

**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: -
 - consider the consultation responses for its proposed: Almond Valley; and Bathgate constituencies; and
 - consider whether it wishes to adopt the published Supplementary Proposals and names/designations as Final Recommendations.
2. The Commission has been provided with all of the consultation responses relating to these constituencies (see Paper BS 175).

Background

3. Within this constituency grouping the Commission has previously agreed:
 - At its 12 September 2024, to adopt the Revised Proposals as its Final Recommendations for Argyll and Bute; Clydebank and Milngavie; Clydesdale; Coatbridge and Chryston; Dumbarton; East Kilbride; Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse; Motherwell and Wishaw; Strathkelvin and Bearsden, subject to satisfactory constituencies being agreed elsewhere.
 - At its 13 January 2025 to adopt the Further Proposals as its Final Recommendations for Rutherglen and Cambuslang; and Uddingston, subject to satisfactory constituencies being agreed elsewhere.
 - At its 10 March 2025 meeting to adopt Additional Proposals as its Final Recommendations for Falkirk East and Linlithgow; and Falkirk West at its meeting of 10 March 2025, subject to satisfactory constituencies being agreed elsewhere. At the same meeting, the Commission agreed to revert to the existing boundaries for Airdrie; and Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.
4. At its meeting of 10 March 2025 the Commission agreed to consult on Supplementary Proposals for an Almond Valley constituency and Bathgate constituency. The boundary between these two constituencies was amended by Polbeth, to maintain local ties between Polbeth and the Breich Valley.
5. The Supplementary Proposals are shown in the table below with a map at Appendix A.

Supplementary Proposals Constituency Name	Total Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Almond Valley	68,871	15.0%
Bathgate	66,803	11.5%

6. On 14 March 2025 the Commission published its Supplementary Proposals for the specified consultation period of one month.

Responses

7. There were two responses to the public consultation regarding the proposed Almond Valley and Bathgate constituencies.
8. West Lothian Council supported the Supplementary Proposals that placed Polbeth in an Almond Valley constituency because it better reflected community

ties between Polbeth and West Calder. However, West Lothian Council were very disappointed that no Local Inquiry was held regarding the Supplementary Proposals as they affect Linlithgow because this did not allow local residents, community groups or stakeholders the opportunity to express their views on the proposals.

9. West Lothian Council had objected to the proposed Bathgate and Falkirk East and Linlithgow constituencies during the Additional Proposals consultation. The Commission had written to West Lothian Council stating that it was not holding a local inquiry because objections were sufficiently clear to the Commission since they had been raised earlier and aired extensively at the Fauldhouse Local Inquiry.
10. The SNP Linlithgow Constituency Association suggested renaming the proposed Bathgate constituency as West Lothian Central because: West Lothian is a popular and historical county name; electors out-with Bathgate will not feel connected to the constituency. They have experienced this issue with the current Linlithgow constituency name; and the name will confuse the electorate as both a constituency and ward will share the same name.
11. The SNP Linlithgow Constituency Association had suggested West Lothian Central as a constituency name during the Additional Proposals consultation and the Commission had considered this name at its meeting of 10 March 2025.
12. Currently three wards and Scottish Parliament constituencies share the same name: Cowdenbeath (Fife); Dumbarton (West Dunbartonshire); and Linlithgow (West Lothian). The Final Recommendations will retain the existing Cowdenbeath and Dumbarton constituency names. No ward shares the same name as a UK Parliament constituency.

Responses – out-with consultation

13. Although not part of the Supplementary Proposals consultation, Falkirk Council restated their desire to retain the two existing Falkirk constituencies but accept that two constituencies will be recommended for Falkirk Council area. They suggested an alternative boundary to avoid changes to polling district boundaries that considers variation from the electorate quota. They stated their suggestion will also split a single ward and thus aid links between MSP's and local councillors.
14. The Falkirk Council suggestion:
 - avoids dividing the Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst ward between constituencies and therefore places Airth and Skinflats in a Falkirk West constituency rather than the proposed Falkirk East and Linlithgow constituency.
 - the Falkirk South ward is divided by following polling district boundaries which follow residential streets and a railway line. The proposed boundary does not follow any other recognised boundaries such as school catchment areas, community council boundaries, UK Parliament constituency or any historical electoral boundaries.
 - makes a minor change to the electorates of both constituencies. The Commission had recommended a Falkirk East and Linlithgow constituency with 67,341 electors and variation from the electorate quota 12.4% and a Falkirk West constituency with 68,831 electors and variation from the electorate quota 14.9%.

15. The Falkirk Council alternative suggestion is shown in the table below and a map is at Appendix B.

Falkirk Council alternative suggestion	Total Electorate	Variation from electorate quota
Falkirk East and Linlithgow	69,208	15.5%
Falkirk West	66,964	11.8%

Summary

16. The Supplementary Proposals consulted on the constituencies of: Almond Valley, and Bathgate. The constituency boundaries were amended by Polbeth to maintain local ties in the Breich Valley.

