

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	7 February 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
REPORT NUMBER	COM/24/033
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Vikki Cuthbert / Jenni Lawson
REPORT AUTHOR	David Gow
TERMS OF REFERENCE	9

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present recommendations as part of the statutory review of polling districts and polling places before proceeding to public consultation.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:-

- 2.1 Agrees the recommended changes to polling districts as outlined in paragraphs 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9 and 3.10.
- 2.2 Agrees the recommended changes to polling places as outlined in paragraph 3.11.
- 2.3 Following approval of the recommended changes to polling districts and polling places, instructs the Chief Officer – Governance to proceed to public consultation.
- 2.4 Notes that following public consultation, a report containing the final proposals will be presented for consideration at a Council meeting by July 2024.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 As specified in the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district.
- 3.2 As specified in the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, the next compulsory review of polling districts and polling places must take place between 1st October 2023 and 31st January 2025.

Recommended Changes to Polling Districts to be implemented after the next UK Parliamentary General Election

- 3.3 Whilst the majority of changes to polling districts recommended in this report can only happen after the next UK Parliamentary general election, that is not the case for those described in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.7. However, the advice of the Electoral Registration Office is that these should also only be implemented after the next general election. The reason given for this is that, as the date of the next general election is currently unknown, there is a risk that the work to change polling districts could overlap with the election timetable. This overlap would create issues both in terms of supplying register data for the election and the overall additional workload generated. Implementing all polling district changes after the general election will help us ensure that the election is well run whenever it happens. This means that it is accessible, consistent, efficient, secure and produces results that are trusted.
- 3.4 Polling district DN0107 is to be split along the line of the A96 Inverurie Road. The south section remains as DN0107 and the north section becomes part of DN0105. The electors in the area that has joined DN0105 will vote at Stoneywood School, rather than Beacon Sports Centre. This is more convenient and means they do not need to cross the A96 to attend the polling place. DN0107 is to be renamed Bucksburn West. DN0108 is to be renamed Bucksburn East.
- 3.5 The south west section of DN0105 which is south of the A96 Inverurie Road is to join DN0107. The electors in this area will vote at Beacon Sports Centre, rather than Stoneywood School. This is more convenient and means they do not need to cross the A96 to attend the polling place.
- 3.6 CN0602 is to merge with CN0603. CN0602 is a small polling district which covers the Aberdeen University, Hillhead student village. However, no separate polling arrangements are made for these electors and they currently vote at Seaton Community Church, the same polling place as CN0603. Merging these polling districts has efficiency benefits for administering the election.
- 3.7 As a result of the merging of polling districts CN0602 and CN0603, the polling districts in Ward 6 will be renumbered as follows.

Current Polling District Code	Current Polling District Name	New Polling District Code	New Polling District Name
CN0601	TILLYDRONE	CN0601	TILLYDRONE
CN0602	DON	CN0602	SEATON NORTH
CN0603	SEATON NORTH		
CN0604	ST MACHAR	CN0603	ST MACHAR
CN0605	SEATON SOUTH	CN0604	SEATON SOUTH

- 3.8 It is necessary to maintain polling districts that allow for the use of both current and new UK Parliamentary boundaries until such time as the next UK Parliamentary general election has been held. Once this election has been held, the current boundaries will no longer be needed and a number of changes can be made in order to remove unnecessary polling districts.
- 3.9 After the next UK Parliamentary general election, some very small polling districts will be removed by merging them with neighbouring polling districts in the following wards.

