BCS Paper 2023/04

2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies
Final recommendations – City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Council Areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to agree paragraphs 2 to 17 of this report as part of the text for its Final Report. The Commission is also invited, in paragraph 18, to agree its Final Recommendations for constituencies in City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Council areas.

Constituencies at the start of this review

2. At the start of this review, City of Edinburgh had five constituencies wholly within its council area, East Lothian had one constituency wholly within its council area and Midlothian had one constituency wholly within its council area. The constituencies are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 *- Constituencies at the start of this review*

Current constituency	Council areas	Designation	Electorate
East Lothian	East Lothian	County	82,479
Edinburgh East	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	69,020
Edinburgh North and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	80,344
Edinburgh South	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	66,520
Edinburgh South West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	73,315
Edinburgh West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	73,102
Midlothian	Midlothian	County	71,210
Total			**515,990**

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 four constituencies within City of Edinburgh, one constituency within East Lothian, one constituency coterminous with Midlothian Council area and one constituency partly in City of Edinburgh Council area and partly in East Lothian Council area.

4. We discussed our Initial Proposals for these council areas in Paper 2021/13. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meeting of 17 May 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 City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Council areas we agreed to retain the overall number of constituencies at 7. The existing Midlothian constituency was unchanged. In Edinburgh, the existing Edinburgh South West constituency and the existing constituency names were unchanged. There were minor changes to the boundary between the Edinburgh West and Edinburgh North and Leith constituencies at Craigleith and the Dean Village. The boundary between the Edinburgh East and Edinburgh South constituencies was amended at Prestonfield. The Edinburgh East constituency included the western half of Musselburgh. In East Lothian, due

to the electorate growth, part of Musselburgh was added to an Edinburgh East constituency. The constituency was named East Lothian Coast as it no longer follows the East Lothian Council area boundary.

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
East Lothian Coast	East Lothian	County	73,939
Edinburgh East	East Lothian and City of Edinburgh	Burgh	73,187
Edinburgh North and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	76,543
Edinburgh South	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	70,893
Edinburgh South West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	73,315
Edinburgh West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	76,903
Midlothian	Midlothian	County	71,210
Total			**515,990**

7. On 14 October 2021 we published our Initial Proposals for these council areas for the specified initial consultation period of eight weeks.

8. We received 64 representations in response to the initial consultation on our Initial Proposals for City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian 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 19 representations concerning City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Council area.

Revised Proposals

10. We considered the representations received on our Initial Proposals in these council areas in Paper 2022/10 and Paper 2022/14. Our discussion and conclusions are recorded in the minutes of our meetings of 9 May 2022 and 6 June 2022.

11. Suggestions and comments received during the initial consultation included:
    - opposition to the proposed boundary in Musselburgh as it split the town between two constituencies;
    - support for the Initial Proposals in Edinburgh and Midlothian; and
    - some minor alternative boundary suggestions in Edinburgh.

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 make a number of changes to the Initial Proposals.

14. We agreed to retain the overall number of constituencies – 7. The proposed Midlothian constituency was unchanged from the existing arrangements and the Initial Proposals. In Edinburgh, the proposed Edinburgh South West constituency was unchanged from the existing arrangements and the Initial Proposals. The other Edinburgh constituency names were unchanged from the existing arrangements and Initial Proposals but there were changes to the proposed constituency boundaries from the Initial Proposals at Pilton, Craigleith and Gilmerton, with minor changes at Bruntsfield and Moredun. The proposed Edinburgh East constituency included a larger part of Musselburgh than the Initial Proposals. In East Lothian we amended the constituency boundary at Musselburgh and re-named the proposed constituency as East Lothian and Lammermuirs to reflect the extensive geography of the constituency and that it no longer follows East Lothian Council area boundary.

15. 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.

16. 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
East Lothian and Lammermuirs	East Lothian	County	71,287
Edinburgh East	East Lothian City of Edinburgh	Burgh	75,705
Edinburgh North and Leith	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	76,770
Edinburgh South	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	70,980
Edinburgh South West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	73,315
Edinburgh West	City of Edinburgh	Burgh	76,723
Midlothian	Midlothian	County	71,210
Total			**515,990**

17. On 8 November 2022 we published our Revised Proposals for constituencies in City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Council areas for the specified consultation period of four weeks. A map of the Revised Proposals (block colour) and Initial Proposals (black line) is at Appendix A.

Draft Final Recommendations

18. 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

19. 63 responses (see Annex) were received during the consultation on the Revised Proposals for City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Council areas.

20. 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.

Consideration of Representations

21. The comments received are discussed by council area below. There were no comments regarding the proposed Midlothian constituency.

22. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party were supportive of the Revised Proposals in this grouping. The Scottish Liberal Democrat Party were supportive of the Revised Proposals boundaries but suggested some alternative constituency names and suggested Edinburgh West be designated a county constituency.

23. A number of responses suggested alternative constituency names and these are discussed later.

Edinburgh

24. In Edinburgh, there was general support for the Revised Proposals, mainly the proposed Edinburgh West constituency and some suggestions for alternative constituency names.

25. One response opposed the proposed Edinburgh West because it may affect which political party represents them.

26. There was a suggestion from the Scottish Liberal Democrats Party, Christine Jardine MP and Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP that the proposed Edinburgh West constituency be designated as a County constituency, rather than a Burgh constituency.

