
NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

27th March 2024

North Ayrshire Council

Title: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Purpose: To approve the outcome of the statutory review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

Recommendation: Council is recommended to a) note the conclusions and recommendations of the review of polling districts and polling places and (b) approve the venues listed in Appendix 1 as polling places for future electoral events.

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983 requires Returning Officers to undertake a periodic review of Polling Districts and Polling Places within their Council area. A review of polling districts and polling places was carried out and consultations undertaken on proposals. No changes are proposed to polling districts and the proposed changes to polling places have been necessitated by the non-availability of some previous venues.
- 1.2 Council is asked to note the outcome of the review and approve the proposals for polling places.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983 requires Returning Officers to undertake a periodic review of Polling Districts and Polling Places within their Council area. A review of polling districts and polling places has been carried out. Three venues utilised as polling places are not going to be available for future use due to Church of Scotland property rationalisation plans. Those venues are:
 - Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs.
 - Kilbirnie Auld Kirk Hall, Kilbirnie.
 - High Kirk Hall, Stevenston.
- 2.2 The review therefore required to consider alternative venues within the polling districts concerned.

2.3 A public consultation was carried out asking for feedback on the list of current polling Districts and Polling Places and included the interim proposals for replacement venues. Notice of the review was placed in public facing buildings, sent to MSPs, MPs, Elected Members, accessibility groups, Community Councils, advertised in the local press and placed on the North Ayrshire Council website.

2.4 The choice of polling places is determined by a number of principles:

- i. In selecting polling places the Council must follow the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission. Local authorities have a duty to consider the location and accessibility of polling places to voters, and in particular to voters with a disability.
- ii. The Council tries, wherever possible to avoid the use of schools as polling places, to reduce or remove the inconvenience this causes to pupils, parents and the school.
- iii. It is important not to change polling places unless essential as this leads to confusion for voters and potentially could reduce turnout.

2.5 The initial proposals for review were advertised and consulted upon from 2nd October 2023 to 30th November 2023. The changes proposed were:

- Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs, moving to Clark Memorial Hall, Largs.
- Kilbirnie Auld Kirk Hall, Kilbirnie, moving to Garnock Community Social Club, Kilbirnie.
- High Kirk Hall, Stevenston, moving to Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre, Stevenston.

2.6 Consultation responses were received covering the following points:

- **Clark Memorial Hall:** Clarification was required on the venue to make it clear that the venue proposed was the church hall rather than the church. Clarification was provided during the course of the consultation period by amending the plans. Generally, this proposed venue was considered acceptable and will be clearly marked and signed on polling day.
- **Garnock Community Social Club:** Comments in relation to this proposed venue reflected the premises being referred to locally as “the Labour Club” and whilst still in the polling district, it was a distance from the existing polling place. It was suggested that Ladeside Pavilion be considered as it is nearer to the existing polling place, is convenient for public transport having a bus stop nearby, its own car park and has no previous “affiliations” which may deter voters. Whilst Ladeside Pavilion had been considered as part of the initial review, and was discounted due to works which would require to be done to ensure it met accessibility standards, officers decided to reconsider that venue.
- **Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre:** This is some distance from the existing polling place which could in turn deter voter turnout. Stevenston Library was proposed as an alternative.

- 2.7 Following this feedback, the alternative proposals of Ladeside Pavilion, Kilbirnie, and Stevenston Library, Stevenson, were assessed by officers and considered to be suitable. In terms of Ladeside Pavilion, some adaptations are required to improve accessibility. A further period of consultation was undertaken and no further comments were received.
- 2.8 The finalised proposals for polling places are detailed in Appendix 1. No changes are considered necessary to polling districts.
- 2.9 If Council approves the proposals there is provision for appeal, for certain aggrieved parties, to the Electoral Commission on the grounds that the review does not meet the reasonable requirements of the electorate and take sufficient account of disabled access to polling stations. However, it is considered that the review does meet all statutory requirements.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 That Council (i) notes the conclusions and recommendations of the review of polling places and polling districts and (ii) approves the venues listed in Appendix 1 as polling places for future electoral events.

4. Implications/Socio-economic Duty

Financial

- 4.1 The costs associated with hiring venues as polling places for all except Local Government elections, are reclaimed from national Governments.

Human Resources

- 4.2 None

Legal

- 4.3 The conduct of the review meets the statutory obligation to review polling districts and polling places in terms of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Equality/Socio-economic

- 4.4 Three local organisations were contacted in terms of accessibility for voters and no comments were received. All polling places are fully accessible.

Climate Change and Carbon

- 4.5 None

Key Priorities

- 4.6 The review accords with the Council priority of 'Communities and Local Democracy' by ensuring that polling places are accessible and within polling districts to encourage participation in democracy by the local electorate.

Community Wealth Building

- 4.7 None

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation was undertaken with Chief Officers, Local Members, MPs, MSPs, Council employees, accessibility groups, Community Councils and notification to the public was given by newspaper advert and publication on the Council's website.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive of North Ayrshire Council

For further information please contact **Aileen Craig, Head of Service (Democratic Services)**, on **01294 324125**.

