

**The Highland Council**  
**Communities and Partnerships Committee**  
**8 December 2016**

Agenda Item	<b>13</b>
Report No	<b>CP 33/16</b>

**Review of Polling Districts, Local Government Elections to Highland Council 2017**

**Report by the Chief Executive**

**Summary**

The purpose of this Report is to advise the Council of the review of Polling Districts required as a result of the 5th Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements and its impact on Highland Council Polling Districts, for the forthcoming Local Government Elections to Highland Council in May 2017.

Maps 1-9 outlining the boundary changes in a number of Wards and proposed new polling districts in Ward 19 are provided at Appendix 1. Larger scale copies of the Maps are also available in the Members' Library.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Highland (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016 came into force on 30th September 2016. This Order brought into being the boundaries, number and names of the 21 electoral wards for the Highland Council area for purposes of the elections to be held on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

**2.0 New Wards**

- 2.1 The Ward numbers, names of the wards and councillors to be elected are noted below. Those highlighted have been identified as having new boundaries that require Polling Districts to be amended. Although Nairn and Cawdor is a new Ward it does not need any realignment of Polling Districts.

Ward Number	Name of Electoral Ward	Number of Councillors to be returned
1	North, West and Central Sutherland	3
2	Thurso and Northwest Caithness	4
3	Wick and East Caithness	4
4	East Sutherland and Edderton	3
5	Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh	4
6	Cromarty Firth	4
7	Tain and Easter Ross	3
8	Dingwall and Seaforth	4
9	Black Isle	3
10	Eilean a Chèo	4
11	Caol and Mallaig	3
12	Aird and Loch Ness	4

13	Inverness West	3
14	Inverness Central	3
15	Inverness Ness-side	3
16	Inverness Millburn	3
17	Culloden and Ardersier	3
18	Nairn and Cawdor	4
19	Inverness South	4
20	Badenoch and Strathspey	4
21	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	4

2.2 Maps 1 to 7 appended to this report and available in the Members' Library highlight the changes required to match the new Ward boundaries. The table below describes the significant changes to be made. The Wards affected refer to the new Ward number above. Polling Districts refer to old numbers and these will be renumbered for the new scheme on completion of this exercise.

2.3

Map number	Wards affected	Description of change
1	2,3	Small realignment of boundaries to match new ward boundaries.
2	2,3	Split existing polling district C04C to form new district in Ward 2 and merge remainder of C04C to C04E
3	8,9	Create a new PP for the part of R10A to the north of the boundary. Merge part of R10C to the South of the boundary with R10A and merge part of R10A to the North West of the boundary with R10F
4	12,13,14	Merge part of I15C with I15D (Large Area containing Inverness High School), merge part of I15D with I15C(Fairfield Road) and merge part of I15D with I15I(Queen Street)
5	12,13,14	Split I14A to form two new polling districts the one to the South will be in ward 12; It is not possible to merge it with the district below as the boundary of the Scottish Parliament needs to be maintained.
6	15,16	Merge part of I16B with I17A (Dell Road Etc.)
7	16,17	Split I18A. The section within Ward 17 to be merged with I18B. The remaining will form a new polling district.

### 3. Further amendments

3.1 During the process of the realignment of the boundaries, officers identified two areas in Ward 19 that require new polling districts due to significant development in those areas.

Maps 8 and 9 appended to this report and available in the Members' Library identify the two areas with the proposals outlined below.

3.2

Map Number	Ward Number	Proposal	Polling Station
8	19	Split I20A to form new polling district for Milton of Leys	Milton Of Leys Primary School
9	19	Split I20B to form new polling district for Slackbuie	Bun-sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis

#### 4.0 Implications

4.1 The Financial Implications of the additional polling stations will be mitigated by merging multiple polling stations without impacting the voters experience.

Legal Implications – The Council will meet its statutory to ensure that all electors in a constituency in its area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and keep the polling districts under review.

4.2 There are no known specific equality; climate change/carbon clever; rural; risk or Gaelic implications arising from this Report.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 Members are invited to note the new polling arrangements for the Highland Council Elections in 2017, as outlined in Maps 1-7 at Appendix 1 to the report; and

4.2 Members are asked to agree the forming of two new polling districts in Ward 19 to cover Milton of Leys and Slackbuie, as outlined in Maps 8 and 9 at Appendix 1 to the report.

