

POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW

1. Background

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty on all local authorities to Review their Polling Districts and Polling Places. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 – Section 17 stated that a Review must be completed within 6 months beginning 1 October 2013 and within the period 16 months beginning 1 October every fifth year after that. A Review of Polling Places was carried out in 2013 and approved by Policy and Resources Committee on 3 December 2013. In common with some other Local Authorities, the Review has been delayed due to the snap European and UK General Elections of 2019 and the Covid19 pandemic in 2020.

2. Legislative Requirements

2.1 Designation of polling districts and polling places

Local authorities must comply with the following legislative requirements regarding the designation of polling districts and polling places:

- in Scotland, each electoral ward must be divided into two or more separate polling districts, unless special circumstances apply.
- the council must designate a polling place for each polling district, unless the size or other circumstances of a polling district are such that the situation of the polling stations does not materially affect the convenience of the electors
- the polling place must be an area in the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district (for example, if no accessible polling place can be identified in the district)
- the polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the polling station

2.2 Accessibility

Local authorities must also comply with the following access requirements. As part of the review, they must:

- seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in the local authority area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
- seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to electors who are disabled
- the council must have regard to the accessibility to disabled persons of potential polling stations in any place which it is considering designating as a polling place or the designation of which as a polling place it is reviewing.

All our polling places have been in use for a considerable time and have been assessed to ensure accessibility for all voters. The venues are further reviewed during each election by POs and PPIs and any issues highlighted to the Elections Co-ordinator. All venues are deemed to be accessible and no issues highlighted.

3. Factors in devising polling schemes

In devising the polling scheme, the Electoral Commission guidance suggests that the following factors should be taken into account: -

- the convenience of the situation of the polling place for local electors;
- the requirement to ensure that the polling place is accessible to voters with disabilities (statutory);
- the capacity of the polling place in terms of the number of polling stations it can accommodate;
- the general suitability of the polling place for electoral use;

- adequate parking for electors and staff; and
- suitable kitchen and toilet facilities for election staff who will be in the premises for 15 hours on polling day.

Where possible the council avoids using schools, however in some communities the school is the only venue for a polling place.

4. Current Venues

4.1 Dumfries and Galloway Council currently has 146 polling places with 175 polling stations housed in 137 venues.

Ownership	No. of Venues
DGC including schools*	16*
DGC /Management Agreement/Let to Tenant	35
Private	84
SFRS	1
Private no longer available	1
	137

- 1 facility surplus and condition renders it unusable

Schools

Five primary schools have been used to date (now 4 with the sale of Drochduil, Dunragit). We have refrained from closing schools and have opted in 2019 to send the relevant classes or school to other schools within their cluster or activities were arranged for them.

4.2 Canvass

During the annual canvass the ERO has highlighted some data anomalies affecting 228 properties in polling districts 06F1 (Lochside and Woodlands) and 06G1 (Lincluden) within the North West Dumfries Ward which can be tidied up as part of the review. (Appendix 1)

4.3 Community Asset Transfer

In recent years the Council has undertaken a programme to rationalise its assets resulting in the closure/sale of community halls and schools. This has resulted in some venues becoming unavailable. Where possible community run / private facilities will be considered with Council facilities only considered where no alternatives are available.

4.4 Postal Votes

Should we decide to remove or amalgamate polling districts and places voters are required to be advised of the change, the opportunity should be taken at this time to encourage the use of postal votes by enclosing an application form with the notice of change.

5. Proposals for consideration

5.1 The Community Planning and Engagement Unit have provided their local input regarding the current location of polling places. They were asked to look at whether the current polling districts were appropriate, if the most appropriate locations within a ward – both community and venue – were being used and consider those polling places with less than 150 (in person) voters as well as:

- If there are more appropriate venues i.e. moving from DGC owned to privately/community owned, etc
- the distance between a polling place and its nearest alternative
- known issues regarding polling places i.e. no longer viable, not suitable etc
- consider the current voting patterns and take account of the increase in Postal Votes
- determine that transportation links to new venues are available and fully accessible.

The tables below provides a summary of the changes within each ward with full details of recent electoral turnout, venue ownership and constituency contained in Appendix 2.