27. Whilst legislation does not define the size of a Burgh or County constituency, Burgh constituencies are generally urban and County constituencies are more rural. The Revised Proposals proposed all Burgh constituencies be 107 km^2 or less and all County constituencies as 136 km^2.or more. The proposed Edinburgh West constituency is the largest Burgh constituency at 107 km^2. The differentiation between a Burgh and a County constituency is a historical anomaly but in essence it governs the amount of election expenses a candidate can spend. In a Burgh constituency – that have generally been more urban and therefore more compact an area – a candidate can spend 6 pence per registered parliamentary elector in addition to the fixed amount of expenditure (currently £8,700). In a county constituency the amount per elector is 9 pence per registered parliamentary elector. (Data from Electoral Commission website - https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdf_file/UKPGE-Part-3-Spending-and-donations.pdf). All of the existing burgh constituencies cover an area of 120 km^2 or less with two exceptions: East Dunbartonshire county constituency (85 km^2) and Dundee East burgh constituency (157 km^2).

East Lothian

28. Most responses in this grouping focussed on East Lothian and in particular the proposal to split the town of Musselburgh between two constituencies. The Initial Proposals had split Musselburgh by following the River Esk, splitting Musselburgh in half. The Commission's Revised Proposals aimed to include most of Musselburgh in an Edinburgh East constituency by placing the boundary further east in Musselburgh by partly following an historical constituency boundary.

29. Over 40 responses opposed the proposed boundary in Musselburgh. In summary they stated: Musselburgh should not be split between two constituencies; Musselburgh has closer ties with East Lothian than Edinburgh; confusion over which MP to contact in Musselburgh; Musselburgh would lose its identity; break existing community ties; or do not consider the local geography.

30. There was a suggestion (12337) to link Musselburgh with Midlothian rather than Edinburgh to create a constituency similar to the existing Scottish Parliament constituency of Midlothian North and Musselburgh.

31. No details were submitted with this suggestion but the Commission could propose two constituencies within East Lothian and Midlothian Council areas. (East Lothian 82,479 electors + Midlothian 71,210 electors = 153,689 ÷ 2 = 76,844.5 electors per constituency). Musselburgh, with approx. 16,000 electors, could be added to the northern part of Midlothian but as a consequence large parts of Midlothian south and east would need to be added to the remainder of East Lothian. The boundary in Midlothian follows community council area boundaries at Rosewell, Gorebridge and Tynewater. This suggestion would create two East Lothian – Midlothian constituencies and Edinburgh could retain five constituencies wholly within its council area boundary. Edinburgh would likely require a complete redesign from the Revised Proposals as the average electorate would be lower at 72,460 electors per constituency. The advantages of this suggestion are it: places Musselburgh within a single constituency; and considers the Edinburgh Council area boundary with five constituencies wholly within Edinburgh. The disadvantages of this suggestion are it: creates two East Lothian – Midlothian constituencies; splits Midlothian between two constituencies, an area where there has been little opposition to the Revised Proposals; there is little to connect coastal Dunbar or North Berwick with Gorebridge in Midlothian; splits Musselburgh from the rest of East Lothian; and creates a large East Lothian and Midlothian South constituency. A map of this suggestion is at Appendix B.

32. A member of the public suggested adding Wallyford to Prestonpans and retaining Musselburgh in a single constituency. The Revised Proposals place Wallyford and Prestonpans in the same constituency.

33. There was a suggestion to retain the existing East Lothian constituency but it is out-with the electorate quota for the 2023 Review with 82,479 electors.

34. A member of the public suggested an alternative constituency design which placed Musselburgh and Wallyford, from East Lothian, in an Edinburgh East constituency. A map of this suggestion is at Appendix C.

35. The advantages of this suggestion are it: places the whole of Musselburgh within a single constituency; and minimises change to the proposed Edinburgh constituencies. The disadvantages of this suggestion are: to meet the electorate quota part of Midlothian is added to an East Lothian constituency to create a large East Lothian constituency; the proposed Midlothian and Liberton constituency overlaps the A720 (city bypass) road; and it necessitates amending a number of other constituency boundaries in Edinburgh where there has been support and little opposition to the Revised Proposals.

36. Although not suggested during the consultation there is a further solution that avoids Musselburgh being split between two constituencies. The Commission could consider adding Dunbar to a Scottish Borders constituency, see map at Appendix D.

37. East Lothian with 82,479 electors less the 11,695 Dunbar and East Linton ward electors leaves 70,784 electors. However it would be challenging for a Scottish Borders constituency to absorb 11,695 electors. However the Dunbar and East Linton ward could be divided with Dunbar and some smaller villages being added to a Berwickshire and Roxburgh constituency. As a consequence Selkirk would be transferred from the Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency to the Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale constituency. The advantages of this suggestion are it: places Musselburgh in a single constituency; avoids Midlothian being divided between constituencies; considers the City of Edinburgh Council area boundary; and from at least 1950 to - 1983 there was a Berwick and East Lothian constituency which included Dunbar, Haddington, Eyemouth and Lauder. The disadvantages of this suggestion are: there is little to connect coastal Dunbar with Kelso or Hawick; the Lammermuir hills act as a natural boundary between Dunbar and the Scottish Borders; it necessitates amending a number of other constituency boundaries where there has been support and little opposition to the Revised Proposals.

38. Musselburgh was placed in an Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency from 1997 and 2005. The Revised Proposals aimed to follow the constituency boundary used at that time in Musselburgh.

39. From at least 1950 to 1983 Musselburgh sat within an Edinburgh East constituency with Portobello.

40. The existing Scottish Parliament constituency places Musselburgh in a Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency.

