

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES  
2013/14**  
**Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL**  
**Date: 11 DECEMBER 2013**  
**Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Council is required by Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, to divide its area into polling districts for the purpose of Parliamentary elections for so much of any constituency as is situated in its area and to keep these polling districts under review. The last full review of polling districts and polling places was carried out in 2010/11, with a report to Council on 5 October 2011. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews, with a requirement for such reviews to be started and completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015 inclusive.
- 1.2 In light of the electoral calendar for 2014, which includes the European Parliamentary Elections on 22 May and the Scottish Independence Referendum on 18 September, it was considered beneficial to undertake the review as early as possible within this period to enable any changes to be made to the existing polling scheme early in 2014, prior to the European Parliamentary election period and in accordance with the Electoral Registration Officer's timetable for the publication of the electoral register in March 2014.
- 1.3 Section 18B of the 1983 Act requires the Council to designate polling places for each polling district in a constituency, and to keep these under review. In so doing, the authority must:-
- (a) seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in its area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
  - (b) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled;
  - (c) have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations in any place which it is considering designating as a polling place or the designation of which as a polling place it is reviewing;
  - (d) ensure the polling place for a polling district is within the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district; and
  - (e) ensure that the polling place for a polling district is small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the polling station.

- 1.4 The current polling scheme, as used for the Scottish local government elections in May 2012, is appended hereto (Appendix 1), together with a summary of feedback from the consultation exercises undertaken as part of the review process (Appendix 2), the Returning Officer's statutory submission (Appendix 3), and a full set of maps demonstrating both the existing and proposed polling districts and the proposed places within each Council Ward (Appendix 4). A summary of the proposed changes and draft polling scheme, together with highlighted issues requiring consideration/decision by Members, is detailed in Section 4 below.
- 1.5 The purpose of this report is (a) to advise of the feedback received following the consultation stages of the review of polling districts and polling places, (b) to highlight areas requiring Members' consideration prior to making any changes to the existing polling scheme, and (c) to seek Members' approval of the proposed polling districts and polling places as detailed within both the report and the appended documentation.

## **2 THE REVIEW PROCESS**

- 2.1 In terms of the Parliamentary Constituencies (Scotland) Order 2005, the Falkirk area comprises two Parliamentary Constituencies with, at the time of writing, an electorate of 112,796. Falkirk Constituency currently has an electorate of 79,063, and Linlithgow and East Falkirk Constituency has an electorate of 33,733 within the Falkirk Council area, the remainder being within West Lothian Council area. The Chief Executive of Falkirk Council is Returning Officer for the Falkirk constituency and the Chief Executive of West Lothian Council is Returning Officer for Linlithgow and East Falkirk. For the purpose of the current review, Falkirk Council's Returning Officer was appointed Depute Returning Officer for the Linlithgow and East Falkirk constituency to carry out all matters in connection with the review on behalf of West Lothian Council's Returning Officer.
- 2.2 The current polling scheme was introduced for the elections to Falkirk Council in May 2012 and was the result of a comprehensive review of the previous scheme, as mentioned above, including a review of all potential polling places and ensuring that the boundaries of the Polling Districts allowed aggregation to the three electoral geographies across the Council area, namely:
- Falkirk Council Wards (9 in total)
  - Scottish Parliament Constituencies (Falkirk East and Falkirk West)
  - Westminster Parliament Constituencies (Falkirk and Linlithgow & East Falkirk)
- 2.3 The aim of this review is to consider the current polling scheme and suggest amendments which will improve the scheme and, if possible and where practicable, reduce the number of schools currently identified as polling places without impacting adversely on the elector. This process has therefore included looking at alternative polling places as well as the polling district boundaries.

