

**Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries**  
**Consideration of responses to consultation on provisional proposals for**  
**constituency boundaries – Alternative constituency design groupings**

**Action required**

1. The Commission is invited to consider alternative constituency designs in conjunction with its meeting papers for: City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian; Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire; Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire; and East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Renfrewshire, when considering responses to the consultation on provisional proposals for constituency boundaries.

**Background**

2. At its meeting of 14 December 2022 the Commission considered Paper 24 Second Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries – Intended approach to constituency design.
3. Paper 24 considered the Commission’s approach to designing constituencies during the First Review of Scottish Parliament Boundaries. It had calculated the theoretical entitlement of constituencies for each council area (calculated by dividing the electorate of each council area by the electoral quota). If that entitlement was close to an integer, the Commission allocated a specific number of constituencies that were wholly contained within that council area. In other cases, the Commission combined small groups of council areas, so that their combined theoretical entitlement was close to an integer.
4. The benefits of this approach were:
  - the task of constituency design is broken down from 70 constituencies across mainland Scotland into more manageable groups of constituencies in a localised area;
  - the electorate recognise council area boundaries;
  - reduced variability in constituency design arising from the sequence in which constituencies are designed;
  - reduced risk of insoluble conditions arising in the final stages of constituency design;
  - the approach was adopted during First Review and Boundary Commission for Scotland follow a similar approach when conducting reviews of UK Parliament constituency boundaries so it is recognised by stakeholders; and
  - considers rule 1 “regard must be had to the boundaries of local government areas.”

5. The Commission agreed to follow this approach and considered two options for constituency design at that meeting. The Commission agreed Option 1 but amended it to include Falkirk with Clackmannanshire and Stirling in a single grouping. Inverclyde was also included in a grouping with East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Renfrewshire.

| <b>Option 1 - Grouping of council areas for consultation on provisional proposals for constituency boundaries</b> | <b>Electorate</b> | <b>Theoretical entitlement of Constituencies</b> |
|---|-------------------|--|
| Dumfries and Galloway   | 118,942           | 2.0  |
| Dundee City   | 112,735           | 1.9  |
| Falkirk   | 125,390           | 2.1  |
| Fife  | 290,387           | 4.8  |
| Highland  | 189,218           | 3.2  |
| Inverclyde  | 60,794            | 1.0  |
| Perth and Kinross   | 120,039           | 2.0  |
| Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Moray  | 539,472           | 9.0  |
| Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, West Dunbartonshire                                      | 489,423           | 8.2  |
| Clackmannanshire, Stirling  | 111,034           | 1.9  |
| East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire   | 295,428           | 4.9  |
| City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian   | 711,594           | 11.9   |
| East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Renfrewshire   | 677,123           | 11.3   |
| Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire   | 351,556           | 5.9  |
|   |                   | <b>70</b>  |

### **Summary of responses to consultation on provisional proposals for constituency boundaries**

6. The main issues or concerns raised during the consultation were:
- a lack of ties between the Borders and Clydesdale in South Lanarkshire;
  - a constituency covering three council areas (a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency that included parts of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian);
  - lack of ties between the west-northwest of Edinburgh and West Lothian (Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency);
  - Clydebank in West Dunbartonshire being split between two constituencies (Dumbarton & Helensburgh and Bearsden Milngavie and Clydebank North);

- breaking of local ties by Wishaw (Motherwell and Airdrie, Newmains and Shotts);
- a desire for no changes in East Renfrewshire to the existing Eastwood constituency; and
- opposition to the proposed constituency Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency.

### Alternative constituency grouping

7. To address some of the issues raised during the consultation on provisional proposals for constituency boundaries, the Commission may wish to consider alternative constituency design groupings. An example is shown in the table below.
8. This design is interdependent ie all these groupings must be adopted.

| Alternative constituency grouping<br>Council areas           | Theoretical entitlement<br>of Constituencies |
|--|--|
| Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire | 3.7  |
| City of Edinburgh and East Lothian                           | 8.2  |
| Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire, West Lothian  | 13.2   |
| Midlothian and Scottish Borders                              | 2.9  |

9. The East Renfrewshire, Glasgow City, Renfrewshire Council area grouping could be considered with the groupings of: Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas; and/ or; Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas; and/ or the Ayrshire council areas.

### Midlothian and Scottish Borders Council areas

10. A grouping of Midlothian and Scottish Borders Council areas would avoid the issues raised regarding lack of ties between the Borders and South Lanarkshire and also avoid a constituency containing parts of three council areas (Midlothian North and Musselburgh).
11. The electorates of the three existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within Scottish Borders and Midlothian Council areas are shown in the table below and Appendix A1. The Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency has a high electorate but it includes Musselburgh from East Lothian. If the Commission

proposed a Midlothian North constituency, it could propose constituency boundaries similar to the existing boundaries.

