

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	24 June 2019
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
REPORT NUMBER	GOV/19/253
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	David Gow
TERMS OF REFERENCE	Statute

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present recommendations as part of the statutory review of polling districts and polling places before proceeding to public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council :-

- 2.1 Subject to any changes, agrees the recommended changes to polling districts as outlined;
- 2.2 Subject to any changes, agrees the recommended changes to polling places as outlined; and
- 2.3 Following approval of the recommended changes to polling districts and polling places, proceeds to public consultation.

3. BACKGROUND

Polling Districts

- 3.1 The Boundary Commission for Scotland submitted their report for the 2018 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies to the Secretary of State for Scotland

in September 2018. The Order that will bring the revised boundaries into effect, still requires to be approved by the Westminster Parliament.

- 3.2 The revised boundaries increase the size of Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South constituencies by taking in areas that were previously part of the Gordon and West Aberdeenshire constituencies. The review has also moved the boundary between the two constituencies and this requires some polling districts moving between the Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South constituencies.

Polling District	Current Poll Code	New Poll Code / District	Comment	
KIRKHILL	DG0101	DN0101	These polling districts are moving from Gordon to Aberdeen North. It is proposed the polling district code changes to reflect this.	
DYCE NORTH	DG0102	DN0102		
DYCE SOUTH	DG0103	DN0103		
STONEYWOOD	DG0105	DN0105		
DANESTONE NORTH	DG0106	DN0106		
BANKHEAD	DG0107	DN0107		
DANESTONE SOUTH	DG0110	DN0110		There is no change proposed to these polling district boundaries.
JESMOND	DG0201	DN0201		
MUNDURNO	DG0202	DN0202		
NEWBURGH	DG0203	DN0203		
GREENBRAE	DG0204	DN0204		
MIDDLETON	DG0205	DN0205		
PARKWAY NORTH	DG0206	DN0206		
BALGOWNIE	DG0207	DN0207		
SILVERBURN	DG0208	DN0208		
KINGSWELLS SOUTH	DS0306	DN0301	It is proposed to merge DN0306 (Kingswells South) with DN0301 (Kingswells Central). Kingswells South was a very small polling district created to accommodate the previous parliamentary boundaries. It is no longer needed.	
WHITEMYRES	DN0307	DN0306		
WOODEND	DS0308	DN0307		
DENWOOD	DN0309	DN0307		
SUMMERHILL CENTRAL	DN0310	DN0308		
			It is proposed to merge DN0309 (Denwood) with DS0308 (Woodend) Denwood was a very small polling district created to accommodate the previous parliamentary boundaries. It is no longer needed.	
			A number of other polling districts in ward 3 will require to be renumbered and allocated a new polling	

			district code to ensure sequential numbering.
MIDSTOCKET	CN0702	MIDSTOCKET EAST CS0705	The new boundary runs through these polling districts, splitting them into two. Midstocket East moves to Aberdeen South, Midstocket West remains in Aberdeen North. Berryden North remains in Aberdeen North and Berryden South moves to Aberdeen South. Other polling districts in ward 7 will require to be renumbered and allocated a new polling district code to ensure sequential numbering.
BERRYDEN	CN0704	BERRYDEN SOUTH CS0706	
CALSAYSEAT	CN0801	CS0801	These polling districts are moving from Aberdeen North to Aberdeen South. It is proposed the polling district code changes to reflect this. There is no change proposed to these polling district boundaries.
SUNNYBANK	CN0802	CS0802	
MOUNTHOOLY	CN0803	CS0803	
ST NICHOLAS	CN0805	CS0805	
PITODRIE SOUTH	CN0806	CS0806	
CASTLEHILL NORTH	CN0807	CS0807	
CASTLEHILL SOUTH	CN0808	CS0808	
CRAIGDEN	SN1002	SS1002	
SUMMERHILL SOUTH	SN1003	SS1003	
HAMILTON	CN1005	CS1005	
PALMERSTON	CN1202	CS1202	

Other proposed changes to parliamentary polling districts outside the scope of this review

- 3.3 This report is concerned only with the polling districts contained inside the Aberdeen City Council local authority boundary. It is the responsibility of all authorities carrying out a review of this type to consult the Returning Officer for every parliamentary election held in a constituency which is wholly or partly in its area. Proposed changes to polling districts within the Aberdeenshire local authority boundary which will impact upon the Aberdeen City Returning Officer are as follows.
- 3.4 Polling District EG0807 (Belhelvie) is to be split in two with the southern section part of the Aberdeen North constituency. This will be named EN0807.

