

**South Ayrshire Council**  
**Report by Chief Executive**  
**to South Ayrshire Council**  
**of 29 February 2024**

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**Subject:      Review of Polling Arrangements**

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**1.      Purpose**

1.1      The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval of the scheme of polling arrangements for parliamentary and local elections following review.

**2.      Recommendation**

**2.1      It is recommended that the Council:**

**2.1.1      approves the scheme of polling arrangements for parliamentary and local elections as detailed in [Appendix 1](#);**

**2.1.2      agrees to the publication of the polling arrangements and the responses to the Consultation; and**

**2.1.3      grants delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in his role as Returning Officer, to amend the scheme of polling arrangements for parliamentary elections in the event of unforeseen circumstances, where such amendments, if not made, would impede the process of voting for electors.**

**3.      Background**

3.1      The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 compels local authorities to start and complete a review of polling districts and polling places within a period of 16 months on a five yearly basis. The current compulsory review should be started and completed within the period 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025.

3.2      The Council has continually kept under review its polling districts and polling places to ensure that they remain adequate and appropriate and interim reviews have been held as required.

3.3      At its meeting on 6 October 2011, the Council agreed to request that officers identify premises as polling places that were not used for educational purposes, and to give due consideration to access issues, which is a legal requirement and is also contained in the Electoral Commission Guidance on undertaking a review. A revised scheme of polling arrangements was approved by Council on 27 June 2019 which retained some schools as polling places where no suitable alternative premises could be identified or retained.

- 3.4 The Council is obliged to publish its decision (including reasons for selection of premises proposed) and the responses to its Consultation. There is an appeals process to the Electoral Commission which may be made by thirty or more registered electors (except electors registered anonymously), a person (except the Returning Officer) who made representation to the Council when the review was being undertaken and any person who is not an elector in a constituency in the Council's area but who the Commission thinks has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons to polling places in the area or has particular expertise in relation to the access to premises or facilities of disabled persons. There are only two grounds on which an appeal may be made:
- 3.4.1 the Council has failed to meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency; and
  - 3.4.2 the Council has failed to take sufficient account of accessibility to disabled persons of the polling station(s) within a polling place.
- 3.5 An appeal based on any other grounds will not be considered by the Electoral Commission. The current review has been carried out in terms of the guidance issued by the Electoral Commission for polling reviews and using the criteria agreed by the Council. All proposed premises will be accessible for voters with disabilities and will comply with the relevant legislation and guidance.
- 3.6 Local Elected Members were consulted on the proposals for consideration and positive feedback was received. The polling places and districts used at the 2022 Local Government Elections as amended for required alterations due to unavailability of polling places were used as the basis for consultation which took place between 16 November and 21 December 2023 The Returning Officer Submission which detailed the proposed changes is attached as [Appendix 2](#).
- 3.7 Information on the review was sent to Elected Members, Members of Parliament, Members of the Scottish Parliament, Political Parties, Community Councils, Disability Groups and the Voluntary Association for South Ayrshire. A copy of the Notice of Review was displayed at Headquarters and at Troon, Prestwick, Maybole and Girvan libraries to give the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Full details of the review were available on the Council website.

## **4. Proposals**

- 4.1 The proposed scheme of polling arrangements for parliamentary and local elections is detailed in [Appendix 1](#).
- 4.2 Where schools have been designated as polling places, in-service days will be set to coincide with known electoral events. In the event of an unplanned election event the schools identified can continue to operate although some classes may require to undertake a visit that day, the costs of which can be met from funds set aside for the election/ referendum. This proposal, if approved, would use 47 premises as polling places including 12 schools/ nurseries. The proposals before members are therefore the best available alternatives avoiding school closures, and having regard to suitable available premises in each polling district. The Council can however undertake a further interim review of polling places at any time should the need arise.

4.3 These proposals, if approved, would come into force on 1 March 2024 and would incorporate minor polling district changes that are proposed as part of this review. In Ward 3, Ayr North, there are a couple of proposed polling district boundary changes in recognition of the new houses on the former Mainholm Academy site. The boundary for polling district Ayr Dalmilling (S 307) will be extended to include the houses on the former Mainholm Academy site, and a number of voters currently within polling district Ayr Newton South and Braehead (S 304) where the boundary will move to the middle of Whitletts Road., This would result in a small number of voters voting at Dalmilling Primary School as opposed to Lochside Community Education Centre (see Appendices [2](#) and [3](#)). Electors also have the option to apply to be treated as an absent voter if they would prefer, and further publicity of the option for a postal vote will be carried out.

