

East Ayrshire Council Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023

Returning Officer Submission

Overview

1. East Ayrshire Council is undertaking a review of polling districts and polling places, as required by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. The review is being conducted by the Council, in accordance with legislation and guidance issued by The Electoral Commission.
2. The polling district refers to the geographical area, whilst the polling place is the building that electors go to, to place their vote. Under the current review, no changes are proposed to polling districts or polling places.
3. As Returning Officer for the East Ayrshire area, I am required to comment on the proposals that have been published. This note therefore constitutes my official response to the proposals published by the Council on 1 October 2023.

Background

4. Many of the polling places identified within the review have been used for a number of years and no issues have been identified.
5. The Electoral Commission Guidance provides direction on evaluating the suitability of buildings as polling places and polling stations. Accordingly, it has been confirmed that all venues included within the Polling Scheme have been evaluated to assess their suitability, in respect of location, size, availability, accessibility and facilities. Consideration has also been given to whether polling places are able to accommodate multiple polling stations, where required.
6. The legislation specifies that local authority run schools may be used free of charge, for polling purposes. As such and where appropriate, it has been agreed that local schools will be used as polling places, recognising that our schools are able to meet the access requirements set out within the Guidance. It has been confirmed that in-service days will be scheduled to coincide with planned elections/referenda, to limit any potential impact on the school curriculum.

Proposals

7. No changes are proposed in respect of polling districts or polling places. As Returning Officer, I would confirm that I am in agreement with the polling places as detailed within the scheme.

Conclusion

8. I look forward to hearing the views of electors within the East Ayrshire area in the coming weeks.

Eddie Fraser
Returning Officer