

Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries
Consideration of responses to consultation on provisional proposals for
constituency boundaries – Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire
and West Dunbartonshire Council areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider responses to the consultation on its provisional proposals and whether it wishes to make changes to its proposals for Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas.

Background

2. The electorates of the nine existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas are shown in the table below:

Existing constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Airdrie and Shotts	54,205	-9.5%	North Lanarkshire 8, 9, 12, 13(part)
Argyll and Bute	49,535	-17.3%	Argyll and Bute 1-8
Clydebank and Milngavie	55,121	-8.0%	East Dunbartonshire 1-2 West Dunbartonshire 2(part), 4-6
Coatbridge and Chryston	56,877	-5.0%	North Lanarkshire 5-7, 10-11
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	51,210	-14.5%	North Lanarkshire 1-4
Dumbarton	56,120	-6.3%	Argyll and Bute 9-11 West Dunbartonshire 1, 2(part), 3
Motherwell and Wishaw	57,740	-3.6%	North Lanarkshire 13(part), 17, 18(part), 19-21
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	63,895	6.7%	East Dunbartonshire 3-7
Uddingston and Bellshill	58,842	-1.8%	South Lanarkshire 15 (part), 16, 17(part) North Lanarkshire 14-16, 18(part)

3. The provisional proposals made changes to all of the existing constituency boundaries.
4. The provisional proposals aimed to adhere to the principles of the review. The provisional proposals: improved variation from the electorate quota from the existing arrangements; and aimed to consider local ties.
5. The provisional proposals proposed eight new constituencies, amending the existing boundaries by Loch Lomond, Clydebank, Bearsden and throughout North Lanarkshire.
6. The existing constituencies included parts of South Lanarkshire Council area.
7. The electorate of these council areas and their theoretical entitlement to constituencies is shown in the table below.

Council Area	Electorate (1 Sept 22)	Constituency theoretical entitlement
Argyll and Bute	69,252	1.2
East Dunbartonshire	86,592	1.4
North Lanarkshire	264,752	4.4
West Dunbartonshire	68,827	1.1

8. The electorate of the neighbouring council areas and their theoretical entitlement to constituencies is shown in the table below.

Council Area	Electorate (1 Sept 22)	Constituency theoretical entitlement
Falkirk	125,390	2.1
Glasgow City	460,012	7.7
Highland	189,218	3.2
South Lanarkshire	258,377	4.3
Stirling	71,003	1.2
West Lothian	146,456	2.4

9. The electorates of the eight proposed Scottish Parliament constituencies within Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas are shown in the table below:

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota	Wards
Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts	66,243	10.6%	North Lanarkshire 8-9, 12-13, 20(part)
Argyll and Bute	55,737	-7.0%	Argyll and Bute 1-9
Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North	58,415	-2.5%	East Dunbartonshire 1-3 West Dunbartonshire 4-5,6(part)
Bellshill and Coatbridge	63,361	5.8%	North Lanarkshire 7, 10-11, 14-15, 16(part)
Cumbernauld and Chryston	62,578	4.5%	North Lanarkshire 2-6
Dumbarton and Helensburgh	57,666	-3.7%	Argyll and Bute 10-11 West Dunbartonshire 1-3, 6(part)
Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth	62,771	4.8%	East Dunbartonshire 4-7 North Lanarkshire 1
Motherwell	62,652	4.6%	North Lanarkshire 16(part), 17-19, 20(part), 21

10. A map of the provisional proposals is at Appendix A.

Rules

11. 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.

Local Inquiry

12. None of the Councils within this grouping objected to the provisional proposals. However over 100 responses to the consultation objected to the proposals because they split Clydebank between a Dumbarton and Helensburgh constituency and a Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North constituency. The Commission may wish to consider holding a local inquiry in Clydebank to hear more local views.

Representations received

13. About 400 responses were received for these constituencies during the one month consultation period. All responses have been shared with the Commission. Responses to the consultation will be available on the Commission's consultation site www.consult.boundaries.scot if the respondent gave permission to do so.

Summary of responses

14. Suggestions and comments received during the initial consultation included:

- opposition to Clydebank being split between two constituencies;
- opposition to including Newmains in a constituency with Airdrie;
- suggestions to include the villages of Baldernock, Balmore and Bardowie in a constituency with Milngavie; and
- opposition to Helensburgh and Rhu being in separate constituencies.

15. The maps in this paper show alternative suggestions in block colours, existing ward boundaries are red and provisional proposal boundaries are a black line unless stated otherwise.

Argyll and Bute Consultation Responses and Analysis

16. There were approximately 20 responses from members of the public regarding the provisional proposals for Argyll and Bute council area, with most comments relating to the proposed boundary splitting local ties by Helensburgh.

17. The provisional proposals added the Argyll and Bute council area's Lomond North ward (it includes Rhu, Arrochar and Garelochhead) to the existing Argyll and Bute constituency. The Lomond North ward currently sits in a Dumbarton constituency with Helensburgh and Dumbarton.

18. Members of the public opposed the provisional proposals because:

- there is no strong boundary between Helensburgh and Rhu;
- it will increase the area of an already large Argyll and Bute constituency;
- there are close local ties (including schools, access to local amenities) between Rhu or Shandon and Helensburgh;
- Rhu and Shandon look towards Helensburgh and Dumbarton and not Oban, Lochgilphead or Campbeltown;
- they can easily access their MSP offices at Dumbarton;
- Rhu, Shandon and Helensburgh should remain within the same Dumbarton or Argyll and Bute constituency;
- the review is a cost saving exercise; and
- they wish keep constituency boundaries as close to council area boundaries as possible.

