

REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – 18 NOVEMBER 2021

REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT 1983 – REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

1 Reason for Report / Summary

- 1.1 This report provides the Council with information regarding polling districts and polling places in the Aberdeenshire Council area and recommends changes to the designation of certain polling places within said polling districts.

2 Recommendations

The Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 **Agree the following changes to the designation of polling places in the Aberdeenshire Council area and attached as Appendix 1 of this report.**
- 2.2 **Notwithstanding recommendation 2.1, approve contingency arrangements for the identification of polling places in any case where a venue becomes unavailable at short notice and note that the Returning Officer has a delegated authority to agree any further changes that may be required in the preparation for the Scottish Local Government Elections 2022 or any intervening election event.**

3 Purpose and Decision Making Route

- 3.1 This report seeks to advise members of the legislative duty placed upon the Council, in terms of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (“the 2013 Act”) to undertake a review of parliamentary polling districts and polling places under the Council’s control.
- 3.2 The purpose of undertaking the review is to ensure that reasonable facilities are provided for voting and that polling places are accessible to all electors, including those with a disability, so far as is practicable.
- 3.3 Following consultation, this report has come back to Full Council to complete the formal decision-making route.

4 Discussion

- 4.1 Section 18 of the 2013 Act requires that the Council conducts a review of all polling districts and polling places every five years.
- 4.2 In any event, the Council has a policy of reviewing polling arrangements on an ongoing basis and exploring alternative facilities wherever these are brought to the attention of the Returning Officer. Accordingly, the designation of new polling places is not uncommon and a number of these take place in the period between each formal review.

- 4.3 In addition, the Council must seek to ensure, so far as possible, that polling places are accessible to any elector with a disability and take this into account when designating any new polling place. It is a requirement that the polling place for any polling district is located within that district, unless there are special circumstances making it desirable to designate a venue wholly or partially outside said polling district.
- 4.4 It was the original intention of the Elections Team, subsequent to reporting to Full Council on 16 January 2020 (Item 9, Page 96) and having completed a six-week period of consultation between 4 February 2020 and 17 March 2020 with various stakeholders for the identification of alternative venues for polling places, to report back to Full Council for agreement of any subsequent changes to the designation of polling places in the Aberdeenshire Council area. However, having considered the challenging situation with the coronavirus outbreak the review of polling districts and polling places was postponed until further notice. (It should also be noted that, in the intervening period, the 2018 Review of UK Parliamentary Constituencies was formally abandoned with the passing of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 2020, which received Royal Assent on 14 December 2020; the next review will be conducted between 2021 and 2023). Following the lifting of most of the coronavirus restrictions and the country moving beyond the level zero rules on 9 August 2021, the Elections Team has been able to complete its investigations and now make recommendations to Full Council regarding alternative polling place venues which could be used at future electoral events.
- 4.5 It is recommended that Full Council agree to retain the existing polling places as previously agreed by Full Council on 16 January 2020, save for the following proposed changes to polling places (which are also highlighted in bold within the list of Polling Districts and Polling Places attached as Appendix 1 to this report):

Electoral Ward	Polling District	Polling Place	Proposed New Polling Place	Comments
Troup	BB0202 (Myrus/Macduff)	Macduff Town Hall	Buchan Street Hall	Used for Scottish Parliament Election 2021
Fraserburgh and District	BB0301 (Fraserburgh West)	Westfield School	St Andrew's Hall	Alternative to use of school
Peterhead North and Rattray	BB0502 (Lonmay)	Lonmay Public Hall	Roads Community Café, St Combs	Used for Scottish Parliament Election 2021

Peterhead North and Rattray	BB0506 (Coplandhill)	The Anna Ritchie School	Territorial Army Centre	Used for Scottish Parliament 2021 for Polling District BB0507 (Peterhead Central) as Rescue Hall was being used as vaccination centre; Alternative to use of school
Turriff and District	EB0704 (Inverkeithney)	Easterfield School	Auchterless Community Hall	Easterfield School currently mothballed
Inverurie and District	EG1101 (Inverurie West)	Garioch Community Centre	Garioch Indoor Bowling Club	Used for Scottish Parliament Election 2021
Inverurie and District	EG1102 (Inverurie North)	Garioch Community Centre	Garioch Indoor Bowling Club	Used for Scottish Parliament Election 2021
Banchory and Mid Deeside	WW1605 (Birse)	Ballogie Nursery	Finzean Public Hall	Alternative to use of school
North Kincardine	SW1703 (Hillside)	The Porty Cabin	The Jubilee Hall	Used for Scottish Parliament Election 2021
North Kincardine	SW1704 (Portlethen North)	The Jubilee Hall	Portlethen Parish Church Hall	Used for Scottish Parliament Election 2021

4.6 Concurrent with the proposed recommendations, the Elections Team have considered all options available to it for removing schools from the list of polling places for the Aberdeenshire Council area.

