

To: Council

On: 28 September 2023

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

Heading: Statutory Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts

1. Summary

- 1.1 In terms of the Representation of the People Act, 1983, as amended, local authorities are required to divide their area into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary and other elections and to designate polling places for these polling districts and keep them under review.
- 1.2 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, further amended the Representation of the People Act 1983 by introducing a statutory duty for all polling districts and polling places to be reviewed by the end of January 2015 and at least every 5 years thereafter.
- 1.3 The current polling arrangements following the previous statutory review were approved by Council on 5 December 2019, for use in all elections thereafter in the period to the next review.
- 1.4 In conducting the review, authorities must:
 - (a) seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
 - (b) seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practical, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of persons with disabilities.

- 1.5 In that regard, a notice was published giving details of the timetable for and scope of the review, and the consultation process and inviting comments on the current arrangements. In addition, notice was given to key groups, including councillors, Council departments, community councils, Renfrewshire Valuation Board, the local Disability Liaison Group and Capability Scotland for their interest.
- 1.6 A note of the one comment received and the consideration which has been given to it in preparing this draft scheme is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. This Appendix also sets out alternative arrangements for two polling places that have become unavailable since the last review in 2019: it is suggested that the Tannahill Centre replaces St Ninian's Church Centre and Our Lady of Peace Primary School replaces Linwood Parish Church Hall. Appendix 2 identifies local housing developments that might impact on polling arrangements.
- 1.7 A preliminary polling scheme showing the polling places is also attached as appendix 3 for consideration and adoption for formal public consultation.
- 1.8 It is a requirement that the Returning Officer shall comment on the proposals. The draft polling scheme presented here has been the subject of consultation with the Returning Officer who has endorsed the proposals.
- 1.9 At the meeting of Council held on 22 June 2023 a timetable for the review process was agreed and this is set out in paragraph 3.5 of this report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Council is asked to consider the approval of the polling places as set out in the appendices to this report as the draft polling scheme for public consultation.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, introduced a duty for all polling districts and polling places to be reviewed by the end of January 2015 and at least five yearly thereafter.
- 3.2 Here in Renfrewshire, the polling districts and polling places were last reviewed and approved by Council in December 2019.
- 3.3 Although the review is conducted on the basis of UK parliamentary constituencies the proposed polling district boundaries and polling places shown in the appendices to this report also align with the Scottish Parliamentary constituency boundaries and accommodate council ward boundaries, thus avoiding the necessity for differing polling schemes for different types of election.

- 3.4 It should be noted that the Scottish Parliamentary constituency boundaries for Paisley, Renfrewshire North and West, and Renfrewshire South include parts of East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils' areas. These Councils will review the polling districts and polling places for these areas as part of their own authorities' statutory reviews.
- 3.5 The timetable for the conduct of the review in Renfrewshire is as follows:

1	Notice Published	I June 2023
2	Representations by interested parties were sought by	1 August 2023
3	Council will consider a report on the initial proposals on	28 September 2023
4	The Council will consider all representations received and will produce draft proposals for public consultation by	2 October 2023
5	Further comments/suggestions on these proposals must be received by	1 December 2023
6	Final proposals, having regard to any comments/suggestions received will be considered by Council on	14 December 2023

- 3.6 In accordance with the timetable, public notice was given in the week commencing 1 June 2023 of the Council's intention to undertake the review and inviting preliminary comments on the existing polling arrangements.
- 3.7 Public notice was given by advertisement in local libraries, the Council's website, and Council offices, and maps and documents showing the current polling arrangements were made available for public inspection.
- 3.8 In addition, individual notice was given to councillors, community councils, the local Disability Liaison Group and Capability Scotland, for their interest.
- 3.9 An inspection of polling places has been carried out by officers prior to this meeting of Council with regard to location, suitability of access and availability.
- 3.10 To date all polling places have been found to be fully accessible by persons with disabilities either through existing permanent arrangements in place or enhanced by temporary ramping or additional signage where possible.
- 3.11 Arising from the preliminary consultation exercise, only one comment has been received, from Johnstone Community Council, advising that it had no objections to the proposals.
- 3.12 In relation to the review of polling districts, the 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Boundary Commission for Scotland Final Recommendations were laid before Parliament on 28 June 2023. The UK Government is required within a four month period to submit to the Privy Council an Order that gives effect to recommendations of the four UK Commissions. The recommendations will inevitably result in the renaming of a number of polling districts within Renfrewshire.

