New Municipalism

Appendix F: Grampian Region
Contents

F1. Grampian Region Overview .............................................................................................................. 2
F2. Aberdeen City ..................................................................................................................................... 4
F3. Banffshire North District ................................................................................................................ 5
F4. Buchan District .................................................................................................................................. 6
F5. Elgin Burgh ......................................................................................................................................... 7
F6. Ellon District ....................................................................................................................................... 8
F7. Formartine West District ................................................................................................................. 9
F8. Forres and Moray West District .................................................................................................... 10
F9. Fraserburgh and Macduff District .................................................................................................. 11
F10. Inverurie and West Garioch District ............................................................................................ 12
F11. Kincardine and Mearns District ................................................................................................ 13
F12. Marr District .................................................................................................................................... 14
F13. Peterhead Burgh ............................................................................................................................ 15
F14. Speyside Central District .............................................................................................................. 16
F14. Westhill and East Garioch District ............................................................................................... 17

All maps contain OS data © Crown copyright and database right (2018)
F1. Grampian Region Overview

Region Description

The proposed Grampian Region covers an identical area to the 1973 Region of the same name. It incorporates the entirety of the classical counties of Aberdeen, Banff and Kincardine, plus classical Moray except for the Cromdale district.

With approximately 587,000 residents, Grampian would account for around 10.8% of Scotland’s population. The Regional Council would consist of 80 Commissioners, whilst the 14 Municipalities that make up the region would elect a collective 246 Councillors. Of the 14 Municipalities, 11 would be Districts, 2 Burghs and a single city.

In 2017, the Conservatives would have been the leading party in the Regional Council and in 12 municipalities. The SNP would have been second in terms of councillors and commissioners, leading in 2 municipalities. They would have been the only two parties represented in all municipalities.

The Liberal Democrats would have been third in terms of both councillors and commissioners, across 9 municipalities. Independents would have been fourth by councillors, across 8 municipalities. Labour and the Greens would also have had representation at both municipal and regional level, with Labour elected in 4 municipalities and the Greens in 3.
Comparison with Historic Boundaries

The proposed Grampian Region of 14 Municipalities consists of the following areas under previous local government schemes:

- **1947 Act – 59 areas**
  - **Aberdeen City**
  - **Aberdeen County**
    - 10 Small Burghs – Ballater, Ellon, Fraserburgh, Huntly, Inverurie, Kintore, Oldmeldrum, Peterhead, Rosehearty, Turriff
    - 8 Districts in full – Aberdeen, Alford, Deer, Deeside, Ellon, Garioch, Huntly, Turriff
  - **Banff County**
    - 11 Small Burghs – Aberchirder, Aberlour, Banff, Buckie, Cullen, Dufftown, Findochty, Keith, Macduff, Portknockie, Portsoy
    - 6 Districts in full – Aberchirder, Banff, Buckie, Cullen, Dufftown, Keith
  - **Kincardine County**
    - 4 Small Burghs – Banchory, Inverbervie, Laurencekirk, Stonehaven
    - 5 Districts in full – Laurencekirk, Lower Deeside, St Cyrus, Stonehaven, Upper Deeside
  - **Parts of Moray County**
    - 5 Small Burghs – Burghead, Elgin, Forres, Lossiemouth and Branderburgh, Rothes
    - 5 Districts in full - Duffus and Drainie, Elgin, Fochabers, Forres, Rothes and Knockando

- **1973 Act – 6 Areas**
  - **Grampian Region**
    - 5 Districts in full – Banff and Buchan, City of Aberdeen, Gordon, Kincardine and Deeside, Moray

- **1994 Act – 3 Areas**
  - 3 Councils in full – Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray
Municipality Description

Scotland’s third largest city, Aberdeen would be by far the most populous municipality in the region. At 39% of the region’s residents however it falls well below the halfway mark, and with 30% of the seats on the Regional Council, the city wasn’t considered to be too dominant to include. The boundaries are almost identical to the current council, except for some rationalisations. This graphic was completed before the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route was – it may be the case that road makes for an ideal western and southern boundary, although that would remove Peterculter from the municipality.