4.4 Following approval, the Scheme of Polling Arrangements requires to be published, together with the Consultation responses, and reasons for the decision taken. It is proposed that these be published on the Council's website and made available for inspection at County Buildings.

4.5 There may be circumstances (for example, fire, flooding, vandalism, etc) when a change of polling place is required at short notice. In order to ensure that a speedy response can be made to such circumstances and the poll delivered, it is proposed that the Chief Executive, in his role as Returning Officer, be delegated authority to amend the Scheme of Polling Arrangements for Parliamentary and local elections in the event of unforeseen circumstances, where such amendments, if not made, would impede the process of voting for electors.

## **5. Legal and Procurement Implications**

5.1 The Council is obliged, in terms of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, to review polling districts and polling places between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025 and to publish its decision.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The cost of using polling places for all elections (except South Ayrshire Council elections) and referendums is claimed as part of the election/ referendum costs from central government.

## **7. Human Resources Implications**

7.1 Not applicable.

## **8. Risk**

### ***8.1 Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations***

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

### ***8.2 Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations***

8.2.1 Rejecting the recommendations would give rise to a breach of statute.

## 9. Equalities

- 9.1 The proposals in this report have been assessed through the Equality Impact Assessment Scoping process. There are no significant potential positive or negative equality impacts of agreeing the recommendations and therefore an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required. A copy of the Equalities Scoping Assessment is attached as [Appendix 4](#).

## 10. Sustainable Development Implications

- 10.1 **Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** - This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

## 11. Options Appraisal

- 11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

## 12. Link to Council Plan

- 12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to Priority 4 of the Council Plan: Efficient and effective enabling services.

## 13. Results of Consultation

- 13.1 There has been public consultation on the contents of this paper. This was published on the Council's website between 16 November and 21 December 2023 (both dates inclusive) and printed copies made available at the County Buildings.
- 13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Martin Dowey, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and Strategic, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.
- 13.3 Consultation has taken place with all Ward Members.
- 13.4 Consultation has taken place with the Electoral Registration Officer.

## 14. Next Steps for Decision Tracking Purposes

- 14.1 If the recommendations above are approved by Members, the Chief Executive will ensure that all necessary steps are taken to ensure full implementation of the decision within the following timescales, with the completion status reported to the Cabinet in the 'Council and Cabinet Decision Log' at each of its meetings until such time as the decision is fully implemented:

<b><i>Implementation</i></b>	<b><i>Due date</i></b>	<b><i>Managed by</i></b>
Arrange for publication of polling scheme and consultation responses	8 March 2024	Service Lead – Democratic Governance

**Background Papers**    [Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013](#)  
  
Report to South Ayrshire Council of 27 June 2019 – [Review of Polling Arrangements](#)

**Person to Contact**    Wynne Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Governance  
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**Date:** 16 February 2024

## South Ayrshire Council

### Proposed Polling Districts and Polling Places 2024

Polling District Reference	Current Polling Place (May 2022)	Proposed Polling Place (Bold where change is proposed)	Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)
<b>Electoral Ward 1 - Troon</b>			
S101	Barassie Primary School Burnfoot Avenue Barassie KA10 6UQ	Barassie Primary School Burnfoot Avenue Barassie KA10 6UQ	
S102	Muirhead Activity Centre Central Avenue Troon KA10 7AZ	Muirhead Activity Centre Central Avenue Troon KA10 7AZ	
S103	Walker Hall South Beach Troon KA10 6EF	Walker Hall South Beach Troon KA10 6EF	
S104	Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church Hall Morven Drive Troon KA10 6NH	Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church Hall Morven Drive Troon KA10 6NH	
S105	Muirhead Activity Centre Central Avenue Troon KA10 7AZ	Muirhead Activity Centre Central Avenue Troon KA10 7AZ	
<b>Electoral Ward 2 – Prestwick</b>			
S201	Prestwick Community Centre Caerlaverock Road Prestwick KA9 2LD	Prestwick Community Centre Caerlaverock Road Prestwick KA9 2LD	

