

REPORT TO: East Lothian Council

MEETING DATE: 23 April 2024

BY: Executive Director for Council Resources

SUBJECT: Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Places/Amendment to Polling Place Scheme

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Members of the outcome of the statutory review of polling districts and polling places and seek approval for the consequential changes to take effect after the next UK General Election.
- 1.2 To seek approval to relocate a polling place from Trevelyan Hall, Pencaitland to Pencaitland Bowling Club with immediate effect.
- 1.3 To seek approval to relocate a polling place from Fenton Barns (portacabin) to Dirleton Church Hall with immediate effect.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the representations received during the recent consultation on the statutory review of polling districts and places as detailed in Appendix 1, together with the Returning Officer's comments.
- 2.2 To approve the amended polling scheme for Lothian East constituency as detailed in Appendix 2, noting that changes as a consequence of this review will not take effect until after the next UK Parliamentary Election.
- 2.3 To note that polling districts and polling places will continue to be reviewed on an ongoing basis and that the next statutory review of polling districts and polling places will require to be carried out by the end of January 2030 and on a 5-yearly basis thereafter.
- 2.4 To agree, with immediate effect, to move electors from Fenton Barns (polling district EL4D) to Dirleton Church Hall (polling district EL4C), as detailed in paragraphs 3.4 below; and,

- 2.5 To agree, with immediate effect, to move the polling place in polling district EL5J from Trevelyan Hall, Pencaitland to Pencaitland Bowling Club, as detailed in paragraph 3.5 below.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Local authorities are required to review their polling districts and polling places for UK parliamentary constituencies every five years, in accordance with section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983. The Council agreed to initiate the current review at its meeting on 31 October 2023. In agreeing the current review, Council agreed that the criteria to be used to assess polling places was as follows:

- Availability of polling places
- Accessibility of polling places
- Safety of polling places, for both voters and staff
- Current electorate
- Projected electorate
- Number of postal voters

- 3.2 The consultation period ran from 4 December 2023 – 29 January 2024 and the initial proposals were as set out in Appendix 3.

Links to the documents on the Consultation Hub on East Lothian Council's website, were sent direct to all Elected Members, Constituency MP & MSPs, Political Parties, Community Councils, Area Partnerships, Connected Communities Groups and Disability Groups and the review was promoted on social media. Copies of the documentation were made available for public view at John Muir House, Haddington and Brunton Hall, Musselburgh. Representations on the proposals were invited by 29 January 2024.

Eighteen representations were received and copies of these are set out in Appendix 1, along with a note of the Returning Officer's comments/responses.

- 3.3 Members will note that there were a number of references to the requirement to vote by post if a polling place is relocated. The Returning Officer will ensure that the option to vote by post or proxy will be clearly communicated to all areas affected by the merging of polling districts.

Comments were also made regarding the need for more than one polling place in Prestonpans, Musselburgh and Tranent, contrasting the situation with that in North Berwick, Haddington and Dunbar, which each currently have only one polling place. This suggestion will be taken forward to the next review and considered further at that time.

A number of comments were made on the loss of income for village halls. The fee paid, per election, is £220 and this is not considered to be a factor that outweighs the agreed criteria used to assess polling places.

Taking account of the criteria agreed for this review, the representations received and the Returning Officer's comments/responses, Members are asked to approve the amended Polling Scheme for the Lothian East constituency, noting that this will not take effect until after the next UK General Election.

- 3.4 As part of the statutory review, it was proposed that the Portakabin currently used as the polling place at Fenton Barns (EL4D), when assessed against the agreed criteria, may be unsuitable due to accessibility and safety issues. Feedback from poll staff also highlighted safety issues, in particular when elections take place later in the year. It is proposed that, as part of the amended Polling Scheme, this polling district will be merged with EL4C (Dirleton Church Hall). However, given the current uncertainty around the date of the next UK General Election and the possibility that it will take place in the autumn or winter months, it is proposed that, while the polling districts will remain unchanged until after the UK Parliamentary Election, a separate polling station for Fenton Barns voters will be set up within Dirleton Church Hall as an interim measure. The change of polling place will be highlighted on poll cards.
- 3.5 The review did not propose a move of polling place from Trevelyan Hall to Pencaitland Bowling Club. However, responses received as part of the review highlighted the problem with parking at Trevelyan Hall. Feedback from poll staff also stated they receive complaints from voters regarding the lack of parking. Officers therefore considered whether there may be a suitable alternative. Pencaitland Bowling Club was visited and found to be large enough to accommodate the electorate, meets the accessibility requirements and has a large car park.

The views of Local Members and Pencaitland Community Council were sought. Three of the four local members approve the move; no comment was received from Pencaitland Community Council. The proposal is to implement this change with immediate effect, rather than wait for the wider changes to take effect after the next UK General Election.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The requirement to regularly review polling places is a statutory obligation to ensure that all voters have access to such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable and that factors such as accessibility are fully considered.

5 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and no negative impacts have been identified. The IIA will be published on the Council's website at: [Integrated Impact Assessments | Integrated Impact Assessments | East Lothian Council](#)

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Financial – an overall reduction in number of polling places will lead to a reduction in costs for the administration of elections in future.
- 6.2 Personnel - there will be a reduction in the number of polling staff required if the revised polling scheme is agreed. This is important given the challenges in recruiting staff to work at elections.
- 6.3 Other - none

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - Representations Received with RO Comments/Responses
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Proposed Polling Scheme
- 7.3 Appendix 3 – Consultation Proposals

AUTHOR'S NAME	Morag Ferguson
DESIGNATION	Head of Corporate Support
CONTACT INFO	mferguson@eastlothian.gov.uk
DATE	8 April 2024

Representations Received with RO Comments/Responses			
(copies of representations attached)			
NO.	REPRESENTATION FROM	COMMENTS	RO RESPONSE
1	Constituent	Comments received on Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 - see page 1 of consultation document	No alternative venues were proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
2	Cllr Donna Collins	Comments received on Wards 1, 2, 3 & 6 - see pages 2-4 of consultation document	No alternative venues were proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3. The suggestion to move West Barns electorate to Bleachingfield, Dunbar will be considered as part of the next review.
3	Cllr George McGuire	Comments received on Wards 1, 2, 3 & 5 - see page 5-6 of consultation document	The Session Room, Main Street, East Saltoun was visited to assess suitability as an alternative polling place. However, it does not meet the criteria in relation to size and accessibility. Based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
4	East Lothian Conservative Association	Comments received on Wards 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 - see pages 7 - 16 of consultation document	Comment on Blindwells area having its own polling place - this will be kept under review and revisited when more houses have been completed and are occupied. No alternative venues were proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.

