



Agenda Item 8

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: 22 February 2017

Submitted By: Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Council on the outcome of the consultation process undertaken to identify and agree new and/or alternative polling places, if required, and to propose amendments to the Falkirk Council polling scheme as a consequence of the Local Boundary Commission for Scotland's 5th Review of Electoral Arrangements.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Council approves the polling scheme appended hereto, subject to the polling stations at polling district FW611 changing from Mobile Unit – Co-op Car Park to New Unit 2, The Carron Centre, with immediate effect for the purpose of the local government elections on 4 May 2017 and until the next full review of polling places to be held between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020, subject to any individual changes required in the interim period.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Council considered a report on 7 December 2016 updating 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 outlining proposals for further changes to the scheme in relation to polling places affected by possible closure. Council noted the revised polling scheme updated prior to the statutory annual publication of electoral registers on 1 December 2016 and agreed to undertake a consultation process to identify and agree new and/or alternative polling places, if required, and to consider a further report on the outcome of the consultation process before the nomination period for the local government elections on 4 May 2017.

4. Considerations

- 4.1 The new ward boundaries required no changes to polling places. The previous polling scheme was therefore amended to reflect the amended boundaries only, with the focus then being on any polling places (community halls primarily) which might not be available. A consultation process was undertaken, as agreed by Council on 7 December 2016, which resulted in no comments being received and no alternative polling places suggested.

In the interim, it has been confirmed that all existing community halls will be available. The polling scheme has, consequently, required minimal change.

- 4.2 Ward 6 – Falkirk North, has one polling place in Carron Co-op car park (polling district FW611) in The Carron Centre. The agent for the Co-op advises that there is the potential for development within the car park which would possibly impact on the area where the polling place (two mobile units) is sited. While no definitive response has yet been received from the agent for the Co-op, investigations have been ongoing to find another suitable location within the polling district.
- 4.3 A positive and seemingly viable option has been proposed by Lidl UK, who also have premises in the Carron Centre. A shop unit formerly used by “Cash for Clothes” is currently vacant and has been offered to the Council for use as a polling place on 4 May 2017. New Unit 2, The Carron Centre, is 64m², comprises two rooms and a toilet facility and has direct access from the Lidl/Greggs car park. A site visit of the premises will take place on 15 February and an update on the viability of the proposal will be given to local Members before the meeting of Council on 22 February. If suitable, it would be preferable to use these premises in May 2017 rather than bring mobile units onto the Co-op ground at a financial cost.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Notice of the consultation process was publicised in the local press (Bo’ness Journal and Falkirk Herald) w/c 12 December 2016. The consultation details were also published on the Council website. No responses to the consultation have been received.

6. Implications

Financial

- 6.1 The use of the Carron Co-op car park for polling purposes has incurred costs of £500 plus VAT per electoral event since it was first used as a polling place in May 2014. If used again in May 2017, it would be expected that the same fee would be applied.
- 6.2 There are no financial implications for the use of New Unit 2 offered by Lidl UK other than ensuring that insurance cover is in place for polling day only.

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 If Council agree to the use of New Unit 2, The Carron Centre as detailed above, there would be a requirement for a risk assessment to be undertaken to ensure the premises are suitable for the proposed polling purposes. The Elections Manager will work with the Council's Corporate Risk Co-ordinator to ensure that this exercise is undertaken properly and that the premises are fit for purpose.

Equalities

- 6.6 No equalities issues arise from the content of this report. It is understood that the premises are accessible to all and would require no remedial works. This will be checked at the site visit on 15 February.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 6.7 No impact assessment is required.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 In the absence of any other identified changes to the current polling scheme, it is proposed that the polling scheme, accepted in principle in December 2016 to reflect the revised electoral ward boundaries, be approved for use at the local government elections in May 2017 and any other electoral events held before the completion of the next full review as referred to at paragraph 2.1 above. It is also considered that the proposed polling place at New Unit 2, The Carron Centre, be added to the polling scheme for polling district FW611, instead of the Mobile Unit – Carron Co-op as currently noted on the polling scheme appended hereto, failing which the possibility of utilising the Co-op car park once again be pursued further.

Chief Executive

Author – Dale Robb, Business and Members' Services Manager
01324 506111, dale.robbs@falkirk.gov.uk

Date: 8 February 2017

Appendix

Falkirk Council Proposed Polling Scheme 2016 – 2020

List of Background Papers:

- 1 The Falkirk (Electoral Arrangements) Order 2016
- 2 Reports to Council on 27 May 2015 and 22 June, 21 September and 7 December 2016

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

Ward: 1: Bo'ness and Blackness

Polling Station	Ballot Box	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
1/LE101: Cowdenhill Community Hall	1	0	945	139	1,084
2/LE101: Cowdenhill Community Hall	2	0	978	143	1,121
3/LE106: Bo'ness Recreation Centre	3	0	838	132	970
4/LE106: Bo'ness Recreation Centre	4	1	837	124	961
5/LE106: Bo'ness Recreation Centre	5	0	786	115	901
6/LE111: Blackness Community Hall	6	0	274	73	347
7/LE121: Salvation Army Hall Bo'ness	7	0	892	107	999
8/LE127: Kinneil Primary School	8	0	1,019	156	1,175
9/LE127: Kinneil Primary School	9	1	1,072	137	1,209
10/LE131: Kinneil Bowling Club	10	2	911	114	1,025
11/LE135: Deanburn Primary School	11	1	850	84	934
12/LE135: Deanburn Primary School	12	2	898	115	1,013
Total for Ward: 1: Bo'ness and Blackness		7	10,300	1,439	11,739