Designation: Chief Executive

Date: 28 November 2016

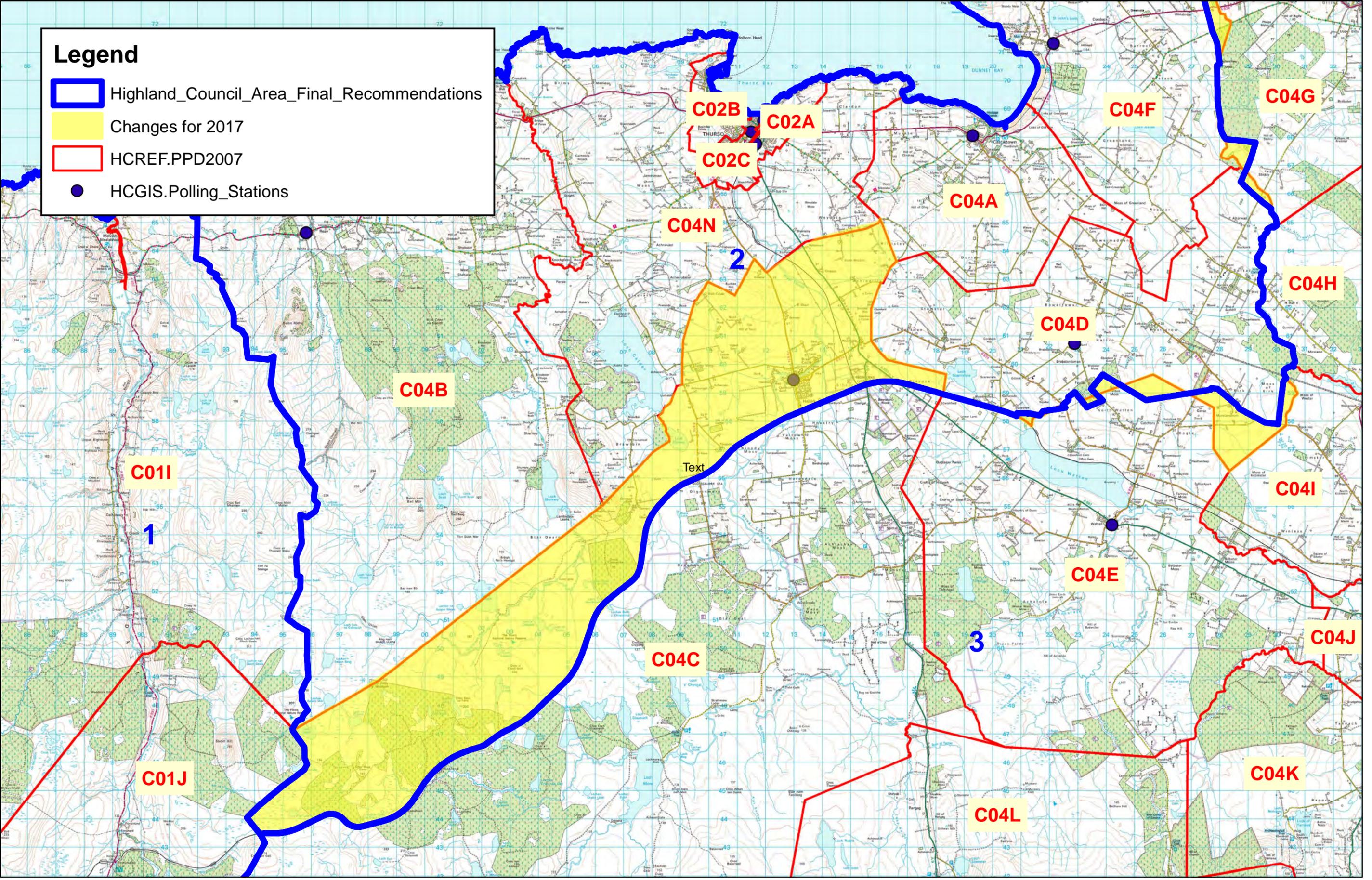
Author: David Sutherland Elections Manager