Constituency Names

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

42. There was strong opposition to the proposed East Lothian and Lammermuirs constituency name. The Initial Proposals had named a constituency East Lothian Coastal. The alternative names included:

Proposed constituency name	**Suggested constituency name**
Edinburgh East	Edinburgh East and Musselburgh Edinburgh East and Musselburgh West Edinburgh East and Fisherrow Edinburgh East and West Musselburgh East Edinburgh and West Musselburgh
East Lothian and Lammermuirs	East Lothian Haddingtonshire East Lothian East Lothian Coastal

43. The Commission has aimed to avoid adopting a council area name if the constituency no longer follows the council area boundary. However the

Commission has adopted Dumfries and Galloway, Falkirk and West Dunbartonshire as constituency names where the constituency boundary does not follow the council area boundary. Therefore the Commission could name the proposed East Lothian and Lammermuirs constituency as East Lothian.

44. There was also a suggestion to avoid compass points in Edinburgh constituency names. The suggested constituency names included: Edinburgh Portobello; Edinburgh Leith; Edinburgh Morningside; Edinburgh Pentland Hills; and Edinburgh Cramond. They also preferred East Lothian Coastal.

Conclusion and Recommendations

45. 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 City of Edinburgh, East Lothian and Midlothian Council areas, subject to consideration of all other constituencies.

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

Members of the public - Edinburgh

1. A member of the public (12637) supported the proposed Edinburgh West constituency.

2. A member of the public (12196) opposed the proposed Edinburgh West constituency because "moving Craigleith into the Edinburgh West constituency means I can no longer be represented by a Labour or SNP MP. Edinburgh West can never be anything other than Tory or Lib Dem. This change means it is impossible for me to be represented by an MP who shares my political views."

3. A member of the public (12876) suggested the following constituency names that avoid compass points: Edinburgh Portobello; Edinburgh Leith; Edinburgh Morningside; Edinburgh Pentland Hills; and Edinburgh Cramond. They also prefer East Lothian Coastal.

Members of the public – East lothian

4. Members of the public opposed the proposed East Lothian and Lammermuirs constituency because:
   - Musselburgh should not be split between two constituencies;
   - Musselburgh has closer ties with East Lothian than Edinburgh;
   - Musselburgh is largest town in East Lothian;
   - "Musselburgh has her own traditions and history which are not aligned to Edinburgh";
   - an MP will focus on Edinburgh rather than East Lothian;
   - Councillors will not be aligned with a single MP on local matters such as flood protection in Musselburgh;
   - confusion over which MP to contact in Musselburgh;
   - not in the interests of the local community in Musselburgh;
   - Musselburgh would lose its identity;
   - the Revised Proposals do not consider the Commission's principles in Musselburgh: design as many constituencies as practicable that do not cross a council area boundary; recognise existing community ties; take into consideration local geography (for example transport links, other electoral boundaries, administrative boundaries and natural features); or consider special geographical considerations where appropriate;
   - "keeping Musselburgh Race Course in East Lothian but adding Inveresk to Edinburgh East is absurd.";
   - Musselburgh will be split across three political representation levels (Council, Scottish Parliament and UK Parliament);
   - it would place Musselburgh out-with East Lothian Council area; and
   - uncertainty over which council to contact - Edinburgh or East Lothian (12206, 12211, 12233, 12244, 12259, 12272, 12281, 12305, 12315, 12321, 12323, 12327, 12344, 12358, 12382, 12409, 12416, 12421, 12435,12445, 12549, 12562, 12706, 12707, 12758, 12768, 12773, 12776, 12777, 12778, 12786, 12801, 12803, 12867, 12910, 13036, 13029, 13012, 12199, 12322).

5. A member of the public suggested linking Musselburgh with Midlothian because a Scottish Parliament constituency does (12337).

6. Members of the public suggested alternative constituency names. They included:
   - renaming the Edinburgh East constituency as Edinburgh East and Musselburgh (12439);
   - Edinburgh East and Musselburgh West or "Edinburgh East and Fisherrow but would prefer a constituency that covers East Lothian Council area (12646).
   - East Lothian (12742).
   - Haddingtonshire (12964).

7. A member of the public suggested adding Wallyford to Prestonpans and keeping Musselburgh in one constituency (12757).

8. A member of the public (12753) opposed the proposals because the proposed East Lothian and Lammermuirs constituency no longer follows the council area boundary and there is little to link Musselburgh with the Old Town of Edinburgh. As a solution they attached a paper “An STV scheme for Westminster”.

9. A member of the public (12670) opposed dividing Musselburgh, with its long history and established community ties, between two constituencies. They suggest an:
   - East Lothian constituency without Musselburgh (and Wallyford if possible). If this is below quota, electors from Cockburnspath (Scottish Borders) or Midlothian could be added. They recommend a lower electorate for an East Lothian constituency due to the amount of housing development in the area.
   - Edinburgh East and Musselburgh constituency which includes the Musselburgh, Portobello/Craigmillar and Craigentinny/Duddingston wards. The boundary can be amended with the Edinburgh South constituency to balance the electorate by the Old Town, Southside, St Leonards and Prestonfield or Burdiehouse and Gilmerton could be added to Midlothian or amendments to the boundary at Leith with Granton/ Pilton in an Edinburgh West constituency.

Local Community Groups

10. Musselburgh Business Partnership (12754), who represent 50 businesses in Musselburgh, stated “we strongly disagree to the proposals to split Musselburgh between 2 constituencies. Musselburgh needs to be represented by 1 MP. If it is split it could lead to 2 MPs in different parties or with different agendas. This would be detrimental to the people of Musselburgh and the town. We have looked at data across Scotland and cannot see that splitting towns is common practice at all, It seems that this is a lazy option for those looking at the boundaries and I am sure a better plan can be found as splitting a town is not a viable option. If part of the town is added to Edinburgh East we feel the needs of Musselburgh, which would be a small part of the area and in a different council area will get overlooked as the majority of the constituency would be in Edinburgh and being the capital this would get much greater importance.”