Ward	Current No. of Polling Districts	Current No. Polling Places		Proposed No of Polling Districts	Proposed No. Polling Places
1	14	13		8	7
2	18	18		13	13
3	14	14		12	12
4	14	14		10	10
5	7	7		4	4
6	7	6		7	5
7	11	11		10	10
8	13	11		12	11
9	12	7		12	7
10	9	9		7	7
11	13	13		7	7
12	15	15		8	8

Ward No	Electoral Ward	Polling District	Polling District	Polling Place	Proposed amendment	Reason/Justification for Amendment -
1	Stranraer & The Rhins	01A1	DRUMMORE	Drummore Church Hall	amalgamate 2 districts to one station and move to Drummore (being the highest individual voters area)	(5.5 miles) goes under Drummore (Kirkmaiden) for Community council already.
		01B1	PORT LOGAN	Port Logan Hall		
		01C1	SANDHEAD	Sandhead Bowling & Community Hall	amalgamate 2 districts to one station and move to Sandhead (being the highest individual voters area)	(2.2 miles) - Stoneykirk Community Council covers Stoneykirk and Sandhead . Sandhead is a better venue - venue at Stoneykirk is shared with Hotel clients and not as accessible to voters as Sandhead venue.
		01D1	STONEKIRK	The Torrs Warren Country House Hotel		
		01F1	LOCHANS	Lochans Village Hall	amalgamate 2 districts to one station and move to Portpatrick (being the highest individual voters area)	(5.1 miles) . Total number of voters in one station is more realistic.
		01G1	PORTPATRICK	Portpatrick Village Hall		
		01H1	LESWALT	Leswalt Memorial Hall	amalgamate 2 districts to one station and move to Leswalt (being the highest individual voters area)	(4.3 miles) Total number of voters in one station is more realistic.
		01J1	KIRKCOLM	Kirkcolm Village Hall		

01K1	STRANRAER WEST	High Kirk Hall,	no change
01L1	STRANRAER NORTH	Coronation Day Centre	Amalgamate with 01N1 and have 2 stations instead of 3 - and move to either Ryan Centre or High Kirk Coronation Day Centre no longer wish to be used, alternative venue has been the Fire Station who no longer wish to be used. Nearest alternative is Ryan Centre though High Kirk within walking distance
01M1	STRANRAER SOUTH	Belmont Primary School	move from school to Ryan Centre Nearest is Ryan Centre, though High Kirk is within walking distance.
01N1	STRANRAER CENTRAL	Coronation Day Centre	Amalgamate with 01N1 and have 2 stations instead of 3 - and move to either Ryan Centre or High Kirk Coronation Day Centre no longer wish to be used, alternative venue has been the Fire Station who no longer wish to be used. Nearest alternative is Ryan Centre though High Kirk within walking distance
01P1	STRANRAER EAST	Wigtownshire Rugby Football Club	amalgamate Cairnryan District into Stranraer East (5.7 miles) Cairnryan has under 150 voters. no other premises closeby except Schools
01Q1	CAIRNRYAN	Cairnryan Village Hall	

2	Mid Galloway &	02A1	ISLE OF WHITHORN	St Ninian's Hall, Isle of Whithorn	no change
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Wigtown West	02B1	WHITHORN	South Machars Community Centre	no change	
	02C1	GARLIESTON	Temperance Hall, Garlieston	no change	
	02D1	SORBIE	Sorbie Village Hall	no change	
	02F1	WHAUPHILL	Whauphill Village Hall	no change	
	02G1	KIRKINNER	Kirkinner Village Hall	no change	
	02H1	WIGTOWN	Wigtown County Buildings	no change	
	02J1	PORT WILLIAM	Maxwell Hall, Port William	no change	
	02K1	GLENLUCE	Glenluce Public Hall	amalgamate with Drochduil, Castle Kennedy and New Luce districts	Drochduil - Glenluce (3.8 miles) Castle Kennedy - Glenluce (6.4 miles), New Luce - Glenluce (under 150 voters) and (5.6 miles). Redraw the 4 districts into 3, there is no facility at Dunragit .
	02L1	DUNRAGIT	Drochduil Primary School, Dunragit		