Ward 3				
Current Polling District Code	Current Polling District Name	Action	New Polling District Code	New Polling District Name
DN0301	KINGSWELLS CENTRAL	Merge DN0301 + DN0306	DN0301	KINGSWELLS SOUTH
DN0302	KINGSWELLS NORTH	NO CHANGE	DN0302	KINGSWELLS NORTH
DN0303	SHEDDOCKSLEY EAST	NO CHANGE	DN0303	SHEDDOCKSLEY EAST
DN0304	SHEDDOCKSLEY WEST	NO CHANGE	DN0304	SHEDDOCKSLEY WEST
DN0305	SUMMERHILL NORTH	NO CHANGE	DN0305	SUMMERHILL NORTH
DN0306	KINGSWELLS SOUTH	Merge DN0301 + DN0306		
DN0307	WHITEMYRES	Merge DN0307 + DN0308 + DN0309	DN0306	WOODEND
DN0308	WOODEND	Merge DN0307 + DN0308 + DN0309		
DN0309	DENWOOD	Merge DN0307 + DN0308 + DN0309		
DN0310	SUMMERHILL CENTRAL	NEW CODE	DN0307	SUMMERHILL CENTRAL

Ward 8				
Current Polling District Code	Current Polling District Name	Action	New Polling District Code	New Polling District Name
CS0801	CALSAYSEAT	NO CHANGE	CS0801	CALSAYSEAT
CS0802	SUNNYBANK	NO CHANGE	CS0802	SUNNYBANK
CS0803	MOUNTHOOLY	Merge CS0803 + CS0804	CS0804	MOUNTHOOLY
CS0804	WOOLMANHILL	Merge CS0803 + CS0804		
CS0805	ST NICHOLAS	NO CHANGE	CS0805	ST NICHOLAS
CS0806	PITTODRIE SOUTH	NO CHANGE	CS0806	PITTODRIE SOUTH
CS0807	CASTLEHILL NORTH	NO CHANGE	CS0807	CASTLEHILL NORTH
CS0808	CASTLEHILL SOUTH	NO CHANGE	CS0808	CASTLEHILL SOUTH
CS0809	PITTODRIE NORTH	NEW CODE	CS0803	PITTODRIE NORTH

Ward 10				
Current Polling District Code	Current Polling District Name	Action	New Polling District Code	New Polling District Name
SS1001	HAZLEHEAD	Merge SS1001 + SS1002	SS1001	HAZLEHEAD
SS1002	CRAIGDEN	Merge SS1001 + SS1002		
SS1003	SUMMERHILL SOUTH	NEW CODE	SS1002	SUMMERHILL SOUTH
CS1004	RUBISLAW	Merge CS1004 + CS1005	CS1003	RUBISLAW
CS1005	HAMILTON	Merge CS1004 + CS1005		
SS1006	CRAIGIEBUCKLER	NEW CODE	SS1004	CRAIGIEBUCKLER
SS1007	SEAFIELD	NEW CODE	SS1005	SEAFIELD
CS1008	HARLAW	NEW CODE	CS1006	HARLAW

CS1009	CROMWELL	NEW CODE	CS1007	CROMWELL
CS1010	ASHLEY	NEW CODE	CS1008	ASHLEY

Ward 12				
Current Polling District Code	Current Polling District Name	Action	New Polling District Code	New Polling District Name
CS1201	BON-ACCORD	Merge CS1201 + CS1202	CS1201	BON-ACCORD
CS1202	PALMERSTON	Merge CS1201 + CS1202		
CS1203	FERRYHILL	NEW CODE	CS1202	FERRYHILL
CS1204	GAIRN	NEW CODE	CS1203	GAIRN
CS1205	DUTHIE	NEW CODE	CS1204	DUTHIE
SS1206	TORRY WEST	NEW CODE	SS1205	TORRY WEST
SS1207	TORRY EAST	NEW CODE	SS1206	TORRY EAST
SS1208	BALNAGASK EAST	NEW CODE	SS1207	BALNAGASK EAST
SS1209	BALNAGASK WEST	NEW CODE	SS1208	BALNAGASK WEST

- 3.10 Polling districts in Ward 7 are currently configured so as to comprise both current and new UK Parliamentary boundaries. After the next UK Parliamentary general election, it can be reconfigured as follows.