<b>Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place (May 2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place (Bold where change is proposed)</b>	<b>Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)</b>
S202	St Ninian's Primary School Adamton Road North Prestwick KA9 2LJ	Prestwick North Education Campus Sherwood Road Prestwick KA9 1EY	St Ninian's is now part of the Prestwick North Education Campus. There will be no requirement for the school to close on polling day.
S203	Kingcase Parish Church Hall Waterloo Road Prestwick KA9 2AA	Kingcase Parish Church Hall Waterloo Road Prestwick KA9 2AA	
<b>Electoral Ward 3 – Ayr North</b>			
S301	Heathfield Primary School - Nursery Heathfield Road Ayr KA8 9DR	Heathfield Primary School - Nursery Heathfield Road Ayr KA8 9DR	
S302	Heathfield Community Centre West Sanquhar Road Ayr KA8 9HP	Heathfield Community Centre West Sanquhar Road Ayr KA8 9HP	
S303	Whitletts Activity Centre Glenmuir Place Ayr KA8 9RW	Whitletts Activity Centre Glenmuir Place Ayr KA8 9RW	
S304	Lochside Community Education Centre Lochside Road Ayr KA8 9LH	Lochside Community Education Centre Lochside Road Ayr KA8 9LH	
S305	Carnegie Library 12 Main Street Ayr KA8 8EB	Carnegie Library 12 Main Street Ayr KA8 8EB	

<b>Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place (May 2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place (Bold where change is proposed)</b>	<b>Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)</b>
S306	Carnegie Library 12 Main Street Ayr KA8 8EB	Carnegie Library 12 Main Street Ayr KA8 8EB	
S307	Dalmilling Primary School Dalmilling Drive Ayr KA8 0PD	Dalmilling Primary School Dalmilling Drive Ayr KA8 0PD	
S308	Ayr Academy University Avenue Ayr KA8 0SZ	Ayr Academy University Avenue AYR KA8 0SZ	
S309	Heathfield Primary School - Nursery Heathfield Road Ayr KA8 9DR	Heathfield Primary School- Nursery Heathfield Road Ayr KA8 9DR	
<b>Electoral Ward 4 – Ayr East</b>			
S401	Church of Jesus Christ LDS Hall Mossgiel Road Ayr KA7 1DB	Kyle Academy 21 Overmills Road AYR KA7 3LR	Church of Jesus Christ LDS Hall is no longer available. There will be no requirement to close the school on polling day.
S402	Castlehill Church Hall 1 Old Hillfoot Road AYR KA7 3LW	Castlehill Church Hall 1 Old Hillfoot Road AYR KA7 3LW	
S403	Church of Jesus Christ LDS Hall Mossgiel Road Ayr KA7 1DB	Kyle Academy 21 Overmills Road AYR KA7 3LR	Church of Jesus Christ LDS Hall is no longer available. There will be no requirement to close the school on polling day.



<b>Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place (May 2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place (Bold where change is proposed)</b>	<b>Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)</b>
S404	Belmont Academy Nursery Avenue AYR KA7 3SN	Belmont Academy Nursery Avenue AYR KA7 3SN	
S405	Kincaidston and Belmont Bowling Club 18 Bracken Park Ayr KA7 3XB	Kincaidston and Belmont Bowling Club 18 Bracken Park Ayr KA7 3XB	
S406	Belmont Academy Nursery Avenue AYR KA7 3SN	Belmont Academy Nursery Avenue AYR KA7 3SN	
<b>Electoral Ward 5 – Ayr West</b>			
S501	St Margaret's RC Cathedral Church Hall John Street Ayr KA8 0BS	St Margaret's RC Cathedral Church Hall John Street Ayr KA8 0BS	
S502	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall Fullarton Street Ayr KA7 1 UB	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall Fullarton Street Ayr KA7 1 UB	
S503	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall Fullarton Street Ayr KA7 1 UB	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall Fullarton Street Ayr KA7 1 UB	
S504	Doonfoot Primary School Abbot's Way Ayr KA7 4HJ	Doonfoot Primary School Abbot's Way Ayr KA7 4HJ	

