

# Report

16

Report to:	<b>Corporate Resources Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>10 December 2008</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places</b>
----------	---

## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise of the outcome of the review of polling districts and polling places

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the report be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a requirement for councils to review their polling districts and polling places every 4 years. The aim of the review, which commenced in 2007, is to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting and that, so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled.
- 3.2. As part of the review, the following groups of people were consulted:-
- ◆ Elected Members
  - ◆ MEPs, MPs and MSPs
  - ◆ Disability Partnership Forum
  - ◆ Disability Employee Forum
  - ◆ Black and Ethnic Minority Forum
  - ◆ Better Government for Older People
  - ◆ Travelling People (via Housing and Technical Resources)
- 3.3. In addition, public notices were placed in all libraries, Q&As and the Council's website and a press advert placed in the local newspapers in the South Lanarkshire area inviting comments on the review of polling districts and polling places.
- 3.4. As a result of feedback from the combined Scottish Parliament and Local Government elections held on Thursday 3 May 2007 and the above consultation, site visits were carried out on respective polling places. In addition to consideration of the polling district boundary in relation to the polling district, the visits focused on electoral accessibility particularly in relation to disabled access, both internally and externally, parking location and facilities.
- 3.5. Elected members were given the opportunity to comment further on the findings of the review.

#### **4. Current Position**

- 4.1. In view of the changes to polling districts and polling places following the introduction of the Local Government multi-member ward system there are relatively few changes to the arrangements which were in place in 2007.
- 4.2. Appendix 1 details the polling district and polling places designated/proposed for future elections.
- 4.3. Appendix 1 will be published on the website and in main Council offices in the South Lanarkshire area.
- 4.4. Polling districts and polling places will be kept under review between major reviews.

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. None.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. None.

#### **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. None.

#### **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. As part of the review, consultation was undertaken with a wide range of stakeholders and these are summarised in paragraph 3.2.of the report.

**Robert McIlwain**  
**Executive Director (Corporate Resources)**

10 November 2008

#### **Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values**

- ◆ People Focused
- ◆ Fair and Open
- ◆ Working with and Respecting Others
- ◆ Accountable, Effective and Efficient

#### **Previous References**

- ◆ None

#### **List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

Aileen Knudsen, Administration Adviser/Election Co-ordinator

Ext: 4872 (Tel: 01698 454872)

E-mail: [aileen.knudsen@southlanarkshire.gov.uk](mailto:aileen.knudsen@southlanarkshire.gov.uk)