

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South
Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council Areas**

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to: -
 - Note West Lothian's objection to the Further Proposals and the Commission's approval for a local inquiry to be held.
 - Consider the consultation responses for Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas and decide whether to hold a local inquiry.
 - For Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas consider whether it wishes to
 - a) adopt the published Further Proposals and names/designations as Final Recommendations subject to satisfactory design in other groupings being agreed or
 - b) amend its proposals for constituency boundaries or names and consult upon them again.
2. The Commission agreed its Final Recommendations within Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk and West Dunbartonshire Council areas, subject to satisfactory constituencies being designed in neighbouring areas at its meeting of 12 September 2024 (Paper BS 126).
3. The Commission has been provided with all the consultation responses relating to West Lothian Council area but will wish to defer making any decision until after the local inquiry is held.

Background

4. The existing constituencies within this grouping were all within 10% of the electorate quota, except for the two West Lothian constituencies (Almond Valley (17%) and Linlithgow (27%)) and the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency (-15%).
5. The Provisional Proposals consulted on constituency grouping that included: South Lanarkshire with Scottish Borders Council areas; West Lothian with Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian Council areas; Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas; as well as a Falkirk Council area grouping.
6. A local inquiry was held in Edinburgh in January 2024 because of strong objections to an Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency.
7. The Revised Proposals consulted on a new constituency grouping in Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council Areas which better reflected the existing boundaries.
8. Falkirk Council objected to the Revised Proposals because the existing Falkirk constituencies were within quota and the proposals linked Falkirk with both North Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas. A local inquiry was held in Falkirk in August 2024.

9. At its meeting of 19 June 2024 and 12 September 2024 the Commission considered Papers BS103 and BS126 (https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS_126_SP_Revised_AB_Lans_Duns_Flk_Wln.pdf, https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS_103_AB_LAN_DUN.pdf) which discussed the Provisional Proposals and responses to the Revised Proposals consultation and the Assistant Commissioner's report from the Falkirk local inquiry for Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council areas. The Commission agreed to consult on Further Proposals which can be summarised as follows:

- Reverted to retaining the existing constituencies of Falkirk East and Falkirk West. To help protect the electoral quota in neighbouring constituencies and reflect local ties the following changes form part of the Further Proposals: -
- The boundary for the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency has been extended southwards to include Caldercruix, Plains and surrounding areas. This change affects the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; and Airdrie constituencies.
- The boundary for the existing Airdrie constituency has been extended eastwards to include Fauldhouse and Whitburn. This change affects the Airdrie and Linlithgow constituencies.
- The boundary for Almond Valley constituency remains the same as consulted on at the Revised Proposal stage (under the name Livingston and Breich Valley) but the existing constituency name of Almond Valley has been retained.
- The boundary between the proposed Rutherglen and Cambuslang; and Uddingston and Bellshill constituencies is amended by Blantyre to follow a ward boundary. This was suggested by both South Lanarkshire and North Lanarkshire Councils.
- Proposed the names of Rutherglen and Cambuslang; and Airdrie to differentiate these constituencies from the UK Parliament constituencies. All other constituencies in Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian retain their existing constituency names.

10. All other existing constituency names and boundaries were retained.

11. The Further Proposals are shown in the table below with a map at Appendix A. The Commission consulted on six constituencies within this Council area grouping: Airdrie; Almond Valley; Cumbernauld and Kilsyth; Linlithgow; Rutherglen and Cambuslang; and Uddingston and Bellshill.

Constituency Name	Total Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Airdrie	63,563	6.1%
Almond Valley	65,050	8.6%
Argyll and Bute	49,535	-17.3%
Clydebank and Milngavie	55,112	-8.0%
Clydesdale	61,011	1.9%
Coatbridge and Chryston	56,877	-5.0%
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	57,040	-4.8%

Dumbarton	56,129	-6.3%
East Kilbride	60,763	1.4%
Falkirk East	61,529	2.7%
Falkirk West	63,861	6.6%
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	59,596	-0.5%
Linlithgow	66,218	10.5%
Rutherglen and Cambuslang	62,888	5.0%
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	63,895	6.7%
Uddingston and Bellshill	58,839	-1.8%

Responses to Further Proposals Public Consultation

12. Some representations contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review. We did not consider those suggestions further.