<b>Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place (May 2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place (Bold where change is proposed)</b>	<b>Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)</b>
S505	Alloway Library Doonholm Road Ayr KA7 4QQ	Alloway Library Doonholm Road Ayr KA7 4QQ	
S506	Alloway Library Doonholm Road Ayr KA7 4QQ	Alloway Library Doonholm Road Ayr KA7 4QQ	
S507	St Leonard's Church Hall St Leonard's Road Ayr KA7 2PR	St Leonard's Church Hall St Leonard's Road Ayr KA7 2PR	
S508	Alloway Library Doonholm Road Ayr KA7 4QQ	Alloway Library Doonholm Road Ayr KA7 4QQ	
S509	St Leonard's Church Hall St Leonard's Road Ayr KA7 2PR	St Leonard's Church Hall St Leonard's Road Ayr KA7 2PR	
<b>Electoral Ward 6 - Kyle</b>			
S601	Montgomerie Hall 60 Main Street Dundonald KA2 9HG	Montgomerie Hall 60 Main Street Dundonald KA2 9HG	
S602	Loans Village Hall Hall Lane Loans KA10 7HG	Loans Village Hall Hall Lane Loans KA10 7HG	
S603	Symington Community Hall Main Street Symington KA1 5QE	Symington Community Hall Main Street Symington KA1 5QE	

<b>Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place (May 2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place (Bold where change is proposed)</b>	<b>Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)</b>
S604	Craigie Village Hall Craigie KA1 5LY	Craigie Village Hall Craigie KA1 5LY	
S605	Monkton Primary School Station Road Monkton KA9 2PH	Monkton Primary School Station Road Monkton KA9 2PH	
S606	Monkton Primary School Station Road Monkton KA9 2PH	Monkton Primary School Station Road Monkton KA9 2PH	
S607	Tarbolton Community Campus Montgomerie Street Tarbolton KA5 5PY	Tarbolton Community Campus Montgomerie Street Tarbolton KA5 5PY	
S608	Mossblown Activity Centre Mauchline Road Mossblown KA6 5BA	Mossblown Activity Centre Mauchline Road Mossblown KA6 5BA	
S609	Mossblown Activity Centre Mauchline Road Mossblown KA6 5BA	Mossblown Activity Centre Mauchline Road Mossblown KA6 5BA	
S610	Annbank Village Hall Weston Avenue Annbank KA6 5EE	Annbank Village Hall Weston Avenue Annbank KA6 5EE	
<b>Electoral Ward 7 – Maybole, North Carrick And Coylton</b>			
S701	Coylton Activity Centre Hole Road Coylton KA6 6JL	Coylton Activity Centre Hole Road Coylton KA6 6JL	

Polling District Reference	Current Polling Place (May 2022)	Proposed Polling Place (Bold where change is proposed)	Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)
S702	Coylton Activity Centre Hole Road Coylton KA6 6JL	Coylton Activity Centre Hole Road Coylton KA6 6JL	
S703	Coylton Activity Centre Hole Road Coylton KA6 6JL	Coylton Activity Centre Hole Road Coylton KA6 6JL	
S704	Minishant Primary School, IFE Wing Merrick Crescent Minishant KA19 8ET	Minishant Primary School, IFE Wing Merrick Crescent Minishant KA19 8ET	
S705	Kennedy Hall Seaview Dunure KA7 4LX	Kennedy Hall Seaview Dunure KA7 4LX	
S706	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	
S707	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	
S708	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	

<b>Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place (May 2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place (Bold where change is proposed)</b>	<b>Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)</b>
S709	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	
S710	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	Maybole Town Hall High Street Maybole KA19 7BZ	
S711	Minishant Primary School, IFE Wing Merrick Crescent Minishant KA19 8ET	Minishant Primary School, IFE Wing Merrick Crescent Minishant KA19 8ET	
S712	Crosshill Community Education Centre Kirkmichael Road Crosshill KA19 7ND	Crosshill Community Education Centre Kirkmichael Road Crosshill KA19 7ND	
S713	McCosh Hall Patna Road Kirkmichael KA19 7PJ	McCosh Hall Patna Road Kirkmichael KA19 7PJ	
S714	McCandlish Hall Main Street Straiton KA19 7NF	McCandlish Hall Main Street Straiton KA19 7NF	
<b>Electoral Ward 8 – Girvan And South Carrick</b>			
S801	Dailly Community Education Centre Main Street Dailly KA26 9NR	Dailly Community Education Centre Main Street Dailly KA26 9NR	
S802	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	

