

**Review of United Kingdom Parliament Constituencies in Scotland by the  
Boundary Commission for Scotland**

**Report by Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive**

**1 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1** 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
- 1.2** 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 Background**

- 2.1** The Proposals are for the 59 current constituencies covering Scotland to reduce to 53.
- 2.2** In Midlothian the proposal is for the current UK Midlothian 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 has been held by the Boundary Commission at the Apex Waterloo Hotel, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 7 December 2016, when representations were heard covering, in particular, Clackmannanshire, City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Falkirk, Midlothian, Scottish Borders, Stirling and West Lothian.

**3 Current Position**

- 3.1** Since the last Council meeting no further comments/submissions have been made by Elected Members.
- 3.2** At the Public Hearing in Edinburgh no adverse comments were made in regard to the Commission's 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.

## **4 Report Implications**

### **4.1 Resource**

Not applicable

### **4.2 Risk**

Not applicable.

### **4.3 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

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

Not applicable.

### **4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes**

Not applicable.

### **4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach**

Not applicable

### **4.7 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.

### **4.8 Ensuring Equalities**

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

### **4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development**

There are no sustainability issues arising from this report.

### **4.10/**

#### **4.10 IT Issues**

Not applicable.

### **5 Recommendation**

In regard to the invitation from the Boundary Commission for Scotland for responses, to its 'Initial Proposals' for the 2018 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies in Scotland, it is proposed 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.

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#### **Background Papers:**

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