17. There were two responses to the consultation.

18. West Lothian Council supported the proposed boundary by Polbeth but were disappointed that a further local inquiry had not been held.

19. There was a suggestion to rename the proposed Bathgate constituency as West Lothian Central.

20. Falkirk Council submitted an alternative suggestion for constituencies out-with the consultation to align constituency boundaries with polling district boundaries.

Conclusion

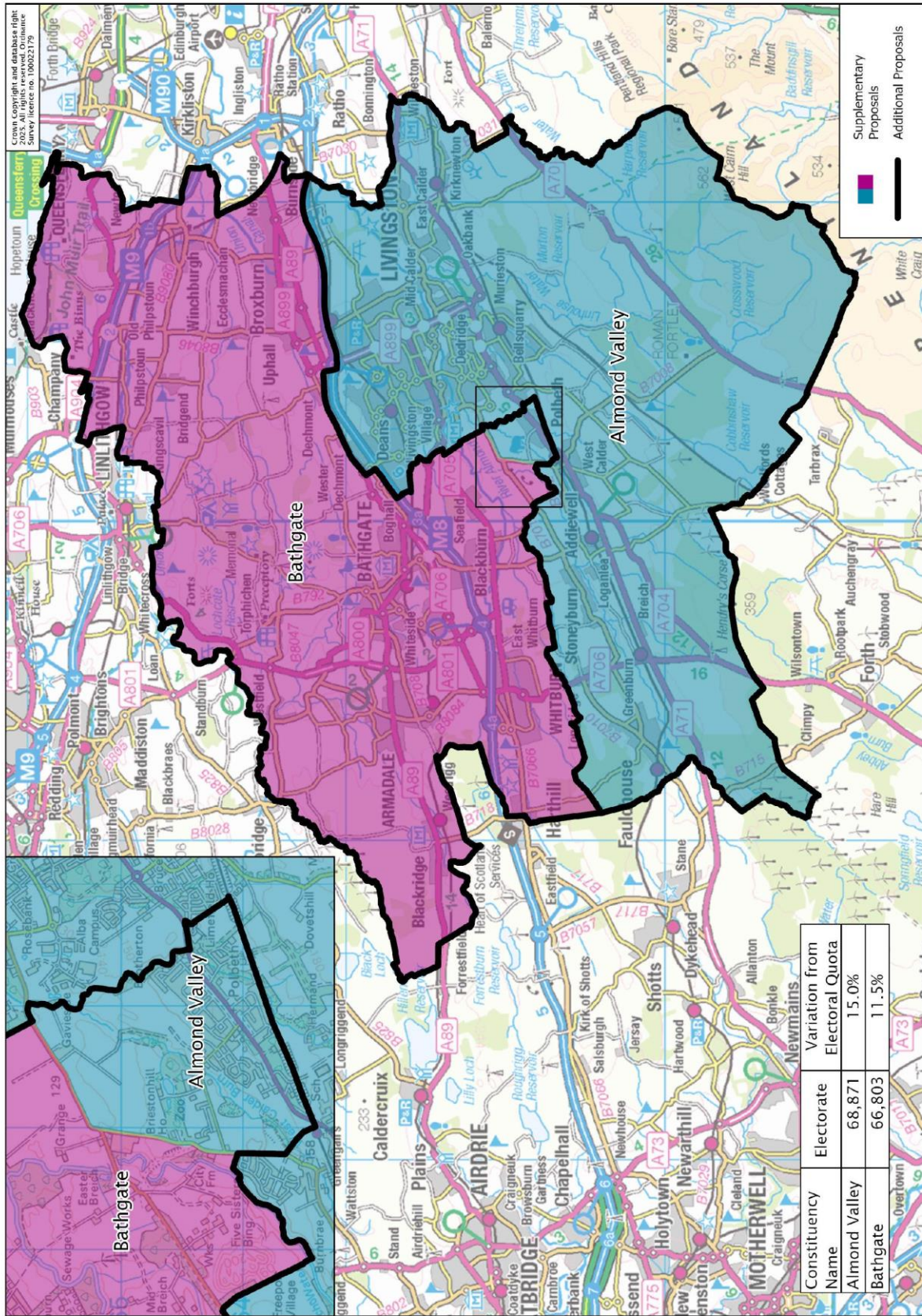
21. After considering the consultation responses the Commission is asked to confirm whether: -

- it wishes to adopt the Supplementary Proposals as its Final Recommendations for these constituencies.
- If any changes should be made to any of the constituency boundaries or names.

22. When making the above decision, the Commission is asked to note the 1 May 2025 deadline for submitting the Final Recommendations and the statutory requirement for a one-month consultation period.

Secretariat
April 2025

Supplementary Proposals – West Lothian Council Areas



Alternative Suggestion – Falkirk Council

