
Report to Council

Date of Meeting: 20 December 2012

Subject: Polling District and Polling Place Review 2012

Report by: Director Finance & Corporate Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The Council is responsible for keeping the polling districts and polling places within Clackmannanshire under review and, as part of the continuing election support activity, a review has been completed.
- 1.2. This report outlines the review process and invites Council to adopt recommendations for Clackmannanshire's polling districts and polling places.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Council is recommended to approve the polling district and polling place scheme for each Ward as detailed in Appendix A attached.
- 2.2. The scheme of polling districts and polling places will have to be formally reviewed again in the future, and certainly before the end of 2016. It is further recommended that the Council delegate to the Chief Executive (following consultation with all Councillors in the affected Ward) to approve changes to the scheme which may become necessary before the next formal review.

3.0 Considerations

Background

- 3.1. The Returning Officer (Chief Executive) is responsible for the administration of all elections which involve the citizens of Clackmannanshire. It is, however, the Council rather than the Returning Officer which is responsible for reviewing and approving a scheme detailing polling districts and polling places for the local government area.
- 3.2. Formal reviews are required to be completed at least once every four years.

Scheme Details

- 3.3. Each of Clackmannanshire's five electoral Wards requires to be divided into polling districts for election purposes. Each polling district must have a designated polling place that can be brought into use on election days. Polling places must, in general terms, be within the designated polling district, and the buildings/facilities used should be as accessible as possible.

Consultation

- 3.4. The latest review commenced in early July 2012. It was open to any interested individual, group or organisation to comment on the existing scheme and to make proposals or suggestions for improvements.
- 3.5. The initial consultation inviting comment on the current polling districts and polling places was open for a period of 8 weeks.
- 3.6. The consultation exercise was completed in line with our statutory obligations and guidance issued by the Electoral Commission. It was publicised through press releases advising of the review and relevant information (including maps, background to the review, present situation of polling places) was made available electronically via Clacksweb. Information on the review was provided for display in Council buildings and also to interested parties for their consideration.
- 3.7. Any Returning Officer whose parliamentary area is affected by this review is consulted on their view. For Clackmannanshire only the Local Returning Officer is impacted and her views are included with the other responses.
- 3.8. Once the initial consultation ended, the polling place review group considered the comments received and used these to assist in the creation of these proposals. There were six individual responses affecting twelve polling districts or places.
- 3.9. These proposals were then publicised giving interested parties a further 4 weeks in which to make comment on them. There were three comments made in respect of the proposals. (All responses received at both stages are now published on Clacksweb for information).

4.0 Considerations

- 4.1. Any scheme of polling arrangements will always reflect a compromise which balances the ideal polling place against the availability of premises, their locations, and the local geography. In general, the existing scheme continues to meet the expectations of the Returning Officer and of the local electorate.
- 4.2. However a number of changes are proposed which are outlined in Appendix A, as the review has confirmed that several of the current polling venues may no longer be the best option for polling purposes within Clackmannanshire.

5.0 Sustainability Implications

5.1. There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

6.0 Resource Implications

6.1. *Financial Details*

6.2. The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes

6.3. Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

6.4. *Staffing - there are no direct staff implications arising from this report.*

7.0 Exempt Reports

7.1. Is this report exempt? Yes (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

8.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities** (Please double click on the check box)

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Our communities are safer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vulnerable people and families are supported | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Substance misuse and its effects are reduced | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The environment is protected and enhanced for all | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

(2) **Council Policies** (Please detail)

9.0 Equalities Impact

9.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations?
Yes No

10.0 Legality

10.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

11.0 Appendices

11.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix A (table)

12.0 Background Papers



12.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)

Yes (please list the documents below) No

Author(s)

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Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Lisa Simpson	Governance Manager	
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Clackmannanshire Local Government Area