- 2.4 A number of factors have informed the review, most of which were taken into account as part of the previous review. The number of postal voters currently stands at 11,634 (10.3% of the total electorate) and is expected to rise in advance of the Scottish Independence Referendum. This increase, combined with the relatively low turnout at elections (50% in the last Scottish Parliament Election in May 2011, 38.4% in the last local government elections in 2012, including postal votes) means that it has been possible to consider larger polling districts, as fewer electors are expected to turn out in person to vote at elections. It should be noted, however, that the turnout at the 2010 UK Parliamentary election increased to 63%, including postal votes, and an increase is anticipated for the Scottish Independence Referendum in September 2014 with the inclusion of 16- and 17-year olds. A beneficial effect of larger polling districts is likely to be a reduction in the cost of holding elections as fewer polling places will require to be hired and staffed and the logistics of setting them up, delivering and collecting polling booths, collecting ballot boxes at close of poll etc will be reduced, but it must be borne in mind that the turnout can increase as well as decrease, depending on the nature of the electoral event. Radical changes, therefore, are not proposed for the coming five year period.
- 2.5 In terms of polling places, there is a requirement to meet high standards of disabled access, which Falkirk Council has already addressed in its current polling places. There has also been a presumption that, where possible, the polling place should be located within the polling district it serves. Additionally, in recent years, Education Services have requested that schools should not be used if there are suitable alternatives, due to the disruption to children's education which elections can cause as a result of school closures. These views have been reflected in recent years in the comments submitted by parents, PTAs and Parent Councils, as well as by elected Members, although it should be noted that very few such comments have been received in relation to the current review.
- 2.6 The removal of the former Ward boundaries at the introduction of Multi-Member Wards in 2007 provided an opportunity for historical polling district boundaries to be re-examined at the previous review and, where appropriate, new or reformatted polling districts suggested. In addition, new and proposed housing developments have created the need for polling districts to be reviewed in an attempt to rationalise the allocation of electors to appropriate polling places. Such development will continue to impact on the polling scheme in years to come and may require interim amendment to the polling scheme within the five year period of the proposed scheme's existence.
- 2.7 The polling scheme attached at Appendix 1 provides details of all current polling districts and indicates the polling places and electorate for each as at May 2012. Feedback on the current scheme during and following the local government elections in May 2012 was largely positive.

- 2.8 As part of the review process, with a view to a new polling scheme being prepared, a list of possible polling places was compiled using the Corporate Address Gazetteer (CAG) from the Council's GIS system. These were mapped and each one identified was considered in terms of its suitability for polling purposes. Although particular premises have been recommended in each case, there may be alternatives which could be considered and further suggestions would be welcomed, whether as part of the current exercise or the next review. Elected Members' local knowledge has been invited and will continue to be welcomed with a view to changes being applied, where appropriate, between the formal review processes, subject to approval by Council.
- 2.9 Members will recall that the previous review was significant and comprehensive. As a consequence, it was not considered necessary for such a comprehensive review to be undertaken on this occasion. Instead, possible amendments to the current scheme are proposed for consideration. In some cases, these include suggestions which were proposed in the last review but rejected following consideration by Members in 2011.

### **3 CONSULTATION AND FEEDBACK**

- 3.1 In terms of the 2006 Act, the Council is required to publish notice of any review. The change to the timing of the review, as introduced by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, prohibited the review from commencing before 1 October 2013. Accordingly, a notice intimating the commencement of the review and inviting representations and suggestions for alternative premises was displayed on Council noticeboards, including in the libraries, published on the Council website and in the local press from 1 October 2013, the earliest date permissible.
- 3.2 The following persons were required to be consulted and were entitled to make representations as part of the review:-
- Constituency Returning Officers
  - Electors within the constituencies falling within Falkirk Council (or parts thereof)
  - Persons with particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons with disabilities
- 3.3 In addition, MPs, MSPs, MEPs and elected Members representing the Falkirk Council area, as well as Police Scotland and Community Councils, were consulted. Submissions gathered on an ad hoc basis were also taken into account, including feedback following the local government elections in May 2012, the first electoral event at which the current polling scheme had been used.
- 3.4 An online survey was published on the Council website with a link from the home-page. This enabled views to be submitted in relation to polling places, including location, suitability, accessibility, parking, disabled access etc. The closing date for all responses to this stage of the review was Tuesday 22 October 2013.
- 3.5 From the online survey, 23 responses were received. Responses related only to the polling places currently used; no comments were received in relation to the polling districts.