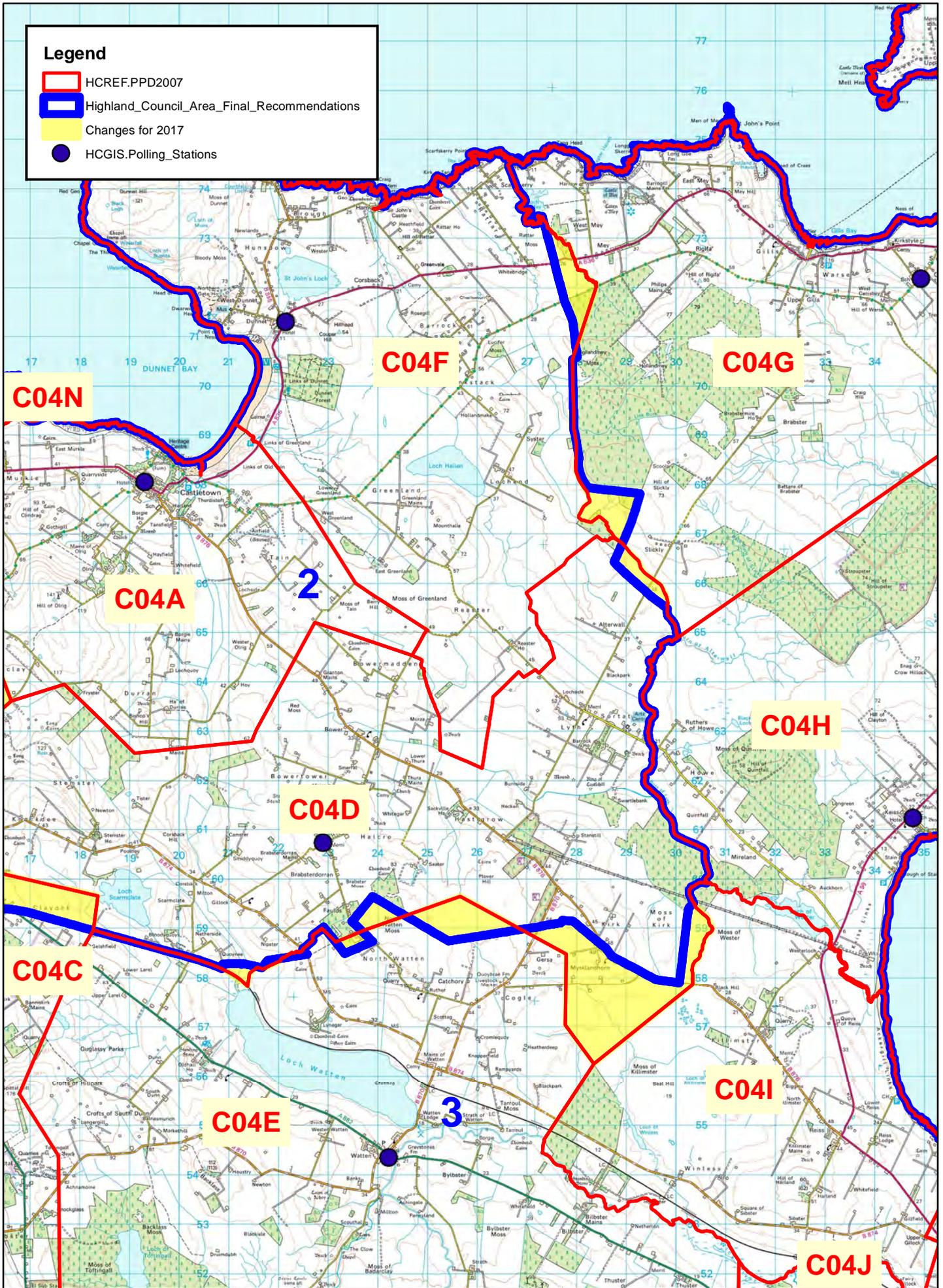
Background Papers: The Highland (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016.

Appendix 1 Maps 1-9

# Legend

-  Highland\_Council\_Area\_Final\_Recommendations
-  Changes for 2017
-  HCREP.PPD2007
-  HCGIS.Polling\_Stations





**Legend**

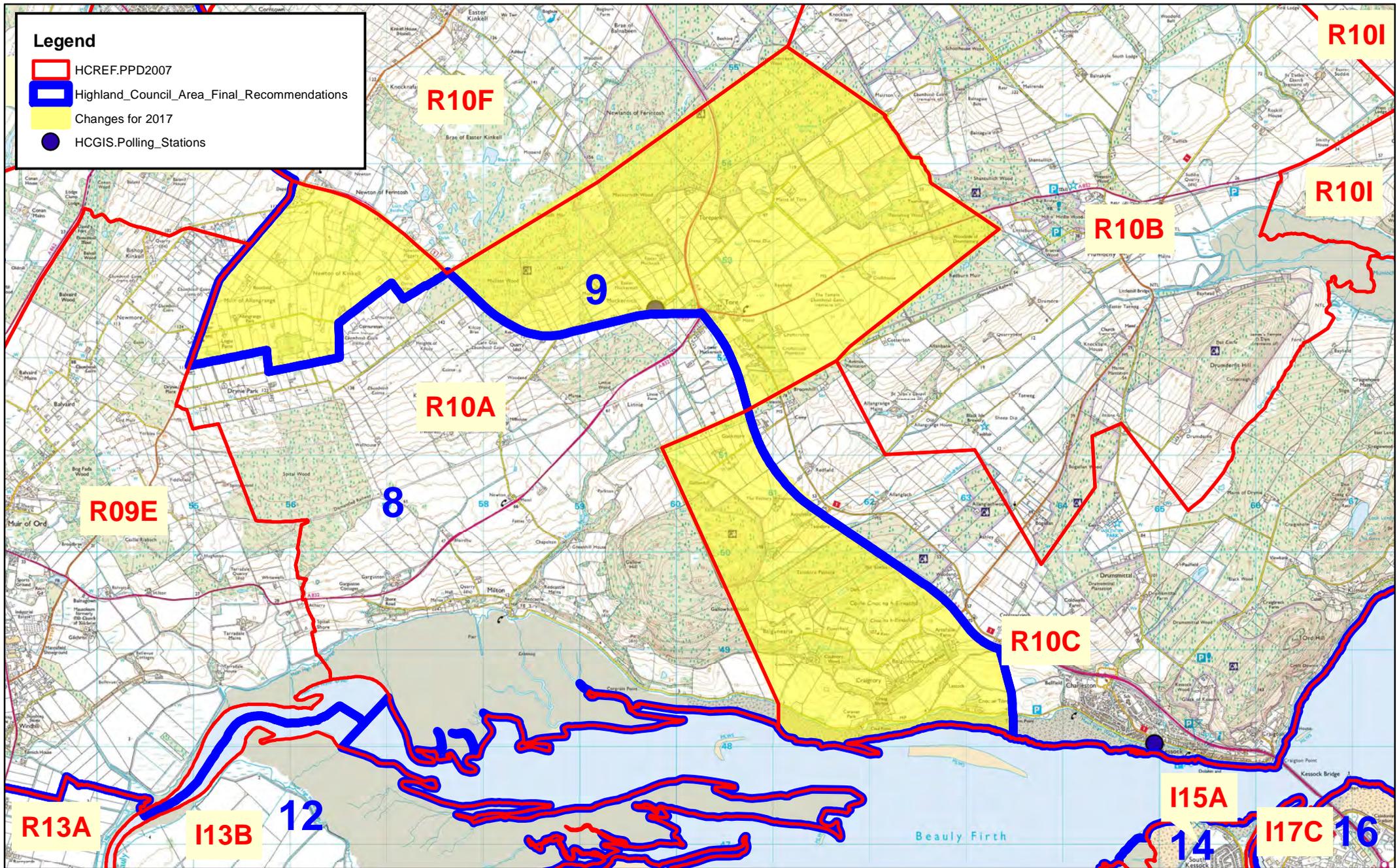
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- Highland\_Council\_Area\_Final\_Recommendations
- Changes for 2017
- HCGIS.Polling\_Stations

