

**2018 Review of United Kingdom Parliament Constituencies in Scotland by the Boundary Commission for Scotland – ‘Revised Proposals’.****Report by Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive****1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1** The Boundary Commission for Scotland published its ‘*Revised Proposals*’ for UK Parliamentary Constituencies in Scotland on 17 October 2017 for an eight week public consultation period lasting until 11 December 2017.
- 1.2** In respect of Midlothian the ‘*Revised Proposals*’ are to change the proposed name of the constituency from ‘*Midlothian and Peebles County Constituency*’ to ‘*Midlothian and Upper Tweeddale County Constituency*’. In addition an alteration is made to the eastern boundary which now adds Cardrona (and an additional 616 electors). (Full details are available in the Members’ Library and online at <http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/>.)
- 1.3** The Council’s response to the ‘Revised Proposals’ are therefore sought.

**2 Background**

- 2.1** The Proposals are for the 59 current constituencies covering Scotland to reduce to 53.
- 2.2** The Boundary Commission for Scotland published its ‘*Initial Proposals*’ for UK Parliamentary Constituencies in Scotland on 20 October 2016 for a twelve week public consultation period lasting until 11 January 2017.
- 2.2** In Midlothian the ‘*Initial Proposals*’ were for the current UK Midlothian County Parliamentary Constituency to be expanded southwards into the Scottish Borders Council area to include Ward 1 – Tweeddale West and part of Ward 2 Tweeddale East and to be named ‘*Midlothian and Peebles County Constituency*’.
- 2.3** As part of the consultation process a public meeting was held by the Boundary Commission in Edinburgh, on 7 December 2016, when representations were heard. No adverse comments were made in regard to the proposals for Midlothian although the Conservative Party spokesman advised that if concerns were expressed about Scottish Borders Wards 1 and 2 being included that consideration could perhaps be given to part or all of Ward 3 Galashiels being substituted as it contained areas such as Stow and Fountainhall which had been many years previously in the Midlothian Parliamentary Constituency.

**2.4/**

**2.4** Midlothian Council considered the Commission's proposals at its meeting, on 8 November 2016, when the view was expressed that a response to the consultation be made and in this regard that comments be sought from elected members.

**2.5** On 20 December 2016 it was reported to Midlothian Council that no further comments/submissions have been made by Elected Members and it was agreed that the Council's submission, reflecting the views expressed by Elected Members, be made by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Labour Group Leader.

**2.6** The formal submission was made and it stated that Midlothian Council had no specific comments to make on the proposals.

### **3 Report Implications**

#### **3.1 Resource**

Not applicable

#### **3.2 Risk**

Not applicable.

#### **3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation**

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☒ None of the above

#### **3.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan**

Not applicable.

#### **3.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

Not applicable.

#### **3.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

Not applicable

#### **3.7/**

### **3.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders**

This is part of a statutory review procedure for which the Boundary Commission for Scotland places great emphasis in maintaining public confidence in the process. The first stage was a 12 week public consultation procedure which included public hearings at 5 locations around Scotland.

Consultation responses were published for public scrutiny and comment during Spring 2017 by the Commission and the currently published '*Revised Proposals*' out for consultation is in response to representations received.

### **3.8 Ensuring Equalities**

This is being carried out by the Boundary Commission for Scotland in terms of the statutory procedures for the Review.

### **3.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

### **3.10 IT Issues**

Not applicable.

## **4 Recommendation**

Midlothian Council is invited to respond to the '*Revised Proposals*' of the Boundary Commission for Scotland in its 2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies.

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**Report Contact: Allan R Brown, Elections Officer**

**Tel No: 0131 271 3255**

[allan.brown@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:allan.brown@midlothian.gov.uk)

### **Background Papers:**

- Boundary Commission for Scotland 2018 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies – Public Consultation - *Initial Proposals*
- Boundary Commission for Scotland 2018 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies – Public Consultation - *Revised Proposals*