02M1	CASTLE KENNEDY	Castle Kennedy Primary School		
02N1	NEW LUCE	New Luce Memorial Hall		
02P1	KIRKCOWAN	Kirkcowan Village Hall		
02Q1	NEWTON STEWART	Newton Stewart Library	amalgamate with Glentrool (9.6 miles) + under 150 voters Glentrool - N/S. Look at McMillan Hall venue - used to use but stopped due to accessibility - now has wheelchair lift to main hall think it would be a better venue as the Library is now a CSC and not ideal for Station set up).	
02R1	GLENTROOL	Glentrool Community Facility		
02S1	MINNIGAFF	Newton Stewart Golf Club	no change	
02T1	CREETOWN	Creetown Mission Hall	Amalgamate with Carluith	
02U1	CARSLUITH	Kirkdale Hall, Carluith		

3	Dee & Glenkens	03A1	GATEHOUSE	Gatehouse Community Centre	No change	
		03B1	NEW GALLOWAY	New Galloway Fire Station	Change to Town Hall and merge with Balmaclellan	
		03C1	CARSPHAIRN	Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn	No change	
		03D1	DALRY	Dalry Town Hall	No change	
		03F1	BALMACLELLAN	Balmaclellan Village Hall	Merge with New Galloway (03B1)	only 2.1 miles from Balmaclellan to New Galloway, New Galloway station free to use, a bus service is also available
		03G1	LAURIESTON	Balmaghie Public Hall	No change	
		03H1	TWYNHOLM	Twynholm Village Hall	no change	
		03J1	RINGFORD	Ringford Village Hall	no change	
		03K1	KELTON HILL	Rhonehouse Village Hall	no change	

03L1	GELSTON	Gelston Village Hall	no change
03M1	AUCHENCAIRN	Murray Hall, Auchencairn	Incorporate Dundrennan Dundrennan 4.5 miles; amalgamate with Auchencairn (03M1)
03N1	DUNDRENNAN	Dundrennan Village Hall	
03P1	KIRKCUDBRIGH T	Kirkcudbright Parish Church Hall	no change
03Q1	BORGUE	Borgue Village Hall	no change

4	Castle Douglas & Crockettford	04A1	PALNACKIE	Palnackie Village Hall	no change
		04B1	CASTLE DOUGLAS	Castle Douglas Town Hall	no change
		04C1	HAUGH OF URR	Urr Parish Hall	no change
		04D1	CROSSMICHAEL	Crossmichael Memorial Hall	incorporate Parton

04F1	KIRKPATRICK DURHAM	Kirkpatrick Durham Community Hall	merge with Springholm	only 1.4 miles and a limited bus service is available
04G1	PARTON	Parton Village Hall	Merge with Crossmichael	3.5 miles, bus service is available
04H1	CORSOCK	Corsock Village Hall	No change	too remote and bus service very poor
04J1	CROCKETFORD	Anderson Memorial Hall, Crocketford	Merge with Springholm	extensive bus service available
04K1	SHAWHEAD	Irongray Parish Hall, Shawhead	no change	
04L1	TERREGLES	Maxwell Memorial Hall, Terregles	no change	
04M1	LOCHRUTTON	Lochrutton Village Hall	no change	
04N1	SPRINGHOLM	Springholm Memorial Hall	incorporate Crocketford and Kirkpatrick Durham	
04P1	BEESWING	Beeswing Hall	Merge with Kirkgunzeon	Due to number of station voters and condition of hall

		04Q1	KIRKGUNZEON	Maxwell Memorial Hall, Kirkgunzeon	Include Beeswing	Due to number of station voters and condition of hall
5	Abbey	05A1	COLVEND	Colvend Public Hall	Incorporate Kippford	
		05B1	KIPPFORD	Kippford Hall	Merge with Colvend	3 miles, but there is a bus service which wouldnt have people waiting too long in Colvend before getting back on a bus to Kippford
		05C1	DALBEATTIE	Dalbeattie Town Hall	No change	
		05D1	CARGENBRIDGE	Cargenbridge Primary School	Merge with Troqueer	1.5 miles this would remove the need to use the school
		05F1	TROQUEER	Troqueer Community Centre	Incorporate Cargenbrdge	
		05G1	NEW ABBEY	New Abbey Village Hall	Incorporate Kirkbean	
		05H1	KIRKBEAN	Kirkbean Village Hall	Merge with New Abbey	4.5 miles regular bus service from Houstons (372)

