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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>17 February 2022</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal &amp; Democratic Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Iain Strachan</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712710</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Government Elections 2022: Review of Polling Scheme</b>		

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## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request the Council approve its polling scheme for the purposes of the Local Government Elections in May 2022.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council at its meeting on 18 February 2021 was provided with an update on election planning in advance of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections which were held on 6 May 2021, and approved arrangements for the polling scheme set out in Appendix 1 to this report. This report requests continuation of these arrangements for the forthcoming Local Government Elections.
- 2.2 The elections held in May 2021 took place under Covid-19 restrictions. The Chief Executive, as Returning Officer for the Greenock and Inverclyde Constituency, put in place many additional measures to ensure that the polling could be conducted in accordance with the prevailing health advice and all election regulations. There were many additional complexities in terms of planning and public safety which impacted on time and staff resources.
- 2.3 A review of polling scheme arrangements is always undertaken after each election. In view of the need to continue with election planning and delivery with regard to continuing Covid restrictions, it is not proposed to alter any of the Council's formerly approved polling scheme, except for the necessary inclusion for the Local Government Elections of the two polling places in Ward1 (Inverclyde East) as set out in paragraph 4.4. As such, and with regard to current advice and the pressing nature of timescales which affect election planning, it is requested that the polling scheme in Appendix 1 be approved for use at the Scottish Local Government Elections in May 2022.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- 3.1 The Council approves the polling scheme attached at Appendix 1 for use at the Local Government Elections in May 2022;
- 3.2 Authority continues to be delegated to the Chief Executive as Returning Officer for the Local Government Elections to modify the approved polling scheme as may be necessary in situations of need and also to make any alternative or emergency arrangements as may be necessary in the interests of voters.

**Iain Strachan**  
**Head of Legal & Democratic Services**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Scottish Boundary Commission's decision of 14 September 2016 was to provide for 22 Councillors within Inverclyde, with one 4 Member ward and six 3 Member wards, which was considered by the Council at its meetings on 29 September 2016 and 1 December 2016.
- 4.2 The electoral wards for Inverclyde are as follows:
  - Ward 1 : Inverclyde East
  - Ward 2: Inverclyde East Central
  - Ward 3 : Inverclyde Central
  - Ward 4: Inverclyde North
  - Ward 5: Inverclyde West
  - Ward 6 : Inverclyde South West
  - Ward 7 : Inverclyde South
- 4.3 Council Officers always review the Council's polling scheme arrangements after each election. For example, it is the Council's preference to release pressure on the school estate and to seek alternative venues for primary schools as far as is possible.
- 4.4 Appendix 1 forms the proposed polling scheme for the Local Government Elections in May 2022 and comprises details of the current Ward number, polling district and polling place. Two polling places in Ward 1(Inverclyde East), namely (i) Bethseda Building, Faith Avenue, Quarriers Village and (ii) St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm, were not required for the Scottish Parliamentary Elections as they were part of Renfrewshire North and West constituency for the purposes of those elections. However, given that they form part of the Inverclyde Council area they have been included within the polling scheme for the Local Government Elections in May 2022. It is requested that the polling scheme set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
- 4.5 The Local Government Elections in May 2022 will continue to take place under certain Covid-19 restrictions. As with the Scottish Parliamentary Elections of May 2021, the Chief Executive, as Returning Officer, will require to put in place a number of measures to ensure that the poll can be conducted in accordance with the prevailing health advice and all election regulations.
- 4.6 The Council's Health & Safety team completed individual risk assessments for each polling place prior to the Scottish Parliamentary Elections in May 2021, and will carry out up-to-date risk assessments for each polling place taking into account current guidance, including from Public Health Scotland, the Electoral Commission and the Electoral Management Board. The risk assessments will also take into consideration issues in relation to disability access. The Council required to source equipment such as personal protective equipment for all polling and count staff, together with perspex screens and additional physical distancing signage in advance of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections in May 2021. It is proposed that this equipment will be used once again for the Local Government Elections in May 2022.
- 4.7 The Council has been successful in past years in minimising the use of the school estate in polling schemes. However, in terms of the arrangements set out in Appendix 1, which are necessary to accommodate additional Covid arrangements, Lady Alice Primary School, for example, will require again to be included within the polling scheme, due to there being no suitable alternative polling place. In view of the pressing timescales above, and current Covid advice, arrangements are in hand to ensure availability of all accommodation required for the implementation of the Council's polling scheme.
- 4.8 This report also requests the continuation of delegated powers to the Chief Executive, as Returning Officer for the Local Government Elections, to modify the approved polling scheme as may be necessary in situations of need and also to make any alternative or emergency arrangements as may be necessary in the interests of voters.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 5.1 Finance

The Scottish Government funds the electronic counting infrastructure but the Council is financially responsible for all other costs of holding Local Government elections.

#### Financial Implications:

One off Costs

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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

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

### 5.2 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.

### 5.3 Human Resources

None.

### 5.4 Equalities

#### Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

5.5 **Repopulation**

None.

6.0 **CONSULTATIONS**

6.1 None.

7.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

**SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS 2022  
INVERCLYDE COUNCIL AREA  
POLLING SCHEME**

APPENDIX 1

<b>WARD 1: INVERCLYDE EAST</b>	
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	Boglestone Community Centre, Dubbs Place, Port Glasgow
<b>WARD 2: INVERCLYDE EAST CENTRAL</b>	
IG04	St Francis Church, Auchenbothie Road, Port Glasgow
IG05	7½ John Wood Street, Port Glasgow
IG06	Upper Port Glasgow Social Club, Crosshill Road, Port Glasgow
IG07	St John's Church Hall, Brown Street, Port Glasgow
IG08	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow
IG09	Gibshill Community Centre, 2 Smillie Street, Greenock
<b>WARD 3: INVERCLYDE CENTRAL</b>	
IG10	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock
IG11	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock
IG12	Victoria Bowling Club, 2 East Crawford Street, Greenock
IG13	Whinhill Primary School, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock
IG14	Grosvenor Bowling Club, 2 Dempster Street, Greenock
<b>WARD 4: INVERCLYDE NORTH</b>	
IG15	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock
IG16	Salvation Army Centre, 59 Regent Street (enter via Roxburgh Street), Greenock
IG17	St John's Episcopal Church, Union Street (enter via Jamaica Street), Greenock
IG18	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock
IG19	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock
IG20	Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock

<b>WARD 5: INVERCLYDE WEST</b>	
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	Gourock Bowling Club, Barrhill Road, Gourock
IG26	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock
<b>WARD 6: INVERCLYDE SOUTH WEST</b>	
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, 2 Kip Park, Main Street, Inverkip
IG31	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay
<b>WARD 7: INVERCLYDE SOUTH</b>	
IG32	Mount Kirk, 95 Dempster Street, Greenock
IG33	Lady Alice Primary School, Inverkip Road, Greenock
IG34	Grieve Road Community Centre, Grieve Road, Greenock
IG35	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock
IG36	St Andrew's Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock