

# **North Ayrshire Council Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023**

## **Returning Officer Submission**

### **Overview**

1. North Ayrshire Council is undertaking a review of polling districts and polling places, as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. The review is being conducted by the Council, in accordance with legislation and guidance issued by The Electoral Commission.

2. The polling district refers to the geographical area, whilst the polling place is the building that electors go to, to place their vote. Under the current review, no changes are proposed to polling districts however due to venues no longer being available, there are proposed changes to the following three Polling Places (the building where electors cast their vote) in the North Ayrshire Area:

Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place
Dunn Memorial Hall, Church Street, Largs KA30 8DF	Clark Memorial Church Hall, Bath St, Largs KA30 8BL
Kilbirnie Auld Kirk Hall, 2 Kirkland Road, Kilbirnie KA25 6HS	Ladeside Pavilion, 30 Kirkland Rd, Kilbirnie KA25 6HU
High Kirk Hall, 2A High Road, Stevenston KA20 3DN	Stevenston Library, 1 Main Street, Stevenston KA20 3AB

3. As Returning Officer for the North Ayrshire area, I am required to comment on the proposals that have been published. This note therefore constitutes my official response to the proposals published by the Council on 1 October 2023.

### **Background**

4. Many of the polling places identified within the review have been used for a number of years and no issues have been identified. All polling places are kept under review and in particular learning and feedback after each electoral event is taken into account.

5. The Electoral Commission Guidance provides direction on evaluating the suitability of buildings as polling places and polling stations. Accordingly, it has been confirmed that all venues included within the Polling Scheme have been evaluated to assess their suitability, in respect of location, size, availability, accessibility and facilities.

Consideration has also been given to whether polling places are able to accommodate multiple polling stations, where required.

6. The legislation specifies that local authority run schools may be used free of charge, for polling purposes. As such and where appropriate, it has been agreed that a limited number of local schools will be used as polling places, recognising that our schools are able to meet the access requirements set out within the Guidance. Consideration is being given to schedule in service days to coincide with planned elections/referenda, to limit any potential impact on the school curriculum.

### **Proposals**

7. No changes are proposed in respect of polling districts and the changes to the three polling places are currently out for final consultation. These proposals reflect consultation feedback received during the initial consultation period of 2<sup>nd</sup> October until 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. As Returning Officer, I would confirm that I am in agreement with the polling places proposed as detailed within the scheme.

### **Conclusion**

8. I look forward to hearing the views of electors within the North Ayrshire area in the coming weeks.

Craig Hatton  
Returning Officer