
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	10 April 2014
Report By:	Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	GM/LA/1154/14
Contact Officer:	Gerard Malone	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Statutory Review of Polling Places		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report asks Elected Members to (1) consider the representations received on the statutory review of Polling Places by the consultation deadline and (2) approve the draft Polling Scheme, as detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The process for the statutory review of Polling Places was reported to and considered by the Council at its meeting on 20 February 2014.
- 2.2 The current Polling Scheme, which forms **Appendix 2**, will be used in the European Election in May 2014 and the Scottish Referendum in September 2014 (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, however, in response to the statutory process and this draft forms **Appendix 1**. The amendments and representations thereon are specified in detail within this report. This report requests Elected Members to consider the draft Polling Scheme in **Appendix 1**, to consider the representations received and to approve the reviewed Polling Scheme to take effect as from 1 January 2015 for all elections thereafter (subject to future reviews, statutory and otherwise).

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is requested to:-

- 3.1 consider the representations received and approve the draft Polling Scheme forming **Appendix 1** for elections from 1 January 2015.
- 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.

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 at least every four years.
- 4.2 The Council previously reviewed its electoral arrangements in 2010/11 and must, therefore, review those arrangements in the period between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015.
- 4.3 Within Inverclyde, the Council's practice has been to review its 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 such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
 - (ii) so far as is reasonably practical, the polling places it is responsible for are accessible to all voters, including those who are disabled and when considering the designation of a polling place, it must have regard to the needs of persons with disabilities.
- 4.4 The timetable for the Council's Statutory Review was outlined in the February 2014 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.

5.0 CURRENT POLLING SCHEME

- 5.1 The European Election will take place on 22 May 2014 and the Scottish Referendum will take place on 18 September 2014. 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.
- 5.2 The current Polling Scheme will apply for the European Elections in May and the Scottish Referendum in September 2014, respectively.

6.0 PROPOSED POLLING SCHEME

- 6.1 The draft Polling Scheme proposed forms **Appendix 1**.
- 6.2 This draft Polling Scheme has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Statutory Review. It proposes certain amendments to the current Polling Scheme:
 - (i) it is proposed that the Council now reverts to using Whinhill Primary School (formerly Overton Primary School) for those voters within Polling Districts IG16/IG10. These voters have recently been using The Play Station, Kenilworth Crescent, Greenock during the school refurbishment works. The Play Station is not ideal due to its arrangements for disabled access.
 - (ii) it is proposed to utilise St Andrew's Primary School for those voters within Polling District IG 27. Those voters have latterly utilised Garvel Deaf Centre during refurbishment of the school. The Garvel Deaf Centre has now closed and St Andrew's Primary School is now available; it is very suitable for use as a polling place;
 - (iii) latterly, those voters in Polling District IG35 have voted in Ravenscraig Sports Centre. Given uncertainty regarding the availability of Ravenscraig Sports Centre in the future, alternative premises require to be identified. It is therefore proposed that the Council confirms that Ailemill Primary School is identified for use by voters within Polling District IG35;

(iv) Ardgowan Primary School - This Primary School is currently scheduled for refurbishment. It has proved impossible to identify a suitable alternative, without realignment of Polling Districts. The Returning Officer has identified that the Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock is the nearest suitable and available alternative. It is therefore proposed that these premises be utilised as a replacement for Ardgowan Primary School. Consequently, the Council will also require to make a small adjustment to the District Boundary line to encompass the Ardgowan Club. This will have the knock-on effect of requiring some 400 voters who currently vote in the Watt Hall to now vote in the Ardgowan Bowling Club. For those voters, the Ardgowan Club is actually closer to where they reside than is the Watt Hall. A plan indicating the suggested changes is attached (**Appendix 3**).

6.3 As is required, if any adjustments are required to be made to take account of planned or scheduled building works to premises within the Polling Scheme, the Chief Executive will be granted delegated authority to make such arrangements.

6.4 Representations on the draft Polling Scheme have been received within the statutory timescale and are as follows:-

- (i) An Inverclyde elector (name and email address supplied) – e-mail received from an elector confirming that she is a wheelchair user who drives. The elector states that her polling places have been in various locations in Port Glasgow including St Francis Primary and Clune Park Resource Centre. It is her view “that they are not the most accessible; make-shift ramps, etc, are often inadequate and there is often no suitable parking. I note that Holy Family Church Hall is also used – this too is not ideal due to the steep incline at both top and bottom entrances to the Church.

“I was told by a member of staff today to suggest alternatives. Would it not be best to make use of the shared campus of St Stephen’s / Port Glasgow High? This would certainly make access easier. Also St Michael’s Primary, Newark Primary and Rainbow Nursery have easy access / parking and are much better than the usual places I have mentioned above including Boglestone Community Centre.”

