



Agenda Item 7

**Local Government Boundary
Commission for Scotland: 5th
Reviews of Electoral Arrangements –
Amendments to Polling Scheme**

Falkirk Council

Title: Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland: 5th Reviews of Electoral Arrangements – Amendments to Polling Scheme

Meeting: Falkirk Council

Date: 7 December 2016

Submitted By: Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Council on the interim amendments made to the Falkirk Council polling scheme as a consequence of the Local Boundary Commission for Scotland's 5th Review of Electoral Arrangements and to outline proposals for further changes to the scheme in relation to polling places affected by possible closure.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1 It is recommended that Council:

- (a) notes the revised polling scheme updated prior to the statutory annual publication of electoral registers on 1 December 2016;
- (b) undertakes a consultation process to identify and agree new and/or alternative polling places where required, and
- (c) agrees to consider a further report in February 2017 on the outcome of the consultation process to allow changes to be implemented before the nomination period for the local government elections on 4 May 2017.

3. Background

- 3.1 Council considered a report on 21 September on the decision made by the Minister for Parliamentary Business in response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's recommendations on the numbers of councillors and the electoral ward boundaries across Scotland. The decision included changes to ward boundaries impacting principally on wards 2 (Grangemouth) and 4 (Carse, Kinnaid and Tryst) and wards 6 (Falkirk North) and 7 (Falkirk South), together with minor changes across a number of other ward boundaries. The decision also reduced the number of councillors from 32 to 30. Council agreed to note the decision taken and take no further action in this regard.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The amendments to the ward boundaries required changes to be made to the Council's existing polling scheme, as attached at Appendix 1. The polling scheme was introduced for the elections to Falkirk Council in May 2012 and was revised in December 2013 following a comprehensive review which included public consultation and reports to Council.

- 4.2 The electoral register is published by the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) annually on 1 December. The changes made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland were incorporated into the polling scheme for use by the ERO for this year's publication, thereby ensuring implementation of all changes before next year's elections, and are presented for noting in the revised scheme as attached at Appendix 2. It should be noted that the electorate statistics in the revised polling scheme are provisional, pending the monthly update for publication, and will be revised after 1 December. The revised electorate statistics will be notified to Members when available. In terms of The Falkirk (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016, the changes do not come into effect until 4 May 2017, however publication of the registers based on the new boundaries is permitted and avoids the need for republication of the registers early in the new year.
- 4.3 The Order has minor implications for the current polling places. However, there is the possibility that availability of some polling places may be reduced over the coming months which would result in further changes to the polling scheme. The polling scheme at Appendix 1 was the result of a comprehensive review of polling places and it is proposed that a smaller scale public consultation be undertaken if required. All elected Members will be updated with regard to this process and are asked to participate by submitting their views and raising public awareness amongst constituents as appropriate.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation has been carried out in relation to the polling district changes, which arose from the Boundary Commission's 5th review. The changes are now enshrined in The Falkirk (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016.
- 5.2 As stated within paragraph 4.3 above, consultation will be carried out as part of the review of polling places if required.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 There are no financial implications on the basis that the ERO published the electoral registers on 1 December, as planned and as per the revised polling districts noted in Appendix 2 hereto.
- 6.2 The proposed review of polling places may result in increased costs for the hire of polling places at future elections. Fees charged will be determined on a premise by premise basis and are expected to be set by management boards/committees or in accordance with existing room hire letting schedules.

Resources

- 6.3 No direct resource implications arise from the content of this report.

Legal

- 6.4 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 elections and to keep these polling districts under review.

Risk

- 6.5 Non-compliance with the requirement to review the current polling scheme and agree new or alternative polling places before the end of February 2017 will result in the polling scheme being incomplete and specific groups of the electorate potentially being disenfranchised for the local government elections on 4 May 2017.

Equalities

- 6.6 No equalities issues arise from the content of this report.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.7 No impact assessment is required.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 The Falkirk (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016 resulted in changes to polling districts which required to be implemented in the Falkirk Council polling scheme to allow the Electoral Registration Officer to undertake his statutory function of publishing the electoral registers on 1 December. Further changes may be made over the coming weeks in relation to polling places and will require participation of Members and consideration of a further report before the end of February 2017 to ensure the timely implementation of all changes prior to the nomination period in March for the local government elections in May.

