

Title: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2018/20

Meeting: Falkirk Council

Date: 25 September 2019

Submitted by: Chief Executive

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report advises of the review of the current scheme of polling districts and polling places, as required by the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, outlines the responses received during the consultation process and proposes a number of amendments to the existing polling scheme, for Members' consideration.

2. Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended that Council:-

- (1) notes the requirements of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 to review the existing UK parliamentary polling districts and polling places within the period 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020;**
- (2) considers the proposals contained in the Returning Officer's submission and decides which options should be implemented, with a particular focus on the highlighted text as summarised in Section 6 below and comments in Appendix 3, and on the consultation feedback from Stages 1 and 2 of the review process as summarised in Appendices 2a and 2b, and**
- (3) approves the proposed polling scheme as detailed within Section 7 below, subject to the decisions taken at (2) above, for use at elections, by-elections and referendums held between 1 December 2019 and the next review, scheduled to be held between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025, with any ad hoc changes being reported to Council in the interim period.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council is required by Section 18B 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 Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

subsequently introduced a new provision altering the timing of compulsory reviews to the period of 16 months beginning with 1 October 2013 and every fifth year thereafter. The last full review of polling districts and polling places was carried out in 2013/14, with a report to Council on 11 December 2013.

3.2 Comments on the existing polling scheme were invited from:

- All elected Members of Falkirk Council, MPs and MSPs
- Community Councils
- Returning Officers in the constituencies wholly or partly in the Falkirk Council area
- Electoral Registration Officer, Central Scotland Valuation Joint Board
- Falkirk Council's Core Election Team
- Falkirk Council's Corporate Management Team (Chief Executive and Service Directors or equivalent)
- Local community and disability groups
- Keyholders of current polling places
- Police Scotland

3.3 In addition, comments received since the last review were taken into account and a survey was made available on the Council website, accessible via the home page and publicised in the notice of review.

4. The Review Process

4.1 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.

- 4.2 The current polling scheme, as used for the European Parliamentary elections in May 2019, is appended hereto (Appendix 1), together with a summary of feedback from the consultation exercises, Stages 1 and 2, undertaken as part of the review process (Appendices 2a and 2b), the Returning Officer's statutory submission (Appendix 3), and a 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 Sections 6 and 7 below. It is proposed that the amended polling scheme be implemented with effect from 1 December 2019, for use at all elections, by-elections and referendums held between then and the next review, as outlined in recommendation (3) at paragraph 2.1 above.
- 4.3 The Falkirk area comprises two Parliamentary Constituencies with a total electorate of 123,338 (1 August 2019). Falkirk Constituency currently has an electorate of 86,174, and Linlithgow and East Falkirk Constituency has an electorate of 37,164 within the Falkirk Council area, the remainder being within the 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.
- 4.4 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 Parliamentary Constituencies (Falkirk East and Falkirk West)
 - Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies (Falkirk (whole) and Linlithgow & East Falkirk (in part))
- 4.5 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 included looking at alternative polling places as well as the polling district boundaries.
- 4.6 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 15,565 (12.6% of the total electorate) and is expected to rise in advance of any future electoral event. This increase allows the possibility of larger polling districts to be considered, as fewer electors are expected to turn out in person to vote at elections. It should be noted, however, that the turnout at recent elections has increased and is expected to continue to do so

with the inclusion of 16- and 17-year olds at Scottish parliamentary and local government elections. One benefit of creating 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.

- 4.7 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. This currently applies in most, but not all, polling districts in the Falkirk Council area. Additionally, in recent years, Children's 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. Where schools have been designated as polling places, in-service days are now set to coincide with scheduled electoral events. This arrangement means that all schools in the Falkirk Council area are closed to pupils on polling days, whether or not they are being used for polling purposes. Unscheduled electoral events, however, continue to require only those schools designated as polling places to be closed to pupils on such occasions. There is currently little, if any, alternative to this arrangement.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 The polling scheme attached at Appendix 1 provides details of all current polling districts and indicates the polling places for each as at May 2019. The 2019 scheme was updated to reflect minor changes which had arisen since the local government and UK parliamentary elections in 2017. Feedback received during that period has been included in this review process.
- 4.10 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 as part of 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.

