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Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Item number	8.3
Report number	
Wards	All wards

Links

Coalition pledges	P33
Council outcomes	CO24, CO25
Single Outcome Agreement	SO4

Sue Bruce

Chief Executive

Contact: Chris Highcock, Depute Returning Officer

E-mail: chris.highcock@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 469 3126

Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Summary

As required by legislation a formal review has been undertaken of the polling districts and polling places within the City of Edinburgh Council area. This has been informed by a range of research, the experience of recent polls and comments from stakeholders following a three week public consultation.

The aim of the review is to ensure that all the electors in an area have as reasonable facilities for voting as possible, so that participation in the electoral process is encouraged and supported, with turnout maximised.

As a result of the research and comments from stakeholders, a revised polling scheme is proposed with a small number of changes to polling places and amalgamations of polling places.

Recommendations

- 1 Note the process that has been undertaken in reviewing the current arrangements of polling districts and polling places within the City of Edinburgh;
- 2 Note the range of responses that were received as part of the consultation on proposals for revised districts and places, including that of the Returning Officer;
- 3 Agree that accessible and conveniently located polling places to promote voter turnout in support of the democratic process should be a prime aim;
- 4 Agree the changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places as set out in this report and in Appendix 4; and
- 5 Note that all polling arrangements are kept under review to ensure that the provision supports all electors in the city and encourages participation in the democratic process.

Measures of success

This review is a statutory responsibility under the Representation of the People Act (1983) and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act (2013). The aim is to ensure the optimal facilities for voting in the City of Edinburgh to support turnout in electoral events. The polling arrangements that are proposed should support participation in the political process.

Financial impact

The hire of polling places for the use at elections is a major cost element at each poll. For Parliamentary and Referendum polls these costs are recovered from Government. However they fall wholly to the Council for local government elections.

Equalities impact

The local authority has a duty to review the accessibility of all polling places to disabled voters and to ensure that every polling place or prospective polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to disabled voters as far as is reasonable and practicable. All of the polling places that are proposed for use in this report as a result of this review have been assessed to ensure that they are appropriately accessible or would be with reasonable adjustments such as ramps.

Sustainability impact

There is no direct sustainability impact as a result of this report.

Consultation and engagement

In addition to consultation with elected members and council officers there has been a three week public consultation period. Proposals were shared with stakeholders including community councils, neighbourhood partnerships, schools parent councils, groups representing those with disabilities, polling staff and political parties. An on line form was used to collect responses and seek suggestions for alternative polling places where appropriate.

Background reading / external references

- [Polling place review guidance document](#)
- [Maps Showing The Proposed Polling Districts And Polling Places/Stations](#)
- [Information about population changes](#);
- [Polling Places And Projected Electorate In December 2017](#)
- [Framework To Advance Equality And Rights 2012-17](#); and
- [Electoral Commission Guidance On Polling Place Reviews](#)

Statutory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

1. Background

- 1.1 Local authorities have a duty under the Representation of the People Act (1983) to divide their area into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary elections and to designate a polling place for each such district.
- 1.2 They are also required under this Act to review these arrangements regularly to ensure that all electors in a constituency have reasonable and accessible facilities for voting.
- 1.3 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act (2013) introduced a change to the timing of these compulsory reviews. The next review must be started and completed between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015 (inclusive), with subsequent reviews completed every five years.
- 1.4 Given the heavy schedule of electoral administration faced by this Council before January 2015, the formal review was initiated on 1 October 2013.
- 1.5 This report presents the outcome of that review, notes results of associated public consultation and recommends a revised set of polling arrangements for the City of Edinburgh Council area.

2. Main report

Review Process

- 2.1 A review of current polling districts and polling places within the City of Edinburgh Council area has been undertaken to establishing their suitability and if necessary to identify potential alternatives that would be more accessible or better located.
- 2.2 Several data sources were used as a basis for the review. These included:
 - maps of the current districts and places;
 - comments from the Electoral Registration Officer;
 - comments received from Presiding Officers at recent elections;
 - feedback from voters and interested group;

- discussions with elected members for each Ward;
- information on the turnout figures within different districts;
- projections of population growth across the city in the coming decade; and
- Information from Planning regarding new building developments and demolitions in the city.

2.3 The aim of the review was to ensure that:

- all the electors in the constituency have as reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and
- so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.

Polling Districts

2.4 On the basis of this information the current arrangement of polling districts was assessed to ensure that it offered an appropriate division of the area to support the participation of electors, promoting maximum turnout. Wherever possible natural neighbourhood boundaries are followed. Obstacles that might prevent voters from easily accessing a polling place are avoided wherever possible, such as busy roads or steep hills. Effort is made to ensure that voters can travel across a polling place by foot to reach a polling place reasonably easily.

Polling Places

2.5 A building is designated as a polling place for each district. The current set of polling places for the city was assessed on the basis of location, capacity, availability and accessibility. The aim is to use fully accessible buildings, located conveniently for all voters, available for use in the event of any scheduled or unscheduled poll, with sufficient capacity to accommodate as many polling stations as may be required for the electorate of the district. It is not always possible to identify ideal premises in each area, so the best available options are chosen. For example, reasonable adjustments such as ramps may be needed to support access or sometimes it may be appropriate to designate a place that falls outwith the district.

The Use of Schools

- 2.6 For the purpose of polling the Returning Officer is entitled to use, free of charge, rooms within local authority schools. The use of schools is often a matter of controversy. The closure of a school to allow polling can interrupt the pupils' education and pose challenges for parents and carers in terms of childcare. This is held in tension with the Council's responsibility to provide appropriate facilities for electors. Schools are often the ideal location for polling in a district, are familiar to voters.
- 2.7 Recognising this tension, the Director of Children and Families has designated a staff in service training day in all City of Edinburgh schools on the day of poll for all fixed term elections where the dates are well-known in advance.
- 2.8 The introduction of fixed term parliaments for the UK Parliament coupled with fixed dates for elections to the European Parliament, the Scottish Parliament and Local Government in Scotland allows elections, and therefore the need for schools as polling places to be identified well in advance, such that there is clear scope for aligning staff training with a poll. Aligning the day of poll with an existing in service training day will minimise the cost of the hire of polling places and minimise the overall disruption to the education.

Proposals for Change

- 2.9 On the basis of this information a revised set of polling arrangements was devised for the City of Edinburgh Council area. In preparing these proposals, account was taken of the good practice guidance from the Electoral Commission.
- 2.10 Electors become familiar with their local polling places and changing them can impact on turnout. The assumption then is that current districts and places will be maintained. Changes are only proposed where they would offer improved arrangements in terms of better facilities, accessibility or location. The prime concern is always to identify what is in the best interests of the voter.

Public Consultation

- 2.11 A formal notification of the review, Appendix 1, was published on the Council website and posted at the City Chambers on 1 November 2013. This was also sent directly to a range of stakeholders including community councils, political parties, campaign organisations, elected members, parent councils, Capability Scotland and Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- 2.12 A range of material was also made available to support this public consultation, both on the website and physically at the City Chambers. This included:
- background explaining the review;

- ward maps showing proposed districts and places, noting any changes;
 - information about projected population changes;
 - Electoral Commission guidance on the review process; and
 - Information on relevant equality issues.
- 2.13 Responses to the proposals were requested either by post, email or through the use of an on line questionnaire to give an opportunity for electors to comment on a range of factors related to polling provision. Wherever possible persons or bodies making a representation as part of the review were asked to suggest suitable alternative buildings to be used as polling places if they were unhappy with the current or proposed provision.
- 2.14 Consultation closed on 22 November 2013 and comments were received from a large number of stakeholders including parent councils, community councils and individual electors. A summary analysis of these is at Appendix 2.
- 2.15 The Returning Officer has also made a submission as part of the consultation relating to the review. This is provided in Appendix 3 and includes comments on the process of the review and some of the specific changes that have been proposed.

Reaction to points raised in the consultation

- 2.16 All comments made regarding the proposed districts and places offered for consultation were considered and some modifications to the proposals have been made as a result. In other cases the original proposals remain.
- 2.17 Particular attention is drawn to the following polling places:
- *South Morningside Primary School* – 21 responses were made to the on line questionnaire, 13 of which requested that the use of the school be discontinued. The parent council and an individual elector also requested that use of the should cease. Other potential facilities were investigated in the area, one of which could feasibly provide accommodation for polling. It is however proposed that we continue to use the school. There were no complaints about the facilities, it is well located for the electors, accessible for the disabled, will be closed to pupils in any case for most polling days and a move would cause unnecessary disruption to voters.
 - *Cramond Primary School* – 87 responses were made on line, 30 were asking that the school's use be discontinued, some suggesting alternatives. These alternatives were investigated. The polling district is large and the school's location is not ideal for all. 5 comments, from

the south of the district, related to obstacles to accessing the place including busy roads and steep hills. Consideration was given to splitting the district and allocating new polling places to address these concerns. Alternatives that were suggested (including Cramond Kirk and the Royal Burgess Gold Club) were investigated, but suitable places, available for hire, could not be identified. It is therefore proposed that the use of the school continues although this will be kept under review given the concerns about location.

- *Fox Covert Primary School / the Rannoch Community Centre* – in order to rationalise facilities it had been proposed to combine two polling districts with voters currently using Fox Covert Primary School transferred to the Rannoch Community Centre. Following comments from a voter in the area this proposal has been withdrawn since the travel distances and geography involved might discourage attendance.
- *Newhaven/Trinity* – comments from 2 voters in the area have prompted a review of districts in Forth Ward. Holy Cross RC Primary School is very distant from voters in the north of the district and at the top of a steep hill. It is now proposed to split the district, with Holy Cross no longer being used for this Ward. There is an opportunity to use Newhaven Church, Craighall Road, as a polling place, with voters from NN04I and NN04J, north of the cycle path, transferring here. Voters to the south of the cycle path would vote at Trinity Primary School.
- *Firrhill/Colinton Mains* – following consultation with local councillors a proposal was made was to bring the polling place at Colinton Mains Church inside the boundary of its polling district and in doing so, to include a number of adjoining houses (on which representations had been made). Local comment from the Firrhill Community Council was received proposing that further streets, to the north of Oxgangs Avenue, were brought within the district, to avoid voters having to climb a steep hill to Pentland Primary. This proposal has been amended in response to this feedback, given that there is sufficient space in the church for the required polling stations.
- *Fet Lor Youth Centre* – this venue is being rebuilt and will be unavailable during 2014. A number of alternatives have been investigated as temporary replacements. The Scottish Health Service Centre on Crewe Road South, is recommended as the most accessible option, with the least disruption for electors. However

should the building work be delayed, Fet Lor will still be used if it is available.

