
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	15 February 2024
Report By:	Chief Executive	Report No:	LS/006/24
Contact Officer:	Iain Strachan	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Statutory Review of Polling Scheme		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to (i) advise Members that there have been no representations received by interested parties on the recent Statutory Review of the Polling Scheme by the consultation deadline; (ii) ask Members to confirm their approval of the proposed Scheme, as detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report and (iii) note the inclusion of additional polling districts within the new Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency boundary as detailed in **Appendix 2**.
- 1.3 The process for the Statutory Review of the Polling Scheme and need for the same, was reported to and considered by the Council at its meeting on 28 September 2023.
- 1.4 The current Polling Scheme, which forms **Appendix 3** has been in force since 18 February 2021 and was in place for the 2021 Scottish Parliamentary Election and the 2022 Local Government Elections.
- 1.5 The Polling Scheme has been reviewed in accordance with the Statutory process. The new proposed Scheme forms **Appendix 1** and includes amendments detailed within this report.
- 1.6 At the Privy Council meeting on 15 November 2023, the Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023 (SI 2023/1230) to implement the final recommendations of the Boundary Commission for Scotland 2023 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies was made. The Order came into force on 29 November 2023 and the new UK Parliamentary Constituencies will take effect at the next UK Parliamentary General Election. As previously reported to the Council, the changes made to the Parliamentary Constituency boundaries included the addition of two significant areas which lie within Renfrewshire Council's Wards 10 and 11 and now form the new UK Parliamentary Constituency of Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency. A map of the new Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency boundary forms **Appendix 4** to this report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council:
- 2.1.1 agree that further consultation on the proposed Polling Scheme is not required;
 - 2.1.2 approve the Polling Scheme as forming Appendix 1 to this report;

- 2.1.3 note the new Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency boundary that came into force on 29 November 2023 and will take effect at the next UK Parliamentary General Election; and
- 2.1.4 agree that authority continues to be delegated to the Chief Executive as Returning Officer 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.

Louise Long
Chief Executive

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 In terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983, local authorities are required to designate polling places for the purposes of elections, to review those arrangements within the statutory review timescale and to keep their arrangements under review.
- 3.2 The Council completed its last statutory review in 2019 and carried out an interim review in 2022. 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.
- 3.3 The timetable for the Council's statutory review was outlined in the September 2023 report. Notification was published and contact had been made with relevant interested parties such as Elected Members, Community Councils and organisations representing the disabled.
- 3.4 The Council is committed to ongoing reviews of the Scheme and to exploring suitable options for polling place locations. The Council is also committed to minimising any disruption to schools during each election process and this will be looked at continuously.
- 3.5 The Boundary Commission for Scotland began its 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies in Scotland in January 2021 and the Final Recommendations were laid before the UK Parliament on 28 June 2023. An Order was submitted to the Privy Council that gave effect to the recommendations of the four UK Boundary Commissions. At the Privy Council meeting on 15 November 2023, the Parliamentary Constituencies Order 2023 (SI 2023/1230), to implement the recommendations across the UK was made. The Order came into force on 29 November 2023 and the new Parliamentary Constituencies will take effect at the next UK Parliamentary General Election. Any UK Parliamentary by-elections will continue to use the existing boundaries until the next General Election. The next General Election is scheduled to be held no later than January 2025.
- 3.6 The new Constituency boundary of Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency, as detailed in **Appendix 4**, includes the addition of two significant areas which lie within Renfrewshire Council's Wards 10 and 11. In relation to the Statutory Review of the Polling Scheme, Inverclyde Council only reviewed the polling districts and polling places which fell within the Inverclyde area. The polling districts and polling places within Renfrewshire Wards 10 and 11 that fall within the new Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency boundary were reviewed by Renfrewshire Council as part of their own Statutory Review. Renfrewshire Council's review has now concluded and it received no consultation responses in respect of these polling districts and polling places. **Appendix 2** details the new additional polling districts and associated polling places.
- 3.7 As previously reported to the Council, the Elections Act 2022 received Royal Assent on 28 April 2022 and introduced a series of changes to how UK elections are administered. Some of these changes, including the requirement to show photographic ID to vote in person, were implemented at the local government elections in England on 4 May 2023. The impact of these changes and other measures relating to the Act that will apply at the next General Election, are being carefully considered by officers, together with the Electoral Registration Officer and their staff, and is forming part of the detailed planning for the next General Election, including ensuring there is suitable public awareness of these changes.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 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, being the same as those outlined in the September 2023 report as follows:
- (i) Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock has been the established polling place for voters in Polling District IG20, however the premises are no longer available as a polling place. Taking into consideration the number of voters within the polling district, the requirements of a suitable premises including accessibility, an alternative polling place has been identified within the existing polling district boundary. It is therefore proposed to reallocate voters in Polling District IG20 to Greenock Wanderers RFC, 75 Octavia Terrace, Greenock; and
 - (ii) to note a change of polling place name for Polling District IG23 – Coppermine Community Centre (formerly known as Kirn Drive Community Centre), Kirn Drive, Gourrock.
- 4.2 It is to be noted that **Appendix 2** includes the new polling districts and associated polling stations that lie within Renfrewshire Council’s Wards 10 and 11 and now form part of the new Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West Constituency.
- 4.3 There were no representations on the proposed Polling Scheme by the consultation deadline and it is now possible for the Council to make the amendments detailed in paragraph 4.1 and to approve the proposed Polling Scheme.
- 4.4 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. It is recommended that this delegation continues.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial		x
Legal/Risk	x	
Human Resources		x
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)		x
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People’s Rights & Wellbeing		x
Environmental & Sustainability		x
Data Protection		x

