology for categorising councils which share common characteristics; and
- support for minimum and maximum councillor numbers in a council area.

24. The methodology we adopted for the Fifth Reviews:

- used measures of population size as the key determinant of councillor numbers;
- used a categorisation which relied on population distribution and a composite measure capturing the socio-economic conditions in the council area;
- employed measures aligned with common indicators used by the Scottish Government;
- led to the creation of 5 categories of council area;
- introduced a more equal range of elector to councillor ratios from 800 to 3,800. Most councils range between 2,800 to 3,800 electors per councillor;
- maintained the minimum number of 18 councillors per council area and raised the maximum to 85; and
- set a cap on change of councillor numbers in any council area of 10%. This was designed to minimise disruption for a council's governance.

25. Overall, population size remained the key factor in determining councillor numbers. We considered that population dispersal is an important factor in determining councillor numbers but we also considered that socio-economic characteristics, and in particular the composite measure gathered by SIMD data, provide a reasonable indicator for a range of factors that impact on the work of councils and councillors.

26. We used settlements and population data from NRS and SIMD data for South Ayrshire Council area. SIMD is determined independently by government statisticians in conjunction with the ScotStat Measuring Deprivation Advisory Group. SIMD combines weighted scores based on seven different dimensions of deprivation: employment, income, geographic access, crime, housing, health and education. We have used the 2012 SIMD dataset, the most recent available at the time we commenced work on categorisation. These datasets are calculated and published every 3 years by the Scottish Government.

27. For these reviews we maintained the minimum number of councillors at 18, as we considered this to be the minimum number of councillors to allow a council to operate effectively. However, we have extended the upper limit of councillors from 80 to 85 to increase the flexibility available to us and enable the ratios of electors to councillors to be more equal across Scotland in respect of the Fifth Reviews.

28. We were aware that a large change in councillor numbers in a council area could be disruptive to a council's governance, so we incorporated a 10% limit on change. This means that, as a rule, we have not proposed, as a result of our methodology for determining councillor numbers, to increase or decrease the total number of councillors in a council area by more than 10%.

29. We used cluster analysis to support our development of categories and placed each council area into 1 of 5 categories. We agreed on 5 categories to reflect Scotland's diverse demography, including levels of population dispersal and deprivation within council areas. The ratio of electors to councillors for each

category, and the council areas we have placed in each, is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Ratio of electors to councillors

Category	Criteria used to classify councils	Ratio	Council area
1	Less than 30% of the population living outwith settlements of 3,000 or more people AND 30% or more of the population living in the 15% most-deprived datazones	2,800	Glasgow City Inverclyde
2	Less than 30% of the population living outwith settlements of 3,000 or more people AND 15% or more and less than 30% of the population living in the 15% most-deprived datazones	3,000	Clackmannanshire Dundee City East Ayrshire North Ayrshire North Lanarkshire Renfrewshire West Dunbartonshire
3	Less than 30% of the population living outwith settlements of 3,000 or more people AND less than 15% of the population living in the 15% most-deprived datazones	3,800	Aberdeen City Angus City of Edinburgh East Dunbartonshire East Lothian East Renfrewshire Falkirk Fife Midlothian South Ayrshire South Lanarkshire West Lothian
4	Between 30% and 59% of the population living outwith settlements of 3,000 or more people AND less than 15% of the population living in the 15% most-deprived datazones	2,800	Aberdeenshire Argyll and Bute Dumfries and Galloway Highland Moray Perth and Kinross Scottish Borders Stirling
5	60% or more of the population living outwith settlements of 3,000 or more people AND less than 15% of the population living in the 15% most-deprived datazones	800	Na h-Eileanan an Iar Orkney Islands Shetland Islands

30. The overall effect of our methodology is to retain core existing elements of the previous methodology but also introduce changes that would make the ratios of electors to councillors more equal across Scotland. The methodology also now draws on factors frequently used by the Scottish Government (such as the current measures for population distribution and the use of SIMD data that are used as policy tools) to categorise the council areas. This had the added benefit of not measuring the same factor twice, as was the case when using both population density and population distribution.

31. Our methodology placed South Ayrshire Council area within category 3 (see Appendix C: Categorising Councils Matrix), as one of the more rural council areas with average deprivation, with a ratio of electors per councillor of 3,800.

Electorate data

32. At the start of the review, we obtained the electoral register as at 1 September 2013 from the Electoral Registration Officer for South Ayrshire Council area. This dataset included postcodes, which allowed us to calculate the electorate for each postcode in the area under consideration, and hence for each proposed ward.

33. We used September 2013 electorate data because that was the most-recent dataset available when we began work on the review. We used the local government electorate, that is those on the electoral register who are aged 18 and over and registered to vote in local government elections. The local government electorate at September 2013 was 89,843 in South Ayrshire Council area.

34. In line with the rules governing reviews, when considering electoral parity we had regard to the likely change in the number and distribution of the local government electorate over a 5-year period immediately following our consideration of the electoral arrangements.

35. To assist us we asked South Ayrshire Council to provide us with forecasts of new house building, residential property demolitions and institutional development (such as students' halls of residence) that are likely to be occupied within the next 5 years. South Ayrshire Council provided us with data based on its draft 2013 Housing Land Audit, which documented expected new residential and institutional development, as well as the amount of demolition within its area over the 5-year period.

36. From these datasets, combined with data on the average number of electors per dwelling in the area, we calculated a forecast electorate. We also used population projections from NRS. Using these, we scaled the forecast electorate to reflect the projected population change 5 years hence.

37. Fluctuations in population not incorporated into our forecasts will be taken into consideration in subsequent electoral reviews. The next electoral reviews are our interim reviews scheduled for 2021.

Ward design

38. The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 specifies that each ward will return either 3 or 4 councillors. The choice of the number of councillors for each ward has been determined by the overall pattern of wards we considered to be appropriate for the area to deliver effective and convenient local government and to achieve good electoral parity.

