

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Draft Provisional Proposals for City of Edinburgh, East Lothian,
Midlothian and West Lothian Council areas**

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider its Provisional Proposals for the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian council areas 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 12 constituencies contained wholly within City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian council areas (see Paper BS 24). This paper offers six 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 City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian council areas is as shown in the table below:

Council area	Electorate (1 Sept 22)	Constituency entitlement
City of Edinburgh	400,466	6.7
East Lothian	88,539	1.5
Midlothian	76,131	1.3
West Lothian	146,456	2.4
Total	711,592	11.9

6. The electorates of the 11 existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Council areas are shown in the table below. Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale includes electors from Scottish Borders Council area :

Existing constituency	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Almond Valley	70,119	17.1%
East Lothian	67,523	12.7%
Edinburgh Central	65,240	8.9%
Edinburgh Eastern	72,512	21.1%
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	74,827	24.9%
Edinburgh Pentlands	59,274	-1.0%
Edinburgh Southern	62,786	4.8%
Edinburgh Western	65,827	9.9%
Linlithgow	76,337	27.4%
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	70,498	17.7%
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	64,697	8.0%

7. The existing Scottish Parliament boundaries have been in use since 2011.
8. Six of the existing constituencies are out-with 10% of the electoral quota, with three constituencies in excess of 20% variation from the electoral quota.
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. Five options are presented for consideration.

Option 1

12. Option 1 retains the 11 existing constituencies within City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Council areas.

13. The Commission agreed 12 constituencies for this grouping of council areas and this option would require the Commission to revise its constituency design approach. The existing Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale constituency includes Tweeddale from the Scottish Borders.

14. The existing constituency boundaries follow ward boundaries in place at the time of the First Review but the ward boundaries were altered following the 5th Reviews of Electoral Arrangements in 2017.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Almond Valley	70,119	17.1%	West Lothian 3,4,5,6,7(part)
East Lothian	67,523	12.7%	East Lothian 2,3(part),4,5,6
Edinburgh Central	65,240	8.9%	City of Edinburgh 5,6(part),7(part),9(part), 10(part), 11,15(part)
Edinburgh Eastern	72,512	21.1%	City of Edinburgh 14(part),16(part),17(part)
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	74,827	24.9%	City of Edinburgh 4,5(part),12,13,14(part)
Edinburgh Pentlands	59,274	-1.0%	City of Edinburgh 2,7(part),8,9(part)
Edinburgh Southern	62,786	4.8%	City of Edinburgh 9(part), 10(part), 15(part), 16(part), 17(part)
Edinburgh Western	65,827	9.9%	City of Edinburgh 1,3,5(part),6(part)
Linlithgow	76,337	27.4%	West Lothian 1,2,7(part)8,9
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	70,498	17.7%	East Lothian 1,3(part) Midlothian 2,3,4(part),5
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	64,697	8.0%	Midlothian 1, 4(part), 6 Scottish 1,2,3,5

15. A map of Option 1 can be found at Appendix A.

16. The advantage of Option 1 is that it retains the existing constituencies, which have been in place since 2011 and may avoid confusion for the local electorate.

17. The disadvantages of Option 1 are:

- six constituencies have a variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%. Three of those constituencies have a variation from the electoral quota in excess of 20%; and
- as it does not consider local authority boundaries and the Commission would need to revise its council area groupings for the remainder of Scotland in order to retain the existing arrangements in this grouping due to the inclusion of parts of Scottish Borders council area and retaining 11 rather than proposing 12 constituencies.

Option 2

18. Option 2 proposes a constituency design based on ward and council area boundaries and proposes 12 constituencies. The proposed Musselburgh and Midlothian North is the only constituency that crosses council area boundaries.

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

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Blackburn and Armadale	43,087	-28.1%	West Lothian 6,7,9
East Lothian	56,153	-6.3%	East Lothian 2,4-6
Edinburgh Central and Eastern	50,296	-16.0%	City of Edinburgh 15,17
Edinburgh Central and Northern	73,181	22.2%	City of Edinburgh 4,5,11
Edinburgh Pentlands	66,927	11.7%	City of Edinburgh 2,7,9
Edinburgh Southern	74,024	23.6%	City of Edinburgh 8,10,16
Edinburgh Western	66,001	10.2%	City of Edinburgh 1,3,6
Leith and East Edinburgh	70,037	16.9%	City of Edinburgh 12-14
Linlithgow	47,360	-20.9%	West Lothian 1,2,8
Livingston	56,009	-6.5%	West Lothian 3-5
Midlothian South	52,181	-12.9%	Midlothian 1,2,4,6
Musselburgh and Midlothian North	56,336	-6.0%	East Lothian 1,3 Midlothian 3,5

20. The advantages of Option 2 are it:

- respects council area boundaries in Edinburgh and West Lothian. It proposes a single constituency that overlaps two different council areas – Musselburgh and Midlothian North. The existing Musselburgh and Midlothian North constituency also includes parts of East Lothian and Midlothian; and
- respects ward boundaries that have been in place since 2017 or longer.