- Details of this element of the statutory review will be included within the report to be submitted to the meeting of Council to be held on 14 December 2023.
- 3.13 In terms of the statutory review, the Returning Officer is required to comment on the proposals. Although the location of the proposed polling districts and polling places are the responsibility of the local authority, the number and location of the polling stations within the polling places is the responsibility of the Returning Officer, and it is recommended by the Electoral Commission that the review process be undertaken in a joint manner in recognition of the fact that, although the Returning Officer is an officer of the local authority, it is a distinct role and the responsibility for conducting the review rests with the local authority. Accordingly, the proposals presented here represent the joint view of the officers and the Returning Officer.
- 3.14 Following approval of the proposals, a further public consultation exercise will take place in which the draft proposals will be published and further detailed comments invited from the public generally, the organisations and individuals contacted in the preliminary stage, and any others who have responded to or commented upon the proposals at that stage.
- 3.15 In conclusion therefore it is recommended that the polling places and polling stations instanced in appendices 3 and 4 to this report be approved for public consultation and the comments received to date, and their disposal, be noted.
- 3.16 It should also be noted that, in seeking final approval of the polling arrangements in December 2023 it will be proposed that the approval extends to the adoption of these arrangements for any election called thereafter until the next review and, in accordance with normal practice, delegated authority will be sought for the Chief Executive to alter or amend any polling place if an approved place becomes unavailable or unviable, e.g. through fire, flood, pandemic or otherwise.

Implications of the Report

- 1. Financial none.
- 2. HR & Organisational Development none
- 3. Community/Council Planning none
- 4. Legal none
- 5. Property/Assets the current Polling Plan involves the use of various council properties and consultation will take place with the appropriate officers as part of review.
- 6. Information Technology none

- 7. Equality & Human Rights -
 - (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
- 8. Health & Safety the premises currently used as polling places have been inspected and appropriate arrangements and/or adaptations have been made as necessary to obviate risk to staff and voters.
- 9. Procurement none
- 10. Risk n/a
- 11. Privacy Impact none
- 12. Cosla Policy Position none

List of Background Papers

6

(a) .

Author: Dave Low

Democratic Services Manager

0141 487 1118

David.low@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Respondent	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment	
Johnstone Community Council	All polling places within the Johnstone CC area	No objections	
Evaluation			
N/A			

Recommendation

N/A

Respondent Polling Place		Suggestion/Comment	
N/A	St Ninian's Hall	That the Tannahill Centre replace St Ninian's as the polling place for the relevant polling district(s)	

Evaluation

St Ninian's Hall became unavailable following approval of the last polling plan in 2019. Utilising delegated powers, it was possible to change the polling place to the Tannahill Centre which is located nearby. The Tannahill Centre has been used as a polling place for the last two elections without incident or comment.

Recommendation

That the Tannahill Centre become the polling place for the relevant polling district(s).

Respondent	Polling Place	Suggestion/Comment
N/A	Linwood Parish	That Our Lady of Peace Primary School
	Church Hall	replace Linwood Parish Church Hall for the relevant polling district(s)

Evaluation

Linwood Parish Church Hall became unavailable as a result of serious vandalism following approval of the last polling plan in 2019. Utilising delegated powers, it was possible to change the polling place in the first instance to Linwood High

School for the Scottish Parliamentary Election in 2021. When the High School became unavailable as a result of an exam diet, Our Lady of Peace Primary School was used for the Scottish Local Government Elections in 2022. The School was used without incident or comment While the date of the next UK Parliamentary Election cannot be determined, the dates for the next Scottish Parliamentary and Scottish Local Government elections are known. The current practice of aligning school in-service days would help minimise the impact of elections upon school life.

Recommendation

That Our Lady of Peace Primary School, Linwood become the polling place for the relevant polling district(s).

Relevant Council services were consulted to identify planned developments which might impact on polling arrangements.

New dwellings may not necessarily result in a significant increase in electors as the majority of new dwelling sales go to people already resident in Renfrewshire. These changes should also be viewed in the context of the National Records of Scotland population projections which suggest an overall population growth for Renfrewshire from 177,790 to 182,256 (2.5%) between 2018-2028.

Against this backdrop, 9 wards have been identified which may experience high levels of new house building over the five year period of this review.

These wards, the number of new dwellings, and the estimated increases in electors are as follows:

Ward	New dwellings	New population*	Additional Electorate**
1. Renfrew North & Braehead	306	630	473
2. Renfrew South & Gallowhill	29	60	45
3. Paisley Northeast & Ralston	5	10	8
4. Paisley Northwest	527	1086	815
5. Paisley East & Central	462	952	714
6. Paisley Southeast	140	288	216
7. Paisley Southwest	36	74	56
8. Johnstone South & Elderslie	374	770	578
9. Johnstone North, Kilbarchan, Howwood & Lochwinnoch	104	214	161
10. Houston, Crosslee & Linwood	410	845	634
11. Bishopton, Bridge of Weir & Langbank	1293	2664	1998
12. Erskine & Inchinnan	116	239	179
Total	3,802	7,832	5,877

Note * Based on average number of persons per household of 2.06.

