EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE HIGHLAND (ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS) ORDER 2006 (S.S.I. 2006/481)

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 17(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. The instrument is not subject to any parliamentary procedure.

Policy Objectives

The purpose of the instrument is to create new multi member wards in the Highland Council area. These are required for the single transferable vote system of elections introduced in the Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004. The Order refers to data recorded on a DVD-ROM which will be held by the Scottish Ministers and copies held by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland and Highland Council. In order to view the data, it is necessary to hold an Ordnance Survey (OS) license. Organisations such as the Scottish Executive and local authorities have access to the boundary information through the OS Pan Government and Mapping Services agreements. Members of the public and others wishing access to the information can view, or download and print, ward maps at the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's website www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk and they may obtain printed copies from the Commission or from their local authority. The Commission will provide SPICE with a CD-ROM containing PDF map images for its own use and it can also use its OS license to print maps if MSPs and constituents want copies. The Commission is also providing a CD-ROM containing PDF images of the ward maps to the headquarters organisations of each of the political parties represented at Holyrood and Westminster and to MSPs and MPs with a constituency interest.

Consultation

The ward boundary review process has been subject to consultation with councils, community councils, elected representatives and the public. Additionally under Section 17(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act Ministers are not allowed to consider recommendations until at least 6 weeks after receipt of the Boundary Commission for Scotland's recommendations. During that time any person or organisation is free to make representations to Ministers.

Financial Effects

The instrument will have no financial implications on the Scottish Executive and Local Government.

Scottish Executive Finance and Central Services Department
September 2006