



## **2019 Review of Electoral Arrangements**

### **Highland Council area**

**Proposals – Public Consultation  
4 November 2020 – 26 January 2021**

[www.consult.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.consult.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk)

## Proposals for Highland council area

1. We present an electoral arrangement for 72 councillors representing two 2-member wards, seven 3-member wards, eight 4-member wards and three 5-member wards, reducing the number of councillors by two and wards by one.
2. Our proposals for the council area:
  - take account of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018;
  - they retain Eilean a' Chèo as an island ward and rename Caol and Mallaig to include a reference to the Small Isles and so recognise the island communities within the ward. We considered special geographical circumstances as they apply to Skye and concluded that the level of forecast variation from electoral parity with 4 councillors (–20%) was not justifiable and therefore propose a 3 member Eilean a' Chèo ward, a reduction of one member from the existing ward;
  - take account of the Scottish Elections (Reform) Act 2020 that will allow the use of 2-member and 5-member wards to design wards that consider local ties in Caithness and Dingwall and create more easily identifiable ward boundaries in Inverness and to the south of Inverness;
  - make no changes to the boundaries of six of the existing wards: Caol, Mallaig and the Small Isles (previously Caol and Mallaig); Fort William and Ardnamurchan; Badenoch and Strathspey; Nairn and Cawdor; Cromarty Firth; and Eilean a' Chèo;
  - reduce variation from electoral parity in Caithness and Sutherland whilst recognising historical boundaries in the area;
  - consider special geographic circumstances in relation to variation from electoral parity in the proposed Fort William and Ardnamurchan ward due to its remoteness and poor transport links;
  - recognise local community ties in the Black Isle, Thurso and Wick; and
  - take account of the expected electorate growth in the proposed Culloden and Ardersier ward.
3. The table below details the electorates with actual and forecast variation from parity of the proposed wards.

Ward No.	Ward Name	Cllrs	Electorate (Dec 2018)	Variation from electoral Parity (%)	Forecast Electorate (2024)	Forecast Variation from electoral Parity (%)
1	Sutherland	4	10,791	5.8	10,436	1.0
2	Caithness	3	8,489	11.0	8,046	3.9
3	Wick	2	5,484	7.6	5,290	2.4
4	Thurso	2	5,925	16.2	5,596	8.3
5	Wester Ross and Lochalsh	3	7,388	–3.4	7,024	–9.3
6	Cromarty Firth	4	9,643	–5.4	9,529	–7.8
7	Tain, Easter Ross and Edderton	3	7,355	–3.8	7,083	–8.6
8	Dingwall and Seaforth	5	12,178	–4.5	12,538	–2.9
9	Black Isle	3	8,895	16.3	8,683	12.1
10	Eilean a' Chèo	3	8,579	12.2	8,299	7.1
11	Caol, Mallaig and the Small Isles	3	7,003	–8.4	7,150	–7.7
12	Aird	3	8,250	7.9	8,187	5.7
13	Inverness North West	5	14,091	10.6	14,140	9.5
14	Inverness North East	4	10,081	–1.1	9,620	–6.9
15	Inverness South West	5	11,250	–11.7	12,691	–1.7
16	Inverness South East	4	9,910	–2.8	9,926	–3.9
17	Culloden and Ardersier	4	8,521	–16.4	11,781	14.0
18	Nairn and Cawdor	4	10,425	2.2	10,047	–2.7
19	Badenoch and Strathspey	4	10,637	4.3	11,310	9.5
20	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	4	8,646	–15.2	8,567	–17.1
		<b>72</b>	<b>183,541</b>		<b>185,943</b>	



We propose 3 councillors for ward 2.





## Ward 3 – Wick

Ward 3 reverts to the Wick ward boundary in use from 2007 to 2017 to better reflect local ties in the area. We propose two councillors to achieve forecast electoral parity close to the council average.