Electoral parity

39. One of the principal aims of a review is to make recommendations that provide for a good level of electoral parity. Electoral parity means having the same number of electors per councillor in all wards in a council area.
40. Subject to effective and convenient local government, the legislation gives priority to electoral parity over other factors in ward design, except where special geographical circumstances apply.
41. We worked out the theoretical number of electors each councillor should represent by dividing the total number of electors in the council area in September 2013 by the proposed number of councillors. This produced a ratio of electors per councillor for each council area. The ratio allowed us to apply the requirement in the legislation that the number of electors per councillor is 'as nearly as may be' the same. A 3-member ward and 4-member ward would have 3 and 4 times this number of electors respectively.
42. Once we had calculated the number of electors per councillor, we measured how far the electorate in each ward deviated from that number. When formulating our recommendations, we sought to achieve ratios that were acceptable in every ward. We aimed to recommend wards that had a forecast electorate within a maximum 10% variation from parity, as suggested by the Venice Commission's 'Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters'. We did not apply this measure as a strict numerical limit but instead this appeared to us to provide a reasonable degree of flexibility in most circumstances. In designing wards, we considered local circumstances as permitted by the legislation.

Local ties

43. When designing wards, we aimed to avoid breaking local ties, as far as permitted by the legislation.
44. Local ties can be defined by the location of public facilities such as doctors' surgeries, hospitals, libraries or schools. An area's history and tradition may be the basis of local ties. However, communities are constantly evolving and historical considerations may not have such importance in areas which have been subject to recent development or population dispersal. Major roads could be seen to be the focus of an area if they are the location of shops or community facilities which people visit regularly. Alternatively, major roads, rivers or railway lines could be seen as physical barriers between different communities.
45. In some areas, we have combined two or more distinct and separate communities within a single ward.
46. We also had regard to other recognised boundaries which may reflect local communities or local ties in designing ward boundaries. These boundaries could include those of community council areas, polling districts and primary school catchment areas.

Easily-identifiable boundaries

47. The legislation requires us to take into account the desirability of fixing boundaries that are and will remain easily-identifiable, but electoral parity and local ties take precedence.
48. In some areas, a case can be made to define ward boundaries along roads since they are likely to remain clearly identifiable, and are unlikely to be straddled by new dwellings. As an alternative, drawing a boundary along the rear fences between houses will result in neighbours across a street being in the same ward which may appropriately reflect local ties.
49. In some areas, natural features such as watercourses and edges of woodland may be appropriate. In upland areas, a watershed may be an appropriate ward boundary feature, particularly along narrow, well-defined ridges.
50. Ward boundaries have also been standardised where appropriate to follow road centrelines and river/waterway centrelines in order to create more easily-identifiable ward boundaries.

Special geographical considerations

51. We can depart from strict adherence to electoral parity for a ward where there are special geographical considerations that make it desirable to do so. These considerations can apply to socio-economic factors as well as to physical geography. Such considerations could include any areas where transport and communication links are slow, infrequent or subject to interference by the weather and seasons. Examples would be islands, sparsely populated areas and remote areas.

Other factors

52. It is important to note that our reviews are concerned only with electoral matters. Issues such as addresses, postcodes, community council boundaries and school catchment areas are all decided by other bodies and do not change as a direct consequence of ward boundary changes.

Consultation

53. Our approach to conducting the Fifth Reviews was one of engagement and openness. We publicised the reviews widely, and asked that councils do the same. Legislation governing the conduct of reviews is at Appendix D. At the start of the reviews we met all 32 councils individually to discuss our proposals for councillor numbers.
54. The legislation requires us to consult with councils for a 2-month period and to take into consideration their views prior to consulting publicly on proposals. We conducted a two-stage consultation, firstly for councillor numbers, and secondly for our ward proposals.

55. When publicising the consultations we issued a news release, placed public notices in the local press and supplied materials for councils to make available at council-nominated display points. We also used Facebook, Twitter and our website for publicity and asked councils to publicise the reviews on their websites. The local press used in South Ayrshire Council area were the 'Ayrshire Post', the 'Ayr Advertiser' and the 'Carrick Gazette'. The display points agreed with South Ayrshire Council were located in: South Ayrshire Council, County Buildings, Ayr; Maybole Library; Maybole Customer service Centre; Girvan Area Housing Office; Troon Area Housing Office; Prestwick Area Housing Office; Ayr Customer Service Centre; and Carnegie Library, Ayr.
56. We also wrote to a wide range of interested parties including MSPs, MPs, political parties, community councils, COSLA and other representative bodies to inform them of the consultations.
57. Our public consultation portal allowed users to view maps and background information and to submit responses, including alternative suggestions during the public consultation phases of the reviews.
58. All responses to the consultations were fully considered by us and the papers and minutes recording our deliberations and decisions are published on our website: www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk.

Part 2 Conducting the Review

Councillor numbers

59. Our methodology placed South Ayrshire Council area within category 3, as one of the more rural council areas with average deprivation, with a ratio of electors per councillor of 3,800. Using the ratio of 3,800 resulted in councillor numbers of 24 for South Ayrshire Council area. As there were 30 councillors in South Ayrshire Council area under existing arrangements we applied a 10% cap on change, as set out in our methodology, and so initially proposed 27 councillors for South Ayrshire Council area, 3 fewer than at present.

Consultation with South Ayrshire Council

60. We wrote to South Ayrshire Council on 21 February 2014 announcing the start of the Fifth Reviews, providing background information and setting out our proposals for councillor numbers. The letter set out that we were consulting with the council on these proposals for a period of 2 months ending on 23 April 2014.

61. On 21 March 2014, we met the council to explain the review process, the methodology for the determination of councillor numbers and the proposed number of councillors for South Ayrshire Council area.

62. In its response to the consultation on councillor numbers, the council opposed our proposal to reduce councillor numbers in the area, suggested a range of other factors that could be considered in our methodology for the determination of councillor numbers, expressed concern about SIMD's ability to reflect the true extent of rural deprivation, and considered that the inclusion of both the urban north and the rural hinterlands in a single council area made South Ayrshire a special case. The council suggested that deprivation be a consideration in ward design.

63. We considered the council's response at our meeting of 1 May 2014 (LGBCS Paper 2217/14 and minute of meeting M355). We decided to consult with the public on the same proposals for councillor numbers.

Consultation with the public

64. We consulted with the public on our proposals for councillor numbers between 29 May and 21 August 2014.

65. There were 2 responses to the public consultation for South Ayrshire Council area, both of which opposed a reduction in councillor numbers.

66. We received 2 responses for all council areas in Scotland and these are available on our website.

67. We considered the views expressed by respondents to the public consultation in South Ayrshire Council area. We also considered the views expressed by other

councils, COSLA and other interested parties across Scotland concerning our proposed methodology. South Ayrshire Council did not give us a further response.