National political parties

11. The Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (13039) stated "we agree that Midlothian should remain as a constituency in its own right. We agree that Edinburgh and East Lothian must be combined, for the large and growing electorate of East Lothian to be allocated, as it must be, over two constituencies, and that the obvious way to do so is to include Musselburgh within Edinburgh's easternmost constituency, a combination for which there is a long historic precedent. We note that the Revised Proposals include mutual transfers between Edinburgh West and Edinburgh North and Leith, as outlined in the Initial Proposals, but we offer no objection to them or to the other constituencies proposed in Edinburgh.

12. The Scottish Liberal Democrat Party (12932) stated "We support the Commission's revised proposal for constituencies in Edinburgh. We welcome the small change that has been made to the Edinburgh West constituency in adding Craigleith and moving Muirhouse into the Edinburgh North and Leith constituency. This change better reflects the community ties in each of these areas and is welcomed. When considering the size of the new Edinburgh West constituency, we would like to suggest that the new constituency be designated as a County constituency, rather than a Burgh constituency. We note that the 1986 Act does not define the size of a Burgh or County constituency. We understand that the Commission would typically classify constituencies smaller than 109 km² as a Burgh constituency. Given the size of the proposed constituency (107 km²), the rural nature of wards 1 and 2 which fall within the proposed constituency boundaries, and the large population of these rural communities we believe that it is reasonable for the Commission to classify Edinburgh West as a County constituency. We would also suggest that Musselburgh is a large enough part of the proposed Edinburgh East constituency to be included in the name. The Commission should name this constituency Edinburgh East and Musselburgh. This name change would also assist voters in understanding that Musselburgh is no longer in the East Lothian constituency. We note the Commission's proposed East Lothian and Lammermuirs constituency and agree it satisfies the statutory requirements. We would however like to suggest that this constituency retains the name 'East Lothian' as the Lammermuirs are within the East Lothian Council area and the proposed constituency comprises the majority of the East Lothian Council area."

MPs and MSPs

13. Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP for Edinburgh Western (12936), supported the proposed Edinburgh West constituency because the new boundaries: "achieve the aim of encompassing communities that identify as communities in their totality; retain a direct link between constituency and a single local authority and offer a greater symmetry with the Scottish Parliamentary seat."

14. Christine Jardine MP for Edinburgh West (12805), supported the proposed Edinburgh West constituency. She stated "the addition of Craigleith, and the moving of Muirhouse into the Edinburgh North and Leith constituency I believe represents a better reflection of the communities of these areas and is welcomed."

15. Craig Hoy MSP for South Scotland Region (12341), stated the "proposals for East Lothian are very confusing as they would rename the area to East Lothian and the Lammermuirs. This is despite the southern half of the Lammermuir Hills being contained within the Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk constituency. I would advise … to retain the constituency name of 'East Lothian.'"

16. Colin Beattie MSP for Midlothian North and Musselburgh (12790) finds "the proposed changes put forward by the Boundary Commission deeply worrying for my constituents, especially those that reside in Musselburgh. The revised boundaries put forward which will impact the Musselburgh make no logical sense at all. What is proposed is to essentially divide a united community into two. With one half remaining in the East Lothian boundary and the other in the Edinburgh East boundary. I feel and many residents in Musselburgh feel that their interest are very much aligned with that of East Lothian. The interests and needs of Musselburgh hold more local connections and similarities to East Lothian than that of Edinburgh. Proposing to split this community creates a problem that simply does not need to be created. I am concerned that by moving these areas to what is the proposed new Edinburgh East constituency local ties that are currently in place may be strained if not broken. I see no reason as to why a community needs to be split. Currently, Musselburgh is facing issues, for example, access to healthcare services at Riverside Medical Practice and ongoing consultation of the Musselburgh Flood Protection Scheme. Both issues I am involved with as the local MSP, but it would indeed make issues such as these more complex to deal with having Musselburgh split between two MPs. These decisions are often made with lack of insight and understanding of a community and what the potential impact could be. It is important that feedback on this is considered very carefully where residents of Musselburgh and East Lothian, if not all agree that this proposal should not go ahead. I would urge you to listen to voices of the electorate that will be impacted by this decision. Overall, the proposed boundary changes will see Scotland lose 2 MP's. These changes purposely reduce our voice getting heard of vital issues that impact Scottish communities. It is important Scotland has fair representation to ensure its needs and wants are heard loud and clear in Westminster."

Local authorities

17. Midlothian and City of Edinburgh Council did not respond to the consultation.

18. East Lothian Council (12791) explained they had responded to the earlier consultation and "at that time, we noted that the proposals represent a significant change for the East Lothian constituency. The proposal that the existing constituency should be reduced in size, with the western half of Musselburgh moved to the Edinburgh East constituency was clearly of some concern to the Members of the Council. We note now that even more of Musselburgh is to be removed from the East Lothian constituency and moved to the Edinburgh East constituency. We had previously stated that the proposal for East Lothian breaks strong community ties, splits a community between two constituencies across two local authority areas, disregards the geographic, transport, business and community links between the two parts of community it proposes to split between two constituencies and existing electoral and administrative boundaries and we stand by that position. However, given the population changes and the electoral quota, the Council