12. The existing constituencies were designed within a grouping of Scottish Borders, Midlothian and East Lothian.

| Existing constituencies                    | Electorate | Variation from electoral quota |
|--|------------|--------------------------------|
| Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire         | 55,131     | -8%                            |
| Midlothian North and Musselburgh           | 70,498     | 18%                            |
| Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale | 64,697     | 8%                             |

13. The Secretariat have developed an alternative design for a grouping of Scottish Borders and Midlothian Council areas. It is similar to the existing arrangements in that the Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire constituency is retained unchanged, there is a constituency that contains wards from Scottish Borders and the southern part of Midlothian council area and also a constituency wholly made up of Midlothian wards (Midlothian North).

14. This design: addresses the issues identified during consultation by not proposing a Borders–Clydesdale constituency; splits a single ward; avoids creating a constituency containing parts of three council areas; and presents arrangements similar to the existing constituency boundaries.

15. A map of this alternative grouping can be seen at Appendix A2 and a table of the constituencies is shown below.

| Constituency Name                          | Electorate | Variation from Electoral Quota | Wards   |
|--|------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Midlothian North                           | 56,927     | -5.0%                          | Midlothian 2-5,6(Part)                            |
| Midlothian South, Tweeddale and Lauderdale | 57,252     | -4.4%                          | Scottish Borders 1,2,3,5<br>Midlothian 1, 6(part) |
| Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire         | 55,131     | -8.0%                          | Scottish Borders 4,6-11                           |

**Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas**

16. A grouping of Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas may avoid the issues raised regarding Clydebank being split between two constituencies and local ties being broken by Kilsyth and Helensburgh.
17. The electorates of the four existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within this grouping are shown in the table below and Appendix B1. The Commission could consider special geographical circumstances to apply in Argyll and Bute due to its containing sparsely populated island communities.
18. The existing constituencies were designed within the same grouping of council areas.

| Existing constituencies   | Electorate | Variation from electoral quota |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Argyll and Bute           | 49,535     | -17%                           |
| Clydebank and Milngavie   | 55,121     | -8%                            |
| Dumbarton                 | 56,120     | -6%                            |
| Strathkelvin and Bearsden | 63,895     | 7%                             |

19. The Secretariat has developed an alternative design for this grouping of constituencies. It considers special geographic circumstances in Argyll and Bute and retains that existing constituency boundary; avoids splitting Clydebank; places Bearsden and Milngavie in the same constituency; and avoids splitting any wards. The suggestion could also include Baldernock, Bardowie and Balmore in a constituency with Milngavie.
20. A map of this alternative grouping can be seen at Appendix B2 and a table of the constituencies is shown below.

| Constituency Name      | Electorate | Variation from Electoral Quota | Wards  |
|------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Argyll and Bute        | 49,535     | -17.3%                         | Argyll & Bute 1-8                                  |
| Dumbarton              | 56,129     | -6.3%                          | Argyll & Bute 9-11<br>West Dunbartonshire 1-3      |
| Clydebank and Bearsden | 66,154     | 10.4%                          | West Dunbartonshire 4-6<br>East Dunbartonshire 1-3 |

|                                |        |        |                         |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|
| Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch | 52,853 | -11.8% | East Dunbartonshire 4-7 |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------------------|

### City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas

21. A grouping of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas would avoid the issues raised regarding a constituency covering three council areas and the breaking of local ties in an Edinburgh Forth and Linlithgow constituency and may address concerns regarding the proposed boundaries in the centre and south of Edinburgh.
22. The electorates of the existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas are shown in the table below and Appendix C1. The Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency includes Dalkeith, Bonnyrigg and Loanhead from Midlothian. The Commission could retain four of the existing Edinburgh constituencies as they are within 10% variation from the electorate quota but this is dependent on constituency design in the east of the city where two constituencies have variation from electoral parity over 20%.
23. The existing constituencies were designed within groupings of: Edinburgh; and East Lothian with Midlothian and Scottish Borders.

| Existing constituencies          | Electorate | Variation from electoral quota |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| East Lothian                     | 67,523     | 13%                            |
| Edinburgh Central                | 65,240     | 9%                             |
| Edinburgh Eastern                | 72,512     | 21%                            |
| Edinburgh Northern and Leith     | 74,827     | 25%                            |
| Edinburgh Pentlands              | 59,274     | -1%                            |
| Edinburgh Southern               | 62,786     | 5%                             |
| Edinburgh Western                | 65,827     | 10%                            |
| Midlothian North and Musselburgh | 70,498     | 18%                            |

24. The Secretariat have developed two alternative designs for this grouping. Both designs avoid an Edinburgh – West Lothian constituency and may better reflect local ties in Edinburgh.
25. The first alternative design retains four of the existing constituencies: Edinburgh Central; Edinburgh Pentlands; Edinburgh Southern; and Edinburgh Western. All four of these constituencies are under 10% variation from the electoral quota.

This design would address some of the concerns raised in the south of the city and by Gorgie/ Dalry. Although it creates a Musselburgh constituency that extends from Leith to Longniddry in East Lothian.

