

2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies

Consideration of Revised Proposals for City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian council areas

Action required

1. After considering responses to the initial and secondary consultations on its initial proposals at its meeting of 9 May 2022 the Commission is invited to consider the options outlined below and agree its revised proposals for public consultation for this grouping. The options incorporate suggestions made during consultation and also points raised by the Commission in discussion at its meeting of 9 May 2022. .

Background

2. The Commission's initial proposals for this area proposed seven constituencies and retained two existing constituency boundaries in Midlothian and Edinburgh South West whilst minimising change where possible in other constituency boundaries.
3. A map of the proposed constituencies is at Appendix A.

Proposed constituencies	Electorate	Wards
Midlothian	71,210	All wards
East Lothian Coast	73,939	East Lothian 1 (part), 2 - 6
Edinburgh East	73,187	East Lothian 1 (part) Edinburgh 11(part), 12(part), 13(part), 14, 15(part), 16(part), 17
Edinburgh South	70,893	Edinburgh 8(part), 10(part), 15(part), 16(part)
Edinburgh South West	73,315	Edinburgh 1(part), 2(part), 7(part), 8(part), 9, 10(part), 11(part)
Edinburgh West	76,903	Edinburgh 1(part), 2(part), 3(part), 5(part), 6(part), 7(part)
Edinburgh North and Leith	76,543	Edinburgh 4, 5(part), 6(part), 11(part), 12(part), 13(part)

4. At its meeting of 9 May 2022 the Commission considered the responses to the consultations on its initial proposals in City of Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian council areas. There were 83 responses to the initial proposals, most of which opposed the proposed boundary at Musselburgh. The Commission agreed to retain the initial proposals for Midlothian which followed the council area boundary and retained the existing Midlothian constituency. The Commission agreed there had been a number of responses in Edinburgh which made reasonable arguments in favour of alternative boundaries and the Commission asked for them to be incorporated into options considered in this paper.
5. The Commission agreed to adopt the suggestion from the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (SCUP) for the boundary in Musselburgh, to follow an historical constituency boundary, as it was considered to be an improvement on the initial proposals as it may offer a more recognised boundary in Musselburgh and it may not split the older village of Musselburgh between constituencies.
6. The maps in this paper show revised proposal options in block colours, existing ward boundaries are red and initial proposal boundaries are a black line.

City of Edinburgh Alternative Options

Option 1 – Initial Proposals incorporating alternative suggestion in Musselburgh (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

7. Option 1 retains the initial proposals for all constituencies except East Lothian and Edinburgh East where an alternative suggestion for the boundary in Musselburgh made by the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party is incorporated.
8. The suggested boundary includes a greater area of Musselburgh within an Edinburgh East constituency which includes a further 2,600 electors. The suggestion partly follows a historical UK Parliament boundary in Musselburgh used from 1997 to 2005 and partly a polling district boundary. The suggestion is within the electorate quota.
9. A map of the suggestion can be found at Appendix B and the accompanying electorate is shown below.

Constituency	Electorate
Edinburgh East	76,214
Edinburgh South	70,893
Edinburgh South West	73,315
Edinburgh West	76,903
Edinburgh North and Leith	76,543
East Lothian	70,912
Midlothian	71,210

10. The advantages of this suggestion are it:
 - may offer a more recognised boundary in Musselburgh;
 - does not split the older historical village of Musselburgh between constituencies. and
 - may help resolve the opposition to the initial proposal.
11. The disadvantages of this suggestion are:
 - it still partly splits Musselburgh between constituencies.

Option 2 – Alternative Suggestion 11876 incorporating alternative suggestion in Musselburgh (SCUP)

12. A member of the public (11876) submitted an all-Scotland alternative suggestion. This included making alterations to all of the City of Edinburgh constituencies in order to minimise the number of wards split between constituencies. Their suggestion splits four wards: ward 5 (Inverleith); ward 8 (Colinton/ Fairmilehead); ward 11 (City Centre); and ward 15 (Southside/ Newington). The initial proposals split 13 of Edinburgh's 17 wards. The Commission asked that this option be considered along with the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party suggestion in Musselburgh.

