

## Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Draft Provisional Proposals for Fife Council area

### Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider its Provisional Proposals for Fife 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 five constituencies contained wholly within Fife 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 Fife Council area is as shown in the table below:

Council area	Electorate (1 Sept 22)	Constituency entitlement
Fife	290,387	4.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>290,387</b>	<b>4.8</b>

6. The electorates of the five existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within Fife Council area are shown in the table below:

Existing constituency	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota
Cowdenbeath	56,363	-5.9%
Dunfermline	62,615	4.5%
Kirkcaldy	60,642	1.2%
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	54,098	-9.7%
North East Fife	56,669	-5.4%

7. The existing Scottish Parliament boundaries have been in use since 2011.
8. All five 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.
11. The Commission should also consider amending the Scottish Parliament boundaries by Keltybridge at the boundary with Perth and Kinross council area where the ward and council area boundaries were altered following an administrative area review which came into effect in February 2018.

### Options

12. Three options are presented for consideration and each take account of the administrative area boundary review by Keltybridge.

### Option 1

13. Option 1 proposes to retain the five existing constituencies within Fife Council area.
14. The existing constituency boundaries closely follow ward boundaries throughout the council area.
15. Only two wards are split between constituencies. Ward 2 (Dunfermline North) is split between Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath although no electors are in the part of ward 2 in the Cowdenbeath constituency. Ward 5 (Rosyth) is also split between Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota	Wards
Cowdenbeath	56,363	-5.9%	2(part),5(part),6,7,8
Dunfermline	62,615	4.5%	1,2(part),3,4,5(part)
Kirkcaldy	60,642	1.2%	9,10,11,12,22
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	54,098	-9.7%	13,14,15,21
North East Fife	56,669	-5.4%	16,17,18,19,20

16. A map of Option 1 can be found at Appendix A.
17. The advantages of Option 1 are it:
  - retains the existing constituencies, which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate;

- all five constituencies sit within Fife Council area boundary and closely follow ward boundaries across the council area; and
- offers variation from the electoral quota within 10% for all constituencies.

18. The disadvantages of Option 1 are two wards are divided between constituencies.

### Option 2

19. Option 2 retains five constituencies within Fife Council area, which generally follow ward boundaries but seeks to improve variation from electoral quota throughout the council area and particularly in the Mid Fife and Glenrothes constituency.

20. In order to achieve this improvement it is necessary to make a number of changes to the existing constituencies.

21. Option 2 proposes a Dunfermline constituency that contains the West Fife and Coastal Villages ward and the three Dunfermline wards. The whole of ward 5 (Rosyth) forms part of a proposed Cowdenbeath, Inverkeithing and Rosyth constituency. In a change from the existing arrangements, ward 8 (Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty) is split following the Cardenden community council boundary with the western part of the ward including Ballingry, Crosshill and Lochgelly included in the aforementioned Cowdenbeath, Inverkeithing and Rosyth constituency. The eastern part of ward 8 including Cardenden and Dundonald is added to the existing Mid Fife and Glenrothes constituency.

22. Burntisland is placed into the proposed Cowdenbeath, Inverkeithing and Rosyth constituency by following the Burntisland community council area boundary. These changes follow recognised ward and community council area boundaries and ensure that variation from electoral quota is improved across all constituencies.

23. A map of Option 2 can be found at Appendix B.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota	Wards
Cowdenbeath, Inverkeithing and Rosyth	58,670	-2.1%	5,6,7,8(part), 9(part)
Dunfermline	60,987	1.8%	1,2,3,4,
Kirkcaldy	55,578	-7.2%	9(part),10,11,12,22
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	58,483	-2.4%	8(part),13,14,15,21
North East Fife	56,669	-5.4%	16,17,18,19,20

24. The advantages of Option 2 are it:

- improves on existing variation from electoral quota; and
- only two wards are split between constituencies.

25. The disadvantages of Option 2 are it:

- makes changes to the long-standing existing constituencies that are currently recognised locally and within acceptable levels of variation from the electoral quota; and
- may break local ties where wards have been split by Cardenden and Burntisland.

**Option 3**

26. Option 3 retains five constituencies within Fife Council area, which follow ward boundaries and also seeks to improve variation from electoral quota by changing the constituency boundary between the Dunfermline and Cowdenbeath constituencies.
27. Option 3 removes the part of ward 5 (Rosyth) which is currently within the Dunfermline constituency and places ward 5 in its entirety in the proposed Cowdenbeath, Inverkeithing and Rosyth constituency along with ward 9 (Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy).
28. Elsewhere in Option 3 ward 21 (Leven, Kennoway and Largo) is added to the Kirkcaldy wards to create a coastal constituency. To balance this, ward 8 (Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty) is added to the Glenrothes wards, and North East Fife is unchanged from the existing arrangements.
29. A map of Option 3 can be found at Appendix B.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota	Wards
Dunfermline	60,987	1.8%	1,2,3,4
Cowdenbeath, Inverkeithing and Rosyth	55,954	-6.6%	5,6,7,9
Kirkcaldy	63,761	6.4%	10,11,12,21,22
Glenrothes	53,016	-11.5%	8,13,14,15
North East Fife	56,669	-5.4%	16,17,18,19,20

30. The advantage of Option 3 is that it retains whole wards throughout the council area.
31. The disadvantages of Option 3 are it:
- makes changes to the existing arrangements that are long standing, recognised and within acceptable levels of variation from the electoral quota; and
  - proposes a constituency with variation from electoral quota over 10%.