5	Martin Whitfield MSP	Comments received on Wards 2 & 5 - see page 17 of consultation document	<p>Comment on Blindwells area having its own polling place - this will be kept under review and revisited when more houses have been completed and are occupied.</p> <p>Comment on the option of postal voting - increased publicity will take place, especially in areas affected by the merging of polling places, to make people aware of, and promote the take up of postal voting.</p> <p>Comment on an alternative venue for Fletcher Hall - we were advised that the Church in East Saltoun had no appropriate space. The Session Room, Main Street, East Saltoun was visited to assess suitability as an alternative. However, it does not meet the criteria in relation to size and accessibility.</p> <p>Based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.</p>
6	Cllr Kenny McLeod	Comments received on Ward 2 - see page 18 of consultation document	noted
7	North Berwick Coastal Labour Party Branch	Comment received on Ward 4 - see page 19 of consultation document	Noted - support of proposal to move electors from Fenton Barns to Dirleton Church Hall
8	Bolton Community Association	Comment received on Ward 5 - see page 20 of consultation document	No alternative venue was proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
9	Constituent	Comment received on Ward 5 - see page 21 of consultation document	No alternative venue was proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
10	Constituent	Comment received on Ward 5 - see page 22 of consultation document	No alternative venue was proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
11	Constituent	Comment received on Ward 5 - see page 23 of consultation document	No alternative venue was proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
12	Constituent	Comment received on Ward 5 - see page 24 of consultation document	No alternative venue was proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
13	Constituent	Comment received on Ward 5 - see page 25 of consultation document	No alternative venue was proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.

14	Constituent	Comment received on Ward 5 - see page 26 of consultation document	No alternative venue was proposed, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
15	East Lammermuir Community Council	Comment received on Ward 6 - see page 27 of consultation document	The Church in Oldhamstocks is not accessible, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
16	Oldhamstocks Community Association	Comment received on Ward 6 - see page 28 of consultation document	The Church in Oldhamstocks is not accessible, therefore, based on the criteria used to assess polling places, the recommendation to implement the proposals remains as set out in appendix 3.
17	Constituent	Comment received on Ward 6 - see page 29 of consultation document	Parking is taken into account when assessing polling places. Consideration will be given to cone off parking for voters.
18	Dunpender Community Council	Comment received on Ward 6 - see page 30 of consultation document	Noted - support of proposal to move electors from Allison Cargill House, Whittingehame to Stenton Village Hall and Tynninghame Village Hall to East Linton Hall.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2024 13:29
To: Elections Office
Subject: Polling Stations Consultation

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Sir,

It is reported that East Lothian Council plans to close seven polling stations in rural communities throughout East Lothian. These include the closure of polling stations in Bolton, Oldhamstocks, Spott, East Saltoun, Tynninghame and Whittingehame.

While the Council has declared a 'climate emergency' and a 'nature emergency', these changes would force residents from these villages to drive up to 50-minute round-trips to vote. In many of these communities the alternative would be spending over 1-hour to travel by public transport, which will be challenging and inconvenient, particularly for elderly residents in those villages where public transport is either limited or unavailable.

Voters in rural areas should not be penalised and should have equal access to voting as those in urban areas. To do otherwise is discriminatory and creates disparity. Indeed, it is inequitable that it is planned that Tranent, for example, would continue with two polling stations which are a 5-minute walk apart. Elsewhere, Prestonpans will retain two polling stations and Musselburgh four, even though North Berwick, Haddington and Dunbar each manage with just one polling place.

Three quarters of those eligible to vote do so in person and, therefore removing any village polling station will negatively impact on voter's ability to exercise their democratic voting rights. The Council should therefore think again and keep rural polling stations open. If they want to close polling stations in East Lothian to make savings, the situation in Musselburgh, Tranent and Prestonpans should be looked at first.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Collins, Donna
Sent: 25 January 2024 10:43
To: Elections Office
Subject: Polling Station Consultation

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write in regards to your proposed changes to the polling stations within East Lothian.

I would like to go through proposals which I feel are unsuitable within my ward.

EL6A Allison Cargill House to merge with Stenton EL6D

Because you believe the hall to be a safety risk as it is without WIFI or Landline.

I disagree with this as there is no evidence of safety issues for staff. Rural electorate should not be penalised for living in rural locations and should not be expected to travel greater distances to exercise their voting rights, there needs to be parity with those within town areas.

Not only that Mobile signal for that area is excellent for the 4 main providers as can be seen in the map below. Which is actually more secure as all copper based landlines will be turned off in 2025 and if power does go down at any point any broadband based landlines will be un useable !

Stenton however is rather patchy in regards to signal and in a power failure more of a security risk that Alison Cargill House !

I therefore believe that Alison Cargill House should remain as a polling station and not be merged !





EL6C You wish to merge Tynninghame with East Linton EL6B.

75 % of the electorate of Tynninghame vote in person and of those the majority walk to the hall to do so. A tight knit community well used to using their village hall, there is no need to change the current status. Increased vehicle journeys should not be being encouraged. Parking in East Linton by polling station is an issue and the bus service back is every 2 hours! Meaning voters would be stuck in the village for 2 hours. Not good in bad weather and would be discouraging to voters !

I therefore believe Tynninghame should not be closed and merged with East Linton.

EL6G Spott Community Centre to merge with Dunbar Bleaching Field EL6F

This is 3 miles away from Spott ! 80% of registered voters here vote in person, expecting them to journey across the A1 into the centre of Dunbar is unacceptable.

There are limited public transport options ! This alone will lead to huge disparity between urban and rural voters and their ability to get easily to a polling station.

May I suggest that you merge West Barns with Dunbar. West Barns is on a main bus route with a frequent service . Therefore Closing West Barns is a more sensible option to Spott .

EL6H Merge Innerwick with Oldhamstocks EL6I . Closing Oldhamstocks.

75 % of the electorate vote of Oldhamstocks in person ! Requiring the electorate of Oldhamstocks to travel to another village via unmarked country roads 3.5 miles away is unacceptable.

There are ZERO public transport options !!