13. A map of the suggestion can be found at Appendix C and the accompanying electorate is shown below.

Constituency	Electorate
Edinburgh East	76,396
Edinburgh South	72,611
Edinburgh South West	75,727
Edinburgh West	72,910
Edinburgh North and Leith	76,224
East Lothian	70,912
Midlothian	71,210

14. The advantages of this suggestion are:

- it follows ward boundaries to a greater extent than the initial proposals which may be seen to be more respectful of community ties;
- the suggested boundaries are similar to the existing arrangements and initial proposals;
- it may offer a more recognised boundary in Musselburgh;
- it may resolve most of the concerns raised during the initial consultation regarding the proposed Musselburgh boundary;
- it incorporates the Labour suggestion by Morningside and Liberton/Gilmerton; and
- it does not split the older historical village of Musselburgh between constituencies.

15. The disadvantages of this suggestion are:

- it would make changes, such as to the proposed Edinburgh South West constituency, where there has been some support and little opposition to the initial proposals which in many areas were based on existing constituency boundaries. However, the next consultation period would provide an opportunity to test views further.

Option 3 – Initial Proposals incorporating alternative suggestion in Musselburgh (SCUP) and Pilton (10947) and Labour Party (11802)

16. Option 3 retains the initial proposals in most of Edinburgh, Midlothian and East Lothian council areas but incorporates suggestions for Edinburgh and East Lothian made during public consultation on the initial proposals.

17. The Commission agreed that the suggestion made by response (10947) which suggested placing Muirhouse within an 'Edinburgh North and Leith' constituency was a reasonable and well-argued suggestion because it has strong links with West Pilton.

18. Furthermore the Commission also considered the suggestion by the Scottish Labour Party to make two minor changes to the initial proposals in Edinburgh which would follow ward boundaries in Morningside and Liberton/Gilmerton, affecting only 137 electors who would transfer from Edinburgh East to Edinburgh South to be worthy of further consideration in an alternative option. This suggestion affects so few electors it could also be incorporated into the initial

proposals or option 1 in this paper. It is effectively incorporated in option 2 as the boundaries are identical in the areas described above.

19. Option 3 also includes the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party's suggested boundary in Musselburgh and the table showing the electorates for this option is shown below and the map of this option can be seen at Appendix D.

Constituency	Electorate
Edinburgh East	76,077
Edinburgh South	71,030
Edinburgh South West	73,315
Edinburgh West	76,719
Edinburgh North and Leith	76,727
East Lothian	70,912
Midlothian	71,210

20. The advantages of this suggestion are:

- the suggested boundary in north Edinburgh follows a boundary similar to that in place in this area between 1983 and 1997 bounding the Edinburgh Leith and Edinburgh West constituencies;
- the suggested boundary in north Edinburgh follows community council boundaries which may be better recognised by local communities;
- the suggestion in Edinburgh South better aligns ward boundaries with constituency boundaries;
- the suggestion in Edinburgh South makes minor changes to the initial proposals in the area (less than 140 electors);
- retains the existing Edinburgh South West constituency;
- the suggested boundary in Musselburgh may be more recognised as a historical boundary;
- may resolve most of the comments raised during the initial consultation; and
- does not split the older historical village of Musselburgh between constituencies.

21. The disadvantages of this suggestion are:

- it would make changes in Edinburgh where there has been some support and little opposition to the initial proposals. As above, the further consultation period would allow views to be tested.

Constituency names

22. As agreed at the meeting of 9 May 2022, upon completion of the constituency design process the Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its revised proposals.

