

## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

18 DECEMBER 2013

**REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY POLLING DISTRICTS AND  
POLLING PLACES****Report by the Head of Democratic Services****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report seeks the Council's views on proposed changes to the parliamentary constituency polling districts and polling places within the area of Perth and Kinross following a review which has included the designation of the polling place for polling district SMA (Almondbank) and the temporary allocation of Live Active Letham and Auchterarder Church Community Centre for the 2014 European Parliamentary Election only.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES**

- 1.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006) introduced a duty on all local authorities to review their UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places at least once every four years. The first such review had to be completed by the end of 2007.
- 1.2 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (ERA 2013) introduces a new provision altering the timing of compulsory reviews. The compulsory review periods are now the period of 16 months beginning with 1 October 2013 and the period of 16 months beginning with 1 October every fifth year after that. This means that all local authorities will have to conduct (and complete) a statutory review of polling districts and polling places between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015.
- 1.3 Reviews of local government polling arrangements should be conducted simultaneously with a review of polling districts and polling places for UK Parliamentary elections. The aim of the review is to ensure that every elector in Perth and Kinross had such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable, and to ensure that so far as possible, the accessibility needs of persons with a disability have been considered when designating polling places.
- 1.4 The location of proposed polling districts and places is the responsibility of Perth and Kinross Council and the location of polling stations is the responsibility of the Returning Officer. However, for the purpose of this review, all aspects of the process have been undertaken jointly.
- 1.5 At its meeting on 6 October 2013 (Article 597 /13 Report 13/482 refers) the Council agreed consultation proposals for the designation of parliamentary polling districts and parliamentary polling places as set out in the appendices to that Report.

- 1.6 The Council will recall that there is a statutory consultation period during which any registered elector, the Returning Officer for the relevant parliamentary constituencies within the local government area, Members of Parliament, Members of the Scottish Parliament, Members of the European Parliament, Members of Perth and Kinross Council and persons who are considered to have particular expertise in relation to access to polling premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability, are able to make comment on the proposals.

## 2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 **Appendix 1** to this report details the existing polling arrangements within various polling districts and sets out revised proposals for the designation of polling districts and polling places following the statutory consultation period. The main changes are as set out in the following paragraphs

### Ward 9 – Almond and Earn

- 2.2 No representations have been received regarding the proposal to discontinue using the Almondbank/Tibbermore Church Hall and allocate Pitcairngreen Village Hall as the polling place for polling district SMA.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Council consider whether Pitcairngreen Village Hall should be considered as the designated polling place or Almondbank/Tibbermore Church Hall continues to be designated as the parliamentary polling place for parliamentary polling district SMA.

### Ward 12 – Perth City Centre

- 2.4 Representations have been received from John Swinney MSP and Pete Wishart MP recommending a change of polling place for polling district PGE which is currently allocated to St John's RC Church Hall. The reduction in turnout from the Muirton area, particularly in the regenerated area from Gowans Terrace to Kestrel Way, during the 2011 and 2012 elections is being attributed to the location of the polling place being at the furthest most part of the polling district.
- 2.5 The % turnout for Perth and Kinross has fluctuated since 2007 with the highest turnout achieved for the UK Parliamentary Election in 2010 and the lowest for the European Parliamentary elections in 2009. The % turnout for this polling place has fluctuated similar to that for the whole area. **Appendix 2** to this report sets out the % turnout for all elections from 2007 to 2012.
- 2.6 John Swinney and Pete Wishart are looking to identify a polling place located closer to the centre of the polling district and have suggested that Balhousie Primary School, Bell's Sports Centre or Balhousie Castle be considered as the designated polling place. As members may be aware it has always been recognised that the use of schools as polling places, with the consequent loss of a day's education for the children at the school, is far from ideal and significant efforts have been made over the years to reduce the number of schools that are used on polling day.

