

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council Areas

Action required

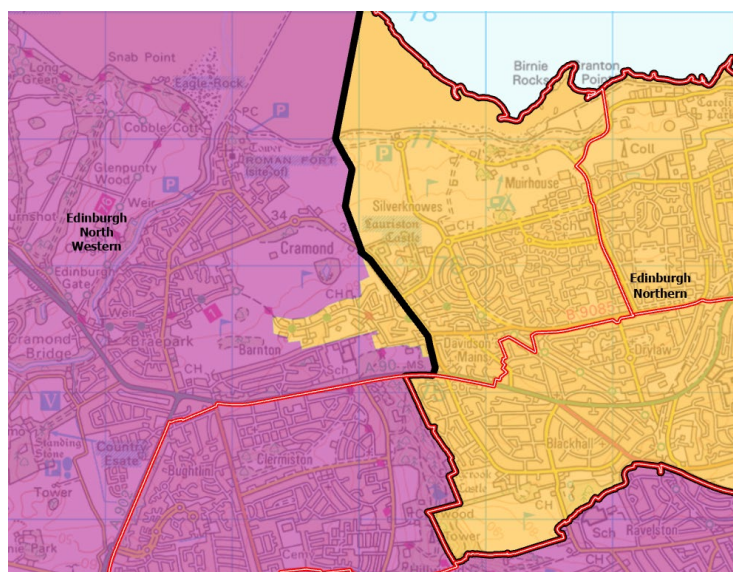
1. The Commission is invited to agree its Further Proposals for City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council Areas and if it wishes to make further amendments.

Background

2. The Commission previously considered all of the responses to its Revised Proposals for City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas at its meeting of 19 June 2024, see BS Paper 101.
3. At that meeting the Commission agreed that:
 - more discussion was needed on the suggested boundary changes by Davidson's Mains, Gorgie/ Dalry and Morningside.
 - it was minded to include Leith in the constituency name.
 - it had sufficient information that a local inquiry was not required in either Leith or East Lothian.
4. The maps below show alternatives as coloured blocks and revised proposals as black lines unless otherwise stated. Ward boundaries are in red.

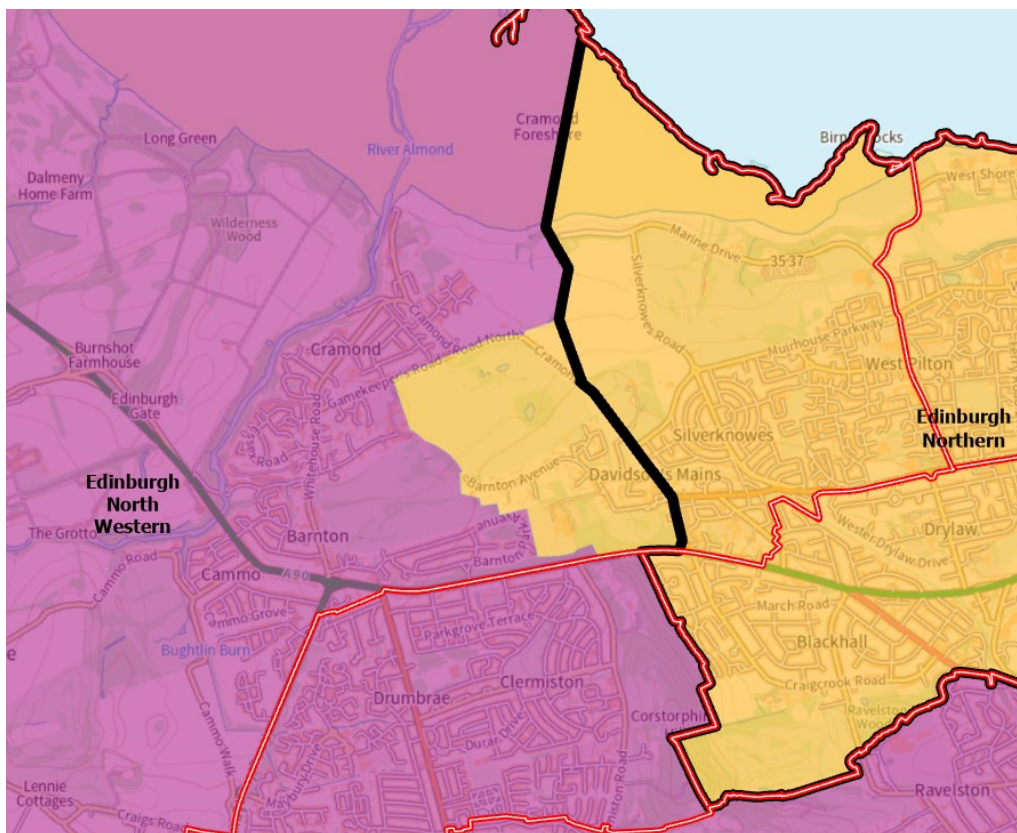
Edinburgh North Western – Davidson's Mains

5. The Commission considered an alternative suggestion made by Cllr Kevin Lang (Edinburgh Almond ward), which was also supported by Davidson's Mains and Silverknowes Association and Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP for Edinburgh Western. The suggestion was a minor change to the boundary of the proposed Edinburgh North Western/ Northern constituencies to avoid splitting the neighbourhood of Davidson's Mains. The suggestion is shown in the map and table below (coloured areas are the suggested constituencies, black lines are Revised Proposals and red lines are ward boundaries).
6. The suggestion from Cllr Lang would place the whole of Davidson's Mains in a single constituency and transfer approximately 500 electors between constituencies. However it created an oddly shaped constituency boundary.



