

2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies
Final recommendations – Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire,
North Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire and West
Dunbartonshire Council Areas

Action required

1. The Commission is invited to agree its Final Recommendations for constituencies in Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire Council areas.

Background

2. At its meeting of 14 February 2023 the Commission agreed paragraphs 2 to 17 of Paper 2023/08 as part of the text for its Final Report. In considering Paper 2023/08 the Commission considered the Revised Proposals and two further options as alternative proposals for constituencies in this grouping.
3. The Commission asked the Secretariat to bring a revised paper to the next Commission meeting that considered the existing constituency boundary to the east of Motherwell.
4. Responses to the revised consultation had stated they broke local ties by Cleland, Morningside, Bonkle and Wishaw and that New Stevenston, Holytown, Carfin and Cleland have closer links with Motherwell than Airdrie.
5. The Commission had studied the responses regarding Carfin and Newmains in North Lanarkshire and asked the Secretariat to consider following the existing constituency boundary.
6. An alternative option has been developed, see Appendix A.
7. The whole of Carfin is added to a Motherwell and Clydesdale North constituency. The boundary by Carfin follows a railway line and a stream. The railway line acts as a boundary between Carfin and New Stevenston. The stream acts a boundary between Carfin and Cleland. Cleland has too many electors (approx. 2,200) to be transferred from an Airdrie constituency to a Motherwell and Clydesdale North constituency.
8. The alternative option maintains local ties between Morningside, Bonkle and Wishaw by situating all of these communities in a Motherwell and Clydesdale North constituency. The boundary closely follows the existing constituency boundary in this area but considers a housing estate at West Crindledyke, north of Newmains, as well as following woodland rather than in between two houses on Manse Road, Newmains.
9. The alternative option proposes an Airdrie constituency with 70,420 electors and a Motherwell and Clydesdale North constituency with 72,318 electors.

Summary

10. Responses to the revised consultation stated: New Stevenston, Holytown, Carfin and Cleland have closer links with Motherwell than with Airdrie; and local ties were broken between Cleland, Morningside, Bonkle and Wishaw.

11. An alternative option has been designed to address these concerns. However the total electorate of the proposed Motherwell and Clydesdale North constituency and Airdrie constituency is low, offering little flexibility for revised constituency design.
12. Therefore an alternative option only places Carfin in a Motherwell and Clydesdale North constituency.
13. The alternative option may not link villages with larger towns such as Motherwell but it does consider local ties. It avoids Carfin being split between constituencies and places Cleland, Morningside, Bonkle and Wishaw in the same constituency.

Conclusion and Recommendations

14. 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; or
 - to adopt the alternative option by Carfin and Newmains as its Final Recommendations for Dumfries and Galloway, East Dunbartonshire, North Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders, South Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire, subject to consideration of all other constituencies (see Appendix A).

Appendix A

