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**Report to: Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 14 May, 2015**

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**Subject: Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements - Proposals for Wards**

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**Report by: Chief Executive**

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### **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is: a) to bring to members' attention proposals from the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland to make amendments to electoral wards in Clackmannanshire; and b) to seek Council's response to these proposals.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council:
- a) notes the proposal by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland to change the boundary between Clackmannanshire South and Clackmannanshire East wards to address forecast population disparities;
  - b) notes that no other changes to Clackmannanshire wards are proposed;
  - c) notes the consultation process which will be undertaken on the matter by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland;
  - d) notes the feedback from local elected members on the proposal;
  - e) advises the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland that it has no objections to the proposed changes in Clackmannanshire's local government wards.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 At its meeting in March, 2014, Council considered a report on the first stage of the Fifth Reviews of Local Government Electoral Arrangements.
- 3.2 That first stage involved consultation on the number of councillors in each council and the minimum and maximum numbers for any council. There were no proposals to change the number of members for Clackmannanshire although some other councils will be affected by a change in numbers.
- 3.3 The Council agreed at that time to advise the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland that it supported the presumption of 18 elected members as a minimum number of elected members for any council and

also noted that a report would come before council at the next stage of the review when wards and boundaries would be considered.

3.4 The next stage the review is now live and councils are being consulted on proposals for changes to ward boundaries in their areas.

#### 4.0 Considerations

4.1 When reviewing electoral arrangements, the Boundary Commission must take into account of the following factors:

- the interests of effective and convenient local government;
- that each councillor in a council area should as far as possible represent the same number of electors;
- local ties which would be broken by making a particular boundary;
- the desirability of fixing boundaries that are easily identifiable; and
- special geographical considerations.

4.2 Having reviewed Clackmannanshire's existing ward boundaries in relation to these factors, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's proposals are as follows, with only one change to the current arrangements being put forward:

- a) there should be no changes to ward names
- b) there should be no changes to the number of councillors in each ward
- c) there should be no changes to the boundaries of Clackmannanshire West, North and Central wards
- d) there should be a change in the boundary between Clackmannanshire South and Clackmannanshire East wards to *'address forecast population disparities.'*

4.3 The proposed change, which is illustrated on the map at the Appendix to this report, is that 343 houses (currently 710 electors) which at the moment are in Clackmannanshire South would transfer into Clackmannanshire East. Affected streets are as follows (not all of these streets currently have households with electors):

- |                    |                    |                  |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| • Alloa Park Drive | • Forth Crescent   | • Talorcan       |
| • Carnach          | • Galan            | • Taran          |
| • Clackmannan Road | • Garganey         | • The Cormorant  |
| • Denbecan         | • Hiltonhawk Way   | • The Pheasantry |
| • Elpin            | • Sandpiper Meadow |                  |

4.4 By making this change, the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland envisages an improvement in overall parity by reducing forecast disparity in the Clackmannanshire South ward which has seen a significant increase in households since the ward boundaries were last reviewed in 2007.

#### 5.0 Consultation

5.1 The legislation provides that the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland in this review must first of all consult on its proposals with councils and that consultation runs until 19 May 2015.

- 5.2 After consideration of responses from councils, there will be a 12-week public consultation on the proposals between July and October 2015. Depending on the outcome of the consultation, the Boundary Commission may further develop and consult on proposals later in 2015. It is expected that final in time for implementation for the next local government elections in May 2017.
- 5.3 Details of the proposed boundary change in Clackmannanshire were circulated to elected members at the start of April. No concerns have been expressed by any member about the proposals.
- 5.4 From an officer perspective, the proposed change does not present any significant issue. There is a geographic cohesion to the area which it is proposed moves between wards, the proposed new boundary is easily identifiable and there are no long term local ties which would be broken by the change.
- 5.5 If the proposals were ultimately approved, there could be some knock-on effects in terms of changes to polling places and districts but these are not significant.
- 5.6 On that basis, it is recommended that the Council advises the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland that it has no objections to the proposals for changes to wards in Clackmannanshire.

## **6.0 Conclusions**

- 6.1 The proposals thus far from the Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements have not had a major impact on Clackmannanshire and can be supported by Council in its response to the consultation.

## **7.0 Sustainability Implications**

- 7.1 There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

## **8.0 Resource Implications**

- 8.1 *Financial Details* - there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 8.2 *Staffing* - there are no direct staffing implications arising from this report.