Cllr Lang suggestion Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh North Western	60,329	0.7%	Edinburgh 1(part), 2(part), 3, 6
Edinburgh Northern	63,265	5.6%	Edinburgh 1(part), 4, 5, 12(part)

7. The Commission asked the Secretariat to develop an option which presented a more coherent boundary by Davidson's Mains.
8. The revised proposals had followed Cramond Road South and Quality Street, also a community council area boundary.
9. Historically the boundaries of wards, UK or Scottish Parliament constituencies, polling districts or school catchments areas have never followed Cramond Road South or Quality Street.
10. The Commission could amend the suggested boundary to follow more recognisable features: the boundary of the Royal High School; Davidson's Mains Park; and Bruntsfield Golf Course. This would transfer a further 16 electors between constituencies.
11. The extended boundary by Davidson's Mains is shown in the map and electorate table below.



Cllr Lang suggestion Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh North Western	60,313	0.7%	Edinburgh 1(part), 2(part), 3, 6
Edinburgh Northern	63,281	5.6%	Edinburgh 1(part), 4, 5, 12(part)

12. The advantages of this option are it:

- avoids splitting Davidsons Mains between constituencies; and
- creates a more identifiable natural boundary, parkland, between constituencies.

13. The disadvantages of this option are it:

- does not follow any recognised boundaries; and
- divides a community council area between constituencies, although local residents supported the suggestion.

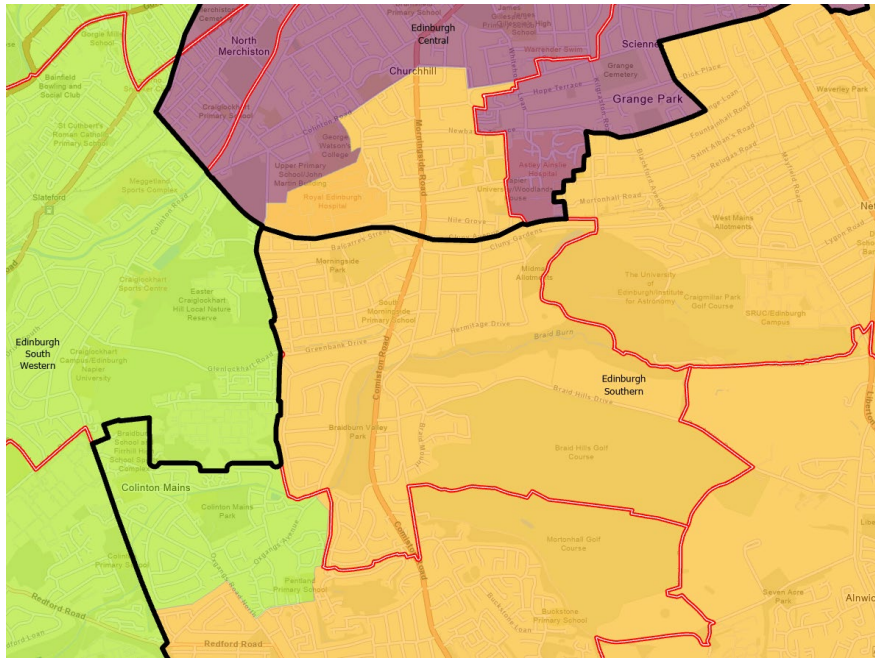
Edinburgh Southern/ Edinburgh South Western/ Edinburgh Central – Morningside/ Oxfangs and Dalry/ Gorgie

14. The Commission considered an alternative suggestion from Daniel Johnson MSP for Edinburgh Southern, supported by Morningside Community Council, Ian Murray MP for Edinburgh South and 20 members of the public. They all suggested amending the proposed Edinburgh Southern constituency boundary northwards to ensure more of the Morningside area was contained in an Edinburgh Southern constituency.

Morningside/ Oxfangs

15. Mr Johnson suggested that in order to maintain the neighbourhood of Morningside in a single constituency polling district SS10F be included in an Edinburgh Southern constituency. He also suggested adding the Colinton Mains/ Oxfangs polling districts SWP08B and SWP08C to an Edinburgh Pentlands (South Western) constituency to better reflect local ties there. The suggestion from Mr Johnson is mapped below (coloured areas are suggested constituencies, black lines are Revised Proposals and red lines are ward boundaries) along with a table.

