

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	31 October 2013
LEAD OFFICER	Chief Executive
TITLE OF REPORT	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
REPORT NUMBER	OCE/13/027

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The next compulsory review must now take place between 1st October 2013 and 31st January 2015.

The purpose of this report is to satisfy these requirements and to set the polling places to be used for the European Parliamentary Elections in May 2014 and the Scottish Independence Referendum in September 2014.

The requirements of this review are set out in Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. That the Council agrees that no changes to polling districts be recommended.
- b. That subject to any changes, the Council agrees the recommended changes to polling places as outlined.
- c. That following approval of the recommended changes to polling places, the Council proceeds to public consultation.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

As there have been no changes to electoral boundaries since the last review, no changes to polling districts are recommended.

The full list of proposed polling places is attached.

The following changes to polling places are recommended:

Polling District	DG0205 (Middleton) and DG0206 (Parkway North)	CN0604 (St Machar)	CN0701 (Raeden) and CN0702 (Midstocket)
Previous Polling Place	Middleton Park Primary School	St Machar Academy	Midstocket Parish Church
Recommended Change	The Jesmond Centre	Powis Gateway Community Centre	The Midstocket Church Centre
Timescale for Change	After June 2014	All future elections and referendums	All future elections and referendums
Explanation	This change is only required if Middleton Park Primary School is no longer available after June 2014.	Request from Education, Culture and Sport to stop using an academy building.	Midstocket Parish Church is closed for building work.

6. IMPACT

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. Feedback and requests from local communities is always considered and acted upon where possible and appropriate.

Public consultation will proactively include the Disability Advisory Group and Community Councils.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

It is important that the designated polling districts and polling places are determined in time for future elections and for the currently scheduled polls in 2014.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (Sets out the timetable for reviews of polling districts and polling places)

Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 (Details the steps to be taken as part of the review)

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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