Proposals for a revised scheme of polling districts, places and stations

- 2.18 A revised scheme of polling districts and places has been created following the review process described above and, where appropriate, with modifications based on comments that were received as part of the consultation.
- 2.19 A table at Appendix 4 lists the recommended arrangements of polling districts for the City of Edinburgh Council area and the location of polling places for each district. The table identifies the current polling place and includes comments of revised proposals and alternatives that have been investigated.
- 2.20 Maps of these proposed districts and places are also provided in on the Council Website at http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/2927/polling_place_and_district_boundaries_review_2013-maps
- 2.21 Following this statutory review a number of changes to polling district boundaries and the location of polling places within them are proposed. If agreed by Council these modifications will need to be reflected in the compilation of the Electoral Register to be published on 10 March 2014. The scheme would be used in the forthcoming electoral events including the European Parliamentary Elections on 22 May 2014 and the Scottish Independence Referendum on 18 September 2014.
- 2.22 Once Council has agreed a set of polling districts and polling places the details of the new arrangements will be made available to the public, through publication on the council website and at the City Chambers. All relevant correspondence relating to the review, including responses to the consultation, will also be published.
- 2.23 Letters will be sent to individual voters if their polling place has changed, with a map showing the new location. Poll cards will also highlight any new polling places and, on the day of poll, notices will be posted on buildings that are no longer used, to inform electors where they should go to vote. Other measures may also be taken if appropriate, for example signage to direct voters to a new polling place via the quickest route is planned for some locations.
- 2.24 Following the conclusion of the review and the decision of Council regarding polling districts and places, there is a right to appeal to the Electoral Commission regarding the proposals. The Electoral Commission would seek to confirm that the review has met the reasonable requirements of electors in an area and that accessibility for disabled voters has been taken into account. Their focus is firmly on supporting the voter to promote participation. The processes undertaken as part of this review have included an assessment of these factors.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Council:

- Notes the process that has been undertaken in reviewing the current arrangements of polling districts and polling places within the City of Edinburgh;
- Notes the range of responses that were received as part of the consultation on proposals for revised districts and places, including that of the Returning Officer;
- Agrees that accessible and conveniently located polling places to promote voter turnout in support of the democratic process should be a prime aim;
- Agrees the changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places as set out in this report and in Appendix 4; and
- Notes that all polling arrangements are kept under review to ensure that the provision supports all electors in the city and encourages participation in the democratic process.

Sue Bruce

Chief Executive

Links

Coalition pledges	P33 – Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are spent.
Council outcomes	CO24 – The Council communicates effectively internally and externally and has an excellent reputation for customer care. CO25 – The Council has efficient and effective services that

deliver on objectives.

Single Outcome Agreement

SO4 – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric.

Appendices

- 1 Notice of Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations
 - 2 Responses to the Public Consultation
 - 3 Response from the Returning Officer
 - 4 Proposed Polling Districts and Places
- Maps showing proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places are available on [the council website](#).

Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

Notice of Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations

1.1 Edinburgh's last review of polling places and districts took place in 2010. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 has placed a duty on the Council to start and complete the next review of polling places between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015 (inclusive).

1.2 Subsequent compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013.

The Council must ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting and that arrangements are as realistic as possible. We must also make sure that, as far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to all electors including those with disabilities.

A review of polling places has now been undertaken and some changes are proposed.

Where to find information about the review

Copies of the proposed polling districts, places, stations and other supporting information can be viewed at:

- The City Chambers (City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ)

Alternatively, you can access and download any of this material from the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk If you do not have internet access, the material can be accessed on-line from any library in the city.

How to respond

We would be pleased to hear from you if you have any comments about your current polling place. If you are not happy with your polling arrangements it would be a great help to us if you could suggest a better alternative polling place in your area.

We can accept comments from you up to 22 November and you can respond in the following ways:

By Post

Polling District and Polling Station
Review
The City of Edinburgh Council
Level 2/1 Waverley Court
4 East Market Street
Edinburgh
EH8 8BG

By Email

elections@edinburgh.gov.uk

If you have any questions about the review or require any further information please call 0131 529 4210.

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Appendix 1

What happens next

We will consider your comments up to and after 22 November and then put forward a report to the Council. It is our intention to incorporate any changes in the new electoral register which will be published on 10 March 2014.

Specific issues and suggestions arising from consultation

Comments and suggestions were invited from the public using a standard form. All comments and suggestions received on these forms are collated below and a response made to each. Further comments received by e-mail from the public and interested groups are listed at the end of the Appendix.

The Council's response to each suggestion has taken into account the following:

- The Council has a statutory duty to identify polling places which provide all electors in a constituency in the local authority area with such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and 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 will not make changes to polling stations unless absolutely necessary in achieving the statutory duty outlined above, as the outcome of change can be confusing to voters and may impact on turnout.

Use of schools as polling places

There were many responses specifically about **the use of schools as polling places**. To reduce duplication, the general response to this is given below:

Some consultees have suggested using high schools, but their closure on polling day would be likely to prompt similar concerns from parents.

Some consultees have suggested we use part of a school and keep the rest open for pupils. This would require risk assessments in relation to public access while pupils are in school, and could well still result in a decision that the school must be closed. A suggestion that a tent should be erected in the school car park could be seen as disruptive during construction, would require risk assessments and mitigation measures, and may not in any case allow the school to remain open.

We are well aware of the challenges to parents and children that can be posed by the use of schools as polling places. As a result the Department of Children and Families will in future allocate one of the school in-service days to election dates that are fixed years in advance such as the European Election in May next year, and the Westminster Election in May 2015. All schools will be closed to pupils on these dates as part of the planned school timetable, which will reduce such disruption. Unfortunately the school timetable cannot accommodate in-service closure for short notice electoral events such as referenda, but as most elections are now held on fixed dates the impact on parents and children should be minimised.

Some previously used schools have been dropped as part of this review, in response to problems with the facilities e.g. Sciennes Primary School, where disabled access is poor and we have been able to identify better alternatives.

Use of Cramond Primary School

In addition to the general note above about using schools as polling places, many responses were about Cramond Primary. Consideration was given to splitting the district to provide two polling places which would be closer to voters in the north and south of the area, but after investigation, alternative locations were not available for us to use as polling places.