16. There are approximately 4,500 electors in the north of Morningside and 4,300 electors by Colinton Mains/ Oxfangs which keeps both constituencies within 10% of the electorate quota.



Daniel Johnson MSP suggestion - Constituency OPTION A	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh Central	58,841	-1.8%	Edinburgh 7(part), 9(part), 10(part), 11, 15(part)
Edinburgh South Western	63,654	6.3%	Edinburgh 2(part), 7(part), 8(part), 9(part)
Edinburgh Southern	63,763	6.4%	Edinburgh 8(part), 10(part), 15(part)

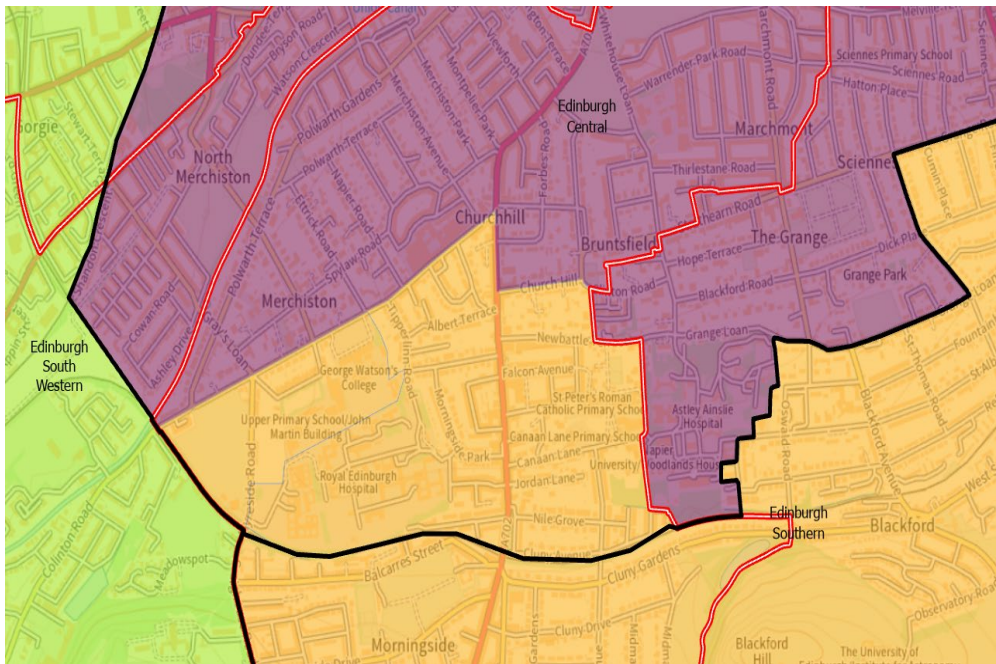
17. The Commission accepted that the suggestion from Daniel Johnson may better reflect local ties in the neighbourhood of Morningside than the revised proposals, it offered acceptable variation from the electoral quota and was supported by others. However by following polling district boundaries it created an oddly shaped constituency boundary that did not follow recognised boundaries or features.

18. The north boundary of Morningside Community Council area follows Newbattle Terrace, the rear fence line of properties on Morningside Place, Stable Lane, then the boundary between a school and hospital. Edinburgh Council also have natural neighbourhood boundaries and the north boundary of their Morningside neighbourhood follows a similar boundary to the community council: the rear fence line of properties on Newbattle Terrace and Morningside Place then the boundary between a school and hospital. See <https://data.edinburghcouncilmaps.info/datasets/9961be54aa5649aebfb5f2cde53fa432/explore>

19. Therefore the suggestion to follow polling district boundaries may divide other communities such as the Churchill neighbourhood or Merchiston community council area.

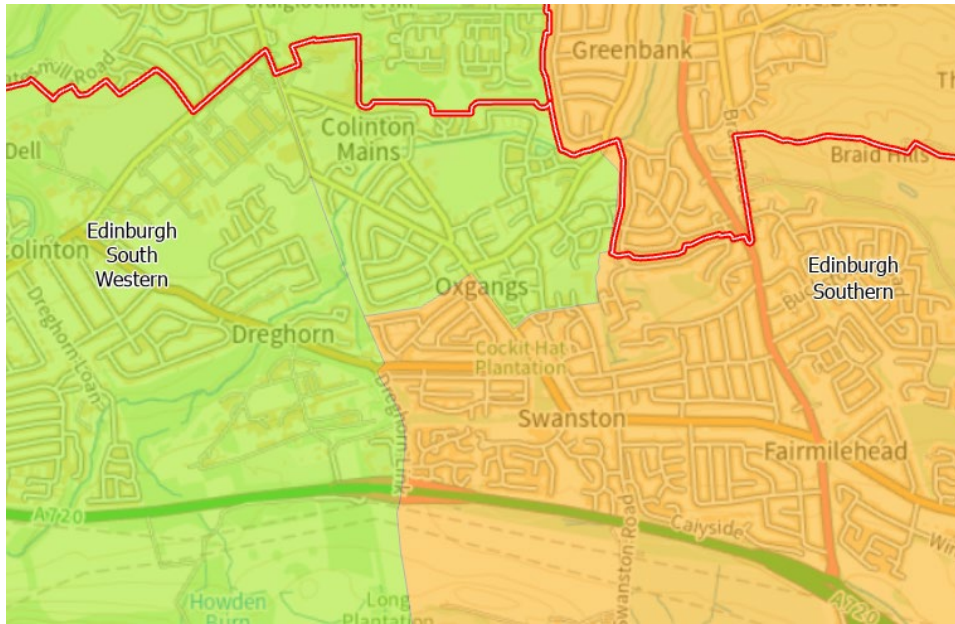
20. An alternative boundary, that may offer a more recognisable boundary to locals than a polling district or community council area boundary is an historical ward