68. Our response to the consultation on councillor numbers is summarised in our statement on councillor numbers published in October 2014 (available on our website), which:
- explained our methodology;
 - set out our view that the previously-used categorisation based on population distribution and population density was an incomplete model of the demands on councillors;
 - noted a lack of evidence supporting the sole use of population distribution and population density to determine the ratio of councillors to electors; and
 - stated our case that using deprivation and population distribution appears to remain a reasonable model for us to adopt in discharging our statutory responsibility to make recommendations in the interests of effective and convenient local government.

69. For these reasons we were content to confirm our use of the methodology at our meeting of 10 September 2014 (see LGBCS Paper 2228/14 and minute of meeting M358).

Ward design

70. We discussed our ward proposals for South Ayrshire Council area at our meeting of 25 November 2014 (see LGBCS Paper 2260/14 and minute of meeting M361) and decided on our proposals at our meetings of 3 February 2015 and 3 March 2015 (see LGBCS Paper 2276/15 and minutes of meetings M364 and M365).

71. Our proposals for South Ayrshire Council area presented an electoral arrangement for 27 councillors representing 1 3-member ward and 6 4-member wards, reducing the number of wards in the area by 1 and reducing councillor numbers by 3. Our proposals:
- improved overall forecast parity;
 - addressed forecast disparities in ward 8;
 - made no changes to ward 3;
 - amended ward boundaries at Ayr, Maybole, Prestwick and Troon; and
 - took account of community council areas in ward designs.

Consultation with South Ayrshire Council

72. We consulted South Ayrshire Council on our ward proposals between 19 March and 19 May 2015.

73. The council responded to the consultation on 21 May 2015 opposing the proposed electoral arrangements, in particular the proposed decrease in councillor numbers and the geographical extent of ward 6 (Kyle, Coylton and North Carrick) and ward 7 (Girvan, Maybole and Carrick). The council expressed concern that the electorate data used in ward design was not contemporary and

asked us to instead consider adoption of Option C from LGBCS Paper 2260/14 or continuation of existing arrangements in the council area.

74. We reviewed our ward proposals for South Ayrshire Council area at our meeting of 9 June 2015 (LGBCS Paper 2309/15 and minute of meeting M367). We considered the council's response and the disruption to ward structure that the proposals would bring about.

75. We considered that, on balance, the electoral arrangement shown in Option C of LGBCS Paper 2260/14, which featured 28 councillors, 2 less than the existing number and one more than suggested by our methodology for determining councillor numbers, preserved existing arrangements in the north of the council area, reduced the geographical extent of ward 6 (Kyle, Coylton and North Carrick) and improved upon existing arrangements in terms of parity of representation. It therefore justified departure from the number of councillors proposed by our methodology.

Consultation with the public

76. We wrote to South Ayrshire Council to inform it that the consultation with the public on proposals for wards would begin on 30 July and run until 22 October 2015. The council was invited to submit a further response during the public consultation.

77. On 30 July 2015 we announced a 12-week period of consultation with the public on our ward proposals for South Ayrshire Council area which:

- improved overall forecast parity;
- addressed forecast disparities in ward 8;
- made no changes to wards 1, 2, 3 and 6;
- amended ward boundaries in Ayr and Carrick; and
- took account of community council areas in ward designs.

78. On 22 October 2015 the consultation period with the public ended. Sixteen responses relating to South Ayrshire Council area were received during the public consultation, which can be found on our website. The main themes to emerge were:

- Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael should be in either ward 7 or ward 8, but not in both;
- Maybole is the focus for nearby villages;
- local ties could be assisted near Mossblown, Annbank and St Quivox; and
- proposed ward 8 is too large and has poor transport links so special geographical considerations could be said to apply.

79. During the public consultation, the council continued to disagree with the proposed reduction in councillor numbers in the council area. It acknowledged that our proposals that were subject to public consultation did to some extent address the issues raised in the council's earlier responses. It suggested 8

alternatives for wards 6, 7 and 8. It expressed concern about the extent of ward 8 and the geographical divide between wards 7 and 8 in particular, and identified the potential to reflect local ties in and around Annbank by adopting the River Ayr as a boundary between wards 6 and 7.

80. We received 3 responses for all council areas in Scotland and these are available on our website.

Development of our final recommendations

81. On 8 December 2015 (see LGBCS Paper 2358/15 and minute of meeting M372) we considered all responses received during the public consultation, including that from South Ayrshire Council.

82. We discussed further options for South Ayrshire Council area. We noted that the main reasons for opposition to the proposals was the proposed boundary between wards 7 and 8, which was seen as breaking local ties around Maybole and the size of the proposed ward 8 which has limited transport links.

83. We considered 9 suggestions for ward boundaries in the South Ayrshire Council area. We gave weight to South Ayrshire Council's suggestion that the boundary between ward 6 (Kyle) and ward 7 (Maybole, North Carrick and Coynton) could better reflect local ties in the Mossblown, Annbank and St. Quivox area by following the River Ayr. We considered that suggestion 9, which placed the villages of Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael in ward 7 and Turnberry in ward 8, best addressed local ties in the villages around Maybole, reducing the size of ward 8 and incorporating the council's suggested boundary between wards 6 and 7.

84. We therefore decided that suggestion 9 as presented in LGBCS Paper 2358 should be our Final Recommendations for South Ayrshire Council area.

85. We considered that the information we had available was sufficient to reach a decision for South Ayrshire Council area that would provide for effective and convenient local government and that there was not a need for further consultation or a local inquiry.

86. On 19 April 2016 (see LGBCS Paper 2395/16 and minute of meeting M377) we confirmed our Final Recommendations for South Ayrshire Council area as set out in Part 3.

87. All papers and minutes of meetings relating to our consideration of South Ayrshire Council area are available on our website: www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk.

88. The timetable for the Fifth Reviews of electoral arrangements is set out at Appendix E. An index of our meetings, papers and minutes concerning South Ayrshire Council area is at Appendix F.

