

2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies

Final recommendations – City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to agree paragraphs 2 to 16 of this report as part of the text for its Final Report. It is also invited, in paragraph 17 to agree its Final Recommendations for constituencies in City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas.

Constituencies at the start of this review

2. At the start of this review, City of Edinburgh had 5 constituencies wholly within the council area and West Lothian had one constituency wholly within the council area and one constituency partly in the council area and partly in Falkirk council area. The constituencies are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Constituencies at the start of this review

Current constituency	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Edinburgh East	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	60,452
Edinburgh North and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	72,954
Edinburgh South	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	60,328
Edinburgh South West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	66,458
Edinburgh West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	68,472
Linlithgow and East Falkirk	Falkirk West Lothian	County	83,593
Livingston	West Lothian	County	78,737
Total			490,994

Initial Proposals

3. We designed constituencies for this area within our overall approach to grouping council areas for constituency design. Our proposed grouping for this area included six constituencies exactly covering the extent of City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas.
4. We discussed our Initial Proposals for these council areas at our meetings of 5 August and 5 September 2016 in Papers 2016/31 and 2016/33 respectively. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of those meetings. We agreed proposed constituency names and designations at our meeting of 5 September 2016. Paper 2016/34 and the minute of our meeting record our discussion and conclusions.
5. In deciding upon our Initial Proposals for City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas we considered existing constituency boundaries and agreed a design in which the proposed constituencies in North Edinburgh were most like the existing constituencies and also where possible used existing ward and community council boundaries in a further effort to respect local ties.
6. Our Initial Proposals were as shown in Table 2. Details of the wards contained within each constituency in the Initial Proposals were included in the maps of our Initial Proposals which are available on our website.

Table 2 – Initial Proposals

Constituency name	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Edinburgh East	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	74,009
Edinburgh North and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	71,541
Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston	City of Edinburgh West Lothian	County	78,164
Edinburgh South West and Central	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	77,029
Edinburgh West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	77,738
Linlithgow	West Lothian	County	78,026
Total			456,507

7. On 20 October 2016 we published our Initial Proposals for these council areas for the specified initial consultation period of 12 weeks.
8. We received 131 representations in response to the initial consultation on our Initial Proposals for City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas.
9. On 28 February 2017 we published the representations we received during the consultation for the specified secondary consultation period of 4 weeks. In response, we received a further 19 representations concerning City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas.

Revised Proposals

10. We considered the representations received on our Initial Proposals in these council areas at our meeting of 6 July 2017 in Paper 2017/65. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
11. The main issues to emerge during the consultations were: opposition to the proposal that split City of Edinburgh ward 15 (Southside/Newington) breaking local ties; support for the proposed Edinburgh Southwest and Central constituency; and support for an alternative suggestion from Ian Murray MP that placed the City of Edinburgh ward 11 (City Centre) in an Edinburgh East constituency and avoided splitting ward 15 between constituencies.
12. Some representations contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review. We did not consider those suggestions further.
13. After considering all responses to the consultation: we decided to amend the Initial Proposals and adopt a suggestion received during consultation that avoided the division of ward 15 (Southside /Newington) between constituencies, so reducing to three the number of divided wards and also that Marchmont and Sciennes and Morningside Community Council areas were not divided between constituencies.
14. We agreed revised constituency names and designations at our meeting of 8 August 2017. Paper 2017/79 and the minute of our meeting record our discussion and conclusions. We decided to amend the names of one of the

constituencies within this grouping, Edinburgh Southwest and Central was renamed as Edinburgh Southside.

15. Our Revised Proposals are shown in Table 3. Details of the wards contained within each constituency in the Revised Proposals were included in the maps of our Revised Proposals which are available on our website.

Table 3 - Revised Proposals

Constituency name	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Edinburgh East	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	74,455
Edinburgh North and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	71,541
Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston	City of Edinburgh West Lothian	County	78,164
Edinburgh Southside	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	76,583
Edinburgh West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	77,738
Linlithgow	West Lothian	County	78,026
Total			456,507

16. On 17 October 2017 we published our Revised Proposals for constituencies in City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas for the specified consultation period of 8 weeks.

Draft Final Recommendations

17. The Commission is invited to consider the representations received, agree if any changes are required to its Revised Proposals and agree its Final Recommendations.