Closing Oldhamstocks will lead to voter apathy and voters deciding that it is just “too difficult” to get out and vote. Disparity between urban and rural voters should not be being encouraged. These hillfoot rural communities already feel underrepresented and over looked, a move such as this will only reinforce this belief. Put simply the proposals for rural merging are inequitable and should not be supported.

Also Oldhamstocks still have not agreed what is happening with the hall and a refurbishment is still on the table I believe.

Our Outlying rural villages feel isolated and disconnected as it is from Local Government.. Especially when at the far end of the county ! Closing polling stations will further highlight this feeling and I believe disengage the public from any future engagement in both Local and National democratic processes.

If the Council are looking to consolidate polling stations, I would instead encourage the Council to look at merging polling stations in Tranent, Prestonpans and Musselburgh. The Fraser Centre in Tranent is a 5-minute walk from the Loch Centre which is in a central location and has the capacity for all voters in Tranent. In Prestonpans, the Pennypit Community Centre is difficult to access and there is limited parking availability, and I would encourage the Council to consider having all residents of Prestonpans vote at Prestonpans Community Centre.

In Musselburgh, it is very challenging to park at North Esk Parish Church, whereas Musselburgh Rugby Club has the capacity to take these electors and has good public transport and walking routes to the corresponding ELMN1B polling district.

I believe it is incumbent upon Council to ensure that there is no disparity between voters who live within our towns and those in the more rural parts of the county and I believe the proposals which seek to reduce the number of rural polling stations and merge them with existing town stations leads to voter inequalities.

Yours Sincerely,

Councillor Donna Collins

From: McGuire, George
Sent: 26 January 2024 15:07
To: Elections Office
Subject: Closure of Rural Polling Stations - East Lothian

Representing the large, rural ward of Haddington and Lammermuir, I would like to object to these proposals in the strongest possible terms.

The closure of East Saltoun's polling station would severely jeopardise the ability of some residents to vote. The location of Trevelyan Hall is already questionable, there is limited parking, it is on a busy road junction by traffic lights and voters struggle to find a safe place to park close to the hall. The proposed change will only make it more challenging for voters to access parking here, with an increase of 359 in-person voters from East Saltoun. A not insignificant number of residents in the EL5B polling district can walk to Fletcher Hall, however changing the polling district would require residents to drive to Pencaitland or take public transport which would be a round-trip of at least an 1-hour. I do not believe that when the council have announced a climate emergency to be making proposals which will force many voters into their cars is sensible or reasonable.

The proposal of having Bolton voters vote in Gifford is also unacceptable. Bolton's electorate is predominantly more elderly than the average and many residents rely on public transport or being able to walk a short distance to the polling station at Bolton Village Hall. Public transport between Bolton and Gifford is poor and a round trip to Gifford in order to vote would take over an hour.

East Lothian Council proposes Morham residents should vote in Garvald, however there are no public transport links between Morham and Garvald, no safe walking routes and indeed the rural winding roads are not the easiest to navigate.

It is wholly unacceptable that rural communities are being overlooked and potentially penalised by East Lothian Council in favour of having more polling stations in urban areas. Haddington has 6,418 in-person voters. This is similar to the number of in-person voters in Tranent and Prestonpans, yet while Haddington has one polling station these towns have two. I would therefore request that the Council consider merging stations in these areas and consider the closure of the North Esk Parish Church, Pennypit Community Centre and Fraser Centre polling stations in order to maintain vital polling stations in rural communities within Haddington and Lammermuir ward.

George McGuire

Councillor George McGuire
Haddington & Lammermuir Ward
Conservative & Unionist Party



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 January 2024 15:30
To: Elections Office
Subject: Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Attachments: Polling Places Proposals.pdf

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On behalf of the East Lothian Conservative Association please find attached our thoughts, suggestions and opposition to East Lothian Council Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places proposals.

To summarise the details given in the attached document, we believe that the proposals which seek to merge predominately rural polling stations with those in towns or larger villages is inequitable, creates disparity between the rural and urban electorate, could arguably create safety issues, and encourages the use of additional and longer car journeys. We cannot support the proposals for which no reasonable arguments have been given. Such changes will only lead to voter suppression, lower turn out rates and disparity which is wholly inappropriate.

We would urge caution in merging these rural polling stations and have suggested other areas where merging stations would be more equitable and practicable.

Please do keep us informed of any advancements in this matter.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 4, Church Street Haddington EH41 3EX Tel: 01620 248060 www.eastlothianconservatives.com Twitter @ELConservatives

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EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	TOTAL ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	STATION (in person) ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	POSTAL VOTERS (as at 1/9/23)	RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENT	PROPOSAL
Ward 1 Musselburgh	EMN1A	Musselburgh Rugby Club 3A Stoneyhill Farm Road, Musselburgh, E-21 6RN	4805	3428	1377 (28%)	UK Boundary changes determine ELMN1A move to the Edinburgh East Burgh constituency for UK Parliamentary Elections	Suitable polling place
Consider merging EMN1B & 1C (minus 300 moving to ELMN1D) into one polling location total combined voters approx 6K aligned with Haddington & Dunbar which each have one station.	EMN1B	North Esk Parish Church Hall 16 Bridge Street, Musselburgh, EH21 6AG	3409	2531	878 (25%)	UK Boundary changes determine ELMN1B move to the Edinburgh East Burgh constituency for UK Parliamentary Elections	Suitable polling place
	EMN1C	Our Lady of Loretto Church Hall 17 Newbigging, Musselburgh, EH21 7AJ	2849	2015	834 (29%)	UK Boundary changes determine the bulk of ELMN1C move to the Edinburgh East Burgh constituency, for UK Parliamentary Elections, leaving approx 300 electors with Lothian East Constituency	Voters in the part of ELMN1C that will remain within the Lothian East constituency, amounting to just under 300, to move into ELMN1D
	ELMN1D	Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre Haddington Road, Musselburgh, EH21 8JJ	4338	3288	1050 (24%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate the move of approx 300 electors from ELMN1C	As above – change in polling district to include the remainder of ELMN1C