Part 3 Final Recommendation for South Ayrshire Council area

89. We recommend that in the interests of effective and convenient local government the future electoral arrangements for South Ayrshire Council area should provide for a council of 28 councillors in 8 wards, comprising 4 wards each returning 4 members and 4 wards each returning 3 members as follows:

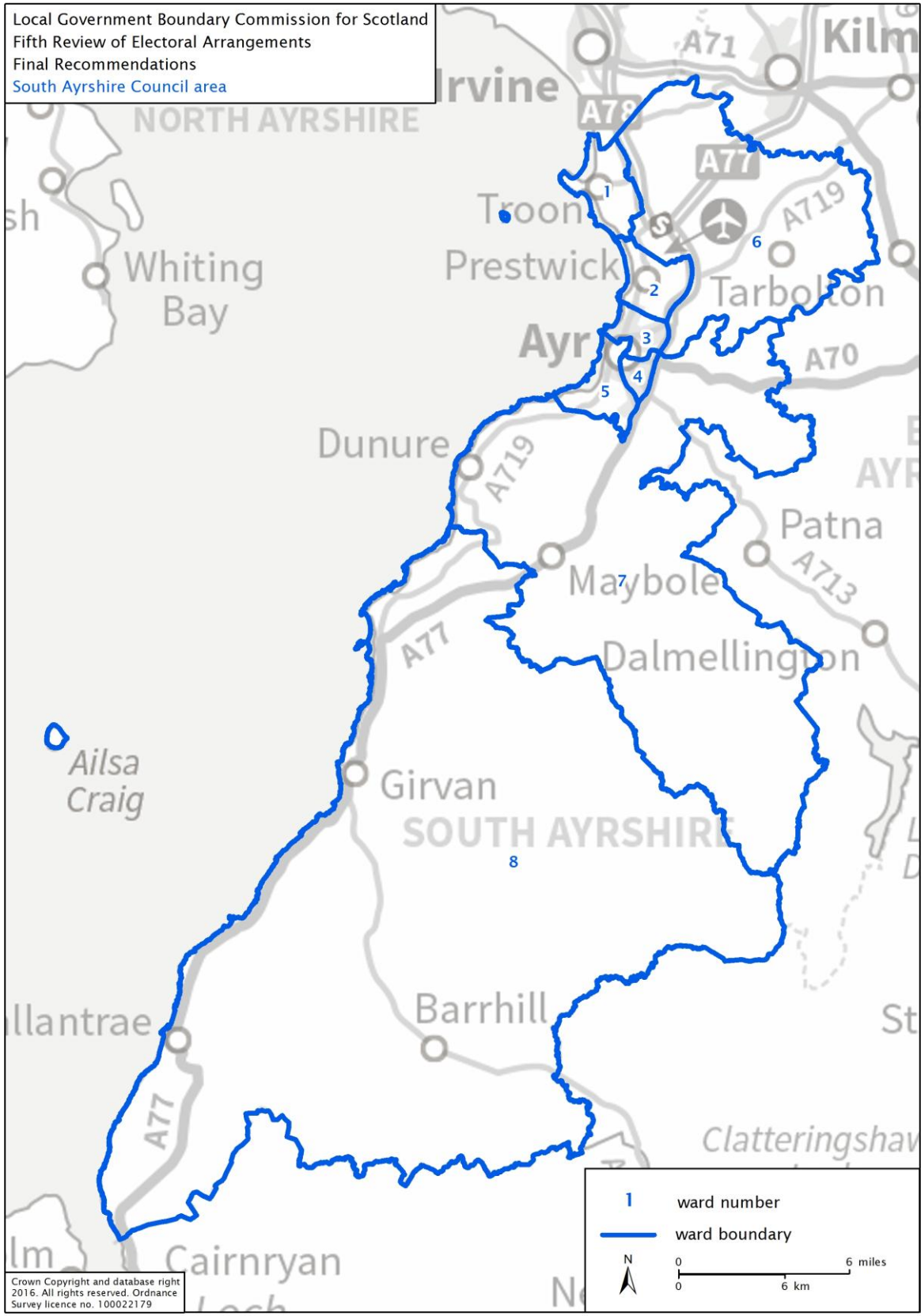
Ward no.	Ward name	Councillors	Electorate Sept 13	Actual variation from parity	Forecast electorate	Forecast variation from parity
1	Troon	4	12,065	-6%	12,132	-5%
2	Prestwick	4	12,452	-3%	12,085	-5%
3	Ayr North	4	12,946	1%	13,106	3%
4	Ayr East	3	10,307	7%	10,029	5%
5	Ayr West	4	13,783	7%	13,822	8%
6	Kyle	3	9,954	3%	10,215	7%
7	Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton	3	9,407	-2%	9,359	-2%
8	Girvan and South Carrick	3	8,929	-7%	8,742	-9%
	Totals	28	89,843	5%	89,490	5%

90. A digitised description of the ward boundaries in the form of GIS shapefiles has been securely stored on magnetic media at the date of publication of our report.

