

---

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Inverclyde Council</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 February 2017</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Head of Legal &amp; Property Services</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>LP/017/17</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Gerard Malone</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 712710</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Local Government Elections 2017: Review of Polling Scheme</b>		

---

## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report requests the Council to approve its Polling Scheme for purposes of the Local Government Elections in May 2017 following upon the public consultation exercise which has been carried out in the light of necessary changes.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Council at its meeting on 1 December 2016 considered the consequences of the decision of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland (LGBCS) to review Inverclyde Council's ward boundaries and to form a new seventh ward with an increase in Councillor numbers from 20 to 22.
- 2.2 The new ward alignment means that an interim Polling Scheme be proposed to take account of the new ward and its consequent effect on polling districts. Additionally, it is the Council's objective to release pressure on the school estate and to seek substitute venues instead of primary schools for future elections. Furthermore, the Schools Estate Management Plan is being implemented and there are necessary alterations to the Polling Scheme by reason of the unavailability of formerly long-established polling places.
- 2.3 The draft Polling Scheme was approved for public consultation by the Council at its December 2016 meeting. A public consultation process involving Council website display, hard copy display at the Customer Service Centre and all public libraries, contact with all Community Councils, all Elected Members, MP, MSP and list MSPs and assistance from colleagues in Community Learning and Development with other relevant organisations took place from 2 December 2016 to 6 January 2017. There are no objections proposed to the draft Polling Scheme and the Council is asked to approve the terms of appendix 1 for the 4 May 2017 Local Government Election.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:-

- 3.1 the Council considers the terms of this report and approves the Polling Scheme attached as appendix 1 for purposes of an interim review;
- 3.2 it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Property Services in consultation with the Corporate Communications Manager to continue to ensure community awareness of the Polling Scheme by all suitable means; and

- 3.3 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.

**Gerard Malone**  
**Head of Legal & Property Services**

## 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The LGBCS decision of 14 September 2016 to provide for 22 Councillors within Inverclyde with one 4-Member ward and six 3-Member wards has been considered by the Council at its 29 September 2016 and 1 December 2016 meetings.
- 4.2 The electoral wards for Inverclyde are as follows:

Ward No	Ward Name	Councillors	Electorate Sept 13	Actual Variation from Parity	Forecast Electorate	Forecast Variation from Parity
1	Inverclyde East	3	8,515	-2%	8,260	2%
2	Inverclyde East Central	3	8,084	-3%	7,841	-3%
3	Inverclyde Central	3	8,271	-1%	8,023	-1%
4	Inverclyde North	4	10,854	-3%	10,528	-3%
5	Inverclyde West	3	8,655	4%	8,395	4%
6	Inverclyde South West	3	8,832	6%	8,567	6%
7	Inverclyde South	3	8,030	-4%	7,789	-4%
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>61,241</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>59,403</b>	<b>3%</b>

- 4.3 Plans illustrating the ward boundary changes are available from the Council's website and they will also be on display at the Council meeting.
- 4.4 This Council always reviews its polling scheme arrangements after each election. The LGBCS decision of September 2016 has necessitated a full-scale review of the Polling Scheme. Additionally, it is the Council's preference to release pressure on the school estate and to seek substitute venues for primary schools as far as is possible. Furthermore, the implementation of the Schools Estate Management Plan has resulted in the necessary substitution of formerly long-standing primary schools as polling stations.
- 4.5 Following consideration at its December 2016 meeting, the Council approved a period of public consultation from 2 December 2016 to 6 January 2017.