- 2.7 Unlike the Royal School of Dunkeld and Ruthvenfield Primary Schools, Balhousie Primary School would not be able to remain open during polling day and therefore is not considered a viable location.
- 2.8 As members will be aware, there are two outbuildings in the grounds of Balhousie Primary School which have been used for storage purposes for a number of years. A risk assessment has been undertaken of each building, but both are in a very poor state of repair. If either building were to be used as a polling place, painting and other remedial work would be required, as well as improvements to lighting, heating and access. Although no costings have been sought, it is estimated that these works would cost in the region of £2-3K. Both buildings are scheduled for demolition in 2015 in order to allow for improvements to the drainage in the grounds of the school. Given the work required to make the buildings fit for purpose, and that they will not be available in the longer term, it is not considered that either of the outbuildings at Balhousie Primary School is a viable location as a polling place. A copy of the risk assessments is available in the Councillors' Lounge.
- 2.9 The manager of the Asda store on Dunkeld Road, Perth has been contacted to discuss whether there are any viable locations within the premises which would be considered as a possible alternative location. However, given that this is a particularly busy time of year for the store, the earliest date when a visit to undertake a risk assessment could be arranged is 17 December 2013. Following preliminary discussions with the manager, the risk assessment will also include the possibility of siting temporary accommodation in the store's car park. Costings have been obtained for modular accommodation and whilst the estimated cost for one unit would be £560, generators would also need to be hired and additional units would be needed when additional polling stations were required. Further consideration would also need to be given to issues such as insurance and security. A verbal update following the risk assessment will be available for the Council meeting.
- 2.10 Bell's Sports Centre is not available as a polling place as the venue is currently used for the opening of postal votes and the Count Centre for all elections and referenda.
- 2.11 A risk assessment has been undertaken of Balhousie Castle as a possible alternative to St John's Church Hall. The education meeting room is not large enough to accommodate the potential voters, however The Black Watch Museum Trust are willing to allocate the café area as a polling place, with the area being screened off from the kitchen and the education meeting area utilised as seating for the café on polling day to enable the café to remain open for business. A copy of the risk assessment is available in the Councillors' Lounge.
- 2.12 Parking is available at both St John's Church Hall and Balhousie Castle, although the Castle Museum will remain open, parking spaces will also be taken up by customers. Whilst the Castle is marginally closer to the centre of the polling district it is not on a bus route whereas St John's Church Hall is,

with a bus stop outside the Hall. St. John's Church Hall is also able to accommodate three polling stations should the need arise to increase the number of stations within the polling place in the future.

- 2.13 In view of all of the above it is recommended that the Council consider the options outlined above for the designation of a polling place for parliamentary polling district PGE.

### 3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council:
- (i) endorse the proposals for the designation of polling districts and polling places as set out in **Appendix 1** to this report;
  - (ii) agree the designation of the polling place for parliamentary polling district SMA (Almondbank);
  - (iii) agree the allocation of Auchterarder Church Community Centre and Live Active Letham on a temporary basis for the 2014 European Parliamentary Election.
  - (iv) consider the designation of the polling place for parliamentary polling district PGE

#### Author(s)

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#### Approved

Name	Designation	Date
Gillian Taylor	Head of Democratic Services	13 December 2013

## ANNEX

### 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

*The undernoted table should be completed for all reports. Where the answer is 'yes', the relevant section(s) should also be completed. Where the answer is 'no', the relevant section(s) should be marked 'not applicable (n/a)'.*

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	<b>Yes</b>
Corporate Plan	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	<b>Yes</b>
Workforce	<b>No</b>
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	<b>No</b>
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	<b>No</b>
Strategic Environmental Assessment	<b>No</b>
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	<b>No</b>
Legal and Governance	<b>Yes</b>
Risk	
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	
External	
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	<b>Yes</b>

#### 1. Strategic Implications

##### Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

- 1.1 The proposals set out in this report support the delivery of all of the priorities in the Perth & Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement 2013/2023.

##### Corporate Plan

- 1.2 The proposals set out in this report support the achievement of all of the objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan 2013/2018.

#### 2. Resource Implications

- 2.1 The resource implications of this report are not yet available but any change is unlikely to be significant.

### **3. Assessments**

#### Equality Impact Assessment

- 3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

The proposals in this report have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcomes:

- The proposals to combine parliamentary polling districts allocated to the same parliamentary polling place comply with the relevant legislation in relation to accessibility
- In relation to the proposals not to allocate individual electors or very small groups of electors to a polling place outwith their electoral ward, it is acknowledged that some electors may experience inconvenience but there will be publicity in advance of any election/referendum to promote the availability of postal voting as an alternative to voting in person.

#### 3.2 Legal and Governance

The legal framework for this report is contained within the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006) and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (ERA 2013)

#### 3.3 Risk

There are no key risks associated with the proposals which have not been addressed elsewhere in the report.