Local Inquiry

13. The Commission has agreed to hold a local inquiry in West Lothian as West Lothian Council objected to the Provisional Proposals for regions and to the Further Proposals for an Airdrie constituency.

14. No other Council within this grouping responded to the consultation.

All areas

15. A member of the public opposed the Revised Proposals because they do not consider local authority boundaries.

North Lanarkshire Council area Cumbernauld and Kilsyth

16. A member of the public supported the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency.

17. A member of the public stated Denny and Dunipace should remain in a Falkirk constituency rather than a North Lanarkshire constituency.

18. The Further Proposals placed Denny and Dunipace in a Falkirk West constituency. The respondent may have been commenting on the revised proposals.

19. A member of the public opposed the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because Caldercruix and Plains have no links with Cumbernauld or Kilsyth, they have closer links with Monklands, Airdrie and Coatbridge areas. They suggested adding Milton of Campsie or Lennoxton to the Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency instead.

20. The Commission considered an option that extended the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency westwards to include Lennoxton and Milton of Campsie from East Dunbartonshire Council area at its meeting of 12 September 2024 but it proposed three constituencies with variation from the electorate quota over 10%, see https://boundaries.scot/sites/default/files/BS_126_SP_Revised_AB_Lans_Duns_Flk_Wln.pdf

21. A member of the public stated Kilsyth and Cumbernauld have closer links eastwards to Falkirk rather than southwards to North Lanarkshire.
22. Four members of the public would prefer to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency boundary. Their comments included: to maintain historical links; acknowledging it is below the electorate quota; and if it is not possible to retain the existing constituency, a suggestion to add Moodiesburn, Kirkintilloch or Gartcosh instead.
23. A member of the public stated Kilsyth has better transport links and historical ties with Kirkintilloch and Denny.
24. A member of the public stated Caldercruix has closer links to Airdrie for shopping and healthcare.
25. Councillor Alan Masterton, North Lanarkshire Cumbernauld North ward, supported retaining Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency but wishes to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency boundary because there is nothing to connect the north of Airdrie with Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.
26. Councillor Willie Goldie, North Lanarkshire Cumbernauld South ward, supported retaining Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency. They suggested Cumbernauld and Kilsyth has closer links with Moodiesburn or Gartcosh than with Airdrie. They supported retaining Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in a Central Scotland region.
27. Councillor Denis Johnston, North Lanarkshire Kilsyth ward, supported retaining Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency but opposed the proposals because the north of Airdrie has no cultural, historical or logistical links with Cumbernauld or Kilsyth. He stated Cumbernauld and Kilsyth look eastwards or westwards rather than southwards and the town have close links in the Northern Corridor with Moodiesburn and Kirkintilloch. He wishes to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because it meets rules 1, 3 and 4, while acknowledging it proposes wide variation from the electorate quota. He also supported retaining Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in a Central Scotland region.
28. Cumbernauld SNP Branch supported retaining Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency but object to the addition of the Airdrie North villages because there are no cultural, historical or logistical connections between the areas. They wish to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency boundary while acknowledging it is below the electorate quota.
29. Kilsyth SNP Branch supported retaining Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency but wish to retain the existing constituency. They opposed the further proposals because there are no historical or logistical links between the north of Airdrie and Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.
30. Jamie Hepburn, MSP for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth, opposed the proposed Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency boundary because there are no cultural, historical or logistical links between the Airdrie villages and Cumbernauld. He wishes to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency boundary because it meets rule 1 (council area boundaries), rule 3 (accessibility) and rule 4 (local ties) but acknowledges this is below the electorate quota.

31. The existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency has 51,210 electors and variation from the electorate quota of -15%.

