

Thursday 20 March 2025 - 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA

Page Nos.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In terms of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, members are asked to declare any interest in particular items on the agenda and the nature of the interest(s) at this stage.
3. **CIVIC BUSINESS BULLETIN** 4 – 5
4. **MINUTES** – Minutes of the meetings of Fife Council of 12 December 2024 and 20 February 2025. 6 – 44
5. **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

Minutes of meetings of the Council's committees and sub-committees, as contained in the volume of minutes uploaded to the intranet and Fife Council website, are submitted for accuracy.
6. **LEADER'S REPORT** 45 – 46
7. **QUESTION TIME** 47 – 50
8. **REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES IN FIFE** – Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. 51 – 109
9. **NOTICE OF MOTIONS** – Report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services. 110 - 112
10. **BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE PROVOST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

Members are reminded that should they have queries on the detail of a report they should, where possible, contact the report authors in advance of the meeting to seek clarification.

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Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Finance and Corporate Services

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13 March, 2025

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Agendas and papers for all Committee meetings can be accessed on

www.fife.gov.uk/committees

BLENDED MEETING NOTICE

This is a formal meeting of the Committee and the required standards of behaviour and discussion are the same as in a face to face meeting. Unless otherwise agreed, Standing Orders will apply to the proceedings and the terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct will apply in the normal way

For those members who have joined the meeting remotely, if they need to leave the meeting for any reason, they should use the Meeting Chat to advise of this. If a member loses their connection during the meeting, they should make every effort to rejoin the meeting but, if this is not possible, the Committee Officer will note their absence for the remainder of the meeting. If a member must leave the meeting due to a declaration of interest, they should remain out of the meeting until invited back in by the Committee Officer.

If a member wishes to ask a question, speak on any item or move a motion or amendment, they should indicate this by raising their hand at the appropriate time and will then be invited to speak. Those joining remotely should use the "Raise hand" function in Teams.

All decisions taken during this meeting, will be done so by means of a Roll Call vote.

Where items are for noting or where there has been no dissent or contrary view expressed during any debate, either verbally or by the member indicating they wish to speak, the Convener will assume the matter has been agreed.

There will be a short break in proceedings after approximately 90 minutes.

Members joining remotely are reminded to have cameras switched on during meetings and mute microphones when not speaking. During any breaks or adjournments please switch cameras off.

Civic Business Bulletin

New Years' Honours List

Officer of the Order of the British Empire was awarded to Bob Purvis from Kinross for charitable services to Fife and the wider community.

Member of the Order of the British Empire was awarded to Gillian Duncan from Arncroach for services to the community in the East Neuk.

Member of the Order of the British Empire was awarded to James Malcolm from Kelty for services to state ceremonial events in Scotland and charitable fundraising.

Member of the Order of the British Empire was awarded to Norman Niven from Aberdour for services to the RNLI and Aberdour community.

Member of the Order of the British Empire was awarded to David Rickman from St Andrews for services to golf.

British Empire Medal was awarded to Joyce Anderson of Springfield for services to schools and the community.

British Empire Medal was awarded to David Christie of Freuchie for services to cricket and the community.

British Empire Medal was awarded to Barclay McIntosh of Dunfermline for services to advocacy and volunteering in Fife.

British Empire Medal was awarded to Diana Sykes of Cellarkdyke for services to visual arts and craft in Fife.

Carbon Literate Organisation Accreditation

Fife Council has renewed its Carbon Literate Organisation accreditation at the bronze level, demonstrating a strong commitment to climate change education and action. Since August 2021, 310 employees have completed the Fife Climate Knowhow training, with 242 accredited and 15 currently pending. This training has led to various changes across the council:

- Grounds Maintenance Service reduced fleet by 20% through optimised use and behaviour changes. The team has also significantly reduced the use of glyphosate (herbicide) across Fife.
- Bereavement Service created an environmental policy to reduce harmful activities and products.
- Planning Service made training mandatory for all staff, achieved Gold Accreditation, and formed a Climate Action Team with measurable targets.
- Waste Operations made training mandatory for all managers and supervisors, with a taster for all other staff.

Fife Council's efforts are crucial in tackling the Climate Emergency and delivering the Climate Fife Strategy.

APSE Apprentice Awards

Congratulations to Callum Dawson, First Year Apprentice Stonemason who won the First Year Apprentice of the Year award at the APSE UK Apprentice Awards for Housing & Building held in Glasgow recently.

Civic Events

Both Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline are marking the 100th year of their War Memorial this year and both areas are planning large civic and community events to celebrate the occasion.

Fife Lieutenancy

Two of our Deputy Lieutenants are retiring this year; Sir Peter Erskine and Ms Fiona Maclachlan; thanks to both for their voluntary service with Fife Lieutenancy.

Endometriosis Awareness

March is endometriosis awareness month and we know that this is an important cause to some of our members. There are a number of events taking place raising awareness of this debilitating condition that the Council is promoting and we offer our support to those who suffer from this condition.

THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE COUNCIL – BLENDED MEETING

Council Chamber, 6th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

12 December 2024

10.00 am – 4.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Jim Leishman (Convener), Tom Adams, David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Karen Beaton, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Peter Gulline, Jean Hall Muir, Judy Hamilton, Alycia Hayes, Cara Hilton, Stefan Hoggan, Gary Holt, Andy Jackson, Margaret Kennedy, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Julie MacDougall, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, Derek Noble, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Gordon Pryde, Bailey-Lee Robb, David Ross, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner, Andrew Verrecchia, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker, Darren Watt, Daniel Wilson, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors John Caffrey and David Graham.

142. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jan Wincott made a declaration of interest relating to Para. 147 – Question Time (Question 24 only) - as her husband was Chair of the Fife Environmental Partnership. The Monitoring Officer advised that the usual practice would be to leave the room, but that as Cllr Wincott would have no right to speak during the Question Time item she could consider choosing to remain present.

143. CIVIC BUSINESS BULLETIN

Decision

The council noted the Civic Business Bulletin.

144. MINUTE

The Provost, seconded by Councillor Dempsey, moved that the minute of the meeting of Fife Council of 19 September 2024 be approved.

Decision

The council approved the minute subject to minor points of accuracy.

145. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Minutes of the undernoted committees and sub-committees, as contained in the volume of minutes, were submitted for accuracy:-

- (1) West and Central Planning Committee of 25 September, 23 October and 20 November 2024.
- (2) North East Planning Committee of 11 September and 6 November 2024.
- (3) Fife Planning Review Body of 28 October 2024.
- (4) Regulation and Licensing Committee of 10 September and 5 November 2024.
- (5) Cabinet Committee of 12 September, 10 October and 7 November 2024.
- (6) Standards, Audit and Risk Committee of 30 September 2024.
- (7) Pensions Committee of 24 September and 30 September 2024.
- (8) Glenrothes Area Committee of 2 October 2024.
- (9) Levenmouth Area Committee of 2 October 2024.
- (10) City of Dunfermline Area Committee of 1 October 2024.
- (11) Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 22 October 2024.
- (12) North East Fife Area Committee of 23 October 2024.
- (13) Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 4 September and 30 October 2024.
- (14) South and West Fife Area Committee of 30 October 2024.
- (15) Education Scrutiny Committee of 17 September and 19 November 2024.
- (16) Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee of 21 November 2024.
- (17) People and Communities Scrutiny Committee of 26 September and 14 November 2024.
- (18) Environment, Transportation and Climate Change Scrutiny Committee of 12 November 2024.
- (19) Fife Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board of 26 July 2024.

Decision

The council noted the minutes.

146. LEADER'S REPORT

The council considered a report by the Leader of the Council on a number of strategic issues. The Leader responded to questions from members on the content of the report.

Decision

The council noted the report.

147. QUESTION TIME

In terms of Standing Order No 9.3, the following questions were submitted.

Question 1 from Councillor Dave Dempsey

Why does the Council persist in not sending "undeliverable" responses to incoming emails with misspelled addresses, given that this results in members of the public incorrectly concluding that members and officers are ignoring them?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Transportation)

Fife Council has historically blocked the generation of Non-Delivery Reports, also known as "bouncebacks" in response to mis-addressed emails. These were often exploited by hackers to generate large volumes of responses from Fife Council which, in turn, could lead to the council's legitimate emails being mis-labelled and blocked as spam by internet email service providers.

This opened up a very real risk that the Council would be "blacklisted" (an event which has happened previously and can take up to 48 hours to rectify) resulting in an inability to send emails from the Council to anyone external - with associated and significant service impacts. By blocking NDRs, the council was able to eliminate this risk, with the result that misspelled addresses from member of the public would not be responded to. On balance, the risk of complete email outage for up to 48 hours outweighed the risks of not responding to misaddressed emails, particularly given the fact that correspondents often use means such as web-links or email replies and are less likely to be typing the email addresses from scratch in many situations.

The council now has a number of controls in place, and has been at the forefront of email security since including being the first public sector organisation in the UK to adopt the [GOV.UK Securing email standards](#). Our email security is regularly and independently reviewed by the [Cyber Technical Advisory Group](#) who have assessed that we have the highest rating of "EPIC" for our email system, a level only reached by 40% of Scottish Local Authorities.

In July 2024 the council completed a set of improvements to our cyber security monitoring and response controls, including implementation of a managed Security Operations Centre providing 24/7 monitoring of Cyber incidents, which has greatly enhanced our capability to monitor, contain and mitigate cyber threats.

Taking these security measures into account we are reviewing our position of Non-Delivery Reports and will be making changes to our email platform through December in a controlled manner which will in turn enable members of the public to now receive undeliverable responses to misspelled addresses. We will review and monitor the impact of this carefully, but believe this will mean we can now return to safely delivering NDRs/bouncebacks for those limited occasions when someone mis-types an email address.

Question 2 from Councillor James Calder

What is the full process for putting together a Strategic Incident Diversion Route between Transportation Services and Bear Scotland for trunk roads, and how often is it then subsequently reviewed?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Transportation)

Transport Scotland, through their trunk contractors BEAR and AMEY, identify and implement diversion routes for the trunk road in close liaison with Police Scotland, Traffic Scotland, emergency services and local authorities. The diversion routes

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selected are identified to minimise disruption, accommodate traffic levels, often involving HGVs and large vehicles.

The current diversion routes have been established for some time. In most cases potential diversion routes are limited, given the need to accommodate the high volumes of vehicles and connect to junctions on the trunk road network. If any local issues arise, Roads & Transportation Services raise these at the quarterly liaison meetings with the trunk road operators and partners.

Supplementary Question

Diversion route on Lapwing Drive, Dunfermline causing significant issues, would the council agree to review this.

Answer

Yes, I will discuss this with Roads and Transportation Services.

Question 3 from Councillor Jane Ann Liston

How much does FC pay per week for the care of a resident in:

- (a) a Council care home?
- (b) a private care home?
- (c) a third sector (not for profit) care home?

Answer (Spokesperson for Health and Social Care)

The weekly cost of a care home placement in a Fife Council operated care home is £1240.00 per week.

The weekly cost of a care home placement in an independent or voluntary sector care home is £957.57 per week for nursing care, and £825.94 per week for residential care.

These rates are the standard care rate under the National Care Home Contract to which all care homes in Fife have signed up to.

Supplementary Question

As a result of the differential levels of funding and the fees charged, how will Fife Council manage if the third sector funded homes reduce the number of council funded residents they will accept simply to stay solvent?

Answer

I will look into this and provide further information.

Question 4 from Councillor Patrick Browne

To ask the Labour administration what has been the impact of the Scottish Government's decision to "pause" funding from the Place Based Investment Programme on the £1.9 million that Fife was due to receive from the fund in 2024/25, in particular the impact on the Inverkeithing Heritage Regeneration project?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Transportation)

In early April 2024 Cabinet approved the proposed plans for the investment of the Place Based Investment Fund Programme in 2024/25. This year's Place Based Investment Programme was paused by Scottish Government in Quarter 1. A case was made to Scottish Government officials that Councils could not down tools on projects underway such as the Inverkeithing Built Heritage Programme. The Council was subsequently successful in securing £0.9m for this year - £0.35m for investment in Inverkeithing. The Built Heritage Programme in Inverkeithing was costed in 2017/18 so it has been affected by inflationary pressures and additional costs. Over the lifetime of the programme, the Council has secured other funding from a range of partner organisations to help cover these costs including Place Based Investment funding. Examples of these include: an exterior lift at the Town House, an expanded community activity programme, and for public realm works around the Civic Centre. The main phase of public realm works are about to start on site. The final costs are estimated at c.£4.6m. The Place Based Investment funding is likely to be around 7.5% of the total costs.

Supplementary Question

Do you anticipate receiving any money back and do you have any confidence the Scottish Government can manage its budget?

Answer

Will wait to see if we get any money back, can't guarantee this. No I don't have confidence they can manage their budget.

Question 5 from Councillor Patrick Browne

To ask the Labour administration what assessment it has made of the Scottish Government's recent Budget and whether it believes local government in across Scotland and Fife Council has received a fair share of the additional £1.5 billion in the current financial year and £3.4 billion in 2025/26 coming to Scotland as a result of the recent Labour UK Government's Budget?

Answer (Leader of the Council)

We don't yet know what the implications from the Scottish Government are for the council but welcome the fact there is additional uncommitted money this year.

Recognise better discussion between Scottish Government and local government on the budget.

Question 6 from Councillor Kathleen Leslie

The hedgehog population of Britain has declined by between 30-75% in rural areas since 2000. This is as a result of multiple factors including a decline in available natural food sources, loss of habitat and increased vehicle collisions. Has the Council considered the use of road signage to alert drivers to areas with significant hedgehog populations within Fife?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Transportation)

Only signs that are included in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) may be placed on the road network. Wildlife warning signs can only be used with approval from Transport Scotland, the national agency of the Scottish Government. The small mammal sign (shown as a hedgehog) is not intended to be used in Scotland.

Supplementary Question

Are the council doing any work to protect small mammals on its roads?

Answer

Not aware of anything but will follow up with Roads and Transportation Services.

Question 7 from Councillor Alex Campbell

What plans are there to build new social housing for rent in Kelty?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

As identified within the 2025 - 2030 SHIP, KHA are to deliver, subject to available subsidy funding, 6 social rent homes at Keltyhill Road, Kelty. This would be an August 2029 site start with completion February 2031. This is the only site identified within the SHIP to be delivered in Kelty. Discussion is ongoing with a housing developer for another site in Kelty but this has yet to materialise in any agreement.

Question 8 from Councillor Alex Campbell

What impact of cuts announced by the health and social care partnership will be on the provision of care packages in Fife?

Answer (Spokesperson for Health and Social Care)

The Health and Social Care Partnership have an approved Recovery plan which was approved by the Integration Joint Board, due to the significant overspend particularly within social work/care services, this needs to be addressed in the following areas:

1. Review of respite services – we will review the availability of respite services by a reduction in weeks or paid allowance to service users to ensure we can still maintain support but within a financial target.
2. We have been consulting on the eligibility criteria for social work/social care services this will ensure that we tighten the criteria for critical services, working with partners we will ensure that people receive the right level of care at the right time. We will ensure anyone who is at risk will be supported.
3. Within the recovery plan we agreed to reduce and pause some of the services within care at home and care home placements this has been very difficult to implement due to the level of need in the community and hospital

discharges, but we continue to monitor this on a weekly basis in an attempt to reduce our significant overspend in this area, we recognise that we need to keep people safe and this is our priority.

Supplementary Question

Can the details of the consultation on eligibility criteria be provided?

Answer

Yes this will be arranged.

Question 9 from Councillor Alex Campbell

What actions are being taken to address behavioural challenges in Fife schools?

Answer

The Education Directorate closely monitors the behaviours being exhibited across our schools and discussions continue to take place to determine how we can best support all school staff and our pupils. Our focus is to work together with school communities, trade unions and families to promote positive behaviour and de-escalate situations. We give targeted support to schools where it's needed. Any form of violence towards staff and pupils is unacceptable and we are committed to safe working practices, training and support for our staff.

Directorate guidance has been developed by a working group comprised of experienced practitioners, representing the full range of children and young people, including those with additional support needs, and with the consultation and support of staff and unions across Fife. Guidance also considers the relevant, current Scottish Government policy and its role in shaping how we support our establishments to improve the ethos and culture, and relationships and behaviour, in their own settings.

The Directorate guidance outlines practical materials and tools which can be used by schools in developing their own Promoting Positive Behaviour Policies. The intention is that each school's policy: is developed as a school; supports both staff and learners to understand what it means to learn and work in a community built on respect; and is embedded in the life and culture of the school community. Our strategy group has focussed on an approach that supports consistency in practice across all Fife schools, whilst allowing for schools to tailor to their specific context. This policy recognises the importance of relational practice, nurturing and restorative approaches and a trauma informed response.

Across our schools a huge amount of work is underway to tackle violence and bullying and, working with partners including police, Fife NHS, and the Health and Social Care Partnership, we have put a number of different programmes, practices and actions in place. A workshop event to promote existing good practice across Fife is being planned for early next year.

We have continued our piloting of a model of having a social worker based in four of our secondary schools to work with young people where attendance at school is low. Our staff across our schools are also engaging in professional development around trauma informed practice and de-escalation intervention. In

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addition, we are making sure that there is a focus on out of school activities, via Active Schools teams and other partners, especially in the communities where there are high levels of crime for those under 16. The curriculum for Personal and Social Education has been updated, using the results of our recent health and wellbeing survey of pupils. It will focus on those issues that are causing concerns and bring more input from external organisations e.g. police and NHS on subjects such as knife crime, drugs, mental wellbeing, use of social media etc.