## Ward 4 – Thurso

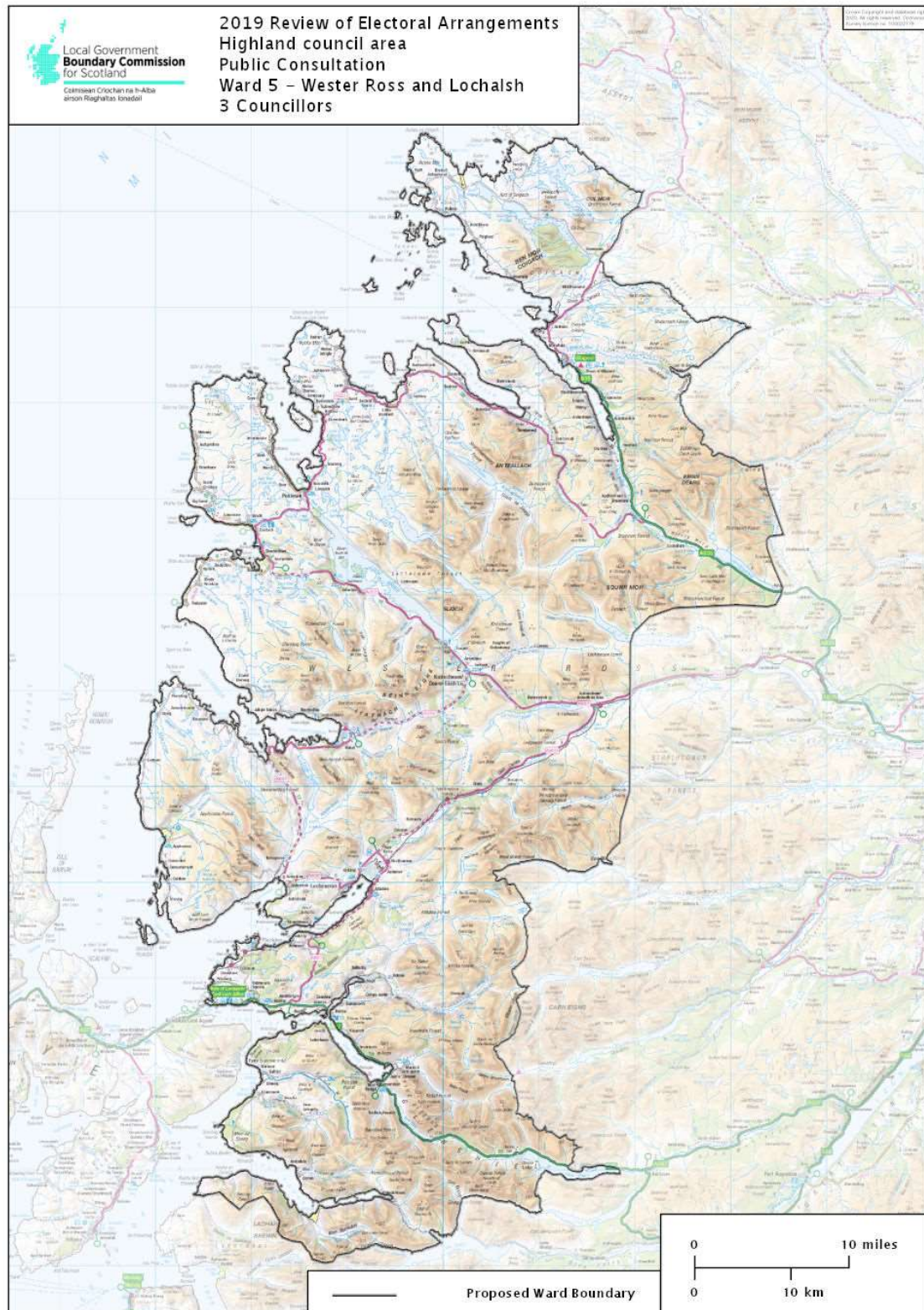
Ward 4 reverts to the Thurso ward boundary in use from 2007 to 2017 to better reflect local ties in the area. We propose two councillors to achieve forecast electoral parity close to the council average.





## Ward 5 – Wester Ross and Lochalsh

Ward 5 follows a similar ward boundary to the existing Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh ward but it transfers Strathpeffer to a Dingwall and Seaforth ward. The amended ward boundary follows the Mid Ross – West Ross Highland community partnership area boundary. We propose 3 councillors for ward 5.





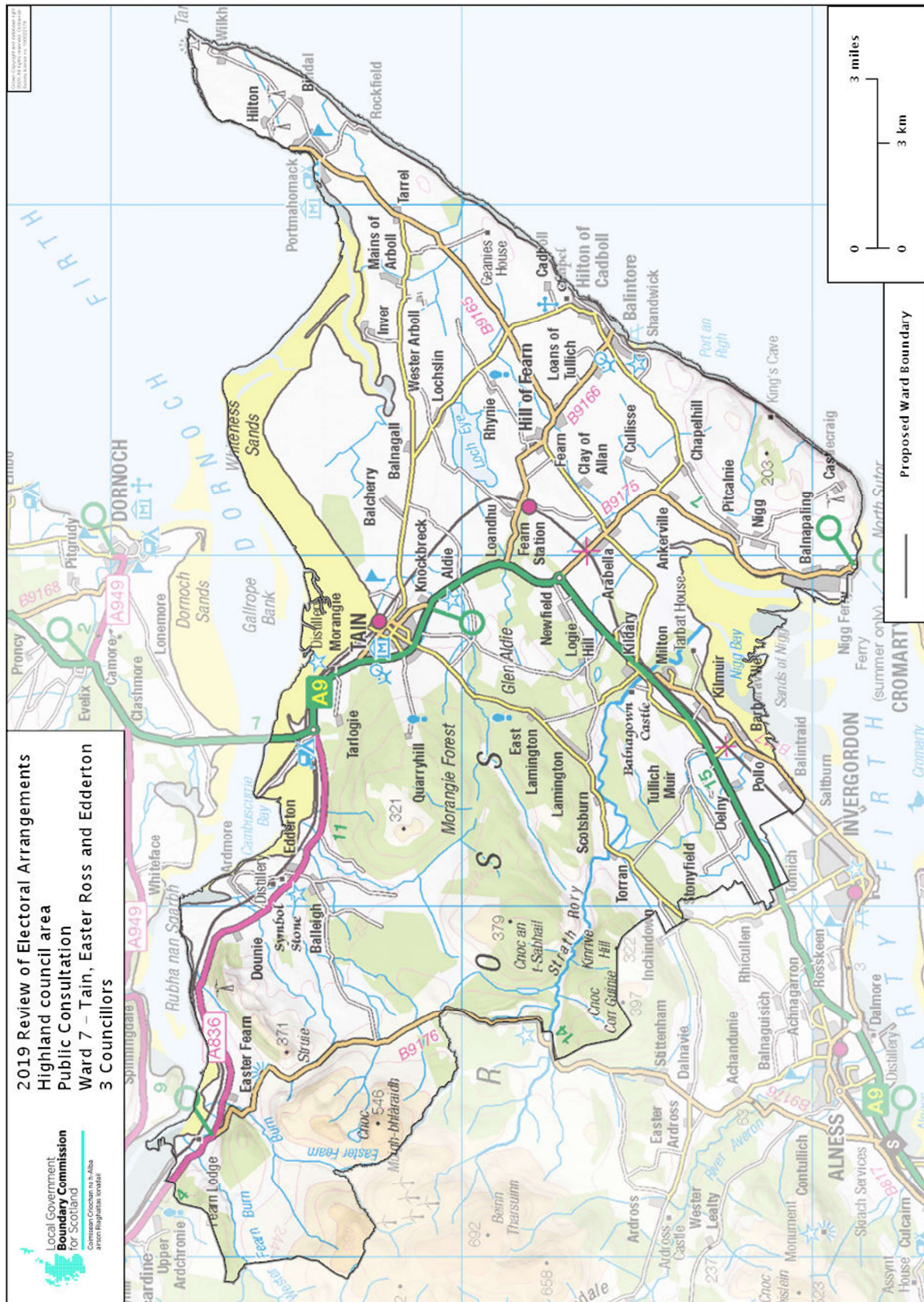
## Ward 6 – Cromarty Firth

Ward 6 is unchanged and retains the existing number of councillors and the same ward boundary.