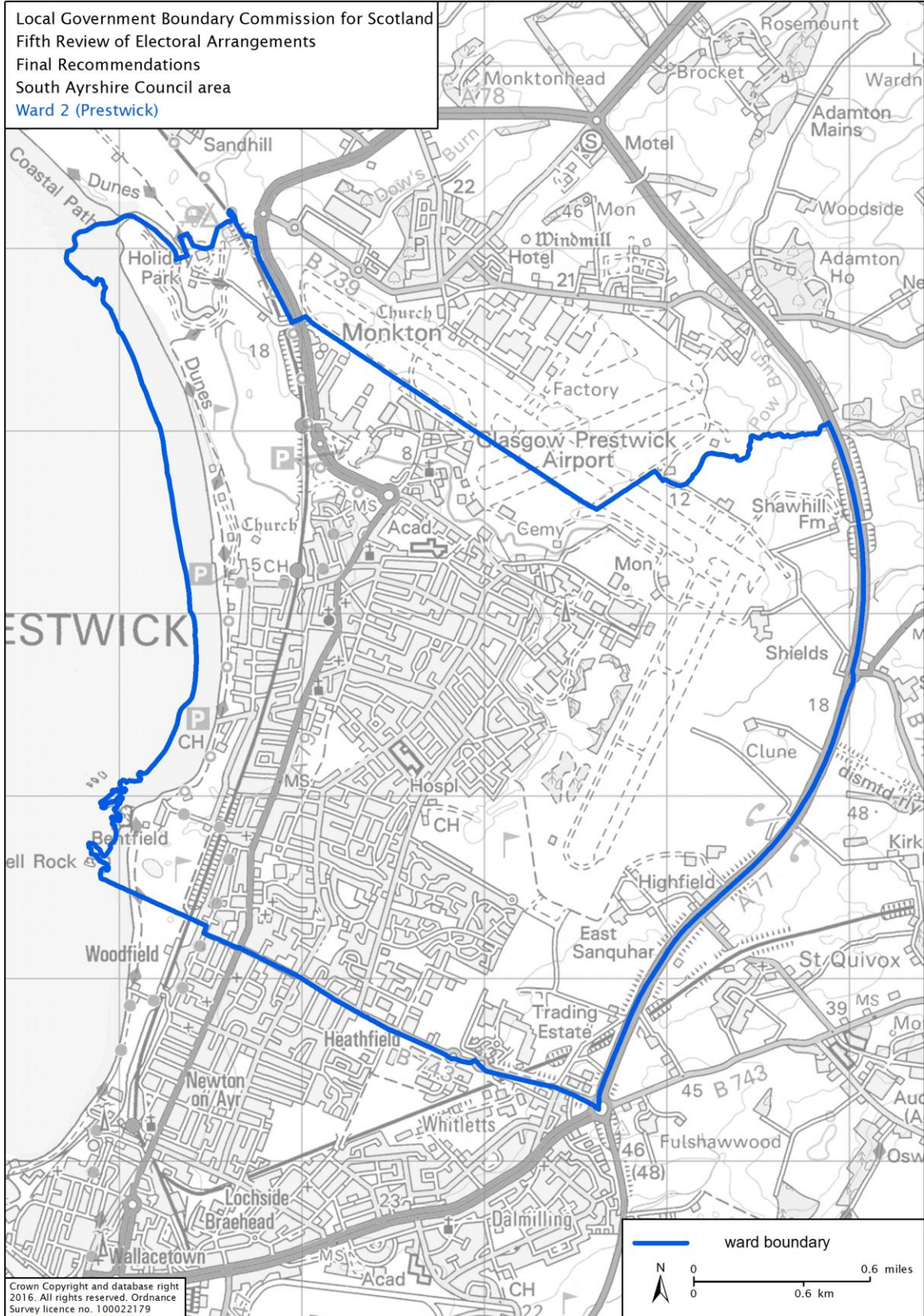
91. Our report has also been deposited for public inspection at offices designated by the council and a news release announcing the publication of our report has also been issued.

92. Our report is available on our website at www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Final Recommendations
 South Ayrshire Council area



Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Final Recommendations
 South Ayrshire Council area
 Ward 2 (Prestwick)



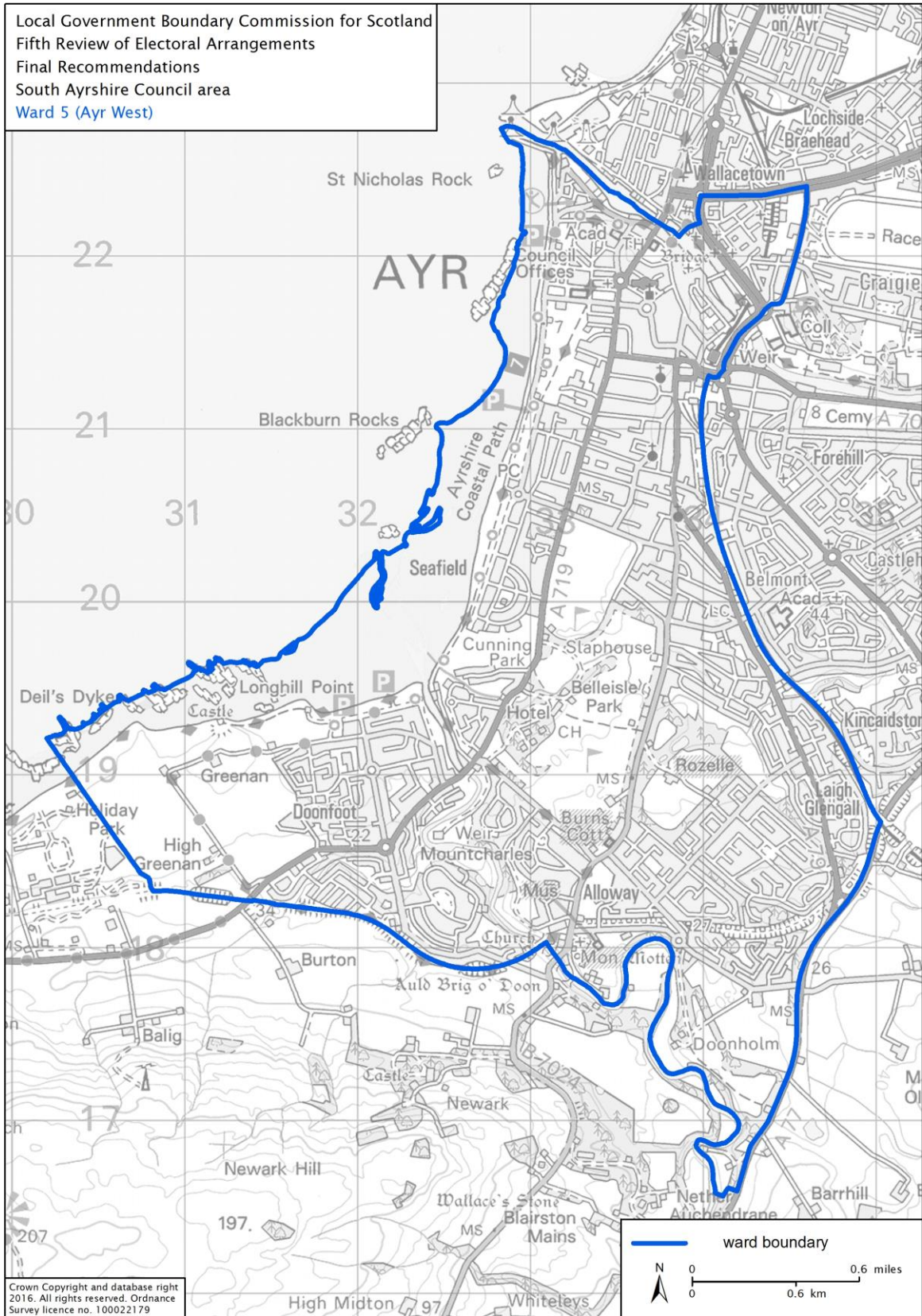
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Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
Final Recommendations
South Ayrshire Council area
Ward 4 (Ayr East)



