
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date:	8 October 2015
Report By:	Chief Executive	Report No:	LP/138/15
Contact Officer:	Gerard Malone	Contact No:	01475 712710
Subject:	Review of Polling Places		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members that there have been no representations by interested parties on the proposed amendments to the Polling Scheme by the consultation deadline and to ask Members to approve the draft Polling Scheme as detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This Council had undertaken, last year, its statutory review of its Polling Places and was considered and approved by the Council at its meeting on 10th April 2014.
- 2.2 The current Polling Scheme, which forms **Appendix 2**, has been in force as from 1 January 2015 and has been utilised for the recent UK Parliamentary Election.
- 2.3 As part of the Council's initiative to review and update its Polling Scheme and to keep it under consideration between its statutory reviews, a consultation exercise was undertaken to amend the Scheme for three locations as detailed in **Appendix 3** with the alternative locations as specified:
- (a) St Ninian's Primary School – Kirn Drive Community Centre
 - (b) St Patrick's Primary School – Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church
 - (c) St Lawrence's Social Club – relocation to Auchmountain Halls and Crawfordsburn Community Centre.
- 2.4 If agreed by the Council, it is proposed that as no representations have been received by the consultation deadline, the Council agree that further consultation is not required and approve the reviewed Polling Scheme, to take effect as from 1 January 2016 for all elections thereafter (subject to future reviews, statutory or otherwise).

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is requested to:

- 3.1 Agree that further consultation on the proposed amendments to the Polling Scheme is not required; and
- 3.2 Approve the amendments to the Polling Scheme as detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report.

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 at least every 4 years.
- 4.2 The Council reviewed its electoral arrangements in April 2014. Within Inverclyde, the Council's practice has 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 current Polling Scheme has been reviewed in April 2014 in formal terms and has been in effect from 1st January 2015 and was utilised for the recent UK Parliamentary elections.
- 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 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE POLLING SCHEME FOR THREE LOCATIONS

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Council alters the Polling Scheme to designate Kirn Drive Community Centre as the Polling Place for Polling District IG30. At present, the approved Polling Place is St Ninian's Primary School. The Council's practice is to seek to minimise any disruption to the school environment as far as is possible. Local representations have been received to suggest a relocation in order to support the Council's aim. Kirn Drive Community Centre is within the same Polling District and meets the standards required for accessibility and access and its use would eliminate school closure at elections.
- 5.2 St Patrick's Primary School is utilised for Polling District IG23. However, in terms of planned refurbishment, the school will not be available for election use. On this basis, investigations have taken place on a possible relocation to Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church, 8 Prospecthill Street, Greenock, PA15 4DL. The Church is suitable for access and the owners of the building have confirmed their interest in providing polling place facilities for future elections. There will be a consequent minor amendment of the Polling District at Prospecthill Street to bring this location into the relevant Polling District boundary.
- 5.3 St Lawrence's Social Club has been the established Polling Place for Polling District IG15. In view of major demographic changes in this area, the number of voters has reduced substantially and it is feasible and practical to reallocate these voters to the following two Polling Places: Auchmountain Halls and Crawfordsburn Community Centre in Polling Districts IG12 and IG14 respectively.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 For example, in future the Council will explore the possible use of the planned new community facility at Inverkip and that will, potentially, replace use of school accommodation. The Council will, as previously stated, continue to explore suitable options for polling place locations to minimise disruption to schools during each election process.

5.6 There were no representations on the proposed amendments to the Polling Scheme by the consultation deadline and it is now possible for the Council to make these amendments without further consultation as this is an interim review following the formal statutory review of 2014. This interim review is part of the Council's ongoing review of the Polling Scheme in addition to the full scale statutory review.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Finance

As yet, there are no financial implications identified. The consolidation of the St Lawrence's Social Club into the other polling places within the Polling Scheme will result in an accommodation saving and, possibly, minor financial consequences for reduced numbers of polling staff. There is also a potential minor cost for funding 2 external locations rather than 2 schools.

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					

6.2 Legal

This proposal complies with relevant electoral legislation and this interim review is an example of good practice.

6.3 Human Resources

There are no implications.

6.4 Equalities

The draft Polling Scheme is being reviewed to take account of 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.

6.5 Repopulation

There are no repopulation implications.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive and the Head of Safer and Inclusive Communities.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

**APPENDIX 1
INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
DRAFT POLLING SCHEME**

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, Shore Street, Port Glasgow
IG09	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Broadstone Gardens, Port Glasgow
IG11	Gibshill Community Centre, Smillie Street, Greenock
IG12	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock
IG13	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock
IG14	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre, Carwood Street, Greenock
IG16 & IG10	Whinhill Primary School, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock
IG17	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock
IG18	Salvation Army Centre, Regent Street (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	Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church, Prospecthill 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
IG27	St Andrews Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock
IG28	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock
IG29	Gamble Halls, Enter from Davidson Drive, Gourock
IG30	Kirn Drive Community Centre, Kirn Drive, 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

**APPENDIX 2
INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
CURRENT POLLING SCHEME**

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, Shore Street, Port Glasgow
IG09	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Broadstone Gardens, Port Glasgow
IG11	Gibshill Community 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, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock
IG17	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock
IG18	Salvation Army Centre, Regent Street (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
IG27	St Andrews Primary School, 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	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

**APPENDIX 3
INVERCLYDE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY
EXCERPT DRAFT INTERIM POLLING SCHEME FOR CONSULTATION**

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	New Polling District	New Polling Place	Comments
IG12	Auchmountain Halls Burnhead Street Greenock	IG12	Auchmountain Halls Burnhead Street Greenock	No change from current arrangements except for the inclusion of voters reallocated from IG15 St Lawrence's Social Club.
IG14	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre Carwood Street Greenock	IG14	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre Carwood Street Greenock	No change from current arrangements except for the inclusion of voters reallocated from IG15 St Lawrence's Social Club.
IG15	St Lawrence's Social Club Cartsburn Street Greenock	IG12 IG14	Auchmountain Halls Burnhead Street Greenock Crawfurdsburn Community Centre Carwood Street Greenock	Due to major demographic changes within Polling District IG15, the number of voters has reduced substantially, therefore it would now be practical and feasible to reallocate voters to IG12 Auchmountain Halls and IG14 Crawfurdsburn Community Centre.
IG18	Salvation Army Centre Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street) Greenock	IG18	Salvation Army Centre Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street) Greenock	No change from current arrangements except for a change to the polling place for the electorate residing at Prospecthill View who will now be reallocated to IG23 Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church.
IG23	St. Patrick's Primary School Broomhill Street Greenock	IG23	Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church Prospecthill Street Greenock	St Patrick's Primary School will be unavailable for election use due to planned refurbishment. There is no alternative accommodation within Polling District IG23 and it is proposed to make a small alteration to the district boundary line to incorporate Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church. This will affect the electorate residing at Prospecthill View who would have previously voted at The Salvation Army Centre (IG18). Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church meets the requirements for accessibility and is DDA compliant.

Current Polling District	Current Polling Place	New Polling District	New Polling Place	Comments
IG30	St. Ninian's Primary School Staffa Street Gourock	IG30	Kirn Drive Community Centre Kirn Drive Gourock	Local representations have been received suggesting relocation to a suitable alternative venue in order to support the Council's aim in seeking to minimise disruption to the school environment where possible. It is proposed to utilise Kirn Drive Community Centre which meets the standards required for accessibility and is DDA compliant. This will eliminate the closure of St Ninian's Primary School on polling day.