### **4. Consultation**

- 4.2 Representations were invited on any aspect of the allocated polling districts and polling places as set out in **Appendix 1** to this report. Apart from the representations received from John Swinney (MSP) and Pete Wishart (MP) mentioned above, no other representations have been received.

### **5. Communication**

- 5.1 A communications plan was included within the Project Plan for the project.

## **2. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 2.1 The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

Representation of the People Act 1983 Schedule A1  
The Review of Polling District and Polling Places (Parliamentary  
Elections) Regulations 2006  
Electoral Administration Act 2006  
Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 (ERA 2013)

### **3. APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** – Report detailing the existing polling arrangements within various polling districts and sets out revised proposals for the designation of polling districts and polling places.

**Appendix 2** - Table setting out the % turnout for polling district PGE (formerly PTS) for the period from 2007 – 2012.





## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

## ELECTORAL REGISTRATION AND ADMINISTRATION ACT 2013

## REVISED POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

(1) Parliamentary Constituency	(2) Parliamentary Polling District (PPD)	(3) Electorate as published 1/12/12	(4) Polling Places with effect from December 2013	(5) Polling Stations	(6) Proposals	(7) Comments by Returning Officer
PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 1	PEA	1414	Invergowrie Church Hall	1-3	No change	The Local Boundary Commission for Scotland expects to begin a review of all local government wards during 2013 which will give us the opportunity to consider re-alignment of PEC within Ward 2.  Electors currently voting outwith their ward.
	PEB	1145	Longforgan Church Hall	1-3	No change	
	PEC	9	Kettins Church Hall	1	No change	
	PED PEF	22 118	Kinrossie Hall Inchture Village Hall	1-3	Combine polling district PED with PEF and allocate Inchture Village Hall as polling place as shown on Appendix 3 and 4.	
	PEG	1142	Inchture Village Hall	1-3	No change	
	PEE PEH	35 259	RDM Institute, Scone Annat Hall, Rait	1	Combine polling district PEE (excluding Knowehead) with PEH and allocate Annat Hall, Rait as polling place.	
	PEI	1864	Errol Village Hall	1-4	No change	
	PEJ	1357	St Madoes Community Centre	1-3	Re-align boundary with PEV and allocate St Madoes Community Centre as polling place for Knowhead.	

(1) Parliamentary Constituency	(2) Parliamentary Polling District (PPD)	(3) Electorate as published 1/12/12	(4) Polling Places with effect from December 2013	(5) Polling Stations	(6) Proposals	(7) Comments by Returning Officer
PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 2	PEK PEP  PEL PEM PEN PEQ PER PES PET PEU PEV	1 248  2041 324 774 1819 1023 264 496 552 4348	Longforgan Church Hall Kettins Church Hall  Alyth Town Hall Alyth Town Hall Kinloch Memorial Hall, Meigle Coupar Angus Town Hall Burrelton Hall Kinrossie Hall Balbeggie Hall Guildtown Hall RDM Institute, Scone	1  1-3 1-3 1-2 1-3 1-2 1-2 1-2 1-2 1-6	Combine polling district PEK with PEP and allocate Kettins Church Hall as polling place.  No change No change No change No change No change No change No change No change Re-align boundary with PEJ	Elector currently voting outwith ward.           No electors involved.
PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 3	PEW PEX PEY	2830 2465 2544	Blairgowrie Town Hall St Catherine's Community Centre Ratray Primary School	1-4 1-3 1-3	No change No change A request for the area known as Bamff to be allocated to Alyth Town Hall as a polling place has been received as the area is akin to Alyth. At present this area is located within Ward 3 and Alyth Town Hall is located within Ward 2 therefore we are unable to agree to this request at this time.	The Local Boundary Commission for Scotland expects to begin a review of all local government wards during 2013 and this will give us the opportunity to consider re-alignments to the ward boundaries.