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**CO4F C04G C04D C04E splits**

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**Legend**

- HCRE.F.PPD2007
- Highland\_Council\_Area\_Final\_Recommendations
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- HCGIS.Polling\_Stations



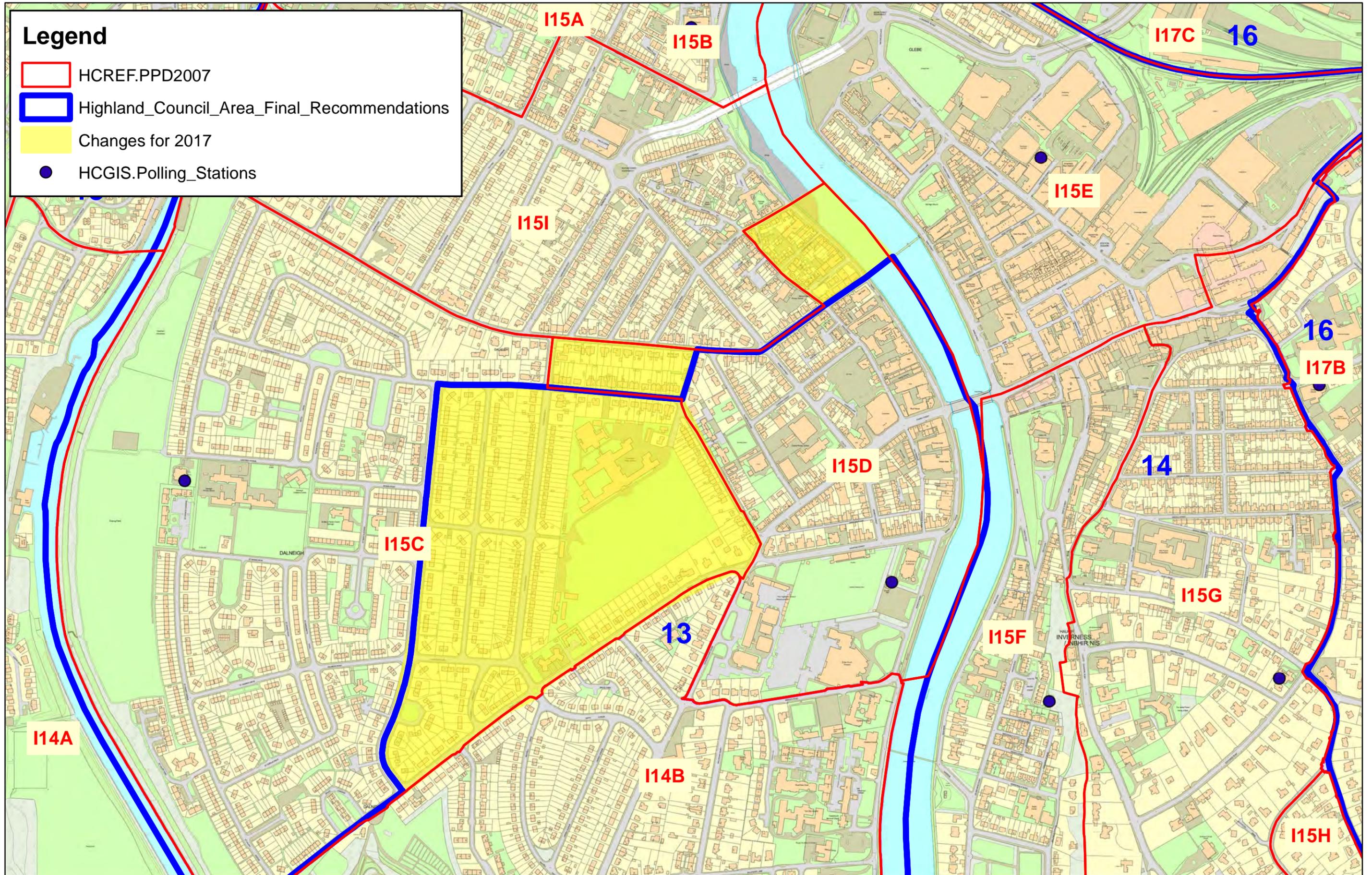
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**R10A R10C split**