- 3.6 Several emailed comments were received through the course of the consultation period, most of which endorsed the continued use of existing polling places. A small number of concerns were expressed, the majority relating to the use of schools and suggesting that alternative premises be explored with a view to reducing the number of schools used for polling purposes. In addition, the comments received following the local government elections in May 2012 were taken into account and are included in the summary of responses.
- 3.7 The summary of all responses received is attached at Appendix 2, for Members' information, reference and consideration.
- 3.8 The Returning Officer submitted a statutory submission, as required by legislation, summarising her views on the current polling scheme and proposing a number of changes based on her own views and the feedback received before and during the consultation process. This submission is attached at Appendix 3. These proposals were then published for comment and issued to all elected Members, who were invited to consultative meetings in early November 2013 with the principal officers involved in the review process in order that their views could be collated and factored into the final recommendations to Council.
- 3.9 Site visits have been carried out on suggested potential polling places to determine their suitability for inclusion in this report. Further site visits are ongoing in relation to comments received in the later stages of the consultation exercise and hope to be concluded by the time of consideration by Council in December 2013. These visits focus primarily on accessibility, particularly in relation to disabled access both internally and externally, location and parking (again including disabled parking provision). The places which are considered suitable for polling purposes have been included in the proposals being presented to Members and it is anticipated that further changes will require to be considered during the five year period between this and the next review.

## **4 CONCLUSIONS AND PROPOSALS**

- 4.1 As previously stated, the summary of the comments received is attached at Appendix 2. This provides an overview of all comments, together with supplementary remarks where appropriate. The feedback received from elected Members is also included in this document and, as previously mentioned, the Returning Officer's submission is attached at Appendix 3.
- 4.2 In terms of numbering the Polling Scheme, the Electoral Registration Officer has requested that where there has been no change to a Polling District boundary, the existing number be retained and where a boundary has been changed, that a new number is used. Members will recall that the present numbering system of two alphabetic characters and three numeric characters means that the first alphabetic character refers to the Parliamentary constituency (F – for **F**alkirk and L for **L**inlithgow and Falkirk East), the second alphabetic character refers to the Scottish Parliament constituency (E – for **F**alkirk **E**ast, W for **F**alkirk **W**est) and the first number relates to the Council ward number e.g. LE100 indicates Ward 1, FW325 – Ward 3 etc.

- 4.3 Taking all feedback and relevant information into account, the changes proposed to the current polling scheme are outlined in the following paragraphs, for Members' consideration. Members will note that some decisions are still required; these are highlighted where appropriate within the text below.

#### **4.3.1 Ward 1 – Bo'ness and Blackness**

##### New Polling District: LE121 – Bo'ness Centre; Polling Place – Salvation Army Hall

It is proposed to amalgamate polling district LE120 (512 electors), which uses the Salvation Army Hall as its polling place, with the neighbouring Polling District LE116 (689 electors), which uses Bo'ness Town Hall, to form LE121 – Bo'ness Centre, with the Salvation Army Hall as its polling place. These are two small polling districts and it is difficult to justify continuing with them separately in an urban area. The Salvation Army Hall provides more suitable accommodation for elections.

However, some of the electors in the south of LE116 would be closer to Kinneil Primary School which is the polling place for polling district LE126 – Maidenpark. It is therefore proposed that some 195 electors be transferred to new polling district LE127 – Maidenpark, voting in Kinneil Primary School.

This leaves the new polling district LE121 with a total of 1,006 electors.

##### New Polling District: LE127 – Maidenpark; Polling Place – Kinneil Primary School

If the previous proposal to amalgamate polling districts LE116 and LE120 is accepted, then a consequent amendment to the boundary of polling district LE126 – Maidenpark is proposed to incorporate 195 electors from polling district LE116 who would be closer to Kinneil Primary School than the Salvation Army Hall which is the proposed polling place for the new polling district LE121. This would give a total of 2,420 electors in this polling district.

No further changes are proposed for the polling scheme in this Ward.

#### **4.3.2 Ward 2 – Grangemouth**

There are no significant new housing developments likely to take place in Grangemouth in the next few years which could impact on the polling scheme.