Polling Districts and Polling Places 2012

Electoral Ward 1 - Clackmannanshire West			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC105	Dumyat Centre, Main Street, Menstrie All of Menstrie and surrounding area.	No alternative comments/suggestions received	The Centre is centrally located with good access and suitable accommodation. Propose to continue to use this polling place
OC110	Tullibody Civic Centre All of Tullibody to use the one polling place and merge all the polling districts into one St Serf's Church Hall (OC110), Banchory Primary School (OC115), Tullibody Civic Centre (OC120) and St Bernadette's (OC125).	Negative comments about the access for disabled users at St Serf's Church Hall, as well as limited parking. St Bernadette's has disabled access, but with a very narrow door at the entrance. Using Banchory Primary School causes interruption to the children's education.	We did consider another option with electors south of the Main Roads through Tullibody (Alloa and Stirling Roads) going to the Civic Centre and those to the north going to St Serf's Church hall. St Serf's Church hall however is not of an adequate size to deal with this number of electors. The Civic Centre in Tullibody can handle all the electors and the appropriate number of polling stations, which would range from about 7 - 9, by using the large sports hall within the building. Proposal is to merge 4 polling districts into one and use Tullibody Civic Centre as the polling place for all electors in Tullibody

Electoral Ward 2 - Clackmannanshire North			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC230	Cochrane Hall, Alva Area to North of Stirling Street, West Stirling Street, Stirling Road and to the West of Brook Street	Received a positive comment regarding this polling place.	The hall is centrally located within the polling district and has good access, parking and accommodation. Propose to continue to use this polling place
OC235	St. John Vianney's Church Hall, East Stirling Street, Alva Area North of East Stirling, Main Street and to the East of Brook Street	No alternative comments/suggestions received	The hall is centrally located within the polling district. Reasonable access, and reasonable accommodation. Propose to continue to use this polling place
OC240	Devonvale Hall, Moss Road, Tillicoultry Area North of River Devon, West of Moss Road & Hill Street (Excludes Marchglen)	Tillicoultry Community Centre is no longer open for use.	The new community hub facility is not suitable for polling purposes and other alternatives sites were also considered, but have access issues. Propose to use the Devonvale Hall as the polling place

Electoral Ward 2 - Clackmannanshire North

Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC243	Devonvale Hall, Moss Road, Tillicoultry Devonside, areas east of Moss Road, North Hill Street and Hillview Terrace, Kirk Hill and Harviestoun areas	No alternative comments/suggestions received	Large hall with good access and suitable accommodation. Propose to continue to use this polling place
OC245	Coalsnaughton Village Hall, Main Street, Coalsnaughton Coalsnaughton area Eastwards to Lawmuir	No alternative comments/suggestions received	A modernised facility with good access and suitable accommodation. Propose to continue to use this polling place

Electoral Ward 3 - Clackmannanshire Central			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC350	The Ochil View, Alloa Road, Fishcross Fishcross, Devon Village, Howetown, Blackfaulds and Devon Valley Drive area, Sauchie	Had to make an emergency change in 2012, leading to alternatives being considered. One consideration was to relocate the electors in this area to vote at the Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Church Hall at the top of the hill in Sauchie.	Although there is always the potential for changes of landlord, it is a suitable venue, centrally located in the area. Propose to continue to use this polling place
OC355	Sauchie Hall, Mar Place, Sauchie (discontinue the of use Sauchie & Coalsnaughton Church hall) All voters within the Sauchie area, including those around the Nevis Crescent area of Alloa (Who are within Ward 3 - Clackmannanshire Central)	We received feedback and comment that the split between the two venues in Sauchie was not correct. Consideration was giving to alternative splits, however none were identified as a better alternative to the current split. This led us to conclude that one venue, that can manage all voters in the immediate area, would be more suitable.	The Hall is centrally located with good access and suitable accommodation. There is ample parking both at the venue and directly across the road. Proposal is to merge both polling districts and use Sauchie Hall as the polling place for all electors.