Responses to Revised Proposals Public Consultation

18. 119 responses (see Annex 1) were received during the consultation on the Revised Proposals for City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas.
19. Some representations were made, both within this grouping and nationally, that contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review or which reflected general opposition to the 2018 Review.
20. The main issue to emerge during the consultation was opposition to the proposed Edinburgh East constituency boundary in central Edinburgh. Nearly one-hundred responses opposed the boundary that separated the City Centre ward in Edinburgh from the proposed Edinburgh North and Leith constituency and placed it within an Edinburgh East constituency. Many respondents called into question the links and local ties between the city centre and areas to the east and south of Edinburgh that make up much of the proposed Edinburgh East constituency and suggested that the city centre had closer links to the north of the city.

Consideration of Representations

21. There was considerable opposition to the Revised Proposals that placed City of Edinburgh ward 11 (City Centre) in the proposed Edinburgh East constituency. This included the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, an MSP, two community groups and over 90 members of the public. The responses in

opposition fell into two distinct categories with respondents from the City Centre stating either a lack of local ties with other areas in the proposed constituency such as Portobello or Gilmerton or suggesting closer ties between the city centre and other areas towards the north of Edinburgh such as Stockbridge. All 94 responses opposed the Commission's Revised Proposals for the City Centre and 17 of those respondents suggested an alternative boundary placing the majority of City Centre ward in an Edinburgh North and Leith constituency and adding parts of Leith Walk ward to an Edinburgh East constituency. Respondents supported this suggestion by stating that due to London Road being the main thoroughfare through the area there was a greater link between Leith Walk/ London Road and East Edinburgh than the City Centre's links with East Edinburgh.

22. A solution involving boundary changes along Leith Walk was also suggested in response to the consultation. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party submitted an alternative suggestion that considers the Revised Proposals, by retaining four constituencies within this grouping, while also addressing issues raised by electors in the Edinburgh city centre ward. This suggestion adds half of the Edinburgh city centre ward to the proposed Edinburgh North and Leith constituency and adds electors to the east of Leith Walk to an Edinburgh East constituency. An MSP, community group and 17 members of the public also made similar suggestions and all of these suggestions help to inform Option 1 considered below.
23. An alternative suggestion was received from Tommy Sheppard MP for Edinburgh East which was similar to the suggestion he made during the consultation on the Initial Proposals. The Commission did not adopt his suggestion at the time because it did "not address the division of ward 15 (Southside / Newington) and requires the division of ward 11 (City Centre)". Following a number of responses to the Revised Proposals suggesting that splitting ward 11 City Centre is necessary, the Commission is invited to re-consider this suggestion. The suggestion focuses solely on an Edinburgh East constituency and uses ward boundaries from 2017 rather 2007–17 ward boundaries. Mr Sheppard argues that his suggestion improves on the shape of the proposed Edinburgh East constituency and ensures that it no longer stretches from Musselburgh in the east to beyond Haymarket Station in the west of the city. He believes the coterminosity with newer local government wards and Scottish Parliament constituencies are reasons to support his suggestion. This suggestion has been used as the basis for an alternative Option 2 and is discussed below.
24. In their response the Scottish Labour Party reiterated their support for the Revised Proposals which adopted the suggestion made by Ian Murray, MP for Edinburgh South. The suggestion informed the design of the Edinburgh Southside constituency and Edinburgh East constituency, minimised the splitting of wards and received over 60 responses of support during the consultation on the Initial Proposals.
25. The proposed Edinburgh Southside constituency was supported by two members of the public however one of those representations questioned the suitability of the "Southside" name and suggested alternative names.
26. One member of the public supported the Revised Proposals.

27. A member of the public states that Liberton is in the south of Edinburgh and should not be included within an Edinburgh East constituency with the city centre. Historically Liberton has been situated within an Edinburgh South constituency since 1950.
28. A member of the public suggested designing constituency boundaries using data zone boundaries. The legislation says the Commission may have regard to 'local government boundaries' in developing its proposals. The Commission calculates constituency electorate by using local government ward electorate and postcode electorate. The Commission does not have electorate data by data zone or consider data zone boundaries for its constituency design. Data zones are groups of 2001 Census output areas – and whilst they nest within local authority boundaries and where possible, they are constructed to respect physical boundaries and natural communities – they are population rather than electorate based geographies.
29. A member of the public supports the Revised Proposals in West Lothian because they create a Linlithgow constituency solely within West Lothian council area. The existing Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency covers both Falkirk and West Lothian council areas.
30. Seven members of the public (from both Edinburgh and West Lothian) oppose the proposed Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston constituency because it covers both City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas. None of the respondents offered alternative constituency boundaries to resolve their concerns.
31. A member of the public states that the Revised Proposals break community ties because Fauldhouse and Blackburn are no longer within a Livingston constituency. They suggest adding Whitburn to a constituency with Blackburn and Fauldhouse. The Revised Proposals place Whitburn, Blackburn and Fauldhouse within a Linlithgow constituency. Historically Whitburn, Blackburn and Fauldhouse have been situated within a constituency with Livingston, although the existing constituency boundaries place: Whitburn within a Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency; and Blackburn and Fauldhouse within a Livingston constituency. They offered no alternative constituency boundaries.
32. A member of the public opposes the Revised Proposals because Uphall and Broxburn are placed within a constituency with Linlithgow rather than Livingston. They also oppose the proposed Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston constituency that covers both West Lothian and Edinburgh council areas but offered no alternative constituency boundaries. From 1950 to 1983 Uphall and Broxburn were placed within a West Lothian constituency that also included Linlithgow and Livingston.