While it is not proposed to make any changes to the current polling scheme, which appears to operate satisfactorily in this Ward, investigation will be undertaken with regard to the feedback from the online survey in which Grangemouth Stadium was suggested as a potential polling place instead of Dundas Resource Centre. Members will be advised of the outcome of this exercise in due course.

#### **4.3.3 Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock**

New Polling District: FW306 – Denny and Denny Rural; Polling Place – Denny Westpark Church Hall

It is proposed to merge the two polling districts – FW305 and FW310 - giving an electorate of 2,690 and using Denny Westpark Church Hall as the polling place. This would mean that those in Fankerton would have to travel into Denny to vote. The Fankerton polling district only has 402 electors (December 2012) which is one of the smaller polling districts within the Council. However, the proposed new development at Carrongrove Mill lies within this polling district which could give an additional 350 electors in the medium term.

**Members are asked to consider whether to merge the above polling districts, thereby removing Fankerton Village Hall as a polling place and requiring Fankerton's electorate to vote at Denny Westpark Church Hall.**

New Polling District: FW306 – Denny Centre; Polling Place – Denny Westpark Church and new Polling District: FW311 – Fankerton; Polling Place – Fankerton Village Hall

If the above proposal is rejected, it is proposed that the new housing development currently under construction on the edge of Stoneywood be added into polling district FW305 using Denny Westpark Church as the polling place. According to the current polling scheme, residents in this development should vote in Fankerton Village Hall (FW310). There are currently (as at December 2012) 16 electors in this development, but numbers will grow over the next few years to possibly around 150 electors. Since there were no elections in 2013, these electors will not have voted at their new address so may not be aware of their current polling place. From a geographical point of view, it would make sense to alter the polling district boundaries to include this development within FW305 voting in Denny Westpark Church Hall. The addition of 16 electors to FW305 will give an electorate of 2,304 electors in the new polling district and leave FW311 with 386 electors.

No further changes are proposed for the polling scheme in this Ward.

#### **4.3.4 Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst**

Polling District: FE407 – Carronshore; Polling Place – Carronshore Sports and Social Hall

It is proposed to make a minor amendment to FE406 – Carronshore to include the two properties, Carron Hall and Cuttyfield Farm, currently in FE411 – 3 electors. The access road from those properties more naturally leads to the centre of Carronshore and the polling place at Carronshore Sports and Social Hall than to either the current or the proposed polling places for FE411.

In August 2012 a new school, St Bernadette's RC Primary, opened in Stenhousemuir. This offers an opportunity to revise the polling district boundaries in an area which has been short of suitable accommodation for polling places over recent years. While this would mean using an additional school for polling purposes, the proposal would at the same time involve ceasing to use Stenhousemuir Primary School as a polling place. Stenhousemuir Primary School currently has a larger roll (381 in 2013 compared to 139 in St Bernadette's). While the roll in St Bernadette's will grow, it is a single stream school and its capacity is less than that at Stenhousemuir Primary School, so fewer pupils should be affected by its closure on polling day.

**It is noted that representations have been received favouring the retention of Stenhousemuir Primary School as the polling place for this polling district. Members are asked to consider whether the existing polling places and polling districts in Ward 4 should be retained, taking into account the representations noted in Appendix 2 hereto.**

The following list of proposed polling districts is based on a review of boundaries in relation to the use of St Bernadette's Primary School instead of Stenhousemuir Primary School and in trying to ensure that electors make use of the most convenient polling place for their address.

Proposed Polling District: FE412 – Carron; Polling Place – Free Church Hall

Proposed Polling District: FE440 – Antonhill East; Polling Place – St Bernadette's Primary School

The current polling district FE411 is a large one. The northern part of the polling district is very much closer to St Bernadette's Primary School and it is therefore proposed that this polling district be split and that the northern part of the polling district become polling district FE440 served by St Bernadette's School. This would have 1,253 electors and would share the polling place with FW450 – Antonhill West.

It is also proposed that the remaining 1,870 electors in FE412 vote in the Free Church Hall instead of Carron Primary School as it is preferable not to use schools as polling places.