5.2 Finance

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

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					

5.3 Legal/Risk

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.

5.4 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications directly arising from this report.

5.5 Strategic

There are no strategic implications arising from this report.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

Officers had already taken equalities considerations into account in preparing the proposed Scheme. 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.

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
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, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA 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 – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Staff of the Electoral Registration Officer and Renfrewshire Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
PROPOSED POLLING SCHEME**

Polling District	Polling Place
IN01	Bethesda Building, Faith Avenue, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir PA11 3TF
IN02	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4AS
IG01	Holy Family Church Hall, Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 6BT
IG02	Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 6BJ
IG03	Boglestone Community Centre, Dubbs Road, Port Glasgow PA14 5UD
IG04	St Francis Church, Auchenbothie Road, Port Glasgow PA14 6JD
IG05	7½ John Wood Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5HU
IG06	Upper Port Glasgow Social Club, Crosshill Road, Port Glasgow PA14 5UN
IG07	St John's Church Hall, Brown Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5BP
IG08	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 5AR
IG09	Gibshill Community Centre, Smillie Street, Greenock PA15 2NH
IG10	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock PA15 3LG
IG11	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock PA15 2HD
IG12	Victoria Bowling Club, 2 East Crawford Street, Greenock PA15 2BT
IG13	Whinhill Primary School, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock PA15 4EQ
IG14	Grosvenor Bowling Club, 2 Dempster Street, Greenock PA15 4QE
IG15	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock PA15 1LS
IG16	Salvation Army Centre, Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street), Greenock PA15 4NP
IG17	St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Union Street (enter from Jamaica Street), Greenock PA16 8JJ
IG18	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock PA16 8DD
IG19	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock PA16 8HZ
IG20	Greenock Wanderers RFC, 75 Octavia Terrace, Greenock PA16 7PX
IG21	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock PA19 1RS
IG22	Gamble Halls, 44 Shore Street (enter from Davidson Drive), Gourock PA19 1RG
IG23	Coppermine Community Centre, Kirn Drive, Gourock PA19 1SS
IG24	Gourock Golf Club, Cowal View, Gourock PA19 1HD
IG25	Gourock Bowling Club, Barrhill Road, Gourock PA19 1JX
IG26	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock PA19 1DA
IG27	Upper Larkfield Community Hall, Lothian Road, Greenock PA16 0PG
IG28	Aileymill Nursery School, Norfolk Road, Greenock PA16 0JG
IG29	Branchton Community Centre, Branchton Road, Greenock PA16 0XX
IG30	Inverkip Community Hub, 2 Kip Park, Main Street, Inverkip PA16 0FZ
IG31	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay PA18 6AT
IG32	Mount Kirk, 95 Dempster Street, Greenock PA15 4EB
IG33	Lady Alice Primary School, Inverkip Road, Greenock PA16 9EJ
IG34	Grieve Road Community Centre, Grieve Road, Greenock PA16 7AL
IG35	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock PA16 7NH
IG36	St Andrews Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock PA19 0TT

