

**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Council

**MEETING DATE:** 25 June 2024

**BY:** Executive Director for Council Resources

**SUBJECT:** Response to Boundary Commission Review

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek ratification of an alternative proposal for constituency alignment, submitted to Boundary Commission for Scotland.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the Boundary Commission for Scotland consultation on the proposed new Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies is ongoing and representation to stage.
- 2.2 To ratify the alternative proposal for constituency alignment that was submitted to the Boundary Commission as detailed in paragraph 3.6 and Appendix 1 of this report, noting that this could not be approved in advance as a consequence of the timing of the consultation period.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland (known as Boundaries Scotland) commenced its second review of Scottish Parliamentary constituencies in September 2022. On 17 May 2023, it published its initial proposals, and on 27 June 2023 the Council agreed to submit an objection to the proposals. A proposal was submitted at a local inquiry session held in Musselburgh on 7 December 2023 which was subsequently ratified by Council on 12 December 2023 (see Background Papers referred to at paragraphs 7.1 and 7.2 of this report).
- 3.2 Following the local inquiry, Boundaries Scotland published its revised proposals for constituencies. A consultation on the revised proposals commenced on 16 April 2024, for a statutory one-month period until 15 May 2024.
- 3.3 An emergency motion entitled “Opposition to the Proposed Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Changes” was put forward to

Council on 23 April 2023 (please see Background Paper referred to at paragraph 7.3 of this report), which was supported by Council. It instructed the Leader of the Council to further develop and put forward representation on behalf of the Council to Boundaries Scotland.

- 3.4 Work was undertaken by the Leader of the Council, in conjunction with political colleagues in neighbouring local authority areas, to further develop the proposal approved by Council on 23 April 2024. Through this work an alternative proposal was also developed.
- 3.5 As there was no opportunity to have an alternative proposal formally considered by Council in advance of the 15 May deadline, the proposal was circulated to all Councillors informally for their views. As there was majority support for the alternative proposal, the Council Leader presented this alternative proposal along with the proposal already approved by Council on 23 April to Boundaries Scotland in advance of the closing date for the consultation, on the basis that he would seek formal ratification for the alternative proposal at this meeting and confirm the Council's position to Boundary Scotland after this Council meeting.
- 3.6 The alternative proposal put forward is more particularly set out in Appendix 1 to this report and is summarised as follows:
  - to rename the area referred to as "Lothian East" to "East Lothian"
  - to retain the Tranent and Macmerry parts of the Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry ward within East Lothian
  - to move Wallyford and Whitecraig into the proposed Edinburgh Eastern and Musselburgh constituency, noting that these two villages have historical and community links with Musselburgh, which Tranent does not
  - to bring the proposed Edinburgh Eastern and Musselburgh constituency closer to the electoral quota by moving some parts of City of Edinburgh Council Ward 14, Craigentenny and Duddingston (polling districts EE14C, EE14G and EE14H that are contiguous to the Portobello and Craigmillar ward) from Edinburgh North Eastern into Edinburgh Eastern and Musselburgh.
- 3.7 Boundaries Scotland will submit final recommendations to Scottish Ministers by 1 May 2025. If subsequently approved by the Scottish Parliament, the new boundaries will be effective at the next Scottish Parliament election, expected in May 2026.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 If the revised proposals put forward by Boundaries Scotland are accepted, the change in electoral boundaries will have impacts for representation of voters, delivery of elections and for residents, staff and Elected Members

engaging with Members of Parliament. The alternative proposal would minimise these impacts to a great extent.