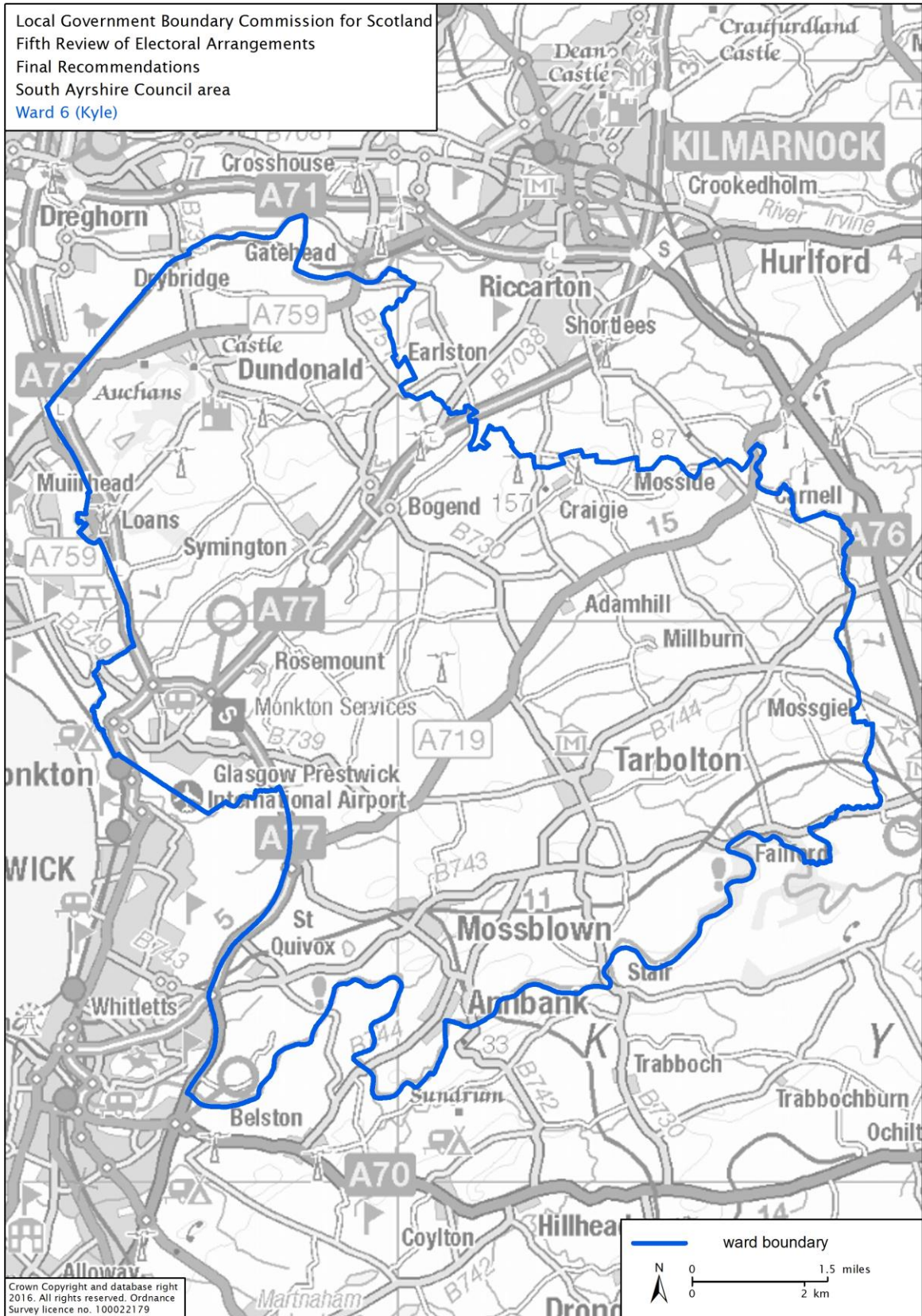
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 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Final Recommendations
 South Ayrshire Council area
 Ward 5 (Ayr West)



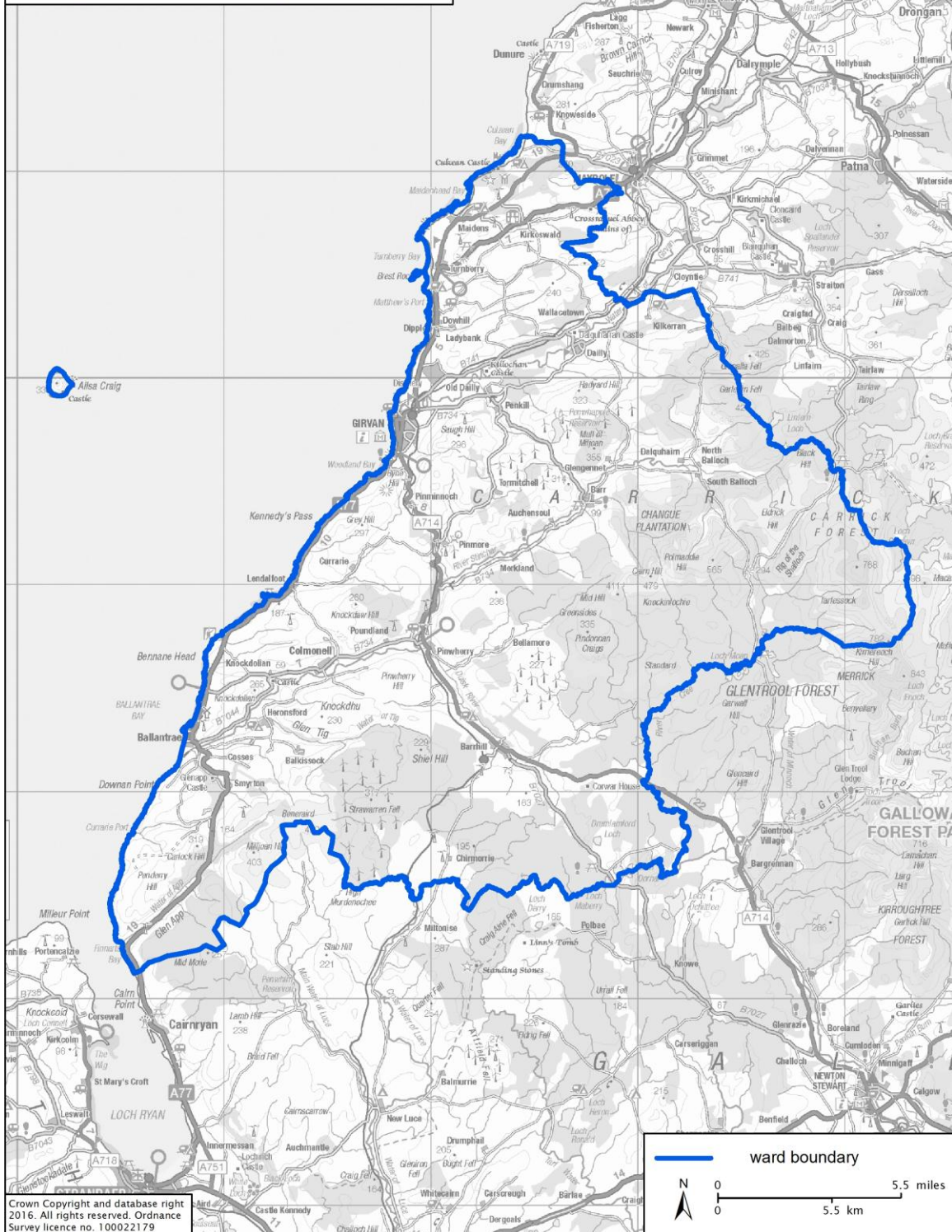
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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Final Recommendations
 South Ayrshire Council area
 Ward 6 (Kyle)



