

The City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am, Thursday, 27 October 2016

The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016

Item number	8.1
Report number	
Executive/routine	
Wards	All

Executive Summary

The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016 was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 14 September 2016 and came into force on 30 September 2016. It gives effect to proposals made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland as a result of their Fifth Review of Electoral Arrangements for the area of the City of Edinburgh Council.

The city remains divided into 17 wards but the new arrangement increases councillor numbers by 5 from 58 to 63 councillors. From 4 May 2017 there will be five wards with three members and twelve with four members. In addition, the Order changes the boundaries of every Ward to accommodate the increased number of councillors and to align better with local communities.

This report identifies the changes that have been made by the Order. Councillors and public will be consulted on a proposed new set of polling districts required as a result of these revised ward boundaries. In some cases changes to polling places may also be required and there will be consultation on any such proposals. A report to the November 2016 council meeting will seek Council's approval of a revised arrangement of polling districts and polling places for the city.

The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 To note the new electoral arrangements for the City of Edinburgh Council area defined in The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016; and
- 1.2 To note that following consultation with elected members a revised arrangement of polling districts and places will be presented to Council for approval in November 2016.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland is required by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to conduct electoral reviews of each council area at regular intervals. The overall purpose of the reviews is to allow effective and convenient local government. The fourth review in 2006 introduced multi-member wards but did not amend councillor numbers.
- 2.2 The fifth review has considered both councillor numbers and ward design. In determining councillor numbers the methodology was based on population size as in previous reviews, but also for the first time made allowance for the socio-economic characteristics of an area as an indicator of factors that impact the work of councillors.
- 2.3 Following a period of consultation with the Council and the public the Commission proposed a new set of Electoral Arrangements for the City of Edinburgh Council to Scottish Ministers in May 2016. These were approved by Ministers and put into effect by The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016 which came into force on 30 September 2016.
- 2.4 This report identifies the changes that have been made by this Order.

3. Main report

Councillor Numbers

- 3.1 With respect to Councillor Numbers the Commission's analysis of the City of Edinburgh indicated a predominantly urban area with below average levels of deprivation. For such an area their template proposed a ratio of 3,800 electors per councillor. However this would have meant an increase of councillor numbers to 91, well above the current level of 58. The Commission had set a ceiling of 10% on

the change in councillor numbers in any council area. Their initial 21 February 2014 proposal was therefore to increase councillor numbers by 5 to 63.

- 3.2 The City of Edinburgh Council responded highlighting further issues to be taken into account in the determination of councillor numbers for the capital, including the demands of capital city status, a growing population and the concentrated deprivation and poverty in some parts of the council area all of which might indicate a higher number of councillors. While this response was considered by the Commission, following public consultation and comment from other councils and COSLA with respect to the overall methodology, the Commission confirmed their approach and the final proposals agreed by Scottish Ministers were to increase in councillor numbers to 63.

Ward Design

- 3.3 The Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 specifies that each ward will return either 3 or 4 councillors with the number of wards chosen to deliver effective and convenient local government and to achieve general electoral parity such that there is roughly the same number of electors per councillor in all wards. Ward boundaries are intended to reflect local communities and local ties, taking into account easily identified boundaries and any special geographical considerations.
- 3.4 The Commission's review also revisited the ward design for the City of Edinburgh Council area making some changes to ward boundaries throughout the council area to reflect the increase in councillor numbers and to align wards better with what had been identified as natural neighbourhoods in the city. The Commission's initial proposals were again subject to consultation with the Council and the public.
- 3.5 Following this consultation the Commission's Final Recommendations for City of Edinburgh Council area presented an electoral arrangement of 63 councillors representing five 3-member wards and twelve 4-member wards, increasing councillor numbers across the area by 5. Wards 1 (Almond), 2 (Pentland Hills), 11 (City Centre), 14 (Craigentinny/Duddingston) and 17 (Portobello/Craigmillar) are now 4 member wards, having previously had 3 members. The name of Ward 10 has been revised to Morningside from Meadows/Morningside. The proposals are summarised in the table in Appendix 1.
- 3.6 These proposals were accepted by the Scottish Ministers and put into effect by the City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016, which came into effect on 30 September 2016. These new electoral arrangements will apply to the local government elections with polling on 4 May 2017.

Review of Polling Arrangements

- 3.7 Local authorities have a duty to divide their area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. The aim is to ensure the optimal facilities for voting to support turnout in electoral events. The polling arrangements should support participation in the political process, with polling places accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

- 3.8 Changes have been made to the boundaries of all 17 wards. Some of these are substantial with entire polling districts moving from one ward to another. Other changes are more minor with only small parts of polling districts affected. As a result of these revised boundaries the polling arrangements that were agreed by Council on 12 December 2013 may no longer be appropriate.
- 3.9 The table presented in Appendix 2 identifies the changes to each of the city's 17 wards, showing the areas that each ward is gaining from or losing to neighbouring wards.
- 3.10 Officers in the Strategy and Insight Division are currently working with the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) to review the impact of the new ward boundaries on the current arrangement of polling districts and polling places in the city. An initial evaluation indicates that a revision to a number of polling districts is needed and that as a consequence some current polling places may need to be re-located.
- 3.11 Polling districts are structured to align with local communities and to remove wherever possible any obstacles to voters crossing the polling district to reach the polling place e.g. steep hills, major roads, railway lines, rivers. Any polling place designated will be assessed to ensure full accessibility and facilities for disabled voters

