

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Draft Provisional Proposals for Dundee City Council area

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider its Provisional Proposals for Dundee City Council area for its Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries.

Background

2. The Commission considered provisional groupings of council areas as part of its approach to constituency design for the Second Review, which included a group of two constituencies wholly within Dundee City Council area, see Paper BS 24. This paper offers options for constituencies within this grouping.
3. The electorate quota for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries is 59,902 electors per constituency.
4. The rules for reviewing Scottish Parliament constituencies state:
 - **Rule 1**
 - So far as is practicable, regard must be had to the boundaries of the local government areas having effect from time to time under section 1 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.
 - **Rule 2**
 - The electorate of a constituency must be as near the electoral quota as is practicable, having regard to Rule 1.
 - Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rule 1 if it thinks that it is desirable to do so to avoid an excessive disparity between the electorate of a constituency and the electoral quota or between the electorate of a constituency and that of neighbouring constituencies.
 - **Rule 3**
 - Boundaries Scotland may depart from the strict application of Rules 1 and 2 if it thinks that special geographical considerations (including in particular the size, shape and accessibility of a constituency) render it desirable to do so.
 - **Rule 4**
 - Boundaries Scotland need not aim at giving full effect in all circumstances to Rules 1 to 3 but it must take account (so far as it reasonably can)—
 - (a) of the inconveniences attendant on alterations of constituencies other than alterations made for the purposes of Rule 1, and
 - (b) of any local ties which would be broken by such alterations.
5. The constituency entitlement for Dundee City Council area is as shown in the table below:

Council area	Electorate (1 Sept 22)	Constituency entitlement
Dundee City	112,735	1.9
Total	112,735	1.9

6. The electorates of the two existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within Dundee City Council area are shown in the table below:

Existing constituency	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota
Dundee City West	56,705	-5.3%
Dundee City East	56,030	-6.5%

7. The existing Scottish Parliament boundaries have been in use since 2011.
8. Both of the existing constituencies are within 10% of the electoral quota and it is open to the Commission to leave them unchanged for the Second Review.
9. The constituency names in this paper are provisional. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Provisional Proposals.
10. A map of the existing constituencies in this grouping can be found at Appendix A.

Options

11. Two options are presented for consideration.

Option 1

12. Option 1 proposes to retain the two existing constituencies within Dundee City Council area.
13. The existing constituency boundaries have broadly followed the same boundary in Dundee city centre since 1999, splitting Dundee between two constituencies. From the north the boundary follows the A90 road, the Kingsway road (A90) and then roads towards the docks.
14. The First Review amended the boundary in the north of the area to follow the A90 to create “an acceptable solution in terms of the statutory rules” and also changed the external boundary of the constituencies to align with the council area boundary.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota	Wards
Dundee City West	56,705	-5.3%	1,2,3,4(part),5(part),6(part)
Dundee City East	56,030	-6.5%	4(part),5(part),6(part),7,8

15. A map of Option 1 can be found at Appendix A.
16. The advantages of Option 1 are it:
 - retains the existing constituencies, which have broadly been in place since 1999 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate;
 - follows roads which may be more easily recognised by the local electorate; and
 - both constituencies are within 7% variation from the electoral quota.
17. The disadvantage of Option 1 are that it only partly follows ward boundaries.

Option 2

18. Option 2 retains two constituencies within Dundee City Council area but proposes boundaries that exactly follow ward boundaries meaning that no wards are split and constituency and ward boundaries are coterminous.
19. Option 2 follows ward boundaries and maintains east and west constituencies in Dundee.
20. Maps of Option 2 can be found at Appendix B and C.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota	Wards
Dundee City West	59,762	0.2%	1,2,3,4
Dundee City East	52,973	-11.6%	5,6,7,8

21. The advantage of Option 2 is that it follows the long standing ward boundaries in Dundee City which are unchanged since 2007.
22. The disadvantage of Option 2 is that it proposes a Dundee City East constituency with variation from the electoral quota of -11.6%.

Summary

23. Option 1 retains the existing constituencies, offering continuity with the existing arrangements.
24. Option 1 splits three wards although the constituency boundaries are long established.
25. Option 1 has less variation from the electoral quota than Option 2.
26. Whilst Option 2 splits no wards, wards in Dundee City Council area are unchanged since 2007. No date has been set for the next review of electoral arrangements in Dundee City Council area.
27. Where constituency boundaries in Dundee vary from existing ward boundaries they follow main roads.
28. The existing constituency boundaries in Dundee mainly follow ward boundaries from 2007 and the 4th Reviews of Electoral Arrangements. At that time the ward boundaries were designed to follow pavements or the side of roads and riverbanks. The 5th Reviews of Electoral Arrangements (2017) designed wards to follow the centreline of roads and rivers. The Commission may wish to realign the constituency boundaries to follow the centreline of roads. This would make no changes to the proposed constituency electorates.

Conclusion

29. The Commission is invited to agree its Provisional Proposals for public consultation, subject to satisfactory constituencies being designed in other groupings.

Secretariat
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