
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	18 April 2019
Report By:	Chief Executive	Report No:	LP/055/18
Contact Officer:	Gerard Malone	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Statutory Review of Polling Scheme		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to (i) consider the representation received on the statutory review of the Polling Scheme by the consultation deadline and (ii) ask Members to confirm their approval of the proposed Polling Scheme, as detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The process for the statutory review of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places was reported to and considered by the Council at its meeting on 29 November 2018.
- 2.2 The current Polling Scheme, which forms **Appendix 2**, will be used in the event of a requirement to hold European Elections in May 2019 or an unscheduled election/referendum being called before the reviewed Polling Scheme comes into effect (subject to any amendments to take account of any building works and/or closures in respect of which the Chief Executive has delegated authority to make such arrangements).
- 2.3 The Polling Scheme has been reviewed in response to the statutory process and this proposed Scheme forms **Appendix 1**. The amendments and representation thereon are specified in detail within this report. This report requests Elected Members to consider the proposed Polling Scheme in **Appendix 1**, to consider the representation received and to approve the proposed Polling Scheme to take effect as from 1 October 2019.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is requested to:

- 3.1 Consider the representation received and approve the proposed Polling Scheme forming **Appendix 1**; and
- 3.2 Delegate to the Chief Executive authority to make such amendments thereto as may from time to time be necessary to take account of any building works and/or closures in order to facilitate suitable and reasonable polling arrangements.

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal and Property Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983, local authorities are required to designate polling places for the purposes of elections and to review those arrangements within the statutory review timescale and are further obliged to keep their arrangements under review.
- 4.2 The Council completed its last statutory review in 2014 and carried out an interim review in 2015 following the implementation of the Local Government boundary changes. The Council's practice has also been to review polling arrangements as each scheduled election approaches. In conducting its reviews, the Council must seek to ensure that:-
- (i) all electors in the constituency have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in circumstances; and
 - (ii) so far as is reasonably practical, all polling places should be accessible to all voters including those who are disabled and when considering the designation of a polling place the Council must have regard to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- 4.3 The timetable for the Council's Statutory Review was outlined in the November 2018 report. Notification has already been published and contact has been made with relevant interested parties such as Elected Members, Community Councils and organisations representing the disabled.
- 4.4 The Council is committed to ongoing reviews of the Scheme and to exploring suitable options for polling place locations. The Council seeks to minimise any disruption to schools during each election process and this will be looked at continuously.

5.0 CURRENT POLLING SCHEME

- 5.1 There is a possibility that a European Election will be required to take place on 23 May 2019 or an unscheduled election/referendum being called before the summer. For these polls, the current approved Polling Scheme will be utilised (**Appendix 2**). In terms of any adjustments that are required to take account of planned or scheduled building works, the Chief Executive already has delegated authority to amend these polling arrangements.

6.0 PROPOSED POLLING SCHEME

- 6.1 The proposed Polling Scheme which forms **Appendix 1**, was prepared to meet the requirements of the Statutory Review. It proposes certain amendments to the current Polling Scheme which were outlined in the November 2018 report as follows:-
- (i) Park Farm Community Hall, Oronsay Avenue, Port Glasgow, has been the established polling place for voters in Polling District IG03. However, from late 2019 the premises will no longer be available for use as a polling place. In view of the number of voters within this Polling District and the neighbouring Polling District IG02, the lack of a suitable alternative venue within IG03 and also the proximity of Polling District IG02's polling place (Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow), it is feasible and practical to merge IG02 and IG03 to form one Polling District. It is therefore proposed to remove the Polling District line between IG02 and IG03, as detailed in **Appendix 3**, to form one Polling District, namely IG02, with all voters from the current IG03 Polling District reallocated to Struthers Memorial Church; and
 - (ii) the Polling District number sequence be realigned to reflect the reduction in Polling Districts as detailed in **Appendix 1**.

6.2 The Council has previously delegated to the Chief Executive the authority to make any such amendments as may from time to time be necessary in the Polling Scheme in order to take account of any building works and/or closures in order to facilitate suitable and feasible polling arrangements.