Use of South Morningside Primary School

Possible alternative venues in the area were investigated, one of which could feasibly provide accommodation for polling. However it is proposed that we continue to use the school as the consultation responses did not suggest that the school was inadequate as a polling place, it is well located for the majority of electors, accessible for the disabled, will be closed to pupils in any case for most polling days and so a move would cause unnecessary disruption to voters.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
Cramond Primary School, Ward 1, Almond		
	Cramond Kirk Hall. Its use would avoid removing a day's education from the children in the area. It would also avoid the associated disruption to their teachers' work, and avoid the need for parents to take time off to look after their children. It is equally accessible and close to bus transport.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Of the other venues considered by the committee I think that the Burgess Golf Club would be a better choice as it is equally accessible, if not more so, compared to the school, but most importantly would not require that the school be closed for the day. The Cramond Kirk Hall would be equally well suited as a facility, however the narrow road approaching the Kirk Hall may present traffic difficulties.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Somewhere nearer. Local golf club (Royal Burgess) or church hall would be better.	No address given, so not possible to assess the individual's travelling time to the primary school.
	It could be moved to Cargifield school until the next review thereby balancing the disruption to pupils across the two schools in the area. Large, spacious, conveniently located. If needed busses could be directed down gamekeepers road on polling day.	Cargifield School is unlikely to wish to close to pupils for the purposes of using their premises as a polling place, and is not within local authority control. See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
	Cramond Kirk Hall. The use of Cramond Primary School is inconvenient to families and disrupting to children's learning as the election days usually happen mid-week and at a time when there are already many holidays and In-service days.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
I don't think a school should be used as a polling station. It results in the school being closed for whole days impacting on the childrens education. This shouldn't be acceptable when alternative suitable polling stations are available.	Cramond Kirk Hall.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
Unhappy that the school has to close for a whole day.	Cramond Kirk, it is not much further away from the primary school and would avoid the school closure	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Cramond Kirk. Lots of parking which the school doesn't have. Using the Kirk would negate the need for the school to close for polling days.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	cramond kirk	See response to the use of Cramond Primary School.
This is a school. I strong object to children missing another day of school due to elections. Another venue would be better for all working parents and children.	Cramond Kirk	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
Cramond Primary School is located in the middle of residential streets - any car parking inconveniences neighbours of the school	Cramond Kirk Hall - as a parent with children at Cramond Primary School I would prefer to avoid school closures with the loss of teaching time and the need for parents to make alternate childcare arrangements and incur additional expense.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Cramond church hall	See response to the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Cramond Kirk Hall Royal Burgess Golfing Society	See response to the use of Cramond Primary School.
I do not believe that the local Primary School should be used as a polling station.	Cramond Kirk Hall The Royal Burgess Golf Club	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Burgess golf club or Cramond Kirk. Alternatively can the hall at Cramond be cordoned off securely to allow learning and teaching to continue at Cramond Primary school. It is very unfair that the children's education is affected by the school being used as a polling station.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Cramond Kirk hall. My children are missing valuable school time with Cramond PS used as a polling station. Creates difficulty with childcare also.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Cramond Kirk hall It is disgraceful to close the Primary school.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Cramond church hall Shutting a school for a whole day disadvantages hundreds of children's education and inconveniences many working parents	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
I disagree with the children missing a whole days schooling along with parents having to cope with additional child care issues. I do not feel a primary school is an appropriate venue.	Church or library	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
I do not think Cramond Primary school should be used as a polling station as it causes so much disruption to the children and parents (having to arrange childcare)		See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
I have 3 children and have to find one off childcare for the polling day. I propose. Cramond Kirk hall to be a suitable venue with parking (which the school does not have) and less disruptive than closing a school for a day.	Cramond Kirk hall (see previous answer)	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
difficult as a parent when the school is used and results in no childcare for the day. not to mention the impact on the children's education should not be using a school - the children should be going there to learn ;not having a whole day's education lost		See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
my children are forced to have no schooling. other children in other local schools are not inconvenienced. i cannot get to work. please change location to a church hall. we cannot be expected to keep having this level of inconvenience and detriment every since polling day.	Cramond church hall. or rotate school halls used. or simply erect a tent in car park of school and get on with it. whilst democracy is important i suspect economics and education should not be damaged in the process repeatedly.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
I would prefer Cramond School NOT to be used for voting as it means the school is shut for an entire day and therefore all of us full-time working parents therefore need to make childcare arrangements / take time off work which is not necessary given the availability of alternate locations which could be used. It's also detrimental to my children's education.	Cramond Kirk Hall. It's only 5 minutes walk from the school so it's just as accessible as the school and has one large and 2 smaller halls which could be used.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
Please stop using schools as polling stations. Child care arrangements for full time working parents are hard enough to cover with existing holidays and in-service days. There are plenty of other places in the communities across Edinburgh to use instead.	Cramond Kirk hall would be perfect. There is parking, and plenty of room for the stations. Even the smaller upstairs room would be sufficient.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	Cramond Kirk Hall, which means the school won't be closed disrupting the education of our children and childcare arrangements for parents who work.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
It is very disruptive when elections are held at the Primary School. With so much attention seemingly paid to children education, I feel that using any primary school as polling venue is a very poor choice and gives wrong message to the kids and their working parents.		See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
	Cramond Kirk Halls or the Royal Burgess golf club would be far more appropriate buildings. The primary school has to be closed every time there is an election and the children miss out on a day's learning. I work at home and child care for that day is not a problem but for many it causes major disruption. This is an area where there is a good community spirit and those that need transporting to the polling station to vote are likely to have someone who could do that for them. Both these other buildings have car parking and disabled access and would not disrupt the vital education of our youngsters	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
[Obstacles to reaching your polling station?] Parking is very tight in the neighbouring streets.		Cramond Primary School is the most centrally located available venue within the district, so no change is proposed.
Yes the fact that a 5yr Review has already been answered as 'no change' is unacceptable. We have already offered/proposed other venues to be considered in order for our children not to miss a day of school purely for this purpose, and all of the problems and alternative child-hood care arrangements that have to be taken into consideration. I find this unacceptable by the Council to not even consider an alternative venue. My child's education is more important!	Royal Burgess Golf Club -as proposed already - and it is right beside the Barnton Junction, so not sure why this has not been accepted? No official explanation was offered?	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
I do not think it is acceptable to close an entire school for a full day each year for polling. This disrupts the pupils learning at a time of year when there are already a lot of days off, disrupts the teachers and also means that parents need to take time off work to look after the kids. Buildings that are not in constant use for the day should be used instead even if a mobile polling station has to be set up in the gyle or at the Barnton shops.	Cramond brig hotel; the Gyle; Cramond Kirk hall	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
Please can you change the Polling Station to another location other than the school hall. Current situation is disruptive to our childrens' education and childcare arrangements.	Cramond Church Hall	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
Use of schools as polling stations should be restricted to where there is really no option. Full-day closure is not in the interests of children, teachers or certainly parents. Childcare is for many, impossible to organise for one day and a holiday must be taken from work, at significant cost to the local economy		See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
The cost of child care and loss of work hours using the Primary School I feel strongly although Kirk Hall and Burgess Golf Club have been reviewed as potential polling stations I do not believe the loss of learning time for children, financial cost to parents and disruption has been given enough weighting.		See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
I am unhappy about Cramond primary school remaining as the polling station. It has a detrimental affect on my children's schooling and causes childcare issues.		See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
No Difficulty in voting, just finding alternative childcare as the school is closed	Cramond Kirk Hall. This does not require the school to be closed. The location is only a few minute drive from the school and also has more parking.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
Locate in residential streets, limited parking.		Cramond Primary School is the most centrally located available venue within the district, so no change is proposed.
<p>Cramond Primary School has on-street parking in narrow cul-de-sacs. It can be difficult to find a safe parking place close to the building.</p> <p>I would prefer that Cramond Primary School is not used as the Polling Place, as this affects my children's education and means I have to take time off work.</p>	Cramond Kirk Hall has excellent parking, disabled access and a huge hall on the ground floor. It makes no sense to me to use Cramond Primary School when there is a better facility a few hundred yards away that would allow the School to stay open.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
	The Kirk Hall	See response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
I do not believe we should be closing schools for the purposes of voting. The majority of people in Cramond own cars and can drive to other places to vote or get a postal vote if this isn't suitable. Why does the council believe it is acceptable to disrupt our childrens education in this way		See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
It is a major inconvenience having the entire school closed for elections. By closing the entire school it means I have to lose a days work (I am paid on a daily basis), this makes it close to uneconomic for me to work as the majority of my pay goes towards childcare costs as it is. Would prefer any other location.	Cramond Kirk Hall. It meets all the disability access criteria and the number of families inconvenienced would be far fewer.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of Cramond Primary School.
Queensferry Primary School, Ward 1, Almond		
	Queensferry Parish Church, The Loan	Other venues in the area have been looked at but for reasons of size and accessibility they weren't considered suitable.
Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, Ward 2, Pentland Hills		
	Juniper Green Primary School	No reason given by the consultee for suggested change, the church hall is centrally located within the district, so no change recommended.
Ward 3, Drum Brae/Gyle, Munro Community Centre		
[Obstacles to reaching your polling station?] steep hill - need transport to get there	No need to change something when it is working	Noted
Fox Covert Primary School, Ward 3, Drum Brae/Gyle		
[Obstacles to reaching your polling station?] no direct bus route - long walk to and from stops or walk through estate that I would not wish to walk through – prob wont bother going there		The original consultation proposal had been to transfer voters from Fox Covert PS to Rannoch Community Centre. Following further review prompted by this consultee, it is no longer proposed to make this change.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
Gylemuir Primary School, Ward 3, Drum Brae/Gyle		
	<p>Why not make it that you can vote at any polling station in Edinburgh? Just provide boxes for each area in each polling station.</p> <p>Gyle Shopping Centre!</p>	<p>It would not be possible to allow voters to cast their vote at any polling station for a number of reasons, including:</p> <p>Each polling station has a copy of the register of electors and voters names are marked off as they are given a ballot paper. In this way individuals can only vote once.</p> <p>Also, we limit the number of voters in each polling place to reduce queues. In some locations eg city centre where there are many workplaces, the number of voters could result in long queues, ballot boxes with no room for more ballot papers etc.</p> <p>Re suggested change to the Gyle Shopping Centre, there is no suggestion that the school's facilities are inadequate, so no change is proposed.</p>
Holy Cross RC Primary School (Main Building), Ward 4, Forth		
<p>pathway from school gate to door can be a bit dark and creepy Think the doors a bit narrow and difficult to open if you have mobility issues</p>	<p>Newhaven Church is only half way up the hill and is regularly used by the elderly who are more familiar with the layout than the primary school</p>	<p>The northern half of this district is uphill and quite far from Holy Cross RC Primary School. After further consideration it is proposed to split the district and transfer voters from East Trinity Road and northwards to Newhaven Church, 7 Craighall Road, which will reduce the travelling distance.</p>
<p>[Obstacles to reaching your polling station?] Long walk, some of it uphill, or need to drive there</p>	<p>St Serfs is at the southernmost edge of the ward and not convenient for the north part of the ward (my address is Trinity Crescent)</p>	<p>The northern half of this district is uphill and quite far from Holy Cross RC Primary School. After further consideration it is proposed to split the district and transfer voters from East Trinity Road and northwards to Newhaven Church, 7 Craighall Road, which will reduce the travelling distance.</p>

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
[Obstacles to reaching your polling station?] There is no bus service from near my home to the proposed polling station.		No address given so it is not possible to comment specifically. However it is proposed to move voters from the northern part of this district to a new polling place at Newhaven Church which may help the situation.
Blackhall Primary School, Ward 5, Inverleith		
	Instead of closing the school for a day, why not re-locate the maximum of 2 polling stations proposed to St Columba's church? This is already used as a polling venue, & thus must meet the various requirements in terms of accessibility, location within the ward, etc & there is plenty of capacity at the church to increase the number of stations. This would mean that our children's education is not disrupted every time there is an election.	See response on use of schools as polling places. St Columba's Church Hall is a polling place in a different parliamentary constituency. Unfortunately we are not legally able to revise constituency boundaries as part of this review, so it is not possible to use it in place of Blackhall Primary.
I understand that it is difficult to find sufficient polling venues - but really object to our Primary Schools being used. This causes disruption to our children - and working parents who have to find alternative childcare.		See response on use of schools as polling places
Why close the primary school for a whole day causing inconvenience for parents.	Columba church hall Does not close a school and a lot more accessible	See response on use of schools as polling places. St Columba's Church Hall is a polling place in a different parliamentary constituency. Unfortunately we are not legally able to revise constituency boundaries as part of this review, so it is not possible to use it in place of Blackhall Primary.
Steep hill Crossing of Craigcrook road		Residential area, without alternatives.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
St James' Episcopal Church Hall, Ward 5, Inverleith		
I haven't been in so can't comment	Bellevue Chapel would be more convenient for us and it may even prove to be our polling place.	Noted
Carrick Knowe Primary School, Ward 6 Corstorphine/Murrayfield		
<p>There is a larger parking area around the side of the school which would be useful to use which is nearer another area of the school with easier access for wheelchair users.</p> <p>There is another area of the school which seems better to use than the existing gym hall or the schools nursery building or split the ward which is very small into the other wards which would free up the school for better in service training and no more school closures. This is on behalf of the parent council at Carrick Knowe Primary school.</p>		A member of the election team visited the Primary School to discuss the suggestions from the Parent Council. School management felt that the existing set up was best suited to both the security of the school premises, and access for voters, so no change is proposed.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
Carrick Knowe Parish Church Hall, Ward 6, Corstorphine/Murrayfield		
<p>Carrick Knowe Primary should not be used as a polling station. Schools should not be used as polling stations where there are alternatives, which there are in this case. Although schools now close on polling days, this inconveniences everyone, most importantly the children who have their week disrupted. The head of Carrick Knowe Primary reports that although the school is used for cluster events on polling days, his ability to make best use of the space for these events is severely curtailed. There are sufficient, suitably located polling stations that could be used by voters currently using the primary school - the extra numbers could easily be accommodated. It is ironic that most of the CKPS parents do not vote at the primary school!</p>		<p>See response on use of schools as polling places</p>
Roseburn Primary School, Ward 6, Corstorphine/Murrayfield		
<p>Placing of the voting booths could sometimes be better and more chairs should be provided for older people / those with disabilities.</p>		<p>Noted. The team organising polling places will ensure that chairs are provided for voters.</p>
Dalry Primary School, Ward 7, Sighthill/Gorgie		
<p>Think you need to encourage more people to vote, reducing number of polling places, and making them further away doesn't seem to do that.</p>		<p>There are no plans to move voters from Dalry Primary School to another polling place. As a general point, we would agree, and aim to have polling places within a maximum of 20 minutes walk for voters, wherever possible.</p>

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
Murrayburn Primary School, Ward 7, Sighthill Gorgie		
<p>reckon it should be left at Murrayburn school. both myself and my wife are disabled. Also a lot of my neighbours are elderly and may find getting to proposed new site awkward . As less people make the effort to vote you should not make the task more difficult and possibly cause even less persons to vote</p>		<p>It is not proposed to change from the existing site; the map may have been confusing as changes are proposed for neighbouring polling places.</p>
Pentland Community Centre, Ward 8, Colinton/Fairmilehead		
<p>I think that schools should not be used as polling stations. Not all schools are closed for elections and therefore some children miss out on education that day, and when this is coupled with several holiday Mondays and in service days it makes things very complicated for working parents.</p>	<p>Oxgangs Neighbourhood Centre, St Johns Church, Oxgangs Library</p>	<p>See response on use of schools as polling places</p>
Pentland Primary School, Ward 8, Colinton/Fairmilehead		
<p>Why do the council insist on using primary schools? This disrupts the education of the children who cannot attend school on the polling day and causes disruption to families, carers and employers. There is a library, community centre and churches all within walking distance.</p>	<p>Oxgangs library, Pentland community centre, Fairmilehead church, St.Fillans church</p>	<p>See response on use of schools as polling places</p>