- 4.11 The Council has a statutory requirement to publish all representations made by the Returning Officer. This information was published on the Falkirk Council website in February 2019 and was circulated to the consultees listed at paragraph 3.2 above. On completion of the review, the Council is obliged to publish its decision, including reasons for selection of premises proposed, and the responses received during the course of consultation.
- 4.12 Following the conclusion of the review, certain persons have a right to make representations to the Electoral Commission. The entitlement includes:
- Thirty or more registered electors in each constituency (excluding anonymous electors)
 - A person who made representations to the local authority when the review was being undertaken
 - Any person who is not an elector in a constituency in the Council area but who the Electoral Commission thinks has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons to polling places in the area or has particular expertise in relation to the access to premises or facilities of disabled persons
- 4.13 Electors will be made aware of any changes made to the place they must attend. This will be done by way of highlighted wording on poll cards in advance of the next electoral event following conclusion of the review process.

5. Consultation and Feedback

Stage 1

- 5.1 Stage 1 consultation took place between 9 November and 21 December 2018.
- 5.2 As part of this process, 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.
- 5.3 From the online survey, 93 responses were received. Responses related only to the polling places currently used – no comments were received in relation to polling districts. A summary of responses is included in Appendix 2b.
- 5.4 Several emailed comments were received throughout 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 since the previous review, primarily following the local government and UK parliamentary general elections in 2017, were taken into account and are included in the summary of responses at Appendix 2a.

- 5.5 As Returning Officer, I made a statutory submission, as required by legislation, summarising my views on the current polling scheme and proposing a number of changes based on my own views and the feedback received before and during the consultation process. This submission is attached at Appendix 3 and formed the basis for Stage 2 of the consultation process.

Stage 2

- 5.6 Stage 2 consultation took place between 13 February and 15 March 2019.
- 5.7 The proposals contained in the Returning Officer's submission were published for comment and issued to all elected Members, who were invited to consultative meetings in March 2019 with the principal officers involved in the review process. The drop-in sessions allowed Members' views on the proposals to be gathered and factored into the final recommendations to Council.
- 5.8 Site visits have been carried out on suggested potential polling places to determine their suitability for inclusion in this report. These visits focused 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 in Section 6 below. It is anticipated that further changes will require to be considered during the five year period between this and the next review, particularly in light of plans for the closure and/or disposal of a number of community halls.

6. Proposals

- 6.1 The summary of the comments received is attached at Appendices 2a and 2b. This provides an overview of all comments including survey responses, together with supplementary remarks where appropriate. The feedback received from elected Members is included in the summary at Appendix 2a and, as previously mentioned, the Returning Officer's submission is attached at Appendix 3.
- 6.2 In terms of numbering the Polling Scheme, and in accordance with previous practice, where there has been no change to a Polling District boundary, the existing number will be retained and where a boundary has been changed, a new number will be applied. 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 UK Parliamentary constituency (F –

for Falkirk and L for Linlithgow and East Falkirk), the second alphabetic character refers to the Scottish Parliament constituency (E – for Falkirk **E**ast, W for Falkirk **W**est) and the first number relates to the Council ward number e.g. LE100 indicates Ward 1, FW325 – Ward 3 etc. The last digit will increase by “1” each time a change is made, for instance a change to polling district FW325 would result in the renaming of the polling district to FW326.

- 6.3 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. This section contains only the details of proposed changes and explanatory comment where significant change has been considered but is not proposed; the full details of the Returning Officer’s submission, including areas of “no change”, are included in the submission attached at Appendix 3, also for Members’ consideration in the context of the polling scheme as a whole. Members will note that some alternatives are suggested in the paragraphs below, requiring their consideration and decision; these are highlighted in bold. Members will also note that some suggestions contained within the Returning Officer’s original submission have not been included in the proposals below.