- 3.5 Polling district EG0808 (Balmedie) will become part of the Aberdeen North constituency and will be renamed EN0808.
- 3.6 Polling district WW1801 (Drumoak) is to be renamed WS1801 to reflect the fact it is now part of the Aberdeen South constituency.

Polling Places

- 3.7 The full list of proposed polling places is attached. The following changes to polling places are recommended:

Polling District	Previous Polling Place	Recommended Change	Explanation (including timescale)
Stoneywood DN0105 (Previously DG0105)	Stoneywood Primary School	Stoneywood School	Old Stoneywood School has closed.
Middleton DN0205 (previously DG0205)	The Jesmond Centre	Forehill Primary School	The Jesmond Centre is no longer available.
Parkway North DN0206 Previously DG0206)	The Jesmond Centre	Glashieburn Primary School	The Jesmond Centre is no longer available.
Midstocket East CS0705 (Previously part of Midstocket CN0702)	Midstocket Parish Church	Skene Square Primary School	The new boundary runs through the current polling district CN0702 and require splitting it into two; Midstocket East (moving to Aberdeen South) and Midstocket West (in Aberdeen North).
Midstocket West CN0702 (Previously Part of Midstocket CN0702)	Midstocket Parish Church	Midstocket Parish Church (NO CHANGE)	
Berryden North CN0704 (Previously Part of Berryden CN0704)	Skene Square Primary School	Ashgrove Children's Centre	The new boundary runs through the current polling district CN0704 and require splitting it into two; Berryden North (in Aberdeen North) and Berryden South (moving to Aberdeen South).
Berryden South CS0706	Skene Square Primary School	Skene Square Primary School (NO CHANGE)	

(Previously part of Berryden CN0704)			
Pittodrie North CN0809	Pittodrie Stadium Sir Alex Ferguson Lounge	St Mary's Church (once Pittodrie Stadium is unavailable)	Pittodrie Stadium no longer available from 2021.
Braeside SS1101	School Braeside Place	Airyhall Community Centre	Building is closed and to be sold.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 For the 2017 General Election, combined expenditure for the Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South constituencies was £379,518.92 and income was £377,384.98. For UK Parliamentary General Elections contested under the revised boundaries, we could expect to see a proportionate rise in these sums based on an increase in electorate, geographical coverage, staffing and polling place hire that the 3 additional polling districts will give. Using the proportionate change of the number of polling districts increasing from 90 to 93, projected expenditure increases by just under £13,000. The difference between expenditure and income increases from £2134 to £2206. The projected unrecoverable element is small enough that it could be expected to be accommodated within existing budget.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Timings of statutory reviews of polling districts and polling places are specified in the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. The next statutory review must take place between 1st October 2018 and 31st January 2020.
- 5.2 The requirements of this review are set out in Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	The Council does not get reimbursed for all the additional expenditure caused by the extended boundaries.	Low	The Council will claim all additional costs, although there is always an element which is not accepted.

Legal	The review is a statutory requirement and must be complied with.	N/A	The Council will comply with its statutory duty.
Employee	There is no employee risk (the Returning Officer is a separate employer)	N/A	
Customer	There will be no risk to customers in the Council area, beyond the fact that some voters will be using new polling places	Low	All voters are advised of polling places on their polling cards. All proposed new polling places have been risk assessed.
Environment	There will be no additional environmental risk	N/A	
Technology	There will be no additional technological risk	N/A	
Reputational	There will be no additional reputational risk	N/A	

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes

The proposals in this report have no direct impact on the LOIP

Design Principles of Target Operating Model

	Impact of Report
Organisational Design	The report complies with legislation
Governance	The report promotes, through the identification of designated local polling places, participation in the democratic process
Partnerships and Alliances	The incorporation of former Aberdeenshire polling districts into Aberdeen North and Aberdeen South constituencies will involve working with Aberdeenshire Council and the staff who ordinarily work in those locations. In more general terms, the hire of venues as polling places involves close working with the partners who are the owners of the respective properties.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Completed
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

10. APPENDICES

Full list of proposed polling places
Diagram of polling district CN0702 proposed change
Diagram of polling district CS0706 proposed change
Diagram of Polling District Merging

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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