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<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>24 February 2011</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal &amp; Democratic Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LA/645/11</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Elaine Paterson</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712139</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places</b>		

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## **1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:-

- (i) advise the Council of the outcome of the consultation exercise undertaken following the Council's approval of a draft Polling Scheme at its meeting on 7 October 2010; and
- (ii) ask members to approve the final Polling Scheme forming Appendix 1 to this report which takes into account certain suggestions arising from the consultation.

APPENDIX 1

## **2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 7 October 2010, the Council was advised of the requirement to undertake a review of its delegated Polling Districts and Polling Places, all in terms of the Representation of the Peoples Act 1983, as amended.
- 2.2 A draft Polling Scheme, which forms Appendix 2 to this report, was approved for the purposes of consultation exercise.
- 2.3 The consultation period concluded on 29 November 2010.
- 2.4 Two representations were received which are detailed and addressed in paragraph 5.1 of this report.
- 2.5 Relevant Returning Officers, Inverclyde Council on Disability, Community Councils, Elected Members, the local MSP and the MP for the area were all consulted. In addition, the Corporate Director, Education & Communities was also consulted for his interest.

## **3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 Members are asked to:-

- (i) approve the Inverclyde Scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places as detailed in Appendix 1 to this report;
- (ii) note that the next formal review of the Inverclyde Scheme of Polling Districts and Polling Places will take place in 2015; and
- (iii) in the interim, delegate authority to the Chief Executive in his role as Returning Officer, in consultation with the appropriate Elected Members and the Electoral Registration Officer, to make suitable alternative arrangements in the event of a polling place becoming unavailable for a particular election of by-election.

**Aubrey Fawcett**  
**Corporate Director - Regeneration & Environment**

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Local Authorities are obliged, in terms of the Representation of the Peoples Act 1983 (as amended) to divide their area into polling districts, polling places and polling stations for the purposes of parliamentary elections. They are further obliged to keep their arrangements under review.
- 4.2 In conducting the review, authorities must seek to ensure that:-
- (i) all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
  - (ii) so far as reasonably practical, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all voters, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- 4.3 Generally, the Council has always avoided, as far as possible, the use of secondary schools as elections tend to fall at a time which coincides with the examination timetable. With regard to primary schools, if a suitable alternative can be identified then that has been utilised. Where primary schools are identified for use as Polling Places, no suitable and/or convenient alternative is available.
- 4.4 Members will be aware that electors tend to be used to voting in particular locations and express dissatisfaction where changes are made to arrangements that affect them personally. Therefore, the changes being identified in the draft proposals are the minimum required to meet the Council's obligations and to address the fact that some premises that have been traditionally used as polling places are or will become unavailable in the period covered by the Polling Scheme.

## **5.0 REPRESENTATIONS**

- 5.1 The consultation exercise generated two representations:-
- (i) Councillor Osborne made representations with regard to voters who live in James Watt Way. This area contains a number of dwellings which have been erected since the previous review of the Polling Scheme. These residents along with others residing in Kincaid Court and Oakfield Terrace find themselves voting at St. Lawrence's Social Club, Upper Cartsburn Street, Greenock as their dwellings are presently contained within Polling District IG15. However, the Polling Place situated at Crawfordsburn Community Centre, Carwood Street, Greenock which serves voters living within Polling District IG14, is more conveniently situated to their residences.

These representations are easily accommodated by a slight adjustment to the Polling District Boundaries. The proposals outlined in Appendix 1 to the report have been formulated to accommodate this adjustment.

For the purposes of completeness, it should be noted that this proposed alteration affects approximately 360 voters. The Returning Officer will write to each affected elector ahead of the distribution of polling cards to advise them of the changes; and

- (ii) further representations have been received from the Chair of the Ardgowan Primary Parent Council. The Parent Council does not wish the Primary School to be used as a Polling Place.