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Ward 8, Colinton/Fairmilehead		
<p>I need to get assistance to transport me from Lanark road to the polling station as there is a long walk up to the bus stop up hill and 4 bus is infrequent so difficulty in timing connecting busses and long time between arrival bus and departure bus for return journey so means sitting around on a public path at bus stops offer for over 20 minutes</p>	<p>to many schools used for polling stations resulting in school closure to pupils</p>	<p>No address given, so it has not been possible to look at the consultee's home location in relation to the polling place.</p> <p>See response on use of schools as polling places.</p>
St Fillan's Church Hall, Ward 8, Colinton/Fairmilehead		
<p>Queuing can be a problem at peak times, due to staffing though, not size of the building.</p> <p>I notice that you propose to close all schools on fixed voting dates, this will prevent me from voting as I do not feel it is fair on the other voters to have a child running about when such business is taking place. When my child is in school I have sufficient time to vote alone.</p>		<p>Noted.</p>
<p>I am completing this survey as looking at the ward map I believe that the use of Pentland Primary is unfair as there are other public buildings including schools not utilised and a "new" Oxfords Neighbourhood Centre which is not being utilised. Children should not be affected by the right of adults to vote. I think the council review has not been well thought out for this ward.</p>		<p>See response on use of schools as polling places.</p>

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
Fountainbridge Library, Ward 9, Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart		
	<p>North Merchiston Club. It is more suitable for voters because it's on the right (western) side of Yeaman Place in the polling district, since most voters live west of Yeaman Place (east of Yeaman Place is Fountainpark and university halls of residence), they can access North Merchiston Club more easily as it is closer from dwellings and accessible along quieter roads. The only thing is that North Merchiston Club would require a (temporary) access ramp with voters with physical disabilities.</p>	<p>Changes are not made to polling places unless there is a problem with the venue currently in use. The consultee has not indicated any problem with the location of and access to Fountainbridge Library, and no change is proposed.</p>
Phoenix Centre, Ward 9, Fountainbridge Craiglockhart		
<p>I have been Principal Presiding Officer at Craiglockart School. When the change was made to access the Polling Station to the South of the building in order to use the ramp for people with mobility problems the route to the actual Polling Stations was via a room where computers were in full view. At the time we did have an Information Assistant but she had to spend her time between the entrance where the computers were and the hall where the Polling Stations were. At the time I did bring this up and this may have been one of the reasons why the venue was changed to the Pheonix Club.</p>		<p>Noted</p>

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
Greenbank Church Hall, Ward 10, Meadows/Morningside		
<p>I completely disagree with the council using schools as polling stations. So many people are disadvantaged by that, and the children lose a day of lessons which is a breach of faith in providing them with their education (even if it is allowed by statutory instrument). Polling is a legal, nationwide requirement, the council should not try to minimise its costs to the detriment of so many by using school accommodation for polling. So many more people now vote by postal vote, as I do, though if I didn't I would use Greenbank Church. Given postal voting, and the fact that people vote in person throughout the day and can vote at night, I think Greenbank Church can meet the polling needs. Additionally, more than one hall could be used at Greenbank. You affect so many parents who have to take additional time off work to manage that polling day school closure. Please do not use schools for polling.</p>	<p>You could consider Cluny Annexe for voting if extra voting space over South Morningside really was required.</p>	<p>See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.</p>
Morningside Parish Church Halls, Ward 10, Meadows/Morningside		
<p>[Obstacles to reaching your polling station?] very steep hill</p>		<p>There is a proposed change for this voter from The Studio Churchhill Theatre which is uphill to Morningside Parish Church Halls which is downhill. There is a frequent bus service from the end of this voter's street to both polling places, so it is not proposed to amend this proposal.</p>

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
Although I do not have trouble crossing getting down the hill to the Polling Station there is a steep slope down Braid Road if you are walking and it would be difficult for older members of the community to walk or park nearby.	I live closer to Greenbank Parish Church (1 min walk) than Morningside Parish Church Halls (5-7 min walk) and it does seem strange to walk further away to vote. I do realise and accept there are reasons for this.	Noted.
South Morningside Primary School, Ward 10, Meadows/Morningside		
It is ridiculous that our children are losing a day's education because the school is used as a polling place. There are alternatives in the area - Greenbank Church and Morningside Parish Church as well as the Cluny Centre. In all the years that I have voted at SMPS, I have never seen it busy or with queues, and there is no argument that the alternative centres could not deal with the increased numbers.	There are alternatives in the area - Greenbank Church and Morningside Parish Church as well as the Cluny Centre. In all the years that I have voted at SMPS, I have never seen it busy or with queues, and there is no argument that the alternative centres could not deal with the increased numbers.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.
As a parent in this school, I don;t think it should be used. A whole day's learning is lost for the children and a whole day's disruption is caused for working parents is lost through school closure. There are a number of church halls nearby that should be considered.	Greenbank Church Hall. The sue of this hall does not cause disruption for school children and parents, and the size of the Hall is bigger than the school's hall. It has disabled access.	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.
There must be an alternative location for Polling as opposed to disrupting our childrens education every year. What about Church Hill Theatre?	Find an alternative location for Polling instead of constantly using the local Primary School! One of the many nearby churches	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
<p>The school is disrupted and education suffers, this is not good enough.</p> <p>I would like you to find me an alternative polling place rather than South Morningside. There will be more and more elections in future and the school is disrupted too often. Despite in-service days coinciding with some elections days, this does not cover all and could change in future. Greenbank and Morningside Parish Church are just as convenient for me and are nowhere near capacity for polling. Please sort this out.</p>	<p>Greenbank and Morningside Parish Church are just as convenient for me and are nowhere near capacity for polling. Or the Cluny Annexe as well.</p>	<p>See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.</p>
	<p>Cluny Annexe plus the local church halls already used as polling stations in the area. This would reduce disruption for parents caused by the school having to close for voting. Having voted on a number of occasions at South Morningside Primary School I have never regarded the flow of voters as likely to cause significant problems in terms of capacity at the church halls.</p>	<p>See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.</p>
	<p>Cluny Church or Cluny Church center. This would avoid closing the school on voting days. The centre is disabled friendly and is within easy walking distance of Morningside School</p>	<p>See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.</p>
<p>The venue which is a primary school should not be used as a polling station, this will impact my child's education in what is already an underfunded over capacity school 2 days this year.</p>	<p>Public library, use one of the supermarkets, church halls. It's not as if the polling stations are over subscribed with 30 odd percent turn outs.</p>	<p>See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.</p>

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
[Obstacles to reaching your polling station?] Steep hills, limited parking	Not sure	No address given, so not possible to comment on the route from home to polling station.
Using primary schools for polling stations causes huge disruption to working parents such as myself. Is there not another building that could be used instead of South Morningside Primary school, such as Cluny Church?	Cluny church	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.
[Obstacles to reaching your polling station] Roads and hills Using schools is disruptive to the children and inconvenient for working parents who have to take time off work as school is closed	Local church halls local library both accessible and large enough	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.
	Please investigate the use of Cluny Church Halls off Braid Road - there is a large ground floor hall here - instead of S Morningside school as Polling Day causes considerable disruption to the school, school clubs and for working parents to have to take a day off	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.
I don't find using the School inconvenient - voting is not such a regular occurrence to cause me such a problem. I think using the Primary School is ok		Noted
	Using primary schools for polling stations causes huge disruption to working parents such as myself. Is there not another building that could be used instead of South Morningside Primary school, such as Cluny Church?	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
As a parent of 2 children at the school, it is very disruptive for them to have the school closed. I have to take annual leave every polling day.	Various church halls in the area are large -even if one is not large enough, can you not use 2?	See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.
Leith Walk Primary School, Ward 12, Leith Walk		
My voting place was changed from Leith Theatre to Leith Primary school a while back but the publicity for this change was poor & I was not initially aware of it. My voting card however had the new address printed upon it - it just took me longer to vote because I first had to locate the primary school	Leith theatre, but I am perfectly happy going to the primary school now	Noted
Norton Park Centre, Ward 12, Leith Walk		
	I have to pass at least one polling station (hermitage park school) to get to my polling station in addition there is another polling station closer to me (St Mary's primary and south Leith church hall)	These polling stations are located in other polling districts or other constituencies. The point is noted though, and feedback will be made to the upcoming Boundary Commission review of Ward Boundaries.
I have never voted at this Polling Station before, I just moved here. My previous Polling Station - Brumstane Primary was much much further from my house. This is very close so I cannot complain.	I was a voter at Wester Hailes most of my adult life and I am disappointed to see you are closing Wester Hailes Library as a polling place and swapping it for Sighthill Road - this involves a hill.	Noted
Hermitage Park Primary School, Ward 13, Leith		
	Leith Academy Better access and parking. Closer to the Sheltered Housing	It is six minutes walk from this voter's home to Hermitage Park PS. The Primary School is just as well situated for the majority of district voters as the High School, and no change is proposed.
North Leith Parish Church Hall, Ward 13, Leith		
[Any difficulties when voting?] no. But I usually get a postal vote anyway just in case I am on holiday.		Noted

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
My current polling place is conveniently located and well facilitated. I am happy with the arrangement.		Noted
Duddingston Primary School, Ward 14, Craigentiny/Duddingston		
It is ridiculous to have to close down a whole school for voting. I can not take time off work because the school is closed. Another venue should be found.	Just use the nursery rooms for the voting so that the remainder of the school can remain open. Portobello High School?	See response on use of schools as polling places.
St Ninian's Church Hall, Ward 14, Craigentiny/Duddingston		
	Jehovah Witnesses Building on Restalrig Drive - new modern building no steps, hills etc to get there. The building at Marionville Drive which I think is currently marked up as TaiKonDo (or something like that). It used to be a supermarket building. I'm sure they could use the rent for the day(s) of voting.	The individual does not have a problem with their existing polling place, so these suggestions will be borne in mind should a change be necessary in future.
Marchmont St Giles Parish Church, Ward 15, Southside/Newington		
Rather than having the ballot box listing streets alphabetically I would rather they listed them in geographical areas. I would then know how all people voted in my area.		We believe it is easier for voters to find their polling station using alphabetical street lists.