Summary

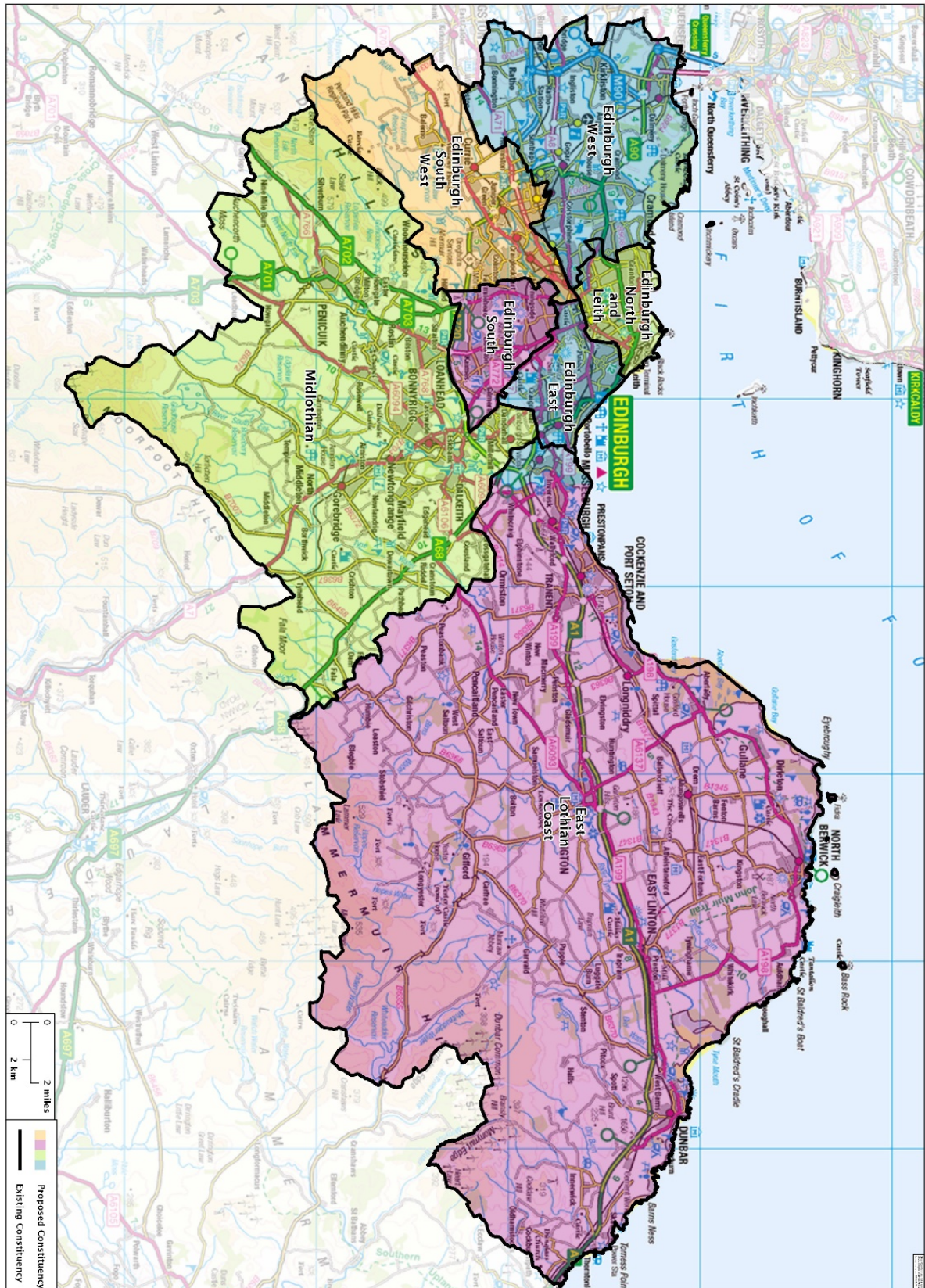
23. The Commission is reminded that the proposed Midlothian constituency sits within the electorate quota for this review and received a single response to the initial consultation. All three options retain the existing Midlothian constituency.

24. Option 1 retains four of the five Edinburgh constituencies from the initial proposals but incorporates a suggestion for an alternative boundary between Edinburgh East and East Lothian Coast constituencies. This suggestion places the boundary in Musselburgh further east and seeks to retain a larger part of the town in a single constituency.
25. Option 2 presents a constituency design for the Edinburgh constituencies based on ward boundaries with fewer wards being split than in the initial proposals. This option also includes the alternative boundary in Musselburgh described above and the suggestion by the Scottish Labour Party.
26. Option 3 adopts suggestions to alter the boundaries in the north of Edinburgh in order to retain community ties and in the south of the city to align the boundaries with ward boundaries. Option 3 also includes the alternative boundary in Musselburgh described above.
27. Whilst there were several alternative suggestions received for this grouping, particularly in Edinburgh, they lacked strong support or in some case strong arguments in favour of their adoption. In broad terms there was generally support or a lack of opposition to the initial proposals in Edinburgh and Midlothian.
28. 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.