<b>Polling District Reference</b>	<b>Current Polling Place (May 2022)</b>	<b>Proposed Polling Place (Bold where change is proposed)</b>	<b>Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)</b>
S803	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	
S804	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	
S805	Lendalfoot Hall Lendalfoot KA26 0JW	Lendalfoot Hall Lendalfoot KA26 0JW	
S806	Barr Community Education Centre Stinchar Road Barr KA26 9TW	Barr Community Education Centre Stinchar Road Barr KA26 9TW	
S807	Barrhill Community Education Centre Main Street Barrhill KA26 0QP	Barrhill Community Education Centre Main Street Barrhill KA26 0QP	
S808	Colmonell Community Education Centre Main Street Colmonell KA26 0RY	Colmonell Community Education Centre Main Street Colmonell KA26 0RY	
S809	Ballantrae Community Education Centre Ballantrae KA26 0NH	Ballantrae Community Education Centre Ballantrae KA26 0NH	
S810	Colmonell Community Education Centre Main Street Colmonell KA26 0RY	Colmonell Community Education Centre Main Street Colmonell KA26 0RY	
S811	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	

Polling District Reference	Current Polling Place (May 2022)	Proposed Polling Place ( <b>Bold</b> where change is proposed)	Comments (where new polling place is proposed or where change was proposed and not taken forward)
S812	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	
S813	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	Girvan Academy The Avenue Girvan KA26 9DW	
S814	Maidens Church Hall Kirkoswald Road Maidens KA26 9NJ	Maidens Church Hall Kirkoswald Road Maidens KA26 9NJ	
S815	Kirkoswald Church Kirk Road Kirkoswald KA19 8EU	Kirkoswald Church Kirk Road Kirkoswald KA19 8EU	

## South Ayrshire Council Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2023 Returning Officer Submission

1. South 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 carried out by the Council in accordance with legislation and guidance issued by The Electoral Commission.
2. The purpose of the review is to ensure that all electors within South Ayrshire have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable and to ensure that as far as possible the accessibility needs of people with disabilities have been considered and met when designating polling places.
3. The polling district refers to the geographical area, while the polling place is the building where electors cast their vote. The polling places and districts used at the Local Government Election in May 2022 have been used as the basis for this consultation. The vast majority of polling places identified within the review have been used for many years and no issues have been identified. However, following a review and consideration of alternative locations it is proposed that 2 polling places are changed to alternative locations.
4. In making comments on these polling places and districts, I have considered feedback from the election team, from staff working at these polling places, from voters, candidates, agents and from the general public.
5. All of the polling places listed have been evaluated in accordance with Electoral Commission Guidance as to their suitability having regard to location, size, accessibility and availability. Consideration has also been given to ability to accommodate multiple polling stations where necessary.
6. The legislation specifies that local authority schools may be used free of charge as polling places. Schools are often centrally located in communities, accessible via public transport and able to provide disabled parking. Where schools are designated as polling places, and the poll is scheduled within a fixed term calendar, polling day is designated as an In-Service day to minimise disruption. When a poll is unscheduled, arrangements are put in place to ensure that where possible, schools are able to remain open.

### Proposals

7. As Returning Officer, I confirm that I am in agreement with the proposed polling places, and polling district changes as summarised below, on the basis that these proposed alternatives are designed to benefit voters and those undertaking polling duties.
  - **Ward 1 – Troon**  
No changes proposed.
  - **Ward 2 – Prestwick**  
St Ninian's PS is no longer available as a polling place following the creation of the Prestwick North Education Campus. It is proposed that the polling place is now located in Prestwick North Education Campus. There will be no requirement to close the school in the event of an unplanned election.
  - **Ward 3 – Ayr North**  
No changes proposed to polling places are proposed however it is proposed to redraw polling district boundaries as follows:



- The boundary for polling district S304 will terminate in the middle of Whitletts Road and the following properties will move to polling district Ayr Dalmilling (S307):
  - Braehead Avenue – 36 Properties
  - Braehead Crescent – 10 Properties
  - Gemmell Court – 12 Properties
  - Gemmell Crescent – 21 Properties
  - Whitletts Road 4-54 – 26 Properties

The boundary for polling district Ayr Dalmilling (S307) will be extended to include the houses being built on the former Mainholm Academy site and the properties currently within S304 (as detailed above)

- **Ward 4 – Ayr East**

The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints Hall is no longer available as a polling place and it is proposed that Kyle Academy is now used. There will be no requirement to close the school in the event of an unplanned election.