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
Gilmerton Community Centre, Ward 16, Liberton/Gilmerton		
<p>There is a steep hill from where i live and three busy main roads Gilmerton Dykes Road, Lasswade Road and Captains Road It may be O.K. for anyone who Has a car to get there but that would also have an impact on the area with lots of cars trying to find parking places and the area round the south neighbourhood offices is extremely busy with all the amenities around it</p>		<p>This voter's polling place is Gilmerton Community Centre, to which no change is proposed. If the voter is requesting a change to Gracemount Leisure Centre/South Neighbourhood Office, this is further away than the existing polling place.</p> <p>The voter is also commenting on the proposed change for others of a move to South Neighbourhood Office. There is a two minute walk between the current and proposed polling places so very little change for voters. No change is proposed to the recommendation.</p>
Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, Ward 16, Liberton/Gilmerton		
<p>The room late out has been changed in the last two votes and it is difficult to identify which station to go too and staff pounce on you before you can read all the signs.</p>		<p>We are currently investigating new signage at the entrance to polling places which will direct voters to the correct polling station quickly and easily.</p> <p>Customer care is always emphasised at staff training, and will be reiterated.</p>
Liberton Kirk Halls, Ward 16, Liberton/Gilmerton		
<p>I want to comment on idea of closing primary schools for in-service days when polling takes place. Great idea for working parents. I am commenting here as I don't know if there is a place to do this later on. We</p>		<p>Noted.</p>
Liberton Northfield Church Hall, Ward 16, Liberton/Gilmerton		
<p>[Obstacles to reaching your polling station?] The polling station is in an awkward place to get to and I have to walk passed another polling station (Liberton Kirk) to get to it I would rather vote at Liberton kirk.</p>	<p>Liberton Kirk</p>	<p>There was no address given so it is not possible to comment on the accessibility of the polling place in relation to the consultee's home.</p>

Issue or suggestion	Suggested alternative polling place	Response
St Philip's Church Hall, Ward 17, Portobello/Craigmillar		
[Any difficulties when voting?] Just time to travel to it which we have overcome by registering for a postal vote	The Hall could be warmer as the doors are all kept open for easy access and its very cold and wasteful of electricity / gas	We have to balance the heating issue with the need to allow easy access for all voters to the hall.
Other (no polling place specified)		
I now have a postal vote because I thought the representatives of the political parties were too enthusiastic about wanting know who I had voted for.		Briefing sessions are held for candidates and agents, and the role and behaviour of polling agents outlined. Appropriate interaction with voters will continue to be included in briefings and written material.
I have no problems but the polling station is up flights of stairs which may cause problems for more elderly people	A room on the ground floor?	This observation is made by someone whose address would place them at Holy Cross Episcopal Church. While there are steps into this polling station, there is a permanent concrete ramp in place, so a note will be taken to investigate whether signposting might be improved.
church halls which are currently used could have 1 or 2 more voting booths, although there might be peak times when voters may have to wait, the majority of time there would not be a queue. South Morningside Primary school is not ideal for a polling place as this causes huge amount of childcare issues for working parents		See response on use of schools as polling places, and response on the use of South Morningside Primary School.

Other written representations and responses (where appropriate)

South Morningside Parent Council

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of South Morningside Parent Council (SMPC) with regard to the 2013 Polling Place Review.

The view of South Morningside Parent Council continues to be that the use of South Morningside School as a polling place, causes considerable disruption to the school community. We believe that the council should proactively look for alternative venues.

Using the school as a polling place causes disruption to the education of c.650 children and inconveniences their families, carers and teachers, so that one room can be for electoral purposes. This does not feel like an effective use of scarce community resources.

We recognise, and thank the council for, the efforts made to minimise the impact by aligning inservice days with election days. However, this doesn't always remove the need to close the school (e.g. 18 Sep 2014) and doesn't always remove the disruption - in May 2015 the school will close on the Monday and the Thursday of the same week.

SMPC wrote to the council earlier in the year and asked them to review the use of the school as a polling place. Your reply indicated that no alternative venues had been identified and the nearby existing centres would be overcrowded if South Morningside Primary School weren't used.

SMPC finds this surprising – can you provide information on the investigation which was undertaken to identify alternate locations and the assessment that was made of Morningside Parish Church and Greenbank Church Hall? Did this assessment take into account the improvements in Morningside Parish Church and the extension at Greenbank Church which means that more space is now available?

SMPC suggests the following venues as potential alternatives; the hall at Nile Grove Church, the school annexe at Cluny Church and Napier University Morningside Campus (the church building on Morningside Road).

The map of polling places in Meadows / Morningside shows that there is a cluster of polling places around South Morningside Primary School, but no locations in SS10F – the next polling place is at Church Hill Theatre. Has the Council investigated other options in this area to help spread the geographic distribution of polling places?

As the most overcrowded primary school in Edinburgh and the only one split over three campuses I am sure you will agree that minimising disruption at the school is a priority.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours faithfully,

Chair, South Morningside Parent Council

Response

Local Councillors for the Meadows/Morningside Ward have contacted me regarding a letter that you have sent raising your concerns around the use of South Morningside Primary School as a Polling Place. The Councillors had asked me for background on this issue and I have responded to them as below. I am very much aware of your concerns and wanted to ensure that you had a copy of my comments to them [see below]

Councillor McInnes

POLLING PLACE REVIEW: USE OF SOUTH MORNINGSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

I write with respect to the attached letter that you and other ward councillors have received from the South Morningside Primary School Parent Council relating to the above. You will be aware of the current statutory review of Polling Districts and Polling Places that has been undertaken by the Elections Team and which will be the subject of a report to Council on 12 December, seeking a Council decision on the identification of Polling Places for the City of Edinburgh. With a focus on providing the best facilities for voters, to support participation in elections and referendums, the team has reviewed all polling places currently in use. A number of changes have been proposed to districts and places always with the aim of making it easier for voters to find and use a polling place. Wherever possible we try to avoid changing the places that people are used to using so as not to disrupt or confuse voters, only changing if the change will offer better facilities. Indeed in some cases the use of certain schools in the city has been discontinued, where better located or more accessible facilities are available elsewhere.

The use of primary schools as polling places is always a matter that prompts comment and complaint from parents. The Returning Officer and the Election Team recognise the issues that arise from the closure of schools to accommodate polling. For this one day the education of the pupils is interrupted and parents and carers need to organise appropriate alternative childcare. These are real issues and they are not taken lightly. However they are also held in tension with the responsibilities that exist to identify and provide the best facilities for voters. Very often primary schools are the ideal option in an area: they are well located, have good facilities, are accessible and are well recognised by voters as polling places. The preference is to continue to use these school facilities where they remain the best option. To minimise the disruption to pupils and their carers arrangements have been made to align an in-service training day with the scheduled polling day for elections in future. This will release the whole school estate for use to support polling, without adding to the overall disruption to childrens' education or the need for additional childcare.

These concerns apply to South Morningside Primary School as they do to all other schools in the city. Turning to the specific issues raised by the letter I would make a number of comments. Facilities are needed to accommodate around 2800 electors in this district, one which often has a higher turnout than many other areas of the city. This requires 4 or 5 separate polling stations in the building. Again in seeking to identify polling places our focus is on the needs of the voter, and we consider a solution that will provide :

- Accessible building

- Sufficient space to accommodate 2/3 polling stations, with facilities for staff
- Ideally recognisable to electors
- Located centrally within the district (if possible) and accessible to the local electors by foot within a reasonable walk
- Good transport routes, avoiding main roads, steep hills etc that might make access difficult
- Parking available if possible, or able to be facilitated by TTRO etc
- Avoid disruption or confusion to voters through major change.

All of the options that were suggested by the Parent Council have been considered within this framework and it is our recommendation to Councillors that the use of South Morningside Primary School continues. The school will be closed in any case on most future polling days and so it will be available for use. It is also a venue that the 2800 voters in the district know, recognise and are used to using. Unless an alternative is identified with much better facilities then there is no strong argument, in the interest of voters, for moving the polling place. With respect to the venues that were suggested:

- Greenbank Church Hall is currently used for a neighbouring district; parking facilities are poor and it would not accommodate the additional 4 or 5 stations needed if the voters of South Morningside Primary School moved here
- Morningside Parish Church – has been investigated and could accommodate the polling stations. However this change could confuse voters and with the school generally closed on polling day there is no reason to move from equally good premises
- Napier University, Nile Grove Church Hall, Cluny church – each has been investigated and is judged either too small, too distant from voters in the district or unavailable for use.

The principle remains that we need to identify the optimal facilities for voters. South Morningside Primary School offers good facilities that are recognised by electors in the area. Other options have been considered but there is no clear advantage to them over the current provision, especially given that the school will generally be closed on the day of poll. Indeed parents and voters might be prompted to complain further if voting was in a different, unfamiliar location while the usual facilities of the school were available.

I trust that this information is useful and will allow you to respond to the letter from the Parent Council. I would be happy to discuss any of these issues with you in more detail if that would be of assistance.

Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council**Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council Comments**

The current consultation on the review of polling districts and polling stations was considered at the recent meeting of Craigeith/Blackhall Community Council. We have 2 detailed comments and a more general comment.

Bristow Baptist Church (NCO5J0) is currently used as a polling station for part of the Community Council area east of the Roseburn Cycle and Walkway - ie the Blinkbonnys. It is however distant from the electorate who have to use it, not readily walkable and difficult to park if driving. We note that the Holiday Inn (WCO6C) is used as a polling station for Murrayfield Ward, although the Hotel is located in Inverleith Ward. It is significantly closer and more accessible to the Blinkbonnys and we request that it should be used in place of Bristow Baptist Church. The Inverleith Councillors present at the meeting were supportive of the change. Alternatively a polling station more easily located to the electorate should be considered if the Holiday Inn is not suitable.

Blackhall Primary School (WWO5B) - we welcome its retention and continued use as a polling station for the electorate living in Blackhall west of Strachan Road and south of Queensferry Road (Hillhouse Road). The alternative of Blackhall Library previously considered, is unsuitable, requiring the crossing of Queensferry Road, busy at all times of the day with heavy traffic; the pedestrian lights are not user friendly; and the generation of traffic to the Library car park would create an additional traffic hazard on Queensferry Road.

A more general point. The area of Murrayfield Ward between Ravelston Dykes and Queensferry Road (west of the Roseburn Cycle and Walkway) has stronger geographical links with Blackhall than parts of Murrayfield Ward - some of it fronts Queensferry Road). This is perhaps recognised by the the use of the Holiday Inn as a polling station. In due course it would be appropriate to review whether the ward boundary should be adjusted.

I am copying to the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Community Council.

Response

I write in response to your e-mail about our review of polling stations.

You have asked for an alternative polling place to Bristo Baptist Church to serve the western end of poll district NC05J, or to allocate the Holiday Inn as the polling place for the district.

Wherever possible we aim to give voters a polling station within a maximum 20 minutes walk from their home. The walking distance from Bristo Baptist Church to Blinkbonny Grove (at the far western area of district) is recorded on Google Maps as 0.8 miles, or 16 minutes, which falls within the 20 minute parameter we aim for. However if we were to change the polling place for the district to the Holiday Inn, voters at the furthest eastern parts of the district, ie streets such as Sunbury Place and Dean path, would have a walk of over 20 minutes.

Unfortunately the polling district is mainly a residential area which does not afford a polling place which would be more centrally located for all voters. We will therefore continue to propose to Committee that the Bristo Baptist Church is unchanged, and I hope you will understand our reasoning.