6.3.1 Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness

Polling District: LE127 – Current Polling Place: Kinneil Primary School
Proposed Polling Place: The Chemical Workers’ Social Club

It is proposed to stop using Kinneil Primary School as the polling place for this polling district following concerns having been raised by the school’s Parent Council, elected Member, MP and MSP regarding repeated school closures for polling purposes and the consequential impact on children’s education. The Returning Officer recommends The Chemical Workers’ Social Club, Cairns Hall, 69 Linlithgow Road, Bo’ness EH51 0DS (function hall) as an alternative polling place.

Appendix 3 contains additional comments but no further changes are proposed in this Ward.

6.3.2 Ward 2 – Grangemouth

Polling District: LE221 – Current Polling Place: Dundas Resource Centre
Proposed Polling Place: Kersiebank Community Project premises

Dundas Resource Centre is no longer available for polling purposes due to increased use by service users. The Returning Officer recommends using Kersiebank Community Project premises at Oxgang Road, Grangemouth FK3 9EE, with the option of using either hall (there is a hall at each end of the building). **Alternatively, it is feasible to site a mobile unit on the grounds to the right of the Kersiebank premises, in front of a disused building (huts/garage) within the grounds. It should be noted that the use of a mobile unit costs around £800 - £900 plus VAT for each electoral event.**

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

6.3.3 Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock

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

6.3.4 Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst

Polling District: FE412 – Current Polling Place: Carron Primary School

Concerns were raised by parents and the Parent Council regarding the use of the school for polling purposes. Stenhousemuir Sports Centre was proposed at the previous review but was rejected by Members. It is no longer available as it is now used permanently as a gymnastics centre with fixed equipment and apparatus and specialist sprung flooring. There is no viable alternative in the area, given the high electorate figure (currently approx. 3,000). Carron Primary School has suitable parking, access and facilities and its continued use as a polling place is therefore recommended.

Polling District: FW426 – Current Polling Place: Stenhousemuir Primary School

Proposed Polling Place: St Bernadette's Primary School

Concerns were raised by parents and an MSP regarding the use of the school for polling purposes. St Bernadette's Primary School was proposed at the previous review but was rejected by Members. While it would be preferable not to use a school, there are no alternative facilities to accommodate the electorate figure of approx. 2,300. Stenhousemuir Primary School has a roll of 399 (January 2019); St Bernadette's Primary School's roll was 214 at that time. The Returning Officer's recommendation is that St Bernadette's PS be designated as the polling place for this polling district, with a smaller number of pupils losing a day's teaching for every unscheduled electoral event than is currently the case. Local Member feedback is that St Bernadette's PS has better parking and access than Stenhousemuir PS. In addition, St Bernadette's PS is situated within a large residential area of the polling district, with a larger proportion of the electorate within a short distance.

Polling District: FE440 – Current Polling Place: Bothkennar Community Hall

Proposed Polling Place: Bothkennar and Carronshore Parish Church Hall

Bothkennar Community Hall is currently in the process of being sold and the assumption must be made, for the time being at least, that the hall will no longer be accessible for polling purposes. The Returning Officer's recommendation is that Bothkennar and Carronshore Parish Church Hall, Bothkennar Road, Skinflats, FK2 8PB, be designated as the polling place for this polling district. The Hall is off the main road, has ample suitable parking, access and facilities. **Alternatively, following the recent "mothballing" of Bothkennar Primary School, it may be feasible to site a mobile unit on the school grounds, for polling purposes only. As previously stated, the**

use of a mobile unit costs around £800 - £900 plus VAT for each electoral event.

A third option considered was the function suite at the Dutch Inn, Main Street, Skinflats, FK2 8NU. This proposal was not supported by the management of the premises and was discounted due to lack of parking provision and appropriate accommodation.

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

6.3.5 Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert

Polling District: FW511 – Current Polling Place: Larbert Village Primary School

Proposed Polling Place: Larbert Old Parish Church Hall

Concerns were raised by parents regarding the use of Larbert Village Primary School for polling purposes. The school remained open during the hours of poll at a by-election in 2018 but the risks associated with this arrangement were significant. The school was closed to pupils when used for polling purposes at the European Parliamentary elections in May 2019. There are smaller premises near the school but none which could comfortably accommodate the high electorate figure of c3,000, with sufficient parking and appropriate accessibility. The Returning Officer's recommendation is that Larbert Old Parish Church Hall, Denny Road, Larbert, FK5 3AB, be the designated polling place for this polling district.