accepted that the scope for alternative boundaries was limited. However, at that time, the Council made a strong representation in respect of the suggested names for the two constituencies and would like to reiterate this. Firstly, if a significant part of Musselburgh is to be added to eastern Edinburgh, its place in that constituency should be reflected in the name. We would suggest 'East Edinburgh and West Musselburgh'. Secondly, the original proposal was to rename the remaining area of East Lothian as 'East Lothian Coastal'. The Council's representation was that a significant part of the constituency is rural or inland towns with no immediate link to the coast. As such, we proposed that the current name of 'East Lothian' be retained. Whilst we note that the original name has not been taken forward, we would suggest that the new proposal of 'East Lothian and Lammermuirs' is not an improvement. While the Lammermuir Hills are located on the extreme southern boundary of the eastern part of East Lothian, they are one of many geographical features in this area and certainly not considered to be a defining characteristic of the constituency. They are many miles from our main centres of population, are themselves sparsely populated and are largely located in the adjoining constituency of Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk. East Lothian is an established, well understood and recognised name for the area and we would suggest that there is no benefit or need to amend that name for the revised constituency remaining after this review.

Councillors

19. Cllr Euan Davidson 12769 (Corstorphine/Murrayfield) supported the proposed Edinburgh West constituency. He stated "I am pleased that our communities are being reunited. Particularly in reference to Ravelston it has never made sense that the boundary cut what is a contiguous community in half. Furthermore the inclusion of Orchard Brae and Craigleith Hill is very welcome in that the whole of the Blackhall/Craigleith Community Council area will be included these communities share many services with Ravelston and Murrayfield maintaining these community links is very welcome."

20. Cllr Edward Thornley 12689 (Drum Brae/ Gyle) supported the proposed Edinburgh West constituency because "it unites the communities in West Edinburgh together better than the previous proposals (and the current boundaries too). By shifting the eastern boundary to Crewe Road, the communities of Blackhall, Ravelston and Craigleith are all united in one constituency, rather than each being split as under the currently existing boundaries. The original proposals solved this partially, the Revised Proposals take this a step further. The proposals also keep the core of west Edinburgh together - Corstorphine, Drum Brae, East Craigs, South Gyle etc - while these areas have strong individual identities, they also have a joint identity, with many organisations working across them all. While in a perfect world the other half of South Gyle would be brought in too, I appreciate that the existing Edinburgh South West is well within the population bracket, so understand why there is no change along this border."

21. Cllr Cher Cassini 12690 (Musselburgh) stated "the new border proposals for Musselburgh do not make any sense. It's well known that one of the causes of social disintegration is the lack of Community spirit. Musselburgh has a HUGE and very strong Community identity. As a Burgh, we celebrate our Community every year with a Gala, a festival and Riding of the Borders (Marches). By changing the boundaries you completely destroy this precious

and rare asset. Please, I beg you, don't split Musselburgh into two areas. The culture of Musselburgh is very different to that of Edinburgh AND the Lammermuirs. If you're so worried about the amount of people within each boundary, why not have ALL of Musselburgh, Whitecraig and Wallyford together? Or just Musselburgh, Inveresk and Whitecraig? We don't want to lose 2 MPs either. We are already under-represented in Westminster. Our voice is neither heard or heeded. Please don't destroy our working community."

22. Cllr Ruaridh Bennet 12851 (Musselburgh) opposed the proposals in Musselburgh because "it will add to the confusion for the town of Musselburgh which already has the Scottish Parliament constituency of Midlothian North and Musselburgh, the council area of East Lothian, and now the Westminster constituency will either be East Lothian or Edinburgh East." He states the Commission has ignored its own rules as: "the constituency now crosses from The City of Edinburgh Council into East Lothian Council; secondly Community ties, by the time this review will be implemented Musselburgh will have been part of the East Lothian constituency for 18 years, enough time for the next generation of voters, not to mention the groups and organisations within Musselburgh that now depending on where they will have different MPs; and the third point impedes again on boundaries, both administrative and electoral. For these very reasons, I am against the review proposed by the Boundary Commission I feel they have seriously misjudged Musselburgh and I urge they reconsider this review."

23. Cllr Andrew Forrest 12852 (Musselburgh) stated "Musselburgh is the biggest town in East Lothian and once again it is being split. This is causing total confusion amongst people as they think that they are being moved into Edinburgh and they want to stay as part of East Lothian. If changes are to be made, they should be done as a whole not cutting communities into parts. The difficulty I have is once again Musselburgh is being separated and hived off in some form of political gerrymandering. For once it would be good to see someone with some sense looking at this and I am sure that by looking at Lothian and Borders we could have found a solution that would have made more sense than this hotchpot idea that is coming forward. It's easy to see why people have lost confidence in systems with this mishmash that they call a change surely common sense must prevail and Musselburgh will be left as a complete town. If this goes ahead, we will have 3 different voting areas East Lothian for council, Midlothian North and Musselburgh for Scottish parliament and 2 for Westminster and they wonder how confusion comes to voting and people are turned off by politics is it any wonder. If the boundary commission is serious about changing and want to get the support of the voters, they need to scrap this breakup of the town and look to see how we can move our town as a whole instead of being split up in to two parts just to sort out someone's numbers game. With the way Musselburgh is growing with the number of houses that Musselburgh, Whitecraig and Wallyford are having to take how long before the crayons come out and we get further changes, and our great town loses out again. The boundary commission needs to sit down and think of communities not numbers when it has to make changes and where a change has to be made it has to be complete towns or villages not drawing lines up the middle of streets this creates a problem at election time as well."