4.7 The following schools are currently listed as polling places in the Aberdeenshire area:

- Arnage School
- Aucherellon Primary School, Ellon
- Ballogie Nursery School Building
- Banchory Devenick School
- Buchanhaven School, Peterhead
- Clerkhill School, Peterhead
- Crudie School
- Dales Park School, Peterhead
- Drumblade School Nursery Building
- Easterfield School
- Meiklemill Primary School, Ellon
- The Anna Ritchie School, Peterhead
- Tough School
- Westfield School, Fraserburgh

4.8 The proposed recommendations would mean that Ballogie Nursery School Building, The Anna Ritchie School in Peterhead and Westfield School in Fraserburgh would no longer require to be used as polling places. Easterfield School can no longer be used as a polling place as it is currently mothballed.

4.9 While removing all schools from the list of polling places for the Aberdeenshire Council area remains a challenge, the Elections Team will continue to consider any alternative venues as part of its policy of reviewing polling arrangements on an ongoing basis and exploring alternative facilities wherever these are brought to the attention of the Returning Officer.

5 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

5.1 This report helps deliver the Strategic Priority “Infrastructure” within the Pillar “Our Environment”; underpinning this priority is the key principle of having the right people, in the right places, at the right time.

5.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial		X	
Staffing		X	
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Children and Young People’s Rights and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 2		

Climate Change and Sustainability	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Health and Wellbeing	IIA attached as Appendix 2		
Town Centre First	IIA attached as Appendix 2		

- 5.3 While there are no immediate staffing and financial implications if the recommendations are agreed, it should be noted that there are both staffing and financial implications with regard to the staffing and booking of polling places for any future election events. The next scheduled election to be held is the Scottish Local Government Election on Thursday 5 May 2022 and those election costs will be factored into the 2022/23 budget setting process.
- 5.4 An integrated impact assessment has been carried out as part of the development of the proposals set out above. It is included as Appendix 2 and identifies positive impacts for persons with protected characteristics.
- 5.5 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:

ACORP004 – Business and organisational change (including – ensuring governance structures support change; and managing the pace of change)

No Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Strategic Level.

6 Scheme of Governance

- 6.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.
- 6.2 This item is reserved for decision by Full Council in terms of Section A.1.3. of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as this matter relates to elections and referenda including electoral boundaries.

JIM SAVEGE, CHIEF EXECUTIVE / RETURNING OFFICER

Report prepared by Martin Ingram, Elections Coordinator
Date 2 November 2021

List of Appendices –

Appendix 1 – List of Polling Districts and Polling Places as at UK Parliamentary General Election of 12 December 2019 and proposed changes to polling places

Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment

APPENDIX 1

Ward	Electoral Wards	Polling Districts	APPENDIX 1		Proposed New Polling Place Location
	Ward Name	Polling District I.D.	Polling District Name	Polling Place (Locations approved by Full Council 16/01/2020)	
1	Banff and District	BB0101	Portsoy	Destiny Church and Community Hall	Destiny Church and Community Hall
1		BB0102	Fordyce	Fordyce Community Hall	Fordyce Community Hall
1		BB0103	Boyndie/Whitehills	Whitehills Public Hall	Whitehills Public Hall
1		BB0104	Banff Town	Banff Parish Church Hall	Banff Parish Church Hall
1		BB0105	Banff Hilton	WRI Hall, Hilton	WRI Hall, Hilton
1		BB0106	Alvah	Alvah Parish Hall	Alvah Parish Hall
1		BB0107	Cornhill	Hay Memorial Hall	Hay Memorial Hall
1		BB0108	Marnoch/Ordiquhill	Aberchirder Community Pavillion	Aberchirder Community Pavillion
1		BB0109	Forglen	Forglen Parish Church Hall	Forglen Parish Church Hall
2	Troup	BB0201	Macduff Town	Macduff Town Hall	Macduff Town Hall
2		BB0202	Myrus/Macduff	Macduff Town Hall	Buchan Street Hall
2		BB0203	Gamrie	Gardenstown Public Hall	Gardenstown Public Hall
2		BB0204	Aberdour	Aberdour Parish Hall	Aberdour Parish Hall
2		BB0205	Rosehearty	Fordyce Street Hall	Fordyce Street Hall
2		BB0206	Sandhaven	Sandhaven & Pitullie Public Hall	Sandhaven & Pitullie Public Hall
2		BB0207	Boyndlie	Boyndlie Community Hall	Boyndlie Community Hall
2		BB0208	King Edward	King Edward Hall	King Edward Hall
2		BB0209	Crudie	Crudie School	Crudie School
2		BB0210	New Byth	New Byth Church Hall	New Byth Church Hall
3	Fraserburgh and District	BB0301	Fraserburgh West	Westfield School	St Andrew's Hall
3		BB0302	Fraserburgh North	JIC Building	JIC Building
3		BB0303	Fraserburgh East	Dalrymple Hall	Dalrymple Hall
3		BB0304	Cairnbulg	Invercairn Community Hall	Invercairn Community Hall
3		BB0305	Rathen/Memsie	Rathen Public Hall	Rathen Public Hall
4	Central Buchan	EB0401	New Pitsligo	New Pitsligo Public Hall	New Pitsligo Public Hall
4		EB0402	Strichen	Ritchie Hall, Strichen	Ritchie Hall, Strichen
4		EB0403	Fetterangus	Chalmers Institute, Fetterangus	Chalmers Institute, Fetterangus
4		EB0404	New Deer	New Deer Public Hall	New Deer Public Hall
4		EB0405	Maud	Maud Village Hall	Maud Village Hall
4		EB0406	Mintlaw	Mintlaw Public Hall	Mintlaw Public Hall
4		EB0407	Old Deer	Stuartfield Village Hall	Stuartfield Village Hall
4		EB0408	Longside	Longside Parish Church Hall	Longside Parish Church Hall
4		BB0409	Longside East	Longside Parish Church Hall	Longside Parish Church Hall
5	Peterhead North and Rattray	BB0501	St Combs/Charleston	Roads Community Café	Roads Community Café
5		BB0502	Lonmay	Lonmay Public Hall	Roads Community Café
5		BB0503	Crimond	Crimond Community Centre	Crimond Community Centre
5		BB0504	St Fergus	St Fergus Village Hall	St Fergus Village Hall
5		BB0505	Buchanhaven - Waterside	Buchanhaven School	Buchanhaven School
5		BB0506	Coplandhill	The Anna Ritchie School	Territorial Army Centre
5		BB0507	Peterhead Central	Rescue Hall	Rescue Hall
6	Peterhead South and Cruden	BB0601	Clerkhill	Clerkhill School	Clerkhill School
6		BB0602	Peterhead South	Dales Park School	Dales Park School
6		BB0603	Boddam	Boddam Public Hall	Boddam Public Hall
6		EB0604	Longhaven	Longhaven Hall	Longhaven Hall
6		EB0605	Hatton	Hatton Public Hall	Hatton Public Hall

6		EB0606	Cruden	Cruden Bay Public Hall	Cruden Bay Public Hall
					Page: 163
7	Turriff and District	EB0701	Turriff West	St Ninian's Church Hall	St Ninian's Church Hall
7		EB0702	Turriff East	St Andrew's Church Hall	St Andrew's Church Hall
7		EB0703	Monquhitter	Monquhitter Church Hall	Monquhitter Church Hall
7		EB0704	Inverkeithny	Easterfield School	Auchterless Community Hall
7		EB0705	Auchterless	Auchterless Community Hall	Auchterless Community Hall
7		EB0706	Fyvie	Glebe House	Glebe House
7		EB0707	Rothienorman	Rothienorman Public Hall	Rothienorman Public Hall
7		EG0708	Part Fyvie A	Glebe House	Glebe House
7		EG0709	Part Fyvie B	Glebe House	Glebe House
7		EB0710	Methlick	Methlick Scout Hall	Methlick Scout Hall
7		EG0711	Part Methlick A	Methlick Scout Hall	Methlick Scout Hall
7		EG0712	Part Methlick B	Methlick Scout Hall	Methlick Scout Hall
8	Mid Formartine	EB0801	Part Daviot	Daviot Village Hall	Daviot Village Hall
		EG0802	Daviot	Daviot Village Hall	Daviot Village Hall
8		EG0803	Oldmeldrum	British Legion Hall	British Legion Hall
8		EG0804	Tarves	Melvin Hall	Melvin Hall
8		EG0805	Udny	Pitmedden Public Hall	Pitmedden Public Hall
8		EG0806	Udny Station	Udny Station Community Centre	Udny Station Community Centre
8		EG0807	Belhelvie	Potterton Community Centre	Potterton Community Centre
8		EG0808	Balmedie	Balmedie Leisure Centre	Balmedie Leisure Centre
9	Ellon and District	EG0901	Arnage	Arnage School	Arnage School
9		EG0902	Ythan	Auchterellon Primary School	Auchterellon Primary School
9		EG0903	Logie Buchan	Meiklemill Primary School	Meiklemill Primary School
9		EG0904	Slains	Collieston Community Education Centre	Collieston Community Education Centre
9		EB0905	Part Slains	Collieston Community Education Centre	Collieston Community Education Centre
9		EG0906	Ellon Town	Kirk Centre	Kirk Centre
9		EG0907	Foveran	Newburgh Public Hall	Newburgh Public Hall