Electoral Ward 3 - Clackmannanshire Central			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
Suggested New polling district (No1)	Suggestion for a new polling district (split from OO360) for use by residents in Nevis Crescent, Alloa. Suggestion to use the Alloa Old Peoples Welfare Hall.	This hall is used for another polling district within Ward 4 and would mean that the voters are using a premises outwith the polling district. Although this is possible, does bring additional risk, particularly at Local Government Elections.	Not offered as a recommendation for adoption. Propose we do not take this suggestion forward
OC363	Whins Resource Centre, The Whins, Alloa The Whins and Gaberston areas, Hilton Road, Carsebridge area, Greenfield Street and Hillside Terrace	Proposal is to retain this polling place.	The Whins Centre was first used to serve local voters in 2007. There are some logistical issues with continued use such as internal protection of floor coverings and furniture, but it has its own access door and is well located for the purpose Propose to continue to use this polling place

Electoral Ward 4 - Clackmannanshire South			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC465	<p>Alloa Old Peoples Welfare Club Hall, Erskine Street, Alloa</p> <p>Areas North of Tullibody Road and South of Dovehill - Sunnyside, Ashley Terrace and surrounding streets.</p>	<p>Comments received about the electors to the West side of this polling district around the area of Gavins Road.</p> <p>Suggestion of new Polling District, see below.</p>	<p>The Hall is a resource which can be made available, and it is in the right area.</p> <p>Proposal is to continue to use this polling place, alter current boundary and create new polling district (No2) below.</p>
OC470	<p>Alloa North Church Hall, Ludgate, Alloa</p> <p>Areas bounded by Tullibody Road and Stirling Road - Mar Place, all of Claremont, Fairyburn, Braehead</p>	<p>Comments received about the electors to the West side of this polling district around the area of Coates Crescent.</p> <p>Suggestion of new Polling District, see below.</p>	<p>The Hall has good access and there is on-street parking, although limited, immediately adjacent.</p> <p>Proposal is to continue to use this polling place, alter current boundary and create new polling district (No2) below.</p>

Electoral Ward 4 - Clackmannanshire South			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
<p>New Polling District Suggested (No2) OC473</p>	<p>There was a suggestion that the electors around Gavins Road and Coats Crescent need their own polling place/district. Some constituents have raised the issue of the distance they have to travel with their elected members.</p> <p>In conjunction with this, additional housing is planned for the site of the former Alloa Academy which will add pressure to the Alloa North Church Hall (OC470) polling place, to beyond its capacity to operate efficiently as a polling place.</p>	<p>It is suggested that the area beyond Ashley Terrace on the North side of Tullibody Road and to the west of Gean Road south of Tullibody Road have their own polling district.</p> <p>See attached map appendix B</p>	<p>It is recommended to create a new polling district for this area, however suitable accommodation is not readily available. This would mean the placing of a temporary building for each election on the corner of Gavins Road and Woodburn Drive. There is a hard landscaped area which has been previously used for this purpose.</p> <p>In considering the distance to travel to the polling place in conjunction with the difficulties facing the current polling place in relation to its capacity, it is recommended to use a temporary building on this location.</p> <p>Proposal is to use temporary station and create polling district.</p>

Electoral Ward 4 - Clackmannanshire South

Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC475	<p>Ludgate Church, Ludgate, Alloa (Discontinue the use of the Council Offices in Mill Street, Alloa)</p> <p>West Alloa bounded the Forth, and Stirling up to the edge of Alloa Town Centre.</p>	<p>Existing building barely adequate. Access is not good, there is no parking during working hours, and ensuring availability is a growing concern. It is also a considerable disruption to the service that uses the premises the rest of the year.</p>	<p>Suggest to move to Ludgate Church Hall in Ludgate, Alloa. The church hall has suitable accommodation for a polling place, disabled ramp, appropriate facilities for staff and is centrally located within the area.</p> <p>Proposal is to move polling place to Ludgate Church Hall.</p>