26. A map of this alternative grouping can be seen at Appendix C2 and a table of the constituencies is shown below.

| Constituency Name            | Electorate | Variation from Electoral Quota |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Edinburgh Central            | 65,240     | 9%                             |
| Edinburgh Eastern            | 55,222     | -8%                            |
| Edinburgh Northern and Leith | 65,856     | 10%                            |
| Edinburgh Pentlands          | 59,274     | -1%                            |
| Edinburgh Southern           | 62,786     | 5%                             |
| Edinburgh Western            | 65,827     | 10%                            |
| Musselburgh                  | 58,210     | -3%                            |
| East Lothian                 | 56,590     | -5.5%                          |

27. The second alternative design for this grouping sees eight new constituencies that aims to improve variation from the electoral quota.

28. A map of this alternative grouping can be seen at Appendix C3 and a table of the constituencies is shown below.

| Constituency Name                 | Electorate | Variation from Electoral Quota | Wards   |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|---|
| East Lothian                      | 63,590     | 6.2%                           | East Lothian 2(part), 3-6                                 |
| Edinburgh Central                 | 62,316     | 4.0%                           | Edinburgh 4, 5, 6(part), 11(part)                         |
| Edinburgh Eastern and Musselburgh | 64,251     | 7.3%                           | Edinburgh 1,2(part),14(part),17<br>East Lothian 1,2(part) |
| Edinburgh Northern and Leith      | 61,486     | 2.6%                           | Edinburgh 11(part)12,13,14(part)                          |
| Edinburgh Pentlands               | 61,713     | 3.0%                           | Edinburgh 2,7,9 (Part)                                    |
| Edinburgh South East              | 62,091     | 3.7%                           | Edinburgh 11(part) 15,16                                  |
| Edinburgh South West              | 55,890     | -6.7%                          | Edinburgh 8,9(part),10,11(part)                           |
| Edinburgh Western                 | 57,668     | -3.7%                          | Edinburgh 1,3,6(part)                                     |

**Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas**

29. A grouping of Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas would avoid the issues raised regarding: a lack of ties between the Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire; the lack of ties between the west of Edinburgh and West Lothian; and may also avoid the breaking of local ties by Wishaw and those between Kilsyth and Cumbernauld. However this design would result in Falkirk Council area being part of two new constituencies with parts of other council areas. There was little opposition to the provisional proposals, that retained the existing Falkirk West and Falkirk East constituencies.

30. The electorates of the existing Scottish Parliament constituencies within Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas are shown in the table below and Appendix D1. The existing West Lothian constituencies have a wide variation from the electorate quota.

31. The existing constituencies were designed within council area groupings of: Falkirk (2 constituencies); West Lothian (2 constituencies); and North Lanarkshire – South Lanarkshire (8 constituencies, although partly with Scottish Borders).

| <b>Existing constituencies</b>    | <b>Electorate</b> | <b>Variation from electoral quota</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Almond Valley                     | 70,119            | 17%                                   |
| Clydesdale                        | 61,011            | 2%                                    |
| Coatbridge and Chryston           | 56,877            | -5%                                   |
| Cumbernauld and Kilsyth           | 51,210            | -15%                                  |
| Cunninghame North                 | 56,604            | -6%                                   |
| Falkirk East                      | 61,529            | 3%                                    |
| Falkirk West                      | 63,861            | 7%                                    |
| Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse | 59,596            | -1%                                   |
| Linlithgow                        | 76,337            | 27%                                   |
| Motherwell and Wishaw             | 57,740            | -4%                                   |
| Rutherglen                        | 62,885            | 5%                                    |
| Uddingston and Bellshill          | 58,842            | -2%                                   |

32. A map of this alternative grouping can be seen at Appendix D2 and a table of the constituencies is shown below.

| Constituency Name              | Electorate | Variation from Electoral Quota | Wards   |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Airdrie and Coatbridge         | 63,345     | 1.9%                           | North Lanarkshire 7,9-12                              |
| Bathgate                       | 61,257     | 1.4%                           | West Lothian 6,7,8,9                                  |
| Bellshill and Motherwell North | 60,077     | -0.5%                          | North Lanarkshire 14,15,16,18(part),19(part),20(part) |
| Clydesdale                     | 64,695     | 5.0%                           | South Lanarkshire 1-5                                 |
| Cumbernauld                    | 53,899     | -1.8%                          | North Lanarkshire 1,2<br>Falkirk 3,5                  |
| East Kilbride                  | 61,700     | -9.5%                          | South Lanarkshire 8-10                                |
| Falkirk                        | 59,856     | -17.3%                         | Falkirk 2,4,6,7                                       |
| Hamilton                       | 58,789     | -8.0%                          | Hamilton 17-20  |
| Linlithgow                     | 66,162     | -5.0%                          | West Lothian 1,2<br>Falkirk 1,8,9                     |
| Livingston                     | 56,009     | -14.5%                         | West Lothian 3-5                                      |
| Motherwell South and Wishaw    | 64,564     | -6.3%                          | North Lanarkshire 13,17,18(part),19(part),20(part),21 |
| Rutherglen                     | 62,403     | 6.7%                           | South Lanarkshire 11-15                               |
| Stepps and Cumbernauld East    | 62,219     | -3.6%                          | North Lanarkshire 3-6,8                               |

### Summary

33. The alternative constituency grouping design aims to address issues raised during the consultation on provisional proposals for constituencies.
34. The alternative constituency grouping design is dependent on the Commission agreeing to all of the new groupings as they are interdependent.
35. This paper is to be considered with Papers 70, 71, 72, Consideration of responses to consultation on provisional proposals for constituency boundaries – Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas; Scottish Borders and South Lanarkshire; and City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Council areas; and Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas.

