

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Chief Executive

Council : 30 September 2009

Subject: Designation of Polling Places

1. Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to allow the Council to consider the designation of polling places for any elections or referendums to be held in 2010.

2. Background

- 2.1** The UK Parliamentary election must be held not later than 3 June 2010, but can be held sooner at the discretion of the Prime Minister. This election can be called at seventeen working days notice which makes it particularly important to have a full project plan in place for implementation as soon as the election date is known.
- 2.2** As at the European Parliamentary Elections of June 2009, the Returning Officer is responsible for a single UK parliamentary constituency – the West Dunbartonshire County Constituency, which has the same boundaries as the Council area. The Council is responsible for setting the polling places within that area.
- 2.3** In March 2009, the Council confirmed the polling scheme to be used for the European Parliament Election and any other elections occurring during 2009. An investigation into the possibility of using the Council's Garshake Road offices as a polling place was carried out but concluded that this would not be a suitable location without closing the offices for business on election day.

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** It is important, for the benefit of electors, to maintain continuity of polling places insofar as this is possible. A wide range of types of accommodation is used in this area, ranging from schools, community education premises, libraries and leisure centres to church and halls and other private accommodation.
- 3.2** The main priority in choosing a polling place is its accessibility. Preference is given to locations which allow a single access suitable for all electors. The accommodation available for polling is also important in that the premises must be large enough to accommodate the appropriate number of polling stations and polling equipment and must offer adequate facilities for polling staff who will be on duty from 6.30 a.m. until after 10 p.m. when the last polling procedures are complete.

- 3.3** The polling places are kept under review for suitability in terms of access, with the Council's Policy Officer – Disability and Access - vetting the list and inspecting a proportion of premises at each election. Consultation has also taken place with the Access Panel on measures which could be implemented to improve access to existing premises.
- 3.4** The presumption is not to use (and therefore close) a school on polling day if suitable alternative premises are available locally. However, alternative premises must be satisfactory in terms of accommodation and access.
- 3.5** Temporary buildings (portacabins or similar) are used only as a last resort for the following reasons – additional cost, reduced accessibility and noise nuisance to neighbours caused by the generators required to provide heating and lighting. There is only one temporary polling place proposed and that is in Milton at Colquhoun Road. There is no other possible solution in the local area. The Scotland Office will not allow the costs involved in hiring temporary buildings if other suitable accommodation exists locally.
- 3.6** Since the UK Parliamentary election can be called at 17 working days' notice, there is a possibility that certain premises in private ownership may not be available for polling purposes. This may mean that the scheme will have to be subject to last minute variations.
- 3.7** The scheme has been issued to members in advance for their comment.
- 3.8** Although the date for the election is not yet known, it is important that we finalise the list of preferred polling places as soon as possible so that not only the Council's Election Office but also the Electoral Registration Officer can have all necessary systems in readiness once the election is called.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** There are no personnel issues arising from this report.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** There is a cost to the Council of closing premises which is not met in full by the recharge made to the Scotland Office. Councils are allowed to recharge only the costs of heating, lighting and janitation. In addition, the cost of any temporary access ramps is defrayed only by 50%, which means the Council has to bear remaining costs, despite the fact that these are not local government elections.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** Delays in designating polling places could have serious implications for the conduct of a General Election called at short notice. The polling scheme is the central to the main administrative tasks at the election, including the preparation of poll cards and the appointment of polling staff.

7. Conclusions and Officers' Recommendations

7.1 The recommendations are as follows:-

- a) The Council is asked to approve the list of recommended polling places for use at any elections, by-elections or referendums in 2010, subject to the premises being available on the date of the poll;

- b) In the event of any matter arising which cannot be resolved at the meeting, or of any named premises being unavailable for a poll, that it be remitted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with local members, to agree the final list of premises to be used.

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David McMillan
Chief Executive
Date: 3 September 2009

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Appendix: Revised Scheme of Polling Places for the West Dunbartonshire County Constituency.

Background Papers: Reports to Council by the Chief Executive on 26 September 2007: 31 October 2007 and 25 March 2008 and minutes thereof.

Wards Affected: All wards

POLLING PLACES FOR THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL AREA

Ward 1 – Lomond

PD No	Polling Place
WD01	Millennium Hall, Gartocharn
WD02	Lennox Hall, Carrochan Road, Balloch G83
WD03	Lennox Hall, Carrochan Road, Balloch G83
WD04	Lennox Hall, Carrochan Road, Balloch G83
WD05	Vale of Leven Swimming Pool, North Main Street, Alexandria G83 9SJ
WD06	St Kessog's Church Hall, Balloch Road, Balloch G83 8LQ
WD07	Alexandria Parish Church Hall, Lomond Road, Balloch G83 8SJ
WD08	Vale of Leven Swimming Pool, North Main Street, Alexandria G83 9SJ
WD09	Lennox Hall, Carrochan Road, Balloch G83

POLLING PLACES FOR THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Ward 2 – Leven

