

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the Coat of Arms of the City of Edinburgh. The crest includes a crown with four thistles, a shield divided into four quarters (a castle tower, a stag's head, a ship, and an eagle), and a motto scroll at the bottom.

Agenda Item 13

**Review of Polling Districts:
Ward 1 – Bo'ness and Blackness**

Falkirk Council

Title: Review of Polling Districts: Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness

Meeting: Falkirk Council

Date: 6 December 2017

Submitted By: Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from Council for a proposed change to the boundary between two polling districts in Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness following completion of a housing development.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 **It is recommended that Council approves a change to the boundary between polling districts LE106 and LE135 in Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness to allow the Charles Snedden Avenue and Muirhead Crescent development to sit within LE106, with all electors allocated to Bo’ness Recreation Centre.**

3. Considerations

- 3.1 Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness comprises seven polling districts and has an electorate of approximately 12,000 (figures from local government elections May 2017). Ward boundaries are generally drawn around discrete communities, avoiding the division of streets where possible. The existing boundary between polling districts LE106 and LE135 crosses through the new development at Charles Snedden Avenue and Muirhead Crescent, which means the registered electors in this development are allocated to different polling places. The polling place for LE106 is Bo’ness Recreation Centre and for LE135 is Deanburn Primary School. The proposed change would see all electors in the new development allocated to Bo’ness Recreation Centre. The map at Appendix 1 refers.
- 3.2 The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) for Central Scotland requires clarification of polling districts/electoral units for all new housing. The ERO works with the Council’s Research and Information Team and Election staff to ensure inclusion of all new premises and registered electors for electoral registration purposes.
- 3.3 There are currently 31 registered electors in LE106, with 18 potential electors invited to register. There are no electors from these streets in LE135 but there are 22 potential electors invited to register. It is intended that all would be moved to LE106 as a consequence of the boundary change. The changes, if approved, will be included by the ERO in the next update of the electoral registers.

- 3.4 Any proposed amendments to existing Ward or polling district boundaries require to be approved by Council. The current polling scheme for Ward 1 is attached at Appendix 2. 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. A further full review of polling districts and polling places is scheduled to be held between October 2018 and January 2020.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 In accordance with standard practice, the proposals were presented to the three local Members for Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness. All three Members are in favour of the proposed change of boundary and the allocation of electors to Bo’ness Recreation Centre for polling purposes.

5. Implications

Financial

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations.

Resources

- 5.2 There are no resource implications arising from the recommendations.

Legal

- 5.3 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

- 5.4 There are no known risk implications arising from this report.

Equalities

- 5.5 No equality and poverty impact assessment was required.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

- 5.6 No sustainability assessment has been completed as part of compiling the report.

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 Implementation of the report’s recommendation will ensure that the development at the identified streets in Bo’ness is included in one polling district, LE106, and that all registered electors in the development, currently

around 71 in total, are allocated to Bo'ness Recreation Centre for polling purposes.