## **5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on equality, the environment or economy.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial - none  
6.2 Personnel - none  
6.3 Other - none

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Report to Council of 27 June 2023 - Response to Boundary Commission Review

[Agendas, reports and minutes | East Lothian Council](#)

- 7.2 Report to Council of 12 December 2023 - Response to Boundary Commission Review

[Agendas, reports and minutes | East Lothian Council](#)

- 7.3 Emergency Motion to Council of 23 April 2024 - "Opposition to the Proposed Scottish Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Changes"

[Agendas, reports and minutes | East Lothian Council](#)

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<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Service Manager, Governance
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<b>DATE</b>	10 June 2024

**Alternative Boundary Proposals****Lothian East to remain East Lothian****Edinburgh Eastern and Musselburgh**

<b>East Lothian</b>	<b>Electors</b>	<b>Schools</b>	<b>Council</b>
Preston Seaton Gosford	15,138	Preston Lodge High	EL
North Berwick Coastal	12,168	North Berwick High	EL
Haddington & Lammermuir	16,280	Knox Academy	EL
Dunbar & East Linton	12,567	Dunbar Grammar	EL
Tranent and Macmerry	11,390	Ross High	EL
Total	67,543		

**Edinburgh Eastern & Musselburgh**

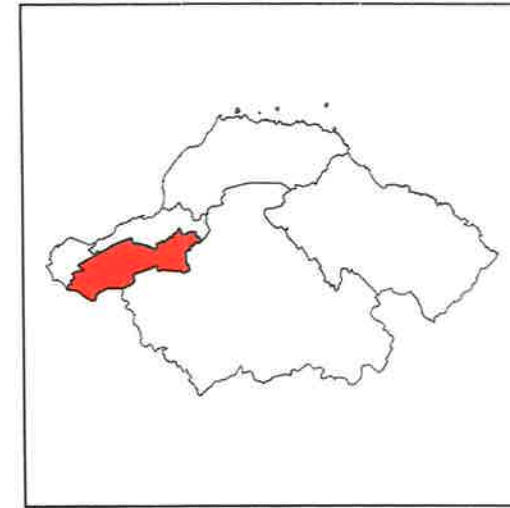
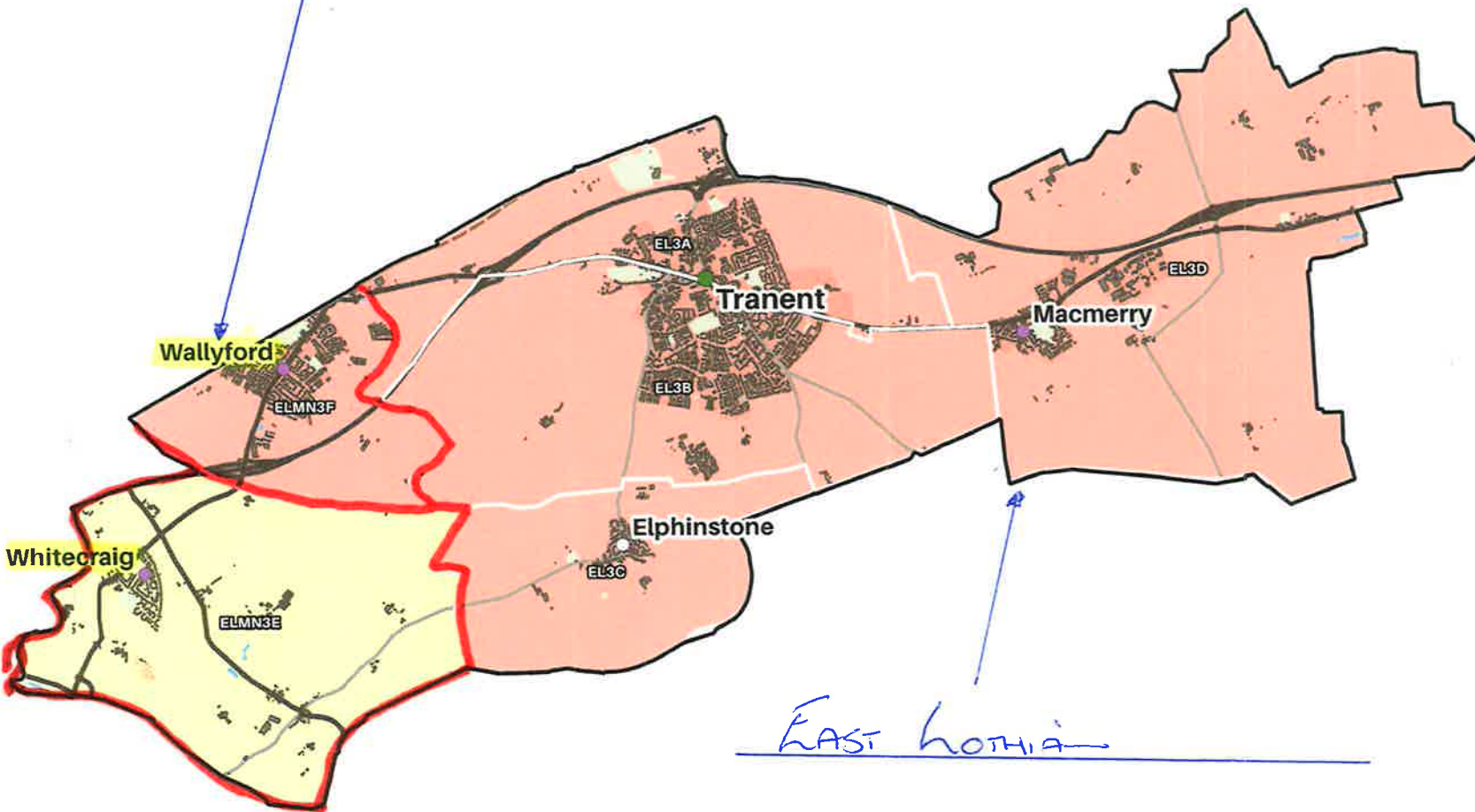
Portobello & Craigmillar	26,292	Various	City Ed
Craighentinney & Duddingston 14	8,639	Various	City Ed
(Part of Polling Districts 14)			
(EE14C, EE14G & EE14H)			
Musselburgh	16,811	Musselburgh Grammar	EL
Wallyford and Whitecraig	4,630	Rosehill High	EL
Total	56,372		