Polling District: FW515 – Former Polling Place: Torwood Primary School site

Torwood Primary School was the polling place for this polling district for a number of years. Following its closure and subsequent demolition, a mobile unit was sited on the former school grounds for polling purposes. Development of the site has now commenced and the grounds can no longer be used. At the European Parliamentary elections in May 2019, the new Torwood Scout Hall was used very successfully for polling purposes. The Returning Officer's recommendation is that the Scout Hall be approved formally by Council as the designated polling place for this polling district. **Alternatively, consideration might be given to amalgamating FW515 with FW511, using Larbert Village Primary School or Larbert Old Parish Church Hall for polling purposes (see previous paragraphs).**

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

6.3.6 Ward 6 – Falkirk North

Polling District: FW611 – Current Polling Place: Mobile Units, Carron Co-op Car Park

Proposed Polling Place: Mobile Units, Carron Co-op car park, subject to landowner's permission from one electoral event to the next, with a

contingency location to be determined by officers in consultation with local Members

Permission has been given for the Carron Co-op car park to be used short-term, ie for a snap election or referendum. However, given that development of the site means that the area might not always be accessible, the Returning Officer's recommendation is the continued use of mobile units in the Carron Co-op car park, subject to change and to permission of the landowner from one electoral event to the next, with the siting of mobile units at an alternative location within the polling district to be identified by officers in consultation with local Members as a contingency if required, again subject to consent by the landowner as appropriate.

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

6.3.7 Ward 7 – Falkirk South

Amalgamation of Current Polling Districts: FW721 and FW755 – Polling Place: Bantaskin Primary School

Proposed New Polling District: FW722

There are currently two polling districts allocated to Bantaskin Primary School, namely FW721 with 1,410 electors and FW755 with 757 electors. The Returning Officer's recommendation is that the polling districts be amalgamated, forming the new polling district FW722 with a total electorate of 2,167 at the time of writing.

Amalgamation of Current Polling Districts: FW731 and FW765 – Polling Place: Woodlands Games Hall

Proposed New Polling District: FW732

There are currently two polling districts allocated to Woodlands Games Hall, namely FW731 with 3,460 electors and FW765 with 395 electors. The Returning Officer's recommendation is that the polling districts be amalgamated, forming the new polling district FW732 with a total electorate of 3,855 at the time of writing.

Amalgamation of Current Polling Districts: FW740 and FW746 – Polling Place: Hallglen Sports Centre

Proposed New Polling District: FW747

There are currently two polling districts covering Hallglen and Glen Village, namely FW740 which uses a mobile unit at Glen Village as its polling place, with approx. 250 electors, and FW746, which uses Hallglen Sports Centre, with approx. 3,150 electors. Since the closure of Glen Village Bowling Club, a mobile unit has been deployed for the small number of electors in Glen Village. The cost of providing this polling place 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. The Returning

Officer's recommendation, therefore, is to amalgamate both polling districts, forming the new polling district FW747 with Hallglen Sports Centre as the polling place. This would give a total electorate of 3,400 at the time of writing.

In addition, Members are asked to note that there are currently heating issues at Hallglen Sports Centre which might impact on its future use. Any closure of the premises during the lifetime of the revised polling scheme would result in the requirement to seek an alternative polling place. This would be brought to Council for consideration as and when required.