19. Cllr Math Campbell–Sturgess (Helensburgh and Lomond South ward) stated boundaries should consider community ties.

20. A member of the public supported the proposals but offered no explanation.

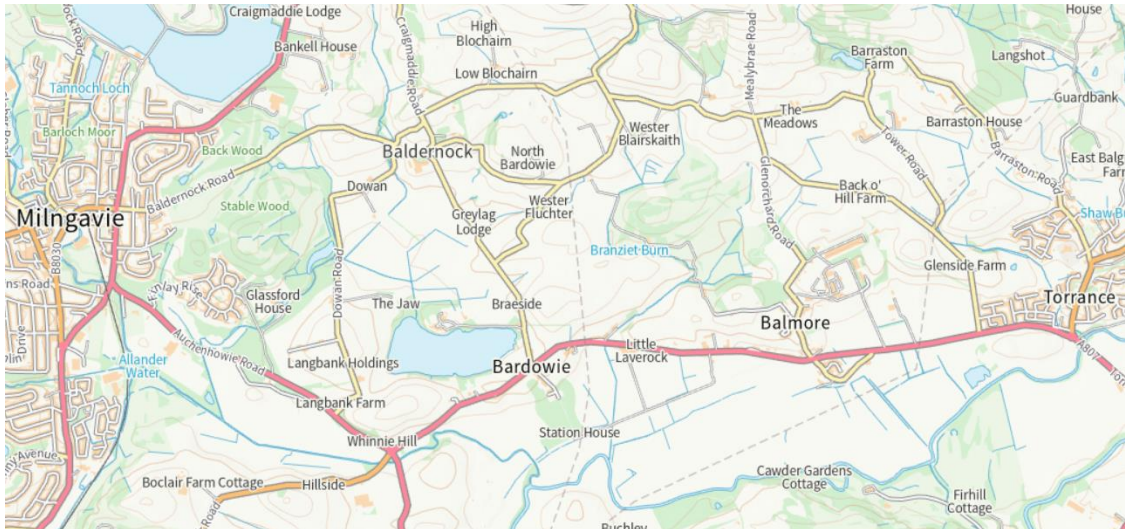
21. Argyll and Bute Council noted the proposals but made no comment on them.

22. To avoid the division of Helensburgh from Rhu/ Shandon the Commission could retain the existing Argyll and Bute constituency. It has variation from the electorate quota at –17% but special geographical circumstances could be considered there because of the rural remote island communities within the constituency and it would avoid the breaking of local ties by Rhu. Retaining the

existing Argyll and Bute constituency boundary could also avoid the division of Clydebank. This is shown in Paper 73.

East Dunbartonshire Consultation Responses and Analysis

23. There were nearly 50 responses from members of the public regarding the provisional proposals for East Dunbartonshire council area. Most comments suggested including Baldernock, Balmore and Bardowie in the same constituency as Milngavie.
24. In East Dunbartonshire the provisional proposals placed Bearsden and Milngavie in the same constituency. Bearsden and Milngavie currently sit in two separate constituencies.
25. Members of the public from Baldernock, Balmore and Bardowie opposed the proposals because:
- they wish their communities to be situated in the same constituency as Milngavie;
 - they access local services such as schools, healthcare, shopping, social, cultural links, recreation, places of worship, libraries, work or transport links in Milngavie and one MSP should represent both Milngavie and their areas;
 - they have little in common with Kirkintilloch or Kilsyth;
 - Council and parliamentary boundaries should align where possible;
 - including their areas in a Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank constituency would improve variation from electoral parity;
 - there is nothing to connect them with Kilsyth or Kirkintilloch;
 - they have shared needs and priorities; and
 - there are better transport links to Milngavie than Kirkintilloch
26. Baldernock, Balmore and Bardowie currently sit within a Strathkelvin and Bearsden constituency, while Milngavie sits within a Clydebank and Milngavie constituency.
27. Baldernock, Balmore and Bardowie are situated in farmland between Milngavie and Torrance, there are no strong bounding features between the areas. See map below. These villages have approximately 500 electors so adding them to a Milngavie constituency would have little impact on variation from the electorate quota but would split the Bishopbriggs North and Campsie ward.



28. Historically these villages have always been in a separate ward, Scottish Parliament or UK Parliament constituency to Milngavie, except since 2005 when they have all been in the same East Dunbartonshire UK Parliament constituency.

29. Rona Mackay MSP for Strathkelvin and Bearsden stated they were “generally supportive, with the strong caveat that no local authority wards are artificially split and that no towns are split in half. One community should not be kept together, at the expense of splitting up another one as a general principle.”

30. A member of the public opposed the proposals because they do not reflect historical ties within the area.

31. East Dunbartonshire Council had no comment on the proposed boundaries but suggested that Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth be renamed as Strathkelvin and Kilsyth because Strathkelvin represents Kirkintilloch, Bishopbriggs, Torrance and Campsie.

32. There were no comments from members of the public regarding the proposals in other areas of East Dunbartonshire such as Bearsden, Bishopbriggs, Kirkintilloch, Lennoxton, Milngavie or Torrance.

North Lanarkshire Consultation Responses and Analysis

33. There were over 110 responses from members of the public regarding the provisional proposals for North Lanarkshire Council area. Most comments opposed the inclusion of Newmains in the same constituency as Airdrie.

34. The provisional proposals made changes to all of the existing constituency boundaries in North Lanarkshire.

35. Members of the public from Newmains, Coltness and Cambusnethan opposed the proposals because:

- Newmains is part of Wishaw and has nothing to connect it with Airdrie and Shotts;
- they wish to remain in a Motherwell and Wishaw constituency or seek no change;
- they access local services such as healthcare in Motherwell or Wishaw rather than Airdrie;
- better transport links to Motherwell than Airdrie;
- easier to access their MSP in Motherwell than Airdrie;
- the proposed Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts constituency has an electorate well above the quota average;
- Coltness and Cambusnethan belong to Motherwell and Wishaw as there is no physical boundary between them;
- it will affect access to their local services and amenities (Community Police, schools, education placements, NHS enquiries, council enquiries, connections with councillors and working practises);
- the M8 motorway acts as a boundary between Airdrie and Motherwell;
- Wishaw has historical, cultural, and contemporary links with Motherwell and none with Airdrie;
- oppose the loss of Wishaw from a constituency name;
- more challenging for an MSP to represent a larger Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts constituency; and
- support for the views of Clare Adamson MSP.

