

## Boundary Commission – Ward Proposals

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City of Edinburgh Council

12 May 2005

### 1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland issued its proposals for reconfiguration of wards in March 2005 and requested comments from the Council as part of an eight week statutory consultation period. This report outlines the proposals and the results of the consultation.

### 2 Main report

- 2.1 The Boundary Commission option retains 58 elected members distributed over 17 wards. This would create 10 three member and 7 four member wards. Appendix 1 shows the Commission's proposed boundaries for seventeen wards.
- 2.2 Following their statutory remit the Commission have taken account of existing local government boundaries, electorate parity, based on a projected 2009 electorate and broadly the boundaries of natural communities supplied by the Council in 2004. The Commission is not required to take account of other electoral boundaries or operational and administrative boundaries used by the Council. The proposal shows little correlation with these other boundaries including aggregations of existing wards.
- 2.3 Electorate parity is an important statutory requirement for the configuration of wards. The Boundary Commission's proposal is based on a projected electorate of 353,000 in 2009. This takes account of known new house building and demolitions. The parity benchmark for a 3 member ward is about 18,300 and 24,300 for a four member ward. This equates to each elected member representing about 6,100 voters, slightly more than at present. The proposal shows ward parities ranging from +6.9% to -4.6%.
- 2.4 Physical features, roads, railways, the natural communities identified by the Council and the Commission's requirement to achieve electorate parity have influenced the configuration in their proposal. However, as the Commission are not under any obligation to take account of other area groupings the proposal.

- 2.5 The Commission have requested the view of the Council to this proposal. A further twelve week period of public consultation will take place later in 2005, after the Commission has considered the Council's submission.
- 2.6 The Commission's proposal has been considered by the Cross Party Working Group, together with a number of alternative proposals prepared by officers and elected members. The Group has not been able to reach consensus on an alternative configuration and therefore recommends that the Commission's proposal is accepted as a basis for public consultation subject to a number of minor amendments. The amendments are listed below:
- Leith Academy and grounds from ward 14 to ward 15;
  - Lochend Park from Ward 14 to Ward 17;
  - Ravelston Park and Woods to the adjoining ward.
- 2.7 Possible names for the proposed wards have also been requested. Further work will be required with the Boundary Commission to prepare options for each area prior to the public consultation.

### 3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implication arising from this report

### 4 Conclusions

- 4.1 The Boundary Commission have produced a technically satisfactory proposal, within their statutory remit. The suggested configuration should form the basis for further public consultation later in 2005.

### 5 Recommendations

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Council:
- a) agrees the Boundary Commission proposal subject to the amendments set out in paragraph 2.6.

  
**Jim Inch**  
 Director Corporate Services

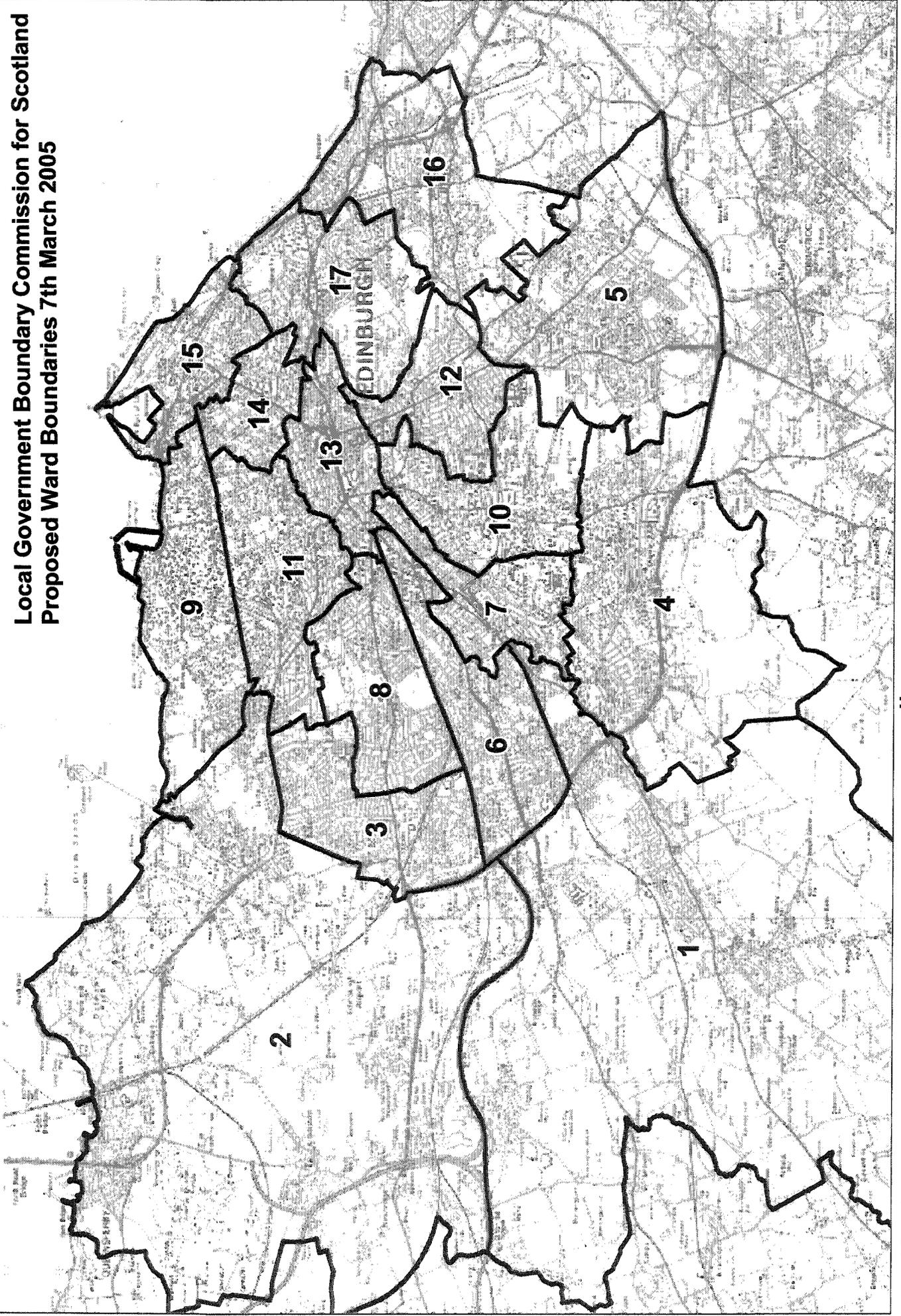
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Appendices	Appendix 1 – Boundary Commission Proposal 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2005
Contact/tel/Email	Andrew MacKay – Performance & Development Unit Tel: 0131-469-3844 Email: Andrew.mackay@edinburgh.gov.uk
Wards affected	All
Background Papers	None

# Appendix 1

## Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland Proposed Ward Boundaries 7th March 2005



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