Current Polling Districts Code	Current Polling Districts Name	Action	New Polling District Code	New Polling District Name
CN0701	RAEDEN	NO CHANGE	CN0701	RAEDEN
CN0702	MIDSTOCKET	NO CHANGE	CN0702	MIDSTOCKET
CN0703	ASHGROVE	NO CHANGE	CN0703	ASHGROVE
CN0704	BERRYDEN	NO CHANGE	CN0704	BERRYDEN
CS0705	MIDSTOCKET SOUTH	Merge CS0705 + CS0706	CS0705	DENBURN
CS0706	DENBURN	Merge CS0705 + CS0706		
CN0707	GILCOMSTON WEST	Merge CN0707 + CN0708	CN0706	GILCOMSTON NORTH
CN0708	GILCOMSTON EAST	Merge CN0707 + CN0708		
CS0709	GILCOMSTON SOUTH	NEW CODE	CS0707	GILCOMSTON SOUTH

Recommended Changes to Polling Places

3.11 The full list of proposed polling places is attached. The following changes to polling places are recommended:

Polling District	Previous Polling Place	Recommended Change	Explanation
DN0106 Danestone North, DN0109 Mugiemoss, DN0110 Danestone South	Danestone Community Centre	Danestone Congregational Church	Returning to established polling place post Covid.
DN0203 Newburgh, DN0206 Parkway North	Glashieburn School	Get Active @ Jesmond	Moving away from use of schools where possible.
DN0303 Sheddocksley East	Kingsford School	Sheddocksley Community Centre	Moving away from use of schools where possible.
DN0402 Heathryfold, DN0403 Middlefield	Manor Park School	Manor Park Learning Centre	Moving away from use of schools where possible.
DN0408 Mastrick East	Quarryhill School	Holy Family Church, Mastrick	Moving away from use of schools where possible.
CN0508 Kittybrewster	Kittybrewster School	High Church Hilton	Moving away from use of schools where possible.
CN0602 Don, CN0603 Seaton North (recommended to merge)	Seaton School	Seaton Community Church	Moving away from use of schools where possible.
CN0604 St Machar	St Peter's RC School	Powis Community Centre	Returning to established polling place post Covid.
CN0704 Berryden	Skene Square School	Get Active @ Westburn	Moving away from use of schools where possible.
SS1001 Hazlehead, SS1002 Craigden (recommended to merge)	Hazlehead School	Hazlehead Learning Centre	Returning to established polling place post Covid.
SS1003 Summerhill South	Fernielea School	Fernielea Gospel Hall	Moving away from use of schools where possible.

It should be noted that South St. Nicholas Church in Kincorth is due to close in August 2024 and it is proposed to continue using the church until this time. Suggestions are invited for a replacement. The nearby Scout Hall does not currently have disabled access.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The recommendations in this report have no significant financial implications.

If there are financial implications resulting from subsequent recommendations following the consultation period, these will be highlighted to Council in due course.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The council has a legal duty to carry out this review. Timings of statutory reviews of polling districts and polling places are specified in the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. The requirements of this review are set out in Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. RISK

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	No significant risks identified.			
Compliance	The review is a statutory requirement.	The Council will comply with its statutory duty by completing the review.	Low	Yes
Operational	Some voters will attend a different polling place.	A change of polling place will be highlighted on the poll card and advertised through multiple channels. All electors have the option of voting by post.	Low	Yes

Financial	No significant risks identified.			
Reputational	No significant risks identified.			
Environment / Climate	No significant risks identified.			

8. OUTCOMES

8.1 The proposals in this report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2013/6/contents/enacted>

10.2 Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/2/schedule/A1>

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix A - Recommended changes to polling districts in Ward 1.

11.2 Appendix B - Recommended changes to polling districts in Ward 6.

11.3 Appendix C - Recommended changes to polling districts in Ward 3.

11.4 Appendix D - Recommended changes to polling districts in Ward 8.

11.5 Appendix E - Recommended changes to polling districts in Ward 10.

11.6 Appendix F - Recommended changes to polling districts in Ward 12.

11.7 Appendix G - Recommended changes to polling districts in Ward 7.

11.8 Appendix H - Full list of recommended polling districts and polling places.

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

Name	David Gow
Title	Elections Lead
Email Address	davidgow@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Tel	01224 523881