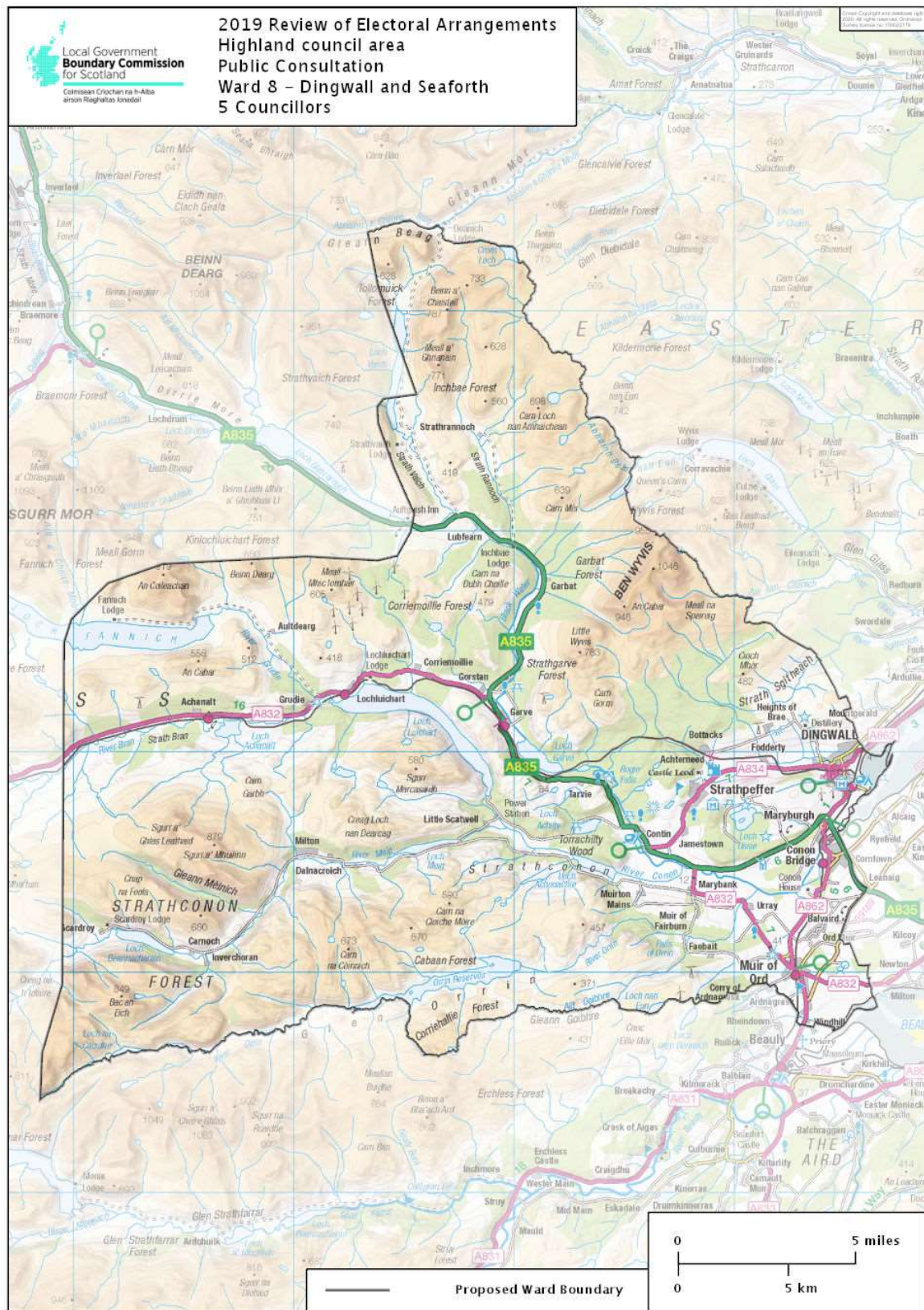
Ward 7 follows a similar ward boundary to the existing Tain and Easter Ross ward but also includes Edderton. We propose 3 councillors for ward 7.





## Ward 8 – Dingwall and Seaforth

Ward 8 follows a similar ward boundary to the existing Tain and Easter Ross ward but now includes Strathpeffer. The extended ward boundary follows the Mid Ross – West Ross Highland community partnership area boundary. We propose 5 councillors for ward 8.