Importantly, we recognise that effective learning and teaching depend on a foundation of positive behaviour and good working relationships between learners and staff, and between young people themselves. Positive behaviour is dependent, in turn, on effective teaching and an appropriate curriculum. These areas will continue to be a focus throughout 2025 and beyond.

Our action and progress across this area is reported to the Education Scrutiny Committee.

Question 10 from Councillor Robin Lawson

How many properties in Fife are now paying 200% Council Tax, and how much additional money (over and above standard Council Tax) will this generate in the current financial year. Please also break down by Wards or Areas where these second home properties are located.

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Transportation)

Total Number of Properties in Fife subject to 100% additional Variation is 1,941 with total value raised £3.168 million.

This is split into the three areas as follows:

Central 180 properties with value of £0.215 million
East 1635 properties with value of £2.775 million
West 126 properties with value of £0.178 million

Supplementary Question

Lost 450 properties since these figures were reported to Cabinet Committee.

Answer

Clearly the process is working and people are putting houses back into use.

Question 11 from Councillor Robin Lawson

How many Enforcement Notices has Planning Department issued in the last 12 months, and what have the results of these Notices been?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Transportation)

The Planning Authority has issued 6 enforcement notices in the period 2nd December 2023 to 2nd December 2024. The vast majority of potential breaches of planning and/or planning enforcement issues are resolved without

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recourse to formal action. Where planning breaches have occurred, these are usually addressed through retrospective planning applications so that unauthorised development can be formally assessed; in other cases unauthorised work may be removed or changed through negotiation.

Of the 6 notices issued in this period the following outcomes are:

- 1 notice was issued and appealed to the Department of Planning & Environmental Appeals (DPEA). The appeal was dismissed and the enforcement notice progressed- the compliance date for works to be done is the 7th of December 2024.
- 1 enforcement notice is currently at appeal and being considered by the DPEA.
- 1 enforcement notice was appealed to DPEA and was dismissed. The enforcement notice has subsequently been complied with in part with the remaining action being progressed by the landowner (another Council Service) through their own legal process.
- The remaining 3 were issued in November 2024 but do not take effect until towards the end of December 2024.

Reporting on planning performance is undertaken in financial years and was reported to the Finance, Economy and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee earlier this year in August. In respect of planning enforcement in 2023/24, 517 planning enforcement cases were received, 223 breaches resolved (not De Minimis, Duplication, Established Use or No Breach), 8 enforcement notices served, 60 applications derived from enforcement investigation, and 509 cases closed. Some cases continue over reporting periods.

Supplementary Question

Does the administration take breaches in conservation areas seriously and will you do something about them?

Answer

The council does take these breaches seriously and apply all legislation. Suggest you raise with your local MSP to raise with Scottish Government.

Question 12 from Councillor Dave Dempsey

Which part of the Council enforces Section 89 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and when was it last used?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Transportation)

Building Standards & Public Safety issue licences for raised structures under section 89 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The process involves checking the proposals submitted by applicants and we also carry out some inspections, depending on the risk. We have received 48 applications this year so far, that's around the typical number for a year and there were 45 in 2023. The raised structures we licence generally include temporary seating (Open & Dunhill Golf) and/or temporary stages for events. There has never been any formal enforcement action that I am aware of, enforcement is done by discussing and agreeing suitable proposals before a licence is granted.

Question 13 from Councillor Dave Dempsey

Is Fife Council bound by agreements entered into by its predecessor Councils?

Answer (Leader of the Council)

The Fife Council, as the statutory successors to the former Fife Regional Council, Dunfermline District Council, Kirkcaldy District Council and North East Fife District Council respectively (and by extension, the former Fife County Council and Burgh Councils etc), are statutorily/legally bound by the terms of any agreements entered into by those predecessor authorities prior to 1st April 1996 which was the relevant date of the formal constitution of The Fife Council under the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994 as amended ("the 1994 Act"). This is all in terms of sections 1, 2, 15 and Schedule 1 of the 1994 Act.

Question 14 from Councillor Brian Goodall

How many new-build Council Houses have been completed in the current financial year?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

During 2024/25 to date, Fife Council have completed 187 New Build Council homes.

Supplementary Question

Can you give assurance that there won't be a £30m underspend in the affordable housing budget?

Answer

There is no underspend, it was slippage in the programme.

The Provost advised that, in terms of SO 9.3(7), one response would be provided to questions 15 and 16 below.

Question 15 from Councillor Brian Goodall

What representations has the Spokesperson for Housing & Building Services and/or the Leader of the Council made to the UK Government regarding the impact of the increase to employer's national insurance contributions on Fife Council's Housing Revenue Account?

Question 16 from Councillor John Beare

What discussions have Council Spokespersons or Officers had with our Suppliers and those we have contracts with, including but not limited to ALEOs, care homes and partners in the third sector who provide services on our behalf, in relation to the additional employee and related costs they will be subjected to as a result of the announced increase in Employers' National Insurance contributions by the Westminster Government?

Answer to Questions 15 and 16 (Leader of the Council)

Formal representations have been made through COSLA but have made representations at all levels. Have been advised by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services that the impact on the HRA will not impact council tenants.

We have only had one formal piece of formal correspondence on this matter, and is from one of our bus operators. They have expressed concern around the financial implications and have expressed the desire to work closely with the council over the months ahead in an effort to minimise the impacts. The correspondence has been responded to and a meeting is planned for the new year. All other discussions have been informal, though concern is clear. In relation to the care sector, we understand that Scottish Care and the Coalition of Care and Support Providers in Scotland (CCPS) will be acting on behalf of their member organisations to represent the sector's interest and the impact for providers/organisations across Scotland.

Attended a meeting of the third sector strategy group where these issues were also discussed.

Question 17 from Councillor Brian Goodall

Is the current rule excluding Fife Council employees from selling homes to the Council under the Domestic Property Acquisition Policy under review, and if so when will this review be concluded and advised to Committee or Council?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

I have agreed with the Head of Housing to undertake a short review of the current Property Acquisitions Policy to specifically examine buying properties with sitting tenants to prevent homelessness, not purchasing properties from current Council employees and only seeking to purchase properties on the Open market. Two review meetings involving Housing and Legal Services have been diaried in January/Early February 2025 will produce recommendations for cabinet by February/March 2025.

Supplementary Question

Does the Spokesperson agree now is the time to loosen the policy and ensure these purchases are open and transparent and don't exclude council employees from selling back to the council.

Answer

Agreed.

Question 18 from Councillor Lesley Backhouse

Given that previous answers to questions at full Council meetings have demonstrated that it can be almost twice as cheap and four times as fast to deliver an additional Council House for rent via Domestic Property Acquisitions,

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why has the Administration set itself against delivering more affordable homes for rent in this way?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

The Council's Approach in acquiring properties is part of the overall policy on the Phase 4 Affordable Housing Programme (AHP) in Fife. The SHIP commits the Council to a minimum of 50 property acquisitions per year, dependent on adequate housing subsidy funding from the Scottish Government. The focus of the Phase 4 AHP is to maintain the supply of new housing. The financing and delivery targets for the final 3 years of the AHP will be presented to the Council meeting on 20th February 2025.

Question 19 from Councillor Lesley Backhouse

How much of the additional funding allocated to Fife this year by the Scottish Government for the acquisition of domestic properties for use as temporary accommodation for homeless housing applicants has already been drawn down?

Answer (Spokesperson for Housing and Building Services)

The entire £1.848m in additional property acquisitions funding awarded to Fife has been drawn down and committed to purchasing 37 properties. 24 have been purchased and a further 13 are legally committed to.

Supplementary Question

Does the Spokesperson think this is sufficient when we have over 1200 families who are homeless?

Answer

No I don't think the subsidy is sufficient.

Question 20 from Councillor Nicola Patrick

The zero waste Fife resources strategy and action plan 2018-2028 indicates a target to recycle 70% of all household waste by 2025 while the council currently advises domestic rates are at 44%. What is the administration doing to immediately address this gap?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

To clarify, it should be noted that the 70% target by 2025 mentioned in the Strategy is a national target. The strategy sets a local target for 60% by 2028 as part of the Joint Fife Council administration's programme in 2017. Section 4.3.2. of the strategy states:

"60% recycling target - The joint Administration's programme outlines a 60% recycling target for household waste. This is in line with national policy of 60% by 2020. This Zero Waste Fife - Resources Strategy and Action Plan will consider the period until 2028 therefore whilst it is recognised **that a local target of 60% is provided**, the strategy will also need to **take cognisance of the 70% recycling target by 2025 set by the Scottish Government.**"

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The current national recycling figure is 43.5% (2023), and unlikely to meet the 70% in 2025, does demonstrate the challenge for all local authorities in increasing recycling rates to that level.

Fife Council is currently delivering, and investigating a number of opportunities, to increase recycling rates. This includes:

- Investment in Materials Recovery Facilities through our arms-length company Cireco, this can separate different comingled recycling streams into specific materials ready to be sent onto the recycling markets.
- Pilot projects for food waste collection for flatted/communal properties.
- We will be working in 2025 with local re-use organisations to support re-use and redistribution of items rather than landfilling as waste.

Supplementary Question

When can we expect a report on this including evidence to the relevant scrutiny committee?

Answer

I will check with officers but would expect a report to come to committee in early 2025.

Question 21 from Councillor Nicola Patrick

When will a committee of the council consider the pilot and roll out of communal food waste bins at our high and medium rise flats, following the pilot at three blocks of flats in Ravenscraig, Kirkcaldy in 2023 and the ongoing rollout of other blocks ?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

The roll out of food waste bins following the initial trial at Ravenscraig is well under way. All high rise blocks now have this service across Fife and we will be starting to work across mid-rise blocks in the New year starting at the Highlands and Islands estate in Kirkcaldy.

Question 22 from Councillor Andy Jackson

How many residential blocks of flats in Fife have recycling bins, communal or otherwise?

Answer (Spokesperson for Environment and Climate Change)

We provide recycling to as many flatted properties as we can. Over the years, usually due to contamination, there are flatted areas where we have had to remove recycling.

When contamination gets too high then all waste ends up going to landfill so at that point we have to withdraw the service. In the short term if there are individual blocks of flats where the elected member for that area has concerns then I'd be

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happy for them to get in touch but I am also happy to commit to a wider review of recycling at flatted properties in the new year.

Supplementary Question

How many facilities have been removed due to contamination?

Answer

I will check with officers and advise.

Question 23 from Councillor Rod Cavanagh

What progress has been made since the Kirkcaldy Area Committee meeting of 7.2.23, when it agreed to: Decommission the Esplanade and Thistle Street multistorey car parks, demolish and clear the sites, a surface level car park developed on the footprint of Thistle Street site and the Esplanade site made available for re-development, alongside the site of the former swimming pool, and when will progress be reported to the Area Committee?

Answer (Spokesperson for Finance, Economy and Strategic Planning)

The Council has proactively explored the option of demolishing both the Esplanade and Thistle Street multi-storey car parks and has obtained an estimated cost for the demolition works. While officers have diligently sought funding for the demolition, no such funding has been identified at this stage. However, can advise that we are moving forward with the marketing of both car parks based on a Design and Development Framework prepared by the Planning Service. Marketing agents have been appointed, and the development opportunity is now being actively marketed for sale.

Supplementary Question

Phase 1 and 3 are complete with phase 2 on hold, people of Kirkcaldy have waited 9 years, how much more time is needed?

Answer

I would ask that as a local councillor, in your choices in your local capital plan, has this been addressed and I look forward to seeing this in your capital plan at the budget meeting in 2025,

Question 24 from Councillor Derek Glen

The latest edition of SEPA's Scottish Pollutant Release Inventory lists 69 different sites or businesses in Fife, how many of these were invited to the FifeCOP24 event? And now that it has been cancelled, what costs have been incurred, including officer time?

Answer (Leader of the Council)

FifeCOP24 has been postponed until 2025. Only officer time has been used to this point, and this is included as part of our existing support for the Fife

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Environmental Partnership. No other costs have been incurred. As the event is postponed, the preparatory work will support the future event.

The event is a Fife Environmental Partnership event, primarily aimed at public sector organisations and partners, and as such only those public sector organisations listed on the SEPA Pollutant Inventory were initially invited. Specifically, representatives from Fife Council, NHS Fife, University of St Andrews and Scottish Water were invited. However, the Fife Environmental Partnership will take the opportunity from the postponement to consider the invite list and wider participation in the event.

Supplementary Question

What specific measurable outcomes are expected to come from the rearranged event and how will these be achieved if local partners were not invited?

Answer

I will pass this on but as stated the partnership is reviewing the invite list.

Question 25 from Councillor Craig Walker

Since the Council meeting of September 19th, what representations has the Leader of the Council or its Spokespersons made to the Westminster Government or its Ministers or MPs in relation to the 'two child benefit cap', the loss of Winter Fuel Payments for the current Winter, or the energy price cap which increased by 10% in October and will again increase in January given he campaigned to reduce energy bills to householders?

Answer (Leader of the Council)

Representations made on behalf of the Labour Group to MPs etc in relation to these issues but respond on behalf of the council as the council voted against the amendment that said we should write on these issues.

Supplementary Question

What would you say to the people watching or listening about the lack of action here?

Answer

I agree it could have been handled better and hope that once the financial situation of the country has been stabilised we would hope to go forward on these issues. I am not privy to the detail of the UK government's budget but will continue to make representation on these issues.

The meeting adjourned at 12.05 pm and reconvened at 1.05 pm.

148. CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES TO LIST OF COMMITTEE POWERS AND LIST OF OFFICER POWERS

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The council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which proposed a number of minor changes to the List of Committee Powers and List of Officer Powers.

Members were advised that following agreement at Cabinet Committee on 5 December 2024, members would be invited to agree slightly amended wording with regard to firework control zones to reflect the following:-

- List of Officer Powers - Delegated Officer will respond to the lead applicant to advise of outcome of request and provide details of their right to request a review of the decision.
- List of Committee Powers – Fife Planning Review Body - additional power to the Fife Planning Review Body that any such review of a request for a Firework Control Zone will be undertaken by a panel of not more than five and not less than three elected members (selected from members of the Fife Planning Review Body/Community Empowerment Act Committee) and will be advised by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services or their nominee.

Motion

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Craik, moved the recommendations as detailed in the report and as advised by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

Amendment

Councillor Beare, seconded by Councillor Glen, moved as follows:-

8. Changes to list of Committee powers

Page 5 of 30 – Membership of Committees- Political Balance

2.1 Delete “If Council decide that membership will be allocated based on political balance, that calculation will be made as follows:-“

And replace it with:

“The default Council position will be that membership of Committees will be allocated on the basis of political balance (excluding any committee comprising all members of a geographic area) and that calculation will be made as follows:-“

Page 23 of 30 Appendix 1 – General Provisions – Committee Membership

To allow all 6 spokesperson and the Council Leader to be allocated seats on a politically balanced Cabinet Committee, the Committee make up would have to be 12 SNP, 7 Lab, 4 Liberal & 3 Conservative

- Table containing the Allocation of committee seats on the basis of political balance –

Delete “(made up of 6 spokespersons and 15 ordinary members) + Council Leader.”

Delete in ‘Total’ column “+ Council Leader”
Amend “22” and replace with “26”.

**Page 56 (25 of 30) Appendix 2 Membership and remits of Sub-Committees
Cabinet Committee and Sub-Committee (ii)**

Delete “9 members” and replace with “8 members”.

Roll Call

For the Motion – 37 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Karen Beaton, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, James Calder, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Margaret Kennedy, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, Jim Leishman, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, Derek Noble, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Andrew Verrecchia, Darren Watt, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

For the Amendment – 32 votes

David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Ken Caldwell, Rod Cavanagh, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Jean Hall Muir, Alycia Hayes, Stefan Hoggan, Andy Jackson, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, David MacDiarmid, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Bailey-Lee Robb, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Ann Verner, Ross Vettrains, Craig Walker and Daniel Wilson.

Abstained – 1

Councillor Julie MacDougall.

The motion was accordingly carried.

Decision

The council agreed:-

- (1) that the List of Committee Powers and List of Officer Powers be amended as detailed in the report and the subsequent amendments advised by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services; and
- (2) that authority for any additional consequential amendments to Fife Council's governance documentation be delegated to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

Councillor Dillon left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

149. REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS

The council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which advised members of the progress made in meeting the council's duty in terms of Section 18(c) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended,

to undertake a statutory review of Fife Council's polling districts and polling places.

Decision

The council noted:-

- (1) the commencement of a public consultation on the proposed amendments to the current polling scheme; and
- (2) that a final report detailing all proposed amendments to the scheme would be submitted to the council for approval on 20 March 2025.

150. APPOINTMENTS TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS - ST ANDREWS LINKS TRUST AND ST ANDREWS LINKS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services requesting the appointment of elected member representatives to the St Andrews Links Trust and St Andrews Link Management Committee and to agree a protocol for future appointments.

Motion

Councillor Beare, seconded by Councillor Ross, moved the recommendations as detailed in the report.

Amendment

Councillor Lawson, seconded by Councillor James Leslie, moved that recommendation 3 - approval of the protocol for member appointments - be deferred for further consideration.

Roll Call

For the Motion – 64 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Karen Beaton, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Jean Hall Muir, Judy Hamilton, Alycia Hayes, Cara Hilton, Stefan Hoggan, Gary Holt, Andy Jackson, Margaret Kennedy, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Allan Knox, Jim Leishman, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Julie MacDougall, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, Derek Noble, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Gordon Pryde, Bailey-Lee Robb, David Ross, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner, Andrew Verrecchia, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker, Darren Watt, Daniel Wilson and Jan Wincott.