Ardgowan Primary School has been used as a Polling Place for many years and is the traditional Polling Place for approximately 1060 residents in Polling District IG20 (Ward 3). Although a number of alternative venues have been suggested, none are actually situated within the relevant Polling District and are therefore unsuitable.

Despite investigations there are no suitable alternatives currently within the Polling District and it is in any event not considered reasonable or feasible to alter the arrangements for over 1060 electors unless unavoidable. It should be noted that the knock-on effects of not using Ardgowan Primary School would be substantial.

## **6.0 FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 The final matter for consideration of the Council relates to arrangements within Ward 1 for those electors who fall within the Greenock & Inverclyde Constituency.
- 6.2 As members will recall, previously the whole of Ward 1 fell within a constituency other than Greenock & Inverclyde. Recent boundary changes result in a small number of electors, approximately 51, now falling within Greenock & Inverclyde Constituency.
- 6.3 Polling Places situated in Bridge of Weir and Kilmacolm will be utilised by Renfrewshire Council and are not available for use by Inverclyde Council. Accordingly, arrangements require to be made for those electors referred to in para 6.2 above.
- 6.4 It is proposed that the Polling Places situated at Holy Family Church Hall (IG02) and Boglestone Community Centre (IG07) be utilised and that electors are accommodated in the polling place most convenient to their residence.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Finance  
None

7.2 Human Resources  
None

7.3 Legal  
None

7.4 Equality & Diversity

Equality & Diversity issues have been taken into account in identifying suitable premises to be utilised as polling places.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 Regeneration & Environment Directorate Plan 2008/2011

**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY  
POLLING SCHEME**

	<b>Polling District Ref</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of Polling Stations</b>
<b>WARD 1</b>	IN01	Carsemeadow Craigbet Road Quarriers Village Kilmacolm	1
	IN02	St Columba Church Hall Bridge of Weir Road Kilmacolm	3
	IG02	Holy Family Church Hall Parkhill Avenue Port Glasgow	1
	IG03	Struthers Memorial Church Arran Ave. Port Glasgow	1
	IG04	Park Farm Community Hall Oronsay Avenue Port Glasgow	1
	IG05	St. Francis' PS East Barmoss Avenue Port Glasgow	2/3
	IG06	Clune Park Resource Centre Montgomerie Street Port Glasgow	1
	IG07	Boglestone Community Centre Dubbs Place Port Glasgow	2/3
<b>WARD 2</b>	IG08	Port Glasgow Lesser Town Hall Port Glasgow	1
	IG09	St John's PS Mary Street Port Glasgow	2
	IG11	Gibshill Childrens' Centre Smillie Street Greenock	1
	IG12	Auchmountain Halls Burnhead Street Greenock	2

**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY  
POLLING SCHEME**

	<b>Polling District Ref</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of Polling Stations</b>
	IG13	Craigend Resource Centre McLeod Street Greenock	1
	IG14	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre Carwood St Greenock	2
	IG15	St Lawrence's Social Club Cartsburn Street Greenock	1
	IG16 IG10	Peat Road Tenants Hall Peat Road Greenock	1
<b>WARD 3</b>	IG17	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall Clyde Square Greenock	1
	IG18	Salvation Army Centre Regent Street Greenock	3
	IG19	Watt Hall Enter from Kelly Street Greenock	3
	IG20	Ardgowan PS Newton Street Greenock	1
	IG21	Finnart Scout Hall 159 Finnart Street Greenock	2
	IG22	Finnart St Paul's Church Hall Bentinck Street Greenock	2
<b>WARD 4</b>	IG23	St. Patrick's PS Broomhill Street Greenock	1
	IG24	Lady Alice PS Inverkip Road Greenock	3