Alternative Option – City of Edinburgh council area (Option 1)

33. In taking into account the majority of responses to the Revised Proposals for this grouping this Option seeks to create new boundaries for Edinburgh's city centre and the constituencies that surround it (See Appendices B1 and B2). Specifically this Option places a large proportion of electors from City of Edinburgh ward 11 (City Centre) in the Edinburgh North and Leith constituency rather than wholly within the Edinburgh East constituency as in the Revised Proposals.

34. Option 1 splits the City Centre ward and adds approximately 11,000 electors (including electors from the New Town) from the west of North Bridge/ South Bridge and Leith Street into the proposed Edinburgh North and Leith constituency. The remaining electors within City of Edinburgh ward 11 sit within the proposed Edinburgh East constituency.
35. Option 1 also splits ward 12 (Leith Walk) along Leith Walk and transfers approximately 9,500 electors from the Lochend and Hillside areas of the Leith Walk ward to an Edinburgh East constituency. Electors to the west of the Leith Walk ward are placed within an Edinburgh North and Leith constituency. Leith Walk acts as a strong bounding feature and the suggested Edinburgh East constituency also adopts the ward boundary by Leith Academy. The southern end of Leith Walk was historically a ward boundary.

Table 4 – Option 1

Constituency name	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Edinburgh East	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	73,230
Edinburgh North and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	72,766
Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston	City of Edinburgh West Lothian	County	78,164
Edinburgh Southside	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	76,583
Edinburgh West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	77,738
Linlithgow	West Lothian	County	78,026
Total			456,507

36. The advantages of Option 1 are that it :
- considers the Revised Proposals and retains four of the proposed constituencies;
 - considers ward boundaries and local community ties in City of Edinburgh council area's ward 11 (City Centre) area; and
 - resolves concerns raised during the consultation on Revised Proposals.
37. The disadvantages of Option 1 are :
- 5 wards are split between constituencies whereas the Revised Proposals only split 3 wards;

Alternative Option – City of Edinburgh council area (Option 2)

38. Option 2 also seeks to address issues raised by respondents regarding the treatment of the City Centre ward in the Revised Proposals. Option 2 draws on a suggestion for an Edinburgh East constituency. This suggestion considers the existing Edinburgh East constituency boundary, uses ward boundaries from 2017 and resolves issues raised by electors in the city centre ward.
39. The Commission previously considered this suggestion when developing its Revised Proposals but is invited to re-consider it because it addresses issues raised in the city centre of Edinburgh.
40. Option 2 follows ward boundaries for the most part except in the north of the Southside/Newington ward and City Centre ward.

41. As a consequence of adopting the suggested Edinburgh East constituency boundaries, Option 2 makes changes to two further constituencies: Edinburgh North and Leith; and Edinburgh Southside.

- Approximately 7,700 electors in the city centre ward are transferred from the proposed Edinburgh East constituency to the Edinburgh North and Leith constituency, addressing requests from respondents to the public consultation. The suggested boundary follows Princes Street, Shandwick Place and westwards to Haymarket Terrace.
- North of the Meadows, 5,500 electors from the Southside/Newington ward are placed in Edinburgh East rather than an Edinburgh Southside constituency. The suggested boundary between the Edinburgh East and Edinburgh Southside constituencies follows the southern boundary of Southside Community council area which stretches from the Commonwealth Pool, through the Meadows (east to west) and then joins Lothian Road to form a recognisable boundary at the western edge of the suggested Edinburgh East constituency.
- Approximately 1,200 electors from the Lauriston area north of the Meadows in the Meadows/Morningside ward are placed in Edinburgh East rather than an Edinburgh Southside constituency.
- The suggested Edinburgh East constituency also retains approximately 5,500 electors from the City Centre ward that were part of the proposed Edinburgh East constituency including areas such as Greenhill and the Old Town.
- A further consequence of these suggested changes is that a small part of the City Centre ward by Haymarket station transfers from the proposed Edinburgh East constituency to the Edinburgh Southside constituency where approximately 800 electors are affected.
- Changes are also suggested to include the Cameron Toll area and Nether Liberton area in Edinburgh Southside rather than Edinburgh East constituencies. The suggested boundary follows the 2017 council ward boundary in this particular area but only transfers approximately 600 electors from the Liberton/Gilmerton ward.