6.3 An e-mail representation from Councillor MacLeod on the proposed Polling Scheme has been received within the statutory timescale. Councillor MacLeod raised concerns regarding disabled access at Holy Family Church Hall and stated that “For some disabled people particularly without their own transport access can be difficult. I have raised this issue in the past when I was a Councillor in Ward 1 but I recognise there are few other options about that area of lower Park Farm”.

In response, for Elected Member consideration: The Holy Family Church Hall is located on a steep hill but at the entrance area it does have a satisfactory entrance. Officers have looked at this location and no other suitable polling place has been determined that meets the requirements for this area. However, officers will continue to keep under review this location and the access areas into the polling place. It is not proposed that the Polling Scheme be altered in relation to this representation.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Finance

The reduction of one polling place within the Polling Scheme will result in an accommodation saving but not staffing or any other material item.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/(Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

7.2 Legal

The Council is required to receive this report in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

7.3 Human Resources

There are no implications.

7.4 Equalities

The Council is required to ensure the provision of suitable premises to facilitate ease of access for all voters throughout Inverclyde and thus to promote participation in local democracy for all its citizens.

7.5 Repopulation

There are no repopulation implications.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive and the Head of Inclusive Education, Culture and Communities.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

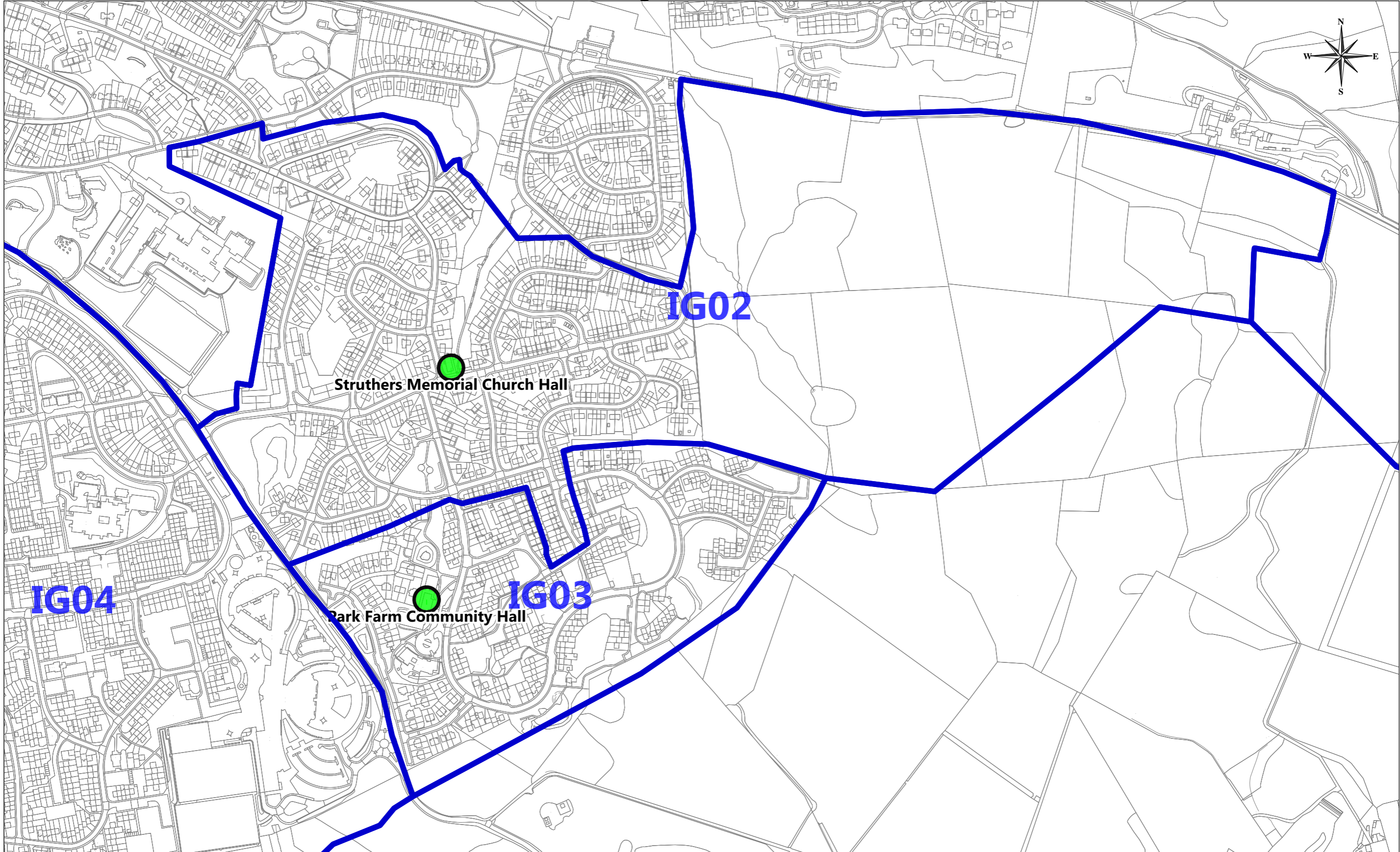
**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
PROPOSED POLLING SCHEME**