Chief Executive

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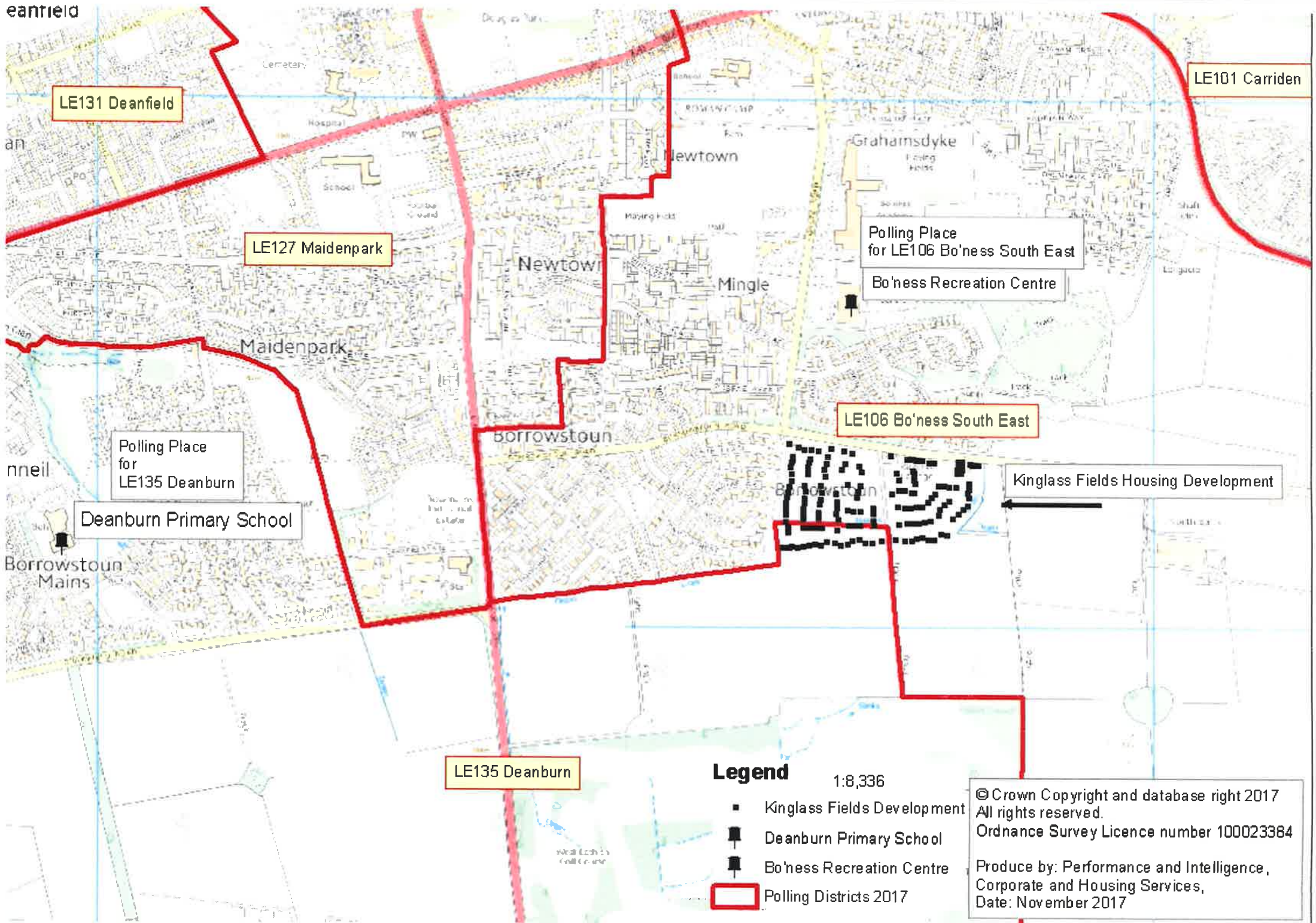
Date: 8 November 2017

Appendices:

- 1 Appendix 1 – map depicting the area concerned
- 2 Appendix 2 – Falkirk Council Polling Scheme: Ward 1 – Bo'ness and Blackness

List of Background Papers:

- 1 Reports to Council on 7 December 2016 and 22 February 2017
- 2 Polling Scheme approved in accordance with the above reports.



LE131 Deanfield

LE127 Maidenpark

LE101 Carriden

Polling Place
for LE106 Bo'ness South East
Bo'ness Recreation Centre

LE106 Bo'ness South East

Polling Place
for
LE135 Deanburn

Deanburn Primary School

Kinglass Fields Housing Development

LE135 Deanburn

Legend

1:8,336

- Kinglass Fields Development
- Deanburn Primary School
- Bo'ness Recreation Centre
- Polling Districts 2017

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Eligible Electorate for an Election by Station

Local Government Elections held on 4 May 2017

Printed: 27 April 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	926	161	1,087
2/LE101: Cowdenhill Community Hall	2	2	966	159	1,125
3/LE106: Bo'ness Recreation Centre	3	0	832	143	975
4/LE106: Bo'ness Recreation Centre	4	2	822	144	966
5/LE106: Bo'ness Recreation Centre	5	2	789	122	911
6/LE111: Blackness Community Hall	6	0	273	81	354
7/LE121: Salvation Army Hall Bo'ness	7	0	888	124	1,012
8/LE127: Kinneil Primary School	8	0	1,027	162	1,189
9/LE127: Kinneil Primary School	9	1	1,079	154	1,233
10/LE131: Kinneil Bowling Club	10	2	918	122	1,040
11/LE135: Deanburn Primary School	11	2	837	94	931
12/LE135: Deanburn Primary School	12	8	889	127	1,016
Total for Ward: 1: Bo'ness and Blackness		19	10,246	1,593	11,839