boundary (1995-1999) that follows Church Hill, Morningside Road and Colinton Road. This is shown in the map and table below.

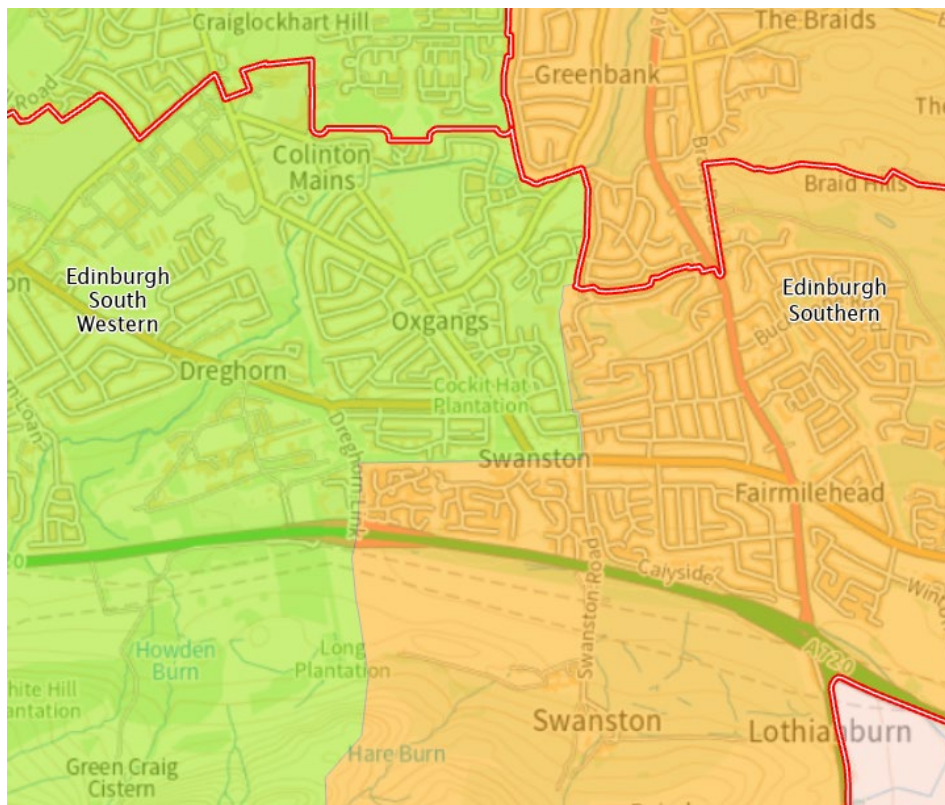


Daniel Johnson MSP suggestion - Constituency OPTION B	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh Central	58,864	-1.8%	Edinburgh 7(part), 9(part), 10(part), 11, 15(part)
Edinburgh South Western	63,654	6.3%	Edinburgh 2(part), 7(part), 8(part), 9(part)
Edinburgh Southern	63,740	6.4%	Edinburgh 8(part), 10(part), 15(part)

21. Furthermore the suggested boundary by Oxgangs, to follow polling district boundaries, follows the rear fence line of properties on Swan Spring Avenue (also a UK Parliament constituency boundary), Oxgangs Banks, Oxgangs Road North and the rear fence line of properties on Colinton Mains Road and is shown in the map below.



22. The Commission could adopt a more recognisable boundary by making more use of a UK Parliament constituency boundary, used as a boundary since 2005, and then follow Oxfangs Road, a recognised thoroughfare. This would transfer about 6,000 electors and is shown in the map below.



Daniel Johnson MSP suggestion - Constituency OPTION C	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh Central	58,864	-1.7%	Edinburgh 7(part), 9(part), 10(part), 11, 15(part)
Edinburgh South Western	65,193	8.8%	Edinburgh 2(part), 7(part), 8(part), 9(part)
Edinburgh Southern	62,201	3.8%	Edinburgh 8(part), 10(part), 15(part)

23. The advantages of this option are it:

- addresses concerns raised during the consultation regarding breaking local ties in Morningside.
- the extended boundary follows more recognisable features than the suggested polling district boundaries in Morningside and Oxfords.