Consultation with Public and Elected members

- 3.12 A programme of consultation is planned with public and elected members. This will focus on any proposed changes to polling places and there will also be opportunity to comment on the revised polling districts.
- 3.13 A report to November Council will seek approval of a revised set of polling arrangements for the area of the City of Edinburgh Council identifying polling districts and polling places to be used for the 4 May 2017 Local Government Elections.
- 3.14 Where any polling place is changed those electors affected will be informed by letter, in addition to their poll cards, and signage placed at the new and former polling places for the next polling day

Future review of polling districts and boundaries

- 3.15 A full statutory review of all polling districts and polling places within the city must be undertaken every five years. The next full review in Edinburgh is scheduled for the autumn of 2018. The review to be undertaken as a result of the new ward boundaries is an interim measure ahead of that full review.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

6.1 Not applicable

7. Equalities impact

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 Not applicable.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 Not applicable

10. Background reading/external references

The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2016/270/made>

Fifth Statutory Review of Electoral Arrangements Final Recommendations City of Edinburgh Council Area Report to Scottish Ministers

http://www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk/includes/downloadfile.asp?file=/reviews/5th_electoral/edinburgh/edinburgh_report.pdf

Map of new ward and previous ward boundaries

<http://edinburghcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1c291745a99f4abcb9bed0ef9aec08a>

Maps of the new ward boundaries are being made available for review in the Councillors lounge.

Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places report to Council 12 December 2013

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/41687/item_no_83_-_statutory_review_of_polling_districts_and_polling_places

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11. Links

Coalition Pledges

Council Priorities

Single Outcome Agreement

Appendices 1 – Summary of changes to councillor numbers

2 – Summary of impact of ward boundary changes

Appendix 1 - Summary of changes to councillor numbers

Ward no.	Ward name	Number of Councillors in the Ward from May 2017		Number of Councillors in the Ward up to May 2017
1	Almond	4	+1	3
2	Pentland Hills	4	+1	3
3	Drum Brae / Gyle	3	-	3
4	Forth	4	-	4
5	Inverleith	4	-	4
6	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	3	-	3
7	Sighthill / Gorgie	4	-	4
8	Colinton / Fairmilehead	3	-	3
9	Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart	3	-	3
10	Morningside * new ward name	4	-	4
11	City Centre	4	+1	3
12	Leith Walk	4	-	4
13	Leith	3	-	3
14	Craigentinny / Duddingston	4	+1	3
15	Southside / Newington	4	-	4
16	Liberton / Gilmerton	4	-	4
17	Portobello / Craigmillar	4	+1	3
Total number of councillors		63	+5	58

- The City of Edinburgh (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016 has increased by 1 the number of councillors in Wards 1 (Almond), 2 (Pentland Hills), 11 (City Centre), 14 (Craigentinny/Duddingston) and 17 (Portobello/Craigmillar).
- Ward 10 is now called Morningside, having previously been called Meadows/Morningside.

Appendix 2 - Summary of impact of ward boundary changes

Ward no.	Ward name	Number of Councillors in the Ward from May 2017	Impact of changes
1	Almond	4 Increased from 3 councillors	Gains entire PDs WW04A and WW04B. Area around Gogar R/A WW03E All of Pinegrove Gardens/part of Queensferry Road and Part of Maybury Road I nWW03B Gives Nil
2	Pentland Hills	4 Increased from 3 councillors	Gains entire PD SWP07G. Part of SWP07H (Westside Plaza and area of Westburn). Most of SWP07M (leaving only small industrial area SE of canal). Part of SWP07N no elector part at Dumbryden Road Gives part of SWP02E to Ward 9 leaves only Kingsknowe golf course in Ward 2.
3	Drum Brae / Gyle	3	Gains entire PD SWW06J Gives area around Gogar Roundabout WW03E to Ward 1. Part of WW03B Pinegrove Gardens/part of Queensferry Road and part of Maybury Road to Ward 1. Part of WW03F south of Glasgow Road/west of Meadow Place Road to Ward 6.
4	Forth	4	Gains part of NN13A at Newhaven and two separate parts of NN13B at Hawthornvale and at Industry Lane Gives entire PDs WW04A and WW04B to Ward 1.