Your comments regarding review of ward boundaries will be referred in due course to the Boundary Commission who expect to begin their Fifth General Review of local government electoral arrangements in Scotland in 2013, and to report on those reviews by 2016 so that the resulting wards are available for the local government elections in Scotland which are planned for 2017.

Thank you for your positive views on the proposed continued use of Blackhall Primary School.

South Morningside Primary School

I emailed a few months ago, on behalf of South Morningside Parents council, to ask the council to revise the use of South Morningside School as polling place. Closing the school is extremely disrupting for the 500+ families using the school and childcare issues are compounded by the fact that the after school club, which is based on the premises, is also closed on election days.

Despite the following feedback from the list of proposed polling places (Parents asked for a review, but no suitable alternative found. There are no alternative buildings in the locale, and surrounding polling places (Greenbank Church and Morningside Parish Church) are not large enough to accommodate additional voters from South Morningside Primary), I would urge the council to review the situation and consider other sites (such as the Cluny Annex on Cluny Drive) and also review the assessment that the other existing sites have insufficient capacity.

The Greenbank catchment (SS10J) consists of a huge chunk of uninhabited land (Braids Hill) and there has been more than enough capacity to accommodate voters in previous elections (at Greenbank Church), which indicates that there may be options for a merged catchment (eg. SS10H and SS10J).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Response

Thank you for giving your views on the use of South Morningside Primary School as a polling station, and your suggested alternatives. These will be considered as part of our review of all suggestions and comments received during this consultation process.

I would wish to assure you that in selecting polling places we are acutely aware of the challenges to parents and children that can be posed by the use of schools. As a result the Department of Children and Families will in future allocate one of the school in-service days to election dates that are fixed years in advance such as the European Election in May next year, and the Westminster Election in May 2015. All schools will be closed to pupils on these dates as part of the planned school timetable, which will reduce such disruption.

Unfortunately the school timetable cannot accommodate in-service closure for short notice electoral events such referenda, but as most elections are now held on fixed dates the impact on parents and children should be minimised.

All consultation responses will be considered at the Council meeting on 12 December, and your views will be included within that report, which will be available to view online at the Council's website www.edinburgh.gov.uk, with a paper copy will be available at City Chambers reception.

South Morningside Primary School

I would like to suggest the Cluny centre / Cluny Church as a polling station. I realise it is possibly on the wrong side of the road to represent Plewlands / Craighouse but residents are not bothered by artificial council boundaries and I am sure would cross the road. This would avoid closing South Morningside Primary school at every election.

I am also not sure that the assessment of numbers for polling at Greenbank Church is correct.

I have had both Greenbank Church and South Morningside School as polling places. Neither have EVER been especially busy, so I would suggest a larger electorate could be accommodated at either of these places (or indeed the Cluny Centre!) If we could suddenly have 100% turnout at elections then we might have queues but at present there is a good case for a massive polling place reduction.

This could be a big cost saving!

Response

Thank you for giving your views on the use of South Morningside Primary School as a polling station, and your suggested alternatives. These will be considered as part of our review of all suggestions and comments received during this consultation process.

I would wish to assure you that in selecting polling places we are acutely aware of the challenges to parents and children that can be posed by the use of schools. As a result the Department of Children and Families will in future allocate one of the school in-service days to election dates that are fixed years in advance such as the European Election in May next year, and the Westminster Election in May 2015. All schools will be closed to pupils on these dates as part of the planned school timetable, which will reduce such disruption.

Unfortunately the school timetable cannot accommodate in-service closure for short notice electoral events such as referenda, but as most elections are now held on fixed dates the impact on parents and children should be minimised.

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E-mailed comments from the public re proposed change from Dean Park Primary School Annex to Balerno Parish Church

Subject: Balerno polling station

Hi there,

I think it would be a brilliant idea to move the polling station to the parish church building.

I work at playgroup which is based in the annexe building. The polling is disruptive to our service and to Deanpark nursery.

I would much rather it be in the church hall so we dont have to take an unpaid day off and move all our apparatus and equipment.

Subject: Change of Polling Station in Balerno

This looks like a sensible move, avoids disrupting the nursery and is just easy to use.

Subject: Polling Districts and Polling Places

Hi

I whole heartedly support the move of our local polling station (SWP02H) from the Dean Park Annex to the parish church.

Subject: polling place consultation - balerno

Hello,

We support move of Balerno polling station from nursery annexe to the church.

Subject: Use of Balerno Church instead of annexe

Great Idea,

Please, please do this!

Subject: Use of Balerno Church instead of annexe

Great Idea,

Please, please do this!

Move to in-service days for fixed-date elections

Subject: Polling

Great idea to link in-service days with closing schools for polling stations. Good to see this joined up thinking.

Elections

Edinburgh 2013

Sue Bruce
Returning Officer

Chris Highcock	Date	21 November 2013
Corporate Projects Manager (Democratic Projects)	Your ref	
Governance Service		
Elections & Democratic Projects	Our ref	
Legal, Risk & Compliance		
Corporate Governance Directorate		
City of Edinburgh Council		
2.1 Waverley Court		
4 East Market Street		
Edinburgh		
EH8 8BG		

Dear Chris

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

I write in response to the review of Polling Districts and Places that is being undertaken and by the Elections Team within Corporate Governance. The polling place is a key element in any election and it is wholly appropriate that the provision across the city is reviewed periodically.

All elections must be undertaken with the interests of the voter at the heart of all planning and decision making. The boundaries of polling districts and the location of polling places within those districts are vital decisions which directly impact on every elector who chooses to vote in person. It is at the polling place where the voter interfaces directly with the electoral process, receiving and completing their ballot paper. As Returning Officer I need to be satisfied that the polling places help-voters to cast their vote. As such they need to be appropriately situated so that the voter can get to them easily and safely. Once at the polling place the facilities should allow simple access with adequate space and comfortable surroundings.

Methodology

It is in this context that I have reviewed the consultation material that has been produced as part of your review of polling places. I have looked at the methodology that you have applied in the review and am content that you have taken account of the key factors that may impact the choice of polling places in coming years.

Your approach has rightly included:

Elections Office
City of Edinburgh Council
Waverley Court,
4 East Market Street,
Edinburgh,
EH8 8BG
Telephone: 0131 469 3126
E-mail: elections@edinburgh.gov.uk

- a review of the current polling provision noting the experience of using certain places over recent polls;
- projected changes to the electorate across the city in response to the building of new housing stock; and
- a revisiting of polling districts to ensure that they remain appropriate in the face of changing geography and facilities.

Stakeholders

I note that you have invited a wide range of stakeholders to comment on the review including electors, elected members, disability and minority groups, the Police, Community Councils and Capability Scotland, who have a particular focus is in ensuring suitable voting arrangements are in place for electors with a disability. I trust that you will receive comments from as many of these stakeholders as possible and that their input will clearly and positively inform the council's decisions as to the polling provision in the city.

Proposed Changes

There are a number of changes that are being proposed as a result of this review. I do not support change for the sake of change, as even with careful management new polling arrangements may impact on turnout through voter confusion. However in some cases changes to previous arrangements are necessary. You have provided detail of all changes in the review material and also briefed me on some of the specifics. As Returning Officer I support each of the changes that you are proposing.

I am aware that some of these are driven by the changing availability of buildings, with certain places being demolished or otherwise made unavailable. In other cases changes have been made to rationalise the polling arrangements, choosing buildings with much better locations and more convenient facilities, such as the proposal to make use of the new East Neighbourhood Office.

Your approach to revising and amalgamating polling districts is also welcomed, as the changes that you are proposing offer a more rational structure that addresses some historical anomalies.

Use of Schools

The use of schools as polling places is always a controversial issue. The closure of schools to facilitate polling can disrupt pupils' education mean that parents and carers need to arrange appropriate childcare. However this needs to be balanced against the responsibility that Council has to provide adequate, accessible and convenient polling facilities. With the recent decision to schedule an in service training day on the date of future scheduled elections, this disruption should be minimised.

Conclusion

In summary, I am content to support all of the changes that are being proposed as part of this review, both to designated polling districts and the polling places within them.

However, I would encourage you to continue to evaluate the suitability of all Polling Places on an ongoing basis. Where alternative facilities are brought to your attention, which may be more appropriate, these should be investigated thoroughly and if necessary amendments to the scheme should be recommended to Council.

I trust that the above comments are helpful in the context of this review and would hope that Council also support your proposals.

Yours sincerely,

SUE BRUCE

Returning Officer or the City of Edinburgh Constituencies

APPENDIX 4 - Polling Districts and Polling Places from December 2013

Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
WW01E	01 - Almond	West	Western	Cramond Primary School, 4 Cramond Crescent	5	
WW01C	01 - Almond	West	Western	Dalmeny Parish Church, Main Street, Dalmeny	1	
WW01A	01 - Almond	West	Western	Echline Primary School, Bo'ness Rd	3	
WW01G	01 - Almond	West	Western	Hillwood Primary School (Norwood Community Wing), 66 Station Road	1	
WW01F	01 - Almond	West	Western	Holy Cross Episcopal Church Hall, East Barnton Gardens	3	
WW01D	01 - Almond	West	Western	Kirkliston Community Centre, Queensferry Rd	3	
WW01B	01 - Almond	West	Western	Queensferry Primary School Main Building, Burgess Rd	3	
SWP02D	02 - Pentland Hills	South West	Pentlands	Clovenstone Community Centre, 54 Clovenstone Park	2	
SWP02G	02 - Pentland Hills	South West	Pentlands	Currie Youth Club, 280 Lanark Rd West	2	
	<i>02 - Pentland Hills</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Pentlands</i>	<i>Dean Park Primary School Annex, 1 Main St, Balerno</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Now replaced by Balerno Parish Church.</i>
SWP02F	02 - Pentland Hills	South West	Pentlands	Gibson Craig Halls, 156 Lanark Road West	3	
SWP02C	02 - Pentland Hills	South West	Pentlands	Juniper Green Parish Church Hall, 28 Woodhall Ave	3	
SWP02E	02 - Pentland Hills	South West	Pentlands	Longstone Community Education Centre, Redhall Grove	1	
WP02A	02 - Pentland Hills	West	Pentlands	Ratho Community Centre, 1 School Wynd	2	
SWP02B	02 - Pentland Hills	South West	Pentlands	The Committee Room, Heriot-Watt Student's Association, The Union, Riccarton,	1	
SWP02H	02 - Pentland Hills	South West	Pentlands	Balerno Parish Church, 2 Main Street, Balerno, EH14 7EH	4	Replacement for Dean Park Primary School Annex.
WW03E	03 - Drum Brae/Gyle	West	Western	Craigsbank Church Hall, 19a Craigs Bank	3	