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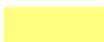


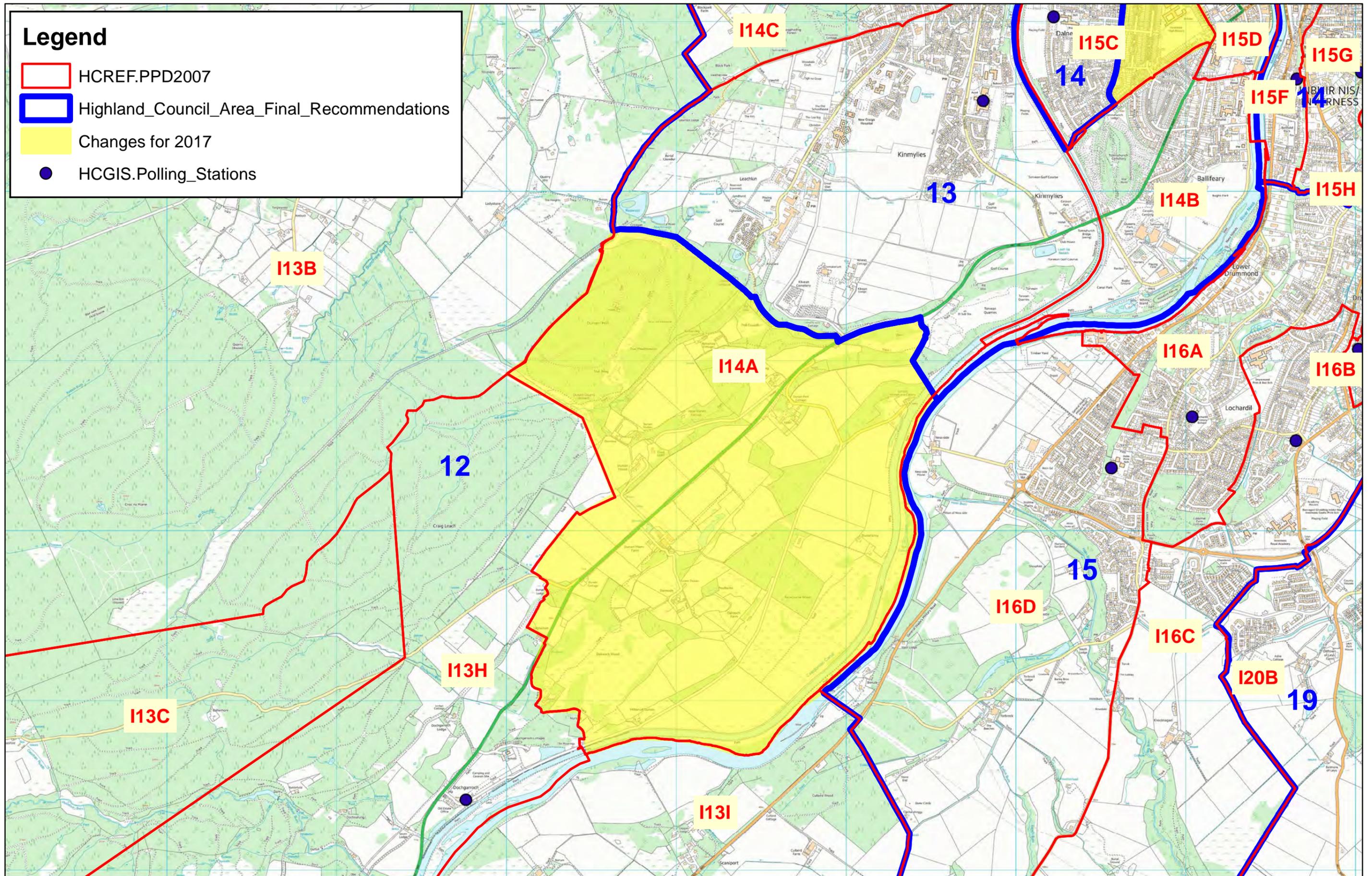
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## Existing I15C I15D Split