For the Amendment – 6 votes

Councillor Fiona Corps, Dave Dempsey, Peter Gulline, Robin Lawson, James Leslie and Conner Young.

The motion was accordingly carried.

Decision

The council unanimously agreed to:-

- (1) reappoint Councillor Colin Davidson to the St Andrews Links Trust for a period of three years from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2027; and
- (2) reappoint Councillor Lesley Backhouse to the St Andrews Links Management Committee for a period of four years from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2028.

151. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services requiring the council to consider motions submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 10.

Motion 1

Councillor MacDougall, seconded by Councillor Liewald, moved as follows:-

Intergenerational Fife

“Council notes that spending time with other generations helps us to strengthen and regenerate our communities by promoting inclusion and understanding which in turn, helps us to make our communities better and more vibrant places to live and work.

Council notes that we have intergenerational projects across Fife be it the: ‘Bite and a Blether’ at Waid Community Campus in Anstruther; the intergenerational care village in Methil, and various local Community Learning and Development Action Plans.

Council agrees that developing an intergenerational Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Fife would be a significant benefit to Fife and its residents.

Council therefore seeks that an Intergenerational Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Fife, compatible with the Plan for Fife 2017-2027, be developed that would include but not be limited to:

- Increasing knowledge and understanding of intergenerational approaches.
- Embedding intergenerational approaches in governance and policy making.
- Delivering support and encouraging involvement to benefit all of Fife’s generations, by working, learning, volunteering and living together.
- Developing more intergenerational places and spaces.

That the Policy, Strategy and Action Plan be published for approval before the Global Intergenerational Week which takes place from April 24–30, 2025.”

Amendment

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Councillor Kathleen Leslie, seconded by Councillor Erskine, moved as follows:-

Intergenerational Fife

“Council notes that spending time with other generations helps us to strengthen and regenerate our communities by promoting inclusion and understanding which in turn, helps us to make our communities better and more vibrant places to live and work.

Council notes that we have intergenerational projects across Fife including the ‘Bite and a Blether’ at Waid Community Campus in Anstruther; the intergenerational care village in Methil, and various local Community Learning and Development Action Plans.

Council agrees that developing an intergenerational Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Fife would be a significant benefit to Fife and its residents.

Council notes that Generations Working Together has a Corporate Plan (2020 – 2025) and has a Development Officer in post along with many volunteers across Fife.

Council notes that the current Community Learning and Development Plan (2024 – 2027) now has a one-year Bridging Plan until September 2025 due to the National Review of CLD – Learning for All for Life

Council therefore seeks that an Intergenerational Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Fife, compatible with the Plan for Fife 2017-2027, be developed that would include but not be limited to:

- Increasing knowledge and understanding of intergenerational approaches
- Embedding intergenerational approaches in governance and policy making
- Delivering support and encouraging involvement to benefit all of Fife’s generations, by working, learning, volunteering and living together
- Developing more intergenerational places and spaces
- Participating in wider engagement with key stakeholders

Council agrees that the development of an intergenerational policy is built into the CLD Plan and is reported to the People & Communities Scrutiny Committee.”

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to conjoin with the amendment. The conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

Intergenerational Fife

“Council notes that spending time with other generations helps us to strengthen and regenerate our communities by promoting inclusion and understanding which in turn, helps us to make our communities better and more vibrant places to live and work.

Council notes that we have intergenerational projects across Fife including the ‘Bite and a Blether’ at Waid Community Campus in Anstruther; the intergenerational care village in Methil, and various local Community Learning and Development Action Plans.

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Council agrees that developing an intergenerational Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Fife would be a significant benefit to Fife and its residents.

Council notes that Generations Working Together has a Corporate Plan (2020 – 2025) and has a Development Officer in post along with many volunteers across Fife.

Council notes that the current Community Learning and Development Plan (2024 – 2027) now has a one-year Bridging Plan until September 2025 due to the National Review of CLD – Learning for All for Life

Council therefore seeks that an Intergenerational Policy, Strategy and Action Plan for Fife, compatible with the Plan for Fife 2017-2027, be developed that would include but not be limited to:

- Increasing knowledge and understanding of intergenerational approaches
- Embedding intergenerational approaches in governance and policy making
- Delivering support and encouraging involvement to benefit all of Fife's generations, by working, learning, volunteering and living together
- Developing more intergenerational places and spaces
- Participating in wider engagement with key stakeholders

Council agrees that the development of an intergenerational policy is built into the CLD Plan and is reported to the People & Communities Scrutiny Committee.”

Decision

The council agreed the conjoined motion unanimously.

Motion 2

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Suttie, moved as follows:-

“Council recognises the importance of the distilling industry to Fife and Scotland.

Council notes that in 2023 the then Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt increased the duty on Scotch Whisky by 10.1%. The impact of this increase was a reduction in revenue for the treasury and a reduction in output.

Council also notes that Sir Keir Starmer announced to the industry that his governments trade strategy would “back Scotch Producers to the hilt”.

Council further notes that the Labour Chancellor announced, in the recent budget, that duty on alcohol would rise in line with the Retail Price Index from February 2025.

Council notes that Nuno Teles, Managing Director of spirits giant Diageo said “he was deeply disappointed by the outcome”. On the campaign trail Labour pledged to “back the scotch whisky industry to the hilt”. Instead the government has broken this promise and slammed even more duty on spirits. This betrayal will leave a bitter taste for drinkers and pubs, while jeopardising jobs and investment across Scotland.

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Council also recognises the huge importance of distilling and bottling to many parts of Fife including Guardbridge, Newburgh, Cupar, Kingsbarns, Charleston, Falkland, Cluny, Glenrothes, and Levenmouth and when the Managing Director of Diageo says the budget could impact jobs and investment it is wise to listen.

Council therefore insists that the Leader of the Council write to Sir Keir Starmer, and Rachel Reeves, highlighting the huge damage this element of the budget could do to Fife businesses, and Levenmouth specifically, and demand that the planned February increase in duty is reversed.”

Amendment 1

Councillor Corps, seconded by Councillor Holt, moved as follows:-

Change Final Paragraph to:

"Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to highlight the huge damage this element of the budget could do to businesses across Fife, including a significant impact in Levenmouth and North East Fife, and demand that the planned February increase in duty is reversed."

Amendment 2

Councillor Dempsey, seconded by Councillor Kathleen Leslie, moved as follows:-

Amend para 2 to start with:-

“After a decade of duty being frozen by the then Conservative Government which brought benefits to our whisky industry”

Further add at the end of the motion the following:-

“Council recognises that not only will this punishing rise in duty effect our distillers the addition of increased employers National insurance contributions and pressures being handed out to our farmers by this current Labour Government will also hurt the UK malt barley farmers.”

Amendment 3

Councillor Browne, seconded by Councillor Craik, moved as follows:-

“Council recognises the importance of the distilling industry to Fife, Scotland and the UK.

Council notes that the Labour Government announced in the recent budget that duty on Alcohol will rise in line with the RPI from February 2025.

When the new Labour Government won the General Election it was clear that the country’s finances were in a parlous state.

Fourteen years of poor economic choices by the Conservative Government created a very difficult situation and a requirement to raise revenues to restore public services.

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The hard choices made by the new Labour Government has meant around a £5bn increase in consequential to Scotland for this year and next. The choices to deliver this uplift are not easy and not without impact.

Policy choices sometimes have unintended consequences and while we are supportive of the investment in public services, through Barnett Consequentials, we ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor on the matter of Alcohol Duty.”

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to accept Amendment 1 in full and Amendment 2 subject to minor amendments. The conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

“Council recognises the importance of the distilling industry to Fife and Scotland.

Council notes that in 2023 the then Chancellor, Jeremy Hunt increased the duty on Scotch Whisky by 10.1%. The impact of this increase was a reduction in revenue for the treasury and a reduction in output.

Council also notes that Sir Keir Starmer announced to the industry that his governments trade strategy would “back Scotch Producers to the hilt”.

Council further notes that the Labour Chancellor announced, in the recent budget, that duty on alcohol would rise in line with the Retail Price Index from February 2025.

Council notes that Nuno Teles, Managing Director of spirits giant Diageo said “he was deeply disappointed by the outcome”. On the campaign trail Labour pledged to “back the scotch whisky industry to the hilt”. Instead the government has broken this promise and slammed even more duty on spirits. This betrayal will leave a bitter taste for drinkers and pubs, while jeopardising jobs and investment across Scotland.

Council also recognises the huge importance of distilling and bottling to many parts of Fife including Guardbridge, Newburgh, Cupar, Kingsbarns, Charleston, Falkland, Cluny, Glenrothes, and Levenmouth and when the Managing Director of Diageo says the budget could impact jobs and investment it is wise to listen.

Council recognises that not only will this punishing rise in duty effect our distillers the addition of increased employers National Insurance contributions and pressures being handed out to our farmers by this current Labour Government will also hurt the UK malt barley farmers.

Council therefore requests that the Leader of the Council writes to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to highlight the huge damage this element of the budget could do to businesses across Fife, including a significant impact in Levenmouth and North East Fife, and demand that the planned February increase in duty is reversed.”

Roll Call

For the Conjoined Motion – 47 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Aude Boubaker-Calder, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Rod Cavanagh, Al Clark,

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Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Dave Dempsey, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Peter Gulline, Jean Hall Muir, Stefan Hoggan, Gary Holt, Andy Jackson, Margaret Kennedy, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Julie MacDougall, Lynn Mowatt, Nicola Patrick, Bailey-Lee Robb, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner, Ross Vettrano, Craig Walker, Darren Watt and Daniel Wilson.

For Amendment 3 – 18 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Karen Beaton, Patrick Browne, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Linda Erskine, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Jim Leishman, Derek Noble, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Andrew Verrecchia and Jan Wincott.

Decision

Having received a majority of votes, the conjoined motion was accordingly carried.

Councillors Ellis, Hayes and Neal left the meeting during consideration of Motion 2.

Councillors Ellis and Neal rejoined the meeting prior to consideration of Motion 3.

Motion 3

Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Backhouse, moved as follows:-

National Insurance:

“Council notes the increased costs to the Council and its partners imposed by the Westminster Labour Government as a result of the announced increase in National Insurance for Employers from 13.8% to 15% from April 2025.

Council directs the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister to request the Westminster Government fully reimburse the over £500m costs of employer National Insurance contributions to the public and third sectors in Scotland as a result of the UK Autumn Statement, and that this should include full funding for Fife Council and every Scottish local authority.

Council also recognises that if the Chancellor does not fully reimburse these costs that they will have a detrimental impact on the services the people of Scotland rely on, including here in Fife.”

Amendment 1

Councillor Calder, seconded by Councillor Knox, moved as follows:-

Change paragraph 2 to:

"Council requests the Leader of the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister to request that the UK Government provides the necessary funding to the Scottish Government to cover the significant costs of the National Insurance Contribution increase to bodies providing public services

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in Scotland (including third sector, public sector, GP/Dentistry practices and Social Care Sector) and that this includes full funding for Fife Council and other local authorities. The Council also calls on the Scottish Government to ensure this funding is distributed fairly.”

Amendment 2

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Noble, moved as follows:-

“Council notes:

the possible impacts on the Council and its partners of the increase in Employers National Insurance announced by the UK Government;

that it is likely to be January or February before it is clear the amount of funding that will come from the UK Government to offset this impact;

that the Scottish Government will receive around £5bn in additional consequential for this year and next and that under the devolution settlement it is for the Scottish Government to decide what funding is passed to local government in Scotland to offset the impact of the rise in Employers National Insurance.

Council notes and endorses the position of COSLA agreed unanimously by all 32 council leaders on 6th December as follows:

Leaders note that there is uncommitted revenue grant of £289.3m within the proposed settlement and whilst this is to be welcomed, we are concerned that this will be insufficient to meet the range of financial risks and pressures facing councils over the coming year, including pay, inflation, employers’ National Insurance increases and pressure on social care in particular.

It will be unacceptable for Scottish Councils to be made to meet the bill arising from the changes to national insurance. We will work constructively with both governments on this.

Council agrees that the Council Leader should write to both governments highlighting the possible impacts of the increase in Employers National Insurance on the Council and its partners and requesting that they reach agreement on how these increased costs will be met with no detriment to the Council.”

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to accept Amendment 1 subject to minor amendments. The conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

National Insurance:

“Council notes the increased costs to the Council and its partners imposed by the Westminster Labour Government as a result of the announced increase in National Insurance for Employers from 13.8% to 15% from April 2025.

Council requests the 4 Group Leaders write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Prime Minister to request that the UK Government provides the necessary funding to the Scottish Government to cover the significant costs of the National Insurance Contribution increase to bodies providing public services in Scotland (including third sector, public sector, GP/Dentistry practices and Social Care

Sector) and that this includes full funding for Fife Council and other local authorities. The Council also calls on the Scottish Government to ensure this funding is distributed fairly across the public and third sector.

Council also recognises that if the Chancellor does not fully reimburse these costs that they will have a detrimental impact on the services the people of Scotland rely on, including here in Fife.”

Roll Call

For the Conjoined Motion – 42 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Aude Boubaker-Calder, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Rod Cavanagh, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Jean Hall Muir, Stefan Hoggan, Gary Holt, Andy Jackson, Margaret Kennedy, Louise Kennedy - Dalby, Allan Knox, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Julie MacDougall, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, Nicola Patrick, Bailey-Lee Robb, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner, Ross Vettrano, Craig Walker and Daniel Wilson.

For Amendment 2 – 26 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Karen Beaton, Patrick Browne, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Robin Lawson, Jim Leishman, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Derek Noble, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Andrew Verrecchia, Darren Watt, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

Decision

Having received a majority of votes, the conjoined motion was accordingly carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3.30 pm and reconvened at 3.40 pm.

Motion 4

Councillor Lawson, seconded by Councillor Kathleen Leslie, moved as follows:-

“Fife Council notes the announcement by the Chancellor on 30th October that Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief would, from 6th April 2026, only apply to the first £1 million of assets being passed to the next generation upon death of the owner.

Fife has a large number of farms producing high quality food for consumption across the UK. The food sector in Fife is a major employer, and farms are great contributors to preserving and enhancing the quality of our countryside. Only a small proportion of farms in Fife will have assets of less than £1 million given that farm assets include all land, buildings, equipment and livestock.

It has become clear from the large demonstrations which have taken place in London, Edinburgh, Dover and elsewhere in UK that the Chancellor and Treasury have failed to understand not only the public support for the farming community, but also the basic economics of farming, which requires a large amount of capital

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to produce a very modest amount of income. Family farmers regard themselves as temporary custodians of their farm before it is passed to the next generation, hopefully in a better state than before.

The changes proposed by the Chancellor which are due to take effect on 6th April 2026 leave insufficient time for elderly farmers to change their future planning under the 7 year rule. To do so they would have had to have gifted their farm before 6th April 2019. With the very real threat of insolvency some are suffering acute anxiety and contemplating desperate measures.

There is no precedent for such retroactive legislation in UK. While it may be proper to withdraw or modify APR and BPR relief on farms which may be bought in future by investors seeking to avoid inheritance tax, there should be no change to the inheritance tax regime affecting current owners, at least until 2032.

Fife Council, therefore, resolves to write to the Chancellor requesting that this change in APR and BPR be reconsidered and if not cancelled then its effect deferred until 2032 for any farm owner who acquired their farm before 1st November 2024."

Amendment 1

Councillor Holt, seconded by Councillor Corps, moved as follows:-

Add the following line to the end of the final paragraph:

"In addition, the letter should make the case for exempting working farms from these provisions."

Amendment 2

Councillor Craik, seconded by Councillor Ian Cameron, moved as follows:-

"Fife Council notes the announcement by the Chancellor on 30th October that Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief would, from 6th April 2026, only apply to the first £1 million of assets being passed to the next generation upon death of the owner.

Fife has a large number of farms producing high quality food for consumption across the UK.

The food sector in Fife is a major employer, and farms are great contributors to preserving and enhancing the quality of our countryside.

Family farmers regard themselves as temporary custodians of their farm before it is passed to the next generation, hopefully in a better state than before.

The changes proposed by the Chancellor which are due to take effect on 6th April 2026

Changes to APR and BPR are small steps to redressing the fiscal mess left by the previous five conservative prime ministers.

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A tax system should be fair to everyone and only incentivise the behaviours that meet our aims of a fairer society. How this is to be achieved is a task for the new government.

The lead in to the new reliefs is fair and will impact many less people than is being suggested. The ability to pay the tax liability over a decade is not one that is extended to most of us.

If the public finances the new Labour Government inherited were healthier I am sure the Chancellor would have considered a longer lead in to implementation.

Fife Council, therefore, asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor requesting that the implementation of this change in APR and BPR be reconsidered to allow for tax planning among our farming community.”

Amendment 3

Councillor Kennedy-Dalby, seconded by Councillor Patrick, moved as follows:-

Delete the last paragraph and replace it with:

“Council notes that the tax system should support our farming community as custodians of our countryside and that arbitrary decisions in relation to taxation with no impact assessments or understanding of the cumulative effects on farmers are damaging to the industry and those dependant on it.

Council notes that the Chancellor of the Exchequer chose not to work with the devolved Governments before her Budget on 30 October 2024, nor to consult with farmers, crofters and other rural stakeholders about the Budget's effects on Scotland's rural economy, including breaking the vital link between funding for Scotland's farmers and its land mass, and the changes to agricultural property relief, which will affect succession planning in farms throughout Scotland.

