

Report

Report to:	South Lanarkshire Council
Date of Meeting:	1 November 2023
Report by:	Chief Executive

Subject:	Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies - Review of Polling Districts SL002 and SL007
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise of the approved proposals for Constituency Boundaries for the UK Parliament within the South Lanarkshire Area following the 2023 review by the Boundary Commission for Scotland.
- ◆ Request authority for the creation of three additional Polling Districts to take account of those Boundary Changes, and the reduction in size of two existing Polling Districts as a result of their creation.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Council is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the new boundaries for the Constituencies of Rutherglen; East Kilbride and Strathaven; Hamilton and Clyde Valley; Motherwell Wishaw and Carluke; and Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale be noted.
- (2) that the changes in Returning Officer responsibility for each of the new Constituencies be noted.
- (3) that the requirement to create an additional polling district whose boundaries are marked on the plan in Appendix 1 and marked SL178 be approved and the new polling district be named SL178.
- (4) that the requirement to create an additional polling district whose boundaries are marked on the plan in Appendix 1 and marked SL179 be approved and the new polling district be named SL179.
- (5) that the requirement to create an additional polling district whose boundaries are delineated on the plan in Appendix 2 be approved and the new polling district be named SL180.
- (6) that the boundary for polling district SL002 be redrawn to reflect removal of the new polling districts SL178 and SL179 from its area.
- (7) that the boundary for polling district SL007 be redrawn to reflect removal of the new polling districts SL180 from its area.

3. Background

3.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland is responsible for reviewing Constituencies in Scotland for the UK Parliament. A full review of all UK Parliamentary Boundaries was concluded on 27 June 2023 and the proposals put forward for new Constituencies was approved by the Parliament on 28 June 2023.

- 3.2 The new Constituencies for the UK Parliament will come into force once Parliament is next dissolved and the next full UK Parliamentary General election will elect Members to those new Constituencies. Any by-election called before a full General Election is called will use the existing boundaries.
- 3.3 The following new Constituencies will lie wholly within the geographical area of South Lanarkshire Council: -
- Rutherglen
 - East Kilbride and Strathaven
 - Hamilton and Clyde Valley
- 3.4 The following new Constituencies will take in part of South Lanarkshire Council geographical area in addition to at least one other Council's area: -
- Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale
 - Motherwell, Wishaw and Carluke.
- 3.5 The UK Government make the decision as to which local authority will provide the Returning Officer for elections to each of the Constituencies.
- 3.6 In order that arrangements are in place to ensure either an unexpected by-election or a full UK Parliamentary General Election can be administered, there is a requirement for both the existing Boundaries and the new Boundaries to co-exist within the Electoral Register when the Register is published in December 2023. Three areas within South Lanarkshire Council have been identified within the new boundaries which do not allow for this and therefore the proposed new polling districts will require approval to rectify that position.

4. Current Position

- 4.1 Officers within the Election Office, assisted by the Council's GIS mapping experts and colleagues from the Electoral Registration Office, have carried out a detailed review of the new Constituency Boundaries, the existing Constituency Boundaries and the existing Polling District Boundaries.
- 4.2 Following that review, it has been agreed that most of the new Boundaries are reflected in existing Polling District Boundaries and therefore will require no change at this time to take account of the UK Constituency Boundary changes.
- 4.3 However, the Boundary for the new Motherwell, Wishaw and Carluke Constituency will take in part of the existing polling district SL002 situated to the north of Crossford, and the remainder of SL002 lies within the new Hamilton and Clyde Valley Constituency. Polling District SL002 will require to be split along this boundary, with two new polling districts being created and named SL178 and SL179.
- 4.4 Also the Boundary for the new Motherwell, Wishaw and Carluke Constituency will take in part of the existing polling district SL007 situated to the north and northwest of Cleghorn, and the remainder of SL007 lies within the new Hamilton and Clyde Valley Constituency. Polling District SL007 will require to be split along this boundary, with one new polling district being created and named SL180.
- 4.5 The proposed changes will ensure that the Electoral Register can be published in December 2023 reflecting the two versions of Constituency Boundaries as they exist at this time. The new Constituencies will be in force as soon as the next UK Parliamentary General Election is called and the existing Constituency boundaries will

no longer be in existence after that point. The date for the next UK Parliamentary General Election is not known at this time.

- 4.6 The UK Government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have confirmed that it will be for South Lanarkshire Council to provide the Returning Officer for the new UK Parliamentary Constituencies of Hamilton and Clyde Valley; East Kilbride and Strathaven; and Rutherglen. It has also been confirmed that it will be for North Lanarkshire Council to provide the Returning Officer for the Constituency of Motherwell, Wishaw and Carluke, and for Dumfries and Galloway Council to provide the Returning Officer for the Constituency of Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale.
- 4.7 A full statutory review of Polling Districts and Polling Places is in progress and work will be carried out by officers to identify appropriate polling district boundaries and polling places in the course of that review with full consultation with all interested parties carried out. In the event that a by-election was called utilising the existing boundaries, it is the intention that voters will continue to cast their vote at their current polling place, therefore, there is no change to electors' voting arrangements arising from this report.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. None.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Any costs associated with the proposals in this report can be met from within existing budgets.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1. There are no significant risks associated with these proposals.
- 7.2. There are no sustainability implications associated with this proposal.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.