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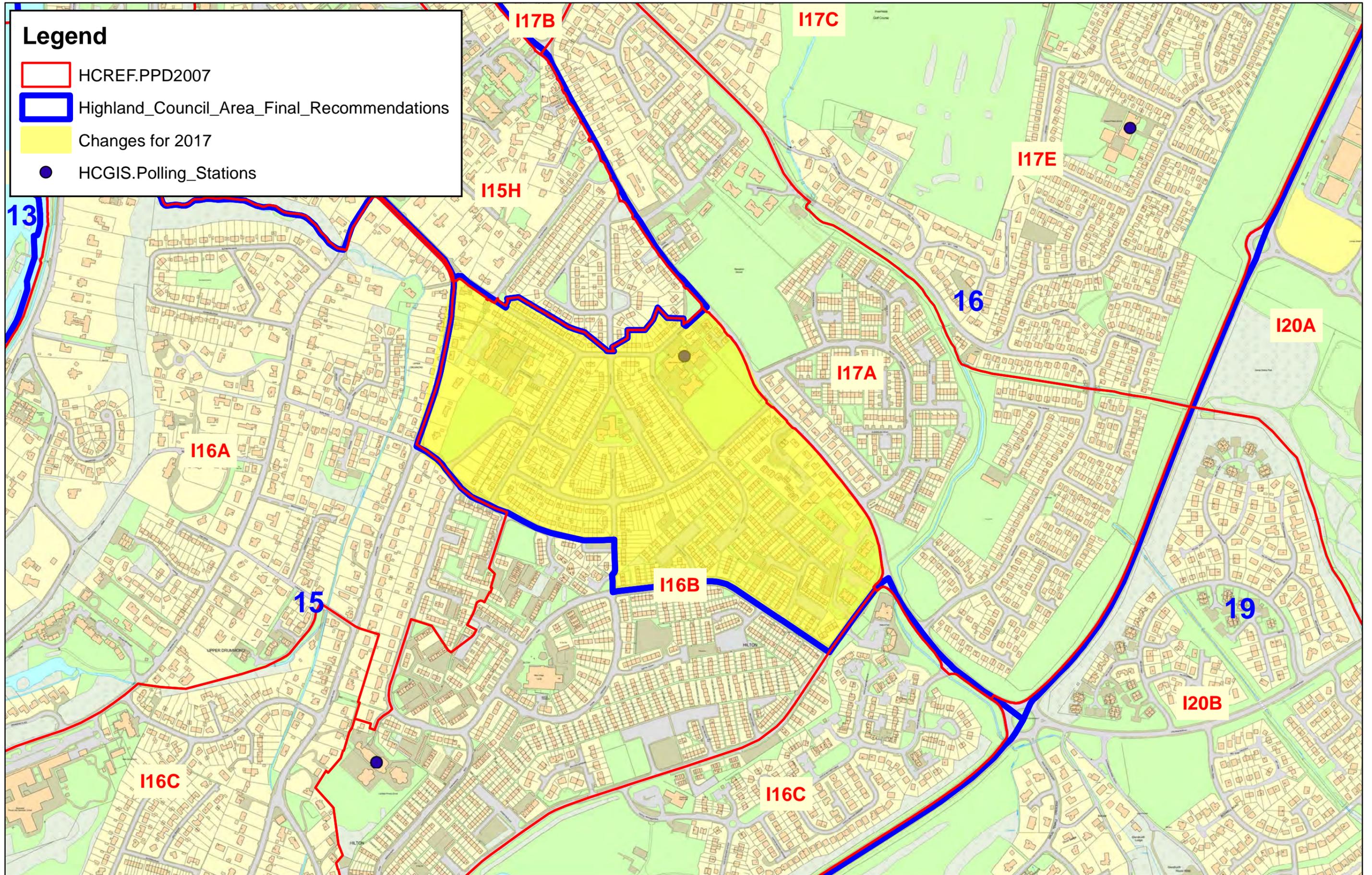