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	TOTAL ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	STATION (in person) ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	POSTAL VOTERS (as at 1/9/23)	RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENT	PROPOSAL
Ward 2 Preston, Seton and Gosford	EL2A	Pennypit Centre Double Dykes Road, Rope Walk, Prestonpans, EH32 9BN DISAGREE; if changes are required and savings are to be made, then the council rather than creating disparity between rural and urban areas should also look at urban areas as a means of making savings. Consideration should be given to combining Prestonpans polling into one place ie all voters to vote at Community Centre. A total of 6K vote in person which aligns with the likes of Haddington & Dunbar.	3947	3071	876 (22%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place Merge EL2A with EL2B
	EL2B	Prestonpans Community Centre Preston Road, Prestonpans, EH32 9QS	3729	2929	800 (21%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place Merge with EL2A and both vote at PP CC
	EL2C	Port Seton Community Centre South Seton Park, Port Seton, EH32 0BQ	4263	3258	1005 (23%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate the move of electors from the Blindwells area of EL2D	Amend polling district EL2C to include Blindwells area of EL2D
	EL2D	Longniddry Community Centre Seton Road, Longniddry, EH32 0LD	2606	1811	795 (30%)	The current polling place will not accommodate the projected additional electorate within Blindwells. Consider altering this polling district to move Blindwells from EL2D to EL2C	Amend polling district EL2D to move Blindwells area into polling district EL2C (Port Seton Community Centre) AGREE although consideration should be given to Blindwells having its own station. Given it is a new town it should have the facilities to match & there are currently no direct public transport links between it & PS.

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	TOTAL ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	STATION (in person) ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	POSTAL VOTERS (as at 1/9/23)	RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENT	PROPOSAL
Ward 5 Haddington and Lammermuir	EL5A	Humbie Village Hall Humbie, EH36 5PJ	310	236	74 (23%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place
	EL5B	Fletcher Hall East Saltoun, EH34 5DX DISAGREE: Three quarters of electorate vote in person, to expect them to travel to Pencaitland will negatively impact some voters' ability to vote. Budget cuts mean upgrading works to village halls at risk of being cut and should therefore not be relevant in this scenario. Location of Trevelyan Hall is already questionable with limited parking positioned on a busy road junction by traffic lights, voters already struggle to find safe parking close to the hall an increase in numbers is inadvisable. Most residents of East Saltoun where the majority of this polling district electors live can and will walk to vote at Fletchers Hall, however this proposal will mean that <u>all</u> will need to travel by car to Pencaitland. Public transport is insufficient both in terms of frequency and timings.	484	359	125 (25%)	Fletcher Hall is earmarked for upgrading works, therefore there is a risk the hall may become unavailable as a polling place. There are no alternative venues within East Saltoun	Merge polling district EL5B with EL5J (Trevelyan Hall, Pencaitland). There is adequate space within Trevelyan Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate
	EL5C	Bolton Village Hall Under Bolton, EH41 4HL DISAGREE: Bolton residents have already contacted local MSP Craig Hoy and are unhappy about the proposals. The vast majority of residents vote in	168	134	34 (20%)	This polling district currently has 134 station voters. It is a rural polling place with no landline or wifi	Merge polling district EL5C with EL5G (Gifford Bowling Club). There is adequate space within Gifford

		person (80%) and this proposal will negatively impact their ability to vote in person. A large proportion of residents here are more elderly and the ability to walk is important. Limited public transport options.					Bowling Club to accommodate this increase in electorate
	EL5D	Aubigny Sports Centre Mill Wynd, Haddington, EH41 4DB	9036	6418	2645 (29%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place
	EL5E	Athelstaneford Village Hall Main Street, Athelstaneford, EH39 5BE	497	360	137 (27%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place
	EL5F	Morham Village Hall Morham, EH41 4LQ DISAGREE; Other than the number of electors being relatively low no reason is given to merge with a polling station a significant distance away. No public transport from Morham to Garvald. Roads are very windy, are rural back roads (B roads) which older residents do not like to drive, especially if dark. There is no logic to this proposal, other than numbers. It is inequitable.	125	71	54 (43%)	This polling district currently has 71 station voters. Consider merging with another district.	Merge EL5F polling district with EL5H (Garvald Village Hall). There is adequate space within Garvald Village Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate.
	EL5G	Gifford Bowling Club Station Road, Gifford, EH41 4QL	879	642	237 (26%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate electorate from EL5C	As EL5C above, merge polling districts EL5C and EL5G
	EL5H	Garvald Village Hall Garvald, EH41 4LN	259	208	51 (19%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate electorate from EL5F	As EL5F above, merge polling districts EL5F and EL5H
	EL5I	Ormiston Community Centre George Street, Ormiston, EH35 5JB	2100	1671	429 (20%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place

	EL5J	Trevelyan Hall 9 Wester Pencaitland, Pencaitland, EH34 5HA	1747	1318	429 (24%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate electorate from EL5B	As EL5B above, merge polling districts EL5B and EL5J
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WARD	POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	TOTAL ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	STATION (in person) ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	POSTAL VOTERS (as at 1/9/23)	RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENT	PROPOSAL
Ward 6 Dunbar and East Linton	EL6A	Allison Cargill House Whittinghame, EH41 4QA DISAGREE, there is no evidence of safety issues for staff. Rural electorate should not be penalised for living in rural locations and should not be expected to travel greater distances to exercise their voting rights, there needs to be parity with those within town areas. Reasonable mobile coverage available.	162	119	43 (26%)	This polling district currently has 119 station voters. It is a very rural polling place with no landline or wifi, therefore poll staff safety is a concern	Merge EL6A with EL6D (Stenton Village Hall). There is adequate space within Stenton Village Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate
	EL6B	East Linton Community Association Hall 73 High Street, East Linton, EH41 2BQ	1932	1444	488 (25%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate electorate from EL6C	As EL6C below, merge polling districts EL6C and EL6B
	EL6C	Tynninghame Village Hall Tynninghame, EH42 1XL DISAGREE; Three quarters of the electorate vote in person & of those the majority walk to the hall to do so. A tight knit community well used to using their village hall, there is no need to change the current status. Increased vehicle journeys should not be being encouraged. Parking in ELinton by polling station is an existing issue & should not be made worse. Public transport timings mean residents would be stuck	179	131	48 (26%)	This polling district currently has 131 station voters. Consider merging with polling district EL6B	Merge EL6C with EL6B (East Linton). There is adequate space within East Linton Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate

		in the EL for over an hour after voting before being able to start the journey back to Tynninghame. This is inequitable and will cause voter apathy.					
	EL6D	Stenton Village Hall Stenton, EH42 1TE	265	213	52 (19%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate EL6A	As EL6A above, merge polling districts EL6A and EL6D
	EL6E	West Barns Bowling Club Edinburgh Road, West Barns, EH42 1UH DISAGREE, Consider merging with EL6F. The link between West Barns both in terms of distance & public transport is considerably stronger/greater than the outlying rural EL6G polling district. There is capacity to merge with Bleachingfield and consequently leave the rural polling stations as is.	526	431	95 (18%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place DISAGREE Consider merging with EL6F.
	EL6F	Bleachingfield Centre Countess Crescent, Dunbar, EH42 1DX	7993	5945	2048 (25%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate EL6G	As EL6G below, merge polling districts EL6G and EL6F DISAGREE Merge EL6E with EL6F
	EL6G	Spott Community Centre Spott, EH42 1RJ DISAGREE; 80% of registered voters here vote in person, expecting them to journey across the A1 into the centre of Dunbar is unacceptable. There is limited public transport options, and this will lead to huge disparity between urban and rural voters and their ability to get easily to a polling station.	251	200	51 (20%)	This polling district currently has 200 station voters. Consider merging with polling district EL6F	Merge EL6G with EL6F (Bleachingfield). There is adequate space within Bleachingfield to accommodate this increase in electorate DISAGREE Merge EL6E with EL6F

	EL6H	Innerwick Village Hall Innerwick, EH42 1SE	372	293	79 (21%)	Suitable polling district with sufficient space to accommodate EL6I	As EL6I below, merge polling districts EL6H and EL6I
	EL6I	Oldhamstocks Village Hall Oldhamstocks, TD13 5XN DISAGREE; Three quarters of the electorate vote in person, requiring the electorate of Oldhamstocks to travel to another village via unmarked country roads is unacceptable. Very limited public transport options will lead to voter apathy and voters deciding that it is just "too difficult" to get out and vote. Disparity between urban and rural voters should not be being encouraged. These hillfoot rural communities already feel unde-represented and overlooked, a move such as this will only reinforce this belief. Simply put, the proposals for rural merging are inequitable and should not be supported.	165	120	45 (27%)	There are plans for Oldhamstocks Village Hall to be demolished and a replacement built, therefore, there is a risk the hall may become unavailable as a polling place.	Merge EL6I with EL6H (Innerwick Village Hall). There is adequate space within Innerwick Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2024 11:19
To: Elections Office
Subject: STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES – EAST
LOTHIAN COUNCIL

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SENT ON BEHALF OF MARTIN WHITFIELD MSP

Elections Office,
East Lothian Council,
John Muir House,
Haddington EH41 3HA

22nd January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES – EAST
LOTHIAN COUNCIL**

I am writing to comment on the above proposals for amending East Lothian's polling districts and places.

While noting the general rationale for the proposed changes, I have a few specific points to make on them:

Firstly, on the change for voters in Blindwells, I understand the reason for this proposal and believe it will probably be a better option for most voters there, at least in the early phases of its development. However, as Blindwells grows into a new town as planned, will further consideration be given to finding a suitable location for its own local polling place?

Secondly, regarding the proposal to move East Saltoun to Pencaitland, I am concerned that this is the biggest community that faces losing its polling place, and while Pencaitland is relatively near it is not easy to access without a car. I would like to be assured that all alternative options, for example Saltoun Parish Church, have been explored before a final decision is taken on this proposal.

Finally, I would like to make a general point concerning all the areas where it is proposed to remove a polling place from a community. The areas affected by the proposed changes are generally small, rural communities often with few, if any, public transport options and in some instances the changes will mean residents face having to travel a significantly further distance to reach their new polling place.

Therefore, it will be particularly important for all the electors affected to be fully aware of the option of voting by post, especially those without access to a car. With this in mind, I would like to suggest that consideration is given to undertaking additional work to encourage electors in those communities to sign up for a postal vote in advance of the changes being implemented.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these proposals.

[REDACTED]

From: McLeod, Kenny
Sent: 04 December 2023 10:23
To: Elections Office
Subject: Review Tranent Polling Stations

Dear Sir/Madam

As East Lothian are reviewing polling stations I would confirm I am comfortable with the polling stations within my ward of Tranent, Macmerry and Wallyford at this time and the near future. I would ask for this to be revisited in Tranent for further future Elections. Due to the rise in the population and house building in Tranent I would ask you to look at centralising to a single polling station at the Loch Centre after the repairs have been carried out. I have listed a few points below that I hope will be looked at and considered.

1. Availability: As we as a Council work with Enjoy Leisure we have a good working relationship and running costs to hold will be paid to them.
2. Accessibility: Good access and plenty of parking for voters. Wheelchair friendly.
3. Safety: CCTV coverage for members of the Public and Staff is available.
4. Costs: Due to an increase in Postal Votes, by centralising will reduce the costs on Venue, Staff and Energy.

We should be looking to convert new voters as well as existing voters to postal in an aim to reduce costs to having venues and also reduce our carbon footprint.

Regards
Stay safe
Kenny

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 January 2024 20:43
To: Elections Office
Subject: Review of Polling Places

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Good evening

The North Berwick Coastal Labour Party Branch has reviewed the proposal to discontinue using the Fenton Barns Polling Place in its current form, with electors being reallocated to Dirleton.

The Branch has no objection to this proposal.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]
Branch Secretary

Bolton Community Association

Elections office
East Lothian Council
John Muir House
Haddington
EH41 3HA

28 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

We write to note that the Council intends to merge Bolton polling district EL5C with Gifford EL5G.

We note that East Lothian Council has assessed that there are 134 registered voters of which 20% are postal votes. Further it notes that the village hall has no landline or wifi.

Firstly, we would like to register our dismay at the proposals. The village hall has always been a polling station. This ensured easy access to voters including those with mobility issues either because they have disabilities or do not possess a car. The village is poorly served by public transport particularly to Gifford – some 3 miles away.

Secondly, we do not agree that a lack of landline or wifi should be a criteria. Telecommunication services are appalling in the village. There is no fibre in the village; landline facilities are abysmal – too poor to sustain broadband; and the Village hall has no mobile signal. Whilst more expensive communications could be installed, the village hall simply does not have the revenue to pay such costs.

Finally, the income generated from the use of the hall as a polling place was an extremely important source of revenue. As you will note from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, the village hall sustains its operations on less than £1000 with expenditure relating to electricity and insurance. Without this important revenue from elections, the hall will become at increasing risk of closure.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

Chair
Bolton Community Association
Charity No: 49001

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 December 2023 12:45
To: Elections Office
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposal to close voting provision at th Bolton Village Hall

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I have only recently found out that ELC propose closing the polling provision at the Bolton village hall .