Council is concerned at the apparent failure of the Westminster Government to fully assess the impacts of those budget changes on Scotland's rural economy or to publish any such assessments and calls on the Westminster Government to urgently do so.

Council, therefore, directs the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting that this announced change in APR and BPR be rescinded and if not, then its effect deferred until 2032 for any farm owner who acquired their farm before 1st November 2024 and for the powers relating to APR and BPR be devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

With the agreement of the Provost, the mover of the motion agreed to accept Amendment 1 and the mover of Amendment 2 withdrew their amendment. The conjoined motion was agreed as follows:-

“Fife Council notes the announcement by the Chancellor on 30th October that Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief would, from 6th April 2026, only apply to the first £1 million of assets being passed to the next generation upon death of the owner.

Fife has a large number of farms producing high quality food for consumption across the UK. The food sector in Fife is a major employer, and farms are great

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contributors to preserving and enhancing the quality of our countryside. Only a small proportion of farms in Fife will have assets of less than £1 million given that farm assets include all land, buildings, equipment and livestock.

It has become clear from the large demonstrations which have taken place in London, Edinburgh, Dover and elsewhere in UK that the Chancellor and Treasury have failed to understand not only the public support for the farming community, but also the basic economics of farming, which requires a large amount of capital to produce a very modest amount of income. Family farmers regard themselves as temporary custodians of their farm before it is passed to the next generation, hopefully in a better state than before. The changes proposed by the Chancellor which are due to take effect on 6th April 2026 leave insufficient time for elderly farmers to change their future planning under the 7 year rule. To do so they would have had to have gifted their farm before 6th April 2019. With the very real threat of insolvency some are suffering acute anxiety and contemplating desperate measures.

There is no precedent for such retroactive legislation in UK. While it may be proper to withdraw or modify APR and BPR relief on farms which may be bought in future by investors seeking to avoid inheritance tax, there should be no change to the inheritance tax regime affecting current owners, at least until 2032.

Fife Council, therefore, resolves to write to the Chancellor requesting that this change in APR and BPR be reconsidered and if not cancelled then its effect deferred until 2032 for any farm owner who acquired their farm before 1st November 2024. In addition, the letter should make the case for exempting working farms from these provisions.”

Roll Call

For the Conjoined Motion – 37 votes

Councillor Tom Adams, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Karen Beaton, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Brown, James Calder, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Al Clark, Eugene Clark, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Margaret Kennedy, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, Jim Leishman, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, Derek Noble, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Andrew Verrecchia, Darren Watt, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

For Amendment 3 – 29 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Blair Allan, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Ken Caldwell, Rod Cavanagh, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Jean Hall Muir, Stefan Hoggan, Andy Jackson, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, David MacDiarmid, Julie MacDougall, Sarah Neal, Nicola Patrick, Bailey-Lee Robb, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Ann Verner, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Daniel Wilson.

Decision

Having received a majority of votes, the conjoined motion was accordingly carried.

Councillors Mowatt and Anis-Miah left the meeting during consideration of Motion 4.

Motion 5

Councillor Liston, seconded by Councillor Tepp, moved as follows:-

“Council notes proposed reductions by ScotRail to the opening hours of ticket offices of railway stations in Fife; these are Aberdour, Leuchars, Cowdenbeath and Cupar.

Council notes that there could be concerns amongst users of these stations in Fife's communities.

Council resolves to ask the Council Leader to write to the Scottish Transport Minister to request they intervene in order to protect this service.”

Decision

The council agreed the motion unanimously.

152. BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE PROVOST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY

No business was brought forward under this item.

THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE COUNCIL – BLENDED MEETING

Council Chamber, 6th Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

20 February 2025

**10.00 am – 12 pm
and 12.45 pm – 4.05 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors Jim Leishman (Provost), Tom Adams, David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Karen Beaton, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, John Caffrey, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Julie Ford, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Peter Gulline, Jean Hall Muir, Judy Hamilton, Alycia Hayes, Cara Hilton, Stefan Hoggan, Gary Holt, Andy Jackson, Margaret Kennedy, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Mary Lockhart, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Julie MacDougall, Lea McLelland, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, Derek Noble, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Gordon Pryde, Bailey-Lee Robb, David Ross, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Ann Verner, Andrew Verrecchia, Craig Walker, Darren Watt, Daniel Wilson, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor David Graham.

153. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Caffrey made a transparency statement in regard to paragraph 154 below – General Fund Revenue Budget 2025 – 2028 (budget saving CM-019) - as he had previously been employed by a third party provider.

154. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET 2025 - 2028

In connection with the consideration of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2025-28, the council considered the following papers:-

- (a) report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services advising of the terms of section 112 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 which restricted the voting rights of elected members who were in arrears in respect of the payment of community charge or council tax. The report also referred to the provisions of the Councillors' Code of Conduct which enabled members to participate, discuss and vote on matters relating to the setting of the council tax without the need to declare a financial interest, notwithstanding that members might have an interest in any item of expenditure;
- (b) Local Government Finance Circular No.10/2024 providing details of the provisional total funding allocations for each council for the financial year 2025-26;

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- (c) report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services which provided members with sufficient information to enable the council to approve a budget for 2025-28 as required by statute; and
- (d) Administration's Motion and Revenue Budget Proposals 2025-28.

Administration Motion

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Craik, moved as follows:-

“That the Council:-

1. Approves the report by the Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Services and the resolution for the levying and collection of council tax and rates for the year 2025-26 as detailed below and specifically:-
 - a. notes the details of the provisional settlement announced by the Scottish Government as outlined in Finance Circular 10/2024, and the terms of the settlement as outlined in the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government, dated 4 December 2024;
 - b. agrees a rise of 8.2% council tax to be levied for the financial year 2025-26 at Band D equivalent and the revenue budget which can be sustained by this level of income;
 - c. note the indicative levels of expenditure, subject to further detailed analysis in respect of the financial years 2026-27 and 2027-28;
 - d. note the prudential indicators will be approved alongside the Capital Investment Plan review;
 - e. agree an additional contribution of £9.596m to the Fife Health & Social Care (H&SC) Partnership in respect of additional funding contained in the settlement;
 - f. note the heightened level of future financial risk and uncertainty
 - g. agrees that the council set for 2025-26 the council tax at £1,498.76 for valuation Band D properties and proportionately for other Bands; and
 - h. approve the terms of the Administration's Budget Statement and the attached appendices and investment proposals.
2. Agrees that early work commences in relation to the development of options for the preparation of the 2026-27 and 2027-28 revenue budgets.

RESOLUTION FOR THE LEVYING AND COLLECTION OF COUNCIL TAX AND RATES FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

Fife Council resolves for the financial year from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 as follows:-

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- (i) in terms of Section 93 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf to set the amount of council tax to be paid in their area in respect of a chargeable dwelling listed in valuation Band D at £1,498.76 and to determine the amounts for all the valuation bands as follows:-

Valuation Band	Council Tax
A	£999.17
B	£1,165.70
C	£1,332.23
D	£1,498.76
E	£1,969.20
F	£2,435.49
G	£2,935.07
H	£3,671.96

- (ii) in terms of sections 7 and 7B of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975, to levy within their area the non-domestic rate as prescribed by the Scottish Ministers and in accordance with the relevant Non-Domestic Rates (Levy) (Scotland) Regulations.

SNP Amendment

Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Glen, moved as follows:-

“That the council:-

1. Approves the report by the Executive Director (Finance & Corporate Services) and the resolution for the levying and collection of council tax and rates for the year 2025-26 as detailed below and specifically:-
 - (a) notes the details of the provisional settlement announced by the Scottish Government as outlined in Finance Circular 10/2024, and the terms of the settlement as outlined in the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance & Local Government, dated 4 December 2024;
 - (b) agrees a rise of 6.4% council tax to be levied for the financial year 2025-26 at Band D equivalent and the revenue budget which can be sustained by this level of income;
 - (c) note the indicative levels of expenditure, subject to further detailed analysis in respect of the financial years 2026-27 and 2027-28;
 - (d) note the prudential indicators will be approved alongside the Capital Investment Plan review;
 - (e) agree an additional contribution of £9.596m to the Fife Health & Social Care (H&SC) Partnership in respect of additional funding contained in the settlement;
 - (f) note the heightened level of future financial risk and uncertainty;
 - (g) agrees that the council set for 2025-26 the council tax at £1,473.83 for valuation Band D properties and proportionately for other Bands; and

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- (h) approve the terms of the SNP Group's Budget Statement and the attached appendices and investment proposals.
2. Agrees that early work commences in relation to the development of options for the preparation of the 2026-27 and 2027-28 revenue budgets.

RESOLUTION FOR THE LEVYING AND COLLECTION OF COUNCIL TAX AND RATES FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

Fife Council resolves for the financial year from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 as follows:-

- (i) in terms of Section 93 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf to set the amount of council tax to be paid in their area in respect of a chargeable dwelling listed in valuation Band D at £1,473.83 and to determine the amounts for all the valuation bands as follows:-

Valuation Band	Council Tax
A	£982.55
B	£1,146.31
C	£1,310.07
D	£1,473.83
E	£1,936.45
F	£2,394.97
G	£2,886.25
H	£3,610.88

- (ii) in terms of sections 7 and 7B of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975, to levy within their area the non-domestic rate as prescribed by the Scottish Ministers and in accordance with the relevant Non-Domestic Rates (Levying) (Scotland) Regulations.

The meeting adjourned at 12.00 pm and reconvened at 12.50 pm.

Roll Call

For the Administration Motion - 40 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Karen Beaton, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, John Caffrey, James Calder, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Margaret Kennedy, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, Jim Leishman, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, Julie MacDougall, Derek Noble, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Andrew Verrecchia, Darren Watt, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

For the SNP Amendment - 31 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxil Barrera, John Beare,

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Ken Caldwell, Rod Cavanagh, Julie Ford, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Jean Hall Muir, Alycia Hayes, Stefan Hoggan, Andy Jackson, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, David MacDiarmid, Lea McLelland, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Bailey-Lee Robb, Alistair Suttie, Ann Verner, Craig Walker and Daniel Wilson.

Decision

Accordingly, the Administration motion was carried.

155. CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2025-35

In connection with the consideration of the Capital Investment Plan 2025-35, the council considered the following papers:-

- (a) report by the Executive Director, Finance and Corporate Services which provided members with sufficient information to approve a capital plan for the period 2025 – 2035; and
- (b) Administration's Motion and Capital Investment Plan Proposals 2025-35.

Administration Motion

Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Craik moved as follows:-

"That the council:-

- i. note the pressures on the capital plan since the last capital plan review;
- ii. note the clear relationship between the capital plan and the revenue budget;
- iii. note that the assumptions relating to future funding levels will be kept under review;
- iv. agree that the next biennial review of the capital plan will be carried out during 2026-27;
- v. approve the Administration's Capital Investment Plan for 2025-35 in line with the attached investment proposals; and
- vi. approve the Prudential Indicators 2025-28 which have been prepared to reflect the attached Capital Investment Plan."

SNP Amendment

Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Barratt, moved as follows:-

"That the council:-

- i. note the pressures on the capital plan since the last capital plan review;
- ii. note the clear relationship between the capital plan and the revenue budget;

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- iii. note that the assumptions relating to future funding levels will be kept under review;
- iv. agree that the next biennial review of the capital plan will be carried out during 2026-27;
- v. approve the SNP Group Capital Investment Plan for 2025-35 in line with the attached investment proposals; and
- vi. approve the Prudential Indicators 2025-28 which have been prepared to reflect the attached Capital Investment Plan.”

Roll Call

For the Administration Motion - 40 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Karen Beaton, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, John Caffrey, James Calder, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Margaret Kennedy, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, Jim Leishman, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, Julie MacDougall, Derek Noble, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Andrew Verrecchia, Darren Watt, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

For the SNP Amendment - 32 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Ken Caldwell, Rod Cavanagh, Julie Ford, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Jean Hall Muir, Alycia Hayes, Stefan Hoggan, Andy Jackson, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, David MacDiarmid, Lea McLelland, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Bailey-Lee Robb, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Ann Verner, Craig Walker and Daniel Wilson.

Decision

Accordingly, the Administration motion was carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2.40 pm and reconvened at 2.50 pm.

156. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) BUDGET 2025 - 2026 (INCLUDING OPTIONS FOR THE HRA & GENERAL FUND HOUSING ACCOUNT (GFHA) RENTS AND CHARGES)

In connection with the consideration of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2025-26, the council considered the following papers:-

- (a) joint report by the Head of Housing Services and Head of Finance which brought forward budget proposals for the Housing Revenue Account with a view to determining rent levels and other charges which would apply during 2025-26; and
- (b) Administration's Motion on the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2025-26.

Administration Motion

Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Erskine, moved as follows:-

“That the council:-

1. Approves the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2025-26 report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Finance and agrees the following:
 - a. Approves a rental increase of 6% for 2025-26 HRA rents and charges for 2025-26.
 - b. Approves a rental increase of 6% on Homelessness Temporary Accommodation to keep rental increase on the General Fund Housing Account in line with increases on HRA rents and charges for 2025-26.
 - c. Approves the terms of the Administration’s HRA budget statement attached.

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HRA REVENUE BUDGET 2025-26

	2025-26
	£m
Estimated Budget Gap in Year as per report by Executive Director Finance & Corporate Services	8.560
Investment/Financing Costs (CFCR) supporting Capital Investment	0.505
Revised Budget Gap	9.065
Proposed Savings	
Increased income generated by 6% Rental Increase	(8.616)
National Insurance funding contribution from General Fund	(0.449)
Revised Budget Gap	0.000

Decision

The council approved:-

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2025-26 report by the Head of Housing Services and the Head of Finance;
- (2) a rental increase of 6% for 2025-26 HRA rents and charges for 2025-26;
- (3) a rental increase of 6% on Homelessness Temporary Accommodation to keep rental increase on the General Fund Housing Account in line with increases on HRA rents and charges for 2025-26; and
- (4) the terms of the Administration’s HRA budget statement above.

157. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT: CAPITAL INVESTMENT PLAN 2025-29

In connection with the consideration of the Housing Revenue Account: Capital Investment Plan 2025-29, the council considered the following papers:-

- (a) joint report by the Head of Housing Services and Head of Finance which brought forward budget proposals for the Housing Revenue Account: Capital Investment Plan 2025-29 aligned to council priorities for investment in component replacements, wider works and new affordable housing; and
- (b) Administration's Motion and Capital Investment Plan Proposals 2025-35.

Administration Motion

Councillor Hamilton, seconded by Councillor Erskine moved as follows:-

"That the council:-

- 1. Approves the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Capital Plan 2025-29 and, in particular, agrees the following:-
 - a. the proposed investment of £210.739m over the four years 2025-29 for Wider Works which maintains existing HRA assets;
 - b. the proposed investment of £239.412m to extend the Affordable Housing Programme to March 2029 and the additional borrowing required to support this; and
 - c. the proposed investment of £4.810m to extend the Property Acquisitions Programme to March 2026 and the additional borrowing required to support this."

SNP Amendment

Councillor Goodall, seconded by Councillor Backhouse, moved as follows:-

"That council approves the Housing Revenue Account Capital Plan 2025-29 in principle, including (a) the proposed investment of £210.739m over the four years 2025-29 for Wider Works which maintains existing HRA assets; (b) the proposed investment of £239.412m to extend the Affordable Housing Programme to March 2029 and the additional borrowing required to support this; and (c) the proposed investment of £4.810m to extend the Property Acquisitions Programme to March 2026 and the additional borrowing required to support these programmes.

Council notes that the current financial assumptions supporting the proposed allocation of funding between the Affordable Housing Programme and the Property Acquisitions Programme are based on the application of the subsidy arrangements, set out by the Scottish Government, on the current policy balance between new build homes and acquisitions;

Council notes that to remodel the balance between acquisitions and new build would require the capital plan to be revisited, in terms of the impact on borrowing and a re-determination of the numbers of houses that can be built or acquired. This is not capable of being re-modelled in advance of the budget deadlines and without Scottish Government engagement; and

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Therefore, council agrees that the Cabinet Committee should receive a report on the options for the policy balance of new builds and acquisitions following the determination of the overall budget by council, so that the Cabinet Committee can make the final decision on the balance of the allocation of funds. Council agrees that one of the options contained in the report should be an increase of property acquisitions.”

Roll Call

For the Administration Motion - 39 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Mary Bain-Lockhart, Karen Beaton, Aude Boubaker-Calder, Patrick Browne, John Caffrey, James Calder, Alistair Cameron, Ian Cameron, Alex Campbell, Al Clark, Eugene Clarke, Fiona Corps, Altany Craik, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, Sean Dillon, Gavin Ellis, Linda Erskine, Peter Gulline, Judy Hamilton, Cara Hilton, Gary Holt, Margaret Kennedy, Allan Knox, Robin Lawson, Jim Leishman, James Leslie, Kathleen Leslie, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, Derek Noble, Gordon Pryde, David Ross, Jonny Tepp, Andrew Verrecchia, Darren Watt, Jan Wincott and Conner Young.

For the SNP Amendment - 32 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Blair Allan, Naz Anis-Miah, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, Lynn Ballantyne-Wardlaw, David Barratt, Auxi Barrera, John Beare, Ken Caldwell, Rod Cavanagh, Julie Ford, Derek Glen, Brian Goodall, Jean Hall Muir, Alycia Hayes, Stefan Hoggan, Andy Jackson, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, David MacDiarmid, Lea McLelland, Lynn Mowatt, Sarah Neal, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Bailey-Lee Robb, Sam Steele, Alistair Suttie, Ann Verner, Craig Walker and Daniel Wilson.