## 5.0 POLLING SCHEME

- 5.1 In order to deal with the creation of a new ward within the central area of Inverclyde, there are many significant changes to ward boundaries and polling districts which have, in turn, necessitated a major revision to the Council's Polling Scheme.
- 5.2 Appendix 1 forms the proposed Polling Scheme for the Local Government Elections in May 2017 and it comprises the following details: current ward number; new ward number; current polling district; new polling district; current polling place; new polling place; current number of polling stations; new number of polling stations; and, indicative electorate for that polling district.
- 5.3 It is proposed that the Polling Scheme in appendix 1 be approved.
- 5.4 As previously referred to in December 2016 the major changes are as follows:
- New Venue – St Mary's Episcopal Church, Bardrainey Avenue, Port Glasgow – to release pressure on School Estate (substituting for St Francis' Primary School).
  - New Venue – St Francis' Church, Auchenbothie Road, Port Glasgow – to take account of voters who previously voted in Ward 1 (IG05) but who now are in Ward 2 (IG05);
  - New venue – Upper Port Glasgow Social Club, Crosshill Road, Port Glasgow – to replace the long-standing polling station at Boglestone Community Centre – this is necessitated by the re-definition of this polling place from Ward 1 to Ward 2 thus requiring this significant change.
  - The McLean Museum and Art Gallery, Watt Hall will not be available for use as a polling place by virtue of necessary repairs and St John's Episcopal Church, Union Street,

Greenock will be the substitute polling place.

- (e) New venue - A new polling place will be established at the Mount Kirk, 95 Dempster Street, Greenock for voters in new Ward 7.
- (f) Lady Alice Primary School, Inverkip Road, Greenock will not be available as a polling place and a substitute location is the Southwest Library, Barr's Cottage, Greenock.
- (g) Moorfoot Primary School, Moorfoot Drive, Greenock is unavailable for use as a polling place and will be substituted by Gourrock Golf Club, Cowal View, Gourrock.
- (h) New venue – Inverkip Community Centre in place of Inverkip Primary School.
- (i) As a result of the LGBCS changes to the Ward Boundaries, voters in Polling District IG05 (Ward 1) as indicated above in point (b) have been split between new Ward 1 (IG04) – St Mary's Episcopal Church and new Ward 2 (IG05) – St Francis' Church. Similarly, voters in Polling District IG18 (Ward 3) who used to vote at the Salvation Army Centre have been split between new Ward 3 (IG15) which is Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church and new Ward 4 (IG17) which remains at the Salvation Army Centre.
- (j) New venue - Bethesda Building, Quarriers' Village: as described in paragraph 5.5, below.

5.5 Following upon the usual course of polling place inspections prior to any election, one further change to the polling scheme is requested. The Carsemeadow facility at Quarriers Village is presently "under offer" and it is likely that the immediate future of Carsemeadow may make it unavailable for use as a polling place. As an alternative venue, and with the agreement of relevant Officers from Quarriers, the nearest adjacent facility is within the Bethesda building, (immediately adjacent to and across the road from the existing Carsemeadow facility) and it is available and is suitable for access. The formal response from the management of Quarriers Village has been received and the Corbett Room in this venue has been reserved for election use that day.

5.6 No objections were received during the public consultation process. One letter of representation from a voter was received to request consideration of the use of empty shop premises within Greenock Town Centre as a suitable central location for voting. The representation has been responded to with reference to the requirement that each polling district must, insofar as possible, have its own polling place and that a centralised location for the use of voters within outlying polling districts is not part of electoral administrative arrangements: there is an opportunity for postal voting arrangements to be available if any voter has difficulty for any reason in attending their relative polling place.

5.7 This report requests the continuation of delegated powers to the Chief Executive as Returning Officer for the Local Government Election to take account of any necessary changes in the Polling Scheme in order to facilitate proper electoral arrangements (closure of buildings, alternative venues for polling places and so on).

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

### Finance

6.1 None. 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
To be determined	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Possible accommodation alterations and infrastructure From Earmarked

Local Government Elections	Elections	2017/18	£120,000		Reserves per December 2016 decision
----------------------------	-----------	---------	----------	--	-------------------------------------

#### Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Services to Members	Remuneration	2017	£41,000	n/a	Increase in remuneration because of two additional Councillors.
	Travelling expenses/ training etc.		£3,000		Provides for a 10% increase in overhead budgets

#### Legal

- 6.2 The Polling Scheme will be the subject of review after the Local Government Elections in May 2017.

#### Human Resources

- 6.3 None.

#### Equalities

- 6.4 None.

#### Repopulation

- 6.5 The revised boundaries and Councillor numbers takes account of proposed forecasts for electorate numbers within Inverclyde and, accordingly, seek to address and sustain local democracy within this area.

### 7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 There are no background papers.

**APPENDIX 1****POLLING SCHEME  
CURRENT AND PROPOSED  
NOVEMBER 2016**

<b>Current Ward No</b>	<b>New Ward No</b>	<b>Current Polling District Reference</b>	<b>New Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place</b>	<b>New Polling Place</b>	<b>Current No of Polling Stations</b>	<b>New No of Polling Stations</b>	<b>New Polling District Indicative Electorate</b>
1	1	IG02	IG01	Holy Family Church Hall, Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow	Holy Family Church Hall, Parkhill Avenue, Port Glasgow	1	1	1095
1	1	IG03	IG02	Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow	Struthers Memorial Church, Arran Avenue, Port Glasgow	1	1	1090
1	1	IG04	IG03	Park Farm Community Hall, Oronsay Avenue, Port Glasgow	Park Farm Community Hall, Oronsay Avenue, Port Glasgow	1	1	514
1	1	IG05	IG04	St Francis' Primary School, East Barmoss Avenue, Port Glasgow	St Mary's Episcopal Church, Bardrainey Avenue, Port Glasgow	3	2	1424
1	2	IG05	IG05	St Francis' Primary School, East Barmoss Avenue, Port Glasgow	St Francis Church, Auchenbothie Road, Port Glasgow	3	1	1063
1	2	IG06	IG06	Clune Park Resource Centre, Montgomerie Street, Port Glasgow	Clune Park Resource Centre, Montgomerie Street, Port Glasgow	1	1	622
1	2	IG07	IG07	Boglestone Community Centre, Dubbs Place, Port Glasgow	Upper Port Glasgow Social Club, Crosshill Road, Port Glasgow	3	3	2348
2	2	IG08	IG08	Port Glasgow Lesser Town Hall, Shore Street, Port Glasgow	Port Glasgow Lesser Town Hall, Shore Street, Port Glasgow	2	2	1150
2	2	IG09	IG09	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow	Port Glasgow Bowling Club, Birkmyre Avenue, Port Glasgow	2	2	1233
2	2	IG11	IG10	Gibshill Community Centre, 2 Smillie Street, Greenock	Gibshill Community Centre, 2 Smillie Street, Greenock	1	2	1136

**APPENDIX 1****POLLING SCHEME  
CURRENT AND PROPOSED  
NOVEMBER 2016**

<b>Current Ward No</b>	<b>New Ward No</b>	<b>Current Polling District Reference</b>	<b>New Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place</b>	<b>New Polling Place</b>	<b>Current No of Polling Stations</b>	<b>New No of Polling Stations</b>	<b>New Polling District Indicative Electorate</b>
2	3	IG12	IG11	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock	Auchmountain Halls, Burnhead Street, Greenock	2	2	2265
2	3	IG13	IG12	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock	Craigend Resource Centre, McLeod Street, Greenock	2	1	990
2	3	IG14	IG13	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre, Carwood Street, Greenock	Crawfurdsburn Community Centre, Carwood Street, Greenock	2	2	1757
2	3	IG16 & IG10	IG14	Whinhill Primary School, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock	Whinhill Primary School, Drumfrochar Road, Greenock	1	1	1102
3	4	IG17	IG16	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock	Wellpark/Mid Kirk Church Hall, Clyde Square, Greenock	1	1	936
3	3	IG18	IG15	Salvation Army Centre, 59 Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street), Greenock	Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church, 8 Prospecthill Street, Greenock	2	2	1353
3	4	IG18	IG17	Salvation Army Centre, 59 Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street), Greenock	Salvation Army Centre, 59 Regent Street (enter from Roxburgh Street), Greenock	2	2	1307
3	4	IG19	IG18	McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Watt Hall, (enter from Kelly Street), Greenock	St John's Episcopal Church, Union Street, Greenock	3	3	2745
3	4	IG20	IG19	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock	Ardgowan Club, Ardgowan Square, Greenock	2	2	1436
3	4	IG21	IG20	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock	Finnart Scout Hall, 159 Finnart Street, Greenock	2	2	2252