24. The disadvantages of this option are it amends the boundary in Oxfords where there were no comments received during the consultation.

Edinburgh South Western/ Edinburgh Central – Gorgie/ Dalry

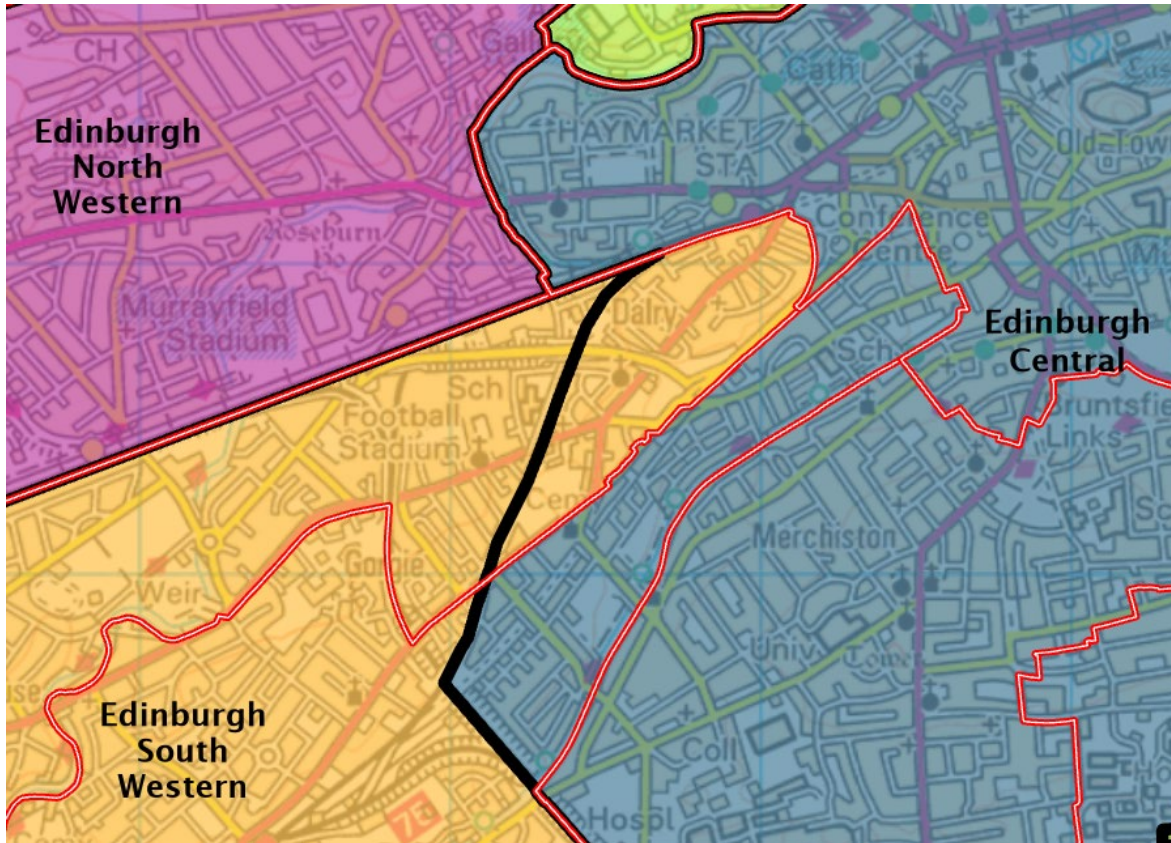
25. The revised proposals divided Gorgie and Dalry between constituencies with the revised boundary following the south Edinburgh railway line.

26. During the revised consultation there were two suggestions to keep Gorgie and Dalry in the same constituency because they have historical ties and share amenities. Another comment suggested Gorgie and Dalry have closer links to the city-centre than westwards.

27. If this suggestion were adopted it would transfer about 5,000 electors from Edinburgh Central to Edinburgh South Western and avoid splitting ward 7 (Sighthill/Gorgie) between constituencies. It is shown in the map below.