24. Cllr Shona McIntosh 12940 (Musselburgh) “would like to echo key points from East Lothian Council's response to the proposals, namely: the concern felt at splitting part of Musselburgh up and attaching it to Edinburgh East. This will mean that key issues affecting the town could be being worked on by two different MPs who may not always communicate or work together effectively. This is unlikely to be to the benefit of the town; a wish that, if this change must go ahead, Musselburgh should be reflected in the name of the Edinburgh East constituency - Musselburgh is not a suburb of Edinburgh and has its own history and identity; agreement with the Council's suggestion that the name for the remainder of the constituency should simply be 'East Lothian', with no reference being necessary to the Lammermuir hills.

Local political parties

25. No local political parties responded to the revised consultation.

Others

26. 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.

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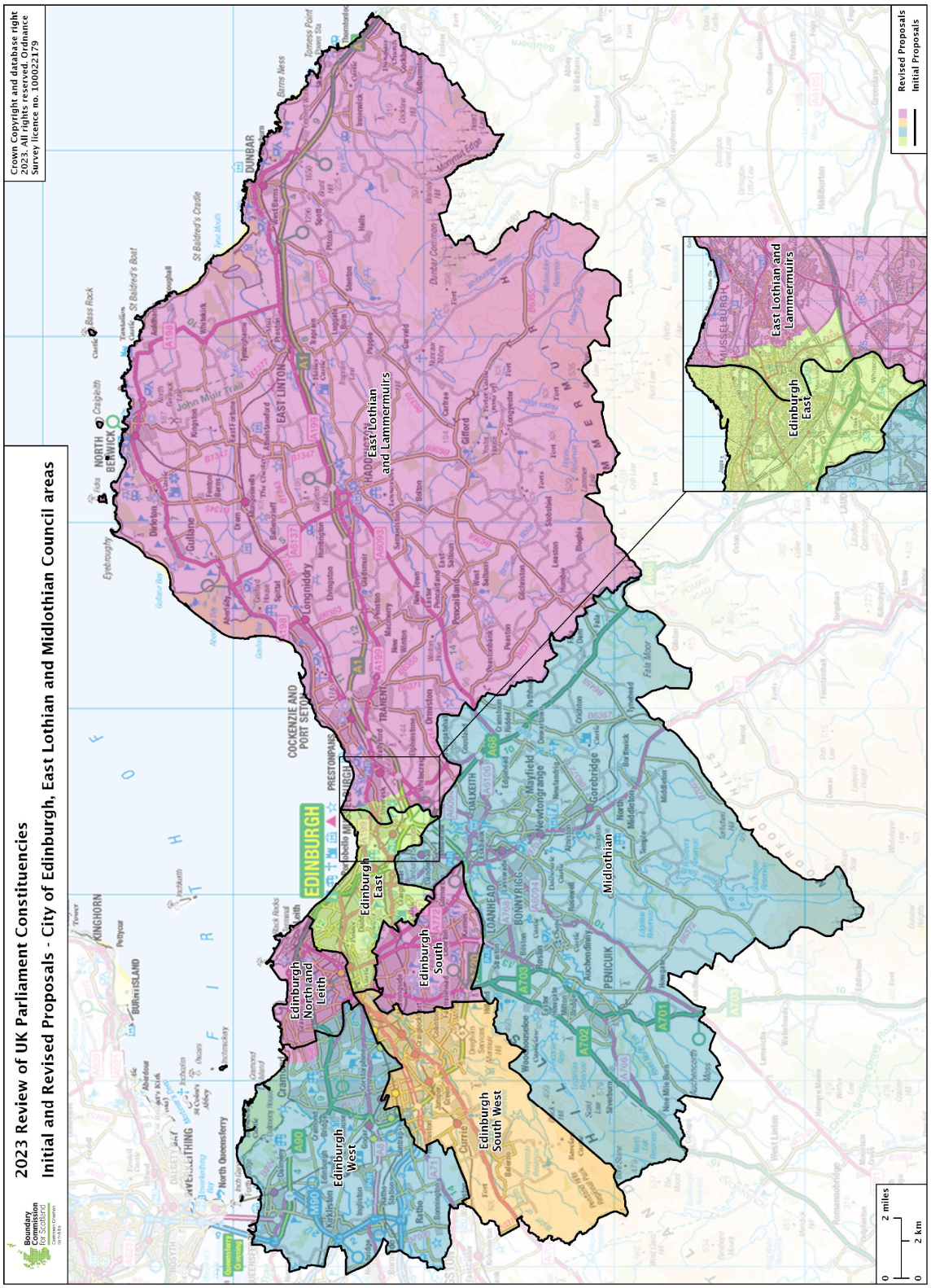
Appendix A
Revised Proposals and Initial Proposals



