
Report to Council

Date of Meeting: 16 May 2013

Subject: Polling District and Polling Place Review 2012

Report by: Director of Finance and Corporate Services

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to bring back recommendations on suggested polling places and districts. Proposals were originally put before Council on the 20th December 2012, at that meeting the Council agreed to defer consideration of this item to seek clarification on the implications of potential changes to the polling places.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council
- a) approves the polling places as set out in Appendix A; and
 - b) delegates to the Chief Executive (following consultation with all Councillors in the affected Ward) authority to make any changes to the scheme required in the event of unforeseen circumstances which might occur prior to the next review and which impact on the agreed polling places.

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1. 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, particularly around ensuring that the overall integrity of the poll can be maintained and of the local electorate.
- 3.2. The full details of the considerations are detailed in Appendix I. In relation to this report, specific reconsideration was given to the following areas:-
- Proposed changes to boundaries behind Morrisons/B&M's - OC480
 - Proposed changes to the Tullibody area - OC110
 - Proposed changes to the Sauchie area - OC355

- 3.3. At the meeting in December there was some concern on suggested changes to the boundaries affecting voters in the area behind Morrisons/B&M's to change them to use the Hawkhill Community Centre for voting. It was pointed out that there is now a road which connects this area directly with the current polling place within the Bowmar area. Having revisited this area with the additional information it is recommend that the proposal is not progressed and that the current situation affecting these voters remains the same. (Appendix I at OC480).
- 3.4. There was also concern raised about the suggestion of having only one polling place within the Tullibody area, particularly in relation to the distances that would be travelled by voters and that it might impact on turnout. Alternatives were suggested but it is considered by officers that these could compromise the integrity of the poll hence the recommendation to Council remains as it was in December. Details of the full considerations given to the various proposals for the Tullibody area are included in Appendix II.
- 3.5. Proposals for Sauchie were to send all voters to one polling place, Sauchie Hall. This was considered after receiving feedback during the consultation period that the split was not correct. However an alternative split was not forthcoming which was considered by the officers would add any benefit for the majority of voters within the area. Further feedback was received for a viable alternative suggestion and this has been considered. However, to optimise the integrity and efficiency of the poll, the recommendation from the Returning Officer and Depute Returning Officer is that the original proposal to Council should stand. We have reconsidered this area's proposals as detailed in Appendix III.
- 3.6. No further feedback was received on any alternatives for voters in the Nevis Crescent/Dovehill area of Ward 3. The only alternative option proposed was to allocate these voters to a district of their own and put them to a premises outwith that district and outwith the electoral ward. While not impossible to do, does go against what is considered best practice. In addition, it could potentially impact on the conduct of the poll, with possible cross contamination of ballot papers from different wards which would impact on the count.
- 3.7. Elected Members should note that there has been no other changes to those that were already proposed on the 20th December 2012.

4.0 Sustainability Implications

- 4.1. There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

5.0 Resource Implications

5.1. Financial Details

- 5.2. 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

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

5.4. *Staffing*

There are no staffing implications.

6.0 Exempt Reports

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

7.0 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
- Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive
- People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment
- Our communities are safer
- Vulnerable people and families are supported
- Substance misuse and its effects are reduced
- Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing
- The environment is protected and enhanced for all
- The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence

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

8.0 Equalities Impact

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

9.0 Legality

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

10.0 Appendices

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

Appendix I - Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places

Appendix II - Considerations on changes to the Tullibody Area

Appendix III - Considerations on the changes to the Sauchie Area (including map Appendix III(a))

Appendix IV - Map showing location of temporary polling station

11.0 Background Papers

11.1 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

Report to Council on 20th December 2012 - Polling District and Polling Place Review 2012

Author(s)

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Approved by

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| Lisa Simpson | Governance Manager | Signed: L Simpson |
| Nikki Bridle | Director of Finance and Corporate Services | Signed: N Bridle |

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 other options, detailed in Appendix II 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 alternative 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 | <p>The Ochil View, Alloa Road, Fishcross</p> <p>Fishcross, Devon Village, Howetown, Blackfaulds and Devon Valley Drive area, Sauchie</p> | <p>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.</p> | <p>Although there is always the potential for changes of landlord, it is a suitable venue, centrally located in the area.</p> <p>Propose to continue to use this polling place</p> |
| OC355 | <p>Sauchie Hall, Mar Place, Sauchie (discontinue the of use Sauchie & Coalsnaughton Church hall)</p> <p>All voters within the Sauchie area, including those around the Nevis Crescent area of Alloa (Who are within Ward 3 - Clackmannanshire Central).</p> | <p>We received feedback and comment that the split between the two venues in Sauchie was not correct.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>Following further comments as detailed in Appendix III it is proposed to have one polling place for Sauchie which helps to ensure that the integrity of the poll is not undermined.</p> <p>Proposal is to have all voters use Sauchie Hall as their polling place.</p> |