6	North West Dumfries	06A1	CORBERRY	Maxwelltown West Church Hall	No change	
		06B1	SUMMERHILL	Summerhill Community Centre	No change	
		06C1	ST TERESA'S	St Teresa's Church Hall	No change	
		06D1	BARNHILL	Summerhill Community Centre	Lochside Community Centre	
		06F1	HARDTHORN	Lochside Community Centre	Lochside Community Centre	
		06G1	LOCHSIDE AND WOODLANDS	Dumfries North West Church Hall	Lochside Community Centre	0.5 miles Reducing number of Polling Places
		06H1	LINCLUDEN	Lincluden Community Centre	No change	
7	Mid & Upper Nithsdale	07A2	DUNSCORE	Glenriddel Hall, Dunscore	No change	
		07B2	MONIAIVE	Glencairn Memorial Institute	No change	

07C3	PENPONT	Gladstone Hall, Penpont	merge with Tynron	
07D3	TYNRON	Tynron Public Hall	merge Tynron with Penpont	3 miles low number of station voters
07F3	SANQUHAR	Sanquhar Town Hall	No change	
07G3	KELLOHOLM	Hillview Leisure Centre	No change	
07H3	KIRKCONNEL	Kirkconnel Miners' Memorial Hall	No change	
07J3	WANLOCKHEAD	Wanlockhead Community Centre	No charge	
07K3	CARRONBRIDGE	Carronbridge Public Hall	No change	
07L3	MORTON	Thornhill Community Centre	No change	
07M3	CLOSEBURN	Closeburn Village Hall	No change	

8	Lochar	08A2	HOLYWOOD	Hollywood Village Hall	No change	
		08B2	DUNCOW	Kirkton Village Hall	No change	
		08C3	AULDGIRTH NORTH (combined with 08D2 Auldgirth)	Auldgirth Village Hall	No change	
		08D2	AULDGIRTH	Auldgirth Village Hall	No change	
		08F2	AE	Ae Primary School	move to Tinwald	6 miles removes the need to use the school
		08G3	AMISFIELD NORTH (combined with 08F2 AE)	Ae Primary School	Amalgamate with 08H3 Amisfield	6 miles very few voters
		08H3	AMISFIELD	Tinwald Parish Hall	Amalgamate with 08G3 Amisfield North	
		08J3	TORTHORWALD	Torthorwald Village Hall	No change	
		08K3	COLLIN	Collin Village Hall	No change	

08L2	HEATHHALL	Heathhall Community Centre	No change
08M2	LOCHAR	Locharbriggs Community Centre	No change
08N2	MARCHMOUNT	Noblehill Community Centre	No change
08P2	ST MARY'S	Oasis Centre, Dumfries	No Change

9	Nith	09A2	GREYFRIARS	St Andrew's Church Hall, Dumfries	No change
		09B2	LOREBURN	St Andrew's Church Hall, Dumfries	No change
		09C2	CRESSWELL	Cresswell and Larchfield Community Centre	No change
		09D2	MILLBURN	Noblehill Community Centre	No change
		09F3	NOBLEHILL WEST	Noblehill Community Centre	No change

09G2	GEORGETOWN	Georgetown Community Centre	No change
09H3	NOBLEHILL (combined with 09F3 Noblehill West)	Noblehill Community Centre	No change
09J2	LOCHVALE	Georgetown Library	No change
09K3	GEORGETOWN VILLAGE (combined with 09G212 Georgetown)	Georgetown Community Centre	No change
09L3	CASTLEDYKES	Cresswell and Larchfield Community Centre	No change
09M3	KINGHOLM	Kingholm Quay Community Centre	No change
09N3	CAERLAVEROCK	Barbour Memorial Hall, Glencaple	No change

10	Annandale South	10A3	MOUSWALD	Gillespie Memorial Hall, Mouswald	move to McFarlan Hall	3 miles low number of voters and short distance
		10B3	RUTHWELL	McFarlan Hall, Clarencefield	remains the same	combined with Mouswald