36. Motherwell, Wishaw, Coltness, Cambusnethan and Newmains all currently sit within a Motherwell and Wishaw Scottish Parliament constituency. Since 1974 Motherwell, Wishaw, Coltness and Cambusnethan have sat in the same UK Parliament constituency. Since 1997 Newmains has been situated in an Airdrie and Shotts UK Parliament constituency.

37. There are no strong bounding features to demarcate these towns, they are almost one large conurbation as shown in the map below.

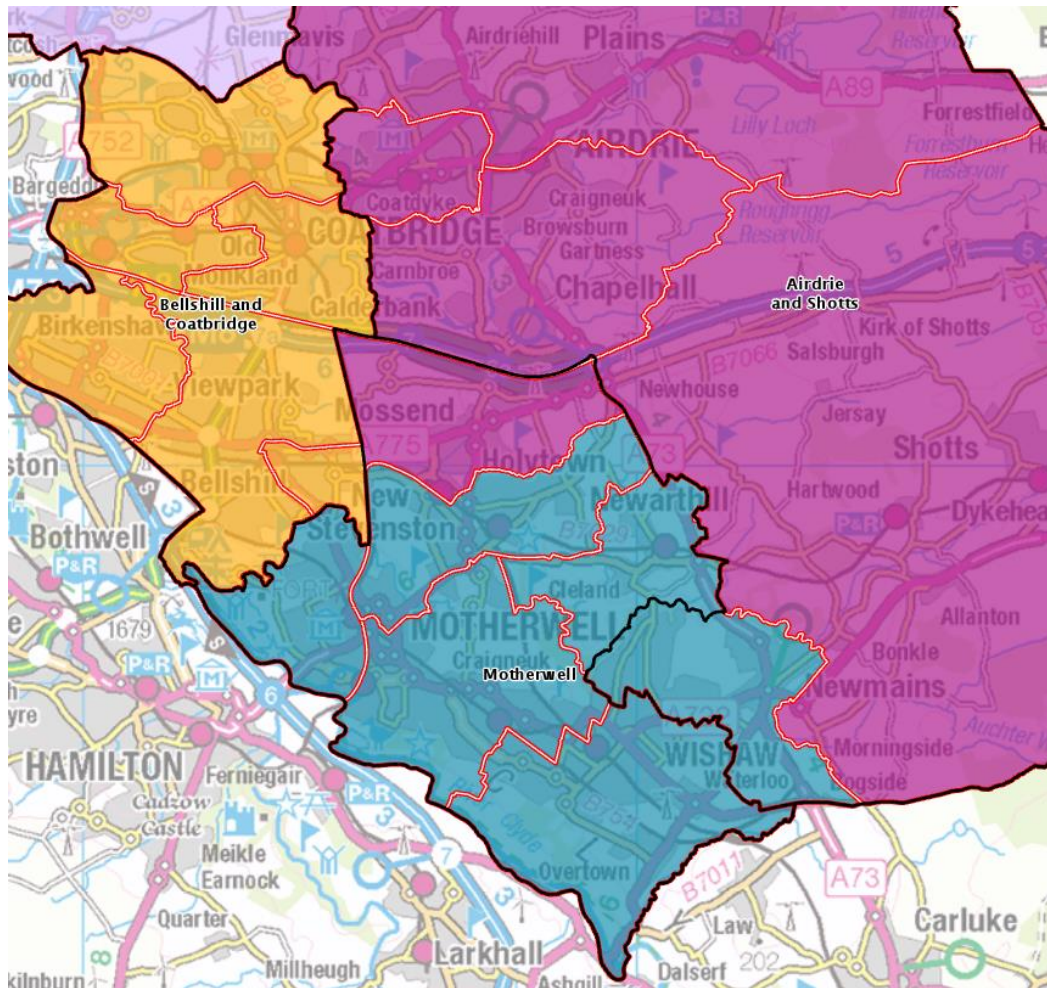


38. A member of the public supported the proposed Cumbernauld and Chryston constituency.

39. A member of the public suggested amending the proposed Motherwell constituency boundary to “remove the Mossend and Holytown ward as well as minor changes around Newarthill/Carfin to accommodate a much more geographically correct constituency which connects all main parts of Motherwell and Wishaw to not only avoid confusion, but for geographical and democratic accountability and connection.”

40. A map and electorate table of this suggestion are shown below.

Existing constituencies	Electorate	Variation from electoral quota	Wards
Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts	60,816	1.5%	North Lanarkshire 8, 9, 12, 13, 16(part)
Bellshill and Coatbridge	63,361	5.8%	North Lanarkshire 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16(part)
Motherwell	68,079	13.7%	North Lanarkshire 17-21



41. The advantage of this suggestion are it may better reflect local ties and follows ward boundaries (rule 4).
42. The disadvantage of this suggestion are it worsens variation from the electorate quota in one constituency (rule 2), although further analysis could improve this.
43. A member of the Scottish Youth Parliament opposed the proposals because it splits Kilsyth and Cumbernauld between two constituencies and the proposed Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth constituency covers two council areas which will be confusing for local electors.
44. Cumbernauld and Kilsyth currently sit in the same Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Scottish Parliament constituency. Since 1983 Cumbernauld and Kilsyth have sat in the same UK Parliament constituency.
45. Councillor Alan Masterton (Cumbernauld North ward) wished to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency.

46. The existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency has variation from the electorate quota at -14.5%.

47. Cllr Denis Johnston (Kilsyth ward) suggested a Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Moodiesburn constituency. They opposed the proposed Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth constituency because:

- Kilsyth has been linked with Cumbernauld for decades, from District Councils in 1975, UK Parliament seat since 1983 and the Scottish Parliament since 1999. There is a strong bond between the two towns and the proposals break well-established links; and
- pairing Kilsyth with Kirkintilloch would place the town and surrounding villages in a constituency with a different local authority and health board.

48. The Kilsyth and Villages SNP Branch objected to dividing the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency because the proposals do not consider council area boundaries or health board boundaries and split close ties between Kilsyth and Cumbernauld. They suggested including part of the Moodiesburn ward in a Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency as well.