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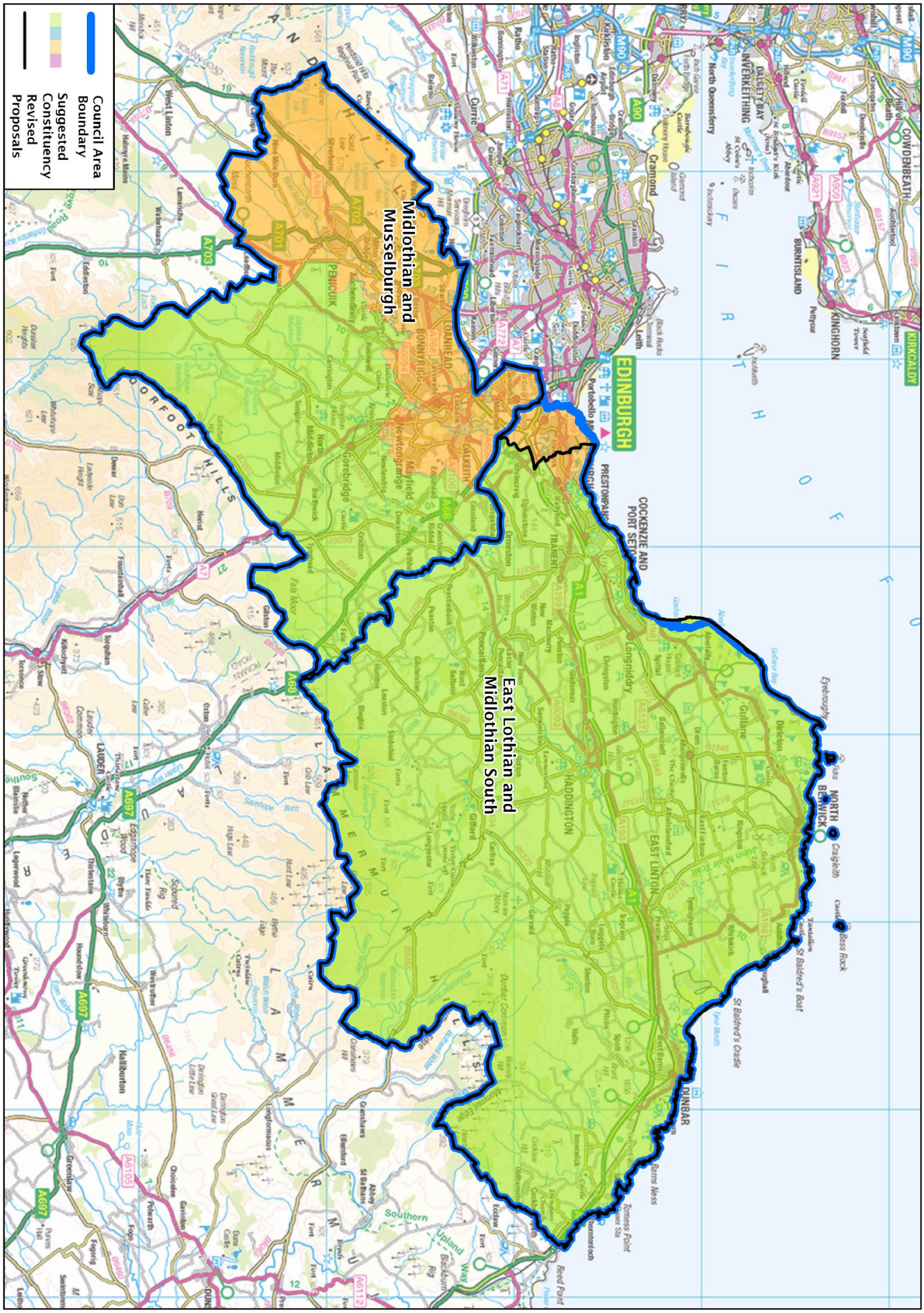
Appendix B
Suggestion to link Musselburgh with Midlothian (12337)



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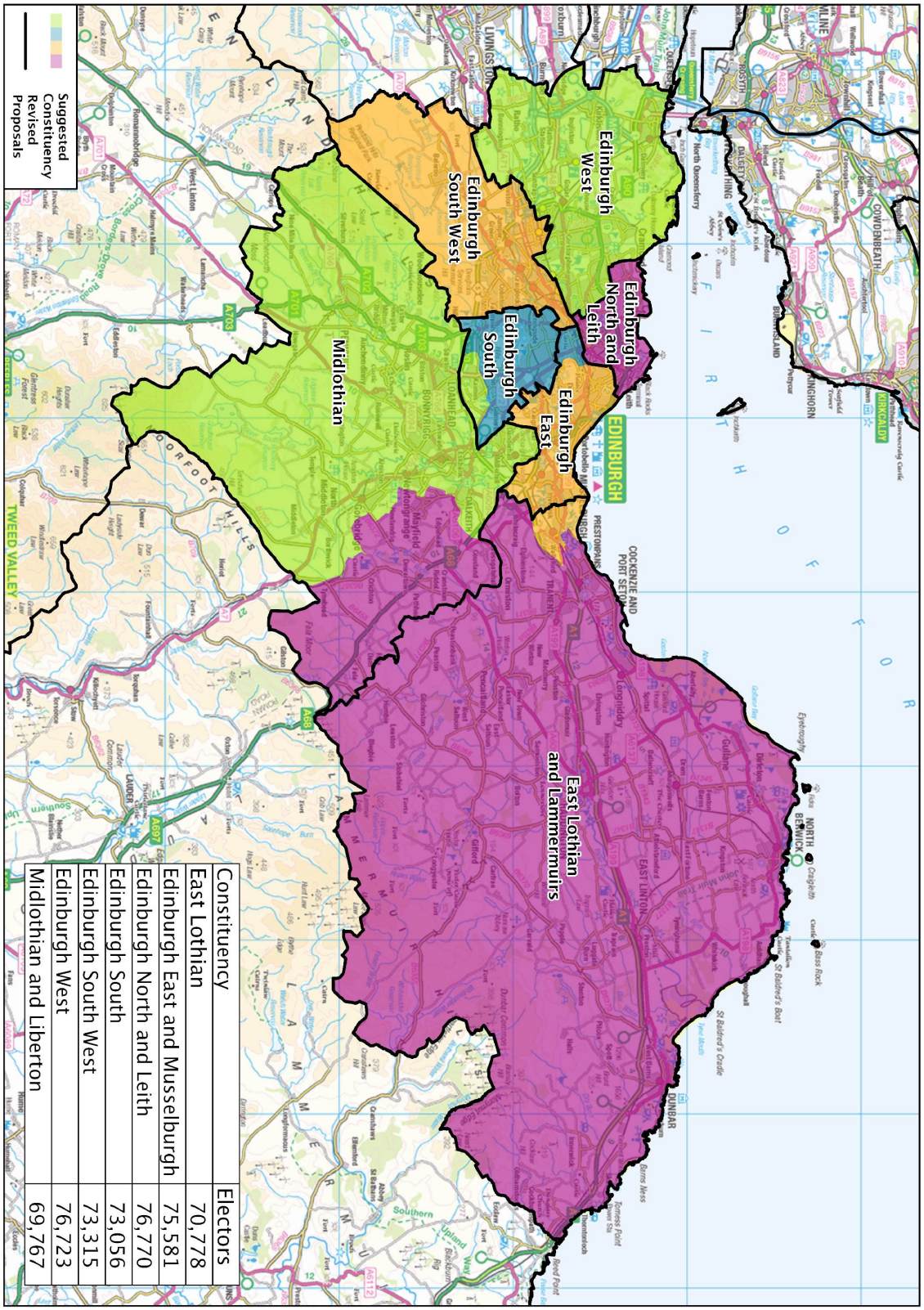
Appendix C
Suggestion - Musselburgh and Wallyford in an Edinburgh East constituency (12670)