10C3	CARRUTHERST OWN	Carrutherstown Village Hall	remains the same
10D3	KINMOUNT	Cummertrees Village Hall	remains the same
10F3	BRYDEKIRK	Brydekirk Village Hall	remains the same
10G3	ANNAN WEST	Market Hall, Annan	remains the same
10H3	ANNAN EAST	Newington Sports & Leisure Centre, Annan	remains the same
10J3	CRECA	Creca Village Hall	move to Eastriggs 4 miles low number of voters
10K3	EASTRIGGS	Nelson House, Eastriggs	remains the same incorporate Creca

11	Annandale North	11A3	ECCLEFECHAN	Ecclefechan Community Centre	remains the same	could use Village Hall to save disruption of day centre
		11B3	KETTLEHOLM	St Mungo Hall, Kettleholm	move to Lockerbie Town Hall	3 miles venue unsuitable - very cold and draughty - small number of voters

11C3	HIGHTAE	Royal Four Towns Hall, Hightae	move to Lochmaben Centre	4 miles
11D3	LOCKERBIE	Lockerbie Town Hall	remains the same	
11F3	LOCHMABEN	Lochmaben Community Centre	remains the same	
11G3	APPLEGARTH	Applegarth Hall	move to Lockerbie	3.5 miles venue unsuitable, not safe, surplus
11H3	NETHERMILL	Parkgate (Kirkmichael) Parish Hall	move to Johnstonebridge	7 miles
11J3	JOHNSTONE	Johnstonebridge Centre	remains the same	
11K3	BEATTOCK	Beattock Village Hall	remains the same	incorporate Wamphray
11L3	MOFFAT	Moffat Town Hall	remains the same	
11M3	WAMPHRAY	Wamphray Village Hall	move to Johnstonebridge	2 miles Due to low number of station voters

11N3	BORELAND	Boreland Hall	remains the same	
11P3	TUNDERGARTH	Tundergarth Parish Hall	move to Lockerbie Town Hall	10 miles Due to low number of station voters

12	Annandale East & Eskdale	12A3	SPRINGFIELD	Stormont Hall, Gretna Green	no change	
		12B3	GRETNA	Richard Greenhow Centre, Gretna	remains the same	incorporate Rigg
		12C3	RIGG	Mansfield Hall, Rigg	move to Richard Greenhow	2 miles
		12D3	KIRKPATRICK FLEMING	Victoria Hall, Kirkpatrick Fleming	remains the same	
		12F3	EAGLESFIELD	Eaglesfield Village Hall	remains the same	with addition of Middlebie
		12G3	ECCLEFECHAN BURNSWARK	Ecclefechan Community Centre	Day Centre operates from here	could use Village Hall to save disruption of day centre
		12H3	MIDDLEBIE	Waterbeck Village Hall	move to Eaglesfield	2.5 miles

12J3	HALF MORTON	Half Morton Parish Hall	move to Glenzier	3 miles, low number of station voters
12K3	EVERTOWN	Glenzier Public Hall	remains the same	with addition of Half Morton
12L3	CANONBIE	Canonbie Public Hall	remains the same	
12M3	GILNOCKIE	Gilnockie Public Hall	could move to Canonbie or Langholm	2 miles to Canonbie; 5 miles to Langholm
12N3	LANGHOLM	Buccleuch Hall	remains the same	
12P3	EWES	Ewes Parish Hall	move to Langholm	4.5 miles Due to low number of station voters
12Q3	WESTERKIRK	Ex Servicemen's Public Hall, Bentpath	move to Langholm	5.5 miles not a good facility and small number of voters
12R3	ESKDALEMUIR	Ex Servicemen's Public Hall, Eskdalemuir	remains the same	

Representations and comments on the proposals can be made on line at www.dumgal.gov.uk/elections or by emailing electionsoffice@dumgal.gov.uk by 5pm Thursday 5 November 2020. Ward Maps are available via email on request.

Upon completion of the consultation any representations will then be reviewed and considered as appropriate. The final proposals will then be presented to the December 2020 Dumfries and Galloway Council Meeting for approval.

Appendix

1 – ERO Data