## Ward 9 – Black Isle

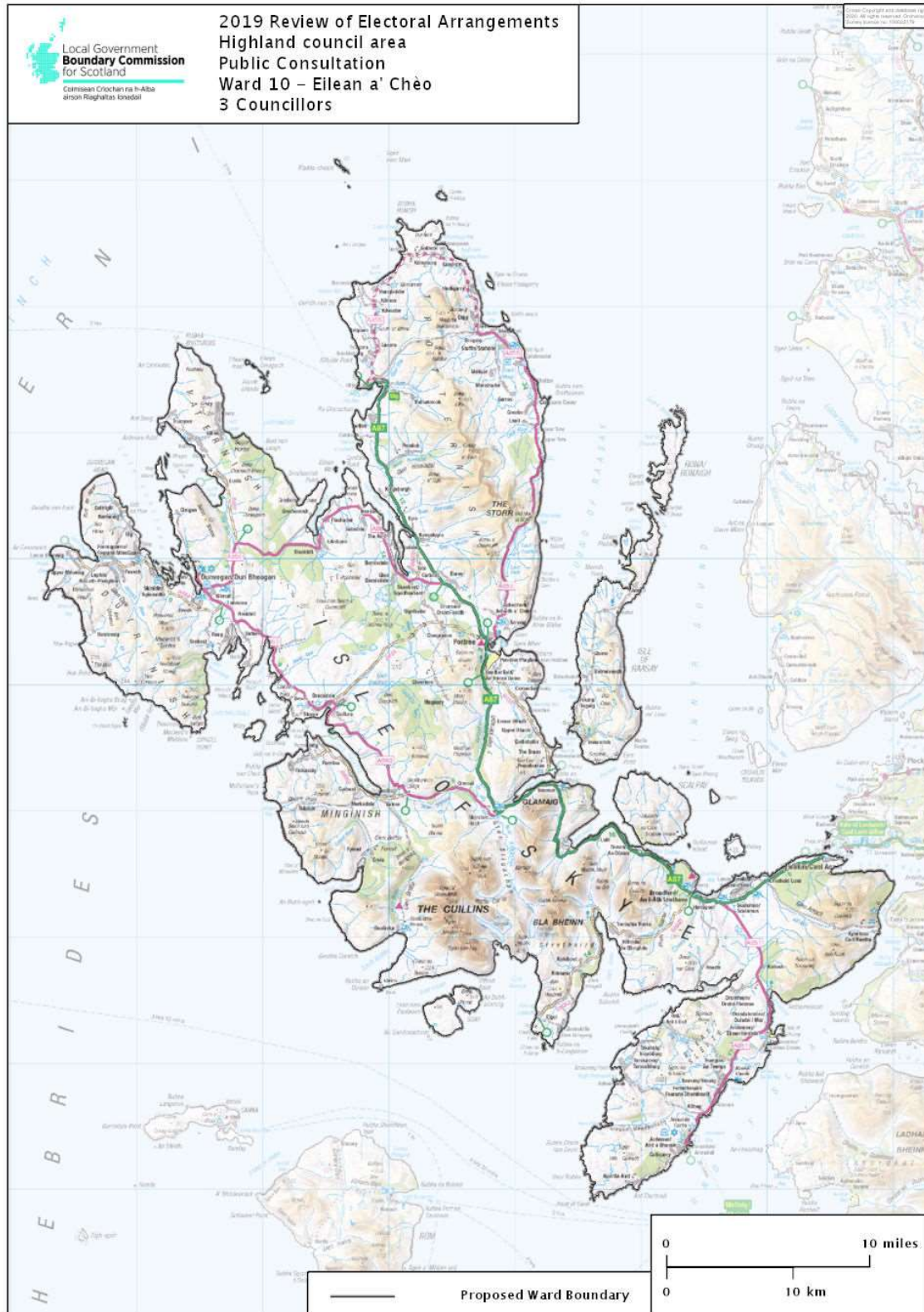
Ward 9 makes a minor change to the existing ward boundary and reverts to the Black Isle ward boundary in use from 2007 to 2017. We propose 3 councillors for ward 9.





## Ward 10 – Eilean a' Chèò

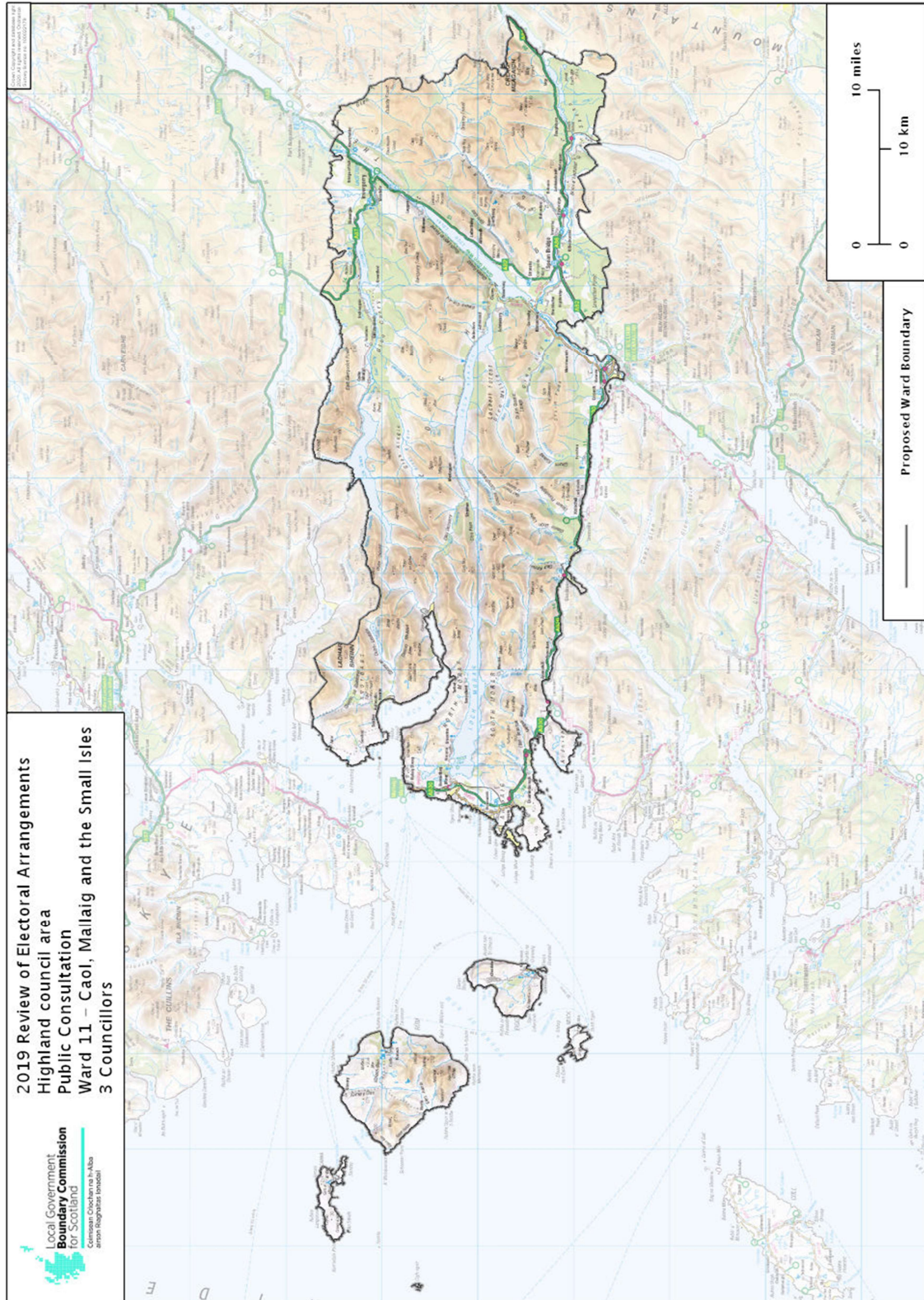
Ward 10 retains the existing ward boundary but proposes 3 councillors, one fewer than at present. We considered special geographical circumstances as they apply to Skye and concluded that the level of forecast variation from electoral parity with four councillors (–20%) was not justifiable and therefore propose a 3–member Eilean a' Chèò ward.