49. No alternative boundaries were provided by Cllr Johnston or the Kilsyth and Villages SNP Branch but the Secretariat has drafted this suggestion and considered the wider area. A map of this suggestion is shown in Appendix C and the electorate is shown in the table below.

Suggested constituency	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota
Airdrie and Shotts	65,388	9.2%
Argyll and Bute	49,535	-17.3%
Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch	63,377	5.8%
Bearsden, Clydebank and Milngavie	66,154	10.4%
Coatbridge	58,789	-1.9%
Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Moodiesburn	61,972	3.5%
Dumbarton	56,129	-6.3%
Motherwell	68,079	13.7%

50. The advantages of this suggestion are:

- retains Clydebank as well as Cumbernauld and Kilsyth in the same constituency, retaining local ties (rule 4);
- it may better reflect local ties by retaining Helensburgh and Rhu in the same constituency (rule 4);

- Motherwell, Wishaw, Newmains and Cambusnethan are in the same constituency (rule 4); and
- broadly considers the existing boundaries in North Lanarkshire (rule 4).

51. The disadvantage of this suggestion are it proposes a Motherwell constituency with variation from the electorate quota at 13.7%. To resolve this it may require Motherwell being split between two constituencies.
52. Cllr Cameron McManus (Murdostoun ward) stated the provisional proposals are “dividing towns and villages, taking them away from their strong historical links and foundations.”
53. Clare Adamson MSP for Motherwell and Wishaw stated Motherwell and Wishaw are traditionally an urban constituency and the proposals will divide Wishaw and residents of Newmains, Coltness and Cambusnethan. Wishaw shares historical, cultural, and contemporary community links with Motherwell and surrounding settlements and there is nothing to link it with Airdrie. The Murdostoun ward (Newmains) fits more readily with Motherwell and Wishaw and has good transport links within it, while there are poor transport links to Airdrie. They suggested keeping the Murdostoun ward in a Motherwell constituency, while part of the Motherwell North ward could become part of an Airdrie constituency.
54. A table with this suggestion is shown below and a map can be found at Appendix B. The suggestion creates an oddly shaped Airdrie and Shotts constituency and proposes Airdrie and Shotts and Motherwell constituencies with above average variation from the electorate quota.

Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota
Airdrie and Shotts	66,086	10.3%
Motherwell	67,381	12.5%

55. Jamie Hepburn MSP for Cumbernauld and Kilsyth objected to the proposals because Cumbernauld and Kilsyth have been twinned for municipal purposes since 1975 and paired in the same UK Parliament seat since 1983 and same Scottish Parliament seat since 1999. They also stated that many local charitable and voluntary organisations are organised on a Cumbernauld and Kilsyth basis. They wish to retain the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency and suggest the Commission hold a local inquiry to hear local views there.

56. Fulton MacGregor MSP for Coatbridge and Chryston objected to the proposals. He stated Bellshill is a large urban area that should be the focus of a constituency as should Coatbridge rather than combining the two areas together. He continued that although Coatbridge and Bellshill are close there is very little to connect them. People from Coatbridge have more in common with Airdrie, such as work and socialising, but he is not suggesting an Airdrie and Coatbridge constituency. He explained that some of the Chryston villages (Glenboig and Gartcosh) look towards Coatbridge rather than Kilsyth and highlighted that these areas expect a rapid increase in population over the next few years. They suggested retaining most of the existing Coatbridge and Chryston constituency although it could lose Stepps if required. They also suggested that if the existing Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency included some of the Chryston villages then the Coatbridge and Chryston constituency could include parts of Airdrie by Sykesdie Road (Ross Drive and Cromarty Rd estates), Deedes Street and by the Shawhead Flyover.

57. If the Commission decided to retain the existing constituency boundaries or agree an alternative grouping of constituencies it could consider some of these suggested boundaries. The existing Coatbridge and Chryston constituency has 56,877 electors (-5%) and Cumbernauld and Kilsyth constituency has 51,210 electors (-14.5%).

West Dunbartonshire Consultation Responses and Analysis

58. There were over 200 responses from members of the public regarding the provisional proposals for West Dunbartonshire Council area, with most comments opposing Clydebank being split between two constituencies.

59. The provisional proposals amended the existing boundaries by Clydebank, splitting the town between two constituencies.

60. Members of the public opposed the provisional proposals because:

- Clydebank should not be split between two constituencies;
- they wish no change to the existing constituency boundaries;
- they wish to retain the existing Clydebank and Milngavie constituency boundaries;
- Clydebank's history, identity and heritage will be lost;
- all of Clydebank should be placed in a Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank constituency;
- there is little to connect Clydebank with Dumbarton;
- it will alienate or divide communities from different parts of Clydebank;
- access to local services will worsen;

- Clydebank communities have shared or common issues and should have a sole MSP focussing on them; and
- Clydebank and Dumbarton are clearly demarcated by the Milton roundabout.

61. Cllr Craig Edward (Clydebank Central) stated the proposals will confuse local electors at local government, UK Parliament and Scottish Parliament elections and lose Clydebank's strong identity. He wished Clydebank to be represented in a single constituency.

62. Councillor Lauren Oxley (Clydebank Waterfront) opposed the proposals because: it splits their Clydebank ward between two constituencies; the proposed constituency names do not represent the areas; and it splits historical community ties in Clydebank.

63. A West Dunbartonshire Councillor opposed the proposals because Clydebank has little in common with Dumbarton and Helensburgh and its local electors will be confused by who represents them.

64. Marie McNair MSP for Clydebank and Milngavie highlighted that few of their constituents were aware of this review and consultation. They stated "it has been clear during this process that there has been an incredible lack of communication, engagement, and discussion with those who will be most impacted. I strongly urge the Commission to rectify these issues going forward."

