

TO:-

- Elected representatives for Fife (MPs, MSPs, MEPs and Councillors)
- Community Council Secretaries in Fife
- Disabled Access Interest Groups in Fife (c/o Fife Council's Equalities Co-ordinator)
- Members of the Public in Fife (c/o notice on Fife Direct website/ public display, and press release)

Dear Consultee

Review of Polling Districts and Places in Fife

A statutory review is taking place, in terms of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, of all of Fife Council's Polling Districts and Places. Local authorities must apply the following criteria:-

- (a) seek to ensure that all the electors in the relevant constituency (or for local government purposes, the electoral ward) have such reasonable facilities for voting as is practicable in the circumstances; and
- (b) seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

Ideally, we would have the choice of a range of fully accessible buildings, conveniently located for the electors in the area. In practice, however, this is not always the case and there may be little choice available. If it is necessary to use a place where the access is not ideal, then every reasonable adjustment must be undertaken to provide access for all electors.

In recent years, significant efforts have been made to reduce the reliance on educational establishments used as polling places. For polling dates which are known well in advance, the Education Service now arranges in-service days to coincide. This is not always possible for unplanned elections, with a lack of suitable alternatives in some areas. It has proved possible however through mutual co-operation for dual use arrangements to be accommodated within schools and certain other premises used as polling places on polling days.

The/

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Your Ref:

Our Ref: J3.6 : DH/MM/JK

15 September 2017



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The following are not covered by such reviews:-

- The boundaries or names of UK and Scottish parliamentary constituencies.
- The borders and names of local authorities and electoral areas within local authorities.

The formal stage of the next statutory review starts with public consultation from Monday, 18th September, 2017. Details can be accessed online via <http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/elections>.

From that home page, it is possible to follow a link first to the 'Consultation' page on the 2017 Review, which summarises the process (with details of how to respond, including the option of completing an online questionnaire).

A further link can be followed to the 'Polling places and polling districts' page, from which these publications can be accessed:-

- The Polling Schedule for all four Fife UK Parliamentary constituencies as used at the General Election on 8 June, 2017.
- A summary of the position with regard to polling places in Fife broken down by Local Government ward (with potential changes highlighted).

Hard copies of any of the above items can be provided, on request.

The period of consultation ends on Friday, 27th October, 2017, when all correspondence received will be available for public inspection (on request). Summary details will be collated for inclusion in a report to Fife Council's Policy and Co-ordination Committee on 23rd November, 2017. Any changes agreed will be incorporated in the Register of Electors to be used with effect from 2018.

Any comments you have would be welcomed - the following e-mail address can be used:- election.enquiries@fife.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Bissett,
Head of Democratic Services.