36. The meeting papers have aimed to include alternative solutions within the agreed groupings but for some areas a new grouping could offer a better solution.
37. The Secretariat have only designed sketches at this stage and have not considered any advantages or disadvantages so any new constituency designs could raise fresh issues.
38. The main issue is likely to be the treatment of Falkirk Council area as the alternative groupings it will require changes where there was no strong opposition to the provisional proposals, which retained the existing arrangements.
39. The Commission could also consider the grouping of Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire. There was strong opposition to the proposals in East Renfrewshire which proposed a Glasgow Priesthill and Giffnock constituency that included parts of Glasgow and East Renfrewshire. There are few strong bounding features between Glasgow and Rutherglen (South Lanarkshire), Robroyston, Stepps (South Lanarkshire), Yoker (West Dunbartonshire).
40. Other alternative solutions could be raised during the local inquiries.

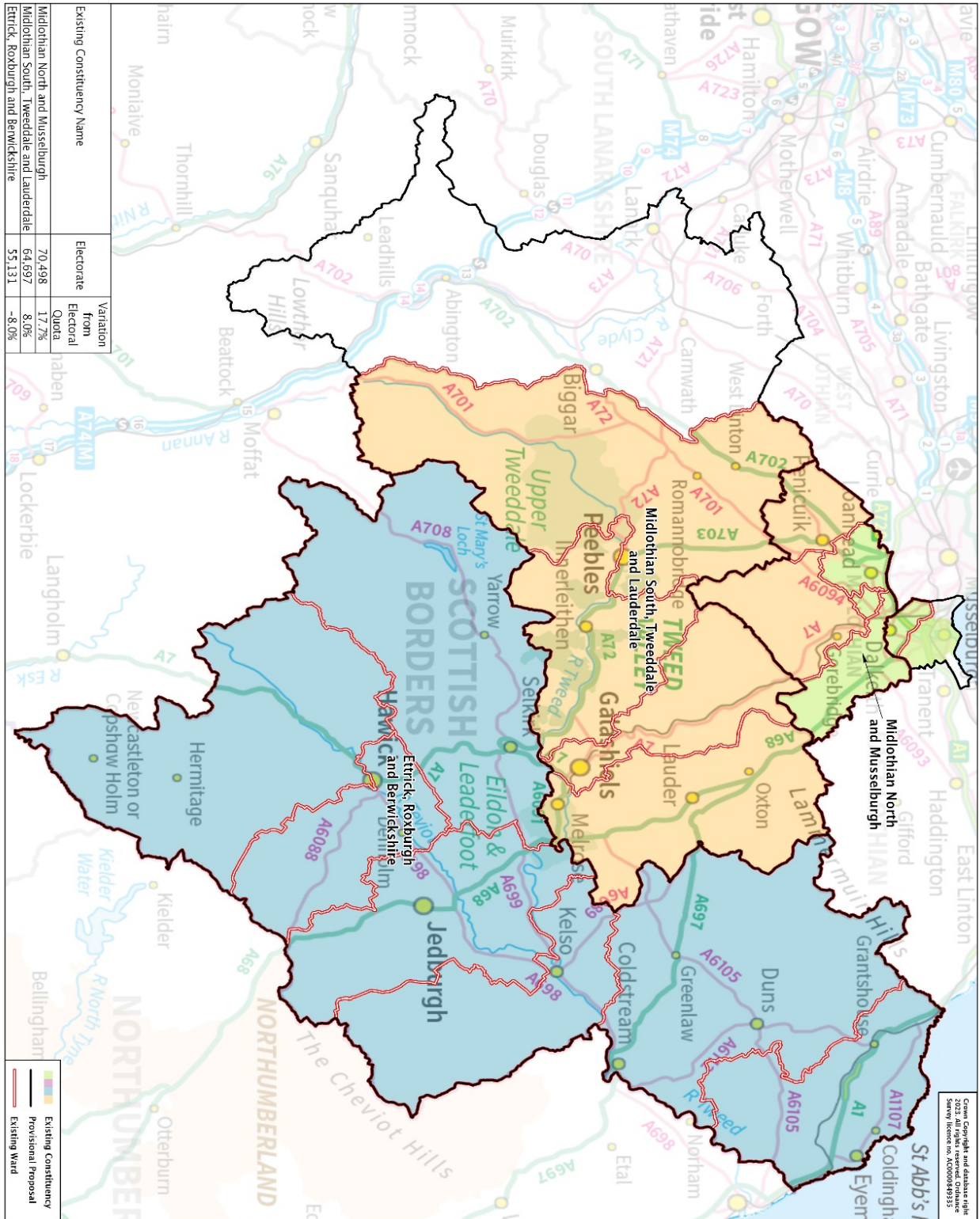
### **Recommendations**

41. The Commission is invited to consider if it wishes further analysis of this alternative constituency grouping.

**Secretariat**

**September 2023**

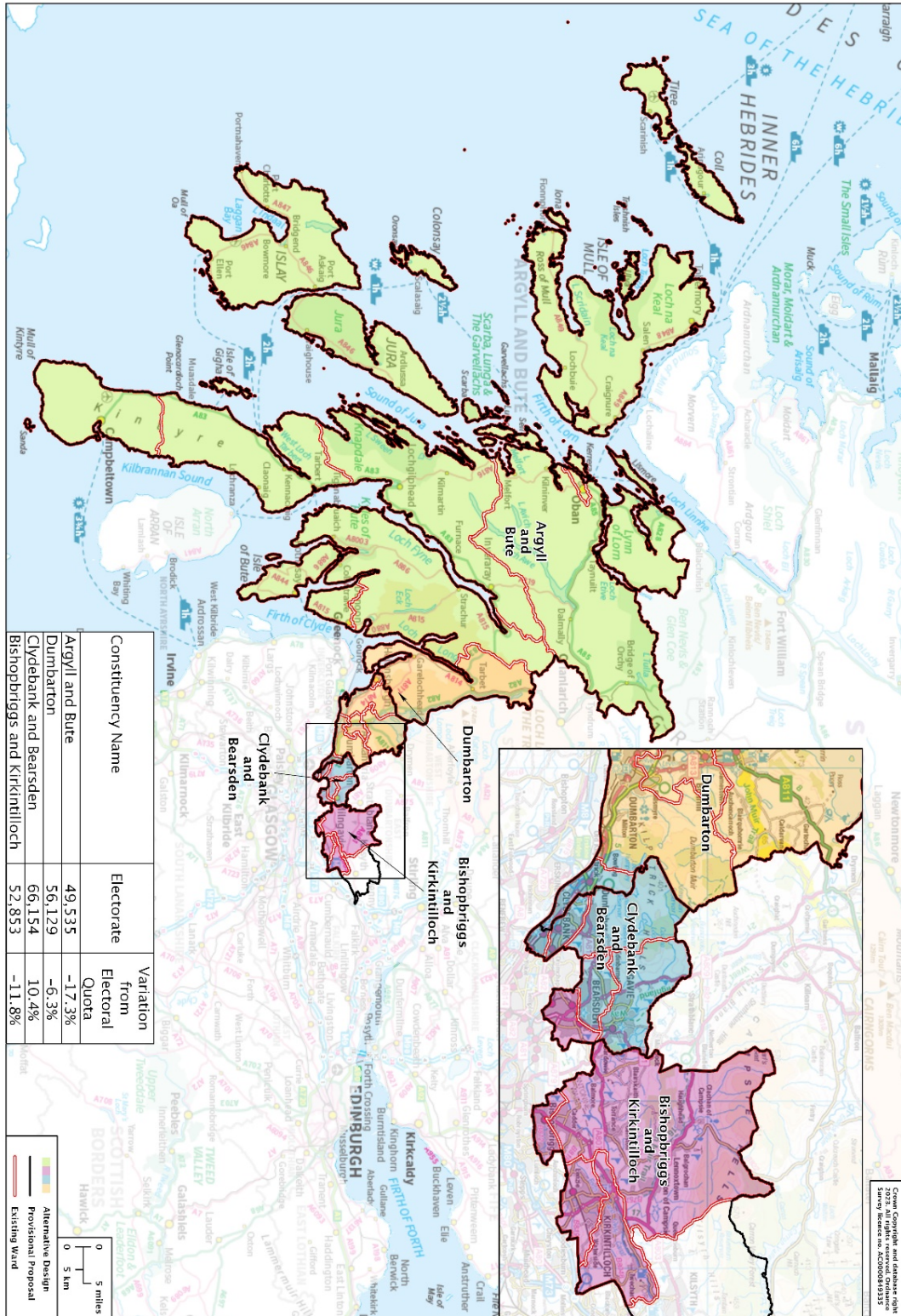
Provisional Proposals for Midlothian and Scottish Borders Council areas