- **Ward 5 – Ayr West**

No changes proposed

- **Ward 6 – Kyle**

No changes proposed.

- **Ward 7 – Maybole, North Carrick and Coylton**

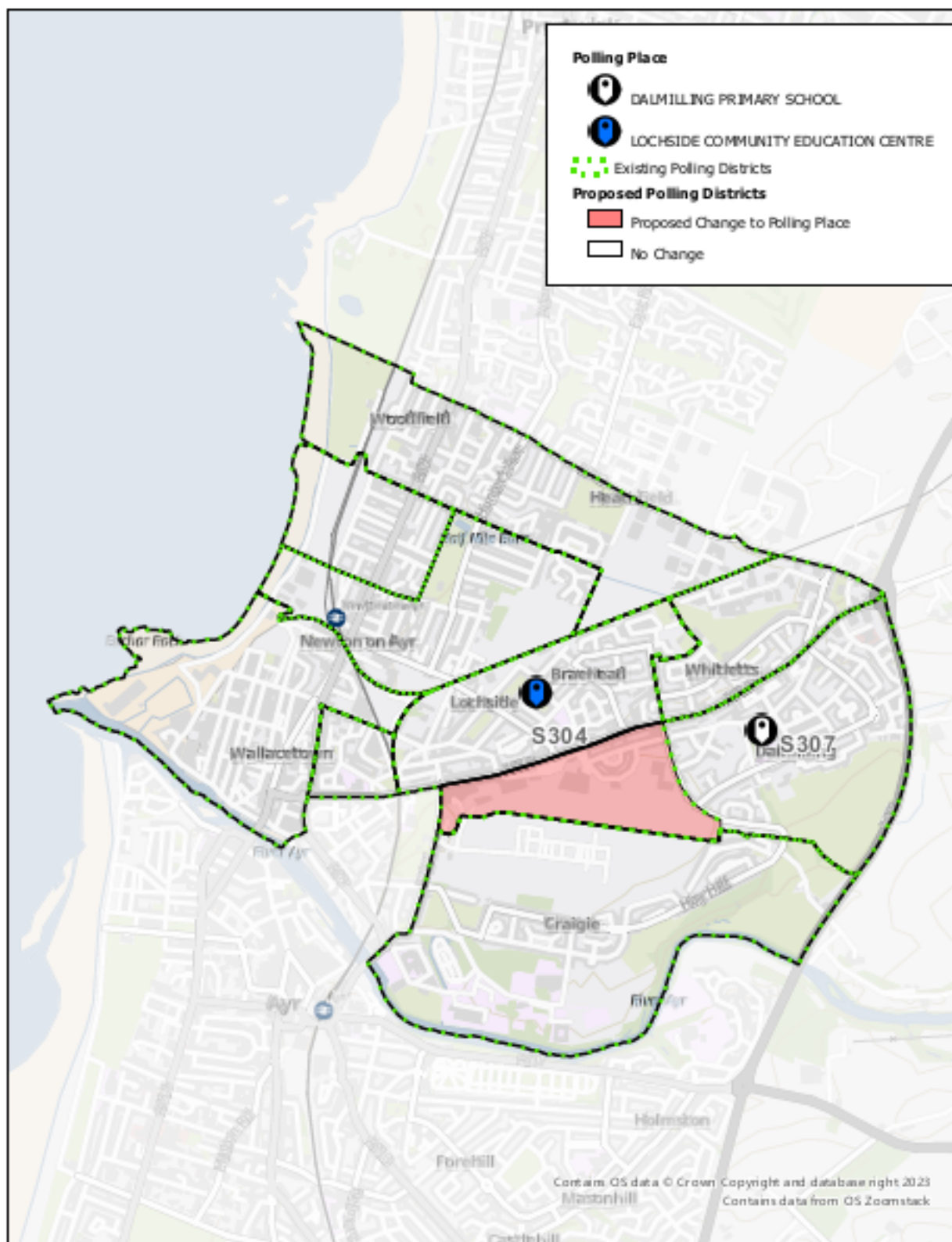
No changes proposed

- **Ward 8 – Girvan and South Carrick**

No changes proposed

8. I confirm my agreement that all other polling places and polling districts should remain as set out within the polling scheme for the Local Government Election in May 2022.
9. I look forward to hearing the views of voters within South Ayrshire over the coming weeks.