Polling Districts: FW731, FW760 and FW765 – Polling Places: Woodlands Games Hall and Leishman Tower Club Room
Reviewing of Arnot Street boundaries

Feedback from one elected Member has requested that consideration be given to Arnot Street, Falkirk, which currently has 26 properties and 38 electors allocated to three separate polling districts and two polling places, as a hangover from former Ward boundaries. FW731 has 10 properties and 15 electors; FW760 has four properties and five electors and FW765 has 12 properties and 18 electors. **It is proposed that Members approve the amalgamation of Arnot Street to one polling district and that it be delegated to officers, in conjunction with the Electoral Registration Officer for Central Scotland, to determine appropriate polling district boundaries and designate the polling place accordingly, in consultation with local Members.**

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

6.3.8 Ward 8 – Lower Braes

Amalgamation of Current Polling Districts: FE801 – Polling Place: Laurieston Church Hall and FE806 – Polling Place: Laurieston Primary School
Proposed New Polling District: FE802 – Proposed Polling Place: Laurieston Parish Church Hall

Laurieston currently comprises two polling districts, namely FE801 which uses Laurieston Community Hall as its polling place, with 1,105 electors, and FE806 which uses Laurieston Primary School as its polling place, with 973 electors. The Returning Officer's recommendation is to amalgamate both polling districts, with Laurieston Parish Church Hall, Hornbeam Crescent, Laurieston, FK2 9HZ, as the designated polling place. This proposal would give a total electorate of 2,078 at the time of writing, which can be accommodated in the Church Hall. The recommended change of polling place means that the school will no longer need to be used. The Church Hall has disabled access and off-street parking. **Members are asked to note also the proposals for polling districts LE830 and LE840 in the following two paragraphs, both of which have implications for this polling district.**

Polling District: LE830; Current Polling Place: Laurieston Community Hall
Proposed Polling District and Polling Place: **to be determined by Members**

This polling district, comprising only four electors, currently uses Laurieston Community Hall as its polling place. **In light of the Returning Officer's recommendation to cease using this polling place (see paragraph above), the Returning Officer recommends two options for Members' consideration, namely, a) move to Grange Community Centre and combine with LE826, creating new polling district LE827 with 1,709 electors (or 1,712 electors if the proposal immediately below is accepted), or b) move to Laurieston Parish Church Hall with combined polling districts FE801 and FE806 (the new FE802). If the latter is decided by Members, it should be noted that this polling district would remain LE830 and would continue to be a standalone polling district as it sits in Linlithgow and East Falkirk UK Parliamentary constituency, while FE801 and FE806 (or collectively FE802) sit in Falkirk constituency. This is subject to the decision taken with regard to the proposal immediately above. A third option, if the proposal immediately above is rejected by Members, is to retain the status quo on the basis that Laurieston Community Hall would remain a designated polling place.**

Polling District: LE840; Current Polling Place: Maddiston Community Centre
Proposed Polling District and Polling Place: **to be determined by Members**

Similarly to the polling district immediately above, this polling district comprises only three electors and currently uses Maddiston Community Centre as its polling place. Maddiston Community Centre is also polling place for a polling district in Ward 9, which cannot be amalgamated with a Ward 8 polling district. **The Returning Officer's recommendation is to move this polling district to Grange Community Centre with LE826 (and possibly LE830 if option a) above is accepted by Members), creating new polling district LE827 with 1,708 (or 1,712) electors.**

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

6.3.9 Ward 9 – Upper Braes

Polling District: LE925 – Polling Place: California Community Hall

Following the closure of California Community Hall, the Returning Officer's recommendation is to site a mobile unit on the Hall grounds, for polling purposes only, allowing California Primary School to remain open on polling day. A mobile unit was used successfully at the European Parliamentary elections in May 2019, at a cost of approximately £800-900 plus VAT.

No further changes are proposed for the Polling Scheme in this ward

7. Proposed Polling Scheme

- 7.1 The following table summarises the proposed polling scheme, subject to decisions being taken on the proposals outlined in section 6 above and any further decisions/proposals following consideration by Council on 25 September 2019. The figures noted are current as at 1 August 2019. The current polling scheme is attached as Appendix 1, for reference.

