

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 17 December 2013

BY: Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

SUBJECT: Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
2013

1 PURPOSE

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

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve the proposed polling scheme for East Lothian Constituency attached as an appendix to this report.

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.
- 3.2 It is a requirement of this legislation that the proposals contained within any review of Polling Places must be exposed to a statutory public consultation process. Accordingly, stage 1 public notification of the review commenced on 1 October, with representations being invited by 29 October. Documents were placed on East Lothian Council's website via the consultation hub and were available at John Muir House Reception. Twitter and face book were also used, with the site receiving a good level of interest.
- 3.3 The polling places used in support of the Local Government Elections in May 2012 have been the basis for this consultation. Capability Scotland guidelines have been used to assess access at polling places and stations in East Lothian since 1997 and, together with advice from the Electoral Commission, these provide a helpful and practical means of

ensuring that proposed locations are fit for purpose. In addition, Fire Risk Assessments have also been carried out at all polling places this year.

- 3.4 A full accessibility assessment is carried out for every polling place prior to each election. This includes consideration of layout and all voter signage. Every polling station is supplied with wheelchair accessible booths, a visual impairment aid and a Braille copy of the ballot paper. Hearing loops are available where required. Polling staff are trained to ensure that the needs of all voters are carefully considered.
- 3.5 Although there was good interest in the review, only two specific representations were received during the consultation and these were considered as Stage 2 of the review. One of these was from a wheelchair voter who had a problem with the journey to their designated polling place but through dialogue with the voter, an alternative access route was identified. The other representation called for consideration that Queen Margaret University be used as a polling place with the stated objective being to encourage/increase the number of students who vote. The current polling place for this polling district is Stoneyhill Community Centre. Background analysis has shown that the number of students who voted in 2010 and 2012 appears to be relatively low although it must also be considered that students can elect to vote at their university address or their home address, which could be the case and this would go some way to explaining the low turnout figures. The feasibility of splitting the polling district in two, or changing it completely to Queen Margaret University was explored. However, the potential benefit for the smaller part of the polling district was outweighed by the detrimental impact upon the majority of voters. Although there have been no complaints or direct representations from voters who go to Stoneyhill Community Centre, some further work will be undertaken to promote greater electoral awareness and participation for those who attend and reside within the University.
- 3.6 Stage 3 of the review was a further consultation period, after taking initial representations into account. This began on 8 November, with representations being requested by 29 November. No further representations were received and it is now considered appropriate to finalise the Polling Scheme as proposed.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct policy obligations associated with this report.

5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and no negative impacts have been found.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial - None

6.2 Personnel - None

6.3 Other - None

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 Access to background papers can be made available to elected members on request.

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DATE	2 December 2013



Schedule to the East Lothian Parliamentary Constituency Polling Districts and Designation of Polling Places Scheme

The location of each Polling District by reference to Parliamentary Constituency and Local Government Ward and Polling Place is as follows: -

Parliamentary Constituency: East Lothian

Local Government Ward 1: Musselburgh West

Polling District: ELM1A
Polling Place: Stoneyhill Community Centre
No. of Stations: 5
Address: 5 Stoneyhill Farm Road, Musselburgh

Polling District: ELM1B
Polling Place: North Esk Parish Church Hall
No. of Stations: 3
Address: Bridge Street, Musselburgh

Parliamentary Constituency: East Lothian

Local Government Ward 2: Musselburgh East and Carberry

Polling District: ELM2B
Polling Place: Our Lady of Loretto Church Hall
No. of Stations: 3
Address: 17 Newbigging, Musselburgh

Polling District: EL2A
Polling Place: Whitecraig Community Centre
No. of Stations: 1
Address: 44a Whitecraig Crescent, Whitecraig

Polling District: EL2C
Polling Place: Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre
No. of Stations: 3
Address: Haddington Road, Musselburgh

Polling District: EL2D
Polling Place: Wallyford Community Centre
No. of Stations: 2
Address: Albert Place, Wallyford

Parliamentary Constituency: East Lothian
Local Government Ward 3: Preston/Seton/Gosford