**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY  
POLLING SCHEME**

	<b>Polling District Ref</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of Polling Stations</b>
	IG25	Grieve Road Community Centre Grieve Road Greenock	1
	IG26	St Joseph's PS Wren Road Greenock	2
	IG27	Garvel Deaf Centre Chester Road Greenock	2
<b>WARD 5</b>	IG28	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club Cove Road Gourock	2
	IG29	Gamble Halls Enter from Davidson Drive Gourock	2
	IG30	St. Ninian's PS Staffa Street Gourock	2
	IG31	Moorfoot PS Moorfoot Drive Gourock	1
	IG32	Spinnaker Hotel Albert Road Gourock	1
	IG33	Royal Gourock Yacht Club Ashton Road Gourock	1
<b>WARD 6</b>	IG34	Upper Larkfield Community Hall Lothian Road Greenock	2
	IG35	Ravenscraig Sports Centre Auchmead Road Greenock	2
	IG36	Branchton Community Centre Branchton Road Greenock	1

**INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY  
POLLING SCHEME**

	<b>Polling District Ref</b>	<b>Polling Place</b>	<b>No of Polling Stations</b>
	IG37	Inverkip PS Station Road Inverkip	2
	IG38	Wemyss Bay Community Centre Ardgowan Road Wemyss Bay	2

**POLLING SCHEME  
INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY**

<b>Current Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Polling Place</b>	<b>New Polling Districts</b>	<b>New Polling Place</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>WARD 1</b>				
IW11	Carsemeadow Craigbet Road Quarriers Village Kilmacolm	IN01	Carsemeadow Craigbet Road Quarriers Village Kilmacolm	No change
IW01	St Columba Church Hall Bridge of Weir Road Kilmacolm	IN02	St Columba Church Hall Bridge of Weir Road Kilmacolm	No Change, however a change to the Scottish Parliamentary Boundaries affect 49 electorate who used to vote here and are now within IG01.
	St Columba Church Hall Bridge of Weir Road Kilmacolm	IG01	Boglestone Community Centre Dubbs Place Port Glasgow	See above.
IW02	Holy Family Church Hall Parkhill Avenue Port Glasgow	IG02	Holy Family Church Hall Parkhill Avenue Port Glasgow	No change
IW03	Struthers Memorial Church Arran Ave. Port Glasgow	IG03	Struthers Memorial Church Arran Ave. Port Glasgow	No change
IW04	Park Farm Community Hall Oronsay Avenue Port Glasgow	IG04	Park Farm Community Hall Oronsay Avenue Port Glasgow	No change
IW05	St. Francis' PS East Barmoss Avenue Port Glasgow	IG05	St. Francis' PS East Barmoss Avenue Port Glasgow	No change
IW06	Clune Park Resource Centre Montgomerie Street Port Glasgow	IG06	Clune Park Resource Centre Montgomerie Street Port Glasgow	No change
IW07	Boglestone Community Centre Dubbs Place Port Glasgow	IG07	Boglestone Community Centre Dubbs Place Port Glasgow	No change



**POLLING SCHEME  
INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY**

<b>Current Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Polling Place</b>	<b>New Polling Districts</b>	<b>New Polling Place</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>WARD 2</b>				
IW08	Port Glasgow Lesser Town Hall Port Glasgow	IG08	Port Glasgow Lesser Town Hall Port Glasgow	No change
IW09	St John's PS Mary Street Port Glasgow	IG09	St John's PS Mary Street Port Glasgow	No change
IG01	Gibshill Childrens' Centre Smillie Street Greenock	IG11	Gibshill Childrens' Centre Smillie Street Greenock	No change
IG02	Auchmountain Halls Burnhead Street Greenock	IG12	Auchmountain Halls Burnhead Street Greenock	No change
IG03	Craigend Resource Centre McLeod Street Greenock	IG13	Craigend Resource Centre McLeod Street Greenock	No change
IG04	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre Carwood St Greenock	IG14	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre Carwood St Greenock	No change
IG05	St Lawrence's Social Club Cartsburn Street Greenock	IG15	St Lawrence's Social Club Cartsburn Street Greenock	No change
IG06 IW10	Overton PS Drumfrochar Road Greenock	IG16 IG10	Peat Road Tenants Hall Peat Road Greenock	Overton Primary School no longer available.
<b>WARD 3</b>				
IG07	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall Clyde Square Greenock	IG17	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall Clyde Square Greenock	No change
IG08	Salvation Army Centre Regent Street Greenock	IG18	Salvation Army Centre Regent Street Greenock	No change

**POLLING SCHEME  
INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY**

<b>Current Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Polling Place</b>	<b>New Polling Districts</b>	<b>New Polling Place</b>	<b>Comments</b>
IG09	Watt Hall Enter from Kelly Street Greenock	IG19	Watt Hall Enter from Kelly Street Greenock	No change
IG10	Ardgowan PS Newton Street Greenock	IG20	Ardgowan PS Newton Street Greenock	No change
IG11	Finnart Scout Hall 159 Finnart Street Greenock	IG21	Finnart Scout Hall 159 Finnart Street Greenock	No change
IG12	Finnart St Paul's Church Hall Bentinck Street Greenock	IG22	Finnart St Paul's Church Hall Bentinck Street Greenock	No change
<b>WARD 4</b>				
IG13	St. Patrick's PS Broomhill Street Greenock	IG23	St. Patrick's PS Broomhill Street Greenock	No change
IG14	Lady Alice PS Inverkip Road Greenock	IG24	Lady Alice PS Inverkip Road Greenock	No change
IG15	Grieve Road Community Centre Grieve Road Greenock	IG25	Grieve Road Community Centre Grieve Road Greenock	No change
IG16	St Joseph's PS Wren Road Greenock	IG26	St Joseph's PS Wren Road Greenock	No change
IG17	Sacred Heart PS Westmorland Road Greenock	IG27	Garvel Deaf Centre Chester Road Greenock	Sacred Heart PS will be under refurbishment and not available after June 2011. Use of Garvel Deaf Centre will release a primary school
<b>WARD 5</b>				
IG18	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club Cove Road Gourock	IG28	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club Cove Road Gourock	No Change

**POLLING SCHEME  
INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY**

<b>Current Polling Districts</b>	<b>Current Polling Place</b>	<b>New Polling Districts</b>	<b>New Polling Place</b>	<b>Comments</b>
IG19	Gourock Community Centre Binnie St Gourock	IG29	Gamble Halls Enter from Davidson Drive Gourock	Gourock Community Centre no longer available
IG20	St. Ninian's PS Staffa Street Gourock	IG30	St. Ninian's PS Staffa Street Gourock	No change
IG21	Moorfoot PS Moorfoot Drive Gourock	IG31	Moorfoot PS Moorfoot Drive Gourock	No change
IG22	Gourock Community Centre Binnie St Gourock	IG32	Spinnaker Hotel Albert Road Gourock	Gourock Community Centre no longer available
IG23	Spinnaker Hotel Albert Road Gourock	IG33	Royal Gourock Yacht Ashton Road Gourock	New polling place to accommodate electorate that in former years voted at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel and latterly at the Spinnaker Hotel.
<b>WARD 6</b>				
IG24	Upper Larkfield Community Hall Lothian Road Greenock	IG34	Upper Larkfield Community Hall Lothian Road Greenock	No change
IG25	Aileymill PS Norfolk Road Greenock	IG35	Ravenscraig Sport Centre Auchmead Road Greenock	Suitable alternative accommodation releasing a primary school.
IG26	Branchton Community Centre Branchton Road Greenock	IG36	Branchton Community Centre Branchton Road Greenock	No change
IG27	Inverkip PS Station Road Inverkip	IG37	Inverkip PS Station Road Inverkip	No change
IG28	Wemyss Bay Community Centre Ardgowan Road Wemyss Bay	IG38	Wemyss Bay Community Centre Ardgowan Road Wemyss Bay	No change