**APPENDIX 1****POLLING SCHEME  
CURRENT AND PROPOSED  
NOVEMBER 2016**

<b>Current Ward No</b>	<b>New Ward No</b>	<b>Current Polling District Reference</b>	<b>New Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place</b>	<b>New Polling Place</b>	<b>Current No of Polling Stations</b>	<b>New No of Polling Stations</b>	<b>New Polling District Indicative Electorate</b>
3	4	IG22	IG21	Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock	Lyle Kirk Hall, Bentinck Street, Greenock	2	2	1537
4	7	IG23	IG33	Prospecthill Christian Fellowship Church, 8 Prospecthill Street, Greenock	Mount Kirk, 95 Dempster Street, Greenock	1	1	1026
4	7	IG24	IG34	Lady Alice Primary School, Inverkip Road, Greenock	South West Library, Barr's Cottage, Greenock	3	3	2816
4	7	IG25	IG35	Grieve Road Community Centre, Grieve Road, Greenock	Grieve Road Community Centre, Grieve Road, Greenock	1	1	809
4	7	IG26	IG36	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock	St Joseph's Primary School, Wren Road, Greenock	2	2	1744
4	7	IG27	IG37	St Andrew's Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock	St Andrew's Primary School, Chester Road, Greenock	2	2	1316
5	5	IG28	IG22	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock	Cardwell Bay Sailing Club, Cove Road, Gourock	2	2	1757
5	5	IG29	IG23	Gamble Halls, 44 Shore Street (enter from Davidson Drive), Gourock	Gamble Halls, 44 Shore Street (enter from Davidson Drive), Gourock	2	2	1774
5	5	IG30	IG24	Kirn Drive Community Centre, Kirn Drive, Gourock	Kirn Drive Community Centre, Kirn Drive, Gourock	2	2	2079
5	5	IG31	IG25	Moorfoot Primary School, Moorfoot Drive, Gourock	Gourock Golf Club, Cowal View, Gourock	1	1	811



**APPENDIX 1****POLLING SCHEME  
CURRENT AND PROPOSED  
NOVEMBER 2016**

<b>Current Ward No</b>	<b>New Ward No</b>	<b>Current Polling District Reference</b>	<b>New Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place</b>	<b>New Polling Place</b>	<b>Current No of Polling Stations</b>	<b>New No of Polling Stations</b>	<b>New Polling District Indicative Electorate</b>
5	5	IG32	IG26	Spinnaker Hotel, Albert Road, Gourock	Spinnaker Hotel, Albert Road, Gourock	1	1	824
5	5	IG33	IG27	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock	Royal Gourock Yacht Club, Ashton Road, Gourock	2	2	1151
6	6	IG34	IG28	Upper Larkfield Community Hall, Lothian Road, Greenock	Upper Larkfield Community Hall, Lothian Road, Greenock	2	2	1755
6	6	IG35	IG29	Aileymill Nursery School, Norfolk Road, Greenock	Aileymill Nursery School, Norfolk Road, Greenock	2	2	1624
6	6	IG36	IG30	Branchton Community Centre, Branchton Road, Greenock	Branchton Community Centre, Branchton Road, Greenock	1	1	648
6	6	IG37	IG31	Inverkip Primary School, Station Road, Inverkip	Inverkip Community Centre, Main Street, Inverkip	3	3	2519
6	6	IG38	IG32	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay	Wemyss Bay Community Centre, Ardgowan Road, Wemyss Bay	2	2	2010
1	1	IN01	IN01	Carsemeadow, Craigbet Road, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir	Corbett Room, Bethesda Building, Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir	1	1	623
1	1	IN02	IN02	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm	St Columba Church Hall, Bridge of Weir Road, Kilmacolm	3	3	3605