

Emergency Motion to East Lothian Council
23 April 2024

Opposition to the Proposed Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Changes

Context

- The Council notes the publication of the revised proposals for changes to the Scottish Parliamentary Constituency boundaries, which include moving Tranent and Elphinstone into a new Edinburgh Eastern, Musselburgh & Tranent constituency, and renaming the East Lothian constituency Lothian Eastern.
- The Council believes that these proposals would break historic community links in East Lothian, create further uncertainty in relation to issues such as MSP responsibility for school catchment areas and health provision, and undermine East Lothian's status and cohesion as a distinct area at a Scottish Parliament level.

Motion

Council therefore calls for:

- The Council to reject the Boundary Commissions proposals and mandates the Council Leader to write to the Boundary Commission urging it to reconsider the removal of Tranent and Elphinstone from the existing East Lothian constituency.
- The Council to reject the proposals to split the current Midlothian North and Musselburgh constituency and add Musselburgh to a new Edinburgh Eastern Constituency where there are no historical links and very few existing community links. The Council requests that Edinburgh Eastern should remain within the city boundary and the constituency links between Musselburgh and Midlothian North should be retained.
- The Council to request that the Boundary Commission reconsider the abolition of the East Lothian constituency name.
- The Council to agree to support the community efforts to oppose the proposals in Musselburgh, Tranent and Elphinstone and back the retention of the East Lothian constituency along with a Midlothian North and Musselburgh based on the current boundaries that are within East and Midlothian boundaries.

Proposed by (name): Fiona Dugdale
Date: 22 April 2024

Seconded by (name): Andrew Forrest
Date 22 April 2024

Received by (name of officer): Lel Gillingwater, Team Manager, Democratic and Licensing
Date: 22 April 2024