**Summary**

32. All three options consider the revised council area boundary by Keltybridge.
33. Option 1 retains the existing constituencies, offering continuity with the existing boundaries.
34. Option 1 offers recognised boundaries and only splits two wards across the council area.
35. Option 1 proposes variation from the electoral quota for all constituencies within 10%.
36. Option 2 makes minor adjustments to four constituencies to improve variation from the electoral quota whilst still being cognisant of the review rules.

37. Option 2 only splits two wards, 8 (Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty) and ward 9 (Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy). The boundary in ward 8 follows the community council area boundary between Cardenden community council in the east and Benarty community council and Lochgelly community council in the west. Ward 9 is divided along the Burntisland community council boundary to the east of Burntisland and the Standing Stanes road to the north of Burntisland. These are all recognisable boundaries in the area.
38. Whilst Option 2 presents a cohesive Dunfermline constituency it presents a Cowdenbeath, Inverkeithing and Rosyth constituency that stretches from Crombie on the Forth coast in the south west to Balingry in the north of the constituency on the Perthshire border.
39. Option 3 presents an alternative solution that does not split any wards but makes changes to four Fife constituencies. North East Fife is unchanged.
40. Option 3 proposes the same Dunfermline constituency as in Option 2, a more compact Cowdenbeath constituency, a coastal Kirkcaldy constituency and a Glenrothes constituency that rather than stretching to the coast as the existing constituency does, includes the neighbouring ward of Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty (ward 8)
41. Option 3 whilst not splitting any existing wards does not improve variation from the electoral quota across the council area and one constituency proposes variation from the electoral quota over 10%.