**Edinburgh North Eastern Ward 14**

<b>Proposed Boundary</b>			
Craighentinny & Duddingston	64,322	Various	City Ed
<b>Alternative Boundary</b>			
Remove Polling Districts			
(EE14C, EE14G & EE14H)			
Total	8,639		
Total	55,683		

# Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry Ward

Edinburgh Eastern & Musselburgh



## East Lothian Council

### 2022 Results

- Councillor 1: Labour
- Councillor 2: SNP
- Councillor 3: Labour
- Councillor 4: SNP
- Councillor 5:

### Estimated Lead per Polling District

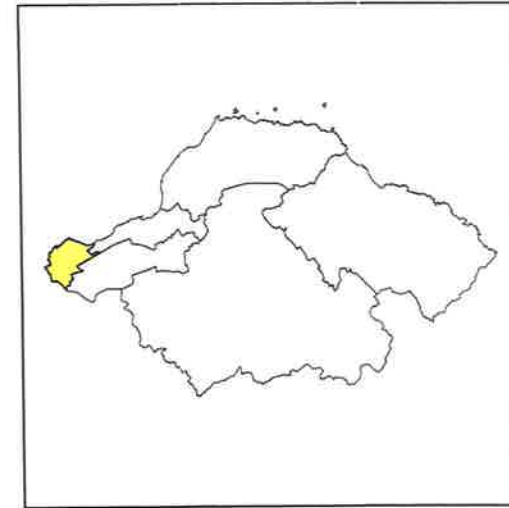
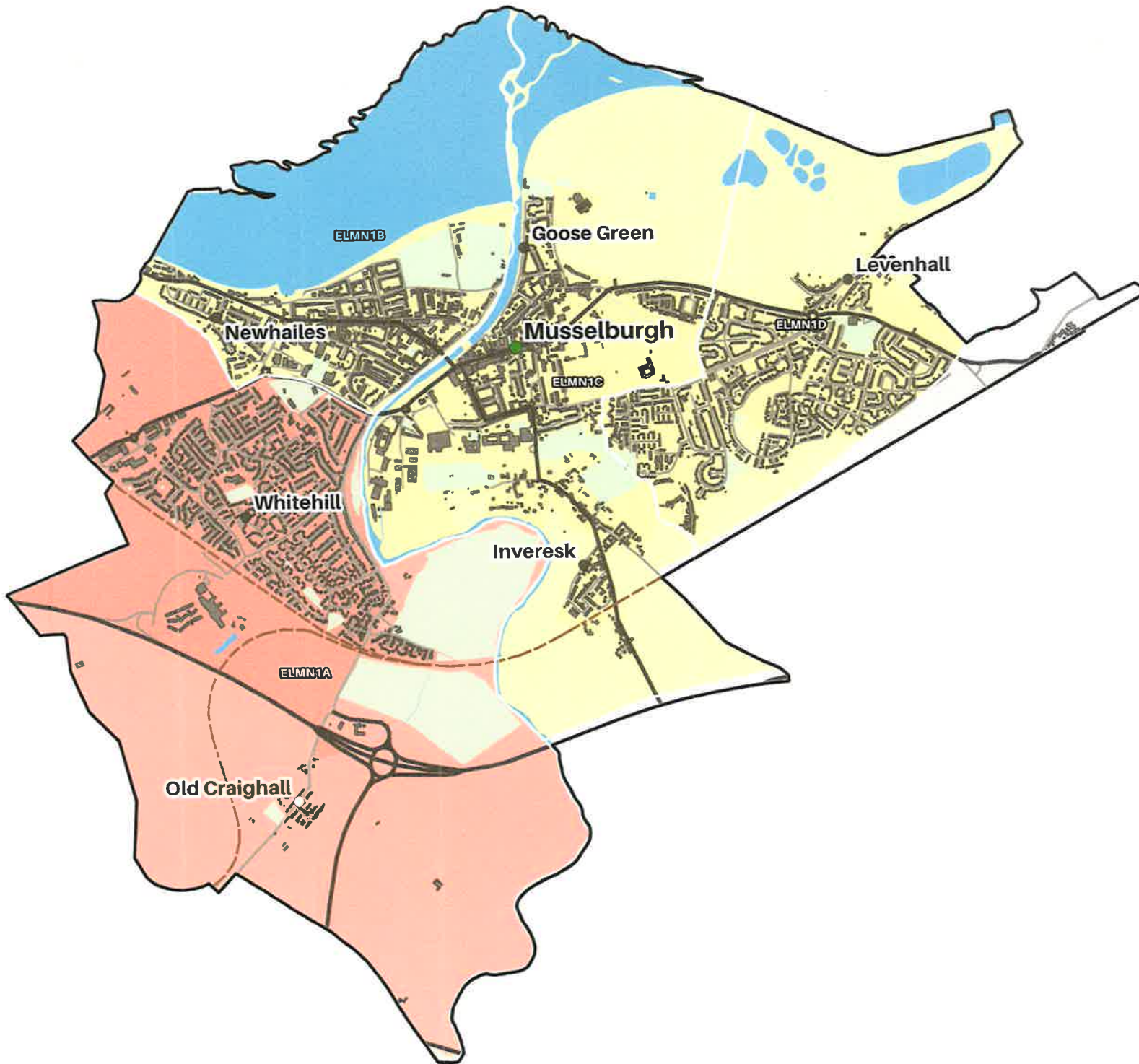
- SNP
- Labour
- Green
- Independent 2
- Uncontested
- Conservative
- Lib Dem
- Independent
- Other



2022 LOCAL ELECTIONS  
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# Musselburgh Ward



## East Lothian Council

### 2022 Results

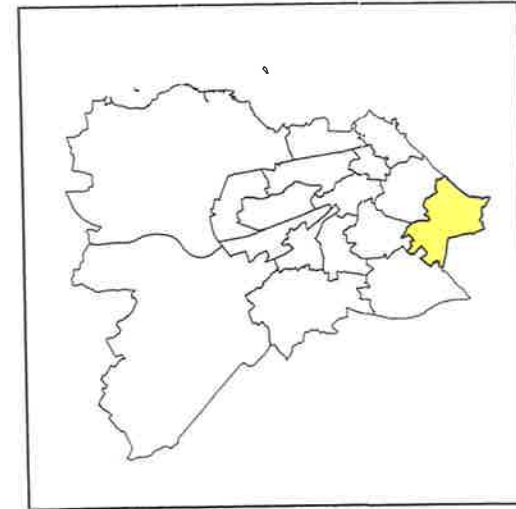
- Councillor 1: SNP
- Councillor 2: Labour
- Councillor 3: Green
- Councillor 4: Labour
- Councillor 5:

