

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Consideration of Revised Proposals for East Lothian council area

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to consider responses to the initial and secondary consultation on its Initial Proposals and whether it wishes to make changes to its proposals for East Lothian council area.

Background

2. Constituency designs for Scotland are based on a UK electoral quota of 74,769.2 electors and parliamentary electorate figures from the December 2015 Electoral Register. The electorate of constituencies has to be within 5% of the electoral quota, namely no fewer than 71,031 and no more than 78,507, unless the area of a constituency exceeds 12,000 square kilometres. No constituency may exceed 13,000 square kilometres.
3. The total electorate in East Lothian council area is 76,153, giving a theoretical entitlement to 1.02 constituencies. It is possible, therefore, to design a single constituency exactly covering the council area with an electorate within the limits set by the legislation.
4. The Commission's Initial Proposals for this area comprise a single constituency which exactly covers East Lothian council area. A map of the constituencies is at Appendix A.

Constituency	Council area	Wards (2007–2017)	electorate
East Lothian	East Lothian	1-7 (all wards)	76,153

Representations received

5. 24 responses were received during the two consultation periods that related to East Lothian council area. These responses were made at public hearings during the initial consultation and via the portal, email or other written submission during both the initial and secondary consultations. 17 all-Scotland responses were submitted. All responses, however received, are available to view on the portal and the number in brackets following a respondent's name refers to the portal id to facilitate searching. Paper copies can be made available to the Commission as required. The summary below covers all representations received.

National political parties – Initial Consultation

6. The Scottish Labour Party (9302), Scottish Liberal Democrats (9353) and the Conservative and Unionist Party (9031, 9047) support the Commission's Initial Proposals for a constituency in East Lothian council area.
7. The national office of the Scottish National Party did not respond to the public consultation.

National political parties – Secondary Consultation

8. The Scottish Labour Party (9896) and Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (9925) responded during the secondary consultation but offered no further comment specific to this area.

Local political parties – Initial and Secondary Consultation

9. No local political parties responded to the initial or secondary consultation in this area.

MPs and MSPs – Initial and Secondary Consultation

10. No MPs or MSPs responded to the initial or secondary consultation in this area.

Local authorities – Initial and Secondary Consultation

11. East Lothian Council did not respond to the initial or secondary consultation.

Others – Initial Consultation

12. There were 13 general responses from the public that covered all of Scotland. Of these: 2 provided alternative constituency boundaries that included East Lothian council area (8821 and 8896); 2 comments supported a reduction in the number of MPs (7570, 7578); and 9 made comments opposing the review or made comments out-with the legislation (8276, 8171, 7682, 7664, 7662, 7632, 7575, 7549, 7562).
13. A member of the public (7734) supports the initial proposals in East Lothian and in particular, Musselburgh.

Others – Secondary Consultation

14. There were 4 general responses from the public that covered all of Scotland. All four (9522, 9602, 9606 and 9617) opposed the proposed reduction of MPs in Scotland.

Consideration of representations

15. There was a single response from the public regarding the proposals for East Lothian council area and it was in support of the Initial Proposals.
16. All other responses directly referencing East Lothian council area have been in support of the Commission's Initial Proposals. They include: official responses from the Scottish Conservatives and Unionist Party; the Scottish Labour Party; the Scottish Liberal Democrats Party; and two individuals who made all Scotland alternative constituency suggestions.
17. The Commission has received no alternative constituency designs in East Lothian.

Constituency names

18. 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.
19. The Commission set out its guidelines for selecting constituency names in its *Policies and Procedures* booklet for this review.
20. No alternative names were submitted for this council area.