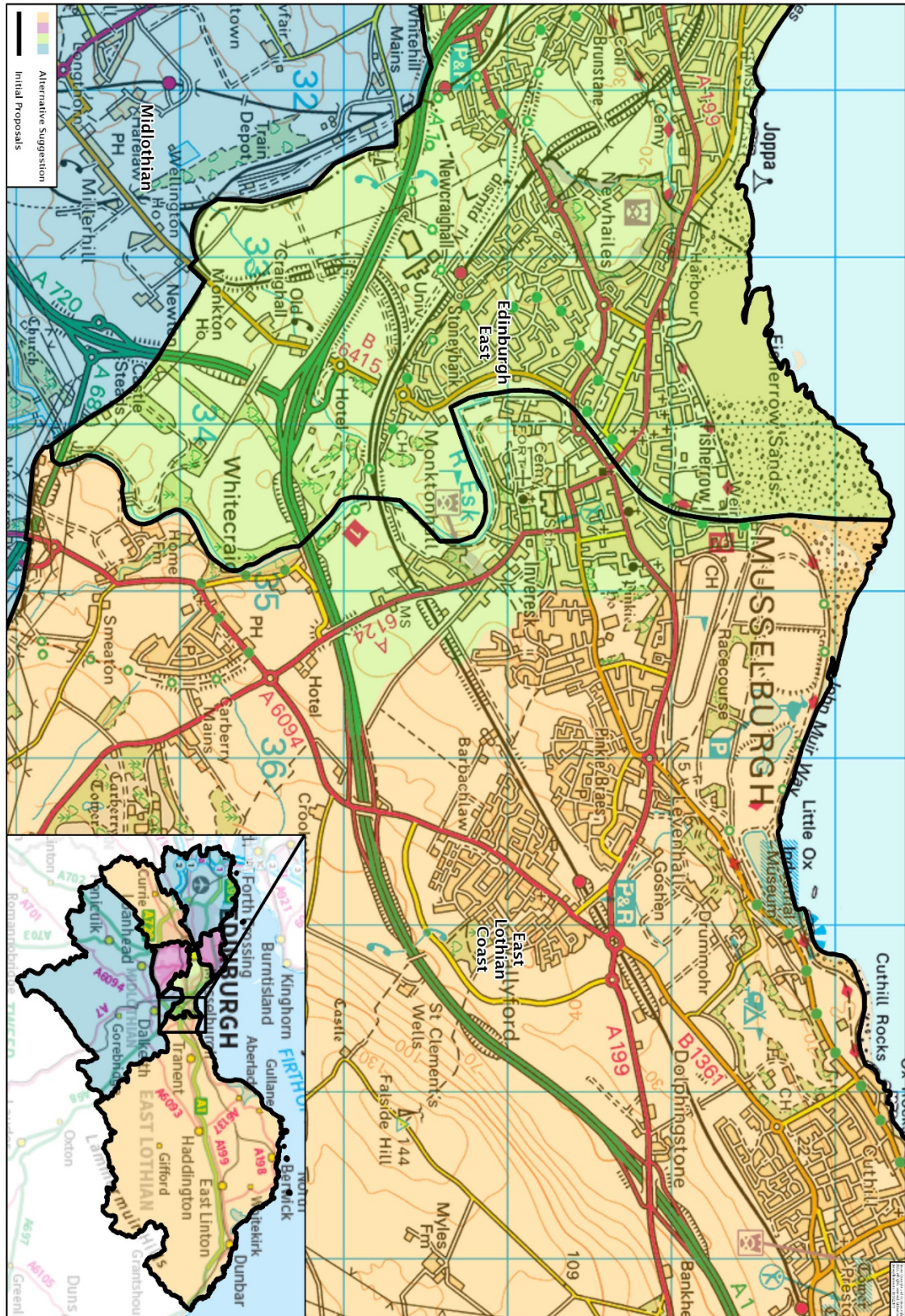
Recommendations

29. Taking into account all of the evidence arising from the public consultations on the initial proposals, the Secretariat invites the Commission to decide whether:
- to retain its initial proposals without amendment as its revised proposals for public consultation; or
 - to adopt any of the alternative options included in this paper as its revised proposals for public consultation

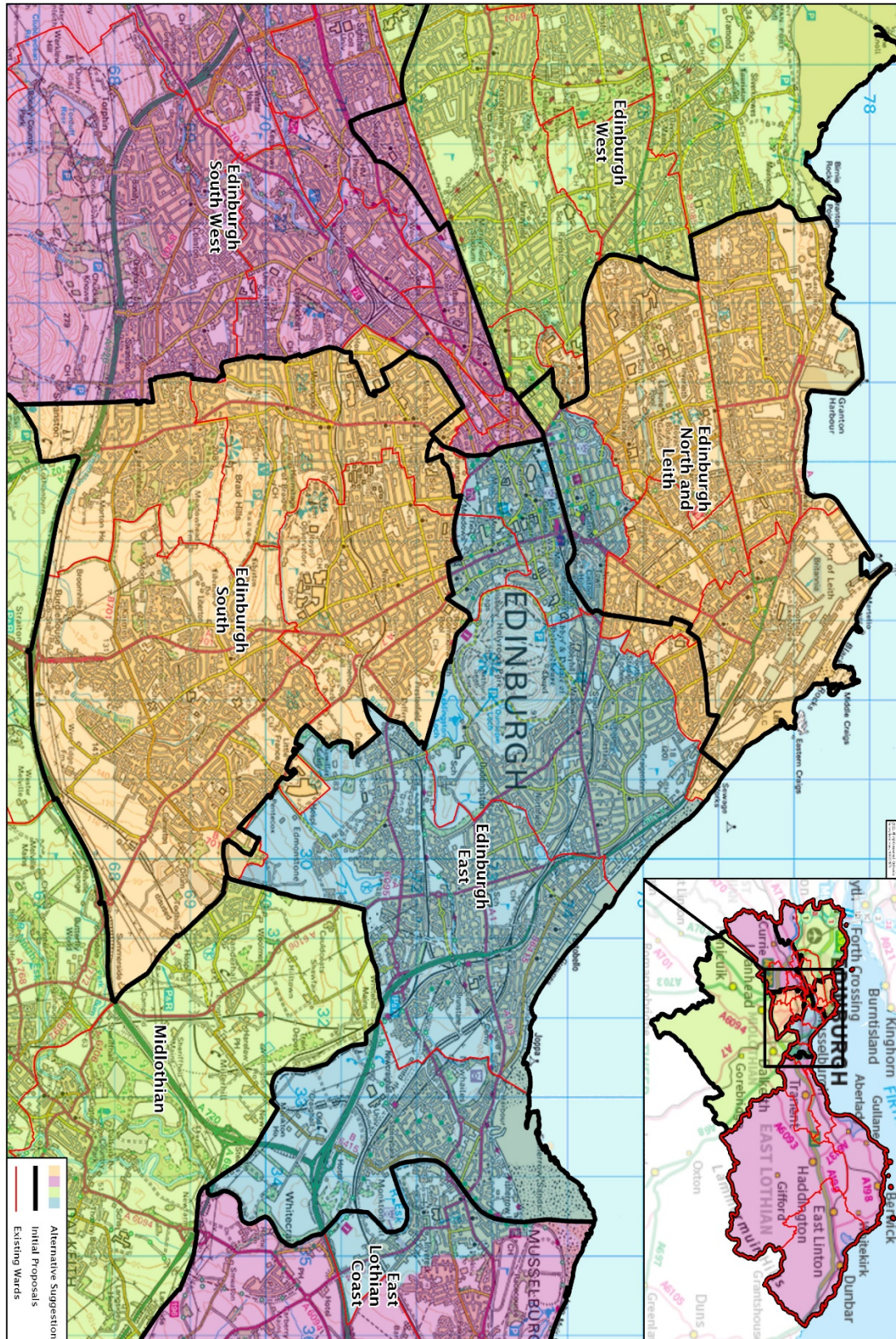
Secretariat
May 2022



Option 1 - City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian council areas



Option 2 - City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian council areas



Appendix D

Option 3 - City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian council areas