Polling District	Polling Place
IN01	Bethesda Building, Faith Avenue, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir
IN02	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm
IG01	Holy Family Church Hall, Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow
IG02	Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow
IG03	St Mary's Episcopal Church, Bardrainey Avenue, Port Glasgow
IG04	St Francis Church, Auchenbothie Road, Port Glasgow
IG05	Clune Park Resource Centre, Montgomerie Street, Port Glasgow
IG06	Upper Port Glasgow Social Club, Crosshill Road, Port Glasgow
IG07	Port Glasgow Lesser Town Hall, Shore Street, Port Glasgow
IG08	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow
IG09	Gibshill Community Centre, Smillie Street, Greenock
IG10	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock
IG11	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock
IG12	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre, Carwood Street, Greenock
IG13	Whinhill Primary School, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock
IG14	Prospecthill Christian Fellowship, 8 Prospecthill Street, Greenock
IG15	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock
IG16	Salvation Army Centre, Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street), Greenock
IG17	St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Union Street (enter from Jamaica Street), Greenock
IG18	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock
IG19	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock
IG20	Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock
IG21	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock
IG22	Gamble Halls, 44 Shore Street (enter from Davidson Drive), Gourock
IG23	Kirn Drive Community Centre, Kirn Drive, Gourock
IG24	Gourock Golf Club, Cowal View, Gourock
IG25	Spinnaker Hotel, Albert Road, Gourock
IG26	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock
IG27	Upper Larkfield Community Hall, Lothian Road, Greenock
IG28	Aileymill Nursery School, Norfolk Road, Greenock
IG29	Branchton Community Centre, Branchton Road, Greenock
IG30	Inverkip Community Hub, Main Street, Inverkip
IG31	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay
IG32	Mount Kirk, 95 Dempster Street, Greenock
IG33	South West Library, Barr's Cottage, Greenock
IG34	Grieve Road Community Centre, Grieve Road, Greenock
IG35	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock
IG36	St Andrews Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock

**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
CURRENT POLLING SCHEME**

Polling District	Polling Place
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IN02	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm
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IG36	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock
IG37	St Andrews Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock

Current Polling Districts IG02 & IG03



Inverclyde
council

Environment and Public Protection

Environment, Regeneration & Resources
Corporate Director: Scott Allan BSc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E

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Plan Creator: Joe Gray
Date: 06/11/2018
Scale: 1:5000