In my view if carried out, this would be a serious blow to local democracy .

There are only 168 registered voters in this community of which 134 regularly use the hall and I would suggest that any the proposal to use the Bowling Green at Gifford is completely unacceptable (too far and too inaccessible) would not be acceptable to local voters.

Can I offer the following comments : -

1. The alternative use of the postal vote is almost untenable since the postal service has become very unreliable and there will undoubtedly be issues of identification as the need for photo id has now been introduced by the UK government .
2. In my view there is no effective community voice in this village and outlying area, since we have in reality no practical Community Council representation due to the ELC arrangement to ink this community to East Saltoun . Furthermore neither of our ELC councilors have shown much interest in the problems which have arisen over the past few years (not even responses to e mails)
3. There will shortly be a community meeting to discuss the future of the Parish church and the village hall and hopefully the issue of the loss of an accessible polling venue will be discussed.
4. 2024 will undoubtedly be an important year for elections and I would suggest that any impediment to voters to turn out should be avoided by our of our ELC politicians .

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2023 15:33
To: Elections Office
Subject: MORHAM VILLAGE HALL

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Good afternoon,

I write to request that Morham Village Hall remains registered and used as a polling station.

I live at [REDACTED]. When I moved to this area 17yrs ago I worked in Edinburgh. I voted by stopping at the Hall on my way to work or my way back. I met locals and it helped me belong in my community. Work then called me away on business frequently and for practical reasons I changed to postal voting so that I did not miss my vote. I have not reverted and do appreciate the postal voting system.

However, I would be very distressed if we lost our polling station as Morham Village Hall. My main reasons being;

1. I have two children, one and approaching voting age. I would like them to be able to walk or cycle to a polling station. Morham is a place my children can safely get to. It is accessible. Garvald is not at all accessible to them, it is not convenient to get to, nor is it a place we pass by. Closing Morham removes access of a polling station they can get to themselves. We have no public transportation and rely on cars. I cannot be sure I can get them to Garvald and they should be allowed to be independent on voting.
2. I appreciate they can register as a postal vote. I ask is this really the way you are moving voting to for rural people? This will isolate my family from the polling experience. The very essence of the polling booth, the confidence it takes to do this also meeting candidates at the entrance. Furthermore meeting other locals coming in and out and generally being part of the community. This is a big thing, people need to see people and engage with other people. This is not how young voters should start their voting journey.
3. Rural communities can't keep being pushed along to the next nearest town. The Village Hall is our hub and it needs the support as a place people feel connected with, know and use.
4. The hall is always available for polling and the income for the hall is a benefit to the hall and contributes to the long term benefit of rural communities having a safe place.

The proposed decision of ceasing Morham Village Hall as a polling station and moving us to Garvald polling station fails us. Garvald is NOT accessible, nor does it suit the current electorate or projected electorate. It forces my children to become postal voters from day 1. This feels very wrong.

This suggestion is also just another nail in the coffin for the hall and a lack of awareness of the wider benefits that using MVH has as a polling station. A polling station draws attention to a hall and helps it be a place in the community. It's how I first entered it and how I then knew about it to use it for my children's parties etc. Please DO NOT be part of mothballing it up. It needs you to help it exist in more ways than just polling day.

With my kindest regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2023 20:00
To: Elections Office
Subject: Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places

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Hi,

I wish it give my opinion to the above mentioned proposed change for my polling station (Morham) to change to Garvald.

I feel that it is just another step of erosion of any type of possible service that my/our community will receive (probably due to council trying to find ways of reducing budgeting costs which seems to be an ever increasing black hole of revenue costs).

Our particular area has little enough services left .

- 1- No public mode transport .
- 2- One of the worst areas for broadband connectivity in the whole of Scotland (with no meaningful support from East Lothian Council) to help move suppliers to meaningful action).
- 3- Very poor treatment of road surfaces during bad weather (when ice and or snow is actually on the roads) . We see treatment though when there is actually no risk of freezing or snowing conditions (but overtime must be paid during these times as often salting vehicles are seen on roads out-with the normal hours of work.
- 4- Reduction in the collection of household waste/refuse.

We have a village hall at the heart of Morham parish , so let's use it !!! Not lose it!!!

As Well.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 December 2023 10:48
To: Elections Office
Subject: Poling station - Morham

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I would object to the merging of Morham and Garvald. Both villages have village halls which are central and easy for residents to attend to vote.

Since there is adequate facilities in both villages, use of these for such occasions should be a priority.

Village halls in small communities are the hub of the village and encouragement to use the facility should be promoted – not discouraged.

By moving the polling station to a neighbouring village 3-4 miles away would discourage residents to take up their vote – especially the elderly or disabled. Having access to the facility without travel is essential.

I would strongly object to this motion.

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 December 2023 22:47
To: Elections Office
Subject: Moving voting venues

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My name is [REDACTED] I live at [REDACTED] I have just heard of your proposal to have us vote at Garvald, this would not only be inconvenient but also eventually spell the end of our village hall. Having already lost our church thanks to The Church of Scotland, I would hope you will reconsider this, maybe the people of Garvald could vote here at Morham. Thank you for allowing me to express my sadness and views on this matter.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 December 2023 09:00
To: Elections Office; Morham Village Hall
Subject: Moreham Village Hall voting destination status

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I write on behalf of [REDACTED] us living at [REDACTED] to share our concerns about your potential decision to merge Morham with Garvald for voting purposes.

In the event of snow & inclement weather, the implications are really tough, especially given Garvald is itself often blocked in. In fact, both Morham & Garvald are very vulnerable to being snowed in and impossible to access.

Also, we just think it's bad for Morham as the village hall is integral to the community and losing EL funding will potentially result in its going under.

With Thanks in the hope that you will reconsider the critical role that your polling station performs in Morham both for elections & the overall community.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 January 2024 18:08
To: Elections Office
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

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To whom it may concern

East Lammermuir Community Council wishes to **OBJECT** to the proposed closure of two Polling stations, namely Spott Village Hall and Oldhamstocks Village Hall. Both of these fall within East Lammermuir.

Any closure of a polling place and expectation that voters will travel further afield to another existing polling station is likely to reduce the number of votes cast. This is a threat to an already fragile democracy, where turnout, particularly at local elections, is already often low.

