

## FALKIRK COUNCIL

**Minute of meeting of Falkirk Council held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Wednesday 25 September 2019 at 9.30 a.m.**

**Councillors:** David Alexander                      Joan Coombes      Cecil Meiklejohn  
David Balfour    Jim Flynn              Lynn Munro  
Lorna Binnie    Paul Garner              Laura Murtagh  
Allyson Black    Dennis Goldie              Malcolm Nicol  
Jim Blackwood    David Grant              Alan Nimmo  
Gary Bouse    Nigel Harris              John Patrick  
Provost William Buchanan      Gordon Hughes      Pat Reid  
Niall Coleman    James Kerr              Depute Provost Ann Ritchie  
Fiona Collie    John McLuckie              Robert Spears

**Officers:** Danny Cairney, Senior Service Manager Corporate Finance  
Fiona Campbell, Head of Policy, Technology & Improvement  
Patricia Cassidy, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership  
Douglas Duff, Head of Planning & Economic Development  
Jack Frawley, Committee Services Officer  
Rhona Geisler, Director of Development Services  
Sara Lacey, Head of Social Work Children's Services  
Kenneth Lawrie, Chief Executive  
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer  
Robert Naylor, Director of Children's Services  
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager  
Stuart Ritchie, Director of Corporate and Housing Services  
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer  
Martin Thom, Head of Integration

**Also**

**Attending:** Maureen Campbell, Chief Executive, Falkirk Community Trust  
Grace Scanlin, Ernst & Young

### **FC34. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2018/20**

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive advising of the review of the current scheme of polling districts and polling places, outlining the responses received during the consultation process and proposing a number of amendments to the existing polling scheme.

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

Electors would be made aware of any changes made to the place they must attend. This would be done by way of highlighted wording on poll cards in advance of the next electoral event following conclusion of the review process.

Council considered the proposals on a ward by ward basis and invited comment from the local members. Council took account of the comments made by local members in reaching its decision. Where local members were not unified in their view Council gave greater weight to the majority opinion.

## **Decision**

### **Council:-**

- (1) noted 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) considered the proposals contained in the Returning Officer's submission and made the following decisions on which options were implemented:-**

#### **Ward 1 – Bo'ness and Blackness**

**Agreed to stop using Kinneil Primary School as the polling place for this polling district and designate the Chemical Workers' Social Club, Cairns Hall, 69 Linlithgow Road, Bo'ness EH51 0DS (function hall) as the polling place.**

#### **Ward 2 – Grangemouth**

**Agreed, as Dundas Resource Centre was no longer available for polling purposes, to designate Kersiebank Community Project premises, Oxgang Road, Grangemouth FK3 9EE, as the polling place, with the option of using either hall within the premises (there is a hall at each end of the building).**

### **Ward 3 – Denny and Banknock**

**Noted that there were no changes to the Polling Scheme.**

### **Ward 4 – Carse, Kinnaird and Tryst**

**Polling District: FW426 – agreed that St Bernadette’s PS be designated as the polling place for this polling district replacing Stenhousemuir PS.**

**Polling District: FE440 – agreed to designate Bothkennar Primary School or a mobile unit on the school grounds as the polling place, whichever is the more practicable at the time of each electoral event.**

### **Ward 5 – Bonnybridge and Larbert**

**Polling District: FW511 - agreed that Larbert Old Parish Church Hall, Denny Road, Larbert, FK5 3AB, be the designated polling place for this polling district, replacing Larbert Village Primary School.**

**Polling District: FW515 – agreed that Torwood Scout Hall be designated polling place for this polling district.**

### **Ward 6 – Falkirk North**

**Polling District: FW611 – agreed 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.**

### **Ward 7 – Falkirk South**

**Amalgamation of current polling districts allocated to Bantaskin Primary School: FW721 and FW755 – agreed 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 allocated to Woodlands Games Hall: FW731 and FW765 – agreed 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 – agreed to amalgamate both polling districts, forming the new**

**polling district FW747 with Hallglen Sports Centre as the polling place and a total electorate of 3,400 at the time of writing.**

**Hallglen Sports Centre - noted that there were heating issues at Hallglen Sports Centre which may 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 – agreed 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 the appropriate polling district boundaries and designate the polling place accordingly, in consultation with local Members.**

#### **Ward 8 – Lower Braes**

**Proposed amalgamation of polling districts FE801 and FE806 – agreed to retain the status quo, with Laurieston Community Hall and Laurieston Primary School continuing as designated polling places respectively.**

#### **Ward 9 – Upper Braes**

**Polling District: LE925 – agreed to designate California Community Hall or a mobile unit on the hall grounds as the polling place, whichever is the more practicable at the time of each electoral event.**

- (3) agreed the proposed polling scheme as detailed within Section 7 of the report, 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.**