Proposed Polling District: FW427 – Tryst; Polling Place – Dobbie Hall

Proposed Polling District: FW445 – Ochil View; Polling Place – Stenhouse and Carron Church Hall

Proposed Polling District: FW450 – Antonhill West; Polling Place – St Bernadette's Primary School

It is proposed to split existing polling district FW426 into three parts, namely FW427 – Tryst, with a polling place of Dobbie Hall shared with FW506 (South Broomage) – 549 electors; FW445 – Ochil View, with a polling place of Stenhouse and Carron Church along with polling district FE416 (Carron Dams) – 614 electors, and FW450 – Antonhill West, with a polling place of St Bernadette's Primary School along with polling district FE440 (Antonhill East) – 1,110 electors. This will allow electors to vote in the most convenient polling place for their address.

No further changes are proposed for the polling scheme in this Ward.



#### 4.3.5 Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert

##### New Polling District: FW512 – Larbert; Polling Place – Larbert Bowling Club

It is proposed to amalgamate polling district FW511 which currently uses Larbert Village Primary School as its polling place (2,797 electors) with the neighbouring polling district FW515 (250 electors) currently using a mobile unit at the old Torwood Primary School site as its polling place. FW515 is a very small polling district and the necessity to bring in a mobile unit is difficult to justify. Once the school site has been sold on by the Council it is difficult to see where such a mobile unit could be situated in future. This amalgamation is therefore proposed. The total electorate of the new polling district is currently 3,047. The recommended polling place for the new polling district is proposed as being Larbert Bowling Club which will avoid using a school as a polling place.

**It is noted that representations have been received favouring the retention of Torwood Primary School site and opposing the proposals for the amalgamation of Torwood and Larbert polling districts and the use of Larbert Bowling Club as the polling place for the new polling district. Members are asked to consider whether the existing polling places and polling districts should be retained, taking into account the representations noted in Appendix 2 hereto.**

##### New Polling District: FW526 – South Bonnybridge; Polling Place – Bonnybridge Community Centre

It is proposed to amalgamate polling district FW525 which currently uses Bonnybridge Community Centre as its polling place (2,341 electors) with the neighbouring polling district FW530 (676 electors) currently using Antonine Primary School as its polling place. Antonine Primary School is currently undergoing refurbishment and is likely to be out of use as a polling place in 2014. FW530 is a small polling district. The polling place for this polling district is Antonine Primary School which is not particularly well located for the majority of the population. Amalgamating the polling district with FW525 would mean a journey of an additional 400m to the new polling place, but Antonine Primary School is already over 400m from the settlement of High Bonnybridge and considerably further for many voters. At the same time, most voters in Greenhill are already well over 800m from the Bonnybridge Community Centre which is currently their polling place, so the voters in High Bonnybridge would be at a similar distance away.

An alternative of St Joseph's Church was considered, but it is located on a difficult bend in the road which would make it potentially dangerous for parking and access. In addition, there is a steep pedestrian access which could be difficult for those with mobility problems. It is therefore considered that the best alternative is to amalgamate these two Polling Districts and use Bonnybridge Community Centre as the Polling Place.

Members are asked to consider in particular the relocation of electors from Antonine Primary School in view of the ongoing works which will possibly render it unavailable for the European Parliamentary elections in May 2014. It has also been suggested by Education Services that Members give consideration to removing both Antonine and Bonnybridge Primary Schools from the current polling scheme and redirecting all electors (currently around 6,000 in total) from the three Bonnybridge polling districts to Bonnybridge Community Centre. While the Community Centre games hall would be large enough to accommodate 5 or 6 polling stations, consideration would require to be given to the parking provision at the premises, bearing in mind the significant number of vehicles potentially using the car park over the course of polling day.

No further changes are proposed for the polling scheme in this Ward.

#### **4.3.6 Ward 6 – Falkirk North**

No changes are proposed for the polling scheme in this Ward.