(1) Parliamentary Constituency	(2) Parliamentary Polling District (PPD)	(3) Electorate as published 1/12/12	(4) Polling Places with effect from December 2013	(5) Polling Stations	(6) Proposals	(7) Comments by Returning Officer
PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 3	PEZ	203	Bridge of Cally Hall	1-2	No change	All electors currently vote at Kirkmichael Village Hall and both alphabetically listed.
	PFA	145	St Catherine's Community Centre	1-3	No change	
	PFB PFD	324 32	Kirkmichael Village Hall	1-2	Combine polling district PFD (Straloch) with PFB.	
	PFC	175	Blackwater Hall	1-2	No change	
PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 4	PFE	273	Mid Atholl Hall, Ballinluig	1-2	No change	All electors current vote at Fortingall and both alphabetically listed.  All electors currently vote at the Kinloch Rannoch Village Hall and both alphabetically listed.
	PFF	2589	Pitlochry Town Hall	1-4	No change	
	PFG	492	Grandtully Hall	1-2	No change	
	PFH	182	Killiecrankie Hall	1-2	No change	
	PFJ	134	Kynachan Hall	1-2	No change	
	PFK	1661	Aberfeldy Town Hall	1-3	No change	
	PFL	219	Breadalbane Library, Kenmore	1-2	No change	
	PFM	229	Camserney Hall	1-2	No change	
	PFP	166	Fearnan Hall	1-2	No change	
	PFQ PFN	67 138	Molteno Memorial Hall, Fortingall	1-2	Combine polling district PFQ (Glenlyon) with PFN.	
	PFR PFT	271 86	Kinloch Rannoch Village Hall	1-2	Combine polling district PFT (Bridge of Gaur) with PFR.	

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PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIR  WARD 4	PFS PFI	130 484	Blair Atholl Church Hall	1-2	Combine polling district PFS (Calvine) with PFI.	All electors currently vote at Blair Altholl Church Hall and both alphabetically listed.
PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 5	PFU  PFV  PFW  PFX PFY   PFZ  PGA  PGB	184  197  456  69 1472   1389  548  103	Meikleour Hall  Clunie Hall  Caputh Hall  Royal School of Dunkeld    Stanley Hall  Murthly Hall  Amulree Hall	1-2  1-2  1-2  1-3    1-3  1-2  1-2	No change  No change  No change  Combine polling district PFX (Butterstone) with PFY    A request for Mill of Logierait to be allocated to Mid Atholl Hall, Ballinluig as a polling place has been received as egress is via Logierait. Logierait is located within Ward 5 and the Mid Atholl Hall is located within Ward 4 therefore we are unable to agree to this request at this time.  No change  No change  Margmore, Croftness Farm is currently allocated Amulree as a polling place but the egress is via Aberfeldy. At present Margmore is located within Ward 5 and Aberfeldy Town Hall is within Ward 4 therefore we are unable to agree to this request at this time.	All electors currently vote at the Royal School of Dunkeld and both alphabetically listed.    The Local Boundary Commission for Scotland expects to begin a review of all local government wards during 2013 and this will give us the opportunity to consider re-alignments to the ward boundaries.    The Local Boundary Commission for Scotland expects to begin a review of all local government wards during 2013 and this will give us the opportunity to consider re-alignments to the ward boundaries.

(1) Parliamentary Constituency	(2) Parliamentary Polling District (PPD)	(3) Electorate as published 1/12/12	(4) Polling Places with effect from 1 December 2013	(5) Polling Stations	(6) Proposals	(7) Comments by Returning Officer
OCHIL & SOUTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 5	SFB  SFA  SFC	1397  1283  167	Luncarty Memorial Hall  Bankfoot Church & Community Centre  Chapelhill Hall, Logiealmond	1-3  1-3  1-2	No change  No change  No change	
PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 6	PLM	0	Amulree Hall	0	No change	
OCHIL & SOUTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 6	SLA  SLB  SLC SLE  SLD SLF	171  1875  86 3691  2531 240	Sandison Hall, St Fillans  Comrie Community Centre  Strathearn Community Campus  St Andrews Church Hall	1-2  1-4  1-4  1-3	No change  No change  No change  No change	
OCHIL & SOUTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 7	SLG SLJ  SLH  SLK  SLI SLL SLM SLN	625 270  761  607  218 136 778 3130	Braco Village Hall  Muthill Hall  Moray Institute, Blackford  Aytoun Hall, Auchterarder/ Auchterarder Church Community Centre	1-2  1-5  1-2  1-5	No change  No change  No change  Aytoun Hall is not available for the European Parliamentary Election in May 2014. It is proposed that Auchterarder Church Community Centre be allocated on a temporary basis for this election.	The Auchterarder Church Community Centre was used for the UK Parliamentary Elections in 2010.