| 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 with the addition of Pearson View and Quarry Place as described in Appendix II | 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, including 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, the eastern part of Claremont and Fairyburn.</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 |
| New Polling District Suggested (No2) OC473 | <p>There was a suggestion that the electors around Gavins Road and Coates Crescent need their own polling place/district. Some constituents have raised, with their elected members, the issue of the distance they have to travel to their polling place.</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 map for position of site for temporary polling place in Appendix IV</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 a new 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</p> <p>(Discontinue the use of the Council Offices in Mill Street, Alloa)</p> <p>West Alloa bounded by the Forth, and Stirling Road 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, has a disabled ramp and appropriate facilities for staff.</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 | <p>St Mungo's Parish Church Hall</p> <p>Alloa Town Centre and surrounding streets</p> | <p>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> | <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 (The Council Offices) are 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 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 comment was made that a number of electors located in the streets behind Morrisons and B&M Stores who were voting at the Bowmar Centre were travelling past the polling place at Hawkhill Community Centre.</p> <p>As indicated within the report (See paragraph 3.3), we have established that there is a road which adjoins this area and no longer means that electors have to travel passed Hawkhill.</p> | <p>No change to premises for this area.</p> <p>Propose to continue to use this polling place.</p> |

Electoral Ward 4 - Clackmannanshire South

| Suggested Polling District Number | Suggested Polling Place and areas covered | Suggestions/Comments | Considerations |
|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| OC485 | Hawhill Community Centre, Alloa Includes Hawhill, Clackmannan Road and Hillcrest Drive | No comments received. | Proposal is 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 |
| 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 | Loganlea Coffee Shop, Inverdevon House, Forestmill Forestmill and landward area towards Clackmannan. | No alternative suggestions received | 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. Propose to continue to use this polling place |
| OC597 | Town Hall, Main Street, Clackmannan All of Clackmannan and surrounding area to the North of Alloa Road. | No alternative suggestions received | The Hall is centrally located in Clackmannan and is a well used community facility with parking available nearby. Propose to continue to use this polling place |

Alternatives/Options for Tullibody

There have been three options other than the proposed one polling district and place at Tullibody Civic Centre.

Option 1

Proposals

Electors to the south of Alloa Road/Stirling Road would vote at the Civic Centre. Electors to the North East (Muirside Road, The Braes etc) would vote at St Serf's Church Hall. Electors to the North West (Ladywell Drive, Dovecot Road etc) would vote at either St Serf's Primary School or St Bernadettes RC Church Hall.

Considerations

This option continues to make use of a school, one of the key factors for looking at changes to the Tullibody area was to if possible stop using Banchory PS. The use of schools does have an impact on children's education and we have strived over many years to try and avoid where possible the use of schools. This would suggest we would not want to change to St Serf's School. The alternative for this area was St Bernadettes RC Church Hall, however the way the area would be apportioned would mean that this hall was outwith the polling district, which officers believe is not an efficient way to have polling arrangements set unless absolutely necessary.

In addition to this officers think there would be some voter confusion as voters who currently use St Serf's Church Hall and in a minority of cases can see the hall, will be voting elsewhere, but the hall will still be used as a polling place for others.

Option 2

Proposal

This option would be to simply split Tullibody along the Alloa Road/Stirling Road, a north/south division, with those to the north voting at St Serf's Church Hall and those to the south voting at Tullibody Civic Centre.

Considerations

This option, officers feel puts the number of electors going to St Serf's Church Hall beyond its capacity for certain types of election (particularly local or combined elections) and could impact on the integrity of the poll.

Option 3

Proposal

This option also would have two polling places within Tullibody, one at St Serf's Church Hall and one at Tullibody Civic Centre, however it differs in the apportionment of the electors to which premises.

This option would be to leave the current polling district served by St Serf's Church Hall as it currently stands. This would leave the remainder of the voters to vote at Tullibody Civic Centre. This is basically a merge of the current polling districts which vote at St Bernadettes RC Church Hall, Banchory PS and Tullibody Civic Centre.

Considerations

While this option would be less of a problem than option 2 in terms of numbers and capacity at the buildings, however Members will note that some electors in the Banchory PS polling district are resided slightly closer to St Serf's Church Hall than the Civic Centre, although in terms of travel they would not pass this building to vote

General Considerations for Tullibody

We have received feedback regarding St Serf's Church Hall as not being the most suitable building in terms of access by voters. The premises also has limited parking arrangements, which would be particularly relevant if larger numbers were allocated to these premises.

It is important to note that the number of premises in Tullibody is historic from considerations mainly driven by the single member ward that existed before 2007. Consideration is based on options from a fresh perspective and this review is based on options best suited to larger multi-member wards.

In addition the administration of the election is also better served by one polling place, which would add to the integrity and efficient delivery of the poll.

Alternatives/Options for Sauchie

The option to continue to have two polling places with a change to the districts, so that some electors will be voting at a different building has been put forward.

Details of the suggestion

The split would remain the same except that when it reaches the Main Street from the West side of Sauchie it would then head down the main road pulling in some of the streets to the east of Main Street who currently vote at Sauchie Hall into the district that vote at Sauchie and Coalsnaughton Church Hall.

