

2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Final recommendations – Aberdeen City Council Area

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. The Commission is also invited, in paragraph 17, to agree its Final Recommendations for constituencies in Aberdeen City Council area.

Constituencies at the start of this review

2. At the start of this review, Aberdeen City Council area was covered by two constituencies wholly within the council area and one constituency partly in the council area and partly in Aberdeenshire Council area. The constituencies are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 - Constituencies at the start of this review

Current constituency	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
Aberdeen North	Aberdeen City	Burgh	62,280
Aberdeen South	Aberdeen City	Burgh	64,274
Gordon	Aberdeen City Aberdeenshire	County	77,836
Total			204,390

Initial Proposals

3. We designed constituencies for this area within our overall approach to grouping council areas for constituency design. Our proposed grouping included two constituencies exactly covering the extent of Aberdeen City Council area.
4. We discussed our Initial Proposals for this council area in Paper 2021/12 and Paper 2021/14. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meetings of 17 May 2021 and 19 July 2021. We agreed proposed constituency names and designations after considering Paper 2021/24. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 23 August 2021.
5. In deciding upon our Initial Proposals for Aberdeen City Council area we agreed a constituency design that aimed to retain traditional Aberdeen north-south constituencies. The proposed boundary between the Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South constituencies followed ward boundaries, except by Rosemount.
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
Aberdeen North	Aberdeen City	Burgh	76,895
Aberdeen South	Aberdeen City	Burgh	76,560
Total			153,455

7. On 14 October 2021 we published our Initial Proposals for this council area for the specified initial consultation period of eight weeks.
8. We received five representations in response to the initial consultation on our Initial Proposals for Aberdeen City Council areas.
9. On 10 February 2022 we published the representations we received during the consultation for the specified secondary consultation period of six weeks. In response, we received a further two representations concerning Aberdeen City Council area.

Revised Proposals

10. We considered the representations received on our Initial Proposals in this council area in Paper 2022/08. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 9 May 2022.
11. There was little support or opposition to the proposals and no alternative suggestions were submitted.
12. Some representations contained suggestions that did not comply with the statutory rules governing this review. These mainly opposed a reduction in the number of MP's in Scotland. We did not consider those suggestions further.
13. After considering all responses to the consultation we decided to retain the two Aberdeen constituencies from our Initial Proposals.
14. We agreed revised constituency names and designations after considering Paper 2022/20. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 18 July 2022.
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
Aberdeen North	Aberdeen City	Burgh	76,895
Aberdeen South	Aberdeen City	Burgh	76,560
Total			153,455

16. On 8 November 2022 we published our Revised Proposals for constituencies in Aberdeen City Council area for the specified consultation period of four weeks. A map of the Revised Proposals and Initial Proposals is at Appendix A.

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.

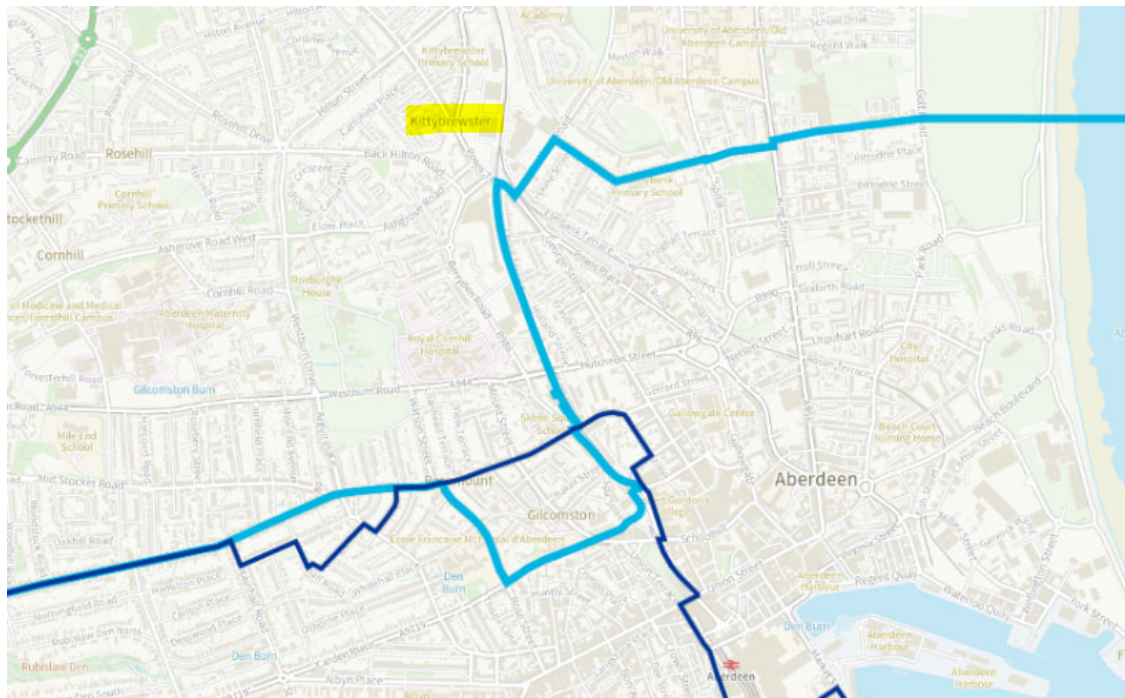
Responses to Revised Proposals Public Consultation

18. Two responses (see Annex) were received during the consultation on the Revised Proposals for Aberdeen City Council area.

Consideration of Representations

19. One response supported the Revised Proposals because they placed two constituencies within the Aberdeen City Council area boundary.

20. One response raised concerns with the proposed boundary by Kittybrewster but offered no alternative suggestions. The map below highlights the location of Kittybrewster. The dark blue line shows the existing constituency boundary and the light blue line is the revised proposals.



21. 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 2023 Review.

Constituency Names

22. The Commission will have the opportunity to review all constituency names and designations prior to the publication of its Final Recommendations.

Conclusion and Recommendations

23. Taking into account all of the evidence arising from the public consultation on the Revised Proposals, the Secretariat invites the Commission to agree its Final Recommendations for Aberdeen City Council area, subject to consideration of all other constituencies.

Secretariat
February 2023

Annex: Summary of Representations received during public consultation on Revised Proposals

Members of the public

1. A member of the public (12551) stated “it seems strange to move my area (part of Kittybrewster) which is clearly part of North Aberdeen into South Aberdeen which includes the West End. This part of Aberdeen simply has little or nothing in common with the wealthy West End.”

National political parties

2. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (13039) stated “we agree that Aberdeen should be contained within two constituencies, and have no further comment on the proposed Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South.”

Others

3. There were nearly 90 local and nationwide responses that made general comments regarding the review or made comments out-with the legislation for this review.

