

5. ELECTORAL ADMINISTRATION ACT 2006 - SECOND REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

A report dated 31 October, 2011, by the Chief Executive and Returning Officer had been circulated advising members of the provisions of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 in relation to the requirement to conduct a review of polling districts and polling places in respect of the parliamentary constituencies under Aberdeenshire Council's control. The review was intended to ensure that reasonable facilities were provided for voting and that polling places were accessible to all electors, including those with a disability, so far as was practicable.

The report set out the comments received from consultees in the course of the review and made a number of recommendations for polling district boundaries and venues to be used for voting purposes after consideration of the consultation responses, to be used at the local government elections in 2012 and thereafter.

The Council **agreed**:-

- (1) that Macduff Community Education Centre be designated as the new polling place in Polling District BB0202 (Myrus/Macduff), instead of Macduff Primary School,
- (2) that two polling districts be created to serve Turriff West and Turriff East, with the new polling places at St Ninian's Church and St Andrew's Church Hall respectively,
- (3) that Glebe House, Fyvie, be designated as the new polling place for Polling Districts BB0705, EG0707 and EG0708, instead of Fyvie Primary School,
- (4) that Polling Districts WG1403 (Huntly West) and WG1404 (Huntly East) be amalgamated into a single polling district serving the whole of the town with voting to take place at the Stewart's Hall,
- (5) to acknowledge the position in Portlethen, to agree that a separate polling district be formed for residents in Hillside to enable them to vote at Portlethen Church Hall, together with all other electors in Portlethen North, and to agree that the situation be kept under review and further proposals brought forward in the event of alternative polling facilities becoming available,
- (6) to acknowledge the temporary unavailability of Longside Parish Church Hall and the interim designation of St John's Episcopal Church Hall in Polling District EB0408,
- (7) to acknowledge the issues arising within WW1605 (Birse) due to ongoing discussions regarding the availability of Ballogie Village Hall and to agree that that venue continue to be used for polling purposes until further notice,
- (8) to acknowledge late representations received regarding the current designations of King Edward School and Drumblade Primary School as polling places within BB0208 and WG1405 respectively and to agree to delegate authority to the Returning Officer and his staff to investigate the feasibility of designating alternative venues within those polling districts, if they consider it appropriate, and

- (9) otherwise to retain existing polling district boundaries and polling places currently designated.