Spott Community Association speak for the Spott voters and have lodged a separate comment. They manage Spott Village Hall. They (Spott Community Association) wish the council to continue to use Spott Village Hall as a Polling Station.

Oldhamstocks Community Association exists to promote the wellbeing and quality of life of people living in the Oldhamstocks polling district. It also manages the Oldhamstocks Village Hall. The committee have discussed the proposal and indicate the following facts which should be taken into account;

1. The reference to the demolition of the Oldhamstocks Village Hall is misleading as a new hall will be built immediately after demolition
2. In the unlikely event that an election is held in the interim (building) period whilst there is no hall available in Oldhamstocks, the Church may offer a suitable alternative venue
3. There is no public transport available from Oldhamstocks to Innerwick, nor for anywhere in the polling district
4. The majority of voters attend in person to vote (only 45 postal votes out of 220 registered voters) - any change to the venue is likely to reduce the number of votes cast.
5. Innerwick Hall is further away from the vast majority of addresses where people are currently registered to vote at Oldhamstocks - another barrier to voting
6. This is just one more example of the loss of a community resource in Oldhamstocks, following on from the Post Bus, Gaberlunzie, Travelling Library, Post Office. Is the village deliberately being denuded of all community services?

The Community Council endorse these views. In addition we suggest that in line with practice at Stenton Polling Station, local people could be recruited to staff the Polling Station, with appropriate training. It may even be possible to identify people willing to volunteer for this important role. We wonder if this would be a way to keep costs down as that is evidently a key driver behind the recommendations of this review.

We would be pleased if you take our concerns and suggestions into account in any final decisions about polling stations.

From: Oldhamstocks OCA [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2024 14:28
To: Elections Office; OCA Committee
Subject: Re: Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

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Dear Sirs,

On behalf of Oldhamstocks Community Association SCIO and the residents of Oldhamstocks and district, we strongly object to the proposed closure of Oldhamstocks Village Hall as a polling place.

We object to this proposed erosion of democracy on the following grounds:

1. The reference to the demolition of the Oldhamstocks Village Hall is misleading, as a new hall will be built immediately after demolition.
2. In the unlikely event that an election is held whilst there is no hall available in Oldhamstocks, the Church may offer a suitable alternative venue.
3. There is no public transport available from Oldhamstocks to Innerwick, nor for anywhere in the polling district.
4. The majority of voters attend in person to vote (only 45 postal votes out of 220 registered voters). Any change to the venue outwith Oldhamstocks village is likely to reduce the number of votes cast.
5. Innerwick Hall is further away from the vast majority of addresses where people are currently registered to vote in Oldhamstocks - another barrier to voting.
6. This is just one more example of the loss of a community resource to Oldhamstocks, following on from the Post Bus, Gaberlunzie, Travelling Library and Post Office. Is the village deliberately being denuded of all community services?

OCA and Oldhamstocks community residents would like to reiterate our strong objection to this proposed erosion of democracy and of services for our village and wider community, and hope that ELC will take these concerns into account when making your final decisions re Polling Places.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Secretary, OCA/OCA SCIO

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 January 2024 12:10
To: Elections Office
Subject: Review of Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places

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Dear sirs,

I refer to the above open consultation. I didn't see any mention of parking considerations at the polling stations that will be busier as a result of merging. In my case, I'm specifically thinking of East Linton where, per the current numbers, there will be 131 extra voters as a result of Tynninghame Village Hall not being used as a polling station. Whilst in the past most of the 131 people likely walked to Tynninghame Village Hall, I think it is fair to assume they will all have to drive to East Linton in order to vote.

Could you advise?

Many thanks,
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Elections Office
Subject: FW: Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

From: Dunpender CC - [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 7:31 PM
To: Elections Office [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

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The two changes to polling stations in Dunpender affect Tynninghame and Whittingehame. We have no objection to these stations being merged with larger ones nearby.

[REDACTED]
Chairman Dunpender CC

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

Local Government Ward 1: Musselburgh

Polling District:	ELMN1D
Polling Place:	Musselburgh East Community Learning Centre
No. of Stations:	4
Address:	Haddington Road, Musselburgh, EH21 8JJ

Local Government Ward 2: Preston, Seton and Gosford

Polling District: EL2A
Polling Place: Pennypit Centre
No.of Stations: 3
Address: Double Dykes, Rope Walk, Prestonpans, EH32 9BN

Polling District: EL2B
Polling Place: Prestonpans Community Centre
No.of Stations: 4
Address: Preston Road, Prestonpans, EH32 9QS

Polling District: EL2C
Polling Place: Port Seton Community Centre
No.of Stations: 5
Address: South Seton Park, Port Seton, EH32 0BQ

Polling District: EL2D
Polling Place: Longniddry Community Centre
No.of Stations: 2
Address: Seton Road, Longniddry, EH32 0LD

Local Government Ward 3: **Tranent, Wallyford and Macmerry**

Polling District: EL3A
Polling Place: **The Fraser Centre**
No.of Stations: 3
Address: 3a Winton Place, Tranent, EH33 1AF

Polling District: EL3B
Polling Place: **Loch Centre**
No.of Stations: 5
Address: off Blawearie Road, Tranent, EH33 2JX

Polling District: EL3C
Polling Place: **Elphinstone Community Centre**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Main Street, Elphinstone, EH33 2LX

Polling District: EL3D
Polling Place: **Macmerry Miners' Welfare Club**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Main Road, Macmerry, EH33 1QF

Polling District: ELMN3E
Polling Place: **The Village Hub, Whitecraig**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: 72 Whitecraig Avenue, Whitecraig, EH21 8PB

Polling District: ELMN3F
Polling Place: **Wallyford Learning Campus**
No.of Stations: 2
Address: Mason's Way, Wallyford, EH21 8BF

Local Government Ward 4: North Berwick Coastal

Polling District: EL4A
Polling Place: **The Stables**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Main Street, Aberlady, EH32 0RB

Polling District: EL4B
Polling Place: **Gullane Community Association Hall**
No.of Stations: 2
Address: Hall Crescent, Gullane, EH31 2HA

Polling District: EL4C
Polling Place: **Dirleton Church Hall**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: 5d Manse Road, Dirleton, EH39 5EL

Polling District: EL4D
Polling Place: **North Berwick Sports Centre**
No.of Stations: 6
Address: Grange Road, North Berwick, EH39 4QS