Ward 1 – Bo’ness and Blackness			Total – 12,085
Polling District (<i>proposed changes noted in italics</i>)	Polling Place (<i>proposed changes noted in italics</i>)	Change proposed Y/N	No of electors
LE101	Cowdenhill Community Centre	N	2,206
LE106	Bo’ness Recreation Centre	N	3,028
LE111	Blackness Community Hall	N	376
LE121	Salvation Army Hall	N	1,017
LE127	<i>The Chemical Workers’ Social Club</i>	Y	2,488
LE131	Kinneil Bowling Club	N	1,030
LE135	Deanburn Primary School	N	1,940

Ward 2 – Grangemouth			Total – 12,754
Polling District (<i>proposed changes noted in italics</i>)	Polling Place (<i>proposed changes noted in italics</i>)	Change proposed Y/N	No of electors
LE200	Dalgrain Community Hall	N	626
LE205	Newlands Community Centre	N	3,395
LE211	Grangemouth Town Hall	N	3,252
LE215	Bowhouse Community Centre	N	3,658
LE221	<i>Kersiebank Community Project premises</i>	Y	1,823

Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock			Total – 14,924
Polling District (<i>proposed changes noted in italics</i>)	Polling Place (<i>proposed changes noted in italics</i>)	Change proposed Y/N	No of electors
FW300	Dunipace Church Hall	N	2,012
FW305	Denny Westpark Church Hall	N	2,273
FW310	Fankerton Village Hall	N	675
FW317	Nethermains Primary School	N	4,000
FW322	Archibald Russell Centre	N	3,113
FW325	Banknock Community Centre	N	2,574
FW330	Allandale Bowling Club	N	277

Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst			Total – 16,679
Polling District (proposed changes noted in italics)	Polling Place (proposed changes noted in italics)	Change proposed Y/N	No of electors
FE400	Airth Community Hall	N	1,811
FE407	Carronshore Sports and Social Hall	N	2,486
FE412	Carron Primary School	N	2,978
FE416	Stenhouse and Carron Parish Church Hall	N	2,355
FE421	Tryst Community Centre	N	1,941
FW426	<i>St Bernadette's Primary School</i>	Y	2,277
FW431	Kinnaird Primary School	N	2,574
FE440	<i>Bothkennar and Carronshore Parish Church Hall. Alternatively, mobile unit at Bothkennar Primary School</i>	Y	257

Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert			Total – 12,889
Polling District (proposed changes noted in italics)	Polling Place (proposed changes noted in italics)	Change proposed Y/N	No of electors
FW500	Kinnaird Primary School	N	1,230
FW506	Dobbie Hall	N	2,062
FW511	<i>Larbert Old Parish Church Hall</i>	Y	2,988
FW515	<i>Torwood Scout Hall</i>	Y	289
FW520	Bonnybridge Primary School	N	2,965
FW525	Bonnybridge Community Centre	N	2,661
FW530	Antonine Primary School	N	694

Ward 6 – Falkirk North			Total – 16,552
Polling District (proposed changes noted in italics)	Polling Place (proposed changes noted in italics)	Change proposed Y/N	No of electors
FW611	<i>Mobile units at Co-op car park with mobile units at a location to be identified as a contingency</i>	Possible	2,335
FW612	Bainsford Community Centre	N	2,253
FW615	Dawson Centre	N	1,652
FW620	Thornhill Community Centre	N	3,629

FW625	Westfield Community Centre	N	1,716
LW640	Westfield Community Centre	N	3
FW645	Easter Carmuir's Primary School	N	1,921
FW650	Carmuir's Primary School	N	1,151
FW655	Camelon Education Centre	N	1,158
FW660	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	N	734

Ward 7 – Falkirk South			Total 13,124
Polling District (proposed changes noted in italics)	Polling Place (proposed changes noted in italics)	Change proposed Y/N	No of electors
FW710	Tamfourhill Community Centre	N	1,025
FW715	Greenbank Court Meeting Room	N	534
FW721 & FW755 = FW722	<i>Bantaskin Primary School</i>	Y	1,410 + 757 = 2,167
FW731 & FW765 = FW732	<i>Woodlands Games Hall</i>	Y	3,460 + 395 = 3,855
FW740 & FW746 = FW747	<i>Hallglen Sports Centre</i>	Y	254 + 3,146 = 3,400
FE750	Hallglen Sports Centre	N	67
FW760	Leishman Tower Club Room	N	1,270
FW770	St Francis Xavier Church Hall	N	806