Note ** Based on 75% of estimated population.

These increases should be able to be accommodated within the existing arrangements.

Appendix 3

Proposed Revisals to Polling Places

Polling District Reference	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments		
	Ward 1 - (R	enfrew North and Braehead)			
NN01	Renfrew Town Hall & Museum Renfrew Cross Renfrew PA4 8PF	Renfrew Town Hall & Museum Renfrew Cross Renfrew PA4 8PF	No change		
NNO2	Kirklandneuk Community Centre Ness Road Renfrew PA4 9DE	Kirklandneuk Community Centre Ness Road Renfrew PA4 9DE	No change		
NN03	Renfrew Town Hall & Museum Renfrew Cross Renfrew PA4 8PF	Renfrew Town Hall & Museum Renfrew Cross Renfrew PA4 8PF	No change		
NNO4		McMaster Centre Robertson Park Donaldson Drive Renfrew PA4 8LX	No change		
NN05	King George V Sports Pavilion Dean Park Road Renfrew PA4 0AN	King George V Sports Pavilion Dean Park Road Renfrew PA4 0AN	No change		
NN06	St. James' Primary School Brown Street Renfrew Renfrewshire PA4 8HL	St. James' Primary School Brown Street Renfrew Renfrewshire PA4 8HL	No change		
	Ward 2 - Ro	enfrew South and Gallowhill			
NN07	Gallowhill Community Centre 210 Netherhill Road Paisley PA3 4SF	Gallowhill Community Centre 210 Netherhill Road Paisley PA3 4SF	No change		
NN08	Glynhill Hotel 169 Paisley Road Renfrew PA4 8XB	Glynhill Hotel 169 Paisley Road Renfrew PA4 8XB	No change		
NN09	Arkleston Primary School 125 Cockels Loan Renfrew PA4 0EL	Arkleston Primary School 125 Cockels Loan Renfrew PA4 0EL	No change		
NN10	Avenue Renfrew PA4 0DA	Newmains Primary School 8a Lang Avenue Renfrew PA4 0DA	No change		
NN11	St James' Primary School 10 Brown Street Renfrew PA4 8HL	St James' Primary School 10 Brown Street Renfrew PA4 8HL	No change		
NN12	St Catherine's Primary School 28a Brabloch Crescent Paisley PA3 4RG	St Catherine's Primary School 28a Brabloch Crescent Paisley PA3 4RG	No change		
	Ward 3 - Paisley Northeast and Ralston				
	Williamsburgh Primary School	Williamsburgh Primary School Lacy			
	Lacy Street Paisley PA1 1QF	Street Paisley PA1 1QF	No change		
NP01					

Polling District Reference	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
	Ralston Community Sports Centre Penilee Road Ralston Paisley PA1 3AX	Ralston Community Sports Centre Penilee Road Ralston Paisley PA1 3AX	No change
NP02			
NP03	-	Ralston Community Centre 6 Allanton Avenue Paisley PA1 3BL	No change
SP01		Williamsburgh Primary School Lacy Street Paisley PA1 1QF	No change
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	,	
	Ward	4 - Paisley Northwest	
NN13	Beechwood Community Centre 26 Shortroods Road Paisley PA3 2NT		No change
NP04	Beechwood Community Centre 26 Shortroods Road Paisley PA3 2NT		No change
NP05	'	Disability Resource Centre Love Street Paisley Renfrewshire PA3 2EA	No change Please note that the Resource Centre was not available for the last election
NP06	St Ninian's Church (St Ninian's Centre) 85 Blackstoun Road	Tannahaill Centre 76 Blackstoun Road Paisley PA3 1NT	Change to polling place
SP02		Paisley PA1 2LS	No change
SP03	St Mary's Primary School 4 Maxwellton Road Paisley PA1 2RJ	St Mary's Primary School 4 Maxwellton Road Paisley PA1 2RJ	No change
SP04		St Charles Church Hall 5 Union Street Paisley PA2 6DU	No change
SP05	St Ninian's Church (St Ninian's Centre) 85 Blackstoun Road Paisley PA3 1NR	Tannahaill Centre 76 Blackstoun Road Paisley PA3 1NT	Change to polling place
SP06	,	West End Community Centre 5A Underwood Lane Paisley PA1 2SL	No change
	Ward 5	- Paisley East and Central	
SP07		St Andrew's Academy 125 Barrhead Road Paisley PA2 7LG	No change
SP08	Hunterhill Community Centre Blackford Road Paisley PA2 7EP	Hunterhill Community Centre Blackford Road Paisley PA2 7EP	No change
SP09	, .	Paisley Marriage Suite Renfrewshire House Cotton Street Paisley PA1 1BU	No change
SP10	Todholm Primary School 260 Lochfield Road Paisley PA2 7JE	Todholm Primary School 260 Lochfield Road Paisley PA2 7JE	No change
SP11		South End Action Centre Stock Street Paisley PA2 6NL	No change