Mike Newall  
Returning Officer



**Ward 3 (Ayr North)**

Scale 1:22,297



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**South Ayrshire Council  
Equality Impact Assessment  
Scoping Template**

Equality Impact Assessment is a legal requirement under the Public Sector Duty to promote equality of the Equality Act 2010. Separate guidance has been developed on Equality Impact Assessment's which will guide you through the process and is available to view here: <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/equalities/impact-assessment.aspx>

Further guidance is available here: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/assessing-impact-and-public-sector-equality-duty-guide-public-authorities/>

The Fairer Scotland Duty ('the Duty'), Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Scotland from 1 April 2018. It places a legal responsibility on Councils to actively consider ('pay due regard to') how we can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions. [FSD Guidance for Public Bodies](#) in respect of the Duty, was published by the Scottish Government in March 2018 and revised in October 2021. See information here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty-guidance-public-bodies/>

## 1. Policy details

Policy Title	Review of Polling Arrangements
Lead Officer (Name/Position/Email)	Wynne Carlaw, Service Lead – Democratic Services – wynne.carlaw@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

**2. Which communities, groups of people, employees or thematic groups do you think will be, or potentially could be, impacted upon by the implementation of this policy? Please indicate whether these would be positive or negative impacts**

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Age – men and women, girls & boys	-	-
Disability	-	-
Gender Reassignment (Trans/Transgender Identity)	-	-
Marriage or Civil Partnership	-	-
Pregnancy and Maternity	-	-
Race – people from different racial groups, (BME) ethnic minorities and Gypsy/Travellers	-	-
Religion or Belief (including lack of belief)	-	-
Sex – (issues specific to women & men or girls & boys)	-	-

Community or Groups of People	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Sexual Orientation – person’s sexual orientation i.e. LGBT+, lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, heterosexual/straight	-	-
Thematic Groups: Health, Human Rights & Children’s Rights	-	-

**3. What likely impact will this policy have on people experiencing different kinds of social disadvantage i.e. The Fairer Scotland Duty (This section to be completed for any Strategic Decisions). Consideration must be given particularly to children and families.**

Socio-Economic Disadvantage	Negative Impacts	Positive impacts
Low Income/Income Poverty – cannot afford to maintain regular payments such as bills, food, clothing	-	-
Low and/or no wealth – enough money to meet Basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future	-	-
Material Deprivation – being unable to access basic goods and services i.e. financial products like life insurance, repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure/hobbies	-	-
Area Deprivation – where you live (rural areas), where you work (accessibility of transport)	-	-
Socio-economic Background – social class i.e. parent’s education, employment and income	-	-

**4. Do you have evidence or reason to believe that the policy will support the Council to:**

General Duty and other Equality Themes Consider the ‘Three Key Needs’ of the Equality Duty	Level of Negative and/or Positive Impact (High, Medium or Low)
<b>Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	Low
<b>Advance equality of opportunity</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not	Low
<b>Foster good relations</b> between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. (Does it tackle prejudice and promote a better understanding of equality issues?)	Low
Increase participation of particular communities or groups in public life	Low
Improve the health and wellbeing of particular communities or groups	Low
Promote the human rights of particular communities or groups	Low
Tackle deprivation faced by particular communities or groups	Low

**5. Summary Assessment**

<b>Is a full Equality Impact Assessment required?</b> (A full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out if impacts identified as <b>Medium and/or High</b> )	<del>YES</del> <b>NO</b>
<b>Rationale for decision:</b>  <b>This report seeks Council approval of the scheme of polling arrangements for parliamentary and local elections following review. Their decision on this has no specific equality implications</b>	
<b>Signed :</b> Mike Newall	<b>Chief Executive</b>
<b>Date:</b> 31 January 2024	