APPENDIX 2**INVERCLYDE AND RENFREWSHIRE WEST COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
PROPOSED POLLING SCHEME**

Polling District	Polling Place
IN01	Bethesda Building, Faith Avenue, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir PA11 3TF
IN02	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm PA13 4AS
IN03	Houston and Killellan Church Halls, Main Street, Houston PA6 7HW
IN04	Cargill Hall, Lintwhite Crescent, Bridge of Weir PA11 3LJ
IN05	Cargill Hall, Lintwhite Crescent, Bridge of Weir PA11 3LJ
IN06	Cargill Hall, Lintwhite Crescent, Bridge of Weir PA11 3LJ
IS01	Cargill Hall, Lintwhite Crescent, Bridge of Weir PA11 3LJ
IS02	Houston and Killellan Church Halls, Main Street, Houston, PA6 7HW
IG01	Holy Family Church Hall, Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 6BT
IG02	Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 6BJ
IG03	Boglestone Community Centre, Dubbs Road, Port Glasgow PA14 5UD
IG04	St Francis Church, Auchenbothie Road, Port Glasgow PA14 6JD
IG05	7½ John Wood Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5HU
IG06	Upper Port Glasgow Social Club, Crosshill Road, Port Glasgow PA14 5UN
IG07	St John's Church Hall, Brown Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5BP
IG08	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow PA14 5AR
IG09	Gibshill Community Centre, Smillie Street, Greenock PA15 2NH
IG10	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock PA15 3LG
IG11	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock PA15 2HD
IG12	Victoria Bowling Club, 2 East Crawford Street, Greenock PA15 2BT
IG13	Whinhill Primary School, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock PA15 4EQ
IG14	Grosvenor Bowling Club, 2 Dempster Street, Greenock PA15 4QE
IG15	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock PA15 1LS
IG16	Salvation Army Centre, Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street), Greenock PA15 4NP
IG17	St John's Episcopal Church Hall, Union Street (enter from Jamaica Street), Greenock PA16 8JJ
IG18	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock PA16 8DD
IG19	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock PA16 8HZ
IG20	Greenock Wanderers RFC, 75 Octavia Terrace, Greenock PA16 7PX
IG21	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock PA19 1RS
IG22	Gamble Halls, 44 Shore Street (enter from Davidson Drive), Gourock PA19 1RG
IG23	Coppermine Community Centre, Kirn Drive, Gourock PA19 1SS
IG24	Gourock Golf Club, Cowal View, Gourock PA19 1HD
IG25	Gourock Bowling Club, Barrhill Road, Gourock PA19 1JX
IG26	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock PA19 1DA
IG27	Upper Larkfield Community Hall, Lothian Road, Greenock PA16 0PG
IG28	Aileymill Nursery School, Norfolk Road, Greenock PA16 0JG
IG29	Branchton Community Centre, Branchton Road, Greenock PA16 0XX
IG30	Inverkip Community Hub, 2 Kip Park, Main Street, Inverkip PA16 0FZ
IG31	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay PA18 6AT
IG32	Mount Kirk, 95 Dempster Street, Greenock PA15 4EB

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PROPOSED POLLING SCHEME**

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IG36	St Andrews Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock PA19 0TT

**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
CURRENT POLLING SCHEME**

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IG18	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock PA16 8DD
IG19	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock PA16 8HZ
IG20	Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock PA16 7RT
IG21	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock PA19 1RS
IG22	Gamble Halls, 44 Shore Street (enter from Davidson Drive), Gourock PA19 1RG
IG23	Kirn Drive Community Centre, Kirn Drive, Gourock PA19 1SS
IG24	Gourock Golf Club, Cowal View, Gourock PA19 1HD
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Boundary Commission for Scotland - 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West County Constituency

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