Comment – in response, for Elected Member consideration: St Francis Primary School is suitable for disabled access. Clune Park Resource Centre has a permanent ramp which complies with access requirements. The Holy Family Church Hall is located at a steep hill but at the entrance area it does have a satisfactory entrance: in the past, Officers have looked at this location and no other suitable Polling Place has been determined that meets the requirements for this area. In respect of the schools that have been mentioned, it is confirmed that secondary schools are not preferred as polling venues as these can be disruptive to pupils in the progress to or during exam time. For that reason, no secondary schools are used by the Council as Polling Places. Where possible, alternatives are sought to primary schools and nurseries and in this particular instance it is considered that Boglestone is a good and wholly acceptable venue and one which is also suitable for disabled access. It is not proposed that the Polling Scheme be altered in relation to these representations.

- (ii) Iain McKenzie, MP has written to confirm his satisfaction with the proposed scheme but to request that if alternative locations are being sought, then the use of Fancy Farm Tenants Hall should be considered.

Comment – in response, for Elected Member consideration: the present location for this area is St Joseph’s Primary and this has a good access, suitable for disabled use and also has a parking area for ease of use by voters. The Fancy Farm Tenants Hall could be considered as a venue but there is no extensive parking outside the Hall available and it is located at the periphery of the electoral area (whereas St Joseph’s is located within the middle and is accessible to all voters in this area). It is not proposed to promote Fancy Farm Tenants Hall as a polling place.

- (iii) Councillor Rebecchi has suggested the possible use of St Ninian’s Church Hall, Warwick Road instead of Aileymill Primary in the event of Ravenscraig Sports Centre

closing.

Comment – in response, for Elected Member consideration: an inspection took place following Councillor Rebecchi's suggestion and it is reported to Elected Members that the venue is considered unsuitable because of the stairs up to the entrance and the current state of disrepair at the footpath entrance area. A temporary ramp is available for access but it is not thought that the entranceway is suitable at present for Polling Scheme inclusion.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

7.1 There are no finance implications identified.

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

7.2 This proposal complies with the relevant electoral legislation.

Human Resources

7.3 There are no implications.

Equalities

7.4 The draft Polling Scheme has been reviewed to take account of the provision of suitable premises to facilitate ease of access for all voters throughout Inverclyde and this to promote participation in local democracy for all of its citizens.

Repopulation

7.5 There are no repopulation implications

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive and the Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None

**APPENDIX 1
DRAFT POLLING SCHEME**

INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Polling District	Polling Place
IN01	Carsemeadow, Craigbet Road, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir
IN02	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm
IG02	Holy Family Church Hall, Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow
IG03	Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow
IG04	Park Farm Community Hall, Oronsay Avenue, Port Glasgow
IG05	St Francis' Primary School, East Barmoss Avenue, Port Glasgow
IG06	Clune Park Resource Centre, Montgomerie Street, Port Glasgow
IG07	Boglestone Community Centre, Dubbs Place, Port Glasgow
IG08	Port Glasgow Lesser Town Hall, Port Glasgow
IG09	St John's Primary School, Mary Street, Port Glasgow
IG11	Gibshill Childrens' Centre, Smillie Street, Greenock
IG12	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock
IG13	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock
IG14	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre, Carwood Street, Greenock
IG15	St Lawrence's Social Club, Cartsburn Street, Greenock
IG16 & IG10	Whinhill Primary School, Peat Road, Overton, Greenock
IG17	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock
IG18	Salvation Army Centre, Enter from Roxburgh Street, Greenock
IG19	McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Watt Hall, 15 Kelly Street, Greenock
IG20	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock
IG21	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock
IG22	Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock
IG23	St. Patrick's Primary School, Broomhill Street, Greenock
IG24	Lady Alice Primary School, Inverkip Road, Greenock
IG25	Grieve Road Community Centre, Grieve Road, Greenock
IG26	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock

**APPENDIX 1
DRAFT POLLING SCHEME**

INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Polling District	Polling Place
IG27	St Andrews Primary School, Westmorland Road, Greenock
IG28	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock
IG29	Gamble Halls, Enter from Davidson Drive, Gourock
IG30	St Ninian's Primary School, Staffa Street, Gourock
IG31	Moorfoot Primary School, Moorfoot Drive, Gourock
IG32	Spinnaker Hotel, Albert Road, Gourock
IG33	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock
IG34	Upper Larkfield Community Hall, Lothian Road, Greenock
IG35	Aileymill Primary School, Norfolk Road, Greenock
IG36	Branchton Community Centre, Branchton Road, Greenock
IG37	Inverkip Primary School, Station Road, Inverkip
IG38	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay

CURRENT POLLING SCHEME
INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Polling District	Current Polling Place	
IN01	Carsemeadow, Craigbet Road, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir	
IN02	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm	
IG02	Holy Family Church Hall, Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow	
IG03	Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow	
IG04	Park Farm Community Hall, Oronsay Avenue, Port Glasgow	
IG05	St. Francis' Primary School, East Barmoss Avenue, Port Glasgow	
IG06	Clune Park Resource Centre, Montgomerie Street, Port Glasgow	
IG07	Boglestone Community Centre, Dubbs Place, Port Glasgow	
IG08	Port Glasgow Lesser Town Hall, Port Glasgow	
IG09	St John's Primary School, Mary Street, Port Glasgow	* Note 1
IG11	Gibshill Childrens' Centre, Smillie Street, Greenock	
IG12	Auchmountain Halls , Burnhead Street, Greenock	
IG13	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock	
IG14	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre, Carwood Street, Greenock	
IG15	St Lawrence's Social Club, Cartsburn Street, Greenock	
IG16 / IG10	The Play Station, Kenilworth Crescent, Greenock	* Note 2
IG17	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock	
IG18	Salvation Army Centre, Enter from Roxburgh Street, Greenock	
IG19	McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Watt Hall, 15 Kelly Street, Greenock	
IG20	Ardgowan Primary School, Newton Street, Greenock	* Note 3
IG21	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock	
IG22	Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock	
IG23	St Patrick's Primary School, Broomhill Street, Greenock	
IG24	Lady Alice Primary School, Inverkip Road, Greenock	
IG25	Grieve Road Community Centre, Grieve Road, Greenock	
IG26	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock	

CURRENT POLLING SCHEME
INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Polling District	Current Polling Place
IG27	Garvel Deaf Centre, Chester Road, Greenock
IG28	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock
IG29	Gamble Halls, Enter from Davidson Drive, Gourock
IG30	St Ninian's Primary School, Staffa Street, Gourock
IG31	Moorfoot Primary School, Moorfoot Drive, Gourock
IG32	Spinnaker Hotel, Albert Road, Gourock
IG33	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock
IG34	Upper Larkfield Community Hall, Lothian Road, Greenock
IG35	Ravenscraig Sports Centre, Auchmead Road, Greenock
IG36	Branchton Community Centre, Branchton Road, Greenock
IG37	Inverkip Primary School, Station Road, Inverkip
IG38	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay

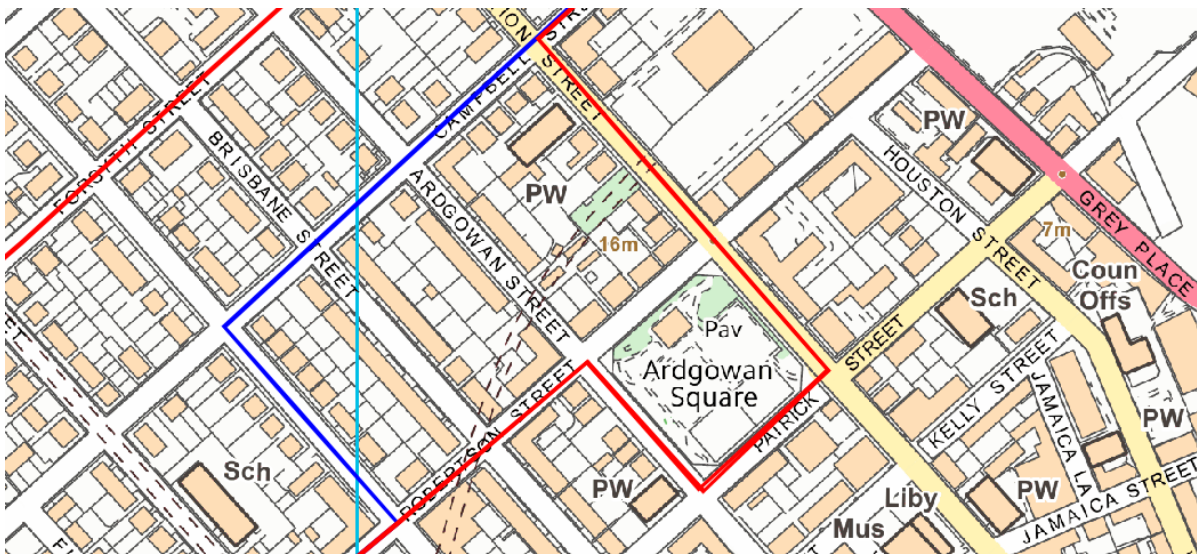
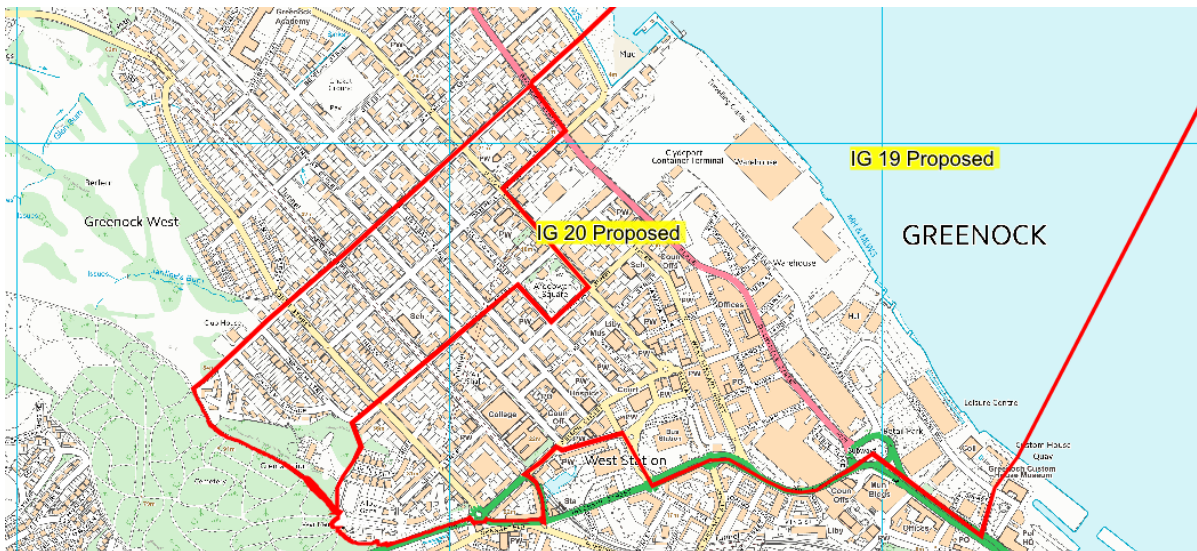
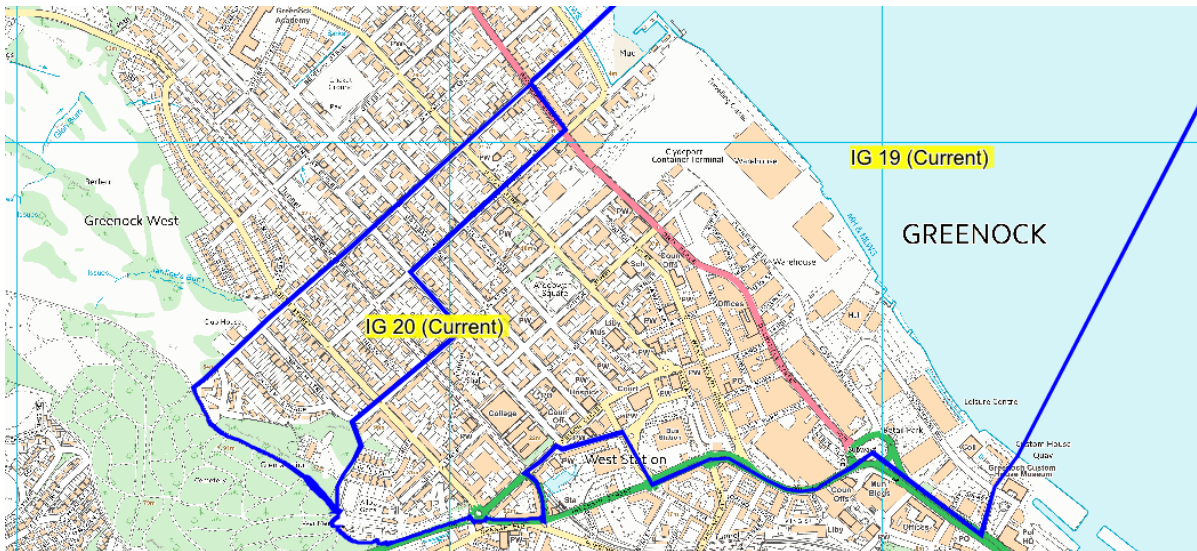
Notes

Delegated arrangements which modify current approved scheme.

***Note 1.** IG09 St. John's Primary School, Mary Street, Port Glasgow – This polling place is open for the European Election but will be closed in June 2014 and thus be unavailable. So, IG09 voters will use Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow for the Scottish Referendum in September 2014.

***Note 2.** IG16 / IG10 The Play Station, Kenilworth Crescent, Greenock – This polling place was used temporarily because of refurbishment of Overton Primary School (now Whinhill Primary School). Because of lack of disabled access at The Play Station, both the European Election and the Scottish Referendum will revert to Whinhill Primary School.

***Note 3.** IG20 Ardgowan Primary School, Newton Street, Greenock – Now closed for refurbishment and Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock will be used for both the European Election and Scottish Referendum.



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.