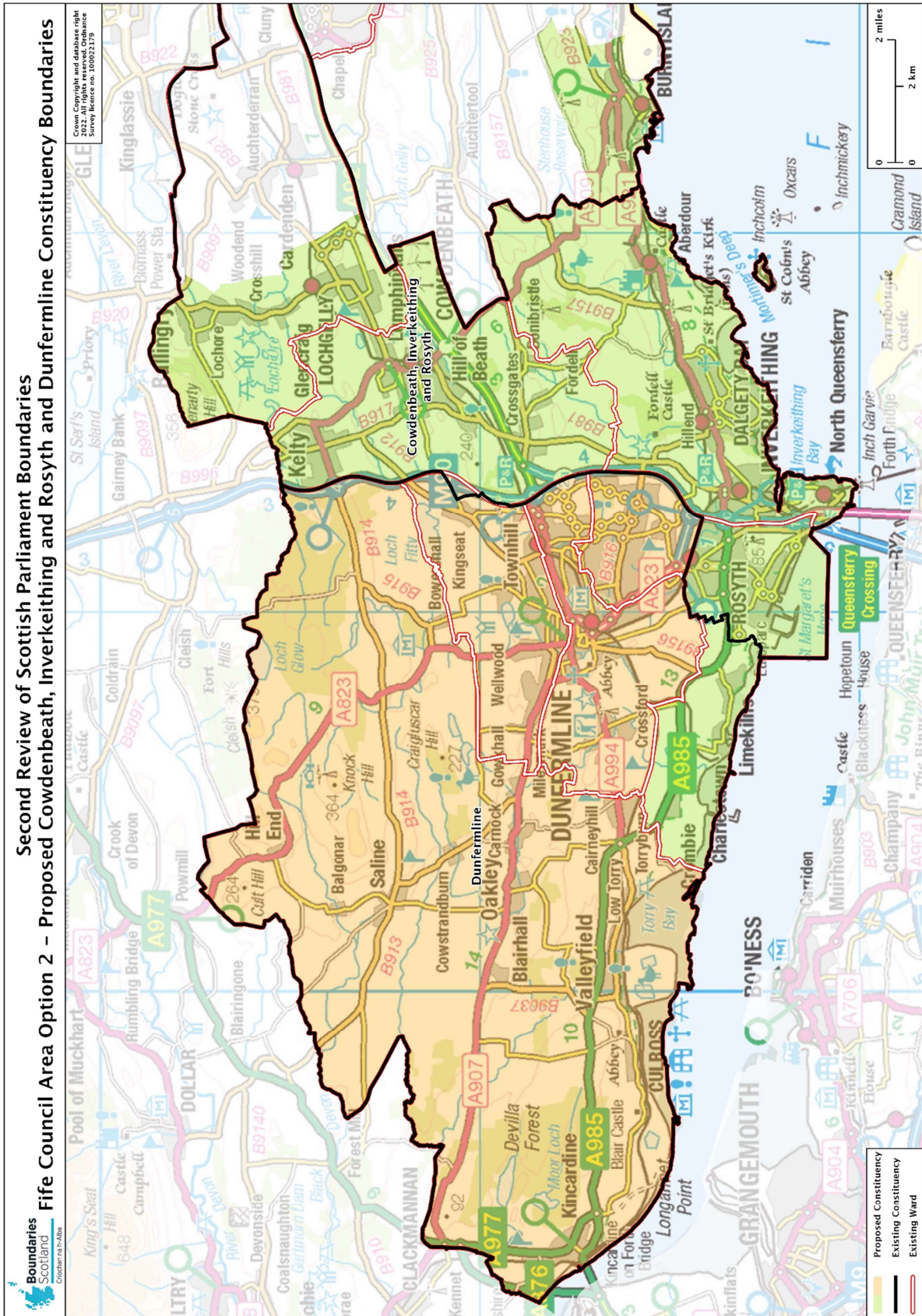
### **Conclusion**

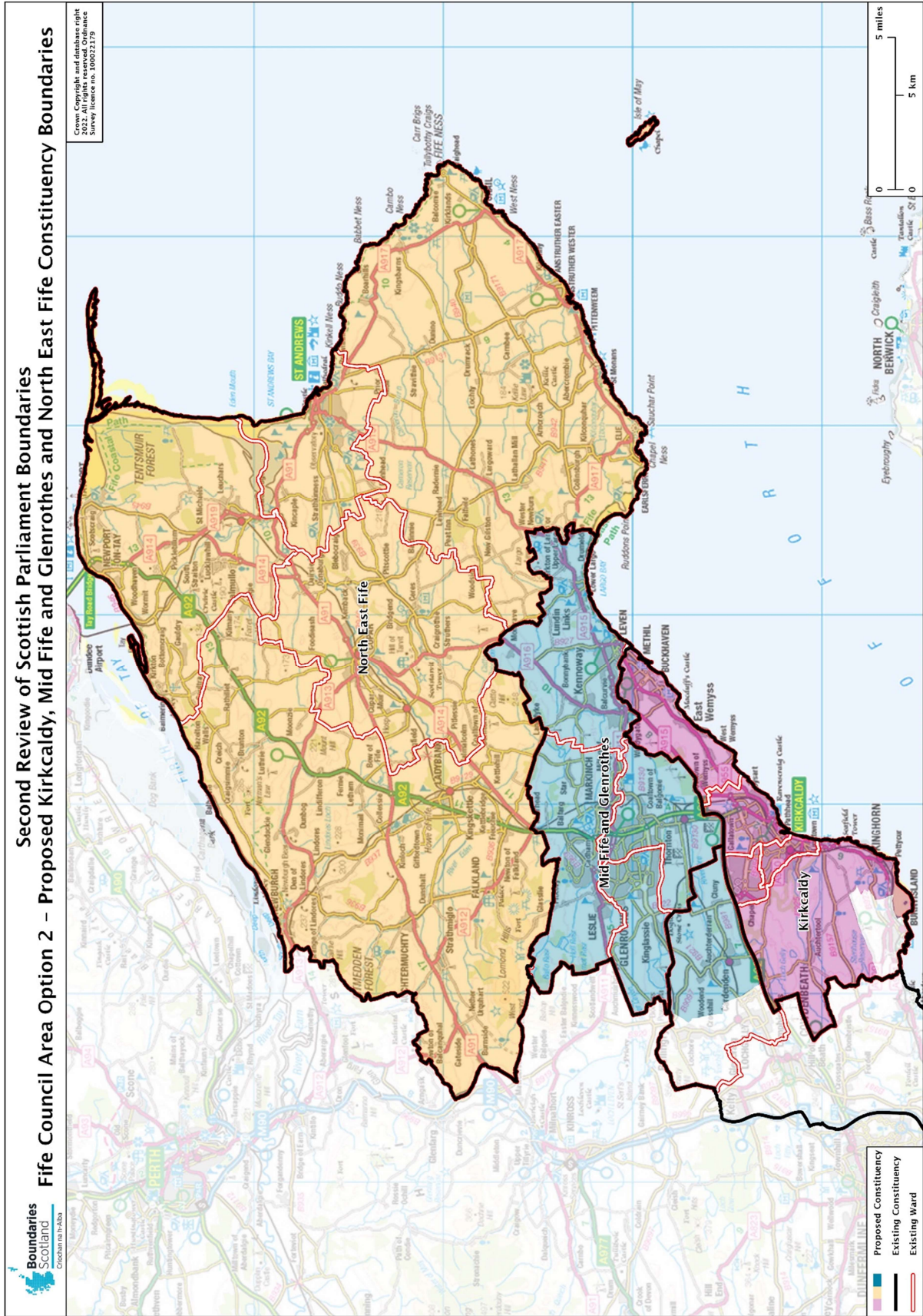
42. The Commission is invited to agree its Provisional Proposals in Fife council area for public consultation, subject to satisfactory constituencies being designed in other groupings.

**Secretariat**  
**December 2022**



Appendix B  
Option 2 (West Fife Constituencies)





Appendix C  
Option 3 (West Fife Constituencies)

