



REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES AND POLLING DISTRICTS

Report by Chief Executive

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to inform Members of the outcome of the review and to seek approval of the list of polling districts and polling places.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 A polling district is the geographical area created by the sub-division of a UK Parliamentary Constituency for the purposes of a UK Parliamentary Election. In Scotland each electoral ward must be divided into two or more polling districts unless there are special circumstances. A polling place is the building or area within a polling district in which polling stations will be situated. Responsibility for the designation of polling districts and polling places lies with the relevant local authority.
- 2.2 The aim of the review was to ensure that all electors in each constituency had reasonable facilities for voting and, so far as is reasonable and practical, the polling places that the Comhairle is responsible for was accessible to all electors and that they are accessible for people with disabilities. The Elections Act 2022 introduced new requirements for Voter ID and facilities to check these have been considered as part of the review.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 **It is recommended that the Comhairle approve the polling districts and polling places detailed in the appendix to the Report.**

Contact Officer: Derek Mackay, Governance and Elections Manager
Appendix: List of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Background Papers: None

IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	None
Legal	None
Staffing	None
Assets and Property	None
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None
Equalities/Child Rights	None
Corporate Strategy	Ensure that local people are empowered and are at the heart of our decision making
Environmental Impact	None
Consultation	Public consultation was carried out between 2 October 2023 and 3 November 2023

BACKGROUND

5.1 In accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended, and further amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, all polling districts and polling places should be reviewed at least every four years. The aim of the review was to ensure that all electors in each constituency had reasonable facilities for voting and, so far as is reasonable and practical, the polling places that the Comhairle is responsible for are accessible to all electors, in particular, that they are accessible for people with disabilities. The Elections Act 2022 introduced new requirements for Voter ID and facilities to check these have been considered as part of the review.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

6.1 The timetable for the review is set out below:

2 October 2023	Commencement of review/existing polling scheme available for inspection
3 November 2023	Close of consultation on existing polling scheme
13 November 2023	Publication of the Comhairle's draft proposals
14 February 2024	Final proposal submitted to Comhairle
15 February 2024	Publication of the outcome of the review

6.2 The Comhairle gave notice of the holding of the review on the Comhairle's website and on the "Have your Say" consultation page. Notice of the Review was circulated to Elected Representatives, Political Parties, Community Councils and other stakeholders.

6.3 The initial stage of the review invited comments by 3 November 2023 on the existing polling scheme, to which there were no responses.

CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The Comhairle is asked to approve the polling districts and polling places detailed in the appendix to the Report. Polling places will continue to be reviewed following each electoral event.