

The City of Edinburgh Council

10.00 am, Thursday, 24 November 2016

Boundary Commission for Scotland - 2018 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies

Item number 8.4

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

Executive Summary

The UK Parliament has decided to reduce the number of UK Parliament constituencies from 650 to 600. Scotland will see the number of constituencies fall from 59 to 53. The Boundary Commission for Scotland published its initial proposals on 20 October 2016. Proposals for Edinburgh are to have four constituencies wholly contained within the Council boundary plus one constituency, Edinburgh Pentlands and Livingston, including a substantial part of West Lothian. The proposed names for the constituencies are: Edinburgh East, Edinburgh North & Leith, Edinburgh South West & Central, Edinburgh West, and Edinburgh Pentlands & Livingston. A consultation on the proposals is open until 11 January 2017.

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Boundary Commission for Scotland - 2018 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 To note the Boundary Commission for Scotland consultation on the new UK Parliamentary Constituencies for 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 The 2018 review of UK Parliamentary constituencies is required by the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. It is being conducted simultaneously by the four Boundary Commissions in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales.
- 2.2 This report describes the Initial Proposals for UK Parliament Constituencies in Scotland set out by the Boundary Commission for Scotland.
- 2.3 The Boundary Commissions for England, Northern Ireland and Wales commenced their consultations on new constituency boundaries in September 2016.

3. Main report

- 3.1 The UK Parliament has decided to reduce the number of UK Parliament constituencies from 650 to 600. Scotland will see the number of constituencies fall from 59 to 53. The Boundary Commission for Scotland published its initial proposals on 20 October 2016.
- 3.2 As set out in legislation each constituency apart from Na h-Eileanan an Iar (the Western Isles) and Orkney & Shetland must be within 5% of the UK electoral quota of 74,769. All Edinburgh constituencies are within this margin.
- 3.3 The proposed changes for Edinburgh are:
 - four constituencies wholly contained within the Council boundary;
 - one constituency, Edinburgh Pentlands and Livingston, includes part of West Lothian
 - the proposed names for the constituencies are: Edinburgh East, Edinburgh North & Leith, Edinburgh South West & Central, Edinburgh West, and Edinburgh Pentlands & Livingston.
- 3.4 Maps showing the proposed boundaries have been produced by the Boundary Commission.
- 3.5 A pack containing relevant maps and material describing the background and procedures for the review has been made available to all political groups on the Council.

- 3.6 These documents have been made available for public consultation at City Chambers and a number of libraries throughout the Council area. They are available to download from the Commission's website: <http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/>. The consultation is also signposted from the Council's website.
- 3.7 The Commission requires representations on its proposals to be submitted by Wednesday 11 January 2017. Comments on the proposals should state whether they approve of, or object to, the proposals and to give reasons for approval or objection. In particular, objectors should state what they propose in place of the Commission's recommendations. An objection accompanied by an alternative proposal is likely to carry more weight than a simple statement of objection.
- 3.8 In addition to requesting comments in writing the Commission will hold a number of Public Hearings to allow comments to be made in person. The relevant Hearing for Edinburgh will take place on Wednesday 7 December 2016 at Apex Hotel, Waterloo Place, Edinburgh EH1 3BH (tbc).
- 3.9 Following the consultation period the Commission will review the comments and amend the proposals as appropriate. There will be revised proposals and further consultation in autumn 2017. The Commission will report to the Secretary of State for Scotland in September 2018 so that the new constituencies can be considered for approval by Parliament. It is intended that the new constituency boundaries will be effective for the May 2020 General Election.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Not applicable

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 Not applicable

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 Not applicable

7. Equalities impact

- 7.1 Not applicable

8. Sustainability impact

- 8.1 Not applicable

9. Consultation and engagement

- 9.1 A public consultation will run for 12 weeks to 11 January 2017.
- 9.2 Details of the proposals have been placed in libraries and at the City Chambers reception along with further information on the Council's website.
- 9.3 There is opportunity for a Council response or political groups may wish to respond individually.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 Boundary Commission for Scotland - new Parliamentary constituencies portal to view current and proposed boundaries and to make comments
<https://www.bcs2018.org.uk/>
- 10.2 Boundary Commission for Scotland Initial Proposals - 2018 Review web pages
http://www.bcomm-scotland.independent.gov.uk/2018_westminster/initial_proposals/index.asp
- 10.3 Information is also located on the Council's website at
http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20033/elections_and_voting/1519/2018_review_of_uk_parliamentary_constituencies
- 10.4 Interactive map of current and proposed ward boundaries
<http://edinburghcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=1c291745a99f4abcbc9bed0ef9aec08a>

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11. Links

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Appendices