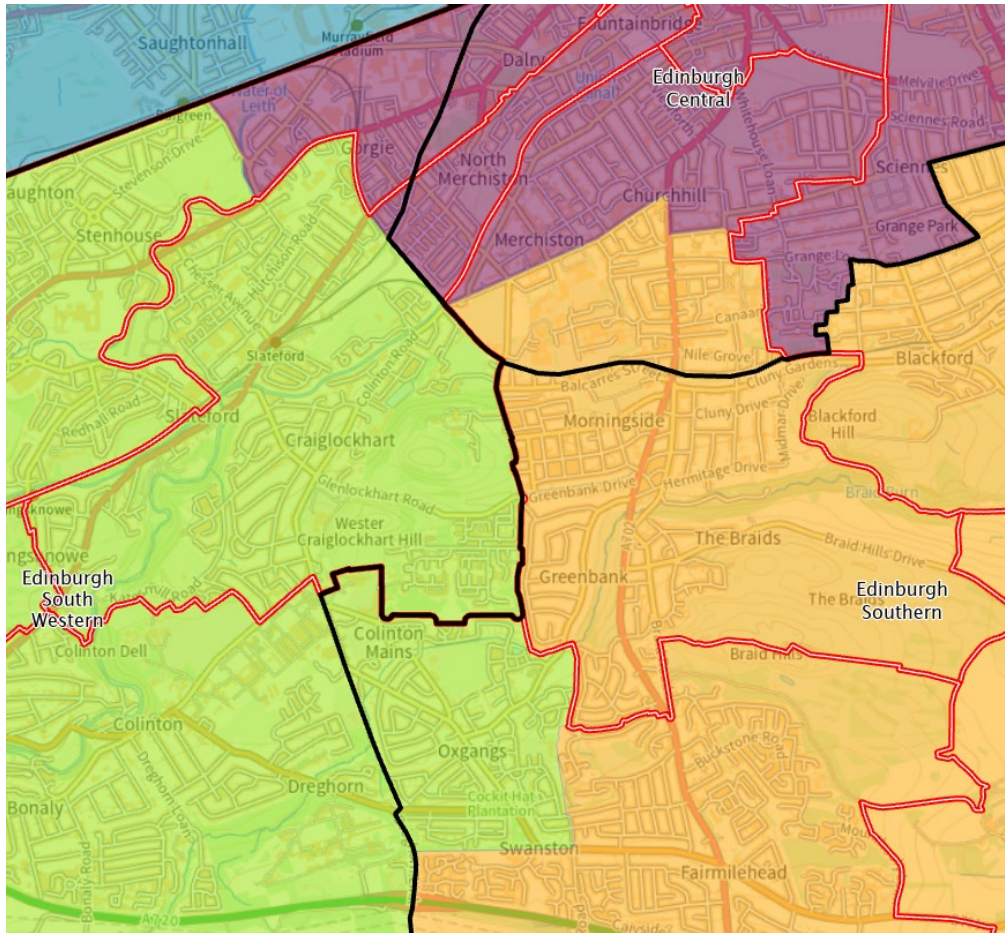
28. However this option cannot be accommodated if changes, discussed above, are made by Oxfords and Morningside. The Edinburgh South Western and Edinburgh Central constituencies would exceed 10% variation from the electorate quota if changes were made at Oxfords, Morningside and Gorgie/ Dalry.

29. The map and table below show the whole of Gorgie and Dalry in an Edinburgh South Western constituency (coloured areas are suggested constituencies, black lines are Revised Proposals and red lines are ward boundaries).



Dalry, Gorgie Suggestion	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota	Wards
Edinburgh Central	58,259	-2.7%	Edinburgh 9(part), 10(part), 11, 15(part)
Edinburgh South Western	64,334	7.4%	Edinburgh 2(part), 7, 8(part), 9(part)

30. However an alternative that considers amended boundaries by Oxfangs, Morningside and Gorgie/ Dalry is possible if Gorgie/ Dalry are included in an Edinburgh Central constituency.
31. Such a change would mean transferring approximately 5,000 electors from Edinburgh South Western and placing them in Edinburgh Central. As you can see for the tables above for Options A, B and C this change could easily be accommodated.
32. Such changes would create an Edinburgh Central constituency with a variation from the electoral quota in excess of 8%.
33. Under the existing boundaries Gorgie and Dalry are in an Edinburgh Central constituency and during the consultation on the provisional proposals a number of responses suggested this should remain the position.
34. This would present constituencies for Central, Southern and South Western Edinburgh as shown in the table below.



Daniel Johnson MSP suggestion with Gorgie/ Dalry boundary Option D	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Edinburgh Central	64,571	7.8%	Edinburgh 7(part), 9(part), 10(part), 11, 15(part)
Edinburgh South Western	59,486	-0.7%	Edinburgh 2(part), 7(part), 8(part), 9(part)
Edinburgh Southern	62,201	3.8%	Edinburgh 8(part), 10(part), 15(part), 16