10	West Garioch	WG1001	Insch	Insch Community Centre	Insch Community Centre
10		WG1002	Culsalmond - Rayne	St Lawrence Hall, Old Rayne	St Lawrence Hall, Old Rayne
10		WG1003	Leslie	Premnay Village Hall	Premnay Village Hall
10		WG1004	Oyne	Victoria Jubilee Hall	Victoria Jubilee Hall
10		WG1005	Chapel of Garioch	Chapel of Garioch Village Hall	Chapel of Garioch Village Hall
10		WW1006	Kemnay	Kemnay Village Hall	Kemnay Village Hall
11	Inverurie and District	EG1101	Inverurie West	Garioch Community Centre	Garioch Indoor Bowling Club
11		EG1102	Inverurie North	Garioch Community Centre	Garioch Indoor Bowling Club
11		EG1103	Inverurie Central	Inverurie Town Hall	Inverurie Town Hall
11		EG1104	Keithhall	Keithhall Village Hall	Keithhall Village Hall
11		EG1105	Inverurie South	St Andrew's Church Hall	St Andrew's Church Hall
11		EG1106	Port Elphinstone	Port Elphinstone Community House	Port Elphinstone Community House
12	East Garioch	EG1201	Fintray	Fintray Public Hall	Fintray Public Hall
12		EG1202	Newmachar	Axis Centre	Axis Centre
12		WG1203	Kintore	Kintore Public Hall	Kintore Public Hall
12		WW1204	Kinellar	Kinellar Community Hall	Kinellar Community Hall
13	Westhill and District	WW1301	Cluny	Cluny Church Hall	Cluny Church Hall
13		WW1302	Midmar	Midmar Village Hall	Midmar Village Hall
13		WW1303	Echt	Echt Village Hall	Echt Village Hall
13		WW1304	Skene West	Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene	Milne Hall, Kirkton of Skene
13		WW1305	Westhill	Ashdale Hall	Ashdale Hall
13		WW1306	Elrick	Westdyke Leisure Centre	Westdyke Leisure Centre
14	Huntly, Strathbogie and Howe of Alford	WG1401	Cairnie	Cairnie Public Hall	Cairnie Public Hall
14		WG1402	Glass	Glass Village Hall	Glass Village Hall
14		WG1403	Huntly	Stewart's Hall	Stewart's Hall
14		WG1404	Drumblade	Drumblade School Nursery Building	Drumblade School Nursery Building
14		WG1405	Forgue	Scott Hall	Scott Hall
14		WG1406	Gartly	Gartly Community Hall	Gartly Community Hall
14		WG1407	Rhynie	Fourteen (14 The Square)	Fourteen (14 The Square)
14		WG1408	Kennethmont - Clatt	Rannes Public Hall	Rannes Public Hall
14		WG1409	Kildrummy	Lumsden Village Hall	Lumsden Village Hall
14		WG1410	Tullynessle	Tullynessle Hall	Tullynessle Hall
14		WG1411	Keig	Keig Kirk	Keig Kirk
14		WW1412	Monymusk	Monymusk Village Hall	Monymusk Village Hall
14		WW1413	Part Kildrummy	Lumsden Village Hall	Lumsden Village Hall
14		WW1414	Alford	Alford Community Centre	Alford Community Centre
14		WW1415	Leochel Cushnie	Craigievar Hall	Craigievar Hall
14		WW1416	Tough	Tough School	Tough School