## Ward 11 – Caol, Mallaig and the Small Isles

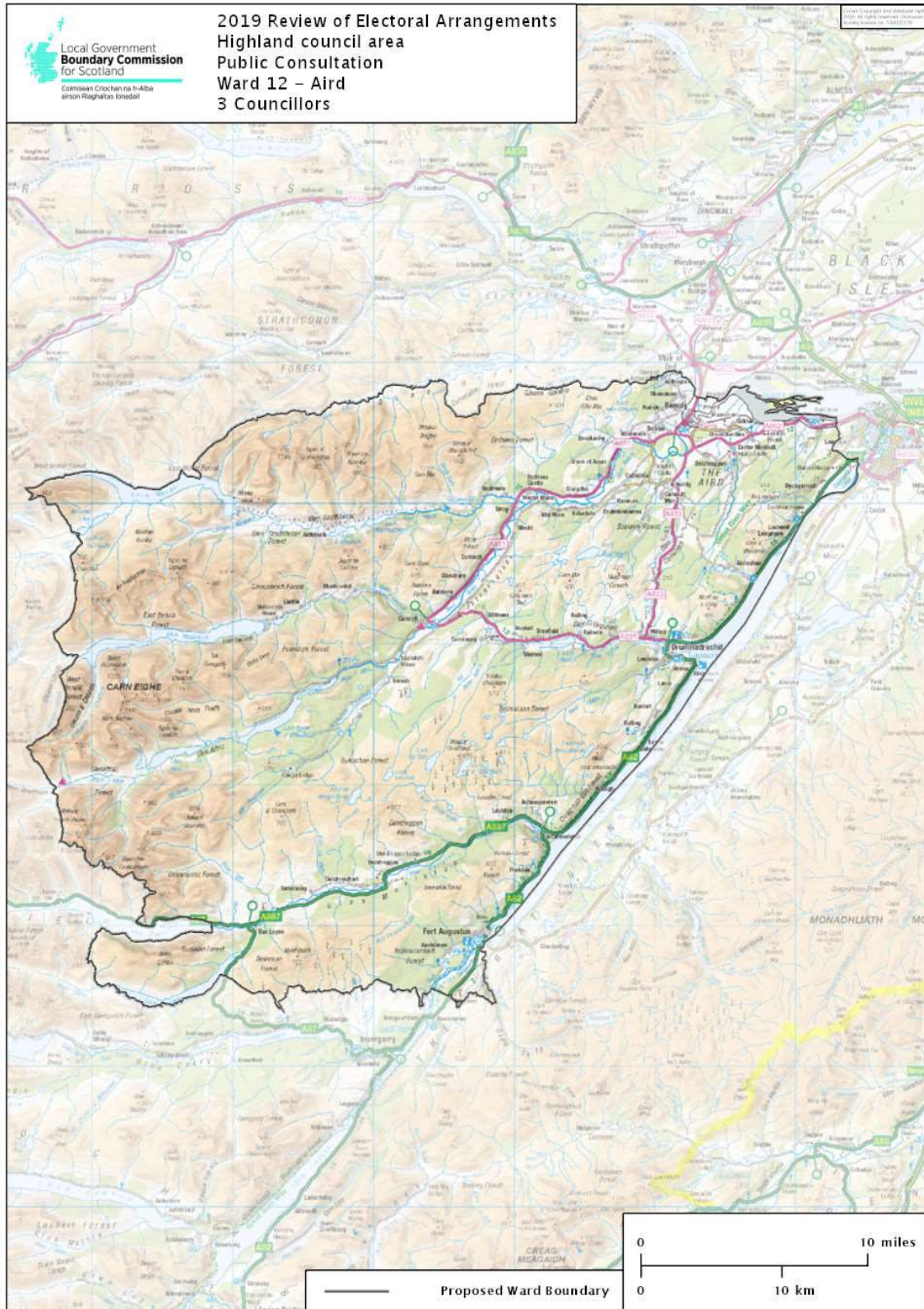
Ward 11 retains the existing number of councillors and the same ward boundary but the ward name is amended from the existing Caol and Mallaig to Caol, Mallaig and the Small Isles to recognise the island communities of Canna, Eigg, Muck and Rum within the ward. We propose 3 councillors for ward 11.





