

**REPORT TO:** East Lothian Council

**MEETING DATE:** 24 February 2015

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People Services)

**SUBJECT:** Amendment to East Lothian Parliamentary Constituency  
Polling Places Scheme 2015

---

## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 To seek Council support to formally amend East Lothian Council's Polling Place Scheme in respect of the EL4A polling district.
- 1.2 To advise of the proposed the temporary use of The Vestry, Spott Parish Church for the forthcoming General Election only.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Members are asked to approve the permanent amendment to the polling scheme for East Lothian Constituency for Polling District EL4A.
- 2.2 Members are asked to note the temporary change required in Spott.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

### **Polling District – EL4A, Tranent**

- 3.1 As a result of the impending closure of Tranent Day Centre within its existing premises at 3 Church Street, Tranent, a new polling place must be found to serve the electorate in this polling district.
- 3.2 It is a requirement that amendments to the polling scheme must be exposed to a statutory public consultation process. Accordingly, stage 1 public notification of the review commenced on 5 January, with representations being invited by 23 January. Documents were placed on East Lothian Council's website via the consultation hub, Twitter and were available for inspection and review at John Muir House, Haddington and the George Johnstone Centre in Tranent. It was also reported within the local media.
- 3.3 Having considered two other options that proved to be unsuitable, it is now proposed that Tranent Town Hall be used as the permanent polling

place. The property is owned by the Council, has good facilities and voter access and minimises displacement of other service users.

- 3.4 Consideration was given to the Fraser Centre, 3A Winton Place. This community facility has recently opened on the premises of a disused picture house. The main entrance and separate disabled access are not easily accessible and it also failed a number of Capability Scotland criteria for polling places.
- 3.5 The new Crookston Care home was another consideration within the provision for the relocated Day Centre. Although this satisfied most of the required criteria for voting including a separate entrance , there were too many operational challenges for the Care Home.
- 3.6 No representations were received from the public during this consultation. All local Councillors were advised with some supportive and none expressed any reservation.

### **Spott**

- 3.7 Renovation work to Spott Village Hall is due to commence in March; therefore a temporary polling place is required for the UK Parliamentary Election on 7 May this year.
- 3.8 Taking into account the lack of more suitable alternatives within the village, the small vestry, which is separate from the church, has been chosen as a temporary one-off solution for this election. Capability Scotland criteria will be met.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 The Capabilities Scotland criteria, which is followed when assessing polling places, addresses all equalities issues.

## **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.

<b>AUTHOR'S NAME</b>	Jim Lamond
<b>DESIGNATION</b>	Head of Council Resources
<b>CONTACT INFO</b>	Lilian Pryde 7377 or e-mail <a href="mailto:lpryde@eastlothian.gov.uk">lpryde@eastlothian.gov.uk</a>
<b>DATE</b>	2 February 2015