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

Ward: 2: Grangemouth

Polling Station	Ballot Box	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
13/LE200: Dalgrain Community Hall	13	0	557	60	617
14/LE205: Newlands Community Centre	14	1	1,006	85	1,091
15/LE205: Newlands Community Centre	15	1	1,014	132	1,146
16/LE205: Newlands Community Centre	16	0	1,054	112	1,166
17/LE211: Grangemouth Town Hall	17	0	961	160	1,121
18/LE211: Grangemouth Town Hall	18	0	857	103	960
19/LE211: Grangemouth Town Hall	19	1	1,060	134	1,194
20/LE215: Bowhouse Community Centre	20	0	1,116	104	1,220
21/LE215: Bowhouse Community Centre	21	0	1,109	126	1,235
22/LE215: Bowhouse Community Centre	22	0	1,102	141	1,243
23/LE221: Dundas Resource Centre	23	0	728	104	832
24/LE221: Dundas Resource Centre	24	0	782	143	925
Total for Ward: 2: Grangemouth		3	11,346	1,404	12,750

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

Ward: 3: Denny & Banknock

Polling Station	Ballot Box	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
25/FW300: Dunipace Church Hall	25	1	872	113	985
26/FW300: Dunipace Church Hall	26	3	914	141	1,055
27/FW305: Denny Westpark Church Hall	27	0	1,022	128	1,150
28/FW305: Denny Westpark Church Hall	28	0	992	125	1,117
29/FW310: Fankerton Village Hall	29	1	520	80	600
30/FW317: Nethermains Primary School	30	0	853	111	964
31/FW317: Nethermains Primary School	31	0	935	113	1,048
32/FW317: Nethermains Primary School	32	0	882	112	994
33/FW317: Nethermains Primary School	33	2	808	126	934
34/FW322: Archibald Russell Centre	34	1	792	104	896
35/FW322: Archibald Russell Centre	35	2	880	93	973
36/FW322: Archibald Russell Centre	36	1	813	85	898
37/FW325: Banknock Community Centre	37	0	1,013	117	1,130
38/FW325: Banknock Community Centre	38	1	1,237	150	1,387
39/FW330: Allandale Bowling Club	39	0	235	21	256
Total for Ward: 3: Denny & Banknock		12	12,768	1,619	14,387

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

Ward: 4: Carse, Kinnaird & Tryst

Polling Station	Ballot Box	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
40/FE400: Airth Community Hall	40	0	827	119	946
41/FE400: Airth Community Hall	41	2	728	108	836
42/FE407: Carronshore Sports & Social Hall	42	1	1,169	123	1,292
43/FE407: Carronshore Sports & Social Hall	43	0	1,108	118	1,226
44/FE412: Carron Primary School	44	1	818	154	972
45/FE412: Carron Primary School	45	1	922	116	1,038
46/FE412: Carron Primary School	46	0	884	120	1,004
47/FE416: Stenhouse and Carron Parish Church Hall	47	0	1,087	142	1,229
48/FE416: Stenhouse and Carron Parish Church Hall	48	1	971	173	1,144
49/FE421: Tryst Community Centre	49	0	873	83	956
50/FE421: Tryst Community Centre	50	0	844	104	948
51/FW426: Stenhousemuir Primary School	51	1	988	141	1,129
52/FW426: Stenhousemuir Primary School	52	0	962	149	1,111
53/FW431: Kinnaird Primary School	53	0	876	141	1,017
54/FW431: Kinnaird Primary School	54	1	921	119	1,040
55/FE440: Bothkennar Community Hall	55	0	226	27	253
Total for Ward: 4: Carse, Kinnaird & Tryst		8	14,204	1,937	16,141

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

Ward: 5: Bonnybridge & Larbert

Polling Station	Ballot Box	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
56/FW500: Kinnaird Primary School	56	0	987	187	1,174
57/FW506: Dobbie Hall	57	0	847	117	964
58/FW506: Dobbie Hall	58	0	865	156	1,021
59/FW511: Larbert Village Primary School	59	0	857	101	958
60/FW511: Larbert Village Primary School	60	0	863	106	969
61/FW511: Larbert Village Primary School	61	0	854	131	985
62/FW515: Torwood Primary School site - Temporary Static Unit	62	0	231	27	258
63/FW520: Bonnybridge Primary School	63	0	912	82	994
64/FW520: Bonnybridge Primary School	64	0	825	122	947
65/FW520: Bonnybridge Primary School	65	1	894	107	1,001
66/FW525: Bonnybridge Community Centre	66	1	1,135	125	1,260
67/FW525: Bonnybridge Community Centre	67	2	1,121	129	1,250
68/FW530: Antonine Primary School	68	0	646	62	708
Total for Ward: 5: Bonnybridge & Larbert		4	11,037	1,452	12,489