Chief Executive

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Date: 8 November 2016

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Falkirk Council Polling Scheme 2013-2016
Appendix 2 – Proposed Falkirk Council Polling Scheme 2016

List of Background Papers:

- 1 The Falkirk (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016
- 2 Reports to Council on 27 May 2015 and 22 June and 21 September 2016

APPENDIX 1

Falkirk Council approved scheme (2013-16)

Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
LE101	Carriden	Cowdenhill Community Centre	2,184	No
LE106	Bo’ness South East	Bo’ness Recreation Centre	2,882	No
LE111	Blackness	Blackness Community Hall	319	No
LE121	Bo’ness Centre	Salvation Army Hall	1,006	Merge LE120 and part LE116
LE127	Maidenpark	Kinneil Primary School	2,420	Merge LE126 and part LE116
LE131	Deanfield	Kinneil Bowling Club	1,058	No
LE135	Deanburn	Deanburn Primary School	1,951	No
Total number of electors			11,820	

Ward 2 - Grangemouth

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
LE200	Dalgrain	Dalgrain Community Hall	667	No
LE205	Newlands	Newlands Community Centre	3,416	No
LE211	Grangemouth Centre	Grangemouth Town Hall	3,239	No
LE215	Bowhouse	Bowhouse Community Centre	3,467	No
LE221	Inchyra	Dundas Resource Centre	1,630	No
FE230	Skinflats	Bothkennar Community Hall	253	No
Total number of electors			12,672	

Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock

		Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
Polling District	Proposed Polling Place		
FW300 Dunipace	Dunipace Church Hall	2,064	No
FW305 Denny Centre	Denny Westpark Church Hall	2,288	No
FW310 Fankerton	Fankerton Village Hall	402	No
FW316 Denny South	Nethermain Primary School	4,085	No
FW321 Head of Muir & Dennyloanhead	Archibald Russell Centre	2,704	No
FW325 Banknock	Banknock (Bankier) Community Centre	2,461	No
FW330 Allandale	Allandale Bowling Club	273	No
Total number of electors		14,277	

Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst

		Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
Polling District	Proposed Polling Place		
FE400 Airth	Airth Community Hall	1,793	No
FE407 Carronshore	Carronshore Sports and Social Hall	2,474	Minor change
FE412 Carron	Carron Primary School	3,123	Minor change
FE416 Carron Dams	Stenhouse & Carron Church Hall	2,407	No
FE421 The Valley	Tryst Community Centre	1,882	No
FW426 Tryst	Stenhousemuir Primary School	2,277	No
FW431 Bellsdyke	Kinnaird Primary School	976	No
FW436 Carronvale Road	Dobbie Hall	5	No
Total number of electors		14,937	

Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
FW500	Inches	Kinnaird Primary School	1,120	No
FW506	South Broomage	Dobbie Hall	1,985	No
FW511	Larbert	Larbert Village Primary School	2,797	No
FW515	Torwood	Torwood Primary School site - mobile	250	No
FW520	North Bonnybridge	Bonnybridge Primary School	2,980	No
FW525	South Bonnybridge/Greenhill	Bonnybridge Community Centre	2,341	No
FW530	High Bonnybridge	Antonine Primary School - mobile	676	No
Total number of electors			12,149	

Ward 6 – Falkirk North

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
FW600	Rosebank	Bantaskin Primary School	739	No
	Grahamston and Dollar			
FW605	Park	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	1,437	No
FW611	New Carron	Co-op New Carron Village – mobile unit	1,868	New PD
FW612	Bainsford	Bainsford Community Centre	2,075	Remainder of FW610
FW615	Dawson	Dawson Centre	1,561	No
FW620	Victoria	Thornhill Community Centre	3,369	No
FW625	The Bog	Westfield Community Centre	1,747	No
FW630	Callendar Park	Leishman Tower Club Room	1,281	No
FW635	Howgate	Woodlands Games Hall	356	No
LW640	West Mains	Westfield Community Centre	0	No
Total number of electors			14,433	

Ward 7 – Falkirk South

Ward 7 – Falkirk South				
Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
FW701	Camelon West	Easter Carmuir's Primary School	1,808	No
FW705	Camelon East	Carmuir's Primary School	1,137	No
FW710	Tamfourhill	Tamfourhill Community Centre	1,048	No
FW715	Summerford	Greenbank Court Meeting Room	494	No
FW721	Bantaskin	Bantaskin Primary School	1,394	No
FW726	Camelon North East	Camelon Education Centre	1,093	No
FW731	Woodlands	Woodlands Games Hall	3,355	No
FW740	Glen Village	Parkhead Rd/Hallglen Terr – mobile	260	No
FW746	Hallglen/Lionthorn	Hallglen Sport Centre	2,943	No
FE750	Falkirk rural	Hallglen Sports Centre	68	No
Total number of electors			13,600	