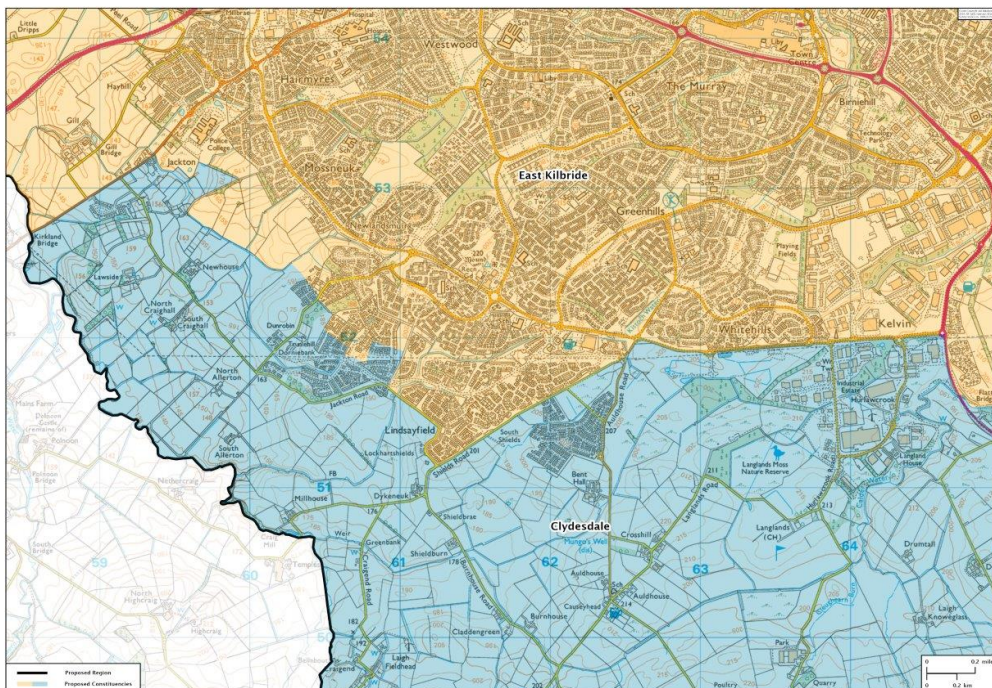
Airdrie

32. Nearly 70 members of the public opposed the proposed Airdrie constituency. The issues raised included: concerns that Whitburn and Fauldhouse would become part of North Lanarkshire Council area; concerns regarding school catchment areas, insurance premiums, house prices, access to healthcare and other services; desire to remain within West Lothian or with Livingston or Linlithgow; will increase the workload of the MSP; Whitburn looks eastwards to Edinburgh rather than westwards; North Lanarkshire and West Lothian are very different areas.
33. A member of the public suggested naming the constituency Shotts and Airdrie. They also highlighted that transport links between Shotts and West Lothian have recently stopped.
34. Since 1999 there has been a Scottish Parliament constituency named Airdrie and Shotts. There has been a UK Parliament constituency named Airdrie and Shotts since 1997.
35. A member of the public stated the proposed Airdrie name does not reflect the West Lothian communities.
36. A member of the public wished to retain the existing constituency boundaries.
37. Neil Gray, MSP for Airdrie and Shotts, opposed the proposed Airdrie constituency because: it breaks historical ties in the north of Airdrie; elected members will need to deal with two Health Boards, two Local Authorities, two regional transport providers and various other jurisdictional bodies; there are no transport links between West Lothian and Airdrie; and the constituency name does not represent the constituency. He wishes to retain the existing Airdrie and Shotts constituency boundary and name because it considers rules 1, 3 and 4. His response also included a petition with 200 signatures opposing the proposed Airdrie constituency.
38. Airdrie and Shotts SNP Branch submitted a similar response to Neil Gray MSP.
39. Councillor Lesley Jarvie, North Lanarkshire Airdrie Central ward, opposed the proposed Airdrie constituency because: Greengairs, Longriggend, Upperton, Caldercruix and Plains all look towards Airdrie rather than Cumbernauld; there is nothing to connect Airdrie with Whitburn or Fauldhouse as they are in a different council and Health Board areas; a new town like Cumbernauld has different issues and problems to smaller mining villages; there are no direct public transport links between Airdrie and West Lothian; it will break long term associations MSPs have with communities in North Lanarkshire or West Lothian; and the proposed constituency name does not reflect the area and should include reference to the Airdrie villages. They wish no change to the existing constituency boundary.