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

Ward: 6: Falkirk North

Polling Station	Ballot Box	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
69/FW611: Mobile Unit - Co-op Car Park	69	0	929	132	1,061
70/FW611: Mobile Unit - Co-op Car Park	70	1	847	154	1,001
71/FW612: Bainsford Community Centre	71	1	992	128	1,120
72/FW612: Bainsford Community Centre	72	0	952	114	1,066
73/FW615: Dawson Centre	73	0	703	55	758
74/FW615: Dawson Centre	74	0	779	75	854
75/FW620: Thornhill Community Centre	75	0	972	157	1,129
76/FW620: Thornhill Community Centre	76	0	1,026	153	1,179
77/FW620: Thornhill Community Centre	77	0	1,003	144	1,147
78/FW625: Westfield Community Centre	78	0	851	75	926
79/FW625: Westfield Community Centre	79	0	723	55	778
80/FW645: Easter Carmuir Primary School	80	0	837	89	926
81/FW645: Easter Carmuir Primary School	81	1	827	93	920
82/FW650: Carmuir Primary School	82	0	1,001	124	1,125
83/FW655: Camelon Education Centre	83	0	1,003	110	1,113
84/FW660: St Francis Xavier Church Hall	84	0	635	157	792
Total for Ward: 6: Falkirk North		3	14,080	1,815	15,895

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

Ward: 7: Falkirk South

Polling Station	Ballot Box	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
85/FW710: Tamfourhill Community Centre	85	1	909	97	1,006
86/FW715: Greenbank Court Meeting Room	86	0	426	93	519
87/FW721 & FW755: Bantaskin Primary School	87	0	976	163	1,139
88/FW721: Bantaskin Primary School	88	1	892	125	1,017
89/FW731 & FW765: Woodlands Games Hall	89	1	843	186	1,029
90/FW731: Woodlands Games Hall	90	1	1,126	223	1,349
91/FW731: Woodlands Games Hall	91	0	1,161	218	1,379
92/FW740: Mobile Unit - Glen Village	92	0	246	18	264
93/FW746 & FE750: Hallglen Sports Centre	93	2	943	129	1,072
94/FW746: Hallglen Sports Centre	94	0	981	97	1,078
95/FW746: Hallglen Sports Centre	95	0	907	113	1,020
96/FW760: Leishman Tower Club Room	96	0	1,035	230	1,265
97/FW770: St Francis Xavier Church Hall	97	1	620	91	711
Total for Ward: 7: Falkirk South		7	11,065	1,783	12,848

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

Ward: 8: Lower Braes

Polling Station	Ballot Box	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
98/FE801 & LE830: Laurieston Community Hall	98	1	1,020	118	1,138
99/FE806: Laurieston Primary School	99	0	860	74	934
100/FE811: Westquarter Community School Project	100	1	1,175	100	1,275
101/FE816: Polmont Sports Centre	101	1	1,097	172	1,269
102/FE816: Polmont Sports Centre	102	1	1,115	158	1,273
103/FE820: Greenpark Community Centre	103	0	1,227	168	1,395
104/FE820: Greenpark Community Centre	104	0	1,192	163	1,355
105/LE826: Grange Community Centre	105	0	823	93	916
106/FE826 & LE826: Grange Community Centre	106	1	1,018	157	1,175
107/LE836: Reddingmuirhead Community Hall	107	0	824	100	924
108/LE840: Maddiston Community Centre	108	0	3	0	3
Total for Ward: 8: Lower Braes		5	10,354	1,303	11,657

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

Ward: 9: Upper Braes

Polling Station	Ballot Box	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
109/LE900: Whitecross Power Station Youth Club	109	0	591	51	642
110/LE905: Maddiston Old Folks Hall	110	1	821	88	909
111/LE911: Reddingmuirhead Community Hall	111	1	981	206	1,187
112/LE916: Brightons Community Centre	112	0	627	114	741
113/LE916: Brightons Community Centre	113	0	683	103	786
114/LE921: Maddiston Community Centre	114	0	865	134	999
115/LE921: Maddiston Community Centre	115	0	1,115	123	1,238
116/LE925: California Community Hall	116	0	561	73	634
117/LE930: Drumbowie Primary School	117	0	176	46	222
118/LE935: Avonbridge Community Hall	118	1	495	79	574
119/LE940: Limerigg Community Hall	119	0	177	24	201
120/LE945: Slamannan Community Centre	120	0	1,050	136	1,186
121/FE955: Brightons Community Centre	121	0	847	111	958
122/FE960: Shieldhill Welfare Hall	122	0	857	95	952
123/FE960: Shieldhill Welfare Hall	123	0	865	88	953
Total for Ward: 9: Upper Braes		3	10,711	1,471	12,182

Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 09 February 2017

	Proxy	Eligible Voters At Station	Postal	Total Eligible Voters
Grand Totals	52	105,865	14,223	120,088