35. The advantages of this option are it may better reflect local ties in Gorgie and Dalry.

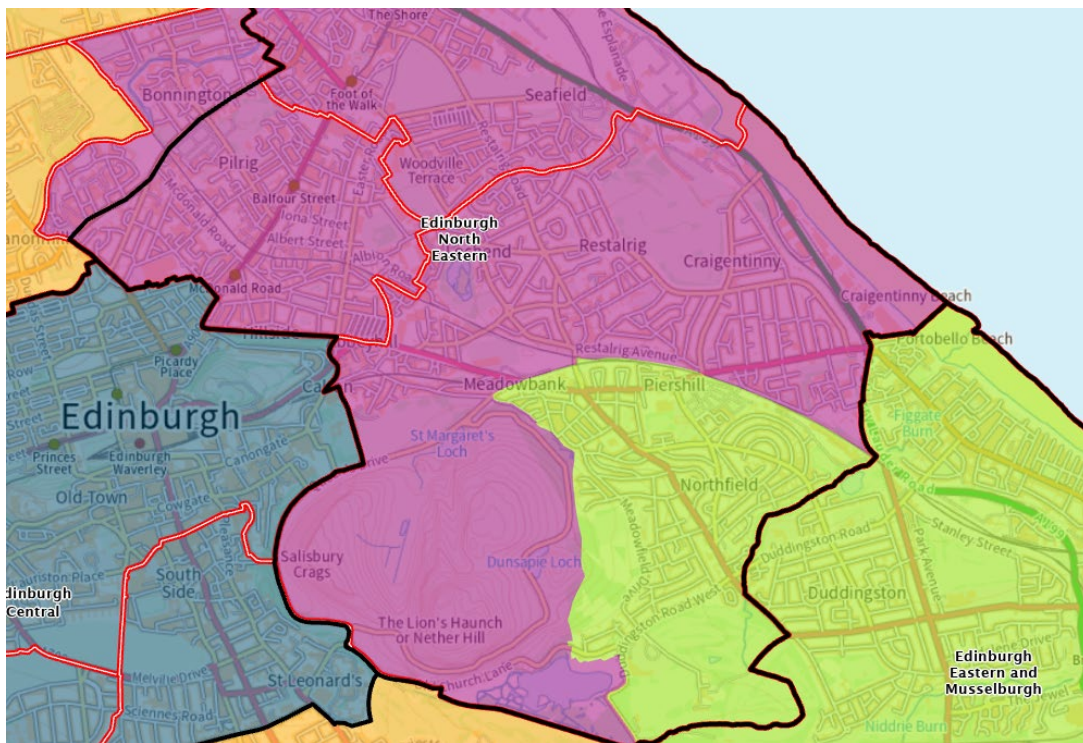
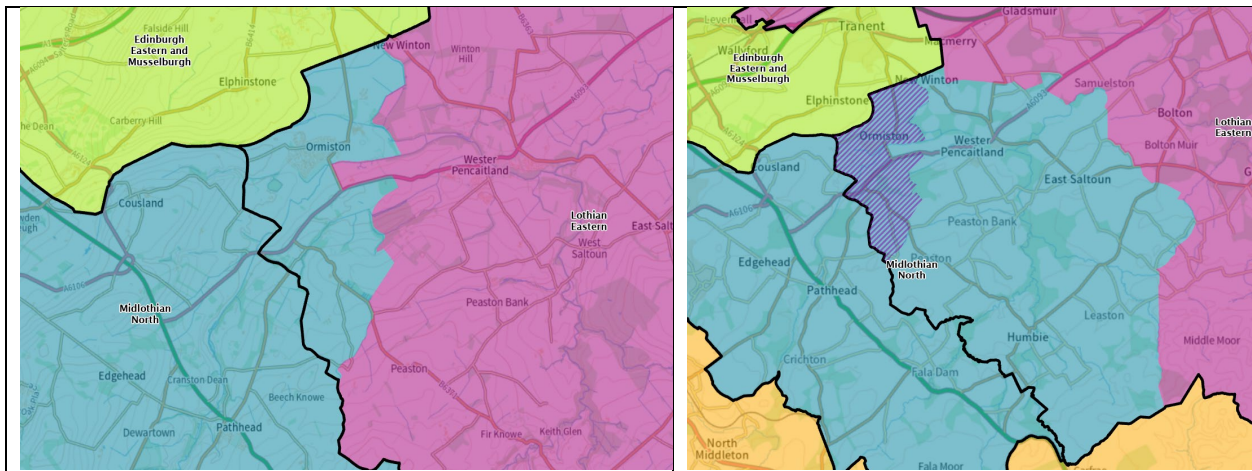
36. The disadvantages of this option are it amends the Edinburgh Central boundary where there were few comments received during the consultation regarding that constituency.