## Ward 12 – Aird

Ward 12 follows the existing Aird and Loch Ness ward boundary to the west of Loch Ness but the ward's eastern boundary now follows the centre of Loch Ness. This reflects the boundary further north in the River Ness and creates a more easily identifiable ward boundary. We propose 3 councillors for ward 12.





## Ward 13 – Inverness North West

Ward 13 contains the whole of the existing Inverness West ward and part of the existing Inverness Central ward. The ward boundary follows the River Ness to create a more identifiable ward boundary.

We propose 5 councillors for ward 13.





## Ward 14 – Inverness North East

Ward 14 contains most of the existing Inverness Millburn ward, except Inverness Retail and Business Park, and part of the existing Inverness Central ward.

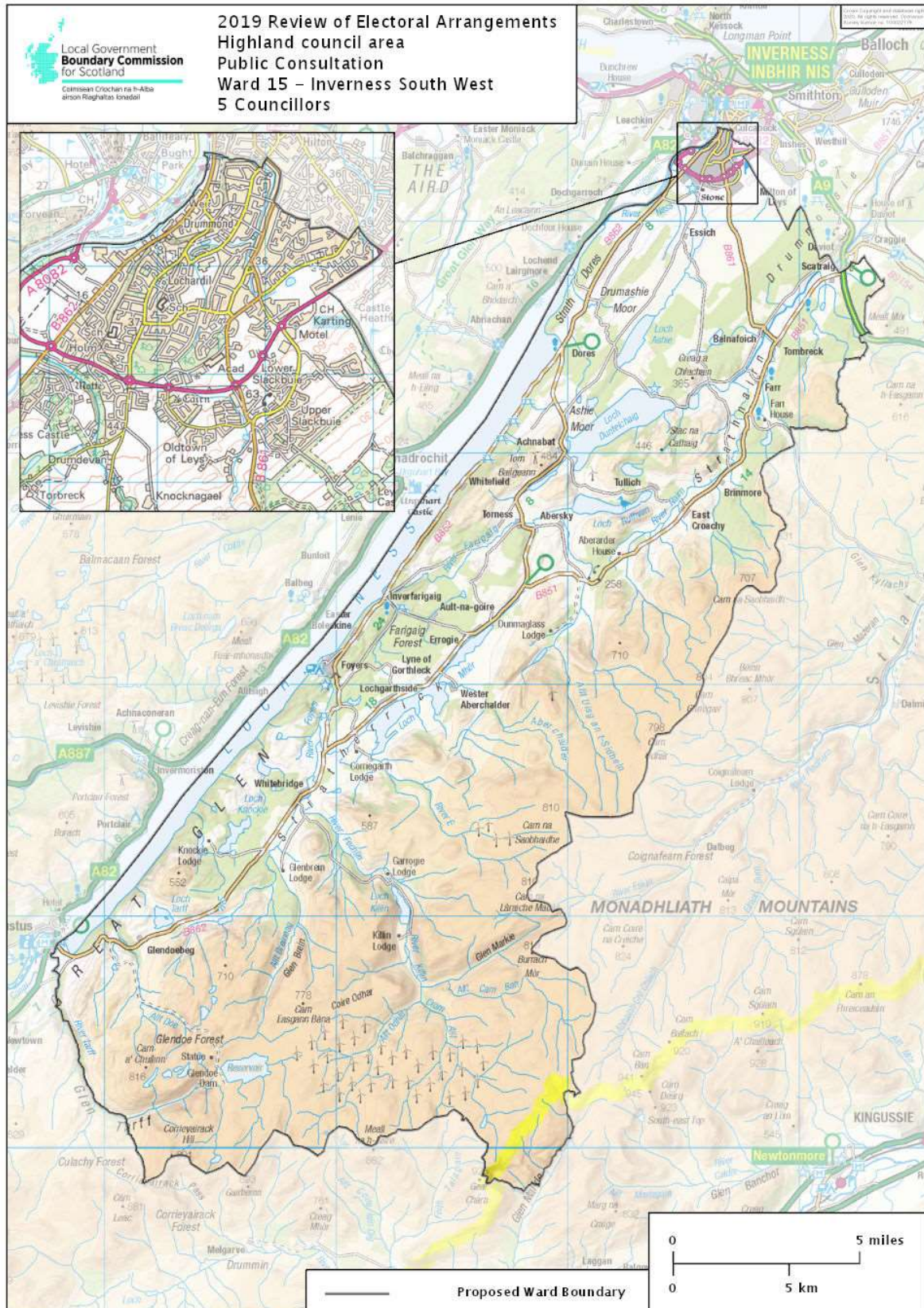
We propose 4 councillors for ward 14.