65. A member of the public supported the proposals but offered no explanation.

66. West Dunbartonshire Council wished to retain the existing constituency boundaries to avoid splitting Clydebank between two constituencies. They also commented on the proposals by Helensburgh because "electors residing in the Lomond North ward will see their local administrative centre as being Helensburgh and not Lochgilphead, which is some considerable distance away. Evidence of this can be found in the education structure where most primary schools in Lomond North feed into Hermitage Academy High School in Helensburgh and some young people travel to Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School in Dumbarton." They wished to retain the existing constituency boundaries.

67. West Dunbartonshire Council area covers two existing constituencies, Clydebank and Milngavie (55,121 electors -8%) and Dumbarton (56,120 electors -6.3%).

The Commission could retain these constituencies but it is dependent on changes to neighbouring constituencies.

68. Historically Clydebank has never been split between two constituencies for either the Scottish or UK Parliaments.

69. The Commission could consider retaining the existing West Dunbartonshire constituencies (Dumbarton and Clydebank and Milngavie) to avoid dividing Clydebank, however this is dependent on retaining the existing Argyll and Bute constituency.

All Scotland Consultation Responses from National Political Parties that apply to this grouping and Analysis

70. The Scottish Liberal Democrats Party submitted an alternative suggestion. Their suggestion retains four of the proposed constituencies (grey in table below): Argyll and Bute; Airdrie and Shotts; Bellshill and Coatbridge; and Motherwell constituency boundaries. Their suggestion renames Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts as Airdrie and Shotts. They claim the benefits of their suggestion include:

- all constituencies are within 10% of the electorate quota;
- a more clearly defined boundary in Clydebank by following the Duntocher Burn and railway line and in Bishopbriggs by following the River Kelvin;
- better reflects local ties between Whitecrook and the rest of Clydebank;
- avoids the division of Bishopbriggs; and
- maintains strong community links between Cumbernauld and Kilsyth.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Variation from Electoral Quota	Wards
Airdrie and Shotts	66,243	10.6%	North Lanarkshire 8-9, 12-13, 20(part)
Argyll and Bute	55,737	-7.0%	Argyll and Bute 1-9
Bellshill and Coatbridge	63,361	5.8%	North Lanarkshire 7, 10-11, 14-15, 16(part)
Motherwell	62,652	4.6%	North Lanarkshire 16(part), 17-19, 20(part), 21
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	61,972	3.5%	North Lanarkshire 1-4, 6
Dumbarton, Helensburgh and Clydebank South	62,874	5.0%	Argyll and Bute 10-11 West Dunbartonshire 1-3, 5(part), 6

Bearsden, Milngavie and Duntocher	62,685	4.6%	East Dunbartonshire 1–3, 4(part) West Dunbartonshire 4, 5(part)
Kirkintilloch and Bishopbriggs	53,899	-10%	East Dunbartonshire 4(part), 5–7 North Lanarkshire 5

71. A map of the Scottish Liberal Democrats alternative suggestion is at Appendix D.

72. The advantages of this suggestion are:

- maintains local ties between Kilsyth and Cumbernauld (Rule 4); and
- considers variation from the electorate quota (Rule 2).

73. The disadvantages of this suggestion are it still splits Clydebank between two constituencies (Rule 4).

74. The Scottish Labour Party generally supported this grouping and the provisional proposals. They opposed the proposed boundaries by Helensburgh because it breaks local ties in the that area and by Clydebank. They suggested retaining the existing Argyll and Bute constituency and acknowledged it had a wide variation from the electorate quota but believed the Commission could consider special geographical circumstances there.

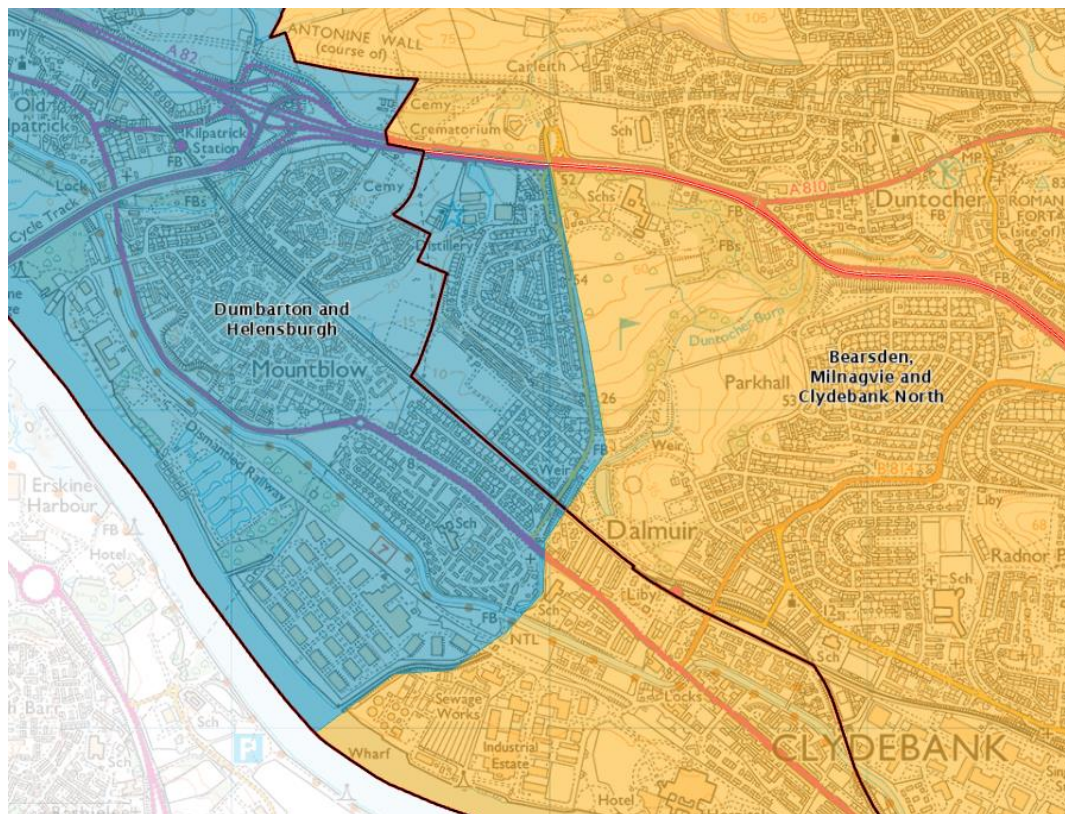
75. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party agreed with the proposed Argyll and Bute constituency because it addressed variation from the electorate quota. They had no comments regarding the other constituencies.