Ward no.	Ward name	Number of Councillors in the Ward from May 2017	Impact of changes
5	Inverleith	4	<p>Gains part of NN12C St Mark's Park area including small part of Warriston Road. Part of WC06C (one property) 195 Queensferry Road</p> <p>Gives all of WC05K and part of NC05J Blinkbonny/Ravelston to Ward 6 Part of NC05H India Street/NW Circus Place to Ward 11.</p>
6	Corstorphine / Murrayfield	3	<p>Gains Part of WW03F south of Glasgow Road/west of Meadow Place Road. All of WC05K and part of NC05J Blinkbonny/Ravelston.</p> <p>Gives entire PD SWW06J to Ward 3. Part of WC06C (one property) 195 Queensferry Road) to Ward 5. Part of WC06H at Coates to Ward 11.</p>
7	Sighthill / Gorgie	4	<p>Gains Nil</p> <p>Gives entire PD SWP07G Part of SWP07H (Westside Plaza and area of Westburn) Most of SWP07M and part of SWP07N at Dumbryden Road all to Ward 2. All of SWS07K to Ward 9.</p>
8	Colinton / Fairmilehead	3	<p>Gains Part of SWS09G containing Firhill High School</p> <p>Gives part of SP08D at Fox Spring etc to Ward 10</p>

Ward no.	Ward name	Number of Councillors in the Ward from May 2017	Impact of changes
9	Fountainbridge / Craiglockhart	3	<p>Gains part of SWP02E leaves only golf course in Ward 2 All of SWS07K</p> <p>Gives part of SWS09G containing Firhill High School to Ward 8.</p> <p>All of SS09F and part of SWC09D (square area Gilmore Place / Viewforth/Canal/Leamington Road) to Ward 10.</p> <p>Part of SWC09D (area around Fountainbridge/Gardiner Crescent) to Ward 11.</p>
10	Morningside * new ward name	4	<p>Previously named Meadows/Morningside</p> <p>Gains part of SP08D at Fox Spring etc (Oxgangs Young Peoples Centre).</p> <p>All of SS09F and part of SWC09D (square area Gilmore Place/ Viewforth/ Canal/ Leamington Road)</p> <p>Gives Part of SWC10D (Gillespie Crescent, Hailes Street, Lochrin Place etc) and part of EC10E (leaves only Bruntsfield Links Area and 22-32 Warrender Park Crescent) to Ward 11.</p> <p>Part of SS10G (part of Strathearn Road and Strathfillan Road)</p> <p>part of SS10F (part of Whitehouse Loan/Clinton Road/Pitsligo Road) to Ward 15.</p>

Ward no.	Ward name	Number of Councillors in the Ward from May 2017	Impact of changes
11	City Centre	4 Increased from 3 councillors	<p>Gains part of NC05H India Street/NW Circus Place.</p> <p>Part of WC06H at Coates.</p> <p>Part of SWC09D (area around Fountainbridge/Gardiner Crescent).</p> <p>Part of SWC10D (Gillespie Crescent, Hailes Street, Lochrin Place etc) and part of EC10E</p> <p>Part of EC15A (Dumbiedykes/Viewcraig)</p> <p>Gives part of EC11H at South College Street to Ward 15.</p> <p>Part of EE11K (All excluding Holyrood Palace and Croft An Righ) to Ward 14.</p>
12	Leith Walk	4	<p>Gains Nil</p> <p>Gives part of NN12C St Mark's Park area including small part of Warriston Road to Ward 5.</p> <p>Part of EN12H (Hawkhill Close/West Kilnacre area) and part of EN12K (Montrose Terr/Easter Road/East Norton Place/West Norton Place to Ward 14.</p>
13	Leith	3	<p>Gains Nil</p> <p>Gives part of NN13A at Nehaven and two separate parts of NN13B at Hawthornvale and at Industry Lane to Ward 4.</p> <p>All of EE13F to Ward 14.</p>

Ward no.	Ward name	Number of Councillors in the Ward from May 2017	Impact of changes
14	Craigentinny / Duddingston	4 Increased from 3 councillors	<p>Gains part of EE11K (All excluding Holyrood Palace and Croft An Righ).</p> <p>Part of EN12H (Hawkhill Close/West Kilnacre area) and part of EN12K (Montrose Terr/Easter Road/East Norton Place/West Norton Place).</p> <p>All of EE13F.</p> <p>Part of EE17A (Fishwives Causeway area)</p> <p>Gives part of EE14J (Durham/Hamilton/Southfield area) to Ward 17.</p>
15	Southside / Newington	4	<p>Gains part of SS10G (part of Strathearn Road and Strathfillan Road) and part of SS10F (part of Whitehouse Loan/Clinton Road/Pitsligo Road).</p> <p>Gives part of EC11H at South College Street All of ES16C.</p> <p>Part of SS16B (North of Glenallan Drive).</p> <p>Part of SS16A (North of Double Hedges Road)</p> <p>Gives part of EC15A (Dumbiedykes/Viewcraig) to Ward 11.</p> <p>Part of ES15H (Forkenford) to Ward 17.</p>
16	Liberton / Gilmerton	4	<p>Gains Nil</p> <p>Gives all of ES16C.</p> <p>Part of SS16B (North of Glenallan Drive).</p> <p>Part of SS16A (North of Double Hedges Road) to Ward 15.</p>

Ward no.	Ward name	Number of Councillors in the Ward from May 2017	Impact of changes
17	Portobello / Craigmillar	4 Increased from 3 councillors	Gains part of EE14J (Durham/Hamilton/Southfield area). Part of ES15H (Forkenford) Gives part of EE17A (Fishwives Causeway area) to Ward 14.
	Total number of councillors	63 Increased from 58 councillors	