Ward 8 – Lower Braes

Ward 8 – Lower Braes				
Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
FE801	Laurieston North	Laurieston Community Hall	1,133	No
FE806	Laurieston South	Laurieston Primary School	955	No
FE811	Westquarter	Westquarter Community Centre	1,357	No
FE816	Polmont South	Polmont Sports Centre	2,597	No
FE820	Polmont	Greenpark Community Centre	2,777	No
FE826	Brightons	Grange Community Centre	521	No
LE826	Overton/Brightons	Grange Community Centre	897	No
LE830	Beancross and Newlands	Laurieston Community Hall	3	No
LE836	Reddingmuirhead	Reddingmuirhead Community Centre	639	No
LE840	Battock	Maddiston Community Centre	3	No
Total number of electors			10,882	

Ward 9 – Upper Braes

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Dec 2012)	Whether amended
LE900	Whitecross	Whitecross Power Station Youth Club	590	No
LE905	Maddiston South	Maddiston Old Folk's Hall	829	No
LE911	Wallacestone	Reddingmuirhead Community Centre	1,171	No
LE916	Rumford	Brightons Community Centre	1,492	No
LE921	Maddiston	Maddiston Community Centre	1,898	No
LE925	California	California Community Centre	642	No
LE930	Standburn	Drumbowie Primary School	206	No
LE935	Avonbridge	Avonbridge Community Hall	555	No
LE940	Limerigg	Limerigg Community Hall	200	No
LE945	Slamannan	Slamannan Community Centre	1,182	No
FE950	Lathallan	Brightons Community Centre	0	No
FE955	Brightons South	Brightons Community Centre	981	No
FE960	Shieldhill	Shieldhill Welfare Hall	1,917	No
Total number of electors			11,663	
TOTAL ELECTORS IN THE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA			116,433	

APPENDIX 2

Falkirk Council proposed scheme (2016-)

Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Nov 2016)	Whether amended – No
LE101	Carriden	Cowdenhill Community Centre	2,116	No
LE106	Bo’ness South East	Bo’ness Recreation Centre	2,782	No
LE111	Blackness	Blackness Community Hall	349	No
LE121	Bo’ness Centre	Salvation Army Hall	914	No
LE127	Maidenpark	Kinneil Primary School	2,350	No
LE131	Deanfield	Kinneil Bowling Club	988	No
LE135	Deanburn	Deanburn Primary School	1,897	No
Total number of electors			11,396	

Ward 2 - Grangemouth

Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Nov 2016)	Whether amended – Yes
LE200	Dalgrain	Dalgrain Community Hall	632	No
LE205	Newlands	Newlands Community Centre	3,359	No
LE211	Grangemouth Centre	Grangemouth Town Hall	3,229	No
LE215	Bowhouse	Bowhouse Community Centre	3,624	No
LE221	Inchyra	Dundas Resource Centre	1,641	No
FE230	Skinflats	Bothkennar Community Hall	252	Yes – move to Ward 4 (now FE440)
Total number of electors			12,485	

Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock

		Number of electors (as at Nov 2016)	Whether amended – No
Polling District	Proposed Polling Place		
FW300 Dunipace	Dunipace Church Hall	1,983	No
FW305 Denny Centre	Denny Westpark Church Hall	2,252	No
FW310 Fankerton	Fankerton Village Hall	564	No
FW317 Denny South	Nethermain Primary School	3,877	No
FW322 Head of Muir & Dennyloanhead	Archibald Russell Centre	2,683	No
FW325 Banknock	Banknock (Bankier) Community Centre	2,509	No
FW330 Allandale	Allandale Bowling Club	258	No
Total number of electors		14,126	

Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst

		Number of electors (as at Nov 2016)	Whether amended – No
Polling District	Proposed Polling Place		
FE400 Airth	Airth Community Hall	1,758	No
FE407 Carronshore	Carronshore Sports and Social Hall	2,429	No
FE412 Carron	Carron Primary School	3,011	No
FE416 Carron Dams	Stenhouse & Carron Church Hall	2,350	No
FE421 The Valley	Tryst Community Centre	1,856	No
FW426 Tryst	Stenhousemuir Primary School	2,211	No
FW431 Bellsdyke	Kinnaird Primary School	1,889	No
FW436 Carronvale Road	Dobbie Hall	8	Yes – merged with FW506
FE440 Skinflats	Bothkennar Community Hall	252	Yes – formerly Ward 2 (FE230)
Total number of electors		15,756	

Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert

Polling District	Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Nov 2016)	Whether amended – Yes
FW500 Inches	Kinnaird Primary School	1,124	No
FW506 South Broomage	Dobbie Hall	1,945	Yes – now includes 8 electors from FW436
FW511 Larbert	Larbert Village Primary School	2,872	No
FW515 Torwood	Torwood Primary School site - mobile	250	No
FW520 North Bonnybridge	Bonnybridge Primary School	2,908	No
FW525 South Bonnybridge/Greenhill	Bonnybridge Community Centre	2,455	No
FW530 High Bonnybridge	Antonine Primary School - mobile	689	No
Total number of electors		12,243	