Conclusion

21. There has been a low level of response to the Initial Proposals for this council area.

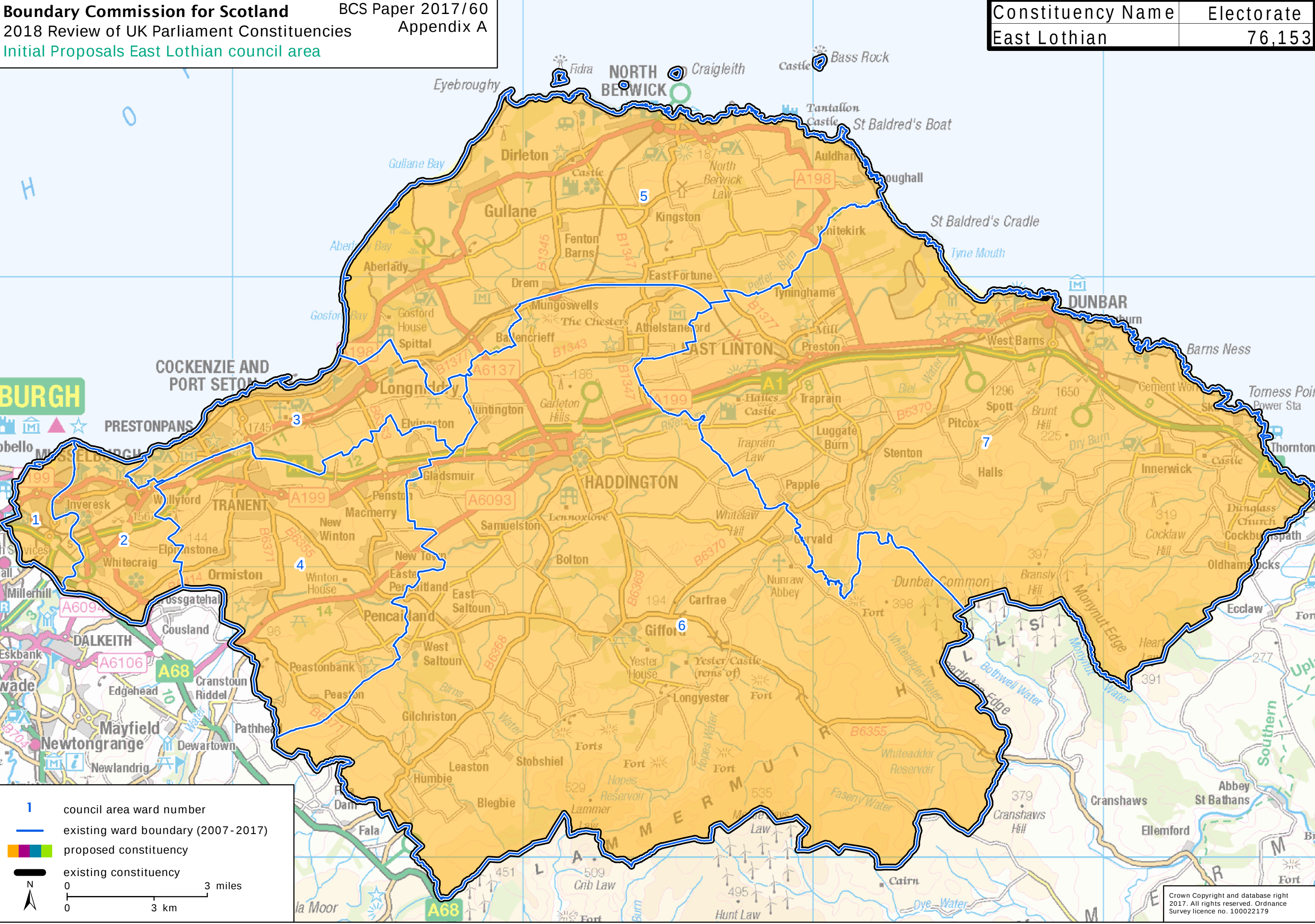
Recommendations

22. Taking into account all of the evidence arising from the public consultations on the Initial Proposals, the Secretariat invites the Commission to decide whether the:

- Initial Proposals for East Lothian council area are adopted without amendment as the Commission's Revised Proposals (as in Appendix A), subject to consideration of all other constituencies.

Secretariat

April 2017



1

council area ward number

existing ward boundary (2007-2017)

proposed constituency

existing constituency

N

0 3 miles

0 3 km