Table 5 – Option 2

Constituency name	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Edinburgh East	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	73,278
Edinburgh North and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	78,032
Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston	City of Edinburgh West Lothian	County	78,164
Edinburgh Southside	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	71,269
Edinburgh West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	77,738
Linlithgow	West Lothian	County	78,026
Total			456,507

42. The advantages of Option 2 are it:

- considers the Revised Proposals and retains 3 of the proposed constituencies (Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston, Edinburgh West and Linlithgow);
- considers representations regarding the proposed Edinburgh East constituency as well as those regarding ward boundaries and local community ties in ward 11 (City Centre); and

- seeks to retain as many electors as possible from the existing Edinburgh East constituency.

43. The disadvantages of Option 2 are it:

- splits 9 wards between constituencies where previously only 3 wards were split between constituencies. However the suggestion uses a more recent ward boundary dataset;
- makes changes to the proposed Southside constituency which has received little opposition; and
- there were over 60 responses to the consultation on the Initial Proposals which supported the suggested Edinburgh Southside constituency.

Constituency Names

44. The following alternative constituency names were suggested during the consultation on the Revised Proposals and are shown in Table 4.

Table 6 – Alternative constituency names

Proposed Constituency Names	Alternative Suggestion	Number of responses supporting name
Edinburgh Southside	Edinburgh South	1
	South Edinburgh	1
Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston	Livingston and Edinburgh Pentland	1

45. West Lothian Council suggested re-naming the proposed Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston constituency as Livingston and Edinburgh Pentland because the majority of voters in the proposed constituency are situated in the Livingston area.

46. A member of the public suggested two alternative names for proposed Edinburgh Southside constituency name.

47. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations once it has agreed its Final Recommendations.

Conclusion and Recommendations

48. Taking into account all of the evidence arising from the public consultation on the Revised Proposals, the Secretariat invites the Commission to decide whether:

- to adopt without amendment the Revised Proposals as its Final Recommendations, subject to consideration of all other constituencies (see Appendix A);
- to adopt Option 1 as its Final Recommendations for City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas as it minimises change to the Revised Proposals and considers local ties in Edinburgh city centre and Edinburgh East constituency, subject to consideration of all other constituencies (see Appendix B); and
- to adopt Option 2 as its Final Recommendations for City of Edinburgh and West Lothian council areas as it attempts to minimise changes to the existing Edinburgh East constituency and also recognises responses regarding Edinburgh city centre, subject to consideration of all other constituencies (see Appendix C).

Annex 1 – Summary of Representations received during public consultation on Revised Proposals

National political parties

1. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (10778) support the Revised Proposals in this grouping with the exception of Edinburgh's City Centre Ward (ward 11) and the way it has been placed in the proposed Edinburgh East constituency. They make an alternative suggestion that places parts of Edinburgh wards 11 and 12 (Leith Walk) in the proposed Edinburgh East constituency as they believe that this may better respect local ties to the east of Edinburgh whilst enabling the remainder of the City Centre ward to be placed in an Edinburgh North and Leith constituency. They hope that this suggestion will preserve long standing local ties in the area and suggest that it will resolve issues that may arise due to poor connectivity between the City Centre and the rest of the Edinburgh East constituency.
2. The Scottish Labour Party (10796) accepted that the Commission had given regard to the counter proposal for Edinburgh by Scottish Labour Ian Murray MP, and welcomed the Revised Proposals.

