

**Review of United Kingdom Parliament Constituencies in Scotland by the
Boundary Commission for Scotland****Report by Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive****1 Purpose of Report**

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 Background

2.1 The Proposals are for the 59 current constituencies covering Scotland to reduce to 53.

2.2 Apart from the island constituencies of Orkney and Shetland which will not be subject to change the remaining 51 constituencies must:

- each have a quota of between 71,031 and 78,507 electors (except where a constituency is larger than 12,000 square kilometres when it may have fewer than 71,031 electors); and
- not exceed the maximum permitted area of 13,000 square kilometres.

2.3 In Midlothian the proposal is for the current UK Midlothian Parliamentary Constituency (which is currently co-terminus with the local government area) to be expanded southwards into the Scottish Borders Council area to include Ward 1 – Tweeddale West and part of Ward 2 Tweeddale East.

The new constituency would be named 'Midlothian and Peebles County Constituency' with an electorate of 76,208 (as at 1 December 2015 as specified by legislation). Maps showing this 'Initial Proposal' are attached as shown at **Appendix 1** hereto.

2.4 The complete sets of consultation documents are available for public inspection at Midlothian House Reception and also in Libraries at The Penicuik Centre, The Lasswade Centre, Gorebridge, Loanhead and Mayfield. They can also be accessed at:

www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk

In/

In addition to written responses to the consultation being submitted direct to the Boundary Commission arrangements have been made for a public meeting to be held at the Apex Waterloo Hotel, 23-27 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh on Wednesday 7 December 2016. The geographic focus for this meeting is Clackmannanshire, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Falkirk, Midlothian, Scottish Borders, Stirling and West Lothian.

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 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 is a 12 week public consultation procedure which includes public hearings at 5 locations around Scotland.

3.10 Ensuring Equalities

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

3.11/

3.11 Supporting Sustainable Development

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

3.12 IT Issues

Not applicable.

4 Recommendation

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

20 October 2016

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Background Papers:

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