

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	30/07/13
Originator	Jim Lamond
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Places

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East Lothian Council
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Additional information:

Authorised By	Jim Lamond
Designation	Head of Council Resources
Date	30/07/13

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**REPORT TO:** Members' Library Service

**MEETING DATE:**

**BY:** Executive Director (Support Services)

**SUBJECT:** Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Places

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To inform Members of an impending statutory review of polling districts and places, as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Part 2, Section 17.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to note that formal public consultation for this review will commence on 1 October 2013. Approval of the proposed new polling scheme will be sought on completion of the review.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires a compulsory review of parliamentary polling districts and places to commence on 1 October 2013 (to be completed within a sixteen month period) and 1 October every following fifth year.

It is worth noting that, although this review relates directly to UK Parliamentary Elections, the same polling places are used for all other elections/ referendums, with the exception of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections, where the whole of Musselburgh, Wallyford and Whitecraig come under the Scottish Parliamentary Constituency of Midlothian North & Musselburgh. The same polling places in these areas are used, but come under the jurisdiction of the Returning Officer for Midlothian Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies.

- 3.2 The first stage of the review is publication of the authority's intention to conduct a review and invite comments on the proposals. **NB There is no requirement to change any existing arrangements, however, any**

**change or decision to make no change must be supported by a reason.**

The Returning Officer must submit a report on the suitability of existing and any proposed new polling places, as part of the reference documents required for this review. Preliminary visits to all polling places have already been carried out, with assessments against existing Capability Scotland and Electoral Commission guidance. An Equalities Impact Assessment and Fire Risk Assessments for all existing polling places are ongoing.

3.3 Other reference documents necessary to assist with the review:

- A set of large and small scale maps.
- A report from the planning department detailing any proposed areas of new development and the approximate numbers of dwellings and expected population numbers.
- Any local authority or national statistics estimates for population change.
- A list of current elector numbers broken down into wards and polling districts.
- Any records on responses from polling place inspectors and polling station staff on the condition and accessibility of the currently used polling places.
- Any comments or complaints regarding the current arrangements from the public, elected members and other bodies.
- Any information as to continued availability e.g. expected renovation work.
- Any general advice on disabled access to buildings available from national and local organisations.
- The authority's current policy and statements on disability access.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

## **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out as part of this review.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – advertising costs which will be contained within the Elections budget
- 6.2 Personnel - the review will be carried out by members of the Council's Election Team
- 6.3 Other – none at this stage

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013
- 7.2 Draft polling place information

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Jim Lamond
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Head of Council Resources
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	Lilian Pryde 7377
<b>DATE</b>	30 July 2013