

AGENDA ITEM 3

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: AMENDMENT TO POLLING SCHEME – CHANGES TO
POLLING PLACES FOR UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION
2010

Meeting: FALKIRK COUNCIL

Date: 3 MARCH 2010

Author: RETURNING OFFICER

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, requires local authorities to keep under review polling districts and polling places.
- 1.2 Members will be aware that elections staff constantly review polling places and make proposals to amend the Polling Scheme on a temporary or permanent basis as required.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to alert Members to the requirement to review two polling places to be used for the UK Parliamentary Election, which will be held in Spring/Summer 2010, not later than 3 June.

2. PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS

- 2.1 The proposed adjustments relate to two polling places as undernoted:-

Ward	Polling District	No. of electors (as at 11/2/10)	Current polling place	Proposed polling place
4 - Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst	FE415	1707	Larbert Library – Community Room	Tryst Community Centre
5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert	FW510	3900	Larbert Village Primary School – temporary static units	Larbert Village Primary School – main building

- 2.2 The use of Larbert Library as a polling place at the European Parliamentary Elections in 2009 allowed for the completion of construction of the new Tryst Community Centre, Park Drive, Stenhousemuir. The Community Centre is a new building and is fully compliant with Disability Discrimination legislation.

- 2.3 At Larbert Village Primary School, static units located in the playground were used as a polling place at the European Parliamentary Elections during a period of refurbishment at the school. Since then, the refurbishment works have concluded and it is proposed that the three polling stations will be located within the school hall, as at previous elections.
- 2.4 In addition to the above changes, Members are asked to note that a static unit at the Torwood Primary School site, used as a polling place at the European Parliamentary Elections in 2009, will be used once again, thereby enabling local electors to vote at the same location as before. As Members will be aware, there is little, if any, alternative option within Torwood and this polling place will be kept under close scrutiny in relation to future elections. Members will be notified of any further proposed changes.
- 2.5 Members are asked to note that the above changes to polling places, once confirmed, will be notified to all electors within the polling districts concerned by way of the poll card issued by the Electoral Registration Officer on behalf of myself as Returning Officer. If considered necessary, a separate letter of notification of change will be issued to each elector. In addition, the changes to polling places will be published on the Council's website. It should be noted, however, that with the exception of Tryst Community Centre, the other two polling places continue to be sited at the existing polling place locations. Additional and enhanced signage will be provided to assist electors on polling day.
- 2.6 Plans indicating the locations of the existing and proposed polling places are attached (Appendix 1).
- 2.7 The polling scheme, amended to reflect the proposed changes and edited for ease of reference, is attached (see Appendix 2) for Members' approval. Members are reminded that the first digit contained within the Polling District reference indicates the Ward number, eg LE100 indicates Ward 1, FW325 indicates Ward 3, etc.

3. FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 A charge will be made for the use of the unit at Torwood Primary School site. The cost in 2009 was £290 plus VAT and it is anticipated that the charge in 2010 will be similar. This will include the delivery and uplift of the unit, as well as a generator and separate toilet facility.
- 3.2 There will be no fee payable for the use of the Tryst Community Centre or Larbert Village Primary School.
- 3.3 All proposed premises are fully compliant with Disability Discrimination legislative requirements.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Consultation has not taken place with local Members or electors as the proposed changes simply revert the temporary adjustments of 2009 to the arrangements in place prior to the European Parliamentary Elections. The Police and the Electoral Registration Officer have been verbally notified of the proposed changes and the details will be posted on the Council's website.

- 4.2 In addition, Members are asked to note that, with reference to Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 5 December 2007 (Paragraph FC53 refers), a review of all polling places requires to be undertaken by 31 December 2011. Members, and all other relevant bodies, will be consulted on existing and proposed polling places as part of that process.

5. RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Members are requested to:-

- (1) note the terms of the Report; and**
- (2) approve the adjustments to the polling scheme detailed in Paragraph 2.1 of this Report and the publicising of the changes, with immediate implementation for polling purposes at the UK Parliamentary Election in Spring/Summer 2010.**

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Returning Officer

Date: 15 February 2010

Contact Officer: Dale Robb, ext 6111

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Report to Falkirk Council on 29 April 2009 – Amendment to Polling Scheme – Changes to Polling Places for European Parliamentary Election – 4 June 2009.**
- 2 Report to Falkirk Council on 5 December 2007 – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.**