21. The disadvantage of Option 2 are it:

- proposes nine constituencies with variation from the electoral quota over 10% including four in excess of 20%; and
- does not retain any of the existing constituencies, although only five of the existing constituencies have variation from the electorate quota over 10%.

22. The Commission could also consider the East Lothian and Midlothian Council area boundaries and propose two constituencies that are coterminous with their respective council area boundaries. An East Lothian constituency, with 88,539 electors would propose variation from the electoral quota at +48%. A Midlothian constituency, with 76,131 electors would propose variation from the electoral quota at +27%.

Option 3

23. Option 3 aims to improve variation from the electorate quota and minimise the number of split wards.
24. Option 3 proposes a Linlithgow constituency that includes parts of Edinburgh Council area and West Lothian Council area. Option 3 also proposes a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency that contains parts of three council areas (East Lothian, Midlothian and City of Edinburgh).
25. A map of Option 3 can be found at Appendix C.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota	Wards
Almond Valley	61,257	2.3%	West Lothian 6,7,8,9
East Lothian	59,385	-0.9%	East Lothian 2(part),3(part),4,5,6
Edinburgh Central	59,203	-1.2%	City of Edinburgh 11,12(part),15
Edinburgh Eastern	64,870	8.3%	City of Edinburgh 14,16,17(part)
Edinburgh Pentlands	53,601	-10.5%	City of Edinburgh 2,7,9(part)
Edinburgh Southern	58,121	-3.0%	City of Edinburgh 8,9(part),10
Edinburgh Western	63,152	5.4%	City of Edinburgh 3,5,6
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	59,650	-0.4%	City of Edinburgh 4,12(part),13
Linlithgow	56,798	-5.2%	West Lothian 1,2 City of Edinburgh 1
Livingston	56,009	-6.5%	West Lothian 3,4,5
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	55,122	-8.0%	East Lothian 1,2(part),3 Midlothian 3 City of Edinburgh 17 (part)
Midlothian South	64,424	7.5%	Midlothian 1,2,4,5,6

26. The advantages of Option 3 are it:
- addresses the variation from electoral quota across the grouping. It proposes 12 constituencies that have variation from the electoral quota within 10%; and
 - splits only five wards across 12 constituencies.
27. The disadvantages of Option 3 are:
- there is little to connect north west of Edinburgh neighbourhoods such as Muirhouse or Silverknowes with communities in West Lothian such as Linlithgow; and
 - it proposes a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency that contains parts of three council areas.

Option 3A

28. Option 3A is similar to Option 3.

29. Option 3A retains six of the constituencies from Option 3 but aims to address the breaking of local ties in the west of Edinburgh. It places Cramond, Muirhouse and Silverknowes in an Edinburgh Western constituency and Ratho in a Linlithgow constituency.

30. A map of Option 3A can be found at Appendix D.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Bathgate and Armadale	60,622	1.2%	West Lothian 5,6,7,9(part)
East Lothian	59,385	-0.9%	East Lothian 2(part),3(part),4,5,6
Edinburgh Central	69,104	15.4%	City of Edinburgh 5(part),11,12(part),15
Edinburgh Eastern	64,870	8.3%	City of Edinburgh 14,16,17(part)
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	63,490	6.0%	City of Edinburgh 4,5(part),12(part),13
Edinburgh Pentlands	51,408	-14.2%	City of Edinburgh 2(part),7,9(part)
Edinburgh Southern	58,121	-3.0%	City of Edinburgh 8,9(part),10
Edinburgh Western	63,020	5.2%	City of Edinburgh 1(part),3,5(part),6
Linlithgow	46,017	-23.2%	West Lothian 1,2,9(part) City of Edinburgh 1(part),2(part)
Livingston	56,009	-6.5%	West Lothian 3,4,5
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	55,122	-8.0%	East Lothian 1,2(part),3(part) Midlothian 3 City of Edinburgh 17(part)
Midlothian South	64,424	7.5%	Midlothian 1,2,4,5,6

31. The advantages of Option 3A are it:

- seeks to address the possible issues seen in the proposed Option 3 by minimising the number of electors from north west Edinburgh being placed within a Linlithgow constituency.

32. The disadvantages of Option 3A are it:

- proposes three constituencies with variation from the electoral quota over 10%; and
- proposes a constituency that contains part of three council areas.