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Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
 Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements
 Final Recommendations
 South Ayrshire Council area
 Ward 8 (Girvan and South Carrick)



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Appendices

Appendix A Existing and Recommended Wards for South Ayrshire Council area

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

Appendix C Categorising Councils Matrix

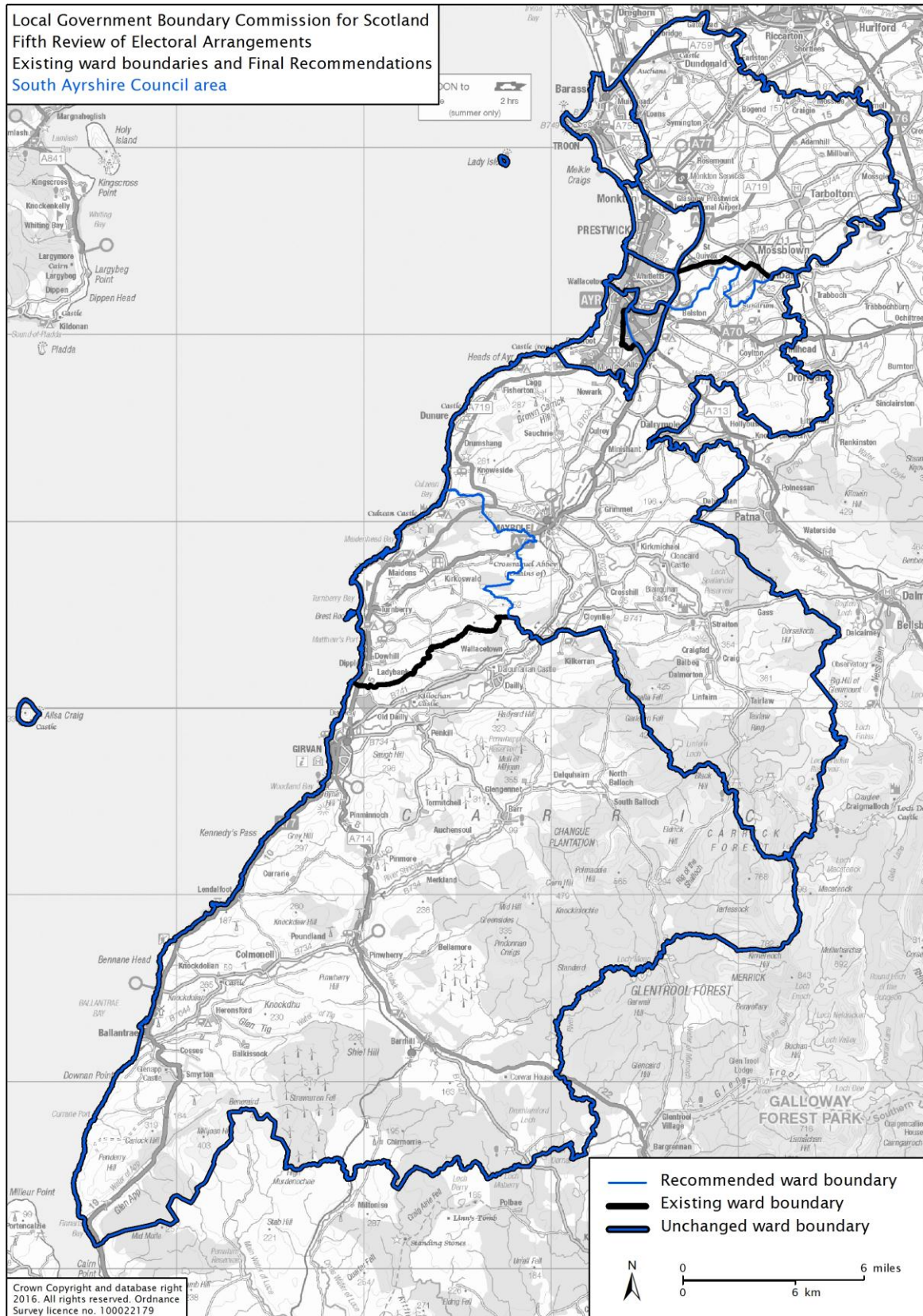
Appendix D Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973: Conduct of Reviews

Appendix E Timetable for the Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

Appendix F Index of Commission Meetings, Papers and Minutes of Meetings –
South Ayrshire Council area

Appendix A

Existing and Recommended wards for South Ayrshire Council area



Appendix B

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.