Ward 6 – Falkirk North

Polling District	Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Nov 2016)	Whether amended – Yes
FW600 Rosebank	Bantaskin Primary School	748	Yes – move to Ward 7 (now FW755)
FW605 Grahamston and Dollar Park	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	1,476	Yes – deleted and replaced with FW660 and FW770
FW611 New Carron	Co-op New Carron Village – mobile unit	1,986	No
FW612 Bainsford	Bainsford Community Centre	2,109	No
FW615 Dawson	Dawson Centre	1,534	No
FW620 Victoria	Thornhill Community Centre	3,374	No
FW625 The Bog	Westfield Community Centre	1,617	No
FW630 Callendar Park	Leishman Tower Club Room	1,259	Yes – move to Ward 7 (now FW760)

FW635	Howgate	Woodlands Games Hall	357	Yes – move to Ward 7 (now FW765)
LW640	West Mains	Westfield Community Central	0	No
FW645	Camelon West	Easter Carmuir's Primary School	1,821	Yes – formerly FW701 (Ward 7)
FW650	Camelon East	Carmuir's Primary School	1,104	Yes – formerly FW705 (Ward 7)
FW655	Camelon North East	Camelon Education Centre	1,118	Yes – formerly FW726 (Ward 7)
FW660	<i>Name tbc</i>	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	<i>tbc</i>	Yes – formerly FW605
Total number of electors			tbc	

Ward 7 – Falkirk South				
Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Nov 2016)	Whether amended – Yes
FW701	Camelon West	Easter Carmuir's Primary School	1,821	Yes – move to Ward 6 (now FW645)
FW705	Camelon East	Carmuir's Primary School	1,104	Yes – move to Ward 6 (now FW650)
FW710	Tamfourhill	Tamfourhill Community Centre	963	No
FW715	Summerford	Greenbank Court Meeting Room	532	No
FW721	Bantaskin	Bantaskin Primary School	1,399	No
FW726	Camelon North East	Camelon Education Centre	1,118	Yes – move to Ward 6 (now FW655)
FW731	Woodlands	Woodlands Games Hall	3,321	No
FW740	Glen Village	Parkhead Rd/Hallglen Terr – mobile	264	No
FW746	Hallglen/Lionthorn	Hallglen Sport Centre	3,008	No
FE750	Falkirk rural	Hallglen Sports Centre	68	No
FW755	Rosebank	Bantaskin Primary School	748	Yes – formerly FW600 (Ward 6)
FW760	Callendar Park	Leishman Tower Club Room	1,259	Yes – formerly FW630 (Ward 6)
FW765	Howgate	Woodlands Games Hall	357	Yes – formerly FW635 (Ward 6)
FW770	<i>Name tbc</i>	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	<i>tbc</i>	Yes – formerly FW605 (Ward 6)
Total number of electors			tbc	

Ward 8 – Lower Braes

Ward 8 – Lower Braes				
Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Nov 2016)	Whether amended – No
FE801	Laurieston North	Laurieston Community Hall	1,125	No
FE806	Laurieston South	Laurieston Primary School	928	No
FE811	Westquarter	Westquarter Community Centre	1,282	No
FE816	Polmont South	Polmont Sports Centre	2,522	No
FE820	Polmont	Greenpark Community Centre	2,707	No
FE826	Brightons	Grange Community Centre	503	No
LE826	Overton/Brightons	Grange Community Centre	1,485	No
LE830	Beancross and Newlands	Laurieston Community Hall	4	No
LE836	Reddingmuirhead	Reddingmuirhead Community Centre	859	No
LE840	Battock	Maddiston Community Centre	3	No
Total number of electors			11,418	

Ward 9 – Upper Braes

Ward 9 – Upper Braes				
Polling District		Proposed Polling Place	Number of electors (as at Nov 2016)	Whether amended – No
LE900	Whitecross	Whitecross Power Station Youth Club	628	No
LE905	Maddiston South	Maddiston Old Folk's Hall	894	No
LE911	Wallacestone	Reddingmuirhead Community Centre	1,143	No
LE916	Rumford	Brightons Community Centre	1,502	No
LE921	Maddiston	Maddiston Community Centre	2,116	No
LE925	California	California Community Centre	620	No
LE930	Standburn	Drumbowie Primary School	211	No
LE935	Avonbridge	Avonbridge Community Hall	554	No
LE940	Limerigg	Limerigg Community Hall	197	No
LE945	Slamannan	Slamannan Community Centre	1,171	No

FE950	Lathallan	Brightons Community Centre	0	No
FE955	Brightons South	Brightons Community Centre	948	No
FE960	Shieldhill	Shieldhill Welfare Hall	1,863	No
Total number of electors			11,847	
TOTAL ELECTORS IN THE FALKIRK COUNCIL AREA			(tbc)	