76. There were six responses that commented on more than a single grouping of council areas or all of Scotland out-with those submitted by political parties.

77. A member of the public agreed with this grouping of council areas but suggested an alternative boundary in Clydebank because the proposals take “both the town centre of Clydebank out of a constituency with Clydebank and the Golden Jubilee National hospital which serves the area. Given the devolution of healthcare, it is counter intuitive to make this division. It is possible to swap out the Mountblow area from Great Western Road meets Mountblow Road, following south to where it meets the Duntocher Burn following south to the River Clyde as the boundary. It involves a swap of electors, but does not appear to be substantial.”

78. A map and table of this alternative suggestion is shown below.

Constituency Name	Electorate	Variation from the electoral quota	Wards
Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North	60,102	0.3%	East Dunbartonshire 1-3 West Dunbartonshire 4,5(part),6(part)
Dumbarton and Helensburgh	55,979	-6.5%	Argyll and Bute 10,11 West Dunbartonshire 1,2,3,5(part),6(part)



79. The advantages of this suggestion are it considers variation from the electorate quota (rule 2).

80. The disadvantages of this suggestion are it still splits Clydebank between two constituencies.

All Scotland Consultation Responses that apply to this grouping and Analysis

81. There were six responses that commented on more than a single grouping of council areas or all of Scotland out-with those submitted by political parties. None of these referred to this grouping.

82. There were approximately 10 general responses to the consultation opposing the Second Review or making comments out-with the legislation for the review.

Names

83. There were few suggestions for alternative constituency names, see table below.

Proposed constituency names	Alternative suggestions
Kirkintilloch and Kilsyth	Strathkelvin and Kilsyth
Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts	Airdrie and Shotts
Motherwell	Keep Wishaw in a constituency name
Dumbarton and Helensburgh	Keep Clydebank in a constituency name

Summary

84. There was strong opposition to the provisional proposals by Clydebank and Wishaw but few alternative suggestions were submitted.

Argyll and Bute

85. In Argyll and Bute, the existing Argyll and Bute constituency followed ward boundaries but had variation from the electorate quota of -17%. The provisional proposals extended the existing constituency to follow the Lomond North ward boundary (the ward includes Arrochar, Rhu and Garelochhead) to address variation from the electorate quota but as a consequence respondents stated it broke local ties between Helensburgh and Rhu. Rhu/ Shandon and Helensburgh sit in different wards but the ward boundary does not follow any physical features. A flat field just over 100m wide separates Rhu from Helensburgh.

86. The Commission could consider special geographical circumstances and retain the existing Argyll and Bute constituency because it contains remote rural and island communities. This would avoid the breaking of local ties between Rhu and Helensburgh and avoid the splitting of Clydebank between constituencies.

87. A constituency design which retains the existing Argyll and Bute constituency in shown in Paper 73.

East Dunbartonshire

88. In East Dunbartonshire there were a number of suggestions to include Baldernock, Balmore and Bardowie in a constituency with Milngavie. These

villages have been in the same UK Parliament as Bearsden and Milngavie since 2005 and will continue to do so from 2024. Historically these villages have been situated in a different Scottish Parliament constituency than Milngavie since the Scottish Parliament was founded in 1999. Baldernock, Balmore and Bardowie sit within their own community council area and primary non-denominational school catchment area. The primary and secondary denominational school catchment areas link these villages with Torrance and Lennoxton, while the secondary non-denominational school catchment area link these villages with Milngavie. There are only 500 electors in these villages so transferring them between constituencies would have little overall impact on variation from the electorate quota but there are no natural boundary features between these villages and Milngavie or Torrance.

89. The Scottish Liberal Democrats submitted an alternative suggestion that aimed to consider the electorate quota, consider local ties and create more recognisable boundaries. Their suggestion also split Clydebank between two constituencies (Appendix D).

90. There were no comments regarding the proposed boundaries elsewhere in East Dunbartonshire.

North Lanarkshire

91. In North Lanarkshire most comments opposed the proposed boundary by Wishaw, Cambusnethan and Coltness on the grounds that it split local community ties in the area. There was also opposition to splitting Cumbernauld and Kilsyth between constituencies.

92. The alternative suggestions from the Scottish Liberal Democrats and Cllr Johnston/ Kilsyth and Village SNP Branch (Appendix C and D) would avoid Cumbernauld and Kilsyth being split between constituencies.

93. In North Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire most comments related to the provisional proposals breaking local ties between Cumbernauld and Kilsyth. The Secretariat have developed an option which proposes a Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch constituency. It avoids splitting Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch between constituencies but does split the Northern Corridor.

94. There was strong opposition to the breaking of local ties by Newmains and Wishaw. The alternative suggestion in Appendix C would resolve this but may break local ties in Motherwell.

West Dunbartonshire

95. In West Dunbartonshire there was strong opposition to splitting Clydebank between two constituencies.

96. If the Commission retained the existing Argyll and Bute constituency to would avoid the division of Clydebank.

97. The Commission could propose a new grouping of council areas to resolve some of the issues raised from the consultation. This is discussed in Paper 73 (Consideration of responses to consultation on provisional proposals for constituency boundaries – Alternative constituency design groupings). A grouping of Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas has an entitlement of 13.2 constituencies and a grouping of Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas has an entitlement of 3.7 or 4 constituencies.