APPENDIX 4 - Polling Districts and Polling Places from December 2013

Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
WW03A	03 - Drum Brae/Gyle	West	Western	East Craigs Church Centre, 8 Bughtlin Market	4	
WW03D	03 - Drum Brae/Gyle	West	Western	Fox Covert Primary School, 12a Clerwood Terrace	N/A	No change now proposed to this polling place.
WW03F	03 - Drum Brae/Gyle	West	Western	Gylemuir Primary School, 10 Wester Broom Place	3	
SWW03G	03 - Drum Brae/Gyle	South West	Western	Lothian Valuation Joint Board, 17A South Gyle Crescent	1	
WW03B	03 - Drum Brae/Gyle	West	Western	Munro Community Centre, 6 Parkgrove Street	2	
WW03C	03 - Drum Brae/Gyle	West	Western	Rannoch Community Education Centre, 6 Rannoch Terrace	4	
	<i>04 - Forth</i>	<i>North & Leith</i>	<i>Northern & Leith</i>	<i>Forthview Primary School, West Pilton Place</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Now replaced by West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre.</i>
NN04F	04 - Forth	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Granton Primary School, 59 Boswall Parkway	3	
	<i>04 - Forth</i>	<i>North & Leith</i>	<i>Northern & Leith</i>	<i>Holy Cross RC Primary School, Main Building, 82 Craighall Road,</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Some voters transferring to Newhaven Church, remainder to Trinity Primary School</i>
WW04A	04 - Forth	West	Western	Muirhouse Millenium Centre, 7 Muirhouse Medway	2	
WW04B	04 - Forth	West	Western	North Edinburgh Arts Centre, 15a Pennywell Court	1	
NN04D	04 - Forth	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Prentice Centre, 1 Granton Mains Avenue	2	
NN04E	04 - Forth	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Royston Wardieburn Community Centre, Pilton Dr North	3	
NN04H	04 - Forth	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	St Serf's Church Hall, Clark Road	3	
NN04J	04 - Forth	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Trinity Primary School, 181 Newhaven Road	2	Some voters transferring to Newhaven Church Hall and some voters transferring from Holy Cross RC Primary School (was NN04I)
NN04G	04 - Forth	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Wardie Residents Club and Community Centre, 125 Granton Road	3	

APPENDIX 4 - Polling Districts and Polling Places from December 2013

Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
NNO4C	04 - Forth	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre, 19 West Pilton Grove, EH4 4BY	3	Replacement for Forthview Primary School.
	04 - Forth	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Newhaven Church, 7 Craighall Road, EH6 4ND	1	Some voters transferring from Holy Cross Primary School and Trinity Primary School.
WC05K	05 - Inverleith	West	Central	Apex European Hotel, 90 Haymarket Terrace	1	
NC05I	05 - Inverleith	North & Leith	Central	Bellevue Chapel, Rodney Street	1	
WW05A	05 - Inverleith	West	Western	Blackhall Library, 56 Hillhouse Road	1	
WW05B	05 - Inverleith	West	Western	Blackhall Primary School, 83 Craigcrook Road	2	
NW05E	05 - Inverleith	North & Leith	Western	Blackhall St Columba's Church Hall, 6 Muirdale Terrace	2	
NC05J	05 - Inverleith	North & Leith	Central	Bristo Baptist Church Hall, Buckingham Terrace	2	
WW05C	05 - Inverleith	West	Western	Drylaw Neighbourhood Centre, 67B Groathill Road North	3	
	<i>05 - Inverleith</i>	<i>North & Leith</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Fet-Lor Youth Centre, 122 Crewe Road South</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Fet-Lor being demolished and rebuilt. To be replaced temporarily by Scottish Health Service Centre, Crewe Road South, but planned to move back to this venue for Westminster election 2015.</i>
NN05F	05 - Inverleith	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	St James' Episcopal Church Hall, 57b Inverleith Row	3	
NC05G	05 - Inverleith	North & Leith	Central	St Stephen's Comely Bank Church, 10 Comely Bank Road	4	
NC05H	05 - Inverleith	North & Leith	Central	Stockbridge Parish Church, 7B Saxe Coburg St, EH3 5BN	5	
NC05D	05 - Inverleith	North & Leith	Central	Scottish Health Service Centre, Crewe Road South, EH4 2LF	2	Temporary replacement for Fet-Lor.
WW06E	06 - Corstorphine/ Murrayfield	West	Western	10th Haymarket Edinburgh Scout Group, 31 Corstorphine High Street	2	

APPENDIX 4 - Polling Districts and Polling Places from December 2013

Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
	<i>06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Capability Scotland, 11 Ellersly Road</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Now replaced by Murrayfield Parish Church.</i>
WW06I	06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield	West	Western	Carrick Knowe Parish Church Hall, 118 Saughton Road North	3	
WW06F	06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield	West	Western	Carrick Knowe Primary School, 15a Lampacre Road	1	
WW06A	06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield	West	Western	Corstorphine St Ninian's Church Hall, St Ninians Rd	2	
	<i>06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Western</i>	<i>Forrester FP Rugby Club, 2 South Gyle Access</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Replaced by mobile facility within the district.</i>
SWW06J	06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield	South West	Western	Mobile polling station, located at Forrester Park Gardens	1	Replacement for Forrester FP Rugby Club
WC06H	06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield	West	Central	Roseburn Primary School, 64 Roseburn Street	2	
WW06B	06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield	West	Western	St Anne's Parish Church Hall, 1 Kaimes Rd	2	
WC06G	06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield	West	Central	The 133rd/150th Haymarket Scout Hall, 54 Saughton Crescent	3	
WC06C	06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield	West	Central	The Holiday Inn, 107 Queensferry Road	1	
WC06D	06 - Corstorphine/Murrayfield	West	Central	Murrayfield Parish Church, 2B Ormidale Terrace, EH12 6EQ	2	Replacement for Capability Scotland.
WP07B, WP07C	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	West	Pentlands	Carrickvale Community Education Centre, 2 Saughton Mains Street	4	Now includes voters from Stenhouse Gorgie Baptist Church (was WP07C).
SWC07F	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Central	Dalry Primary School, 4 Cathcart Place	4	
SWC07O, SWC07E	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Central	Gorgie Dalry Parish Church Hall, 190-192 Gorgie Rd	3	Now includes voters from Tynecastle Nursery School (was SWC07E).
SWC07D	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Central	Gorgie War Memorial Hall, 338 Gorgie Road	1	
SWP07N	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Pentlands	Longstone Primary School, 3a Redhall Grove	2	
SWP07I	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Pentlands	Murrayburn Primary School, 1 Sighthill Loan	2	
SWP07G	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Pentlands	Sighthill Primary School, 1 Calder Park	2	

APPENDIX 4 - Polling Districts and Polling Places from December 2013

Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
SWS07K	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Southern	St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Hutchison Crossway	1	
SWP07A	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Pentlands	St David's Church Hall, 70a Broomhouse Crescent	2	
	<i>07 - Sighthill/Gorgie</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Pentlands</i>	<i>St. Nicholas Church Hall, 124 Sighthill Loan</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters now transferred to Gate 55.</i>
	<i>07 - Sighthill/Gorgie</i>	<i>West</i>	<i>Pentlands</i>	<i>Stenhouse Gorgie Baptist Church Hall, 74 Stenhouse Place East</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters now transferred to Carrickvale Community Education Centre.</i>
SWP07J	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Pentlands	Stenhouse Primary School, 4 Saughton Mains Street	1	
SWP07M	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Pentlands	The Bridge Community Cafe, 2 Hailesland Place	2	
	<i>07 - Sighthill/Gorgie</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Tynecastle Nursery School, 15 McLeod Street</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters have transferred to Gorgie Parish Church.</i>
	<i>07 - Sighthill/Gorgie</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Pentlands</i>	<i>Wester Hailes Library, 1 Westside Plaza</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters have transferred to Gate 55.</i>
SWP07H, SWP07L	07 - Sighthill/Gorgie	South West	Pentlands	Gate 55, 55 Sighthill Rd, Edinburgh EH11 4PB	2	Replacement for St Nicholas Church (was WP07H) and Wester Hailes Library (was SWP07L).
SWP08B	08 - Colinton/ Fairmilehead	South West	Pentlands	St John's Colinton Mains Church, 221 Oxgangs Road North (change of name for Colinton Mains Parish Church Hall from January 2014).	3	Some voters from Pentland Primary School have transferred to this polling place.
SWP08E	08 - Colinton/ Fairmilehead	South West	Pentlands	Dreghorn Loan Church Hall, 22 Dreghorn Loan	1	
SP08G	08 - Colinton/ Fairmilehead	South	Pentlands	Fairmilehead Church Hall, 1a Frogston Rd West	3	
SWP08F	08 - Colinton/ Fairmilehead	South West	Pentlands	Pentland Community Centre, 21 Oxgangs Brae	3	
SWP08C	08 - Colinton/ Fairmilehead	South West	Pentlands	Pentland Primary School, 4 Oxgangs Green	2	Some voters have transferred to St John's Colinton Mains Church
SWP08A	08 - Colinton/ Fairmilehead	South West	Pentlands	St Cuthbert's Episcopal Church Hall, 6 Westgarth Avenue	5	
SP08D	08 - Colinton/ Fairmilehead	South	Pentlands	St Fillan's Church Hall, 4 Buckstone Drive	3	
SWS09E	09 - Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	South West	Southern	Boroughmuir Rugby Club, Colinton Road, Meggetland	2	

APPENDIX 4 - Polling Districts and Polling Places from December 2013

Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
SS09H	09 - Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	South	Southern	Craiglockhart Parish Church Hall, Craiglockhart Drive North	1	
SWS09G	09 - Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	South West	Southern	Craiglockhart Parish Church Hall, Craiglockhart Drive North	3	
SWS09C	09 - Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	South West	Southern	Fountainbridge Library, 137 Dundee Street	2	
	<i>09 - Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart</i>	<i>South West</i>	<i>Southern</i>	<i>Phoenix Centre, 1 Harrison Place</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Replaced by Craiglockhart Primary School.</i>
SS09F	09 - Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	South	Southern	Polwarth Parish Church Hall, 36 Polwarth Terrace	2	
SWS09A	09 - Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	South West	Southern	St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Hutchison Crossway	4	
SWC09D	09 - Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	South West	Central	Tollcross Primary School, 117 Fountainbridge	2	
SWS09B	09 - Fountainbridge/ Craiglockhart	South West	Southern	Craiglockhart Primary School, 90 Ashley Terrace, EH11 1RG	4	Replacement for Phoenix Centre.
SWC10D	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	South West	Central	Barclay Viewforth Church, 1 Wright's Houses	2	
SWS10A	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	South West	Southern	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 30a Colinton Road,	1	
SS10J	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	South	Southern	Greenbank Church Hall, 2b Braidburn Terrace	2	
SS10G	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	South	Southern	James Gillespie's Primary School, Whitehouse Loan	5	
SS10I	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	South	Southern	Morningside Parish Church, Braid Road/Cluny Gardens	2	Some voters from the Studio, Church Hill Theatre have transferred to this polling place.
SS10C	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	South	Southern	Morningside United Church Hall, 15 Chamberlain Road	3	
SS10B	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	South	Southern	Polwarth Parish Church Hall, 36 Polwarth Terrace	2	
SS10H	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	South	Southern	South Morningside Primary School, 118 Comiston Road	4	
EC10E	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	East	Central	The Novotel, 80 Lauriston Place	3	
SS10F	10 - Meadows/ Morningside	South	Southern	The Studio, Church Hill Theatre, Morningside Road	4	Some voters have transferred to Morningside Parish Church, Braid Road.