Members are asked to note that investigation is continuing into identifying potential polling places for the New Carron Village and Weir Street areas, as per the comments noted in Appendix 2 hereto. It is possible that changes will be proposed to Council between conclusion of the current review and commencement of the next statutory review. Members are asked to consider whether the existing polling places and polling districts should be retained in the meantime, taking into account the representations noted in Appendix 2 hereto and subject to further reports to Council in the interim.

#### **4.3.7 Ward 7 – Falkirk South**

New Polling District: FW711 – Summerford; Polling Place – Tamfourhill Community Centre

Consideration had been given earlier in the review process to removing Greenbank Court Meeting Room as a polling place, in view of the relatively low number of electors in this polling district (494). Further consideration has now been given to this matter, taking into account the views of local Members, and it is now proposed to retain Greenbank Court Meeting Room as the polling place for this polling district. The proposal to combine polling districts FW710 and FW715 to create the new polling district FW711, voting at Tamfourhill Community Centre, is therefore withdrawn.

New Polling District FW741- Hallglen/Lionthorn; Polling Place – Hallglen Sports Centre

Currently there are two polling districts covering Hallglen and Glen Village, namely FW740 – Glen Village – Mobile unit, with 260 electors, and FW746 – Hallglen Sports Centre, with 2,943 electors. Since the closure of Glen Village Bowling Club, a mobile unit has had to be deployed for the small number of electors in Glen Village. This is very difficult to justify given the relatively short distance to Hallglen Sports Centre, coupled with the fact that many current electors at the Sports Centre already come from a considerably greater distance than those in Glen Village. It is therefore proposed to amalgamate these two polling districts and use the Hallglen Sports Centre as the polling place. This would give a total electorate of 3,203.

**It is noted that three of the four local Members for Ward 7 have submitted representations favouring the retention of a polling place in Glen Village. Further representations have also been received from a local community group and through the online survey referred to in Section 3 above and Appendix 2 attached hereto. While the Returning Officer's submission proposes the removal of a polling place in Glen Village and an amalgamation of polling districts, with Hallglen Sports Centre as the polling place, Members are asked to consider whether a polling place should be retained in Glen Village following completion of this review.**

No further changes are proposed for the polling scheme in this Ward.

#### **4.3.8 Ward 8 – Lower Braes**

##### New Polling District: FE802 – Laurieston; Polling Place – Laurieston Church Hall

It is proposed to amalgamate polling district FE801 which uses Laurieston Community Hall as its polling place (1,133 electors) with the neighbouring polling district FE806 (955 electors) using Laurieston Church Hall as its polling place. These are two relatively small polling districts for an urban area and it is therefore suggested that they be amalgamated. This proposal would give a total electorate of 2,088 which is a reasonable size for an urban polling district. The recommended polling place for the new polling district is Laurieston Church Hall which means that the school will no longer need to be used.

**It is noted that representations have been received favouring the retention of Laurieston Community Hall and the continued use of Laurieston Primary School instead of the proposals for the change to Laurieston Parish Church as the polling place for a combined polling district. Members are asked to consider whether the existing polling places and polling districts should be retained, taking into account the representations noted in Appendix 2 hereto.**

##### Polling District: LE830 Beancross and Newlands; Polling Place – Laurieston Church Hall

This polling district currently uses Laurieston Community Hall as its polling place. Since it is proposed to cease to use that polling place following this review and to use instead Laurieston Church Hall for polling district FE802, this polling district should also use Laurieston Church Hall. This proposal is subject to the decision taken with regard to the proposal immediately above.

No further changes are proposed for the polling scheme in this Ward.

#### 4.3.9 Ward 9 – Upper Braes

New Polling District: LE906 – Maddiston; Polling Place – Maddiston Community Centre

It is proposed to amalgamate polling district LE905 which uses Maddiston Old Folks' Hall as its polling place (829 electors) with the neighbouring polling district LE921 (1,898 electors) using Maddiston Community Centre as its polling place. This proposal would give a total electorate of 2,727 which is a reasonable size. The recommended polling place for the new polling district is Maddiston Community Centre.

**It is noted that representations have been received favouring the retention of Maddiston Old Folks' Hall. Members are asked to consider whether the existing polling place and polling district should be retained, taking into account the representations noted in Appendix 2 hereto.**

No further changes are proposed for the Polling Scheme in this Ward.