Decision

Accordingly, the Administration motion was carried.

Fife Council 20th March 2025

Leader's Report

A significant proportion of time since the Council meeting in December has been spent on the budget which was dealt with at the Budget Meeting on 20th February.

1. Health and Social Care

As reported at the Council Budget Meeting, the Health and Care Partnership faces a significant budget gap for the coming year. This will have consequences for the Council if the Partnership requires additional funding from the Council and NHS Fife or is unable to set a balanced budget.

Discussions are ongoing at Director of Finance level between the partners and the Health and Social Care Partnership is due to set its budget on 26th March.

2. National Care Service

The Scottish Government has now withdrawn part 1 of the NCS Bill and is working with COSLA to establish an Advisory Board. Discussions are ongoing around the scope and membership of the Board, but the Scottish Government has expressed the desire for it to begin meeting by the end of this month.

3. Best Value Audit

The Accounts Commission published their comments on the Best Value audit of the Council carried out by Audit Scotland, on 25th February. Whilst the audit report is fair and balanced, I have challenged the interpretation put on it by the Accounts Commission that the Council has failed to make savings or modernise its operations over the years. The Chief Executive has also taken up a number of issues with the Commission.

The Commission communications were already out of date when they were published as the Council budget set on 20th February had already reduced the projected budget gap in 2027-28 of £46m reported by the Commission, to £15m and restored balances to the 2% level.

Further discussions are to take place with the Commission on the report.

4. Fiscal Framework

I reported at the December Council meeting that progress had been made at officer/civil servant level on a rules based Fiscal Framework and COSLA Leaders had express support for running the fiscal framework as a 'shadow year' in 2025/26, allowing both sides to see how the rules based system would perform in practice before fully committing to it. A response was awaited from the Scottish Government at political level.

Disappointingly the Cabinet Secretary has now declined to take forward a rules based Fiscal Framework at this time. COSLA Leaders have agreed unanimously to express their concern at this which undermines a key aspect of the Verity House Agreement.

5. Council Tax Reform

COSLA has agreed to work with the Scottish Government on a technical study and public consultation on reform of the council tax, focussing on revaluation and bandings. This work isn't likely to be completed until at least February next year so there will be no implementation prior to the next Scottish Parliament election. I have expressed concerns about the effectiveness of this approach.

6. Pay

An early pay offer for the coming year has been made to the SJC trade unions and comparable offers have been made to other bargaining groups. The SJC unions have rejected this offer as insufficient given their claim for 6.5%. There are still differences between the unions on the issue of bottom loading of the pay offer. It is COSLA's position that discussions on reduction of the working week should also be taken forward in the context of the overall pay negotiations.

7. Community Wealth Building

The Fife Partnership Board considered our collective progress on community wealth building at its meeting on 4th February. In particular there was encouragement for the further development and scaling up of the Life Chances programme with recognition that targets need to be realistic. The Partnership will build on the strong base already in place for procurement and community benefits and further work will be developed over the coming year on the use of land and assets and on support for social enterprise.

We have engaged in a number of community wealth building events through the Economic Development Association Scotland and through the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal and its benefits realisation programme.

8. Dunfermline Learning Campus

The formal event to celebrate the opening of the Dunfermline Learning Campus took place on 18th December with the First Minister attending and with performances by pupils from the two schools.

The building itself is seen as innovative in design and is attracting attention from across the country.

9. Abbeyview Community Hub

The opening of the Abbeyview Community Hub took place at the end of January, replacing the old local office and community centre and providing the area with a new modern facility.

Councillor David Ross
Leader of Fife Council
Fife House,
North Street,
Glenrothes
11th March 2025

FIFE COUNCIL
20 MARCH 2025

ITEM 7 – QUESTION TIME

Question 1 from Councillor Dempsey

Given that drivers of wider vehicles such as busses, trucks and SUVs can circumvent speed cushions by straddling them, whereas drivers of smaller, narrower, less environment impactful vehicles cannot, why does the Council continue to deploy speed cushions as a method of slowing only a subset of road traffic?

Question 2 from Councillor Tepp

What steps have been taken to explore the installation of solar panel arrays in Fife Council car parks?

Question 3 from Councillor Tepp

Smart / Interactive Whiteboard technology will be instrumental to the transforming learning strategy using 1-2-1 devices. What work has been commissioned by the administration to audit the current condition of such equipment?

Question 4 from Councillor Tepp

Can the administration make a statement on the targets that it has set for the transportation service with regards to replacing broken or damaged road signs Fife?

Question 5 from Councillor Tepp

Can the administration inform Council how many broken or damaged road sign faults have been reported to the transportation service during the term of the current administration and how many have been repaired within a target period?

Question 6 from Councillor Tepp

Does the administration believe that this sort of information should be available to Councillors and members of the Public so that we can all understand what road faults have been reported where and what their current status of these road faults is?

Question 7 from Councillor Tepp

Can the administration explain why it should take more than 3 months to provide an incomplete list of the road signs currently waiting to be repaired and replaced in Fife?

Question 8 from Councillor Tepp

Is it the policy of this administration to leave broken signs littering the countryside?

Question 9 from Councillor Kathleen Leslie

At the meeting of Fife Council on 13/12/2018 it was unanimously agreed that “Council notes the good work that is being done in a number of Fife secondary schools to train senior pupils in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)...” and that “Council further notes that as at the start of the academic year 12 out of the 18 secondary schools were continuing to deliver the *Headstart* programme.” And that “Council are asked to support the roll-out and extension of this training to all secondary schools in Fife and that the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) familiarisation should be included in the training programme.”

Has this happened?

Question 10 from Councillor Dave Dempsey

What consultation as carried out prior to the recent extension of the 20mph limits in Rosyth?”. I have asked the Service but the response didn't answer the question.

Question 11 from Councillor Dave Dempsey

What was the last occasion on which NHS Fife commented on a planning application?

Question 12 from Councillor Patrick Browne

To ask the Labour administration what assessment it has made of the statistics published by the SNP Government on 25 February 2025, “Summary Statistics for Attainment and Initial Leaver Destinations”, which showed that the attainment gap between Scotland's richest and poorest school pupils increased last year for pupils sitting National 4s, National 5s and Highers. And if the administration will outline what steps it is taking across Fife Council to close that attainment gap.

Question 13 from Councillor Patrick Browne

Given the SNP Government's announcement on 23 January 2025 that it was scrapping its plans for a National Care Service what contact has the Labour administration and Fife Council had with the Scottish Government directly or through COSLA to address the underfunding of care for Fife's elderly and vulnerable residents as documented in the Audit Scotland report published on 6 March which warned that “reform (is) urgently needed to tackle precarious health and social care finances.”

Question 14 from Councillor Margaret Kennedy

Our Trading Standards Officers will be aware of campaigns highlighting the safety concerns of lithium-ion batteries and specifically the lack of regulation in online marketplaces with regards items such as e-bikes and scooters. Particularly in relation to issues such as battery fires.

Is this of concern and what steps are we taking at a Fife level to help protect consumers?

Question 15 from Councillor Patrick Browne

To ask the Labour administration what action it is taking along with Police Scotland, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT) and third sector partners to tackle the scourge of motorbikes and quad bikes being driven illegally and dangerously on pavements roads, in parks and in open spaces blighting the lives of local residents because of noise and nuisance, and if it will consider establishing a working group to involve all council departments that have an involvement in addressing the issue along with other partners to ensure a pan-Fife approach can be used to tackle the problem and its causes.

Question 16 from Councillor Nicola Patrick

What assessment, as part of the national ban on pavement parking has been undertaken in relation to disability access points and dropped kerbs?

Question 17 from Councillor David Barratt

When does the administration anticipate making a decision on the location of investment in sports and leisure facilities in West Fife following the allocation of £13.1m?

Question 18 from Councillor Lesley Backhouse

How much of the Scottish Government funding of £15 million for Upgrading Gypsy Travellers Sites has Fife Council received?

Question 19 from Councillor Lesley Backhouse

What progress has been made in bringing Fife Council's 3 Gypsy Travellers sites up to The Scottish Housing standards since they were moved onto the Housing Revenue Account?

Question 20 from Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb

To ask the Spokesperson what discussions they have had with the Executive Director for Finance & Corporate Services and the Head of Roads and Transportation about the revenue raised from pavement parking being reinvested into parking enforcement to make any ban in Fife effective for communities.

Question 21 from Councillor Bailey-Lee Robb

With reference to the unanimous decision of Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 28 February 2024, to ask the Spokesperson when they expect the scrutiny report on a Fife-wide review of School Meals to be presented to committee for consideration.

Question 22 from Councillor Louise Kennedy-Dalby

What discussions have been had with stagecoach in relation to accessible access to their vehicles?

Question 23 from Councillor Louise Kennedy-Dalby

How many properties are awaiting adaptation By area committee?

Question 24 from Councillor Derek Glen

What mechanisms are being put in place in order to enable members of the public and/or community groups to feed back information about instances of pavement parking to Fife Council once the ban is implemented?

Question 25 from Councillor John Beare

What is the budget for Bus Shelter repairs for 2024/25 and 2025/26?

Question 26 from Councillor John Beare

What is the inspection regime for Bus Shelters?

Question 27 from Councillor John Beare

How many Bus Shelters are awaiting repairs?

Question 28 from Councillor John Beare

What is the current waiting period for Bus Shelters to be repaired?

20 March 2025

Agenda Item No. 8

Review of Polling Districts and Places in Fife

Report by: Ken Gourlay, Returning Officer

Wards Affected: All

Purpose:

To advise members of the outcome of the consultation on the statutory review of Fife's polling districts and polling places, as required by Section 18(c) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and to seek approval for the proposed amendments to the Council's Polling Scheme, as a result of the consultation exercise.

Recommendation(s)

- (1) Note the outcome of the public consultation exercise,
- (2) Approve the recommended amendments to the Fife Council Polling Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 and Maps 1 to 13; and
- (3) Remit to the Returning Officer to make any necessary amendments to the Fife Council Polling Scheme in the run up to a statutory election.

Resource Implications

The review has been undertaken within existing resources.

Legal & Risk Implications

The review exercise is a statutory requirement in terms of Section 18(c) of The Representation of the People Act 1983.

Impact Assessment

An EqlA and summary form is complete. The summary form is an appendix to the report.

Consultation

The period of statutory consultation on the Review ran from Monday 16 December 2024 to Friday 14 February 2025.

During this period elected members, MP's, MSP's, Community Councils, and disability groups were issued with a copy of the consultation document. Members of the public were also asked their views on proposed changes to Fife polling districts and polling places via an online consultation platform on the Fife Council website. Copies the original consultation document were also available for download.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 There is a statutory duty on local authorities to undertake a Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in their area every five years, to meet the following legislative requirements:
- (a) each electoral ward is divided into two or more separate polling districts unless special circumstances apply.
 - (b) the council must designate a polling place for each polling district, unless the size or other circumstances of a polling district are such that the situation of the polling stations does not materially affect the convenience of the electors.
 - (c) the polling place must be an area in the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district (for example, if no accessible polling place can be identified in the district).
 - (d) the polling place must be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the district how they will be able to reach the polling station.

A local authority is also required to ensure that all electors in the constituencies have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable; and that polling places are accessible to electors who are disabled.

- 1.2 Amendments to these boundaries are the responsibility of Boundaries Scotland and The Boundary Commission for Scotland and were not considered as part of this review.
- (a) UK and Scottish parliamentary boundaries
 - (b) Local government boundaries
- 1.3 Ideally the Council would have a choice of a range of fully accessible buildings, conveniently located for electors in the area. In practice however, this is not always the case and in reality, there is sometimes relatively little choice available. Locally, several previous polling places have now been sold or are no longer available for use requiring the Returning Officer to seek alternative polling venues.

2.0 Proposals

2.1 Rationale

The main purpose of any review is to ensure that all electors in Fife have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable and to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable the accessibility needs of electors who are disabled have been considered when designating polling places.

In compiling the consultation document and the recommendations in this report, the Returning Officer has also considered the following principles:

- There should be no barriers to voting for people with a disability.
- Everyone should have the right to vote on their own and in secret.
- Voting should be a good experience for everyone.
- The Scottish Government's 20-minute neighbourhood concept which aims to provide access to most daily needs within a 20-minute walk, wheel, or cycle from home.
- Formally designating alternative polling places now in use since the last publication of the polling scheme as designated polling place.

- Reviewing the use of schools as polling places.
- Polling district boundaries should not be amended unless there is compelling evidence to support such a change.

The Returning Officer has used the Electoral Commission's Accessibility template when conducting surveys of potential polling places and a copy of the assessments are available to view from the Electoral Services team.

The Returning Officer has also considered the increase in the number of electors now voting by post and issues related to ensuring enough resources are available to man polling stations on the day of poll.

2.2 Public Consultation

The public consultation phase of the review commenced on 16 December 2024 and concluded on 14 February 2025. The consultation document was published on the Fife website and paper copies were placed in Fife House and public libraries. Information on the review process and a link to our online consultation platform were also available on the website. Representations were welcomed from all interested parties, including any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability.

In addition, as part of the consultation process the Returning Officer issued the consultation document to a wide range of consultees including Elected Members, MP's, MSP's, Community Councils, and local disability groups. Consultees were asked to comment on the existing polling scheme and on the draft proposals which were detailed in the consultation document.

The Returning Officer received twenty-nine responses to the online consultation and several email submissions during the consultation period. The comments received are attached at **Appendix 2** along with the Returning Officer's comments. All representations received have been considered in making the recommendations contained in this report.

Several representations were also made outwith the consultation period, and these have also been considered as part of the review.

- 2.3 A polling district is defined as the geographical area created by the sub-division of a constituency or ward into smaller parts. In Scotland, each electoral area must be divided into two or more polling districts unless there are deemed to be special circumstances.

Major residential development or the cumulative effect of smaller developments is normally the most significant factor affecting the size of the electorate in a particular area. The amount of property development there has been in recent years and the impact on polling districts has been considered as part of this review. The scale of projected new housing developments continues to be monitored by the Returning Officer.

Taking above into account it is considered that the current polling districts in Fife are generally reflective of the needs of voters in the Fife local government area. However, there are proposals to combine some polling districts where the ward boundary, UK Parliament boundary and Scottish Parliament boundaries are now co-terminous and make some minor changes to boundaries where doing so would be in the interest of the elector.

2.4 Polling Places

A polling place is defined as the building or area in which polling stations will be designated by the Returning Officer. Polling places should be within the polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area outside the polling district.

In conducting the review, members of the Electoral Services team visited a number of existing and proposed venues. They completed accessibility checklists which were

subsequently submitted to the Returning Officer for consideration when drafting the final proposals contained in this report.

2.5 Use of schools as Polling Places

There are currently 182 polling places in Fife, twenty-nine of which are primary schools. It is recognised that the use of schools as polling places, with the consequent loss of a day's education for the children at the affected schools is not ideal. It is noted that even if the polling place is not located in the main school building to ensure the safety and security of the children in their care headteachers may still have to put alternative arrangements in place to allow the school to be used as a polling place.

One of the main aims of this review has been to identify alternative venues for polling places which are currently located in schools and significant efforts have been made to identify suitable alternative venues.

As a result of this review, the Returning Officer is proposing a further eleven alternative venues to schools and these proposals are outlined in **Appendix 1** reducing the total number of schools used as polling places in Fife to eighteen.

The Returning Officer will continue to keep the use of schools as polling places under review and will make further recommendations as and when alternative venues are identified.

3.0 Final Proposals

- 3.1 The Returning Officer's final recommendations for the designation of Polling Districts and Polling Places in Fife are contained in **Appendix 1** and **Maps 1 to 13**.

The outcome of this review, along with the original Notice of Review, the consultation documents and all correspondence and representations received will be made available on the Council's website as required by Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

- 3.2 Following the conclusion of this review, certain persons have a right to make representations to the Electoral Commission regarding the designation of polling districts and polling places. The Commission will only consider representations on the following grounds:

- The local authority has failed to meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them; or
- The local authority has failed to take sufficient account of accessibility for disabled persons of a polling station within a designated polling place.

Representations based on any other premise will not be considered. Full details of the Appeals Process are contained in **Appendix 3**.