## Ward 15 – Inverness South West

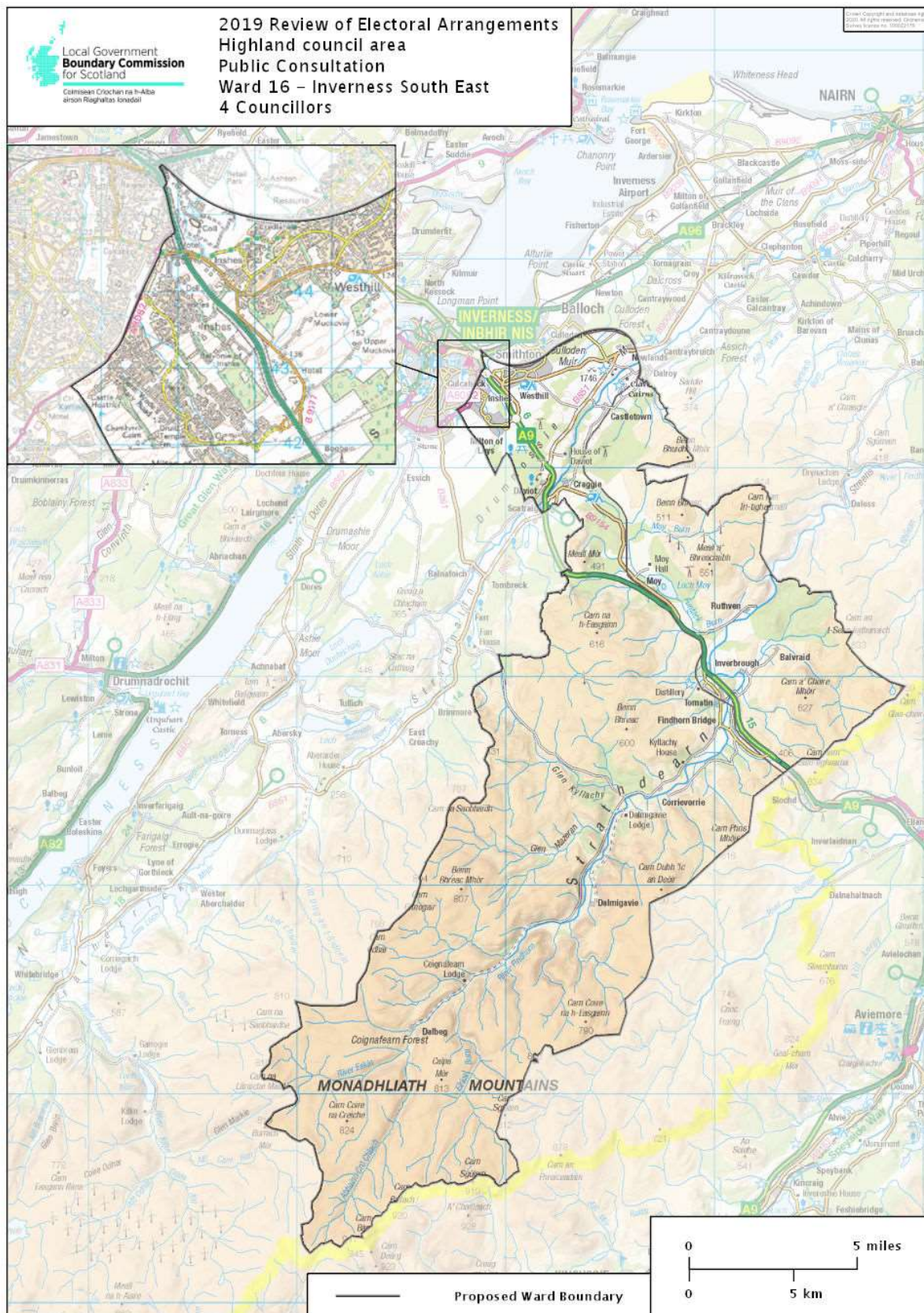
Ward 15 contains the whole of the existing Inverness Ness-side ward, extends southwards and includes the area to the east of Loch Ness. The ward's western boundary now follows the centre of Loch Ness reflecting the boundary further north in the River Ness and creates a more easily identifiable ward boundary. We propose 5 councillors for ward 15.





## Ward 16 – Inverness South East

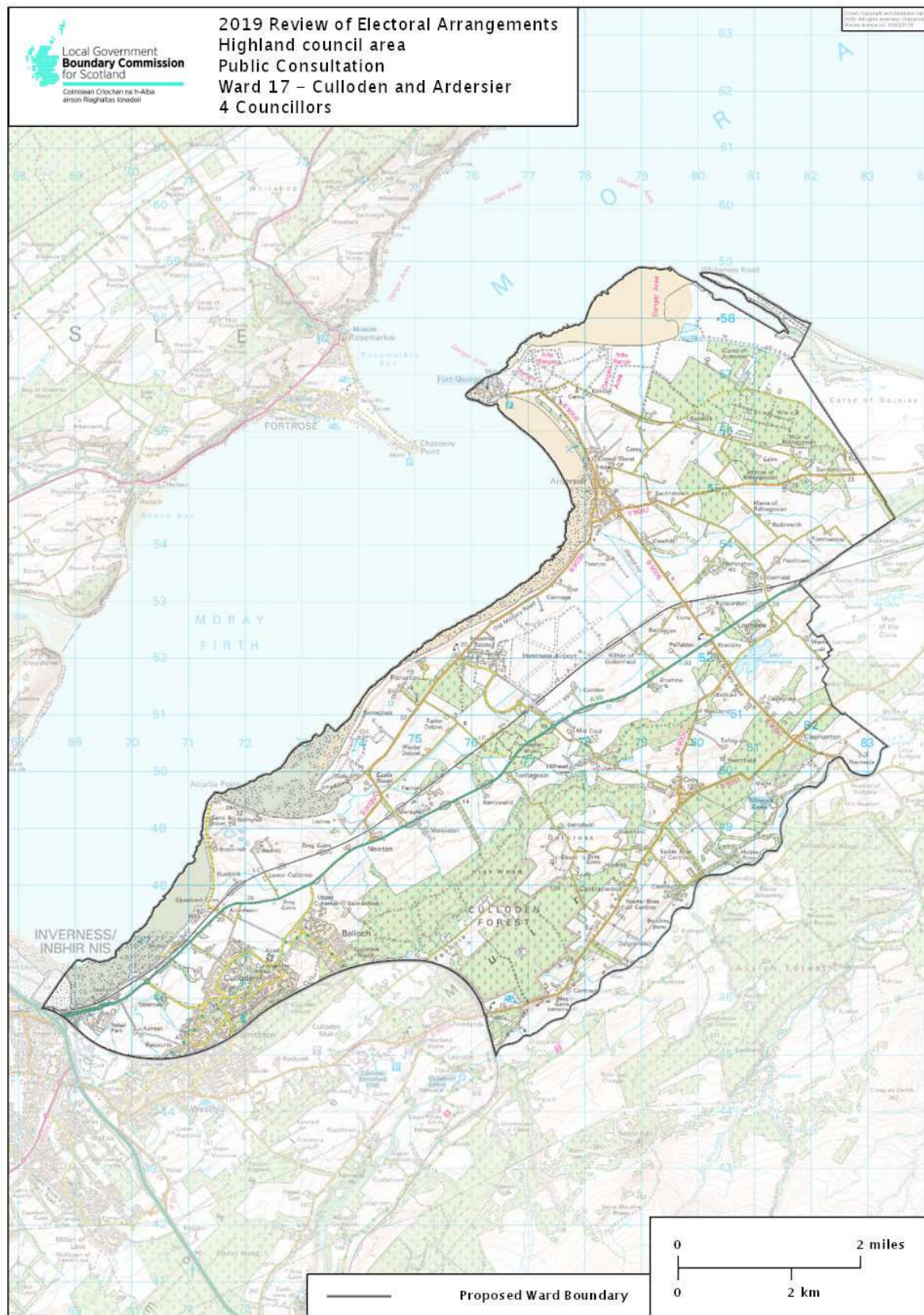
Ward 16 contains most of the existing Inverness South ward, except an area to the west of Fairways Golf Course in Inverness. We propose 4 councillors in ward 16.