APPENDIX 4 - Polling Districts and Polling Places from December 2013

Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
EE11K	11 - City Centre	East	Eastern	Abbeyhill Primary School, Abbey Street	2	
WC11D	11 - City Centre	West	Central	Apex European Hotel, 90 Haymarket Terrace	1	
NC11C	11 - City Centre	North & Leith	Central	Café Camino, St Mary's Parish Centre, 1 Little King Street	3	
EC11G	11 - City Centre	East	Central	Lauriston Halls, Sacred Heart Church, 28 Lauriston Street, EH3 9DJ	2	
EC11H, EC11I	11 - City Centre	East	Central	Lothian Chambers, 59-63 George IV Bridge, EH1 1RN	2	All voters from Panmure St Anne's (was EC11I) transferred here.
	<i>11 - City Centre</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Panmure St Anne's Centre, 6 South Gray's Close</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters have transferred to Lothian Chambers.</i>
NC11A	11 - City Centre	North & Leith	Central	St Stephen's Centre, 105 St Stephen's Street	4	
SWC11F	11 - City Centre	South West	Central	Tollcross Community Centre, 117 Fountainbridge	1	
NC11E	11 - City Centre	North & Leith	Central	Walpole Hall, 26 Chester St	1	
EC11J	11 - City Centre	East	Central	Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street	1	
NN12D	12 - Leith Walk	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Broughton Nursery, McDonald Road	5	Some voters have transferred to McDonald Road Library.
NN12B	12 - Leith Walk	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Ebenezer United Free Church Hall, 31 Bangor Road	1	
NN12A	12 - Leith Walk	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Holy Cross RC Primary School (Nursery), 82 Craighall Road	2	
NN12J	12 - Leith Walk	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Leith Walk Primary School, 9 Brunswick Road	6	
EN12K	12 - Leith Walk	East	Northern & Leith	London Rd Church Hall, 1c London Road	2	
NN12F	12 - Leith Walk	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Lorne Primary School, 7 Lorne Street	3	
EN12H	12 - Leith Walk	East	Northern & Leith	Norton Park Centre, 57 Albion Road	3	
EN12G	12 - Leith Walk	East	Northern & Leith	Pilmenny Youth Centre, 44 Buchanan Street	1	

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Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
NN12E	12 - Leith Walk	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Pilrig St Paul's Church Hall, 1b Pilrig St	2	
NN12I	12 - Leith Walk	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	McDonald Road Library, 2-4 McDonald Road, EH7 4LU	2	Replacement for the Mosque, Annandale Street (was NN12I), and in addition some voters are transferring from Broughton Nursery.
NN12C	12 - Leith Walk	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Royal Navy & Royal Marine Assoc. Club, 1 Broughton Road	2	
	<i>12 - Leith Walk</i>	<i>North & Leith</i>	<i>Northern & Leith</i>	<i>The Mosque, 43-45 Annandale Street</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters now transferred to McDonald Road Library.</i>
EN13E	13 - Leith	East	Northern & Leith	Hermitage Park Primary School, 9 Hermitage Park	5	
NN13B	13 - Leith	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	North Leith Parish Church Hall, Madeira Street	4	
EE13F	13 - Leith	East	Eastern	Restalrig Lochend Community Hub, 198 Restalrig Road South	2	
NN13D	13 - Leith	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	South Leith Parish Church Halls, 6 Henderson Street	4	
NN13C	13 - Leith	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	St Marys RC (Leith) Primary School, 30 Links Gardens	3	
NN13A	13 - Leith	North & Leith	Northern & Leith	Victoria Primary School, 4-6 Newhaven Main Street	3	
	<i>14 - Craigentinny/Duddingston</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Abbeyhill Primary School, Abbey Street</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters now transferred to Holyrood Abbey Church.</i>
EE14B	14 - Craigentinny/Duddingston	East	Eastern	Craigentinny Community Centre, 9 Loaning Road	3	
EE14C	14 - Craigentinny/Duddingston	East	Eastern	Craigentinny St Christopher's Church, Craigentinny Road	4	
EE14J	14 - Craigentinny/Duddingston	East	Eastern	Duddingston Primary School, 70a Duddingston Road	2	
EE14D, EE14E	14 - Craigentinny/Duddingston	East	Eastern	Holyrood Abbey Church Hall, 83 London Road	2	All voters from Abbeyhill Primary School (was EC14E) now transferred here.
EE14F	14 - Craigentinny/Duddingston	East	Eastern	New Restalrig Parish Church Hall, 1a Willowbrae Road	4	
EE14G, EE14I	14 - Craigentinny/Duddingston	East	Eastern	Northfield/Willowbrae Community Centre, 10 Northfield Road	4	All voters from Royal High Primary School (was EE14G) now transferred here.

APPENDIX 4 - Polling Districts and Polling Places from December 2013

Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
EE14H	14 - Craigentinny/ Duddingston	East	Eastern	Parson's Green Nursery School, 60 Meadowfield Drive	2	
EE14A	14 - Craigentinny/ Duddingston	East	Eastern	St Ninian's Church Hall, 232 Marionville Road	3	
	<i>14 - Craigentinny/ Duddingston</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>The Royal High Primary School, 61 Northfield Broadway</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters transferred to Northfield Willowbrae Community Centre.</i>
EC15A	15 - Southside/ Newington	East	Central	Braidwood Centre, 69 Dumbiedykes Road	2	
ES15H	15 - Southside/ Newington	East	Southern	Cameron House Community Centre, 34 Prestonfield Avenue	3	
SS15F	15 - Southside/ Newington	South	Southern	Marchmont St Giles Parish Church, 5 Kilgraston Rd	3	
SS15G	15 - Southside/ Newington	South	Southern	Mayfield/Salisbury Church Hall, 18 West Mayfield	3	Some voters from Sciennes Primary School (was SS15D) now transferred here.
EC15C, EC15E	15 - Southside/ Newington	East	Central	Nelson Hall Community Centre, 5 Spittalfield Crescent	5	All voters from Preston Street Primary (was EC15E) now transferred here.
	<i>15 - Southside/ Newington</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Preston St Primary School, Dalkeith Road</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters transferred to Nelson Hall Community Centre.</i>
SS15I	15 - Southside/ Newington	South	Southern	Reid Memorial Church Hall, 184/186 West Saville Terrace	4	
	<i>15 - Southside/ Newington</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Southern</i>	<i>Sciennes Primary School, 10 Sciennes Road</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters transferred to either St Catherine's Argyle Church, or Mayfield Salisbury Church.</i>
EC15B	15 - Southside/ Newington	East	Central	Southside Community Centre, 117 Nicolson Street	3	
SS15D	15 - Southside/ Newington	South	Southern	St Catherine's Argyle Church, 61-63 Grange Rd Edinburgh, EH9 1TY	4	Replacement for majority of voters from Sciennes Primary School (was SS15D).
ES16C	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	East	Southern	Cameron House Community Centre, 34 Prestonfield Avenue	1	
SE16K	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Eastern	Gilmerton Community Centre, 4 Drum Street	5	
SE16D	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Eastern	Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, 5 Moredunvale Place	4	

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Polling District Reference	Ward	Westminster Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Polling Places from December 2013	Maximum no of stations proposed	Comments (no change if blank)
	<i>16 - Liberton/Gilmerton</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Gracemount Leisure Centre, 22 Gracemount Drive, SE16G</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters transferred to South Neighbourhood Office and Library.</i>
SE16H	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Eastern	Liberton Kirk Halls, 30 Kirkgate	1	
SS16E	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Southern	Liberton Kirk Halls, 30 Kirkgate	2	
	<i>16 - Liberton/Gilmerton</i>	<i>South</i>	<i>Southern</i>	<i>Liberton Northfield Church Hall, 280a Gilmerton Rd</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters transferred to St John Vianney Primary School.</i>
SE16I	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Eastern	Liberton Northfield Church Hall, 280a Gilmerton Rd	2	
EE16L	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	East	Eastern	St Gregory's RC Church Hall, Bellenden Gardens	N/A	Administrative district only - no voters as site of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary.
SS16B	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Southern	St Gregory's RC Church Hall, Bellenden Gardens	2	
SS16A	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Southern	St John Vianney RC Primary School, Ivanhoe Crescent	2	All voters from Liberton Northfield Church (was SE16A) transferred here.
SE16F	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Eastern	TA Centre, 126a Alnwickhill Rd	2	
SE16J	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Eastern	Valley Park Community Centre, 37 Southhouse Road	3	
SE16G	16 - Liberton/Gilmerton	South	Eastern	South Neighbourhood Office and Library, 40 Captain's Road, EH17, 8HN	4	Replacement for Gracemount Leisure Centre.
EE17D	17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar	East	Eastern	Bingham Community Centre, Bingham Avenue, EH15 3HZ	2	
	<i>17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Bristo Memorial Church Hall, 196a Peffermill Road</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters transferred to East Neighbourhood Centre and Craigmillar Library.</i>
EE17E, EE17F	17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar	East	Eastern	Brunstane Primary School, 106 Magdalene Drive	4	Now combines districts (EE17E and EE17F) (administrative districts only).
	<i>17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>Craigmillar Library, 7 Niddrie Marischal Gdns</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters transferred to East Neighbourhood Centre and Craigmillar Library.</i>
SE17L	17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar	South	Eastern	Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, 5 Moredunvale Place	N/A	Administrative district only.
EE17J	17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar	East	Eastern	Hays Business Centre, 4 Hay Avenue	2	

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	<i>17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Southern</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Office East, 86 Niddrie Mains Road</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters transferred to East Neighbourhood Centre and Craigmillar Library.</i>
EE17K	17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar	East	Eastern	Newcraighall Primary School, 67 Whitehill Street	1	
EE17A	17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar	East	Eastern	Portobello Town Hall, 147 Portobello High Street	3	
EE17B	17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar	East	Eastern	St Johns RC Primary School, 1 Hamilton Terrace	2	
EE17C	17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar	East	Eastern	St Philip's Church Hall, 1a Brunstane Rd North	4	
	<i>17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>Eastern</i>	<i>The Richmond Craigmillar Church Hall, 227/229 Niddrie Mains Road</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>All voters transferred to East Neighbourhood Centre and Craigmillar Library.</i>
EE17G, EE17H, EE17I, ES17M	17 - Portobello/ Craigmillar	East	Eastern and Southern	East Neighbourhood Centre and Craigmillar Library, 101 Niddrie Mains Road, EH16 4DS	4	Replacement for Bristo Memorial Church Hall, old Craigmillar Library, old Neighbourhood Office East and Richmond Craigmillar Church Hall.