The SNP would be the largest party on the council, followed by the Conservatives. Labour and the Liberal Democrats would be tied for third, and the Greens would hold the remaining seats.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- **1947 Act – 5 Areas**
  - Aberdeen City
  - In Aberdeen County - Part of Aberdeen District
  - In Kincardine County - Part of Lower Deeside District

- **1973 Act – 2 Areas**
  - In Grampian Region - City of Aberdeen District

- **1994 Act – 1 Area**
  - Aberdeen City Council
F3. Banffshire North District

Municipality Description

Although currently split between Moray and Aberdeenshire, Banffshire North would be entirely within the historic county of Banff, covering most of its north-eastern area. Buckie (8,760) has since overtaken the county town of Banff (4,100) as the largest in the area. Other notable settlements include Portsoy (1,740), Cullen (1,430), Portknockie (1,270), Aberchirder (1,260), Findochty (1,160) and Whitehills (1,050).

There would have been a tie in seats between the Conservatives and the SNP, with two independents and a Lib Dem making up the balance of the council.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 11 Areas
  - In Banff County
    - Buckie, Findochty, Portknockie, Portsoy, Banff and Aberchirder Small Burghs, Buckie, Cullen, Aberchirder and Banff (part) Districts

- 1973 Act – 3 Areas
  - In Grampian Region
    - Parts of Banff & Buchan and Moray Districts

- 1994 Act – 2 Areas
  - Parts of Aberdeenshire, Moray
F4. Buchan District

Municipality Description

Buchan covers much of the rural portion of the Buchan area, hence taking the name for itself – “Buchan Central” may be an alternative if that proves too greedy. The largest village in the district is the modestly sized Mintlaw (2,820), with much of the rest of the population being spread between the villages of Cruden Bay (1,640), New Pitsligo (1,170), Strichen (1,020), Longside (1,010), Maud (910), Hatton of Cruden (900), Crimond (880), Stuartfield (830), St Fergus (780), St Combs (660) and New Deer (620).

The Conservatives would have been the largest party on the council, closely followed by the SNP. An Independent and a single Lib Dem would have held the remaining seats.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 3 Areas
  - In Aberdeen County – Deer (part), Ellon (part) Districts

- 1973 Act – 2 Areas
  - In Grampian Region - Part of Banff and Buchan District

- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Aberdeenshire
## F5. Elgin Burgh

### Municipality Description

Currently the centre of Moray, Elgin would be one of the two Burgh councils in the Grampian Region. Historically considered one of Scotland’s cities, with a population just over half the smallest current city (Stirling), it seems quite difficult to justify re-granting that title. That said, there are tiny villages in Wales that are officially cities, so if a monarch at some point gets carried away with grants of city status, Elgin may demand a look in.

The burgh council would have seen the Conservatives and SNP tied in terms of seats, with Labour holding the balance of power.

### Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- **1947 Act – 3 Areas**
  - In Moray County - Elgin Small Burgh, Elgin (part) District
- **1973 Act – 2 Areas**
  - In Grampian Region - Part of Moray District
- **1994 Act – 1 Area**
  - Part of Moray
F6. Ellon District

Municipality Description

This district covers the eastern portion of the Formartine area of Aberdeenshire, with the town of Ellon (10,200) itself being notably large by the standards of the shire. The remaining major settlements in the district are more in keeping with the local norm – Balmedie (2,560), Newburgh (1,510) and Potterton (880). It’s two whole residents short of the 20,000 figure, but let’s not hold that against Ellon.

The Conservatives would have been the largest party on the council, coming up one short of a majority. The SNP would have been second, Lib Dems third, with a single Labour councillor in fourth.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 4 Areas
  - In Aberdeen County - Ellon Small Burgh, Ellon (part), Aberdeen (part) Districts
- 1973 Act – 2 Areas
  - In Grampian Region - Part of Gordon District
- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Aberdeenshire
Municipality Description

As the name suggests, this district covers the western portion of the Formartine area, which is substantially more rural than the coastal part around Ellon. The two major towns of Turriff (4,960) and Oldmeldrum (3,140) are at opposite ends of this district. Alongside the smaller villages of Pitmedden (1,440), Rothienorman (1,100), Tarves (1,070), Cuminestown (570) and Methlick (560), major settlements only account for half the district’s population, speaking to its rural character.

The Conservatives would have been the largest party on the council, coming up one short of a majority. The SNP would have been second, Lib Dems third, and a single Independent rounding out the numbers.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 6 Areas
  - In Aberdeen County – Oldmeldrum, Turriff Small Burghs, Ellon (part), Turriff (part), Garioch (part) Districts
- 1973 Act – 3 Areas
  - In Grampian Region - Parts of Gordon, Banff & Buchan Districts
- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Aberdeenshire
F8. Forres and Moray West District

Municipality Description

Centred on the town of Forres (10,100), this district covers the north-western portion of both historic and current Moray. It also notably includes Lossiemouth (7,870), known for its RAF base. Other settlements in the district include Burghead (1,910), Hopeman (1,700), Kinloss (1,500) and Findhorn (930).

The Conservatives would have been the largest party on the council, coming up one short of a majority. A group of Independents would have been joint second with the SNP, whilst the Greens would have one of their scattered handful of councillors in this municipality.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 7 Areas
  - In Moray County - Forres, Burghead, Lossiemouth & Branderburgh Small Burghs, Duffus & Drainie, Forres (part), Elgin (part) Districts.
- 1973 Act – 2 Areas
  - In Grampian Region - Moray District
- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Moray
F9. Fraserburgh and Macduff District

Municipality Description

Centred on Fraserburgh (13,180), one of Aberdeenshire’s largest towns, most of the rest of the district consists of a coastal strip of Buchan including Inverallochy and Cairnbulg (1,350), Rosehearty (1,320) and Sandhaven (840). On the far west though it has a small bubble of historic Banffshire, around Macduff (3,950) and Gardenstown (590). It proved too awkward in terms of knock-on effects trying to re-unite all of Banffshire, hence that bubble staying.

As is not uncommon across Grampian, the municipal council would have been a Conservative-SNP tie. The remaining seats would have went to a clutch of independents.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- **1947 Act – 8 Areas**
  - In Moray County - Macduff Small Burgh, Banff (part) District
  - In Aberdeen County – Rosehearty, Fraserburgh Small Burghs, Deer (part), Turiff (part) Districts

- **1973 Act – 2 Areas**
  - In Grampian Region - Part of Banff and Buchan District

- **1994 Act – 1 Area**
  - Part of Aberdeenshire
Municipality Description

The old Garioch district of Aberdeen county has actually made it relatively unscathed into the modern day as an area committee of Aberdeenshire – only losing the area around Oldmeldrum. This district extends out from Inverurie (13,640) out to Insch (2,690), with Kemnay (3,870) in the south the only other notable town in the area.

The Conservatives would have been a single seat short of a majority on the district council, with the SNP taking second place. A pair of Lib Dems and a solitary Independent would have taken the remaining seats.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 3 Areas
  - In Aberdeen County - Inverurie Small Burgh, Garioch (part) District
- 1973 Act – 2 Areas
  - In Grampian Region
    - Part of Gordon District
- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Aberdeenshire
F11. Kincardine and Mearns District

Municipality Description

The largest municipality by population outside Aberdeen, it’s spread too awkwardly to split into two districts. Stonehaven (11,170) makes for a neat centre, though neighbouring Portlethen (9,090) isn’t a great deal smaller. Most of the other main settlements are along the coast, including Newtonhill (3,140), Inverbervie (2,410), St Cyrus (1,160), Gourdon (860), Johnshaven (650) and Marywell (600). The villages in the interior are much smaller, except for Laurencekirk (3,040) and Auchenblae (560). Compared to classical Kincardineshire, this one is missing most of the Upper Deeside area.

The Conservatives would have been the largest group on the council, though further short of a majority than elsewhere in the region. The SNP would have placed second, followed by a sizeable group of Lib Dems, and a pair of Labour councillors.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 9 Areas
  - In Kincardine County - Stonehaven, Inverbervie, Laurencekirk Small Burghs, Stonehaven, Laurencekirk, St Cyrus, Lower (part) and Upper Deeside (part) Districts
- 1973 Act – 2 Areas
  - In Grampian Region - Part of Kincardine and Deeside District
- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Aberdeenshire
F12. Marr District

Munipality Description

Marr covers the vast bulk of inland rural Aberdeenshire. Banchory (7,560) in the Upper Deeside area is the largest town, with Huntly (4,810), Aboyne (2,910) and Alford (2,520) as the other major towns in the district. Ballater (1,460), Torphins (1,410), Drumoak (950), Tarland (720) and Lumphanan (550) are the only other major settlements, with the remaining half of the population dispersed more widely.

Not only would the Conservatives have been the largest party on the council, they’d have held an outright majority.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 9 Areas
  - In Kincardine County - Banchory Small Burgh, Upper Deeside (part) District
  - In Aberdeen County – Ballater, Huntly Small Burghs, Huntly, Alford, Deeside Districts

- 1973 Act – 3 Areas
  - In Grampian Region - Parts of Kincardine & Deeside, Gordon Districts

- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Aberdeenshire
### F13. Peterhead Burgh

**Municipality Description**

Peterhead (19,270) is the second of Grampian’s burgh councils. As the town itself is slightly too small to stand alone, the municipality also incorporates the neighbouring village of Boddam (1,270). That gives a slightly higher population total than in the above graphic, suggesting there’s a bit of a mismatch in statistics somewhere – close enough though.

This is another Grampian council on which the Conservatives would have been just one short of a majority, with the SNP a close second, and independents taking the last two seats.

**Comparison with Historic Boundaries**

- 1947 Act – 3 Areas
  - In Aberdeen County - Peterhead Small Burgh, Deer (part) District
- 1973 Act – 2 Areas
  - In Grampian Region - Part of Banff and Buchan District
- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Aberdeenshire
F14. Speyside Central District

Municipality Description

Speyside Central covers most of the eastern portion of current Moray Council, which is itself the southern portion of classical Banffshire and the east of classical Moray. Keith (4,690) is the largest town in the district, joined by the smaller villages of Lhanbryde (1,920), Fochabers (1,720), Dufftown (1,610), Rothes (1,270), Aberlour (1,050), Mosstodloch (990), Portgordon (820) and Garmouth (590).

This would be the only municipality in the region outside Aberdeen where the Conservatives didn’t come first – though the SNP’s lead in votes is slim enough that the two parties are tied on seats, which would give that solitary imaginary Independent the status of kingmaker.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 14 Areas
  - In Moray County
    - Rothes Small Burgh, Fochabers, Rothes & Knockando (part), Elgin (part) Districts
  - In Banff County - Keith, Aberchirder, Dufftown, Aberdour Small Burghs, Dufftown, Keith, Aberchirder Districts
- 1973 Act – 2 Areas
  - In Grampian Region - Part of Moray District
- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Moray
F14. Westhill and East Garioch District

Municipality Description

Westhill (12,290) itself is not only one of Aberdeenshire’s largest towns, it’s also one of its newest, only about 50 years old. Being added to Garioch from a portion of the 1947 Aberdeen District more than makes up for losing Oldmeldrum. Three other reasonably sized settlements – Kintore (4,790), Blackburn (3,050) and Newmachar (2,500) make up most of the rest of the district, though about a quarter of the population live spread more widely in the rural portions.

The Conservatives would have come up just short of a majority here too, with the SNP and Lib Dems close to one another in second and third, alongside one of those scattered Greens.

Comparison with Historic Boundaries

- 1947 Act – 4 Areas
  - In Aberdeen County - Kintore Small Burgh, Garioch (part), Aberdeen (part) Districts
- 1973 Act – 2 Areas
  - In Grampian Region - Part of Gordon District
- 1994 Act – 1 Area
  - Part of Aberdeenshire