List of Appendices

1. Fife Council Polling Scheme – Proposed Amendments & Maps 1 to 13
2. Comments received during consultation period
3. Appeals Process

Shona Cameron
Electoral Services Manager
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Shona.cameron@fife.gov.uk

Equality Impact Assessment Summary Report

(to be attached as an Appendix to the committee report or for consideration by any other partnership forum, board, or advisory group as appropriate)

<p>Which Committee report does this IA relate to (specify meeting date)?</p> <p>Fife Council 20 March 2025</p>
<p>What are the main impacts on equality?</p> <p>Positive impact for disabled voters in Fife</p>
<p>In relation to a strategic decision, how will inequalities of outcome caused by economic disadvantage be reduced?</p> <p>n/a</p>
<p>What are the main recommendations to enhance or mitigate the impacts identified?</p> <p>Approve Returning Officer recommendations in respect of the designation of polling places as set out in the report.</p> <p>Continue to keep polling places under review and assess continued suitability of polling venues at each election.</p>
<p>If there are no equality impacts on any of the protected characteristics, please explain.</p> <p>n/a</p>
<p>Further information is available from: Name / position / contact details:</p> <p>Shona Cameron, Electoral Services Manager Shona.cameron@fife.gov.uk</p>

Ward 1- West Fife and Coastal Villages

No proposed changes

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
001AAA	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	2567	2	Kincardine Community Centre	n/a
002AAB	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	615	1	The Stables, Culross	n/a
003AAC	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	1269	1	Valleyfield Community Centre	n/a
004AAD	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	877	1	Blairhall New Community Centre	n/a
005AAE	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	686	1	Comrie Community Centre	n/a
006AAF	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	885	1	Torryburn Community Centre	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
007AAG	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	1293	1	Saline Community Centre	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
008AAH	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	370	1	Steelend Miners Welfare Club	n/a
009AAI	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	55	1	Kelty Community Centre	Note – also Polling Place for 113GAI – Ward 7
010AAJ	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	1727	1	Oakley Centre	n/a
011AAK	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	2140	2	Cairneyhill Scout Hall	n/a
012AAL	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	1033	1	Carnock & Gowkhall Community Centre	n/a

Ward 2 – Dunfermline North

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
020BAA	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	1279	1	Limelight Studio, Dunfermline	n/a
021BAB	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	2461	2	Baldridgeburn Community Centre, Dunfermline	n/a
022BAC	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	3468	3	Headwell Bowling & Social Club, Dunfermline	n/a
023BAD	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	1050	1	Salvation Army Hall, Wellwood, Dunfermline	n/a
024BAE	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	1676	1	James Allan Community Centre, Dunfermline	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
025BAF	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	952	1	Townhill Community Centre, Dunfermline	n/a
026BAG	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	1098	1	Dunfermline St Columba's Church Hall, Dunfermline	n/a Note: Formerly known as St Andrew's-Erskine Parish Church Hall
027BAH	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	150	1	Carnegie Primary School, Dunfermline	Amend polling place to *Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline. Also Polling Place for 046CAG and 049CAJ Ward 3
028BAI	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Dunfermline	752	1	Kingseat Community Leisure Centre	n/a
029BAJ	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Dunfermline	6	0	Kingseat Community Leisure Centre	Merge with 028BAI and maintain Kingseat Community Leisure Centre as polling place – see Map 1

*Carnegie Conference Centre due to relocate to the new Fife College Dunfermline Learning Campus Late 2025, where similar facilities will be available

Ward 3 – Dunfermline Central

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
040CAA	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	2086	2	62 nd (Crossford) Scout Hall, Crossford, Dunfermline	n/a
041CAB	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	1129	2	Dell Farquharson Community Leisure Centre, Dunfermline	n/a
042CAC	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	1425	1	Studio Theatre, Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline	n/a
043CAD	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	1369	1	Dunfermline North Parish Church, Dunfermline	Formalise venue as designated polling place Amend boundary –between 040CAA And 043CAD – See Map 2
044CAE	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	2621	2	Vine Conference Centre, Dunfermline	n/a
045CAF	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	1352	1	Touch Community Centre, Dunfermline	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
046CAG	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	1577	1	Carnegie Primary School, Dunfermline	Amend polling venue to *Carnegie Conference Centre. Also polling place for 027BAH Ward 2
047CAH	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	1437	1	Morris Hall, St Leonards Parish Church, Dunfermline	n/a
048CAI	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	1602	0	Dell Farquharson Community Leisure Centre, Dunfermline	Merge with 041CAB and amend polling venue to Dell Farquharson Community Leisure Centre – see Map 3
049CAJ	Dunfermline Dollar and	Dunfermline	2654	2	Carnegie Primary School, Dunfermline	Merge with 046CAG and amend polling venue to *Carnegie Conference Centre - see Map 4. Also polling place for 027BAH Ward 2

*Carnegie Conference Centre due to relocate to the new Fife College Dunfermline Learning Campus Late 2025, where similar facilities will be available

Ward 4 – Dunfermline South

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
056DAA	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	3455	3	St Ninians Parish Church, Dunfermline	Formalise venue as designated polling place
057DAB	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	3150	2	Lynburn Primary School, Dunfermline	n/a
058DAC	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	2078	1	John Marshall Community Centre, Dunfermline	n/a
059DAD	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	921	1	Canmore Primary School, Dunfermline	Amend polling venue to Pitbauchlie House Hotel, Dunfermline
060DAE	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	950	1	Pitreavie Sport & Soccer Centre, Dunfermline	n/a
061DAF	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	5118	4	Masterton Primary School, Dunfermline	n/a
062DAG	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	2245	2	Dunfermline East Church	n/a

Ward 5 – Roysth

No proposed changes

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
070EAA	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	399	1	Crombie Community Centre, Dunfermline	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
071EAB	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	390	1	Queens Hall, Charlestown, Dunfermline	n/a
072EAC	Dunfermline and Dollar	Dunfermline	862	1	Gellet Hall, Limekilns Church	n/a
073EAD	Dunfermline and Dollar	Cowdenbeath	2344	2	Kings Road Primary School, Rosyth	n/a – currently surveying Lodge St Margarets Hope, Rosyth as potential alternative to school
074EAE	Dunfermline and Dollar	Cowdenbeath	3056	2	Parkgate Community Centre, Rosyth	n/a
075EAF	Dunfermline and Dollar	Cowdenbeath	2228	2	Camdean Centre, Rosyth	n/a
076EAG	Dunfermline and Dollar	Cowdenbeath	2421	2	The Bridges Centre, Rosyth	n/a

Ward 6 – Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay

No proposed changes

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
078FAA	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	879	1	North Queensferry Community Centre	n/a
079FAB	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	1899	2	Inverkeithing Civic Centre	n/a
080FAC	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	2393	2	Ballast Bank Community Centre, Inverkeithing	n/a
081FAD	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	112	1	Scout Association National Activity Centre, Fordell Firs, By Hillend, Inverkeithing	n/a
082FAE	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	2297	2	Dalgety Bay Sports & Leisure Centre	n/a
083FAF	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	2194	2	Dalgety Bay Community Centre	n/a
084FAG	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	3491	3	Dalgety Bay Parish Church Hall	n/a
085FAH	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	1554	1	Aberdour Community Centre	n/a

Ward 7 - Cowdenbeath

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
105GAA	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	2493	2	Crossgates Community Centre	n/a
106GAB	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	954	1	Hill of Beath Ex Servicemans Club, Cowdenbeath	Formalise venue as designated polling place
107GAC	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	1393	2	St Brides Primary School, Cowdenbeath	Amend polling venue to Trinity Church, Sinclair Drive, Cowdenbeath
108GAD	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	1453	1	Cowdenbeath Primary School	Amend polling venue to Broad Street Bowling Club, Cowdenbeath
109GAE	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	1256	0	St Brides Primary School, Cowdenbeath	Merge with 107GAC and amend polling venue to Trinity Church, Sinclair Drive, Cowdenbeath – See Map 5
110GAF	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	1498	1	Maxwell Centre, Cowdenbeath	n/a
111GAG	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	2428	2	Foulford Primary School	n/a
112GAH	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Cowdenbeath	477	1	Lumphinnans Primary School	Amend polling venue to Lumphinnans Sports Hub
113GAI	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Cowdenbeath	5270	4	Kelty Community Centre	Note: Also polling place for 009AAI Ward 1

Ward 8 – Lochgelly, Cardenden and Benarty

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
120HAA	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Cowdenbeath	3447	3	Main Function Hall, Benarty Centre, Ballingry	n/a
121HAB	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Cowdenbeath	784	1	Crosshill Community Enterprise Centre, Crosshill	n/a
122HAC	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Cowdenbeath	2693	4	Lochgelly Centre	Formalise venue as designated polling place
123HAD	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Cowdenbeath	2704	0	Lochgelly Centre	Merge with 123HAD – no change to polling venue. See Map 6
124HAE	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Cowdenbeath	1381	1	Corrie Centre, Cardenden	n/a
125HAF	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Cowdenbeath	1883	2	Bowhill Centre, Cardenden	n/a
126HAG	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Cowdenbeath	1121	0	Denend Primary School	Merge with 125HAF and amend polling place to Bowhill Centre, Cardenden – See Map 7

Ward 9 – Burntisland, Kinghorn and Western Kirkcaldy

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
201IAA	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1069	1	Burntisland Parish Church Hall	Formalise venue as designated polling place
202IAB	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	4129	3	Toll Community Centre, Burntisland	n/a
203IAC	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	411	1	Auchtertool Village Hall	n/a
204IAD	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	2502	2	Kinghorn Community Centre	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
205IAE	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1749	2	Philp Hall, Kirkcaldy	n/a Also polling place for 220KKA Ward 11
206IAF	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1990	2	Strathallan Primary School	
207IAG	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	25	0	Auchtertool Village Hall	Merge with 203IAC - no change to polling venue – See Map 8

Ward 10 – Kirkcaldy North

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
210JAA	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	3120	2	Templehall Community Centre, Kirkcaldy	n/a Note works due to start on Templehall Community Hub April 2025 – expected completion date Spring 2026
211JAB	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	3885	3	Torbain Parish Church Hall, Kirkcaldy	n/a
212JAC	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1788	2	Chapel Neighbourhood Centre, Kirkcaldy	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
213JAD	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	3214	2	Capshard Primary School, Kirkcaldy	n/a – currently surveying Dunniker Scout Hall as potential alternative to school
214JAE	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	531	1	Newcraigs Evangelical Church	Formalise venue as designated polling place

Ward 11- Kirkcaldy Central

No proposed changes

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
220KAA	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	2239	2	Philp Hall, Kirkcaldy	n/a Also polling place 205IAE Ward 9
221KAB	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1614	1	Abbotshall Church Hall, Kirkcaldy	Surveyed Community Space, Kirkcaldy as alternative polling venue. However, advised by Manager that venue could accommodate the hours of poll.
222KAC	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	2952	2	Kirkcaldy YMCA	n/a
223KAD	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1879	1	Raeburn Hall Community Centre, Kirkcaldy	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
224KAE	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	519	1	Small Hall, Linton Lane Centre, Kirkcaldy	n/a
225KAF	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	962	1	Hayfield Community Centre, Kirkcaldy	n/a
226KAG	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1628	1	Bennochry Parish Church Hall, Kirkcaldy	n/a

Ward 12 – Kirkcaldy East

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
230LAA	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1275	1	Overton Community Centre, Kirkcaldy	Proposed boundary change - see Map 9
231LAB	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	781	1	Veronica Hall, Kirkcaldy	Used St Maries RC Primary School at UKPE. Future of Veronica Hall is still to be decided. RO will keep under review
232LAC	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1716	1	Pathhead Primary School, Kirkcaldy	n/a
233LAD	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1831	2	Windsor Hotel, Kirkcaldy	Formalise venue as designated polling place
234LAE	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	2352	2	Sinclairtown Primary School, Kirkcaldy	Formalise venue as designated polling place
235LAF	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1383	1	Pathhead Parish Church Hall, Kirkcaldy	n/a
236LAG	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	1785	2	Dysart Primary School	Amend polling venue to Dysart Community Hall
237LAH	Cowdenbeath and Kirkcaldy	Kirkcaldy	525	0	Dysart Community Hall	Merge with 236LAG – no change to polling venue Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review. See Map 9a

Ward 13 – Glenrothes West and Kinglassie

No proposed changes

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
245MAA	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1426	1	Mitchell Hall Resource Centre, Kinglassie	n/a
246MAB	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	938	1	Stenton Jubilee Community Centre, Glenrothes	n/a Also polling place for 270OAF Ward 15
247MAC	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	2111	2	Rimbleton Primary School, Glenrothes	n/a
248MAD	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	858	1	Caskieberran Primary School, Glenrothes	n/a
249MAE	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	812	1	Exit Community Centre, Glenrothes	n/a Also polling venue for 269OAE Ward 15
250MAF	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	779	1	Newcastle Primary School, Glenrothes	n/a
251MAG	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	2000	2	St Ninian's Parish Church Hall, Glenrothes	n/a
252MAH	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1655	1	South Parks Primary School, Glenrothes	n/a
253MAI	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1485	1	Southwood Primary School, Glenrothes	n/a

Ward 14 – Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
255NAA	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	457	1	Star Village Hall	n/a
256NAB	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	2980	2	Markinch Town Hall	n/a
257NAC	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1735	1	Leslie Primary School	Designate Leslie Library as polling venue
258NAD	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	594	1	Leslie Masonic Hall	Formalise venue as designated polling place
259NAE	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1574	1	Nairn Suite, Balgeddie House Hotel, Glenrothes	n/a
260NAF	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	3052	2	Collydean Community Centre, Glenrothes	Formalise venue as designated polling place
261NAG	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	2711	2	Cadham Neighbourhood Centre, Glenrothes	n/a
262NAH	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1340	1	Lounge, Gilvenbank Hotel, Glenrothes	n/a
263NAI	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	314	1	Milton of Balgonie Village Hall	n/a

Ward 15 – Glenrothes Central and Thornton

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
265OAA	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	8	0	Coaltown of Wemyss Community Centre	Merge with 271OAG – new polling place Thornton Public Hall. See Map 10
266OAB	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	901	1	Victoria Hall, Coaltown of Balgonie	n/a
267OAC	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	2612	2	Woodside Community Hall, Glenrothes	n/a
268OAD	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	2484	2	Warout Primary School, Glenrothes	Amend polling venue to Auchmuty Learning Centre, Glenrothes
269OAE	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	2744	2	Exit Community Centre, Glenrothes	n/a Also polling venue for 249MAE Ward 13
270OAF	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1563	1	Stenton Jubilee Community Centre, Glenrothes	n/a Also polling venue for 246MAB Ward 13
271OAG	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	2116	2	Thornton Public Hall	n/a

Ward 16 – Howe of Fife and Tay Coast

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
301PAA	North East Fife	Fife North East	1054	1	Falkland Community Hall	n/a
302PAB	North East Fife	Fife North East	1122	1	Lumsden Memorial Hall, Freuchie	n/a
303PAC	North East Fife	Fife North East	777	1	Strathmiglo Public Hall	n/a
304PAD	North East Fife	Fife North East	322	1	Gateside Memorial Hall	n/a
305PAE	North East Fife	Fife North East	319	1	Dunshalt Village Hall	n/a
306PAF	North East Fife	Fife North East	1867	2	Auchtermuchty Community Centre	Formalise venue as designated polling place
306PAG	North East Fife	Fife North East	1600	1	Ladybank Masonic Hall	Formalise venue as designated polling place
308PAH	North East Fife	Fife North East	1139	1	Kettle Memorial Hall	n/a
309PAI	North East Fife	Fife North East	1748	2	Tayside Community Institute, Newburgh Centre,	n/a
310PAJ	North East Fife	Fife North East	386	1	Abdie Hall	n/a
311PAK	North East Fife	Fife North East	276	1	Letham Village Hall	n/a
312PAL	North East Fife	Fife North East	298	1	Luthrie Village Hall	n/a
313PAM	North East Fife	Fife North East	141	1	Collessie Victory Hall	n/a
314PAN	North East Fife	Fife North East	258	1	Kilmany Parish Hall	n/a

Ward 17 – Tay Bridgehead

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
320QAA	North East Fife	Fife North East	801	1	Morison Duncan Hall, Gauldry	n/a
321QAB	North East Fife	Fife North East	2493	2	Blyth Hall, Newport on Tay	n/a
322QAC	North East Fife	Fife North East	1690	1	Wormit Parish Church	n/a
323QAD	North East Fife	Fife North East	3246	2	Gregory Hall, Tayport	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
324QAE	North East Fife	Fife North East	1294	1	Burnside Village Hall, Balmullo	n/a
325QAF	North East Fife	Fife North East	1681	1	Leuchars (Army Station) Community Hall	This venue is no longer available for hire. Continue to use Leuchars Primary School until alternative found
326QAG	North East Fife	Fife North East	1184	1	Guardbridge Bowling Club Hall	n/a

Ward 18 – St Andrews

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
330RAA	North East Fife	Fife North East	1322	1	St Leonard's Church Hall, St Andrews	n/a
331RAB	North East Fife	Fife North East	838	1	Strathkinness Church Hall	Designate Strathkinness Village Hall as polling venue
332RAC	North East Fife	Fife North East	2115	2	St Andrews Town Hall	n/a Amend boundary between 332RAC and 333RAD at Eddie Court – See Map 11
333RAD	North East Fife	Fife North East	2895	2	Canongate Primary School, St Andrews	n/a
334RAE	North East Fife	Fife North East	3424	3	1 ST St Andrews Boys Brigade Hall	n/a

Ward 19 – East Neuk and Landward

No proposed changes

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
340SAA	North East Fife	Fife North East	1556	1	Crail Community Hall	n/a
341SAB	North East Fife	Fife North East	375	1	Cameron Memorial Hall	n/a
342SAC	North East Fife	Fife North East	473	1	Cameron Parish Church Hall	n/a
343SAD	North East Fife	Fife North East	154	1	Boarhills Village Hall	n/a
344SAE	North East Fife	Fife North East	1577	1	Erskine Hall, Anstruther	n/a
345SAF	North East Fife	Fife North East	1789	2	Cellardyke Town Hall	n/a
346SAG	North East Fife	Fife North East	329	1	Arncroach Parish Church Hall	n/a
347SAH	North East Fife	Fife North East	220	1	Kilconquhar Church	n/a
348SAI	North East Fife	Fife North East	1279	1	Pittenweem Town Hall	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
349SAJ	North East Fife	Fife North East	1093	1	St Monans Town Hall	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
350SAK	North East Fife	Fife North East	575	1	Elie Parish Church Hall	n/a
351SAL	North East Fife	Fife North East	580	1	Largoward Village Hall	n/a
352SAM	North East Fife	Fife North East	429	1	Colinsburgh Town Hall	n/a

