

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	15 December 2010
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Polling Districts and Polling Places Review
REPORT NUMBER:	OCE/10/022

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

Section 16 of The Electoral Administration Act 2006 requires each Local Authority to conduct a review of polling districts and polling places for use at parliamentary elections, every four years. In doing so the Local Authority must ensure reasonable facilities for voting and that polling places are accessible to all electors, including voters with a disability, so far as is practicable.

The review that has been undertaken also takes account of learning from recent elections, changes in circumstances and the needs of the elections to be held in 2011.

At the Council meeting of 6 October 2010, the Council agreed the recommended changes to polling districts and polling places as outlined in the report to that meeting. In addition, the Council agreed to proceed with public consultation. The purpose of this report is to gain the final approval of the Council for the list of polling districts and polling places, following public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council approves the attached list of polling districts and polling places.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The recommendation in this report has implications for the use of some Council buildings on Polling Day.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Following approval by the Council on 6 October 2010, public consultation was undertaken on proposed changes to a number of polling districts resulting from proposed changes in Scottish Parliamentary constituency boundaries. In addition changes were proposed to the polling place used for a number of districts. The consultation was advertised in the local press and on the Council website. Consultation was also undertaken with the Disability Advisory Group and Community Councils.

The deadline for comments to be received, through the public consultation exercise, was Wednesday 24 November and one was received. As a result of this representation and following consultation with the local members, there is one further recommendation for changes to polling places to be added to those detailed in the report approved by the Council on 6 October 2010.

Additional recommendation to changes to polling places to be added to those detailed in the report approved by the Council on 6 October 2010

Polling District	Polling Place for Parliamentary Elections May 2010	Recommended Polling Place for Parliamentary Elections 2011	Explanation of Changes
CN0808 (Castlehill South)	St Andrew's Cathedral	Aberdeen Citadel (Salvation Army Building)	Concern was expressed that awareness of the location of St Andrew's Cathedral was low and that this negatively impacted on turnout. Aberdeen Citadel (Salvation Army Building) provides a suitable alternative.

The final list of recommended polling districts and polling places is attached to this report.

6. IMPACT

Strengthening local democracy is a vital strand of the Council's Community Plan. When identifying suitable polling places the aim is to put the interest of voters first and to ensure equality of access. The Returning Officer has a statutory duty to encourage electoral participation and selection of appropriate polling places is an important part of this.

Consultation has taken place with Disability Groups and Community Councils.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Polling Districts and Polling Places Review, report to the Council Meeting of 6 October 2010.

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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