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OCHIL & SOUTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 7	SLP	404	Aberuthven Hall	1-2	No change	
	SLQ	995	Church Hall, Dunning	1-2	No change	
OCHIL & SOUTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 8	SLR	1616	Milnathort Town Hall	1-3	No change	
	SLS	4338	Millbridge Hall, Kinross	1-5	No change	
	SLT	999	Crook of Devon Village Hall	1-2	No change	
	SLU	448	Moubray Hall, Powmill	1-2	No change	
	SLV	119	Cleish Hall	1-2	No change	
	SLW	323	Tabernacle Hall, Blairadam	1-2	No change	
	SLX	1090	Portmoak Village Hall	1-2	No change	
OCHIL & SOUTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 9	SLY	1100	Glenfarg Village Hall	1-3	No change	
	SLZ	7	Luncarty Memorial Hall	1-2	No change	
	SMA	1047	Almondbank Church Hall	1047	Discontinue use as a polling place and re-allocate electors to Pitcairngreen Village Hall	Current polling place cannot accommodate the projected increase in electors.
	SMB	1359	Methven Bowling Club	1359	No change	
	SMC	291	Fowlis Wester Hall	1-2	No change	
	SMD	224	St David's Hall, Madderty	1-2	No change	
	SME	405	Findo Gask Hall	1-2	No change	
	SMF	616	Ruthvenviold Primary School	1-2	No change	
SMH	78					
SMI	477	Forgandenny Hall	1-2	No change		

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OCHIL & SOUTH PERTSHIRE	SMG SMJ	88 2779	Bridge of Earn Hall	1-4	No change	
WARD 9	SMK	1420	Williamson Hall, Abernethy	1-3	No change	
PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 10	PLA  PLB  PLC  PLD  PLE  PLF	522  774  2731  3229  3086  841	Moncreiffe Community Centre  Moncreiffe Church Hall  Craigie Church Hall  Scout Hall, Perth Academy  Oakbank Community Centre  Baptist Church Hall	1-2  1-2  1-3  1-4  1-3  1-4	No change  No change  No change  No change  No change	
PERTH & NORTH PERTSHIRE  WARD 11	PLI PLJ  PLK  PLG  PLH  PLL	801 1852  3578  910  2603  2524	Fairfield Neighbourhood Centre  Tulloch Community Centre  Baptist Church Hall  Letham St Mark's Hall/Live Active Letham  Perth Gospel Hall	1-3  1-4  1-4  1-3  1-3	No change  No change  No change  Letham St Mark's is unavailable for use as a polling place for the European Election in May 2014. It is proposed that Live Active Letham be allocated on a temporary basis for this election.  No change	Live Active Letham was used for the UK Parliamentary Elections in 2005  Changes to the polling districts and re-allocation of electors would not achieve the results expected. Any alteration in one district affects another district which would impact on the electors voting at the corresponding polling place.

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PERTH & NORTH	PGC	12	RDM Institute, Scone	1-6	No change	
PERTHSHIRE	PGD	2497	Riverside Church	1-3	No change	
WARD 12	PGE	1770	St John's RC Church Hall	1-3	No change	
	PGF	1801	North Church Hall	1-3	No change	
	PGG	1873	Christian Fellowship Centre	1-3	No change	
	PGH	437	Moncreiffe Community Centre	1-2	No change	
	PGI	1399	Rodney Fitness Centre	1-2	No change	
	PGJ	1181	Gannochy Community Centre	1-2	No change	
	PGK	148	Upper Springlands	1-2	No change	

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November 2013



## PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

## REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES

## TURNOUT FOR PARLIAMENTARY POLLING DISTRICT PGE (Previously PTS)

YEAR & ELECTION	PPD	POLLING PLACE	ELIGIBLE ELECTORS	% TURNOUT FOR SCHOOL	% TURNOUT OVERALL
2007 SP	PTS	Balhousie Primary School	1603	Not available	57.44 Constituency wide
2007 LG	PTS	Balhousie Primary School	1603	Not available	51.84 Ward
2009 Euro	PTS	Balhousie Primary School	1449	22.43	33.8
2010 UK Parliamentary	PTS	Balhousie Primary School	1421	55.52	67
2011 SP	PGE	St John's Church Hall	1682	35.67	56.3
2011 Ref	PGE	St John's Church Hall	1682	41.08	56.9
2012 LG	PGE	St John's Church Hall	1728	26.56	38.07 Ward 43.64 PKC wide