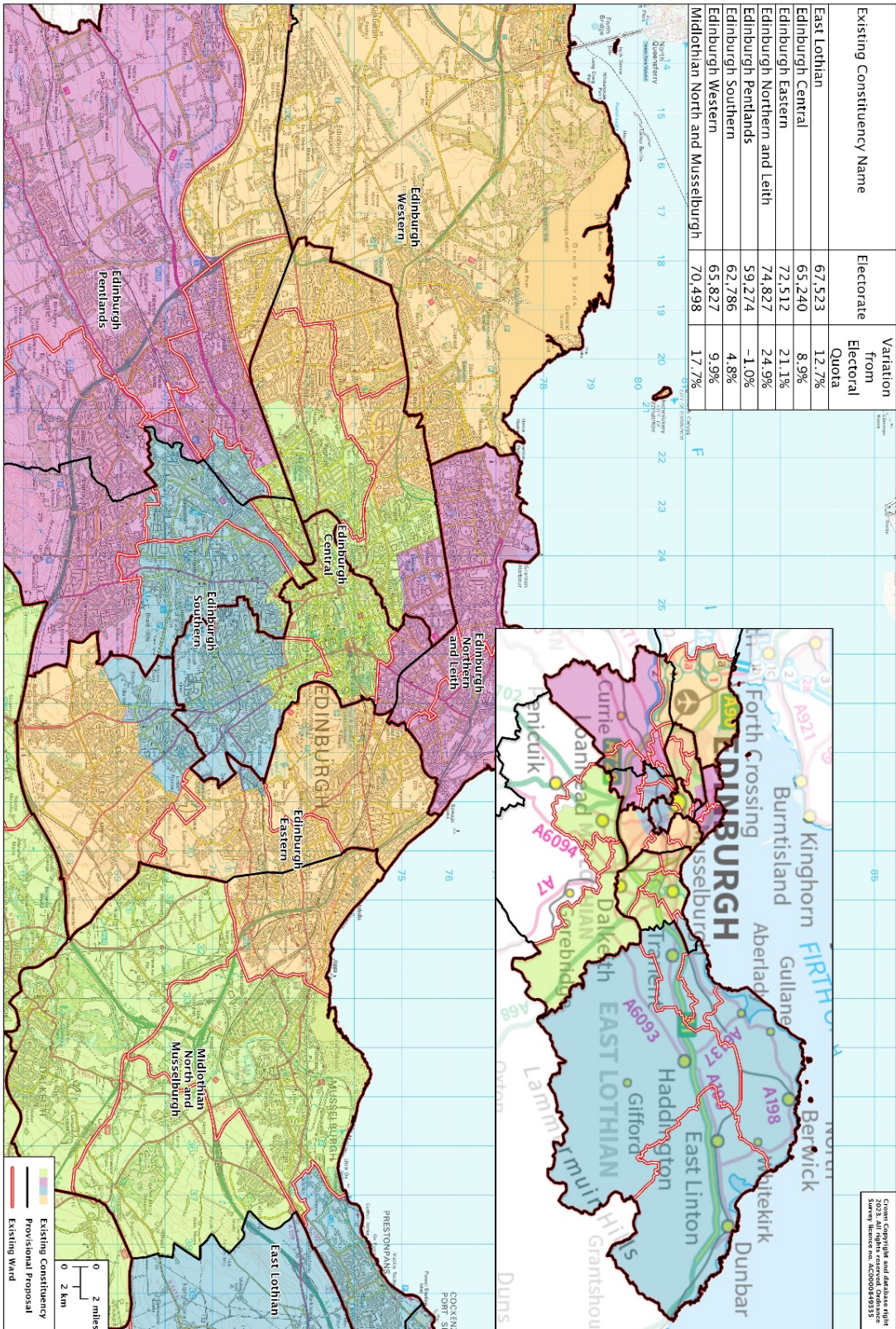




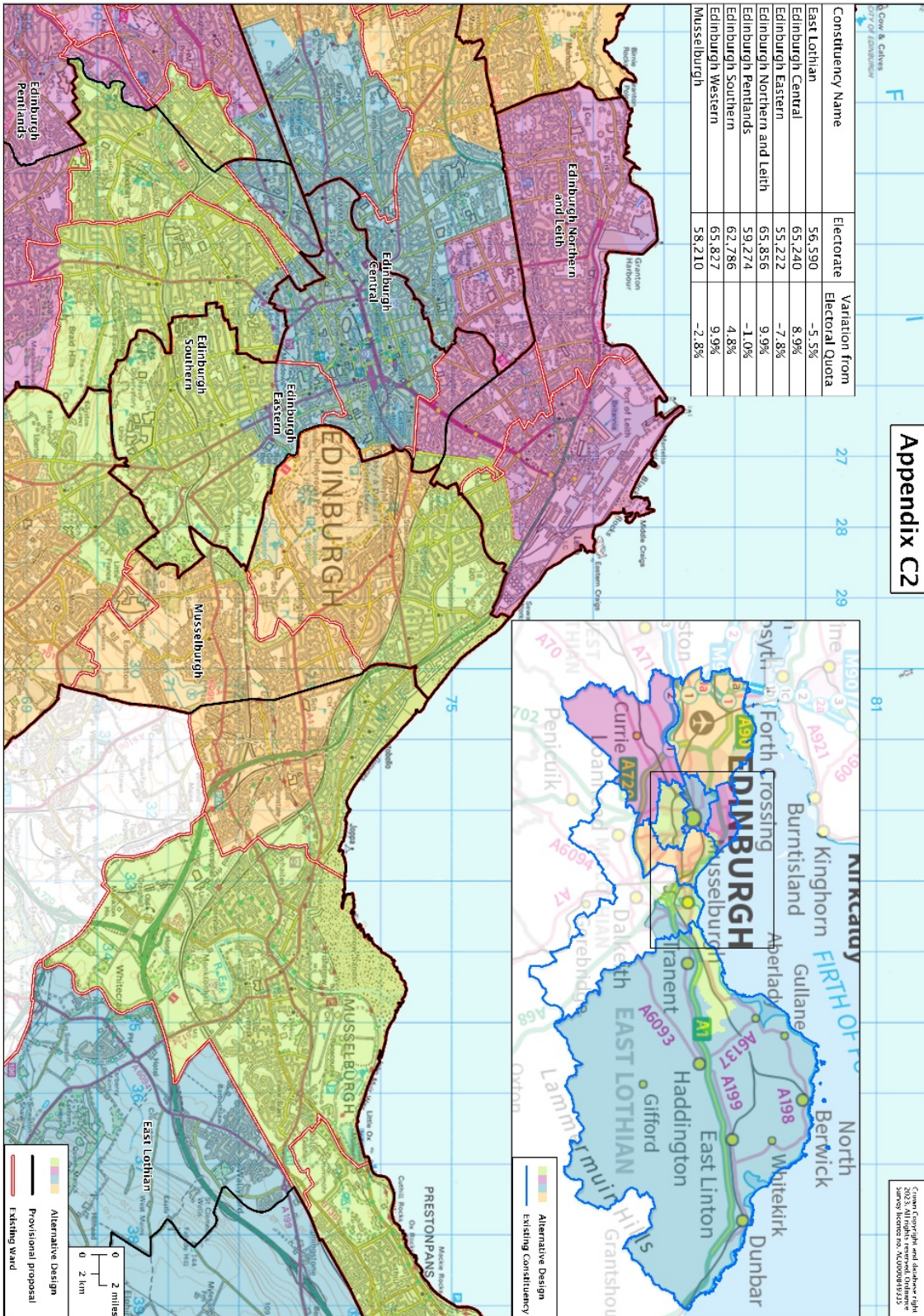
Alternative Design for Argyll and Bute, East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas



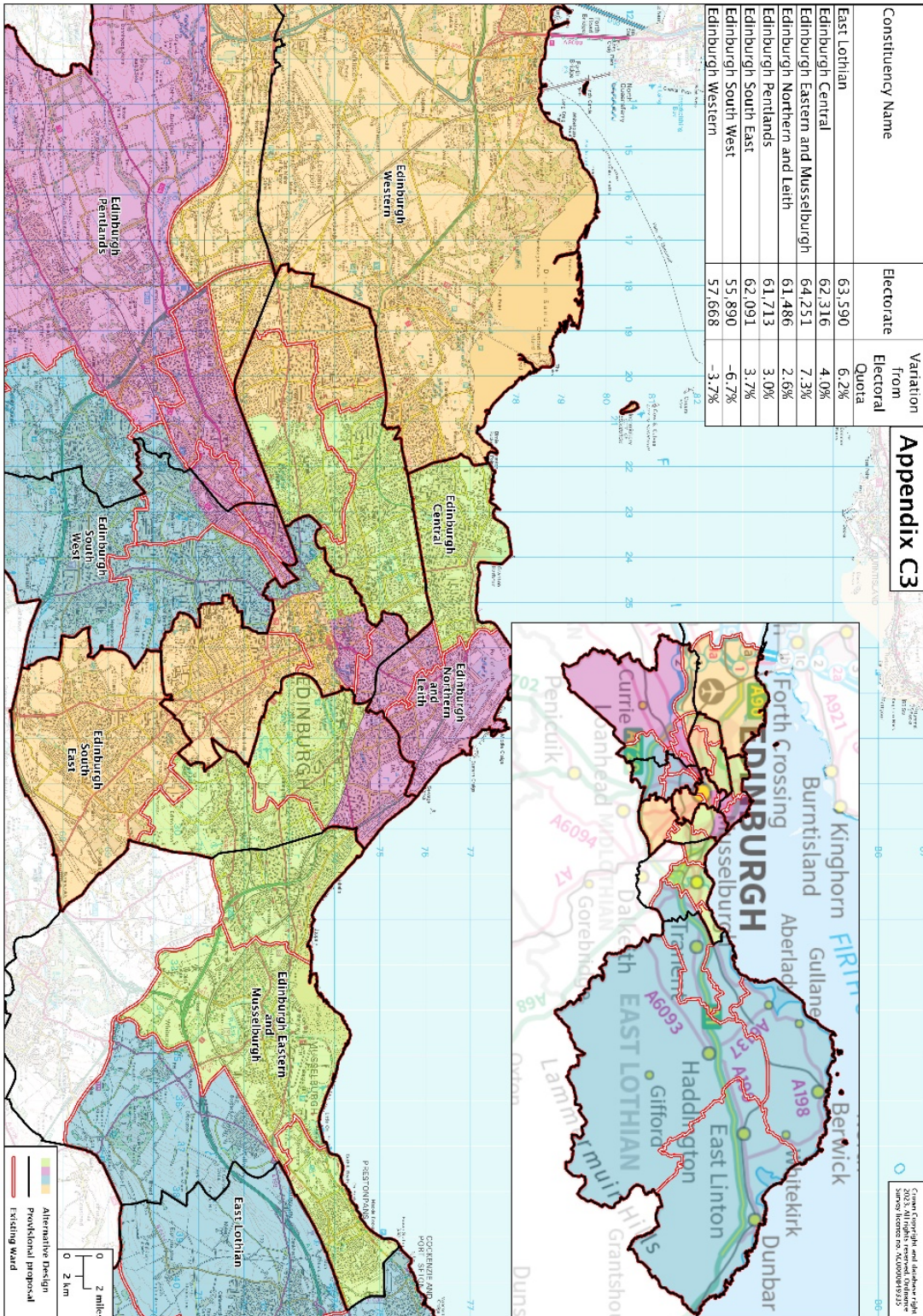
Provisional Proposals for City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas



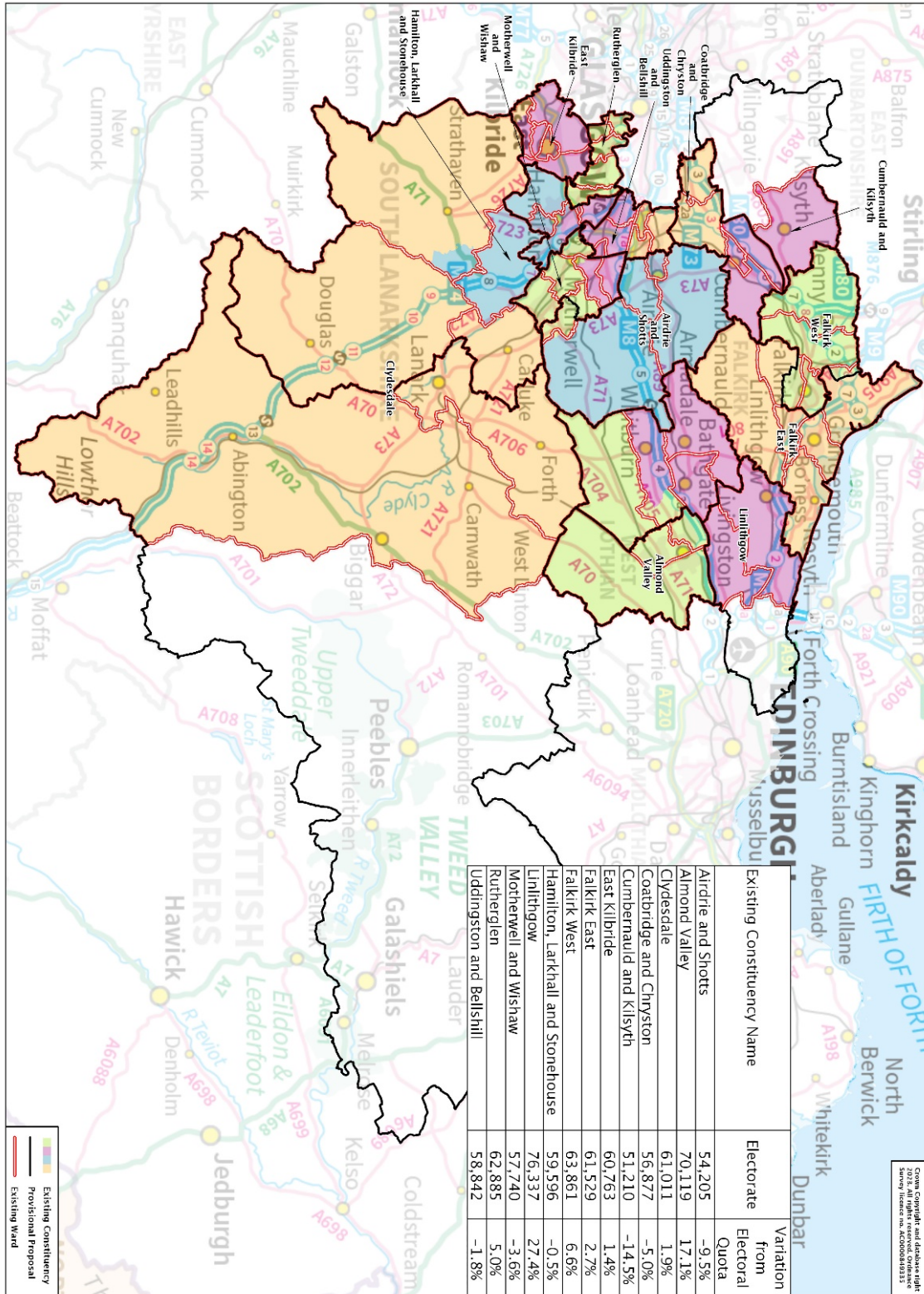
Alternative Design for City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas



Alternative Design for City of Edinburgh and East Lothian Council areas



Provisional Proposals for Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas



Alternative Design for Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, South Lanarkshire and West Lothian Council areas