Background Papers

None

2023 Review of Polling Districts/Polling Places in North Ayrshire: Final Proposals

| CURRENT POLLING PLACE | Polling District | Change/ No Change | Comments | NEW POLLING PLACE |
|---|------------------|---|---|--|
| WARD 1 NORTH COAST | | | | |
| Barrfields Pavilion Greenock Road LARGS KA30 8QJ | NA101 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Barrfields Pavilion |
| DA Hall The Garrison MILLPORT KA28 0AZ | NA102 | NO CHANGE | N/A | DA Hall, Millport |
| Dunn Memorial Hall Bath Street LARGS KA30 8BL | NA103 | Proposal – Change to Clark Memorial Hall | Change required due to Church of Scotland property rationalisation. The proposed hall provides all required facilities and is in close proximity to the previous polling place. | Clark Memorial Hall Bath Street Largs KA30 8BL Directly across the road from Dunn Memorial Hall |
| Fairlie Village Hall 72 Main Road FAIRLIE KA29 0AB | NA104 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Fairlie Village Hall |
| Largs Campus Gymnasium Alexander Avenue LARGS KA30 9EX | NA105 | NO CHANGE | Gymnasium used – school remains open. | Largs Campus Gymnasium |
| Skelmorlie Community Centre Skelmorlie Castle Road Skelmorlie PA17 5AH | NA106 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Skelmorlie Community Centre |

| CURRENT POLLING PLACE | Polling District | Change/ No Change | Comments | NEW POLLING PLACE |
|---|------------------|---|---|--|
| WARD 1 NORTH COAST | | | | |
| West Kilbride Community Centre Corse Street WEST KILBRIDE KA23 9AX | NA107 | NO CHANGE | N/A | West Kilbride Community Centre |
| WARD 2 GARNOCK VALLEY | | | | |
| Barmill Community Centre Beith Road BARRMILL KA15 1HW | NA201 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Barmill Community Centre |
| Beith Community Centre 45/47 Kings Road BEITH KA15 2BQ | NA202 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Beith Community Centre |
| Beith Parish Church Hall 17 Kirk Road BEITH KA15 1EX | NA203 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Beith Parish Church Hall |
| Bridgend Community Centre 17-19 Bridgend KILBIRNIE KA25 7DJ | NA204 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Bridgend Community Centre |
| Dalry Primary School Sharon Street DALRY KA24 5DR | NA205 | NO CHANGE | Community wing used - school remains open on Polling Day. | Dalry Primary School |
| Kilbirnie Auld Kirk Hall Dalry Road KILBIRNIE KA25 6HY | NA206 | Proposal – Ladeside Pavilion, 30 Kirkland Road, Kilbirnie KA25 6HU | New venue required due to Church of Scotland property rationalisation. Proposed venue which is in the Polling District assessed as suitable with requisite facilities available. Minor upgrading will take place. | Ladeside Pavilion 30 Kirkland Road Kilbirnie KA25 6HU Distance 0.3 miles from Auld Kirk |

| CURRENT POLLING PLACE | Polling District | Change/ No Change | Comments | NEW POLLING PLACE |
|--|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| WARD 2 GARNOCK VALLEY | | | | |
| St. Bridget's Primary School Hagthorn Avenue KILBIRNIE KA25 6EJ | NA207 | NO CHANGE | School in closed on polling day. | St. Bridget's Primary School |
| WARD 3 ARDROSSAN | | | | |
| Ardrossan Civic Centre 150 Glasgow Street ARDROSSAN KA22 8EU | NA301 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Ardrossan Civic Centre |
| Park Parish Church Hall Dalry Road Ardrossan KA22 7LD | NA302 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Park Parish Church Hall |
| Whitlees Community Centre Carrick Place ARDROSSAN KA22 7DT | NA303 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Whitlees Community Centre |
| WARD 4 ARRAN | | | | |
| Brodick Hall Brodick ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8DL | NA401 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Brodick Hall |
| Corrie and Sannox Hall Corrie ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8JB | NA402 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Corrie and Sannox Hall |
| Kilmory Hall ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8PQ | NA403 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Kilmory Hall |

| CURRENT POLLING PLACE | Polling District | Change/ No Change | Comments | NEW POLLING PLACE |
|--|------------------|----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| WARD 4 ARRAN | | | | |
| Lamlash Primary School Mackelvie Road Lamlash ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8NP | NA404 | NO CHANGE | Side wing used – school remains open on polling day. | Lamlash Primary School |
| Lochranza Village Hall Lochranza ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8HL | NA405 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Lochranza Village Hall |
| Shiskine Hall Torbeg Shiskine ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8HE | NA406 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Shiskine Hall |
| Whiting Bay Hall Shore Road Whiting Bay ISLE OF ARRAN KA27 8PR | NA407 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Whiting Bay Hall |
| WARD 5 SALTCOATS & STEVENSTON | | | | |
| Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre Shore Road Ardeer STEVENSTON KA20 3NB | NA501 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre |
| Argyle Community Centre Campbell Avenue SALTCOATS KA21 5AF | NA502 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Argyle Community Centre |