This would mean that electors in streets Rosebank, Rosebank Gardens, Posthill, Gartmorn Road, Schaw Court, Keillarsbrae, Burnbrae, Millers Lade Avenue and Lilybank Court, would vote in Sauchie and Coasnaughton Church Hall instead of at Sauchie Hall.

In addition to this change, electors in streets Quarry Place and Pearson View would now vote at the Whins Resource Centre rather than Sauchie Hall.

A map showing the proposal has been included at appendix III(a). The purple lines are the current polling district boundary. The red lines shows the approximate polling district boundary as proposed.

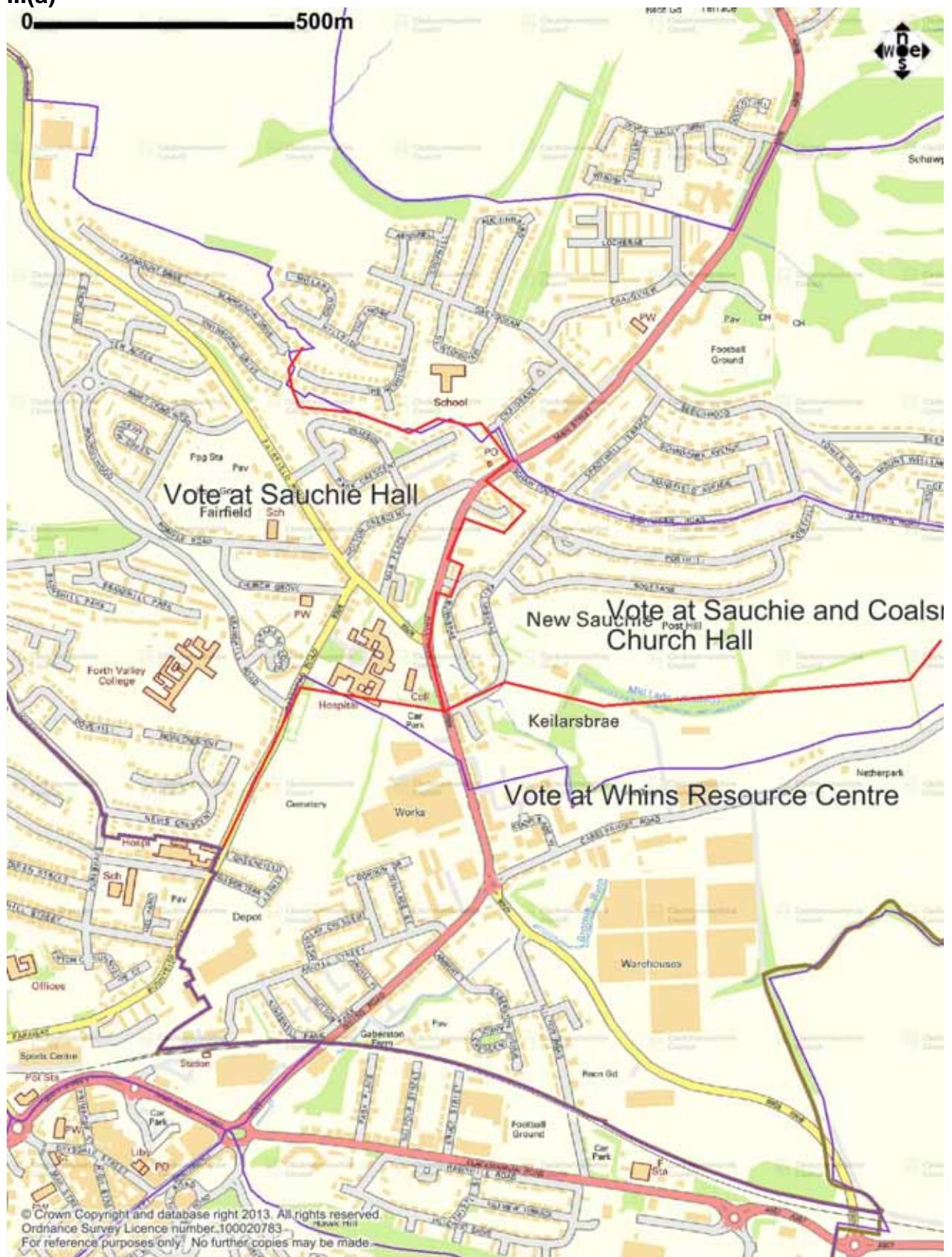
Considerations

An equal number of representations has been received giving two different alternatives for this area. Considerations taken into account, include the integrity of the poll, location and suitability of a polling place and the viability of other alternatives. Giving due consideration to these, in particular the overall integrity of the poll and in line with proposals across the authorities area it is the view of the Returning Officer and Depute Returning Officer that the proposal to have one polling place in Sauchie is overall the most effective proposal.

To note, previously as with Tullibody, it is historic reasons why there is two polling places within this area, which were mainly driven by the single member wards. Consideration is based on options from a fresh perspective and this review is based on options best suited to larger multi-member wards.

In addition the administration of the election is also better served by one polling place, which would add to the integrity and efficient delivery of the poll.

APPENDIX
III(a)



Appendix IV



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