Option 4

33. Option 4 proposes a constituency design based on Edinburgh neighbourhoods rather than electoral wards. The neighbourhoods in Edinburgh are defined by other strong bounding features such as arterial routes, rivers and railway lines within the city. The design also considers ward boundaries in the other three council areas in this grouping.

34. Using main roads, railway lines and rivers as bounding features gives a greater flexibility when designing constituencies as the electorate can be plotted with more granularity than is possible when basing electorate purely on wards. It is therefore possible to create constituencies with an improved variation from the electoral quota although this may be at the expense of regard for established local electoral boundaries.

35. With this flexibility it is possible to depart from ward boundaries in central Edinburgh and follow existing Scottish Parliament boundaries west of the city centre and also still follow strong features such as Comiston Road and Colinton Road in the south of Edinburgh as a boundary between Edinburgh South West and Edinburgh Southern.

36. Option 4 also places parts of north west Edinburgh in a constituency with parts of West Lothian.

37. A map of Option 4 can be found at Appendix E.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
East Lothian	57,462	-4.1%	East Lothian 2,3(part),4,5,6
Edinburgh Central	65,153	8.8%	City of Edinburgh 5(part),6(part),7(part),9(part),10(part),11(part),15(part)
Edinburgh Eastern	60,652	1.3%	City of Edinburgh 11(part),14(part),15(part), 16(part),17
Edinburgh North Western	64,880	8.3%	City of Edinburgh 1,3(part),4(part),5(part),6(part)
Edinburgh South West	59,908	0.0%	City of Edinburgh 2(part),3(part),7(part), 8(part),9(part),10(part)
Edinburgh Southern	58,297	-2.7%	City of Edinburgh 8(part),10(part),15(part),16(part)
Leith and Edinburgh Northern	61,252	2.3%	City of Edinburgh 4(part),5(part),12,13,14(part)
Linlithgow, Bathgate and Edinburgh Western	62,043	3.6%	West Lothian 1,2,8,9 City of Edinburgh 1(part)
Livingston North and Whitburn	60,833	1.6%	West Lothian 3,6,7,9
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	51,003	-14.9%	Midlothian 3,5(part) East Lothian 1,3(part),
Midlothian South	56,205	-6.2%	Midlothian 1,2,4,5(part),6
Pentlands and Livingston South	53,904	-10.0%	West Lothian 4,5 City of Edinburgh 2(part)

38. The advantages of Option 4 are:

- all but two constituencies propose variation from electoral quota within 10%;

- no constituencies include parts of three council areas; and
- may better reflects local community ties;

39. The disadvantages of Option 4 are it:

- proposes two constituencies with variation from the electoral quota out-with 10%;
- Livingston is split between constituencies;
- splits 14 of the 17 Edinburgh wards and proposes three constituencies that contain parts of two council areas;
- places electors from south west Edinburgh (Balerno, Currie and Juniper Green) with electors from West Lothian.

Summary

40. Option 1 retains all 11 of the existing constituencies, offering continuity with the existing boundaries. All of the other options propose 12 constituencies and retain none of the existing constituencies. The existing constituencies have six constituencies with variation from the electoral quota in excess of 10%, with three of those in excess of 20%. If the Commission retained the existing constituencies it would need to revise its council area groupings for the remainder of Scotland as one of the existing constituencies includes part of Scottish Borders. West Lothian Council area has also seen an 16% increase in electorate since the first review reported in 2011.

41. Options 1 and 2 both propose one constituency which overlaps a council area boundary. Options 3 and 3A propose one constituency which overlaps a council area boundary and one constituency that contains parts of three council areas. Option 4 proposes three constituencies which overlap a council area boundary.

42. Option 1 splits 12 wards. Option 2 avoids splitting any wards. Option 3 splits five wards. Option 3A splits nine wards. Option 4 splits 16 wards.

43. Option 1 proposes six constituencies out-with 10% variation from the electoral quota. Option 2 proposes eight constituencies out-with 10% variation from the electoral quota. Option 3 proposes no constituencies out-with 10% variation from the electoral quota. Option 3A proposes three constituencies out-with 10% variation from the electoral quota. Option 4 proposes one constituency out-with 10% variation from the electoral quota.

44. Option 1 proposes three constituencies out-with 20% variation from the electoral quota. Option 2 proposes two constituencies out-with 20% variation from the electoral quota. Option 3A proposes one constituency out-with 20% variation from the electoral quota. Options 3 and 4 propose no constituencies out-with 20% variation from the electoral quota.