- 4.4 The following table summarises the proposed polling scheme, subject to decisions being taken on the matters outlined in bold above and any further decisions/proposals following consideration by Council on 11 December.

<b>Ward 1 – Bo'ness and Blackness</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>		<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of electors</b>
LE101	Carriden	Cowdenhill Community Centre	2,184
LE106	Bo'ness South East	Bo'ness Recreation Centre	2,882
LE111	Blackness	Blackness Community Hall	319
LE121	Bo'ness Centre	Salvation Army Hall	1,006
LE127	Maidenpark	Kinneil Primary School	2,420
LE131	Deanfield	Kinneil Bowling Club	1,058
LE135	Deanburn	Deanburn Primary School	1,951
<b>Ward 2 - Grangemouth</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>		<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of electors</b>
LE200	Dalgrain	Dalgrain Community Hall	667
LE205	Newlands	Newlands Community Centre	3,416
LE211	Grangemouth Centre	Grangemouth Town Hall	3,239
LE215	Bowhouse	Bowhouse Community Centre	3,467
LE221	Inchyra	Dundas Resource Centre	1,630
FE230	Skinflats	Bothkennar Community Hall	253

<b>Ward 3 – Denny and Bonnybridge</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>		<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of electors</b>
FW300	Dunipace	Dunipace Church Hall	2,064
FW306	Denny Centre	Denny Westpark Church Hall	2,690
FW316	Denny South	Nethermain Primary School	4,085
FW321	Head of Muir & Dennyloanhead	Archibald Russell Centre	2,704
FW325	Banknock	Banknock Community Centre	2,461
FW330	Allandale	Allandale Bowling Club	273
<b>Alternative</b>			
FW306	Denny Centre	Denny Westpark Church Hall	2,304
FW311	Fankerton	Fankerton Village Hall	386
<b>Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>		<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of electors</b>
FE400	Airth	Airth Community Hall	1,793
FE407	Carronshore	Carronshore Sports and Social Hall	2,474
FE412	Carron	Free Church Hall	1,870
FE416	Carron Dams	Stenhouse & Carron Church Hall	2,407
FE421	The Valley	Tryst Community Centre	1,882
FW427	Tryst	Dobbie Hall	549
FW431	Bellsdyke	Kinnaird Primary School	980
FW436	Carronvale Road	Dobbie Hall	5
FE440	Antonshill East	St Bernadette's Primary School	1,253
FW445	Ochil View	Stenhouse & Carron Church Hall	614
FW450	Antonshill West	St Bernadette's Primary School	1,110
<b>Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>		<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of electors</b>
FW500	Inches	Kinnaird Primary School	1,120
FW506	South Broomage	Dobbie Hall	1,985
FW512	Larbert	Larbert Bowling Club	3,047
FW520	North Bonnybridge	Bonnybridge Primary School	2,980
FW526	South Bonnybridge	Bonnybridge Community Centre	3,017

<b>Ward 6 – Falkirk North</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>		<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of electors</b>
FW600	Rosebank	Bantaskin Primary School	739
FW605	Grahamston & Dollar Park	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	1,437
FW610	New Carron	Bainsford Community Centre	3,943
FW615	Dawson	Dawson Centre	1,561
FW620	Victoria	Thornhill Community Centre	3,369
FW625	The Bog	Westfield Community Centre	1,747
FW630	Callendar Park	Leishman Tower Club Room	1,281
FW635	Howgate	Woodlands Games Hall	356
LW640	West Mains	Westfield Community Centre	0
<b>Ward 7 – Falkirk South</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>		<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of electors</b>
FW701	Camelon West	Easter Carmuir Primary School	1,808
FW705	Camelon East	Carmuir Primary School	1,137
FW710	Tamfourhill	Tamfourhill Community Centre	1,048
FW715	Summerford	Greenbank Court Meeting Room	494
FW721	Bantaskin	Bantaskin Primary School	1,394
FW726	Camelon North East	Camelon Education Centre	1,093
FW731	Woodlands	Woodlands Games Hall	3,355
FW741	Hallglen/Lionthorn	Hallglen Sports Centre	3,203
FE750	Falkirk rural	Hallglen Sports Centre	68
<b>Ward 8 – Lower Braes</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>		<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of electors</b>
FE801	Laurieston	Laurieston Church Hall	2,088
FE811	Westquarter	Westquarter Community Wing	1,357
FE816	Polmont South	Polmont Sports Centre	2,597
FE820	Polmont	Greenpark Community Centre	2,777
FE826	Brightons	Grange Community Centre	521
LE826	Overton/Brightons	Grange Community Centre	897
LE830	Beancross and Newlands	Laurieston Church Hall	3
LE836	Reddingmuirhead	Reddingmuirhead Community Centre	639
LE840	Battock	Maddiston Community Centre	3