15	Aboyne, Upper Deeside and Donside	WW1501	Strathdon - Corgarff	Corgarff Public Hall	Corgarff Public Hall
15		WW1502	Strathdon - Glenbuchat	Lonach Hall Committee Room	Lonach Hall Committee Room
15		WW1503	Towie	Towie Public Hall	Towie Public Hall
15		WW1504	Braemar	Braemar Village Hall	Braemar Village Hall
15		WW1505	Crathie	Crathie Church Hall	Crathie Church Hall
15		WW1506	Glenmuick & Ballater	Albert & Victoria Halls	Albert & Victoria Halls
15		WW1507	Logie Coldstone	Logie Coldstone Hall	Logie Coldstone Hall
15		WW1508	Coull - Tarland	MacRobert Memorial Hall	MacRobert Memorial Hall
15		WW1509	Aboyne & Glentinar	Victory Hall	Victory Hall
15		WW1510	Lumphanan	Lumphanan Village Hall	Lumphanan Village Hall
15		WW1511	Torphins	Learney Hall	Learney Hall
16	Banchory and Mid Deeside	WW1601	Kincardine O'Neil	Kincardine O'Neil Public Hall	Kincardine O'Neil Public Hall
16		WW1602	Banchory West	Banchory Town Hall	Banchory Town Hall
16		WW1603	Banchory East	Banchory - Ternan East Church Hall	Banchory - Ternan East Church Hall
16		WW1604	Crathes	Crathes Public Hall	Crathes Public Hall
16		WW1605	Birse	Ballogie Nursery	Finzean Public Hall
16		WW1606	Auchattie	Banchory Guide Hall	Banchory Guide Hall
16		WW1607	Finzean	Finzean Public Hall	Finzean Public Hall
16		WW1608	Strachan	Strachan Public Hall	Strachan Public Hall
17	North Kincardine	SW1701	Maryculter	Maryculter Community Hall	Maryculter Community Hall
17		SW1702	Banchory Devenick	Banchory-Devenick School	Banchory-Devenick School
17		SW1703	Hillside	The Porty Cabin	The Jubilee Hall
17		SW1704	Portlethen North	The Jubilee Hall	Portlethen Parish Church Hall
17		SW1705	Portlethen South	Bourtree Community Hall	Bourtree Community Hall
17		SW1706	Cookney	Cookney Public Hall	Cookney Public Hall
17		SW1707	Newtonhill	The Bettridge Centre	The Bettridge Centre
18	Stonehaven and Lower Deeside	WW1801	Drumoak	Drumoak Church Hall	Drumoak Church Hall
18		WW1802	Durris	Kirkton Hall	Kirkton Hall
18		WW1803	Stonehaven North (Part)	Kirkton Hall	Kirkton Hall
18		AW1804	Stonehaven North	Stonehaven Community Education Centre	Stonehaven Community Education Centre
18		AW1805	Stonehaven West	Stonehaven Community Education Centre	Stonehaven Community Education Centre
18		AW1806	Stonehaven South West	Scout HQ	Scout HQ
18		AW1807	Dunnottar	St Bridget's Hall	St Bridget's Hall
19	Mearns	AW1901	Glenbervie	Drumlithie Public Hall	Drumlithie Public Hall
19		AW1902	Auchenblae	Auchenblae Public Hall	Auchenblae Public Hall
19		AW1903	Fordoun	Fordoun Memorial Hall	Fordoun Memorial Hall
19		AW1904	Arbuthnott	Arbuthnott Parish Hall	Arbuthnott Parish Hall
19		AW1905	Kinneff	Kinneff Public Hall	Kinneff Public Hall
19		AW1906	Fettercairn	Fettercairn Public Hall	Fettercairn Public Hall
19		AW1907	Luthermuir	Luthermuir Public Hall	Luthermuir Public Hall
19		AW1908	Laurencekirk	The Venue	The Venue
19		AW1909	Inverbervie	Inverbervie Burgh Hall	Inverbervie Burgh Hall
19		AW1910	Gourdon	Gourdon Public Hall	Gourdon Public Hall
19		AW1911	Marykirk	Marykirk Public Hall	Marykirk Public Hall
19		AW1912	St Cyrus & Benholm	St Cyrus Public Hall	St Cyrus Public Hall
19		AW1913	Johnshaven	Johnshaven Village Hall	Johnshaven Village Hall

Aberdeenshire Council

Integrated Impact Assessment

Review of Polling Places

Assessment ID	IIA-000206
Lead Author	Martin Ingram
Service Reviewers	Alistair Stobie
Subject Matter Experts	Lynne Gravener
Approved By	Karen Wiles
Approved On	Monday November 01, 2021
Publication Date	Tuesday November 02, 2021

1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

To assess the designation of polling places within the Aberdeenshire area.