## Existing I14A Split

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# Legend

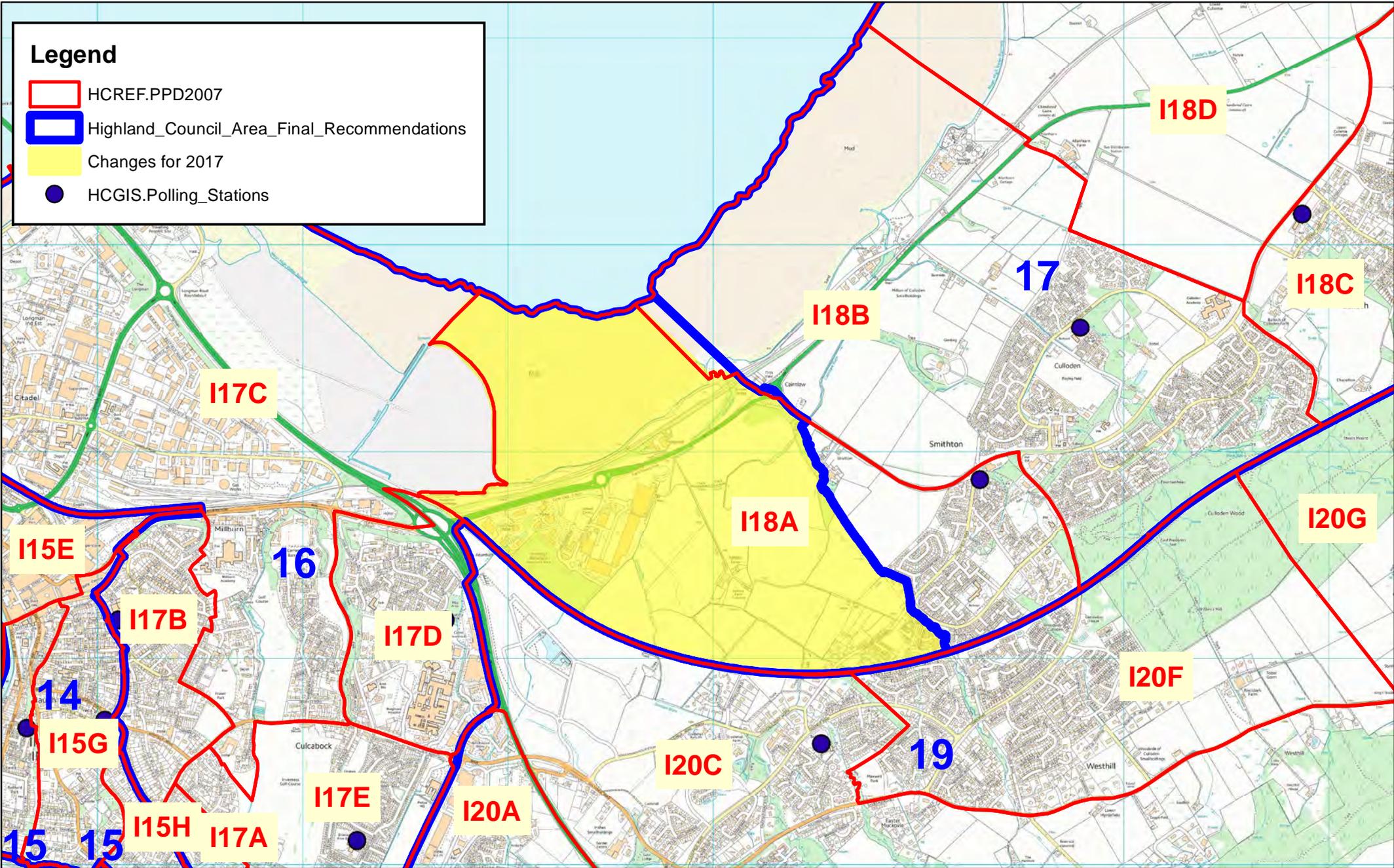
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-  Highland\_Council\_Area\_Final\_Recommendations
-  Changes for 2017
-  HCGIS.Polling\_Stations



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## Existing I16B Split



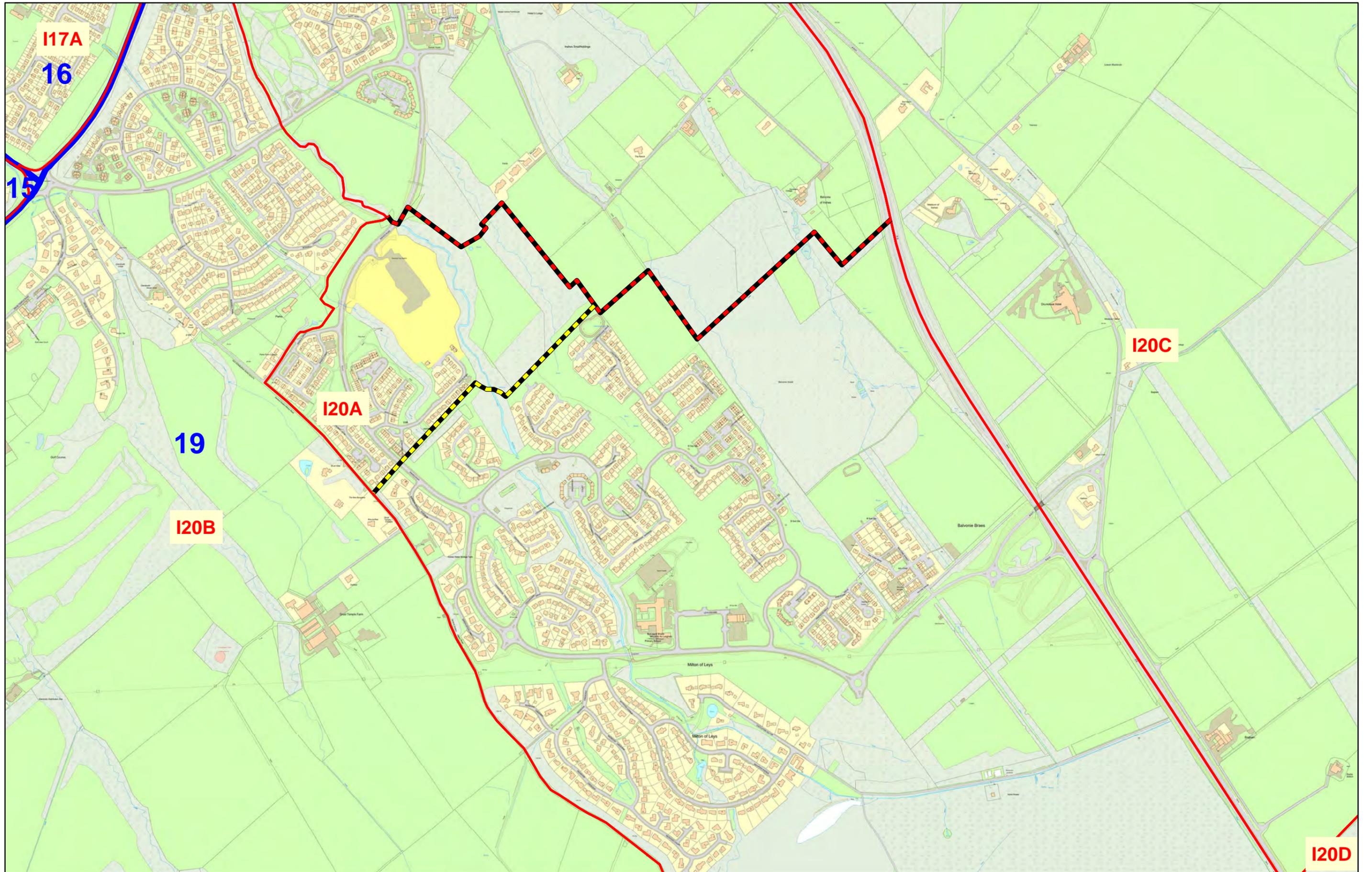
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- Highland\_Council\_Area\_Final\_Recommendations
- Changes for 2017
- HCGIS.Polling\_Stations