Polling District Reference	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
SP12	Williamsburgh Primary School Lacy Street Paisley Renfrewshire PA1 1QF	Williamsburgh Primary School Lacy Street Paisley Renfrewshire PA1 1QF	No change
	Ward	d 6 - Paisley Southeast	
	Glenburn Community Centre 30 Fairway Avenue Paisley PA2 8DX	Glenburn Community Centre 30 Fairway Avenue Paisley PA2 8DX	No change
SP13			
SP14	Glenburn Resource Centre 19 Donaldswood Road Paisley PA2 8EA	Glenburn Resource Centre 19 Donaldswood Road Paisley PA2 8EA	No change
	Bushes Primary School Grampian Avenue Paisley PA2 8DW	Bushes Primary School Grampian Avenue Paisley PA2 8DW	No change
SP15			
SP16	South Parish Church, Rowan Street, Paisley, PA2 6RZ	South Parish Church, Rowan Street, Paisley, PA2 6RZ	No change (formerly known as Lylesland Church)
SP17	St Charles Church Hall 5 Union Street Paisley PA2 6DU	St Charles Church Hall 5 Union Street Paisley PA2 6DU	No change
		7 - Paisley Southwest	
SP18	Brediland Community Centre 30 Cardell Road Paisley PA2 9AF	Brediland Community Centre 30 Cardell Road Paisley PA2 9AF	No change
SP19	Brediland Primary School 9 Achray Drive Paisley PA2 9DJ	Brediland Primary School 9 Achray Drive Paisley PA2 9DJ	No change
SP20	Foxbar Rivers Community Building Spey Avenue Paisley PA2 OPA	Foxbar Rivers Community Building Spey Avenue Paisley PA2 0PA	No change
SP21	Heriot Primary School 10 Heriot Avenue Paisley PA2 0DS	Heriot Primary School 10 Heriot Avenue Paisley PA2 0DS	No change
SP22	Foxbar Community Centre 30 Amochrie Road Paisley PA2 OLB	Foxbar Community Centre 30 Amochrie Road Paisley PA2 0LB	No change
SP23	Langcraigs Primary School 245 Glenfield Road Paisley PA2 8QE	Langcraigs Primary School 245 Glenfield Road Paisley PA2 8QE	No change
	Ward 8 - Jo	hnstone South and Elderslie	
SS01	Elderslie Village Hall	Elderslie Village Hall	No change
SS02	Johnstone Castle Community Centre Pine Crescent Johnstone PA5 OBX	Johnstone Castle Community Centre Pine Crescent Johnstone PA5 0BX	No change
	St David's Primary School West	St David's Primary School West	