East Lothian

37. At its meeting of 19 June 2024, the Commission acknowledged that East Lothian Council and a large number of respondents had objected to both the Provisional and Revised Proposals on the grounds that they would break historical community links by Prestonpans and Tranent respectively. No alternative suggestions were provided as there was a desire to retain both the existing East Lothian constituency boundary and its name.
38. The existing East Lothian constituency has 67,523 electors and variation from the electorate quota of 12.7%.
39. The Provisional Proposals had added Prestonpans to a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency and proposed an East Lothian constituency with 59,385 electors.
40. The Revised Proposals had added Tranent to an Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh and Tranent constituency and proposed a Lothian Eastern constituency with 57,511 electors.
41. There are few alternative solutions to create an East Lothian constituency closer to the electorate quota.
42. One could be to combine East Lothian with Scottish Borders but the Lammermuir Hills act as a natural boundary between those areas.
43. The other is to add smaller East Lothian settlements to a Midlothian North constituency. The revised Midlothian North constituency was below quota with 53,996 electors.
44. The Commission could add Ormiston to a Midlothian North constituency. There are 2,130 Ormiston electors.
45. Alternatively the Commission could add either: Pencaitland/ Saltoun/ Humbie; or both areas to a Midlothian North constituency. Both Ormiston and Pencaitland/ Saltoun/ Humbie have a similar number of electors (between approx. 2,100-2,700). This option follows a community council/ polling district boundary by Ormiston and partly community council/ polling district boundary by Pencaitland/ Saltoun/ Humbie. As a consequence of retaining Tranent (10,061 electors) in an East Lothian constituency, three Edinburgh constituency boundaries would need to be amended. This would avoid the division of the Leith Walk ward but divides the Craigentiny/ Duddingston ward by following a railway line/ community council area boundary, polling district boundary and Holyrood Park. This is shown in the maps and table below.

Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Lothian Eastern	65,393	9.2%	East Lothian 2, 3(part), 4, 5(part), 6
Midlothian North	56,126	-6.3%	East Lothian 5(part), Midlothian
Edinburgh Eastern and Musselburgh	56,174	-6.2%	East Lothian 1, 3(part) Edinburgh 14(part), 17

Edinburgh North Eastern	61,171	2.1%	Edinburgh 12, 13, 14(part)
Edinburgh Northern	57,034	-4.8%	Edinburgh 1(part), 4, 5



46. The advantages of this option are it:

- retains local ties by Tranent and Prestonpans;
- addresses variation from the electorate quota in the existing East Lothian constituency;
- the existing Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency contains parts of East Lothian and Midlothian so offers some continuity;
- may better reflect local ties in Leith by not splitting the Leith Walk ward.

47. The disadvantages of this option are:

- may break local ties by Ormiston and/ or Pencaitland and Duddingston by splitting their respective wards.

Summary

48. There were a number of suggestions to better reflect local ties in Edinburgh by Davidsons Mains, Morningside and Gorgie.
49. The extended boundary by Davidsons Mains offers a more identifiable natural boundary but does divide a community council area boundary.
50. The extended boundary by Morningside offers a more identifiable boundary, better reflects local ties there but also divides a community council area boundary. However there was strong support to extend the revised proposals boundary by Morningside northwards. In order for these changes to be accommodated electors from the Oxfangs area in Edinburgh Southern would need to be placed within the Edinburgh South Western constituency. There were no comments from the Oxfangs area asking to be moved to Edinburgh South Western.
51. Two responses suggested that the areas of Dalry and Gorgie should be retained in a single constituency as they are at present. If the above changes for Edinburgh Southern are adopted then retaining Dalry and Gorgie in an Edinburgh South Western constituency would not be possible as the variation from the electoral quota would be in excess of 14%. However it would be possible to place Gorgie and Dalry in an Edinburgh Central constituency if the above changes were adopted.
52. With regard to Morningside the Commission could:
 - Agree to consult on the suggestion from D Johnson MSP to amend the northern boundary of Edinburgh Southern constituency and suggested changes at Oxfangs – Option A
 - Agree to consult on the boundary at Option B which proposes alternative boundaries in Merchiston but follows polling district boundaries by Oxfangs.
 - Agree to consult on the boundary at Option C which proposes alternative boundaries by both Merchiston and Oxfangs.
 - Agree to consult on amendments by Merchiston and Oxfangs and place Gorgie and Dalry in an Edinburgh Central constituency.
 - Or disregard all of the above suggestions and place Gorgie and Dalry in the Edinburgh South Western constituency.
53. In East Lothian there was strong opposition to the initial and revised proposals. Further options have been developed which could add both or either Ormiston or Pencaitland to a Midlothian North constituency. In East Lothian the Commission could:
 - retain the existing East Lothian constituency with 67,523 electors and revisit constituency boundaries in Edinburgh;
 - retain the provisional proposals boundary by Prestonpans and revisit constituency boundaries in Edinburgh to avoid an Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency;
 - retain the revised proposals boundary by Tranent; or
 - consult on further proposals by Ormiston or Pencaitland/ Saltoun/ Humbie or both areas

54. The Commission's provisional proposals proposed an Inverness and Nairn constituency with 69,113 electors and the revised proposals had proposed a Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch constituency with 67,236 electors. Both of these constituencies were above the electorate quota and close to the existing East Lothian constituency electorate.

55. The Commission is invited to make its final recommendations for constituencies in East Lothian and to agree further proposals for constituencies in City of Edinburgh council area.

Constituency Names

56. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Final Recommendations and these will be discussed in Paper BS 117.

Secretariat
July 2024

Revised Proposals - City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council Areas Appendix A