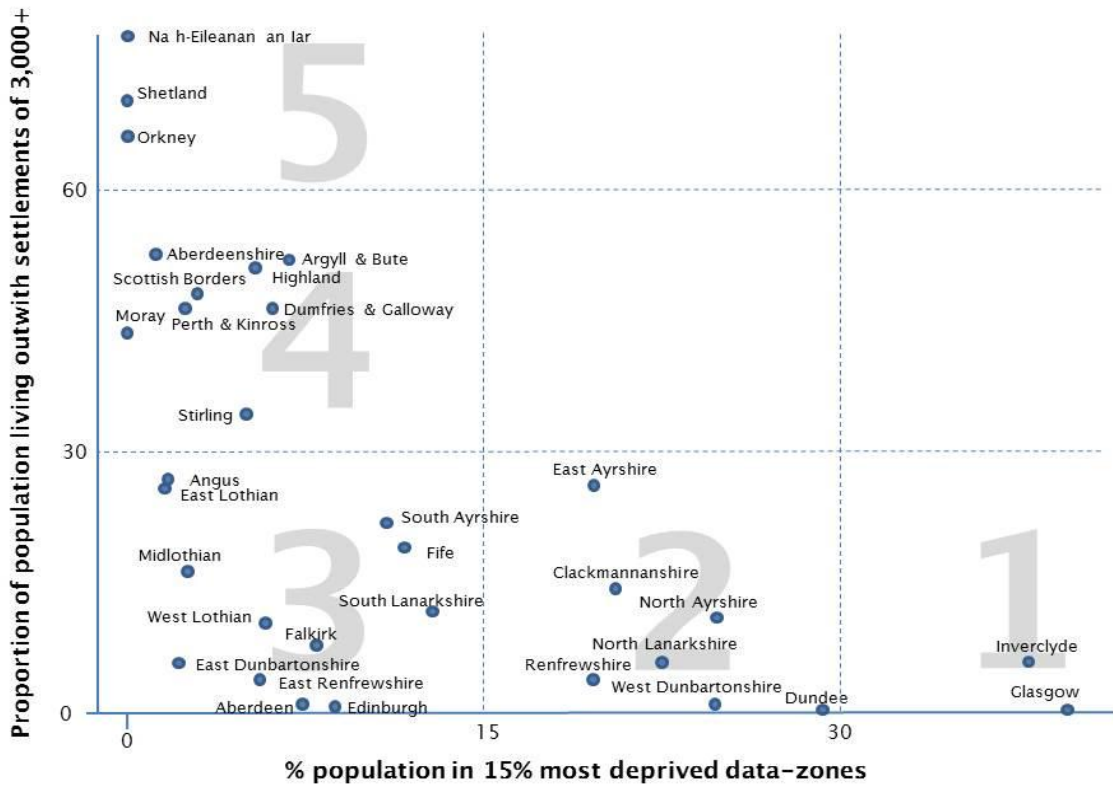
(3) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) above, in considering the electoral arrangements referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above regard shall be had to –

- (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 C Categorising Councils Matrix



Appendix D

Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973: Conduct of Reviews

Extract from Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (as amended)

Conduct of Reviews

18 *Procedure for reviews*

(1) Where the Boundary Commission propose to conduct a review under the foregoing provisions of this Part of this Act, they shall take such steps as they think fit to secure that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of the proposal to conduct it and of any directions of the Secretary of State which are relevant to it.

(2) In conducting any such review, the Boundary Commission shall —

(a) consult —

(i) the council of any local government area affected by the review, and such other local authorities, community councils and public bodies as appear to them to be concerned;

(ii) any bodies representative of staff employed by local authorities who have asked the Boundary Commission to consult them; and

(iii) such other persons as they think fit;

(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);¹

(b) take such steps as they think fit for seeing that persons who may be interested in the review are informed of any draft proposals or any interim decision not to make proposals, and of the place or places where those proposals or that decision can be inspected;

(c) in particular, deposit copies of those proposals or that decision at the offices of the council of any local government area which may be affected thereby and require any such council to keep the copies available for inspection at their offices for a period specified in the requirement; and

¹ Sub-section 18(2)(aa) and 18(2)(ab) inserted by Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

(d) take into consideration any representation made to them within that period.

(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.²

(3) Where the Boundary Commission make a report under this Part of this Act they shall —

(a) take such steps as they think fit for securing that persons who may be interested in the report are informed of it and of the place or places where it can be inspected;

(b) in particular, deposit copies of the report at the offices of the council of any local government area which may be affected thereby and require any such council to keep the copies available for inspection at their offices until the expiration of six months after the making of an order giving effect, with or without modifications, to any proposals contained in the report, or after a notification by the Commission that they have no proposals to put forward or, as the case may be, by the Secretary of State that he does not propose to give effect to the proposals of the Commission.

(4) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this section, the procedure of the Boundary Commission in conducting any review under this Part of this Act shall be such as they may determine.

19 *Local inquiries*

(1) The Boundary Commission may cause a local inquiry to be held with respect to any review carried out by them under this Part of this Act.

² Sub-section 18(2A) and 18(2B) inserted by Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004

Appendix E

Timetable for the Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements

Description	Start	Finish
Reviews commenced	21 February 2014	
Commission met separately with all 32 councils to provide a background to the reviews	25 February 2014	2 April 2014
2-month statutory consultation period with councils on councillor numbers	21 February 2014	23 April 2014
Commission considered councils' responses	April 2014	May 2014
12-week public consultation period on councillor numbers	29 May 2014	21 August 2014
Commission considered responses and agreed councillor numbers	September 2014	January 2015
Commission developed proposals for wards	September 2014	January 2015
2-month statutory consultation period with councils on proposals for wards	19 March 2015	19 May 2015
Commission considered councils' responses	June 2015	July 2015
12-week public consultation on proposals for wards	30 July 2015	22 October 2015
Commission considered all representations and developed its final recommendations	November 2015	April 2016
Commission submitted its reports to Scottish Ministers	May 2016	

Appendix F

Index of Commission meetings, papers and minutes – South Ayrshire Council area

Meeting Date	Paper Number	Minutes ref
09.10.2013	Paper 2193/13	M349
12.11.2013	Paper 2198/13	M350
18.12.2013	Paper 2203/13	M351
15.01.2014	Paper 2206/14	M352
01.05.2014	Paper 2217/14	M355
10.09.2014	Paper 2228/14	M358
25.11.2014	Paper 2260/15	M361
03.02.2015	Paper 2276/15	M364
03.03.2015	Paper 2276/15	M365
09.06.2015	Paper 2309/15	M367
08.12.2015	Paper 2358/15	M372
19.04.2016	Paper 2395/16	M377

