

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Draft Provisional Proposals for Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire Council areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider its Provisional Proposals for South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council areas for its Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries.

Background

2. At its meeting of 9 March 2023 the Commission considered BS Paper 40 Draft Provisional Proposals for South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council areas.
3. The Commission preferred Option 2 from BS Paper 40 because the other options did not consider council area boundaries and may break local ties by Blantyre and East Kilbride.
4. The Commission asked the Secretariat to bring a revised paper to the next Commission meeting that considered the advantages and disadvantages of following the existing constituency boundary by Blantyre. Option 2 had followed a ward boundary in that area.
5. The electorate quota for the Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries is 59,902 electors per constituency.
6. The constituency entitlement for South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders areas is as shown in the table below:

Council area	Electorate (1 Sept 22)	Constituency entitlement
South Lanarkshire	258,377	4.3
Scottish Borders	93,179	1.6
Total	351,556	5.9

7. The electorates of the seven existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within South Lanarkshire and Scottish Borders Council are shown in the table below. The Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale constituency includes electors from Midlothian Council area and Uddingston and Bellshill constituency includes electors from North Lanarkshire Council area.

Existing constituency	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota
Clydesdale	61,011	1.9%
East Kilbride	60,763	1.4%
Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	55,131	-8.0%
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	59,596	-0.5%
Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale	64,697	8.0%
Rutherglen	62,885	5.0%
Uddingston and Bellshill	58,842	-1.8%

8. The existing Scottish Parliament boundaries have been in use since 2011.
9. All of the existing constituencies are within 10% of the electoral quota.

10. 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.

11. Maps of the existing constituencies in this grouping can be found at Appendix A.

Options

12. Two options are presented for consideration: Option 2, is Option 2 from Paper BS 40; and Option 2A, is an amended version of Option 2 by Blantyre.

13. A map of Option 2 and 2A can be found at Appendix A. The shaded area in the map is added to a Hamilton constituency in option 2A. The existing constituencies are represented by a black line.

Option 2

14. Option 2 proposes a constituency design based on ward boundaries.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Hamilton	54,493	-9.0%	South Lanarkshire 16-19
Rutherglen	62,403	4.2%	South Lanarkshire 11-15

15. The advantages of Option 2 are:

- all constituencies are within 10% variation from the electoral quota; and
- it avoids splitting any wards.

16. The disadvantages of Option 2 are it creates a bottle neck shaped Hamilton constituency, near Blantyre.

Option 2A

17. Option 2A follows the existing constituency boundary by Blantyre (railway line and stream). It adds the shaded area in Appendix A to a Hamilton constituency.

18. It transfers three electors, who reside by an industrial estate, from a Rutherglen constituency to a Hamilton constituency.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Hamilton	54,496	-9.0%	South Lanarkshire 15(part), 16-19
Rutherglen	62,400	4.2%	South Lanarkshire 11-14, 15(part)

19. The advantages of Option 2A are:

- all constituencies are within 10% variation from the electoral quota; and
- it avoids a bottle neck shaped Hamilton constituency, near Blantyre.

20. The disadvantages of Option 2 are it:

- splits a ward between constituencies.

Summary

21. The original Scottish Parliament boundaries, from 1999-2011, had followed the ward boundary in this area but Bothwell sat in a constituency with Bellshill in North Lanarkshire.
22. The First Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries Report stated the boundary was amended because other areas of the constituency boundary had followed a railway line.
23. The existing constituency boundary splits the Blantyre ward boundary by following a railway line and stream.
24. The area contains an industrial estate and a few houses.
25. The existing UK Parliament Lanark and Hamilton East constituency boundary follows the ward boundary and has a bottle neck shape. The Boundary Commission for Scotland are undertaking their 2023 Review and this boundary may change.
26. A constituency boundary that aligns with ward boundaries may simplify local government and Scottish Parliament representation.
27. A constituency boundary that follows ward boundaries may simplify electoral administration.
28. Both options propose constituencies within 10% variation from the electoral quota.
29. Option 2 splits no wards. Option 2A splits one ward.

Conclusion

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

**Secretariat
April 2023**