MPs and MSPs

3. Tommy Shepherd MP (10779) submitted a representation in which he questioned the reduction in number of MPs, the use of out of date local government boundaries, the shape of the proposed Edinburgh East constituency and the proposals' relation to established local ties. Mr Shepherd accepts that the proposals appear neat in that they split few wards between constituencies. Mr Shepherd resubmitted his submission from the consultation on the Initial Proposals and stated that his main points remain valid and that the boundary of the East Edinburgh constituency needs to be revised as he believes that the whole of ward 11 (City Centre) need not be within a single constituency unless a constituency is based mainly on central Edinburgh.
4. Ruth Davidson MSP (10775) for Central Edinburgh submitted a response in which she called for the Commission to reconsider its Revised Proposals regarding Edinburgh's City Centre ward and to place it within an Edinburgh North and Leith constituency and to make amendments between the proposed Edinburgh North and Leith and Edinburgh East constituencies around Leith Walk as London Road better connects these areas.

Local Authority

5. West Lothian Council (10473) suggested renaming the proposed Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston constituency as Livingston and Edinburgh Pentland, because the majority of voters in the proposed constituency are in the Livingston area.

Community Groups

6. Central Edinburgh New Town Association (10674) submitted a response in which they called for the Commission to retain Edinburgh city centre in an Edinburgh North and Leith constituency. They offered no alternative boundary in their response.
7. India Street Residents Association (10648) objected to the proposal to move India Street from an Edinburgh North constituency to a new Edinburgh East

constituency. They argue that the natural connection of India Street is with the areas to the north of Edinburgh's city centre, Stockbridge, Inverleith, Dean, Warriston etc. They state that facilities in those areas are widely used by their residents e.g. schools, medical practices, library, swimming baths, parks, as are the transport facilities linking them. While they recognise that responsibility for these lie either with the local council or are devolved to Holyrood they believe that it is important that all political representation is aligned as closely as possible to ensure effective lobbying on those matters of greatest concern to them. They believe that the proposed changes take them in the opposite direction.

Others

8. There were approximately 180 local and nationwide responses that made general comments regarding the review or made comments out-with the legislation for this review.

City of Edinburgh Council Area

9. 94 responses from members of the public oppose the Commission's proposals for the City Centre ward and its placement within an Edinburgh East constituency. They reference:

- close links between the New Town and West End areas and the existing Edinburgh North and Leith Constituency;
- 56 responses cite the city centre ward's close links to the north including Stockbridge and lack of local ties to the east and south of the city;
- 28 responses cited local ties to Stockbridge exclusively as a reason to oppose the proposals;
- 8 responses called for the Commission to rethink their proposals; and
- 17 suggested redrawing the proposed constituency boundary with by Leith Walk or London Road instead.

10. A member of the public (10078) supports the Revised Proposals, which adopted the suggestion from Ian Murray MP.

11. A member of the public (10172) states that Liberton is in the south of Edinburgh and should not be included within an Edinburgh East constituency with the city centre.

12. A member of the public (10201) opposes their local area of Wester Hailes being in a constituency with Livingston. They believe Wester Hailes has closer ties with south west Edinburgh and not West Lothian or Livingston in particular. They oppose the proposed Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston constituency boundary as the constituency would cross council area boundaries and that would make it difficult for an MP to represent such a constituency.

13. A member of the public (10096) supports the proposed Edinburgh Southside constituency but disagrees with the name as they feel it does not adequately represent the constituency and suggests Edinburgh South, or South Edinburgh instead.

14. A member of the public (10125) suggested that when designing boundaries the Commission should consider using the extents of 2011 Data Zones as they believe using this methodology would allow the public and official statisticians to produce accurate statistics about the population and composition of these areas.

The respondent goes on to suggest that using 2011 DZ boundaries would mean elected officials could be confident that data within their area was robust and as accurate as possible.

- 15.A member of the public (10164) responded to support the proposed constituency of Edinburgh Southside. They suggest that the redrawn boundary better reflects the inner city community alignment in this area.

West Lothian Council Area

- 16.A member of the public (10182) supports the proposed Linlithgow constituency because it places Falkirk in a separate constituency to Linlithgow.
- 17.Members of the public (10154, 10272, 10274) object to the proposed Edinburgh Pentland and Livingston constituency. They wish Livingston to be placed within a West Lothian constituency and not linked with Edinburgh.
- 18.A member of the public (10105) states that the Revised Proposals break community ties because Fauldhouse and Blackburn are no longer within a Livingston constituency. They suggest adding Whitburn to a constituency with Blackburn and Fauldhouse.
- 19.A member of the public (10268) opposes the Revised Proposals because they do not consider local community and geographical ties. They state Uphall and Broxburn has closer links with Livingston than with Linlithgow. They also oppose a constituency that covers West Lothian and Edinburgh council areas.
- 20.A member of the public (10269) opposes the decision to link Edinburgh and West Lothian together and called for Livingston to be retained in a West Lothian constituency similar to the existing constituency.