Ward 20 – Cupar

No proposed changes

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
356TAA	North East Fife	Fife North East	375	1	Wilkie Memorial Hall, Pitlessie	n/a
357TAB	North East Fife	Fife North East	1102	1	Ceres Memorial Hall	n/a
358TAC	North East Fife	Fife North East	1025	1	Springfield Parish Church	n/a
359TAD	North East Fife	Fife North East	336	1	Craigrothie Village Hall	n/a
360TAE	North East Fife	Fife North East	2009	2	St John's Parish Church Hall, Cupar	n/a
361TAF	North East Fife	Fife North East	3261	2	Corn Exchange, Cupar	n/a Note: subject to possible lease or transfer to the community – RO will keep under review
362TAG	North East Fife	Fife North East	2438	2	Old Parish Centre, Cupar	n/a
363TAH	North East Fife	Fife North East	541	1	Dairsie War Memorial Hall	n/a
364TAI	North East Fife	Fife North East	365	1	Kemback Hall	n/a

Ward 21- Leven, Kennoway and Largo

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
368UAA	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1441	1	Balmaise Community Centre, Leven	Amend boundary between 368UAA and 375UAH at Forest Park – see Map 12
369UAB	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1954	2	Mountfleurie Primary School, Leven	n/a
370UAC	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	725	1	23 rd Leven Scout Hall, Leven	n/a
371UAD	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1450	1	Sandy Brae Community Centre, Leven	n/a
372UAE	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1833	2	Kennoway Primary School	Amend polling venue to St Kenneth's Parish Church Hall, Kennoway
373UAF	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	525	1	British Legion, Kennoway	Formalise venue as designated polling place
374UAG	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1467	1	The Greig Institute, Windygates	n/a
375UAH	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	3586	3	Leven Parish Church Hall	n/a
376UAI	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1919	1	Durham Hall, Lower Largo	n/a – check address
377UAJ	North East Fife	Mid Fife and Glenrothes	420	1	The Simpson Institute, Upper Largo	n/a

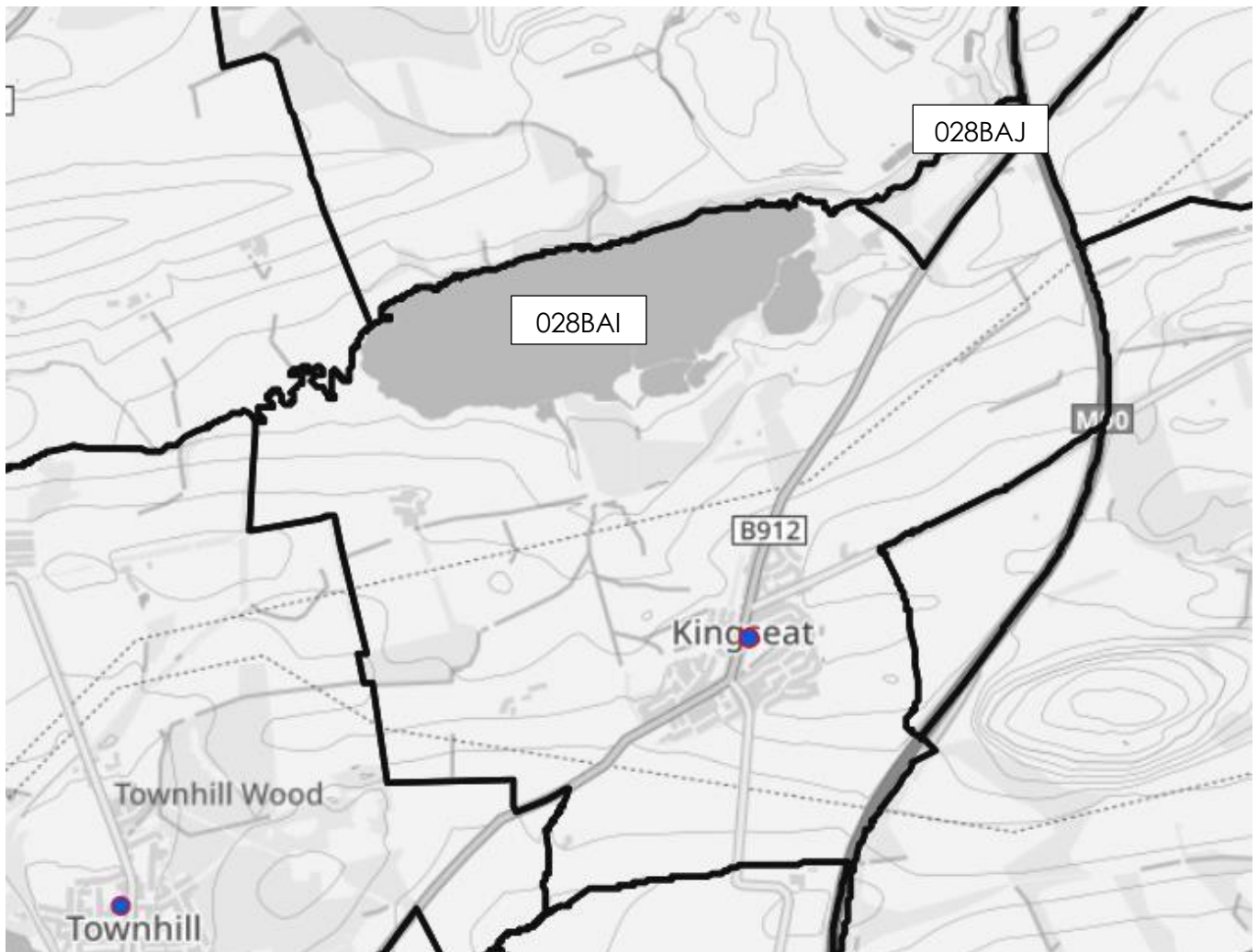
Ward 22 – Buckhaven, Methil and Wemyss Villages

Polling District	UK Parliamentary Constituency	Scottish Parliament Constituency	Electorate as at 1/12/24	Maximum Polling Stations Required	Polling Place	Proposed Changes
383VAA	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	975	3	Buckhaven Portacabin	Amend polling venue to Buckhaven Community Centre
384VAB	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	996	0	Hyndhead School, Buckhaven	Merge with 383VAA and amend polling venue to Buckhaven Community Centre – see Map 13
385VAC	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	1278	1	Wellesley Centre, Methil	n/a Note: Formerly known as Wellesley Parish Church Hall
386VAD	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	2274	2	New Hope Kirk Levenmouth Hall, Methilhill	n/a Note: Formerly known as Methilhill & Denbeath Church Hall – check address
387VAE	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	1620	1	The Studio, Leven	Formalise venue as designated polling place
388VAF	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	1430	1	Methil Community Education Centre	n/a
389VAG	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	922	1	Sailor's Rest Centre, Lower Methil	n/a
390VAH	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	1090	1	East Wemyss Primary	n/a
391VAI	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	532	1	Rosie and McDuff Hall, East Wemyss	n/a
392VAJ	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	650	1	Coaltown of Wemyss Community Centre	Also polling place for 265OAA Ward 15
393VAK	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	216	1	West Wemyss Community Pub	Temporarily closed. The RO will keep this under review before formally designating this as polling venue
394VAL	Glenrothes and Mid Fife	Kirkcaldy	1876	0	Buckhaven Community Centre	Merge with 383VAA and 384VAB – no change to polling venue – see Map 13

Map 1 – Polling Districts 028BAI and 029BAJ

- Kingseat Community Leisure Centre - current

Proposal – merge polling districts 028BAI and 029BAJ – no change to polling venue

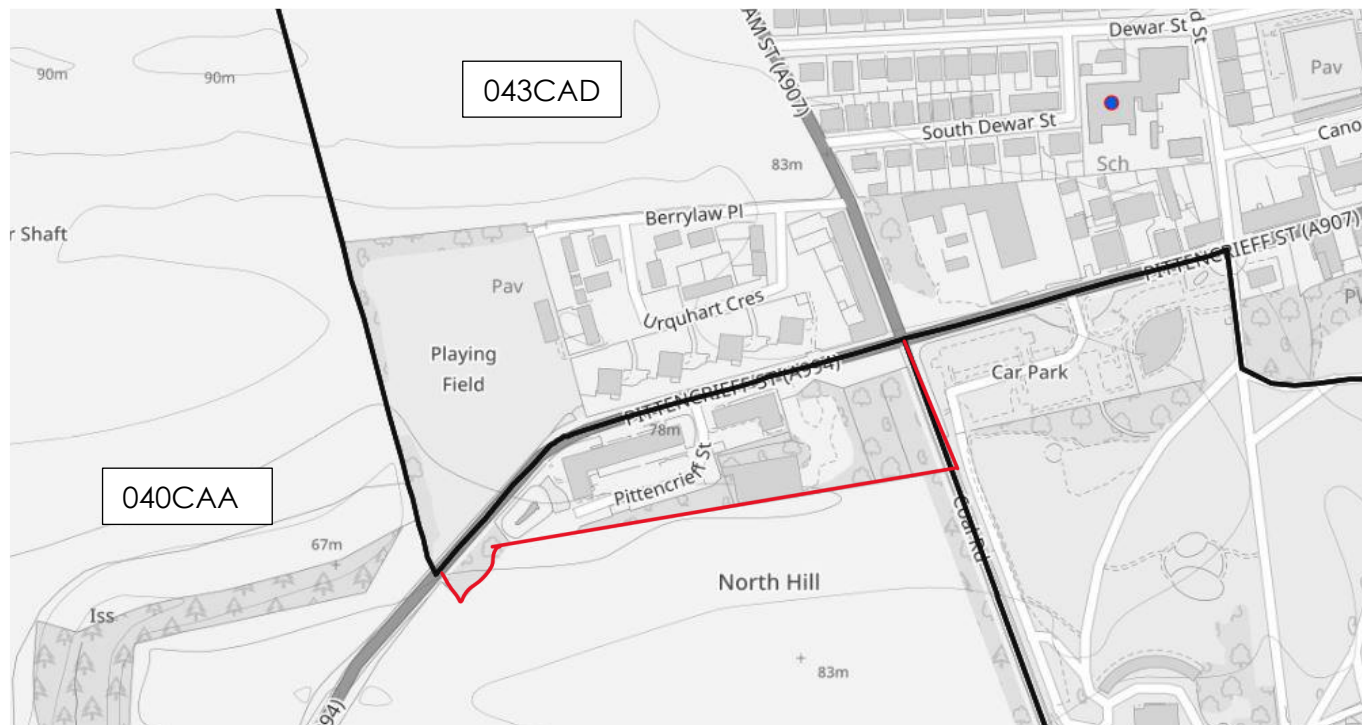


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Map 2 - Polling Districts 040CAA and 043CAD



Pittencrieff area, Dunfermline

Amend boundary of polling district 040CAA and 043CAD as shown in red to include flats on southside of Pittencrieff Street.

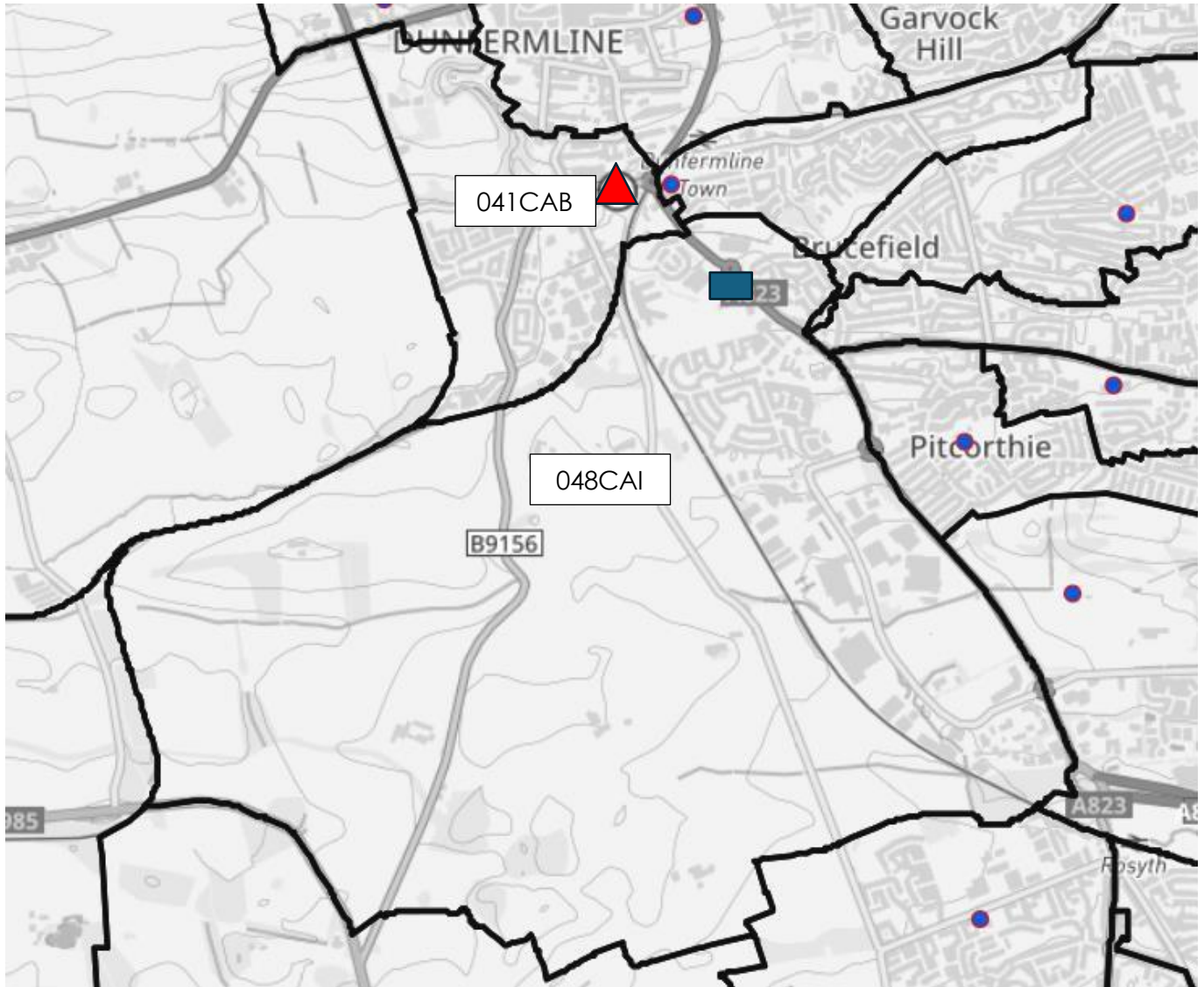


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Map 3 – Polling Districts 041CAB and 048CAI




-  Del Farquharson Community Centre
-  St Leonard's Primary School Annexe

Proposal also includes merging polling districts 041CAB and 048CAI which share the same UK, Scottish Parliament and ward boundaries.

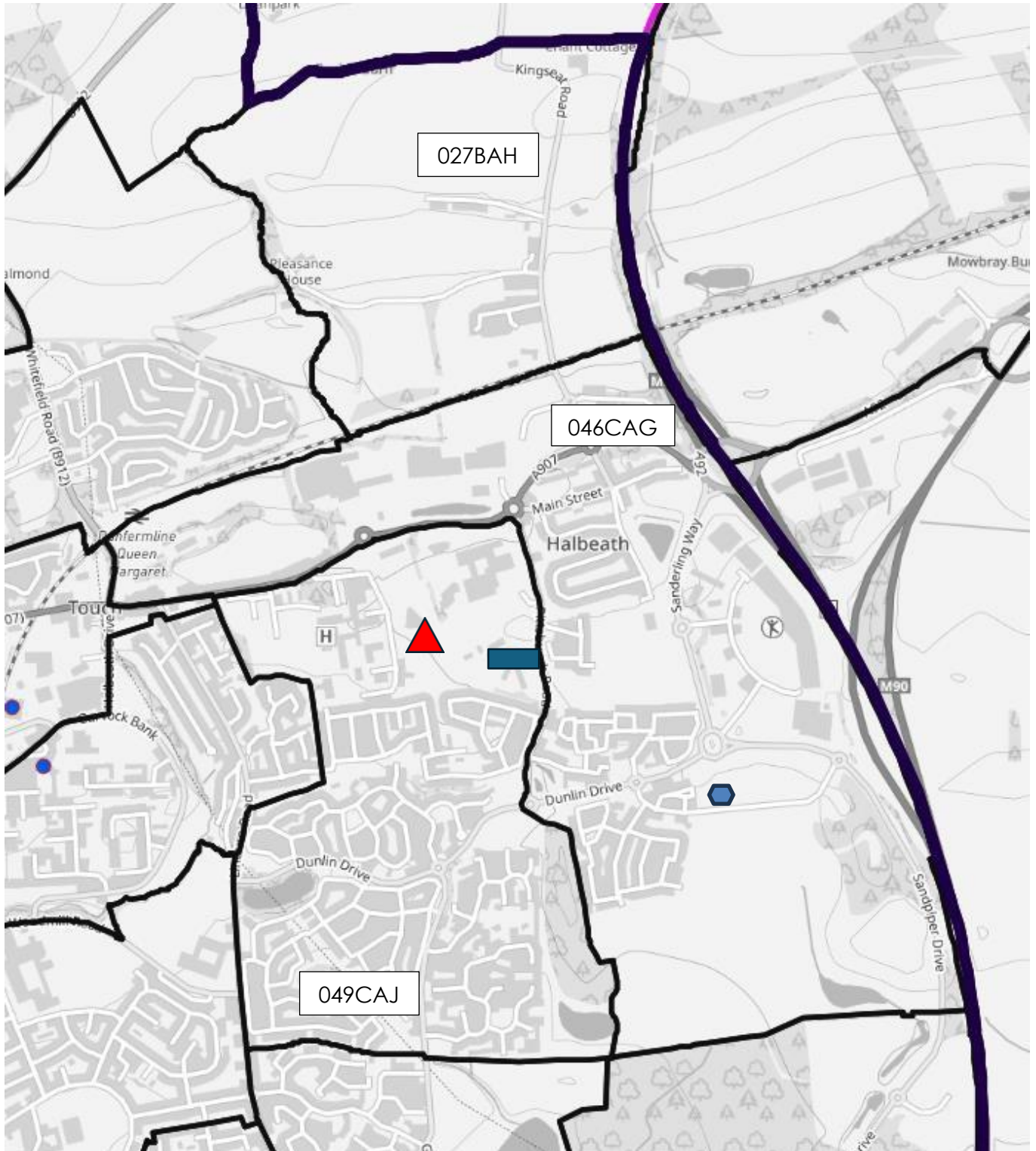


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Map 4 – Polling Districts 027BAH, 046CAG, 049CAJ