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**I18A split**

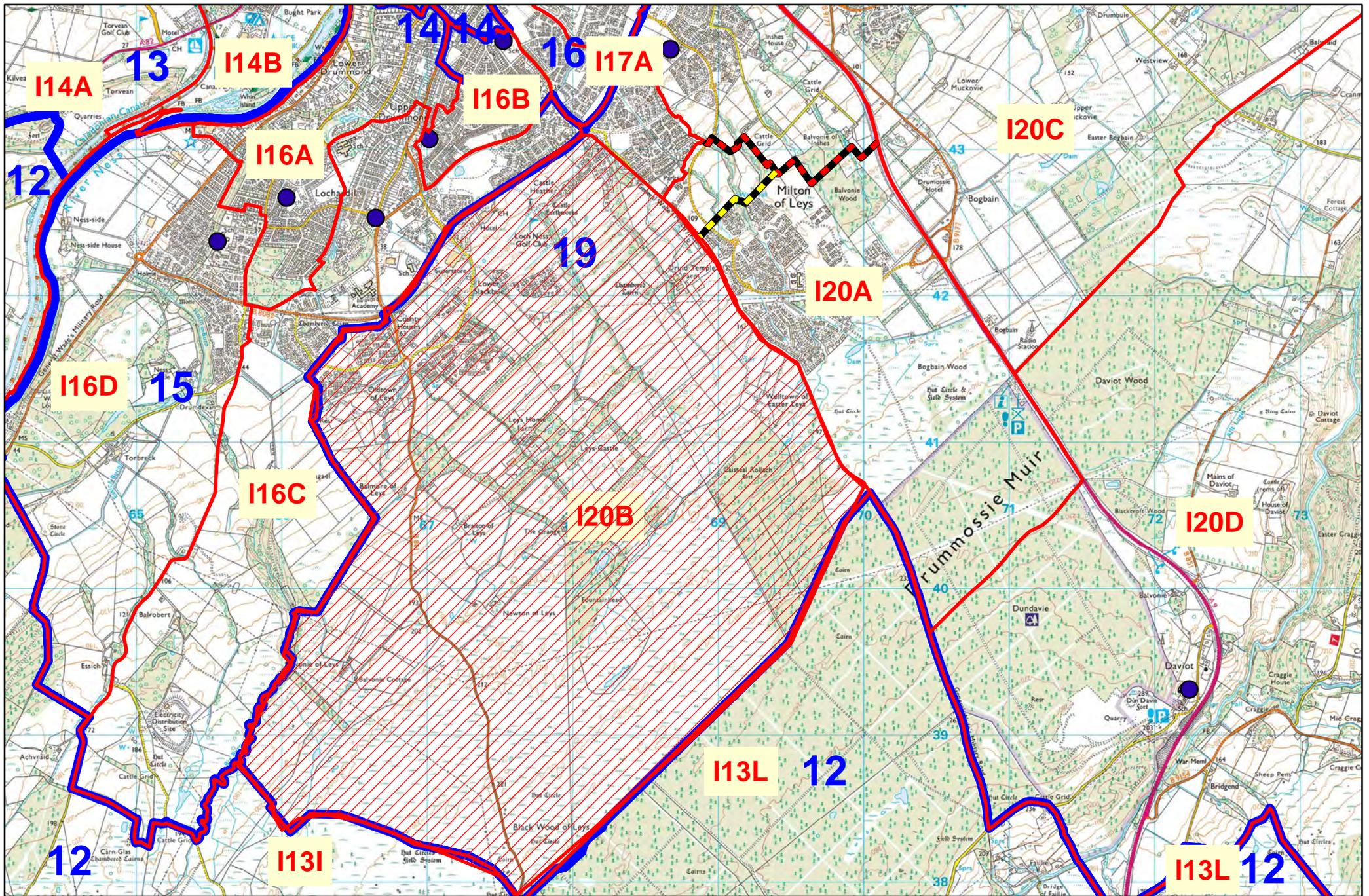


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### Options to split I20A to form Milton of Leys PPD

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further split of I20B for Slackbuie

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