Electoral Ward 4 - Clackmannanshire South			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC477	St Mungo's Parish Church Hall Alloa Town Centre and surrounding streets	Comments were received that there was a suitable hall at St Mungo's Parish Church which would serve voters within the town centre area of Alloa	<p>Visiting the premises has identified that it is a suitable location and venue for a polling place.</p> <p>As with polling district OC475 above current premises is barely adequate for use as a polling place.</p> <p>Proposal is to use St Mungo;s Parish Church Hall rather than the Council Offices</p>

Electoral Ward 4 - Clackmannanshire South			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
New Polling District proposed (No3)	We received a suggestion of an additional polling place for those electors to the West of Alloa Town Centre around the Smithfield Loan area.	The electors have a quite a distance to travel to the current polling place. If change recommended above to OC475 takes place, this will be slightly reduced. The distance would then be no further than that travelled by voters in many other areas.	<p>After consideration we would suggest no need to create additional polling district. We are limited in our choice of a suitable venue or space to place a temporary polling place.</p> <p>There are now alternative ways to vote if attendance at the polling station is difficult for certain electors by making use of absent voting options, like voting by post.</p> <p>Propose we do not create additional polling district</p>

Electoral Ward 4 - Clackmannanshire South			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC480	<p>Bowmar Community Centre, Scott Crescent, Alloa</p> <p>Bowhouse, Bowmar and surrounding area. Bounded by Hawkhill in the North</p>	<p>A number of electors located in the streets behind Morrisons and B&M Stores travel to the Bowmar Centre. This is as a direct result of the houses there being built after the last review and this area is geographically next to the Bowmar polling district. However the direction that voters travel to the Bowmar Centre means that they pass through the polling district served by Hawkhill Community Centre.</p>	<p>No change to premises for this area, but move the electors located in the streets behind Morrisons and B&M Stores to the Hawkhill Community Centre (OC485)</p> <p>Propose to continue to use this polling place, subject to a small boundary change</p>

Electoral Ward 4 - Clackmannanshire South			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC485	<p>Hawkhill Community Centre, Alloa</p> <p>Includes Hawkhill, Clackmannan Road and Hillcrest Drive</p>	As above for the Bowmar Centre.	<p>Hawkhill Community Centre to serve the electors located in the area behind Morrisons and B & M Stores. The Centre is of an adequate size to accommodate the extra number of voters.</p> <p>Proposal is to continue to use this polling place, subject to small a change to the polling district boundary</p>

Electoral Ward 5 - Clackmannanshire East			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC590	Coronation Hall, Muckhart Muckhart and surrounding area.	Received comment from Muckhart Community Council regarding a small number of properties which were either in Muckhart Community Council but voted at Dollar or voted at Muckhart but were in Dollar Community Council.	The Hall is centrally located in Muckhart and has good access and suitable accommodation. We considered the comment received. However as both these areas vote within Ward 5 and given that the turnout by the electors in this area is high and the fact that we have not received any direct comments from these residents, we consider that no change is required. Propose to continue to use this polling place and keep polling district the same
OC593	Dollar Civic Centre, Park Place, Dollar All of Dollar and surrounding area - includes Solsgirth, Sheardale, Dollarbeg	No alternative suggestions received	The Centre is a well used community facility and its continued use for polling is supported. Good access and parking. Propose to continue to use this polling place

Electoral Ward 5 - Clackmannanshire East			
Suggested Polling District Number	Suggested Polling Place and areas covered	Suggestions/Comments	Considerations
OC595	<p>Loganlea Coffee Shop, Inverdevon House, Forestmill</p> <p>Forestmill and landward area towards Clackmannan including Linn Mill</p>	No alternative suggestions received	<p>The Coffee Shop is really the only facility in the area. It is large enough for the purpose, and has the advantage of car parking.</p> <p>Propose to continue to use this polling place</p>
OC597	<p>Town Hall, Main Street, Clackmannan</p> <p>All of Clackmannan and surrounding area to the North of Alloa Road. Includes Riccarton</p>	No alternative suggestions received	<p>The Hall is centrally located in Clackmannan and is a well used community facility with parking available nearby.</p> <p>Propose to continue to use this polling place</p>