Constituency	Electors
East Lothian	70,778
Edinburgh East and Musselburgh	75,581
Edinburgh North and Leith	76,770
Edinburgh South	73,056
Edinburgh South West	73,315
Edinburgh West	76,723
Midlothian and Liberton	69,767

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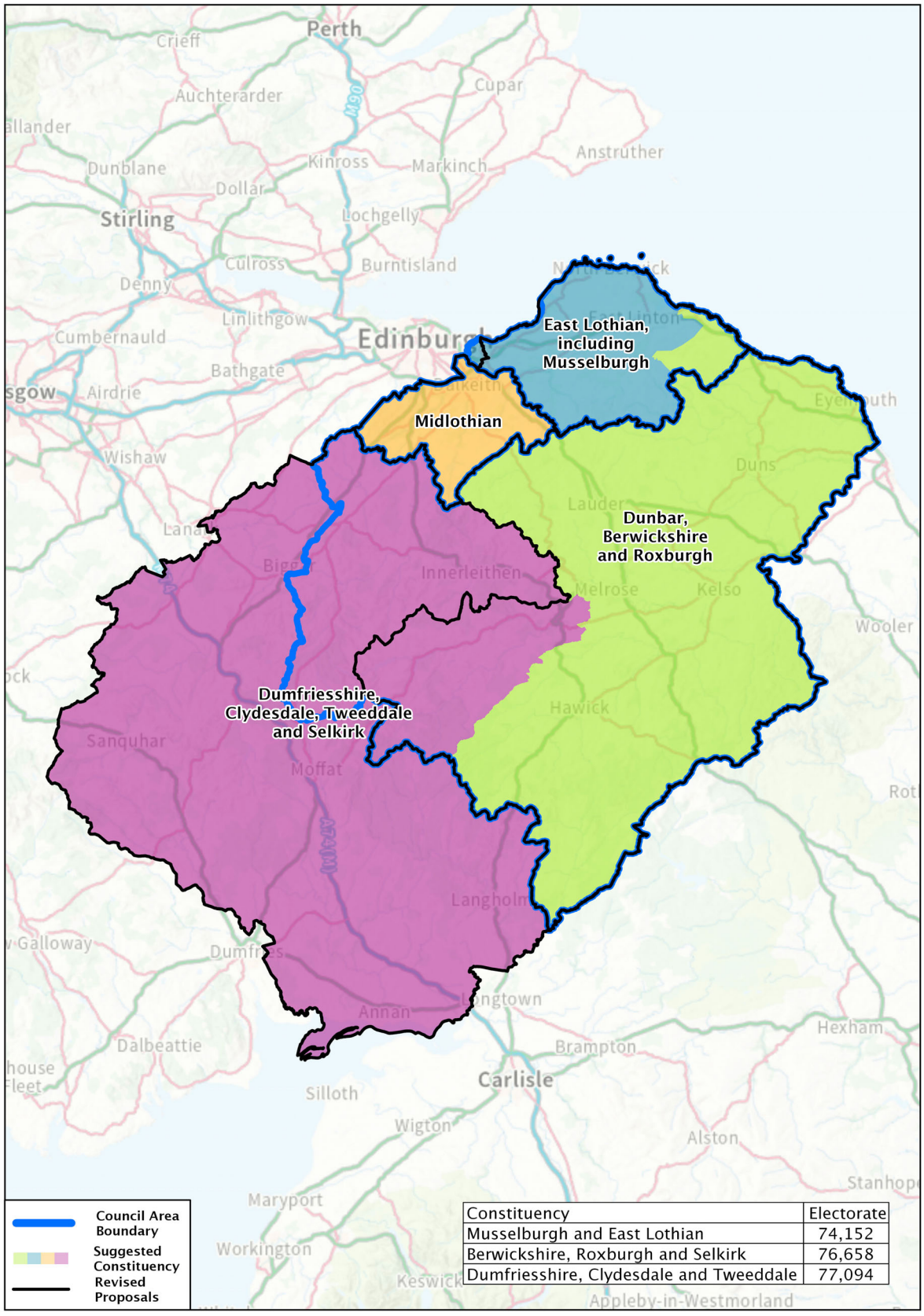
Appendix D
Alternative Design – Dunbar in a Scottish Borders constituency



Constituency	Electorate
Musselburgh and East Lothian	74,152
Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk	76,658
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale and Tweeddale	77,094