



Fife Council Area

Introduction

1. Fife Council area currently comprises 5 county constituencies, all of which are wholly within the Council area. The electorates of the 5 constituencies at the start and finish of the previous and current reviews are provided at Appendix C.

Initial Considerations

2. In forming our provisional proposals for Fife Council area we had in mind the following considerations:

2.1 At the enumeration date of June 2001, Fife Council area contained 278,848 parliamentary electors, giving the area a theoretical entitlement of 3.99 seats.

2.2 Of the 5 existing constituencies, the electorate in 3 was more than 25 per cent below the electoral quota and the remaining 2 constituencies were approximately 11 and 12 per cent below the electoral quota.

2.3 The reduction in the number of constituencies in Fife Council area, coupled with the geography of the area, would result in significant boundary changes which might cause some controversy.

3. We agreed that Fife Council area should comprise 4 constituencies.

4. In considering the Council area, we concluded that we should extend the area of the existing North East Fife constituency, geographically the largest within Fife Council area, thereby increasing the electorate to 64,813, which is approximately 7 per cent below the electoral quota. To achieve this we transferred ward 48 (Leven East) from the existing Central Fife constituency.

5. Thereafter, we decided to divide the remainder of Fife Council area into 3 constituencies which would, by and large, wholly encompass existing core communities. To the west of the Council area, we extended the existing Dunfermline West constituency eastwards to wholly encompass the built-up area of Dunfermline, giving a new constituency of Dunfermline and West Fife with an electorate of 70,373. We created a new constituency,

Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, which encompasses, amongst other small towns and settlements, Kirkcaldy, Dalgety Bay and Cowdenbeath, to provide a constituency with 74,163 electors. The existing Central Fife constituency, minus the area transferred to the revised North East Fife constituency, was combined with areas from the existing Dunfermline West and Kirkcaldy constituencies to constitute a new constituency of Glenrothes, with an electorate of 69,499, that encompasses, amongst other towns and settlements, Glenrothes, Buckhaven, Methil, Leslie and Markinch.

6. We considered that, overall, our proposals for revised constituencies met the requirements of the electoral quota while maintaining, as far as possible, community ties. We noted that, in a number of instances, small pockets of electorate were detached from a main community. However, all of the alternative options we examined created similar problems elsewhere.

Provisional Proposals

7. On 7 February 2002 we published our provisional proposals for 4 county constituencies in Fife Council area as follows:

Constituencies	Comprising	Electorate (June 2001)
Dunfermline and West Fife CC	Electoral wards in Fife Council area	
	1 Kincardine, Culross and Low Valleyfield	3,231
	2 Blairhall, High Valleyfield and Torryburn	3,497
	3 Oakley, Saline and Steelend	3,462
	4 Cairneyhill, Carnock and Milesmark	3,690
	5 Crossford and Dunfermline Central	3,590
	6 Baldridgeburn	3,668
	7 Wellwood and Headwell	3,605
	8 Townhill and Bellyeoman	3,473
	9 Garvock and Carnegie	3,661
	10 Halbeath, Hill of Beath and Kingseat	3,340
	11 Woodmill	3,232
	12 Linburn	3,349
	13 Brucefield and Nethertown	3,669
	14 Pitcorthie	3,419
	15 Limekilns and Pitreavie	3,914
	16 Rosyth West	3,422
	17 Rosyth East	3,566
	18 Inverkeithing West and Rosyth South	3,744

19	Inverkeithing East and North Queensferry	3,251
22	Crossgates and Mosside	3,590
	Total	70,373

Glenrothes CC

Electoral wards in Fife Council area

37	Cardenden, Cluny and Chapel	3,678
38	Kinglassie, Bowhill and Dundonald	3,880
44	Wemyss and Muiredge	3,812
45	Buckhaven and Denbeath	3,664
46	Methilhill	3,578
47	Methil	3,699
49	Leven West and Kirkland	3,621
50	Kennoway	3,279
51	Windygates, Star and Balgonie	3,532
52	Markinch and Woodside East	3,757
53	Auchmuty and Woodside West	3,598
54	Pitteuchar and Finglassie North	3,657
55	Thornton, Stenton and Finglassie South	3,750
56	Caskieberran and Ribleton	3,578
57	Newcastle and Tanshall	3,490
58	South Parks and Macedonia	3,666
59	Leslie and Whinnyknowe	3,496
60	Balgeddie and Collydean	4,122
61	Cadham, Pitcoudie and Balfarg	3,642
	Total	69,499

Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath CC

Electoral wards in Fife Council area

20	Dalgety Bay West and Hillend	4,360
21	Dalgety Bay East	3,544
23	Cowdenbeath Central	3,623
24	Oakfield and Cowdenbeath North	3,541
25	Kelty	3,619
26	Ballingry and Lochore	3,732
27	Crosshill and Lochgelly North	3,635

28	Lumphinnans and Lochgelly South	3,322
29	Aberdour and Burntisland West	3,430
30	Auchtertool and Burntisland East	3,209
31	Kinghorn and Inveriel	3,485
32	Linktown and Kirkcaldy Central	3,500
33	Raith and Longbraes	3,541
34	Bennochty and Valley	3,566
35	Templehall East	3,451
36	Templehall West	3,374
39	Dunnikier	3,316
40	Hayfield and Balsusney	3,325
41	Smeaton and Overton	3,443
42	Glebe Park, Pathhead and Sinclairtown	3,376
43	Dysart and Gallatown	3,771
	Total	74,163

North East Fife CC

Electoral wards in Fife Council area

48	Leven East	3,557
62	Falkland, Freuchie and Strathmiglo	3,655
63	Auchtermuchty and Ladybank	3,675
64	Kettle, Springfield and Ceres	3,449
65	Cupar South	3,914
66	Cupar North	3,487
67	Newburgh and Tay Coast	3,563
68	Newport-on-Tay and Wormit	3,530
69	Tayport and Motray	3,718
70	Leuchars, Balmullo and Guardbridge	3,473
71	Strathkinness and St Andrews West	3,515
72	St Andrews Central	3,816
73	St Andrews South	3,460
74	St Andrews South East	3,556
75	Crail, Cameron and Kemback	3,927
76	Anstruther and East Neuk Landward	3,612
77	Elie, St Monans and Pittenweem	3,556
78	Largo	3,350
	Total	64,813

Representations on Provisional Proposals

8. During the statutory consultation period, we received 7 representations regarding our provisional proposals for Fife Council area. Fife Council notified us that it would not be making any representations concerning our proposals. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Scottish Liberal Democrats supported our proposals, although the latter suggested splitting ward 49 (Leven West and Kirkland) so that the whole of Leven could be situated in the proposed North East Fife constituency. The Kirkcaldy Area Branch of the Scottish National Party expressed concern over the geography of the proposed constituencies. We received 2 representations specifically concerning the Leven area. One supported our proposal to include ward 48 (Leven East) in the proposed North East Fife constituency, and the other objected to the whole of Leven not being included in that same constituency. Dalgety Bay and Hillend Community Council suggested that the proposed Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath constituency should be renamed “Kirkcaldy, Dalgety Bay and Cowdenbeath”. One representation proposed that the recommended Dunfermline and West Fife constituency should be renamed “Dunfermline” or “City of Dunfermline”.

9. Following the end of the statutory consultation period, we received a further representation. Although that representation concluded that there were significant difficulties with our proposed constituency boundaries, no alternative proposals were offered for consideration.

Consideration of Representations on Provisional Proposals

10. We noted that Fife Council did not object to our provisional proposals. We also agreed that the number and nature of the representations did not justify a local inquiry.

11. We considered the Scottish Liberal Democrats’ amendment which proposed splitting ward 49 but concluded that, in line with our general policy that complete wards should be the building blocks for constituencies, our provisional proposals for North East Fife and Glenrothes constituencies should not be revised.

12. We noted the concerns with the geography of our proposed constituencies. We decided, however, that the requirement to reduce the number of constituencies within Fife Council area resulted in a need for very significant change to existing boundaries and that the alternatives we examined prior to publication of our provisional proposals produced, in our view, less favourable outcomes. We agreed, therefore, not to amend the boundaries of constituencies as set out in our provisional proposals.

13. We considered the 2 representations regarding changes to proposed constituency names but were not persuaded to amend our provisional proposals.

Final Recommendations

14. On 31 July 2003 we announced that we were making no changes to our provisional proposals for 4 county constituencies and that these were our final recommendations.
15. We accordingly recommend the adoption of our proposals for 4 county constituencies for Fife Council area, as set out in paragraph 7 above.