## Ward 17 – Culloden and Ardersier

Ward 17 contains the whole of the existing Culloden and Ardersier ward and Inverness Retail and Business Park. We propose 4 councillors in ward 17.





## Ward 18 – Nairn and Cawdor

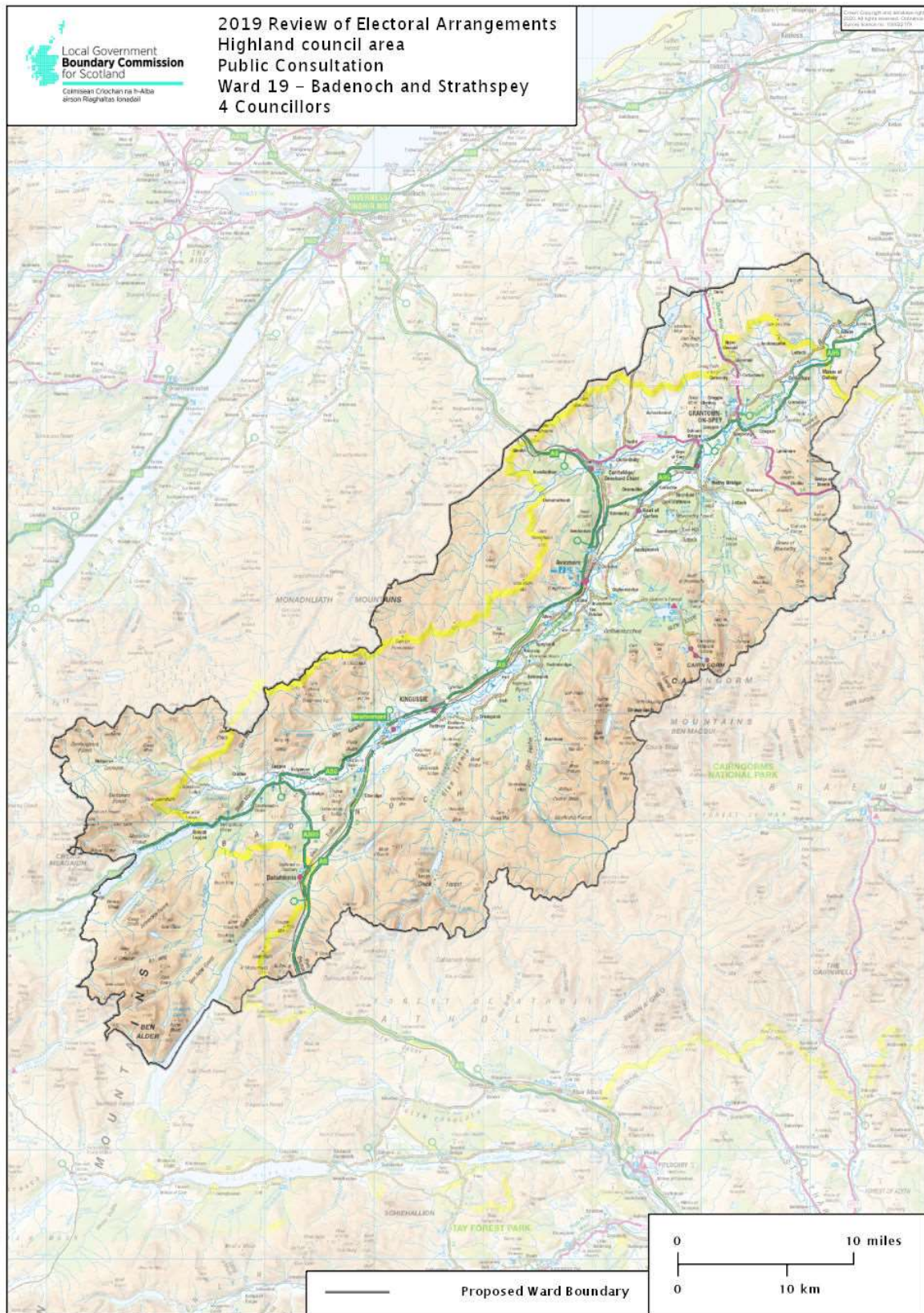
Ward 18 is unchanged and retains the existing number of councillors and the same ward boundary.





## Ward 19 – Badenoch and Strathspey

Ward 19 is unchanged and retains the existing number of councillors and the same ward boundary.





## Ward 20 – Fort William and Ardnamurchan

Ward 20 is unchanged and retains the existing number of councillors and the same ward boundary. The ward considers special geographic circumstances in relation to variation from electoral parity due to its remoteness and poor transport links and we therefore propose the retention of 4 councillors.