Ward 8 – Lower Braes			Total – 11,866
Polling District (proposed changes noted in italics)	Polling Place (proposed changes noted in italics)	Change proposed Y/N	No of electors
FE801 & FE806 = FE802	<i>Laurieston Parish Church Hall</i>	Y	1,105 + 973 = 2,078
FE811	Westquarter Community School Project	N	1,254
FE816	Polmont Sports Centre	N	2,534
FE820	Greenpark Community Centre	N	2,738
FE826	Grange Community Centre	N	516
LE826 – possibly combine with LE830 and/or LE840 = LE827	Grange Community Centre	N	1,705 (or 1,709 or 1,712 – see below)
LE830 – possibly combine with	<i>Laurieston Community Hall or Grange Community Centre or Laurieston Parish Church</i>	Possible	4

LE826 = LE827	Hall		
LE836	Reddingmuirhead Community Hall	N	1,034
LE840 – possibly combine with LE826 and/or LE830	Maddiston Community Centre or Grange Community Centre if combined with LE826	Possible	3

Ward 9 – Upper Braes			Total – 12,465
Polling District (proposed changes noted in italics)	Polling Place (proposed changes noted in italics)	Change proposed Y/N	No of electors
LE900	Whitecross Power Station Youth Club	N	663
LE905	Maddiston Old Folks Hall	N	967
LE911	Reddingmuirhead Community Hall	N	1,228
LE916	Brightons Community Centre	N	1,570
LE921	Maddiston Community Centre	N	2,301
LE925	Mobile unit to be sited on California Community Hall grounds	Y	664
LE930	Drumbowie Primary School	N	224
LE935	Avonbridge Community Hall	N	585
LE940	Limerigg Community Hall	N	198
LE945	Slamannan Community Centre	N	1,176
FE950	Brightons Community Centre	N	0
FE955	Brightons Community Centre	N	968
FE960	Shieldhill Welfare Hall	N	1,921

Total electorate as at 1/8/19 – 123,338

8 Consultation

- 8.1 This report is formed around information gathered from a two-stage consultation process.

9. Implications

Financial

- 9.1 There are minor financial implications arising from the report, if polling places which incur rental charges are approved by Council. These are expected to be few in number and low in terms of cost.

Resources

- 9.2 There are minor resource implications involving input from Development Services and Corporate and Housing Services arising from the report, if polling places which require remedial works to make them fit for polling purposes are approved by Council.

Legal

- 9.3 There are no legal implications arising from the report other than the requirements of the previously-mentioned legislation.

Risk

- 9.4 There are risks of further changes in the lifetime of the proposed polling scheme in the event of polling places closing as a consequence of budget efficiencies over the next five-year period. There is also the risk of incurring costs if the decision-making required by this report is deferred, as the electoral registers are published annually on 1 December and republication to accommodate decisions taken after that time will incur additional charges.

Equalities

- 9.5 No equality and poverty impact assessment was carried out. All current and potential polling places will be made compliant with disability legislation to make them accessible for polling purposes, either permanently or temporarily.

Sustainability/Environmental Impact

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

10. Conclusions

- 10.1 This Report and appendices aim to meet the legislative requirements to review the existing UK parliamentary polling districts and polling places, drawing together any identified discrepancies in the current polling scheme, both in terms of polling districts and polling places, gathered over the past 5-year period and feedback gathered as part of the statutory 2-stage consultation process.
- 10.2 Sections 6 and 7 of the Report summarise the findings and highlight the areas requiring consideration and decisions in taking forward the polling scheme for implementation with effect from 1 December 2019.

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Date: 16 August 2019

Appendices:

- 1 Current polling scheme (May 2019)
- 2 Summary of feedback from consultation process (Appendices 2a and 2b)
- 3 Returning Officer's Submission
- 4 Maps demonstrating existing and proposed polling districts and polling places

List of Background Papers:

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:

- Report to Falkirk Council on 11 December 2013 – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2013/14 and associated minute
- Legislation referred to within the report
- Electoral Commission guidance on Reviews of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations