

16 OCT 2017



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

11<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Ms Drummond-Murray  
Secretary  
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland  
Thistle House  
91 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5HD

Dear Ms Drummond-Murray,

**Review of the boundary at Cardowan, Stepps.**

I write in relation to the ongoing administrative area review of the boundary between Glasgow City council area and North Lanarkshire council area at Cardowan, Stepps. I understand that this submission is late but ask that dispensation be given to me as a newly-elected representative in the area. I would be obliged if my comments could be considered before a decision is reached.

Having spoken with my constituents in the area under discussion, it is clear that there is a strong local sentiment that the proposed boundary change should go ahead. My own assessment of the situation is that there is indeed a very strong case to be considered.

I appreciate that both Glasgow City Council (GCC) and North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) have raised concerns, however I am not convinced by their arguments for the reasons outlined below.

**Schools**

GCC has listed four current catchment schools for the Cardowan area. I have taken the liberty of calculating an estimated driving distance from G33 6GS - one of the postcodes in the affected area:



- St Benedict's Primary School (6.1 miles away)
- Aultmore Park Primary School (5 miles)
- St Andrew's Secondary School (5 miles)
- Lochend Secondary School (6.2 miles)

Routes to these schools are generally main roads and arterial routes. It is entirely reasonable to anticipate a high volume of rush hour traffic.

Given the proximity of schools in NLC, many residents will no doubt feel aggrieved with the lengthy journey times pupils endure. Below for comparison are distances to some local NLC schools. With the exception of one faith school, all are substantially closer.

- St Joseph's Primary School (1 mile)
- Stepps Primary School (1.4 miles)
- Chryston High School (2.1 miles)
- Our Lady's High Cumbernauld (7.8 miles)

I acknowledge the concerns raised by NLC in relation to capacity and resource, but see no evidence that possible solutions have been sought. Furthermore it does not appear that the local authorities have entered into dialogue with one another or with the Scottish Government to explore options.

### Council Services

I note that GLC has stated in its January 2017 letter that "The Cardowan residential estate is not yet publicly adopted". I am unsure if this is still the case, and have written to the authority to clarify. I certainly know from recent conversations with local residents that there remains a high level of dissatisfaction with maintenance of roads and pavements in the area. Across the board, it is a widely held opinion that neighbouring streets on the NLC side do not suffer service delivery issues.



## Housing Development

I note that GLC place great emphasis on the Easterhouse Regeneration Route as reason to retain the area. Whilst an admirable aspiration, plans are certainly less than concrete. Plans for the road were proposed in 2009 through the Glasgow City Plan 2. It is still unknown when exactly work will commence, with the City Development Plan stating the road will be realized sometime between 2017 and 2022. The specific wording in the Plan does not inspire confidence in the urgency GLC places upon the project:

*“To be delivered through Community Growth Area development proposals as and when they arise.”*

In addition, funding has not been properly identified for this infrastructure project, and the future of the project hinges upon future housing developer contributions.

The long-term aspirations of Glasgow City Council are admirable, but for my constituents in the area they are perhaps a little too long-term and do not address the issues they face at present.

I also do not accept that delivery of the proposed Robroyston and Millerston railway station should be compromised by this boundary change. Given that GCC borders several other local authorities, I would contend that working in partnership to deliver infrastructure projects is not a novel suggestion.

I hope my comments will be of some help in this process. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,

David Linden MP