| CURRENT POLLING PLACE | Polling District | Change/ No Change | Comments | NEW POLLING PLACE |
|---|------------------|--|---|---|
| WARD 5 SALTCOATS & STEVENSTON | | | | |
| Dykesmains Primary School Simpson Drive Saltcoats KA21 6EY | NA503 | NO CHANGE | School is closed on polling day. | Dykesmains Primary School |
| Hayocks Community Centre Hyslop Road STEVENSTON KA20 4HS | NA504 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Hayocks Community Centre |
| High Kirk Hall Schoolwell Street STEVENSTON KA20 3DL | NA505 | PROPOSAL - Change to Stevenston Library, 1 Main Street, Stevenston KA20 3AB | High Kirk Hall, Stevenston, will no longer be available for use due to Church of Scotland property rationalisation. Library will be closed the afternoon before polling day, polling day and morning after polling day. | Stevenston Library 1 Main Street Stevenston KA20 3AB Distance 0.2 miles from High Kirk |
| St Anthony's Primary School Dykesmains Road SALTCOATS KA21 6DE | NA506 | NO CHANGE | School is closed on polling day. | St Anthony's Primary School |
| Mayfield Primary School Kenilworth Drive SALTCOATS KA21 6HS | NA507 & NA508 | NO CHANGE | School remains open with traffic management arrangements in place. | Mayfield Primary School |

| CURRENT POLLING PLACE | Polling District | Change/ No Change | Comments | NEW POLLING PLACE |
|---|------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| WARD 6 KILWINNING | | | | |
| Cranberry Moss Community Centre Cambusdoon Place KILWINNING KA13 6SL | NA601 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Cranberry Moss Community Centre |
| Dirran's Centre Dirrans Terrace KILWINNING KA13 7PH | NA602 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Dirran's Centre |
| Mansefield Trinity Church West Doura Way KILWINNING KA13 6DY | NA603 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Mansefield Trinity Church |
| Nethermains Community Centre Nethermains Road KILWINNING KA13 6ES | NA604 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Nethermains Community Centre |
| William Love Memorial Hall Moncur Road KILWINNING KA13 7LD | NA605 & NA606 | NO CHANGE | N/A | William Love Memorial Hall |
| Woodwynd Hall David Gage Street KILWINNING KA13 7EF | NA607 | NO CHANGE | NA | Woodwynd Hall |

| CURRENT POLLING PLACE | Polling District | Change/ No Change | Comments | NEW POLLING PLACE |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| WARD 7 IRVINE WEST | | | | |
| Castlepark Community Centre 4 Castlepark Road IRVINE KA12 9LQ | NA701 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Castlepark Community Centre |
| Redburn Centre Dickson Drive IRVINE KA12 9EW | NA702 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Redburn Centre |
| St. Mark's Primary School Clark Drive IRVINE KA12 0NS | NA703 | NO CHANGE | Due to the size and layout of St. Mark's Primary School it is not possible to allow the school to operate on Polling Day. This school will therefore continue to close on Polling Day. | St Mark's Primary School |
| Vineburgh Centre Quarry Road IRVINE KA12 0PS | NA704 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Vineburgh Centre |
| Volunteer Rooms High Street IRVINE KA12 0BA | NA705 & NA706 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Volunteer Rooms |

| CURRENT POLLING PLACE | Polling District | Change/ No Change | Comments | NEW POLLING PLACE |
|--|------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| WARD 8 IRVINE EAST | | | | |
| Lanfine Community Centre Lanfine Terrace IRVINE KA11 1BT | NA801 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Lanfine Community Centre |
| Littlestane Community Hall Littlestane Road IRVINE KA11 2EX | NA802 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Littlestane Community Centre |
| Annick Primary School (formerly Stanecastle Primary School) Benslie Rise Girdle Toll IRVINE KA11 1BQ | NA803 | NO CHANGE | Early Years area (new extension) used. School remains open. | Annick Primary School |
| Towerlands Community Centre Towerlands Farm Road IRVINE KA11 1PY | NA804 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Towerlands Community Centre |
| WARD 9 IRVINE SOUTH | | | | |
| Drybridge Community Centre Main Street Drybridge IRVINE KA11 5BY | NA901 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Drybridge Community Centre |
| Elderbank Primary School St Kilda Bank IRVINE KA11 1LA | NA902 | NO CHANGE | School remains open on polling day. | Elderbank Primary School |

| CURRENT POLLING PLACE | Polling District | Change/ No Change | Comments | NEW POLLING PLACE |
|--|------------------|----------------------|----------|-----------------------------|
| WARD 9 IRVINE SOUTH | | | | |
| Fullarton Community Hub 1 School Lane IRVINE KA12 8DF | NA903 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Fullarton Community Hub |
| Springside Community Centre Overtoun Road Springside IRVINE KA11 3BG | NA904 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Springside Community Centre |
| Townend Community Centre 15 Townfoot Dreghorn IRVINE KA11 4EQ | N905 | NO CHANGE | N/A | Townend Community Centre |