<b>Ward 9 – Upper Braes</b>			
<b>Polling District</b>		<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of electors</b>
LE900	Whitecross	Whitecross Power Station Youth Club	590
LE906	Maddiston	Maddiston Community Centre	2,727
LE911	Wallacestone	Reddingmuirhead Community Centre	1,171
LE916	Rumford	Brightons Community Centre	1,492
LE925	California	California Community Centre	642
LE930	Standburn	Drumbowie Primary School	206
LE935	Avonbridge	Avonbridge Community Hall	555
LE940	Limerigg	Limerigg Community Hall	200
LE945	Slamannan	Slamannan Community Centre	1,182
FE950	Lathallan	Brightons Community Centre	0
FE955	Brightons South	Brightons Community Centre	981
FE960	Shieldhill	Shieldhill Welfare Hall	1,917

4.5 On completion of this review, the Council is required to publish representations made by the Returning Officer for the purposes of the review by posting a copy of them at the Council Offices and at least one conspicuous place in the Council area, as well as placing a copy on the Council website. This will be undertaken by relevant officers at the conclusion of the review process and will include publication of the following:-

- (a) all correspondence sent to the Returning Officer in connection with the review;
- (b) all correspondence sent to any person whom the authority considered to have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons with different forms of disability;
- (c) all representations made by any person in connection with the review;
- (d) the minutes of any meeting held by the authority to consider any revision to the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review;
- (e) details of the designation of polling districts or polling places within its area as a result of the review; and
- (f) details of the places where the results of the review have been published.

4.6 In accordance with the 2013 Act, a further review of polling places will require to be undertaken within the period of 16 months starting on 1 October. During the interim period, polling places will be reviewed as a matter of course in advance of proposed elections and any necessary changes will be reported to Council for consideration. This will include any changes considered as part of the current review but not concluded or implemented at the time of the polling scheme being amended for the 2014 electoral events.

## **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are limited financial implications in addition to the current costs associated with the provision of polling places. The removal of some private or community premises, as well as the possible removal of the mobile unit at Torwood and Glen Village, would reduce the rental and keyholder costs, but the introduction of new premises with a rental fee would offset any such savings.
- 5.2 There is a legislative requirement to review all polling places, in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.
- 5.3 All premises detailed in the proposals contained within the Report are fully compliant with Disability Discrimination legislative requirements.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Members are invited to:-**

- a) note the terms of the Report and the comments received in response to the public consultation process;
- b) decide which of the options contained within paragraphs 4.3.1 - 4.3.9 should be implemented, with a particular focus on the highlighted text and the comments in Appendix 2 which provide options for Members' consideration, and
- c) approve the proposed polling scheme as detailed within Section 4.4 of the Report for use at elections, by-elections and referendums held between this review and the next, five years hence, subject to ad hoc changes being reported to Council in the interim period.

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Date: 22 November 2013**

**Contact Officers: Dale Robb, Business and Members' Services Manager (ext 6111)  
Jennifer Boag, Team Leader (Research and Information) (ext 6016)**



### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 1 Report to Falkirk Council on 5 October 2011 – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2011
- 2 Legislation referred to within the Report.
- 3 Electoral Commission Guidance on review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations 2013

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01324 506111 and ask for Dale Robb