Polling District: EL4E
Polling Place: **Whitekirk Village Hall**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Whitekirk, EH42 1XS

Local Government Ward 5: Haddington and Lammermuir

Polling District: EL5A
Polling Place: **Humbie Village Hall**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Humbie, EH36 5PJ

Polling District: EL5B
Polling Place: **Aubigny Sports Centre**
No.of Stations: 7
Address: Mill Wynd, Haddington, EH41 4DB

Polling District: EL5C
Polling Place: **Athelstaneford Village Hall**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Main Street, Athelstaneford, EH39 5BE

Polling District: EL5D
Polling Place: **Gifford Bowling Club**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Station Road, Gifford, EH41 4QL

Polling District: EL5E
Polling Place: **Garvald Village Hall**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Garvald, EH41 4LN

Polling District: EL5F
Polling Place: **Ormiston Community Centre**
No.of Stations: 2
Address: George Street, Ormiston, EH35 5JB

Polling District: EL5G
Polling Place: **Trevelyan Hall**
No.of Stations: 2
Address: 9 Wester Pencaitland, Pencaitland, EH34 5HA

Local Government Ward 6: Dunbar and East Linton

Polling District: EL6A
Polling Place: **East Linton Community Association Hall**
No.of Stations: 2
Address: 73 High Street, East Linton, EH40 3BQ

Polling District: EL6B
Polling Place: **Stenton Village Hall**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Stenton, EH42 1TE

Polling District: EL6C
Polling Place: **West Barns Bowling Club**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Edinburgh Road, West Barns, EH42 1UH

Polling District: EL6D
Polling Place: **Bleachingfield Centre**
No.of Stations: 6
Address: Countess Crescent, Dunbar, EH42 1DX

Polling District: EL6E
Polling Place: **Innerwick Village Hall**
No.of Stations: 1
Address: Innerwick, EH42 1SE

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	TOTAL ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	STATION (in person) ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	POSTAL VOTERS (as at 1/9/23)	RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENT	PROPOSAL
Ward 4 North Berwick Coastal	EL4A	The Stables Main Street, Aberlady, EH32 0RB	1355	1009	346 (25%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place
	EL4B	Gullane Community Association Hall Hall Crescent, Gullane, EH31 2HA	2313	1588	725 (31%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place
	EL4C	Dirleton Church Hall 5d Manse Road, Dirleton, EH39 5EL	816	581	235 (28%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate EL4D, as below.	As EL4D below, merge polling districts EL4C and EL4D.
	EL4D	Fenton Barns Fenton Barns, EH39 5BW	353	261	92 (26%)	A Portakabin is currently used as a polling place. Accessibility is not appropriate and safety of poll staff in the rural setting is a concern	Merge polling district EL4D with EL4C. There is adequate space within Dirleton Church Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate
	EL4E	North Berwick Sports Centre Grange Road, North Berwick, EH39 4QS	6467	4281	2186 (33%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place
	EL4F	Whitekirk Village Hall Whitekirk, EH42 1XS	312	252	60 (19%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place

						merging with another district.	Hall). There is adequate space within Garvald Village Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate.
	EL5G	Gifford Bowling Club Station Road, Gifford, EH41 4QL	879	642	237 (26%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate electorate from EL5C	As EL5C above, merge polling districts EL5C and EL5G
	EL5H	Garvald Village Hall Garvald, EH41 4LN	259	208	51 (19%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate electorate from EL5F	As EL5F above, merge polling districts EL5F and EL5H
	EL5I	Ormiston Community Centre George Street, Ormiston, EH35 5JB	2100	1671	429 (20%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place
	EL5J	Trevelyan Hall 9 Wester Pencaitland, Pencaitland, EH34 5HA	1747	1318	429 (24%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate electorate from EL5B	As EL5B above, merge polling districts EL5B and EL5J

WARD	POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE	TOTAL ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	STATION (in person) ELECTORATE (as at 1/9/23)	POSTAL VOTERS (as at 1/9/23)	RETURNING OFFICER'S COMMENT	PROPOSAL
Ward 6 Dunbar and East Linton	EL6A	Allison Cargill House Whittinghame, EH41 4QA	162	119	43 (26%)	This polling district currently has 119 station voters. It is a very rural polling place with no landline or wifi, therefore poll staff safety is a concern	Merge EL6A with EL6D (Stenton Village Hall). There is adequate space within Stenton Village Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate
	EL6B	East Linton Community Association Hall 73 High Street, East Linton, EH41 2BQ	1932	1444	488 (25%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate electorate from EL6C	As EL6C below, merge polling districts EL6C and EL6B
	EL6C	Tynninghame Village Hall Tynninghame, EH42 1XL	179	131	48 (26%)	This polling district currently has 131 station voters. Consider merging with polling district EL6B	Merge EL6C with EL6B (East Linton). There is adequate space within East Linton Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate
	EL6D	Stenton Village Hall Stenton, EH42 1TE	265	213	52 (19%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate EL6A	As EL6A above, merge polling districts EL6A and EL6D
	EL6E	West Barns Bowling Club Edinburgh Road, West Barns, EH42 1UH	526	431	95 (18%)	Suitable polling district and polling place	No change to polling district or place
	EL6F	Bleachingfield Centre Countess Crescent, Dunbar, EH42 1DX	7993	5945	2048 (25%)	Suitable polling place with sufficient space to accommodate EL6G	As EL6G below, merge polling districts EL6G and EL6F
	EL6G	Spott Community Centre Spott, EH42 1RJ	251	200	51	This polling district currently has 200 station	Merge EL6G with EL6F

					(20%)	voters. Consider merging with polling district EL6F	(Bleachingfield). There is adequate space within Bleachingfield to accommodate this increase in electorate
	EL6H	Innerwick Village Hall Innerwick, EH42 1SE	372	293	79 (21%)	Suitable polling district with sufficient space to accommodate EL6I	As EL6I below, merge polling districts EL6H and EL6I
	EL6I	Oldhamstocks Village Hall Oldhamstocks, TD13 5XN	165	120	45 (27%)	There are plans for Oldhamstocks Village Hall to be demolished and a replacement built, therefore, there is a risk the hall may become unavailable as a polling place.	Merge EL6I with EL6H (Innerwick Village Hall). There is adequate space within Innerwick Hall to accommodate this increase in electorate