98. As stated above 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 revised proposals.

Recommendations

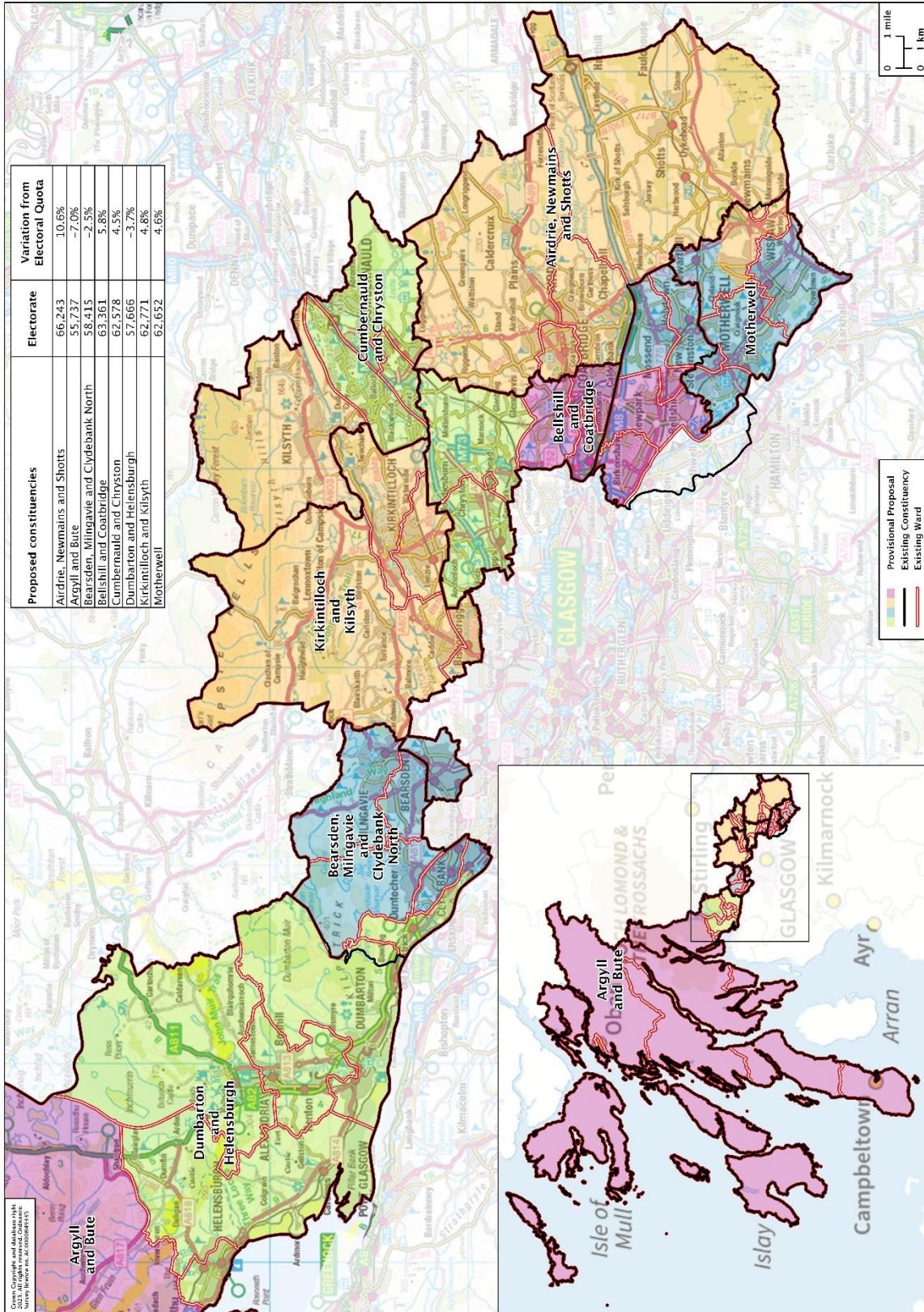
99. Taking into account all of the evidence arising from the public consultation on the provisional proposals, the Commission may wish to hold a local inquiry in respect of the proposed Dumbarton and Helensburgh and Bearsden, Milngavie and Clydebank North constituencies because over 100 responses opposed the division of Clydebank.

100. The Commission is invited to offer any initial thoughts on the issues in this paper. As a local inquiry is recommended no decision on possible Revised Proposals can be made at this time. Paper 74 considers handling of local inquiries for this review.