40. Councillor Richard Sullivan, North Lanarkshire Airdrie North ward, opposed the proposed Airdrie constituency because his ward has no economic or cultural links with Cumbernauld.

South Lanarkshire Council area

41. The Commission did not consult on a Clydesdale or East Kilbride constituency but a member of the public raised concerns with the boundary of the proposed East Kilbride constituency because it splits a new housing development in the south of East Kilbride.
42. The map below shows the proposed constituency boundaries and new housing developments to the south of East Kilbride. The proposed East Kilbride constituency boundary is unchanged from the existing boundary.



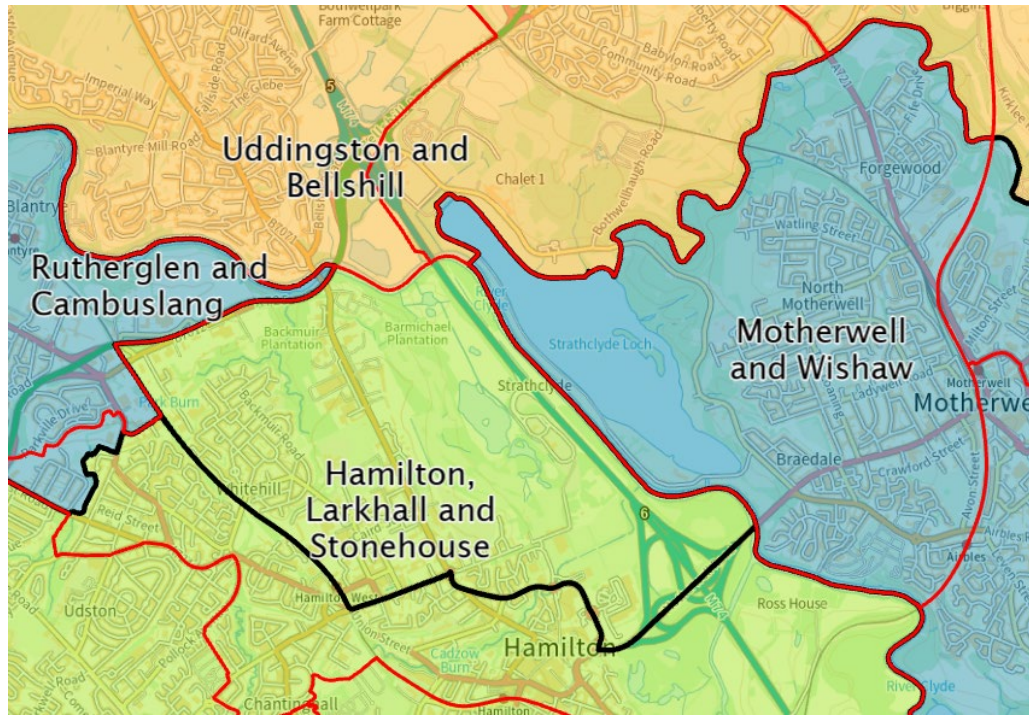
Rutherglen and Cambuslang Constituency

43. A member of the public suggested that Scottish Parliament and UK Parliament constituencies should follow the same boundary.
44. A member of the public stated Rutherglen and Cambuslang are socially part of the Glasgow area and should remain in a Glasgow region.
45. A member of the public stated the alternative constituency name will make no difference.
46. Clare Haughey MSP for Rutherglen, supported the proposed Rutherglen and Cambuslang constituency boundary but suggested Blantyre be included in the constituency name because Blantyre is a historical part of the constituency with a very strong community and sense of self.