## **9.0 Exempt Reports**

- 9.1 Is this report exempt? No

## **10.1 Declarations**

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

## **(1) Our Priorities**

The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail) N/A

**11.0 Equalities Impact** - N/A

**12.0 Legality**

12.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

**13.0 Appendices** -

Appendix - Map showing proposed boundary change

**14.0 Background Papers**

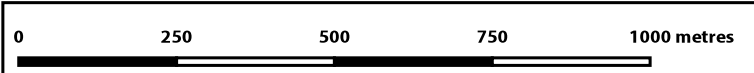
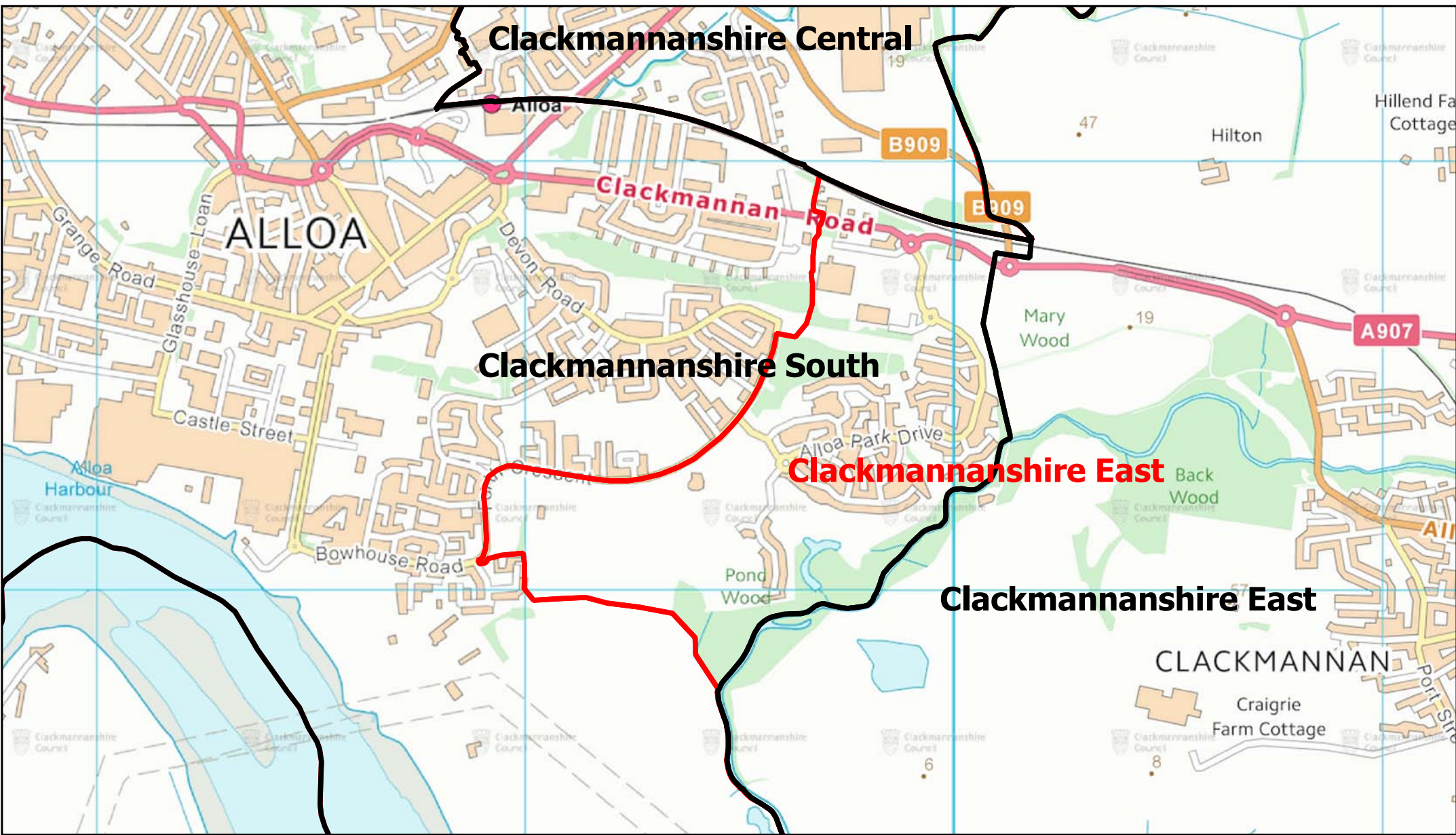
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland, Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements - Proposals for Wards, Clackmannanshire

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**Legend**

-  Current Ward Boundaries
-  Proposed Ward Boundaries

**Proposed Ward Changes**

 **Clackmannanshire Council**  
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