Secretariat

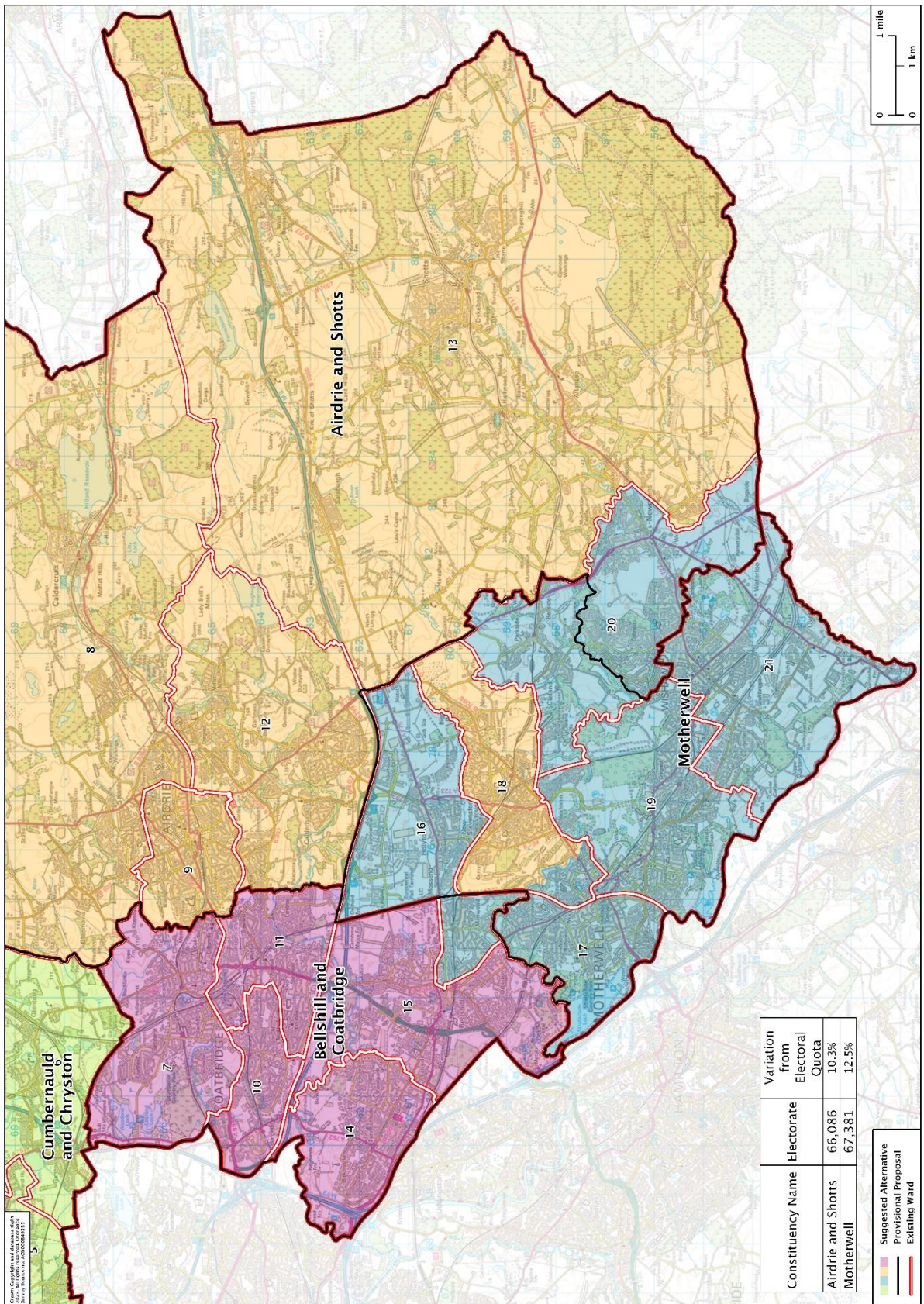
September 2023

Provisional Proposals – for Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas



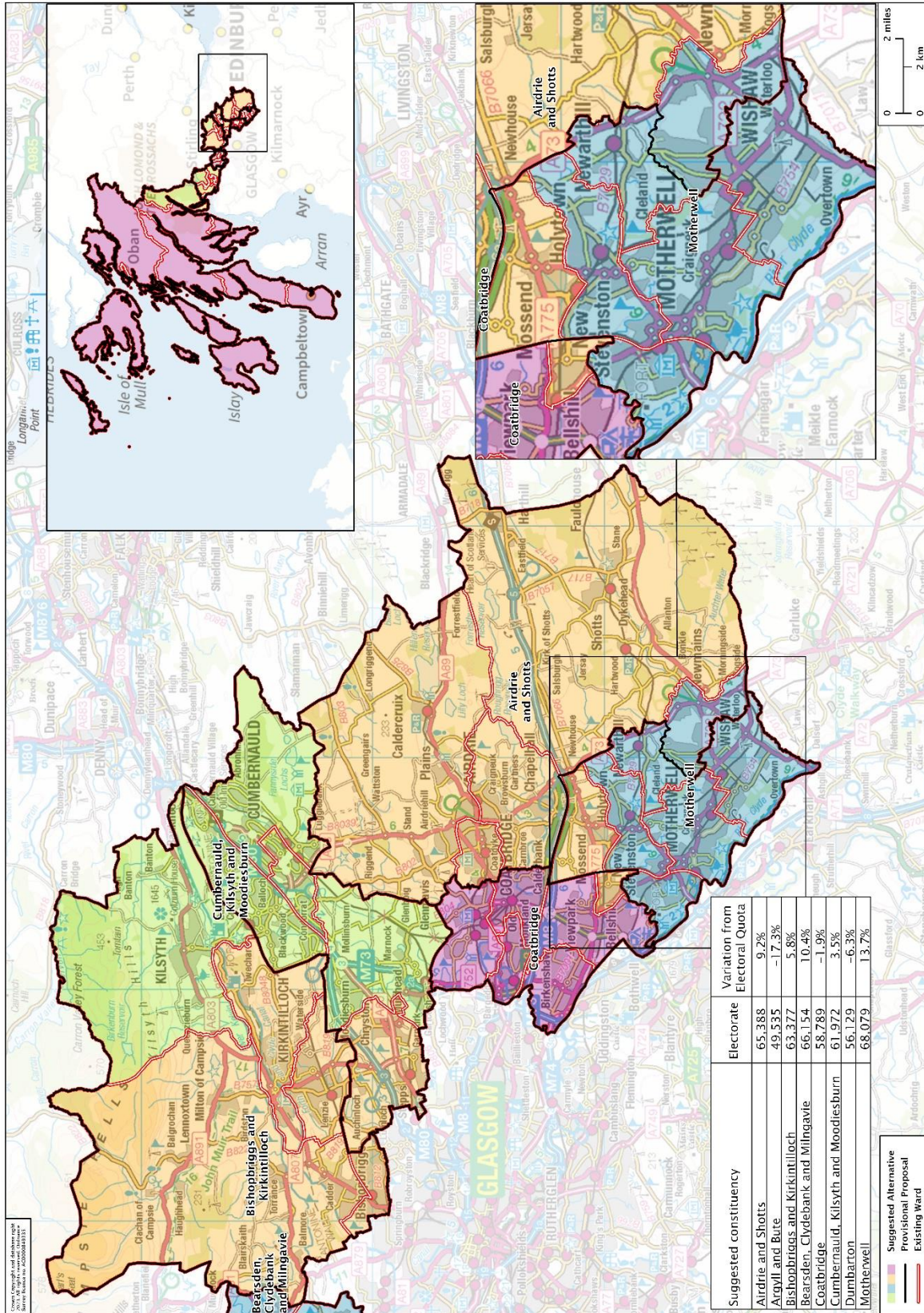
Appendix B

Suggestion from Claire Adamson MSP



Appendix C

Alternative Suggestion – for Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas



Scottish Liberal Democrats Suggestion