### Estimated Lead per Polling District

- SNP
- Conservative
- Labour
- Lib Dem
- Green
- Independent
- Independent 2
- Other
- Uncontested



# Portobello and Craigmillar Ward



## City of Edinburgh Council

### 2022 Results

- Councillor 1: SNP
- Councillor 2: Labour
- Councillor 3: Green
- Councillor 4: Conservative
- Councillor 5:

### Estimated Lead per Polling District

- SNP
- Labour
- Green
- Independent 2
- Uncontested
- Conservative
- Lib Dem
- Independent
- Other

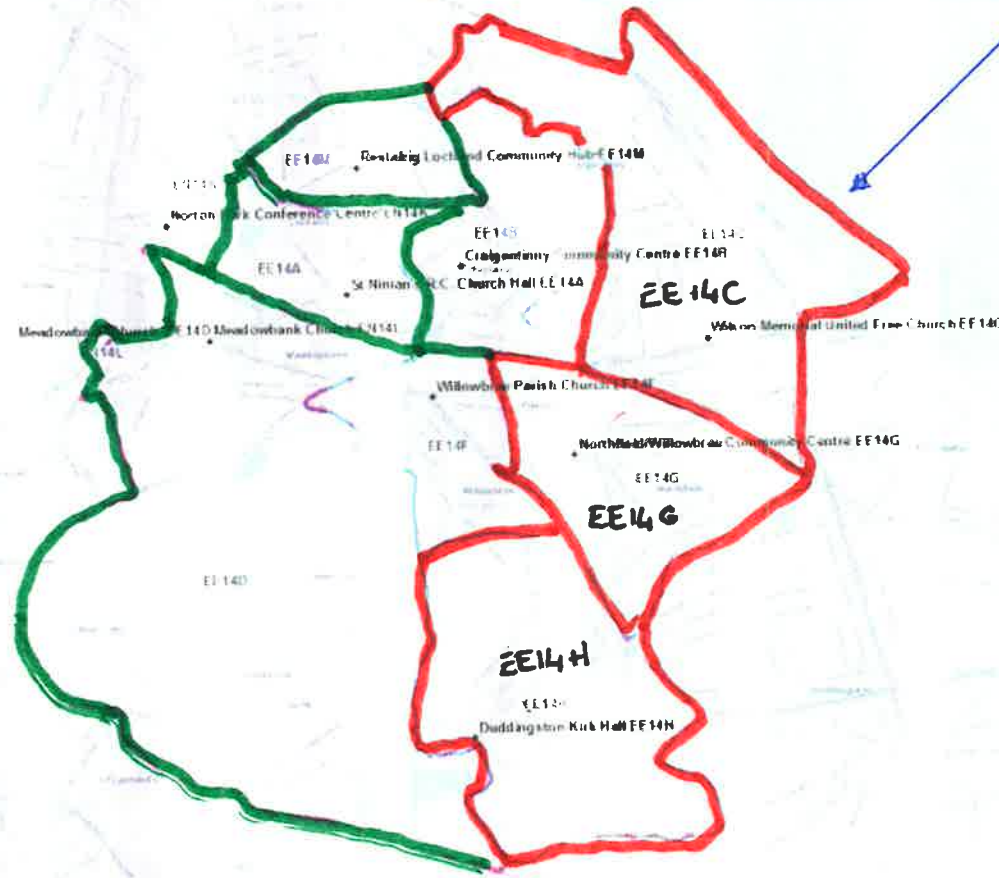


2022 LOCAL ELECTIONS  
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# Edinburgh Eastern. e Musselburgh

## Craigentiny Duddingston Ward 14 Council Election 2020



**Legend**

- Polling Stations
- Ward 14
- Polling Districts

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