Polling District: EL3A
Polling Place: Pennypit Centre
No. of Stations: 3
Address: Double Dykes, Rope Walk, Prestonpans

Polling District: EL3B
Polling Place: Prestonpans Community Centre
No. of Stations: 3
Address: Preston Road, Prestonpans

Polling District: EL3C
Polling Place: Port Seton Community Centre
No. of Stations: 4
Address: South Seton Park, Port Seton

Polling District: EL3D
Polling Place: Longniddry Community Centre
No. of Stations: 2
Address: Seton Road, Longniddry

Parliamentary Constituency: East Lothian
Local Government Ward 4: Fa'side

Polling District: EL4A
Polling Place: Tranent Day Centre
No. of Stations: 3
Address: 3 Church Street, Tranent

Polling District: EL4B
Polling Place: Loch Centre
No. of Stations: 5
Address: off Blawearie Road, Tranent

Polling District: EL4C
Polling Place: Elphinstone Community Centre
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Main Street, Elphinstone

Polling District: EL4D
Polling Place: Ormiston Community Centre
No. of Stations: 2
Address: George Street, Ormiston

Polling District: EL4E
Polling Place: Trevelyhan Hall
No. of Stations: 2
Address: 9 Wester Pencaitland, Pencaitland

Polling District: EL4F
Polling Place: Macmerry Village Hall
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Westbank Road, Macmerry

Parliamentary Constituency: East Lothian
Local Government Ward 5: North Berwick Coastal

Polling District: EL5A
Polling Place: **The Stables**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Main Street, Aberlady

Polling District: EL5B
Polling Place: **Gullane Community Association Hall**
No. of Stations: 2
Address: Hall Crescent, Gullane

Polling District: EL5C
Polling Place: **Dirleton Church Hall**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: 5d Manse Road, Dirleton

Polling District: EL5D
Polling Place: **Fenton Barns**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Fenton Barns

Polling District: EL5E
Polling Place: **North Berwick Sports Centre**
No. of Stations: 5
Address: Grange Road, North Berwick

Polling District: EL5F
Polling Place: **St Mary's Parish Church Hall**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Whitekirk

Parliamentary Constituency: East Lothian
Local Government Ward 6: Haddington and Lammermuir

Polling District: EL6A
Polling Place: **Humbie Village Hall**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Humbie

Polling District: EL6B
Polling Place: **Fletcher Hall**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: East Saltoun

Polling District: EL6C
Polling Place: **Bolton Village Hall**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Under Bolton

Polling District: EL6D
Polling Place: **Aubigny Sports Centre**
No. of Stations: 7
Address: Mill Wynd, Haddington

Polling District: EL6E
Polling Place: **Athelstaneford Village Hall**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Main Street, Athelstaneford

Polling District: EL6F
Polling Place: **Morham Village Hall**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Morham

Polling District: EL6G
Polling Place: **Gifford Village Hall**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Gifford

Polling District: EL6H
Polling Place: **Garvald Village Hall**
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Garvald

Parliamentary Constituency: East Lothian
Local Government Ward 7: Dunbar and East Linton

Polling District: EL7A
Polling Place: Allison Cargill House
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Whittingehame

Polling District: EL7B
Polling Place: East Linton Community Association Hall
No. of Stations: 2
Address: 73 High Street, East Linton

Polling District: EL7C
Polling Place: Tynninghame Village Hall
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Tynninghame

Polling District: EL7D
Polling Place: Stenton Village Hall
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Stenton

Polling District: EL7E
Polling Place: West Barns Bowling Club
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Edinburgh Road, West Barns

Polling District: EL7F
Polling Place: Bleachingfield Centre
No. of Stations: 6
Address: Countess Crescent, Dunbar

Polling District: EL7G
Polling Place: Spott Community Centre
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Spott

Polling District: EL7H
Polling Place: Innerwick Village Hall
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Innerwick

Polling District: EL7I
Polling Place: Oldhamstocks Village Hall
No. of Stations: 1
Address: Oldhamstocks