Cleland Sneddon

Chief Executive/Returning Officer

13 October 2023

Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes

- ◆ People Focused
- ◆ Fair and Open
- ◆ Working with and Respecting Others
- ◆ Accountable, Effective and Efficient

Previous References

None

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Boundary Commission for Scotland 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies – Final Proposals
- ◆ Representation of the People Act 1983
- ◆ Electoral Commission Guidance on Reviews of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Gordon Stewart, Elections Adviser

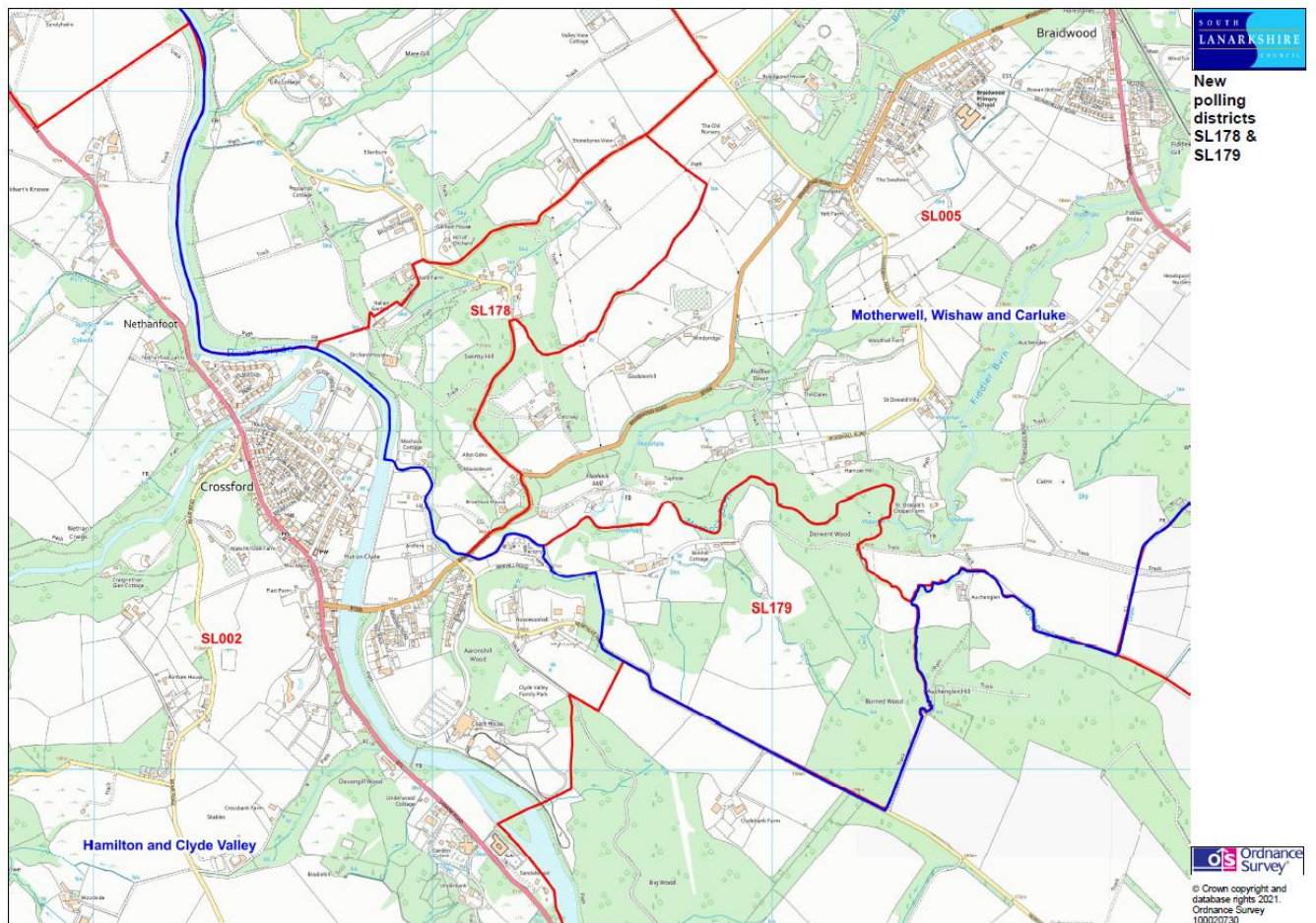
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Appendix 1

Plan showing the proposed new Polling District SL178 and SL179 removed from the existing Polling District SL002

- Blue line shows the new Constituency Boundaries
- Red line shows the Polling District Boundaries



Appendix 2

Plan showing the proposed new Polling District SL180 removed from the existing Polling District SL007

- Blue line shows the new Constituency Boundaries
- Red line shows the Polling District Boundaries