POLLING_DISTRICTS

Overlay style

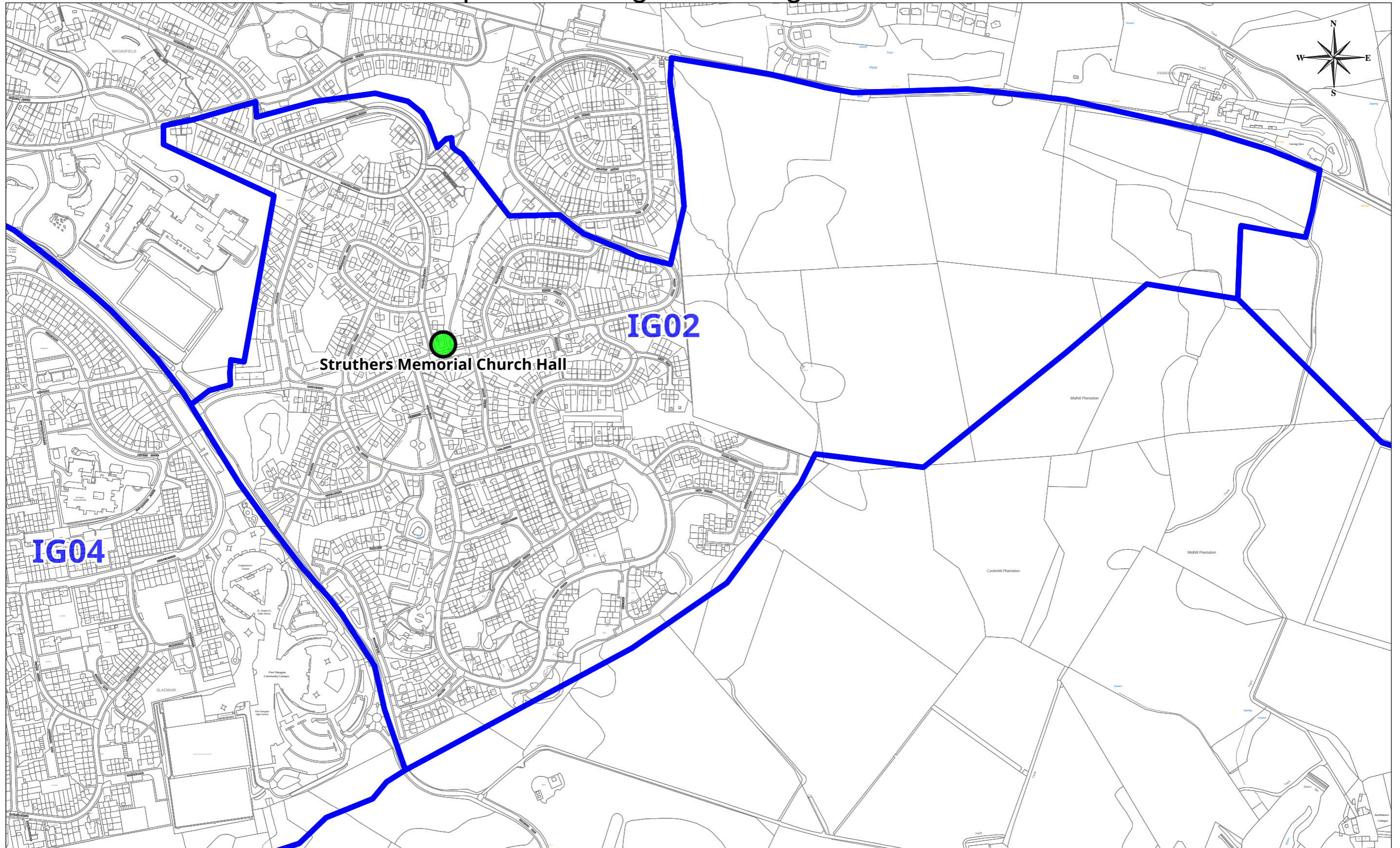
CURRENT POLLING PLACES

Overlay style



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Proposed Change to Polling District IG02



Inverclyde
council


Environment and Public Protection

Environment, Regeneration & Resources
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Copy Polling Districts Proposal

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Copy Proposal Polling Places

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