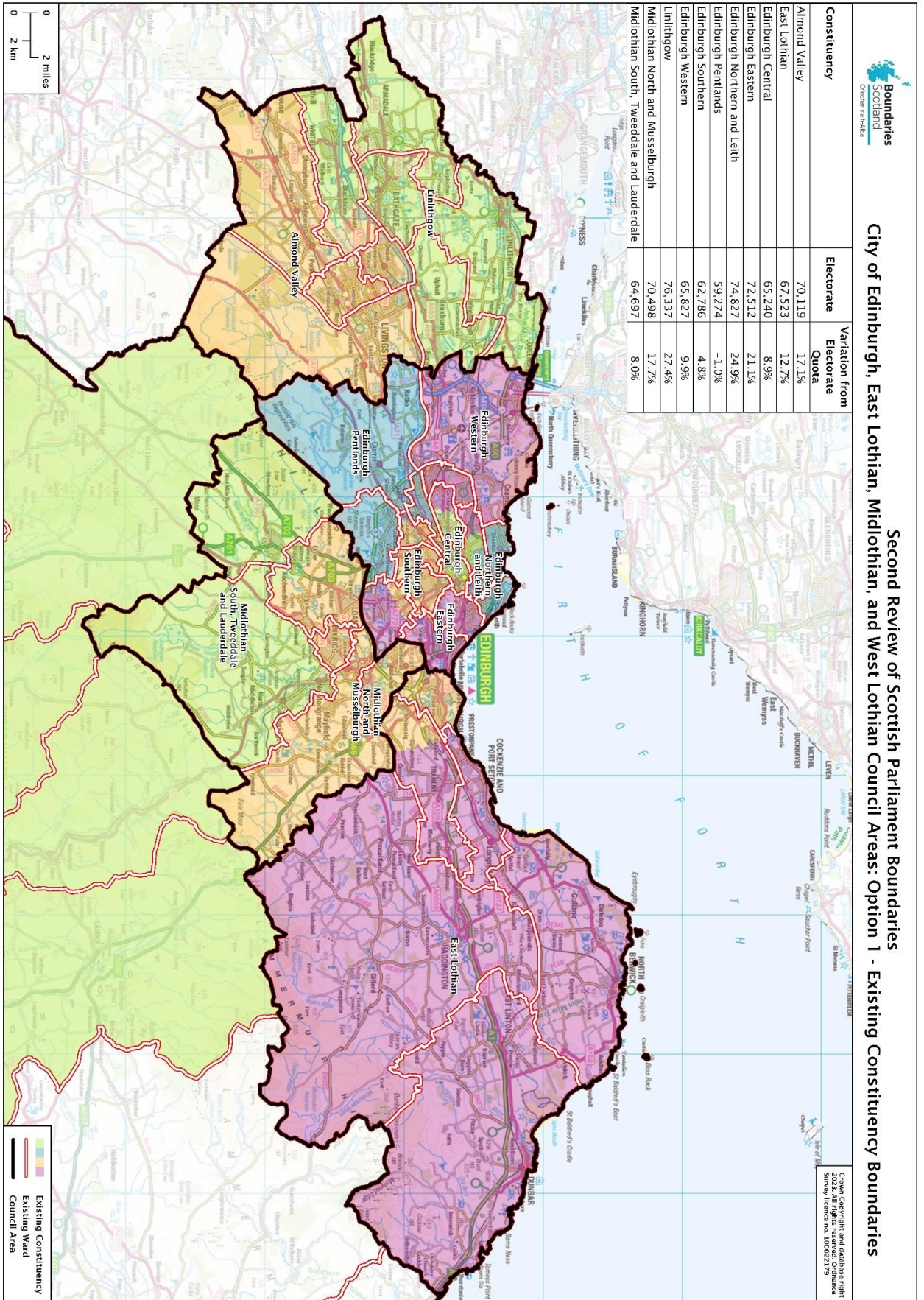
45. Option 1 retains the existing boundaries which may be recognised by the local electorate. Options 1 and 2 may better reflect local ties in Edinburgh and West Lothian as the council area boundary is used as a constituency boundary. Option 2 proposes an oddly shaped Musselburgh and Midlothian North constituency and may break local ties between Bonnyrigg and Dalkeith and by Prestonpans. Option 3 may break local ties in the north west of Edinburgh. Option 4 may break local ties in the south west of Edinburgh. Option 4 does not follow ward boundaries but may better reflect local communities.

46. None of the options link Midlothian with West Lothian as they do not share a boundary. At their closest extent they are divided by part of Scottish Borders Council area in the Pentland Hills.

Conclusion

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

Secretariat
February 2023





City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, and West Lothian Council Areas: Option 2 - Proposed Constituency Boundaries