During screening 3 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 1 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

In total there are 3 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by karen.wiles@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	No
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	No
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No

3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	Not Required
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No Negative Impacts Identified
Health Inequalities	Not Required
Town Centre's First	Not Required

4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

4.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)	Yes			
Age (Older)	Yes			
Disability	Yes			
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

4.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income		Yes		
Low wealth		Yes		
Material deprivation		Yes		
Area deprivation		Yes		
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Age (Older)	Older people will benefit from the review process in that a thorough assessment of polling places includes situating polling stations in venues which are readily accessible and on a ground floor level. This, therefore, will be beneficial to elderly voters who may have some mobility issues.
Age (Younger)	Younger people will benefit from appropriate polling venues being identified for the long-term and this will continue until they are of voting age. In the shorter term, the identification of community polling venues, as opposed to the use of school buildings, will prevent pupils missing schooling on the occasion of any election.

Impact Area	Impact
Disability	A fundamental tenet of the review process is to ensure the provision of suitable polling arrangements for all electors, including those with a disability. Polling premises are assessed for their suitability for wheelchair users in terms of interior space, door width, level flooring, smooth car park surfaces, toilets for voters with a disability, clear internal light and so on.

4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
Internal Consultation	Elections team	Members of the Elections team have been asked to highlight any polling arrangements that may benefit from closer appraisal, particularly venues which may no longer be the most suitable for elections.	Any such venues highlighted for closer scrutiny are informed, in part, by anecdotal evidence provided at the most recent set of elections and also feedback provided by polling staff.
External Consultation	Consultation with stakeholders	Consultation took place with community councils, local access panels and other organisations representing the interests of voters with disabilities, such as Capability Scotland, Grampian Society for the Blind and Cornerstone. In addition, elected representatives were invited to submit views, including all members of the Council and all MPs and MSPs representing the Aberdeenshire area. Furthermore, three neighbouring authorities with whom Aberdeenshire shares the running of parliamentary constituency areas (Aberdeen City Council, Angus Council and Moray Council) were invited to comment.	All consultation responses were considered by the Elections team in advance of making recommendations as to designated polling places for the Aberdeenshire area.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Council website	Links to housing schedules, small area population estimates and the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan were provided. Maps of existing polling places and polling districts are available on the Council's website.	This information was made available on the Council's election webpages in order to inform submissions received from stakeholders to external consultation.

4.5. Engagement with affected groups

Consultation with stakeholders.

4.6. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

Letters were sent to all local access panels, to Capability Scotland, Grampian Society for the Blind and Cornerstone and their views invited on the needs of those whom they represent, in respect of election polling provision. In a wider sense, all community councils in Aberdeenshire were also invited to submit their views on behalf of local residents, including the young and the elderly.

4.7. Evidence of engagement

The views of stakeholders were taken into account when reviewing the designation of polling places within the Aberdeenshire area.

4.8. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The aim of the review process is to ensure suitable, local polling provision for residents and to try to make certain that there are no unnecessary barriers to voting for those who may have any form of disability. The outcomes are therefore all positive for voters with a disability and also for elderly voters and young people in different respects. The impact on all other protected characteristic groups is neutral.

4.9. Improving Relations

External consultation took place with local access panels and other organisations representing the interests of voters with disabilities (such as Capability Scotland, Grampian Society for the Blind and Cornerstone).

4.10. Opportunities of Equality

Local authorities have a duty to review the accessibility of all polling places to disabled voters and ensure that every polling place, and prospective polling place, for which it is responsible is accessible to disabled voters 'so far as is reasonable and practicable'.

5. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details	
<p>Complete the formal stages of the statutory review process, including publication of the decision of the Council and publish information regarding the appeals process (to the Electoral Commission)</p>	<p>Lead Officer Repeating Activity Frequency Duration Expected Outcome Resource Implications</p>	<p>Martin Ingram Yes Every five years Approximately six months Adjustments to polling arrangements in a small number of polling districts, as recommended within the report. These will improve electoral provision for voters and will be designed to improve accessibility for all electors. Staff time in concluding the review and implementing the outcomes.</p>