Uddingston and Bellshill Constituency

47. A member of the public suggested that the River Clyde acts as a natural boundary for an Uddingston and Bellshill constituency and it should not include the Hamilton Park area.

48. A map and table of this suggestion is shown below. The suggested constituencies are in block colours and the further proposals are shown by a black line. The red line shows existing council wards. It would transfer 3,329 electors between constituencies.



Hamilton Park suggestion Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	62,925	5.0%
Uddingston and Bellshill	55,510	-7.3%

49. A member of the public supported the proposed Uddingston and Bellshill constituency.

50. A member of the public wished no change to the proposed boundary and for Bothwell to remain within it.

51. A member of the public stated that the Uddingston and Bellshill constituency is confusing following changes to the boundary and name of the Coatbridge and Bellshill UK Parliament constituency.

West Lothian Council area

52. West Lothian Council objected to the proposals because they do not consider council area boundaries, strong local ties in West Lothian or the review rules. They believe the proposals are a result of objections from other local authorities to previous constituency proposals.

53. The Commission has agreed to hold a local inquiry in West Lothian.
54. Fauldhouse Community Council objected to the further proposals because West Lothian is divided between three constituencies and they do not consider education, work or travel links in West Lothian. They wish West Lothian to remain within a Lothian region.

Linlithgow

55. A member of the public suggested naming the constituency Bathgate because it is a larger town and would be seen as a more modern name than historical Linlithgow.
56. A member of the public opposed the proposed Linlithgow constituency because Linlithgow has nothing in common with communities on the other side of the Bathgate hills. They indicated Linlithgow has closer links Bo'ness, Broxburn or South Queensferry.
57. A member of the public supported the proposed Linlithgow constituency because it “makes sense and bears some relation to how these towns operate in reality.”
58. A member of the public supported the proposed Linlithgow constituency but stated transport links should be considered within it. They referred to challenges collecting postal voting cards from council offices for the UK Parliament election in July 2024.
59. A member of the public stated “I can’t understand why you need to split West Lothian up in this way?!?”
60. The SNP Linlithgow Constituency Association advised that the proposed Linlithgow constituency name does not reflect all of the towns and communities within it. They also opposed the proposed Airdrie constituency because there is little to connect Whitburn with Airdrie. They suggested renaming the proposed: Linlithgow constituency as Bathgate and Linlithgow or West Lothian North; and Airdrie constituency as Airdrie and Whitburn or Airdrie North and Whitburn.

Almond Valley

61. There were no comments regarding the proposed Almond Valley constituency.

Summary

62. The Commission agreed its Final Recommendations within Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk and West Dunbartonshire Council areas, subject to satisfactory constituencies being designed in neighbouring areas at its meeting of 12 September 2024.
63. There were few comments regarding the Further Proposals in South Lanarkshire Council area.
64. In North Lanarkshire Council area there was opposition to a Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency that extended southwards towards Airdrie because it breaks local ties by Caldercruix. Respondents wished to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency or to address variation from the electoral quota by extending it westwards to include communities from the Northern Corridor.

65. In North Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas there was opposition to the proposed Airdrie constituency because Airdrie has little in common with Fauldhouse or Whitburn in West Lothian.

66. West Lothian Council objected to the Further Proposals and the Commission has agreed to hold a local inquiry there.

Conclusion

67. After considering the consultation responses for North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council areas the Commission is asked to confirm whether: -

- it wishes to adopt the Further Proposals as its Final Recommendations for each constituency in North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council areas.
- If any changes should be made to any of the constituency boundaries and consulted on further.
- Confirm its earlier decision on names and designations as its Final Recommendations for the constituencies in the North Lanarkshire and South Lanarkshire Council areas.

68. The Commission will wish to defer agreeing its Final Recommendations or revising proposals for West Lothian Council area until after receiving the Assistant Commissioner's Report from the local inquiry.

Secretariat
November 2024

Further Proposals - Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire and West Lothian Council Areas