PD No	Polling Place
WD10	Alexandria Community Education Centre, Main Street, Alexandria G83 9BH
WD11	Alexandria Community Education Centre, Main Street, Alexandria G83 9BH
WD12	St Martin's Church Hall, Main Street, Renton G82 4PZ
WD13	Renton Primary School, Main Street, Renton G82 4NA
WD14	Dalmonach Community Education Centre, First Avenue, Bonhill, G82 9AU
WD15	Bonhill Community Education Centre, Ladyton, Bonhill G83 9BH
WD16	Bonhill Community Education Centre, Ladyton, Bonhill G83 9BH
WD17	Loch Lomond Rugby Football Club, Beechwood Drive, Bonhill G83 9LY
WD18	Bonhill Primary School, Main Street, Bonhill, G83 9AF
WD19	Aitkenbar Primary School, Whiteford Avenue, Dumbarton G82 3JL
WD20	Aitkenbar Primary School, Whiteford Avenue, Dumbarton G82 3JL

POLLING PLACES FOR THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Ward 3 – Dumbarton

PD No	Polling Place
WD21	Westbridgend Community Hall, Westbridgend, Dumbarton G82 4EN
WD22	United Free Church Hall, Hawthornhill Road, Dumbarton G82 5AS
WD23	St Michael's Church Hall, Cardross Road, Dumbarton G82 4JE
WD24	West Dumbarton Activity Centre, Ardoch Crescent, Dumbarton G82 4EN
WD25	Braehead Primary School, Meadow Road, Dumbarton G82 2BL
WD26	Braehead Primary School, Meadow Road, Dumbarton G82 2BL
WD27	Concord Community Education Centre, St Mary's Way, Dumbarton G82 1JL
WD28	St Patrick's Church Hall, Strathleven Place, Dumbarton G82 1BA
WD29	St Patrick's Primary School, Crosslet Road, Dumbarton, G82 2LQ
WD30	Knoxland Primary School, Glasgow Road, Dumbarton G82 1QU
WD31	Chilli's, Abbotsford Hotel, Stirling Road, Dumbarton G82
WD32	Milton Mobile Polling Place, Colquhoun Road, Milton G82 2TH
WD33	Bowling Hall, Dumbarton Road, Bowling G80 1UA

POLLING PLACES FOR THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Ward 4 – Kilpatrick

PD No	Polling Place
WC01	Glenhead Community Centre, Duntiglennan Road, Duntocher, Clydebank G81 6AH
WC02	Glenhead Community Centre, Duntiglennan Road, Duntocher, Clydebank G81 6AH
WC03	Goldenhill Primary School, Stewart Drive, Hardgate, Clydebank G81 6AH
WC04	Faifley Parish Church Hall, Faifley Road, Clydebank G81 5AR
WC05	St Joseph's Church Hall, Faifley Road, Clydebank G81 5EZ
WC06	Goldenhill Primary School, Stewart Drive, Hardgate, Clydebank G81 6AH
WD34	Bowling Public Hall, Dumbarton Road, Bowling G60 1UA

POLLING PLACES FOR THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Ward 5 – Clydebank Central

PD No	Polling Place
WC07	Dalmuir Barclay Parish Church Hall, Durban Avenue, Clydebank G81 4JH
WC08	Dalmuir Barclay Parish Church Hall, Durban Avenue, Clydebank G81 4JH
WC10	Parkhall Library, Hawthorn Street, Clydebank G81 3EF
WC11	St Stephen's Church Hall, Park Road, Clydebank G81 3ED
WC12	St Stephen's Church Hall, Park Road, Clydebank G81 3ED
WC13	Parkhall Library, Hawthorn Street, Clydebank G81 3EF
WC14	Kilbowie Primary School, West Thomson Street, Clydebank G81 3AE
WC15	St Eunan's Church Hall, Gilmour Street, Clydebank G81 2BW
WC16	Drumry Bowling Pavilion, Kirkoswald Drive, Clydebank G81 2DA
WC17	St Eunan's Primary School, Melfort Avenue, Clydebank G81 2HS
WC18	Linnvale Primary School, Livingstone Street, Clydebank G81 2RL

POLLING PLACES FOR THE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNTY CONSTITUENCY

Ward 6 – Clydebank Waterfront

PD No	Polling Place
WC19	Gavinburn Library, Dumbarton Road, Old Kilpatrick G60 5NE
WC20	Napier Hall, Dumbarton Road, Old Kilpatrick G60 5JH
WC21	Napier Hall, Dumbarton Road, Old Kilpatrick G60 5JH
WC22	Dalmuir Barclay Parish Church Hall, Durban Avenue, Clydebank G81 4JH
WC23	Dalmuir Barclay Parish Church Hall, Durban Avenue, Clydebank G81 4JH
WC24	Abbotsford Church Hall, Abbotsford Rd, Clydebank G81 1PA
WC25	St Margaret's Church Hall, Sinclair Street, Clydebank G81 1AE