Polling District Reference	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
SS04	Cochrane Castle Community Centre 1 Burns Drive Johnstone PA5 OHJ	Cochrane Castle Community Centre 1 Burns Drive Johnstone PA5 0HJ	No change
\$\$05	Fordbank Primary School, 23B Teviot Terrace, Johnstone, PA5 ONP	Fordbank Primary School, 23B Teviot Terrace, Johnstone, PA5 0NP	No change
\$\$06	Spateston Bowling Club Spateston Road Johnstone PA5 OSX	Spateston Bowling Club Spateston Road Johnstone PA5 OSX	No change
SS07	Thorn Primary School 4A Thorn Brae Johnstone PA5 8HE	Thorn Primary School 4A Thorn Brae Johnstone PA5 8HE	No change
NP07	Elderslie Village Hall Stoddard Square, Elderslie, PA6 9AS	Elderslie Village Hall Stoddard Square, Elderslie, PA6 9AS	No change
NP08	St Ninian's Church (St Ninian's Centre) 85 Blackstoun Road Paisley PA3 1NR	Tannahaill Centre 76 Blackstoun Road Paisley PA3 1NT	No change
	Ward 9 - Johnstone Nortl	n, Kilbarchan, Howwood and L	ochwinnoch
	Howwood Village Hall 10 Station	Howwood Village Hall 10 Station	No change
SS08	Road Howwood PA9 1BB	Road Howwood PA9 1BB	No change
\$209	St Margaret's Church Hall 49 Graham Street Johnstone PA5 8RA	St Margaret's Church Hall 49 Graham Street Johnstone PA5 8RA	No change
\$\$10	Johnstone Town Hall 26 Church Street Johnstone PA5 8EG	Johnstone Town Hall 26 Church Street Johnstone PA5 8EG	No change
SS11	Thorn Primary School 4A Thorn Brae Johnstone PA5 8HE	Thorn Primary School 4A Thorn Brae Johnstone PA5 8HE	No change
SS12	McKillop Institute 2 Main Street Lochwinnoch PA12 4AJ	McKillop Institute 2 Main Street Lochwinnoch PA12 4AJ	No change
SS13	Kilbarchan Scout Hall Barn Green Kilbarchan PA10 2HG	Kilbarchan Scout Hall Barn Green Kilbarchan PA10 2HG	No change
	Ward 10 - Ho	ouston, Crosslee and Linwood	
NN14	Houston and Killellan Kirk Halls.	Houston and Killellan Kirk Halls.	No change
NS01	Tweedie Hall Ardlamont Square Linwood Paisley Renfrewshire PA3 3DE	Tweedie Hall Ardlamont Square Linwood Paisley Renfrewshire PA3 3DE	No change
NS01	Tweedie Hall Ardlamont Square Linwood Paisley Renfrewshire PA3 3DE	Tweedie Hall Ardlamont Square Linwood Paisley Renfrewshire PA3 3DE	No change
NS02	Linwood Parish Church Blackwood Avenue Linwood PA3 3JX	Our Lady of Peace Primary School, Erskinefauld Road,Linwood PA3 3PR	Change to polling place
NS03	Brookfield Village Hall 45 Woodside Road Brookfield PA5 8UB	Brookfield Village Hall 45 Woodside Road Brookfield PA5 8UB	No change

Polling District Reference	Existing Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
N504	Houston & Killelan Kirk Halls,Main Street Houston, PA6 7EL	Houston and Killellan Kirk Halls Main Street Houston, PA6 7EL	No change
SS14	Linwood Parish Church, Blackwood Avenue Linwood PA3 3PY	Our Lady of Peace Primary School, Erskinefauld Road,Linwood PA3 3PR	Change to polling place
SS15	Brookfield Village Hall 45 Woodside Road Brookfield PA5 8UB	Brookfield Village Hall 45 Woodside Road Brookfield PA5 8UB	No change
SS16	Brookfield Village Hall 45 Woodside Road Brookfield PA5 8UB	Brookfield Village Hall 45 Woodside Road Brookfield PA5 8UB	No change
	Ward 11 - Bishop	oton, Bridge of Weir and Langl	pank
NN15	Bridge of Weir Primary School 7 Warlock Road Bridge of Weir PA11 3QB	Cargill Hall, Lintwhite Crescent, Bridge of Weir, Pa11 3LJ	No change
	Langbank Village Centre 51 Middlepenny Road Langbank PA14 6XB	Langbank Village Centre 51 Middlepenny Road Langbank PA14 6XB	No change
NN16	Dargavel Primary School, Arrochar Drive, Bishopton, PA7 5HP	Dargavel Primary School, Arrochar Drive, Bishopton, PA7 5HP	No change
NN17	Bishopton Community Centre 25 Gledstane Road Bishopton PA7	Bishopton Community Centre 25 Gledstane Road Bishopton PA7 5AU	No change
NN18 NN19	5AU Bishopton Community Centre 25 Gledstane Road Bishopton PA7 5AU	Bishopton Community Centre 25 Gledstane Road Bishopton PA7 5AU	No change
SN01	Cargill Hall Lintwhite Crescent Bridge of Weir PA11 3LJ	Cargill Hall Lintwhite Crescent Bridge of Weir PA11 3LJ	No change
	Ward 1	2 - Erskine and Inchinnan	
NN20	Inchinnan Primary School 96 Old Greenock Road Inchinnan PA4 9PH	Inchinnan Primary School 96 Old Greenock Road Inchinnan PA4 9PH	No change - please note that Inchinnan Parish Church was used for the last two elections
NN21	Erskine Baptist Church.	Erskine Baptist Church.	No change
NN22	Drive Erskine PA8 7AL	St Anne's Primary School 97 Park Drive Erskine PA8 7AL	No change
NN23	Bargarran Primary School 4 Barrhill Road Erskine PA8 6BX	Bargarran Primary School 4 Barrhill Road Erskine PA8 6BX	No change

Polling District Reference Existing Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Comments
---	------------------------	----------