-  Carnegie Conference Centre -proposed
-  Carnegie Primary School – current
-  New Fife College Learning Campus

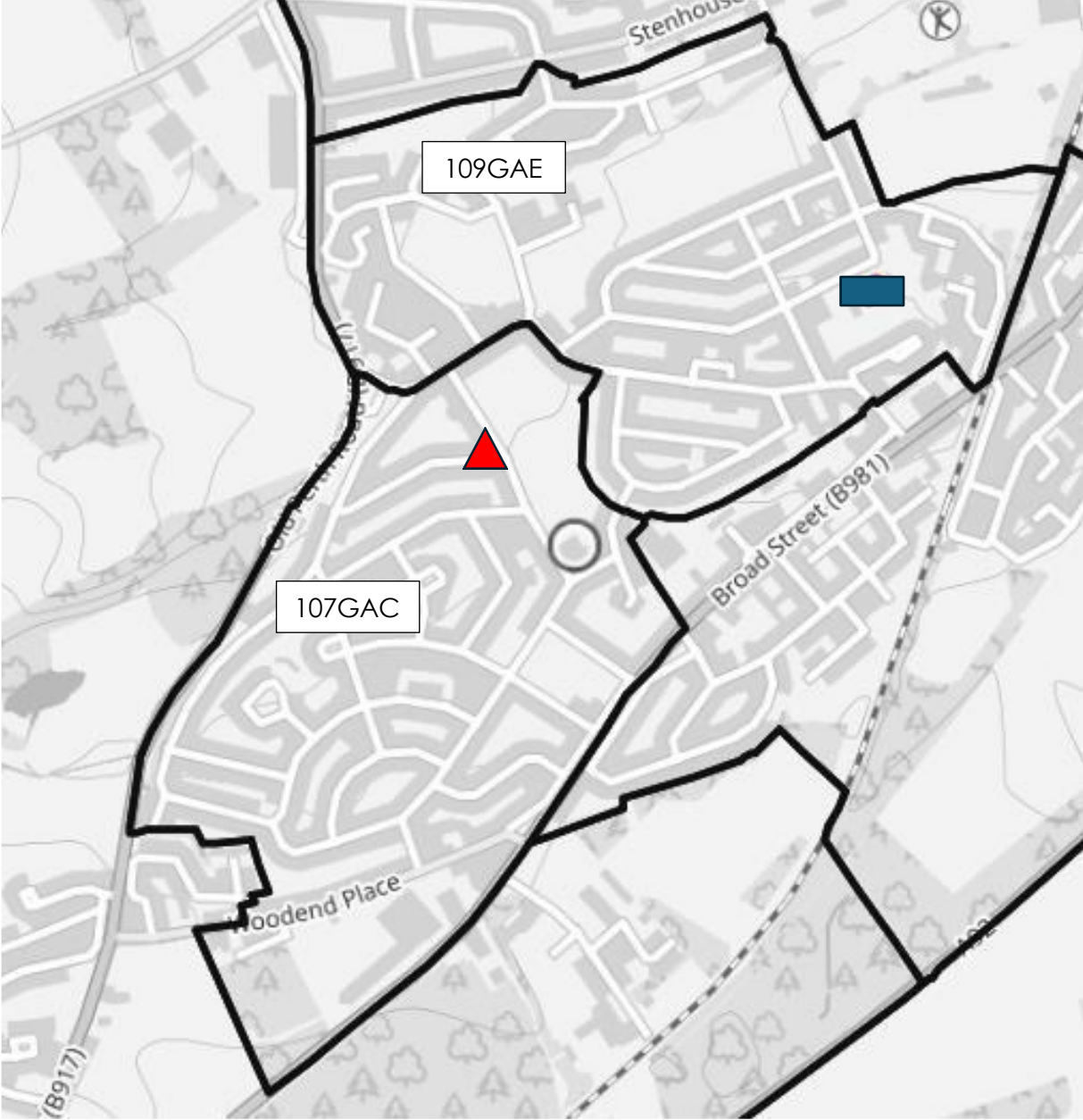
Proposal also includes merging polling districts 046CAG AND 049CAJ which share the same UK, Scottish Parliament and ward boundaries. Polling district 027BAH sits in a different ward but has same polling venue



Map 5 – Polling Districts 107GAC and 109GAE

-  Trinity Church
-  St Brides Primary School

Proposal also includes merging polling districts 107GAC and 109GAE which share the same UK, Scottish Parliament and ward boundaries.

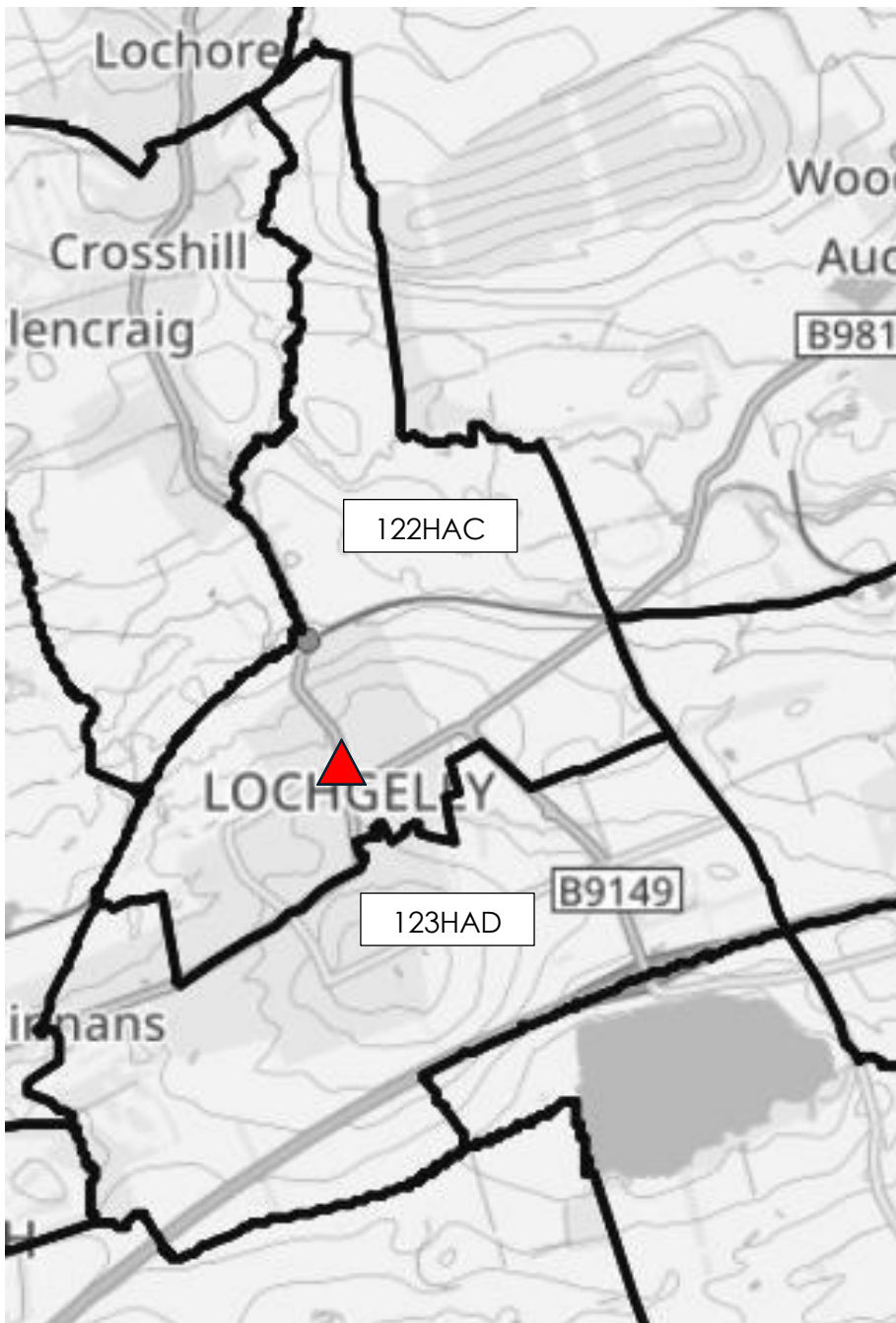


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Map 6 – Polling Districts 122HAC and 123HAD



 Lochgelly Centre

Proposal merge polling districts 122HAC and 123HAD – no change to polling venue

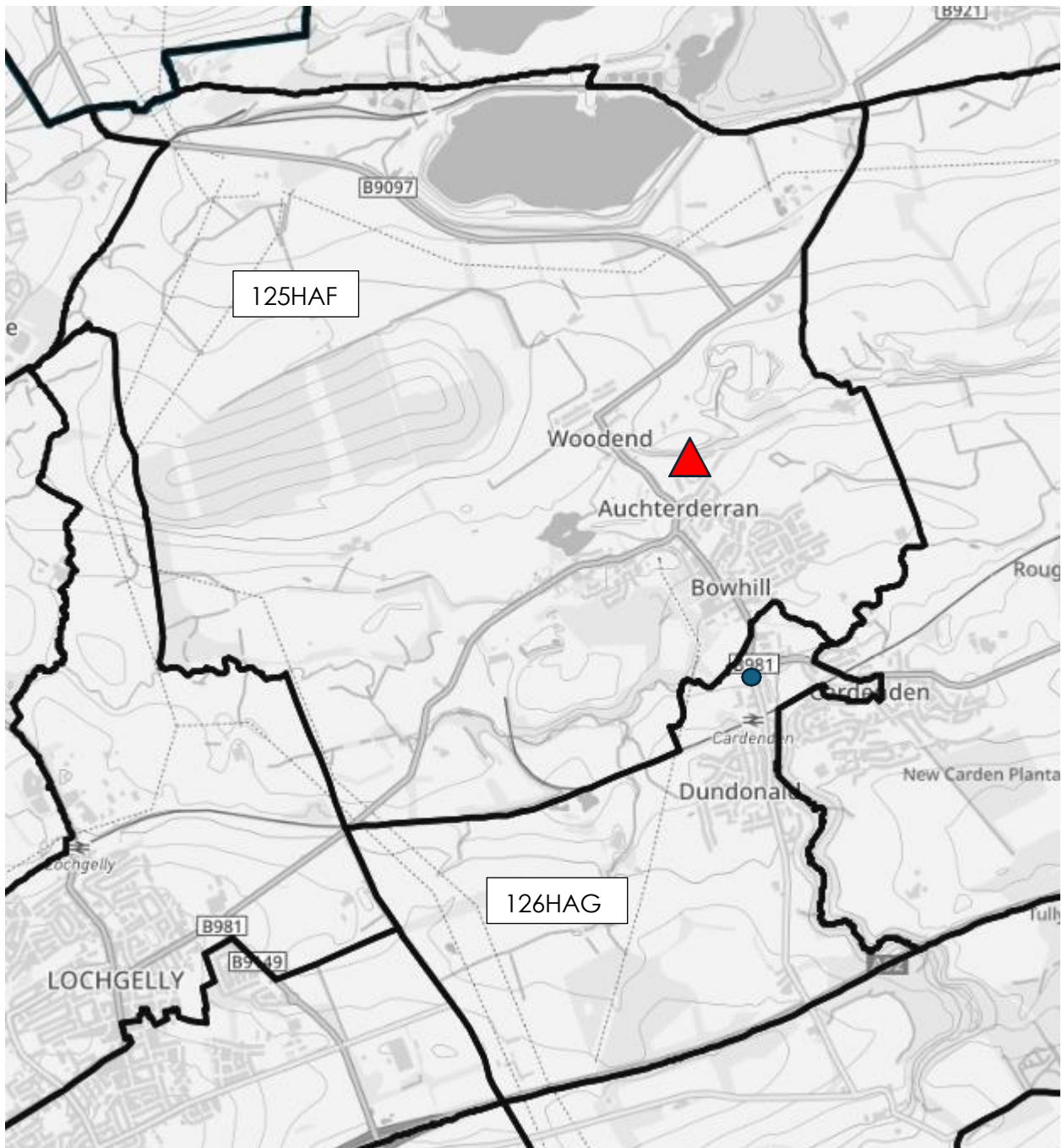


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Map 7 – Polling Districts 125HAF and 126HAG

-  Bowhill Centre
-  Denend Primary School

Proposal also includes merging polling districts 125HAF and 126HAG which share the same UK, Scottish Parliament and ward boundaries. Amend polling venue for 126HAG to Bowhill Centre

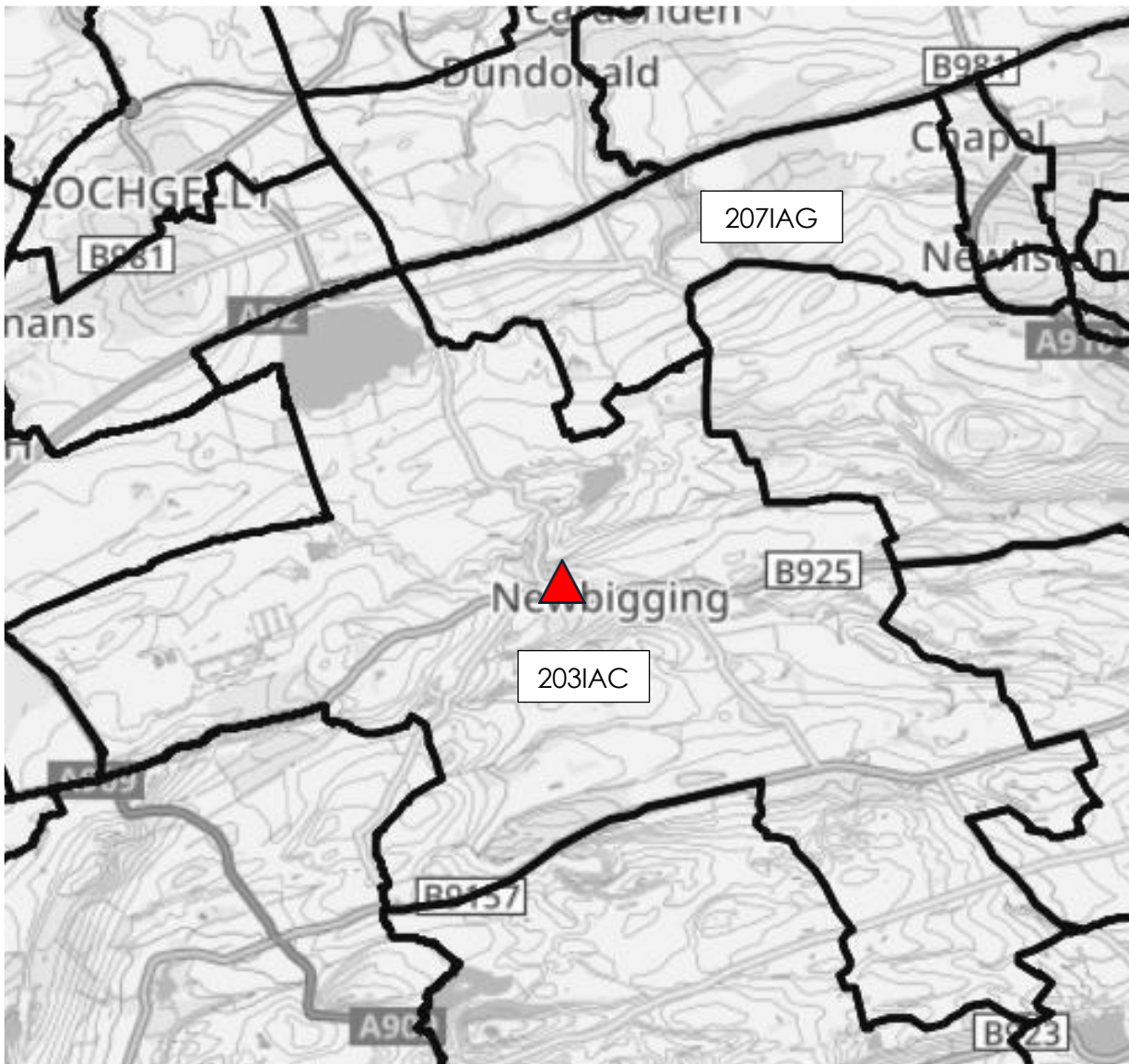


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Map 8 – Polling Districts 2031AC and 2071AG

 Auchtertool Village Hall

Proposal – merge polling districts 2031AC and 2071AG – no change to polling venue



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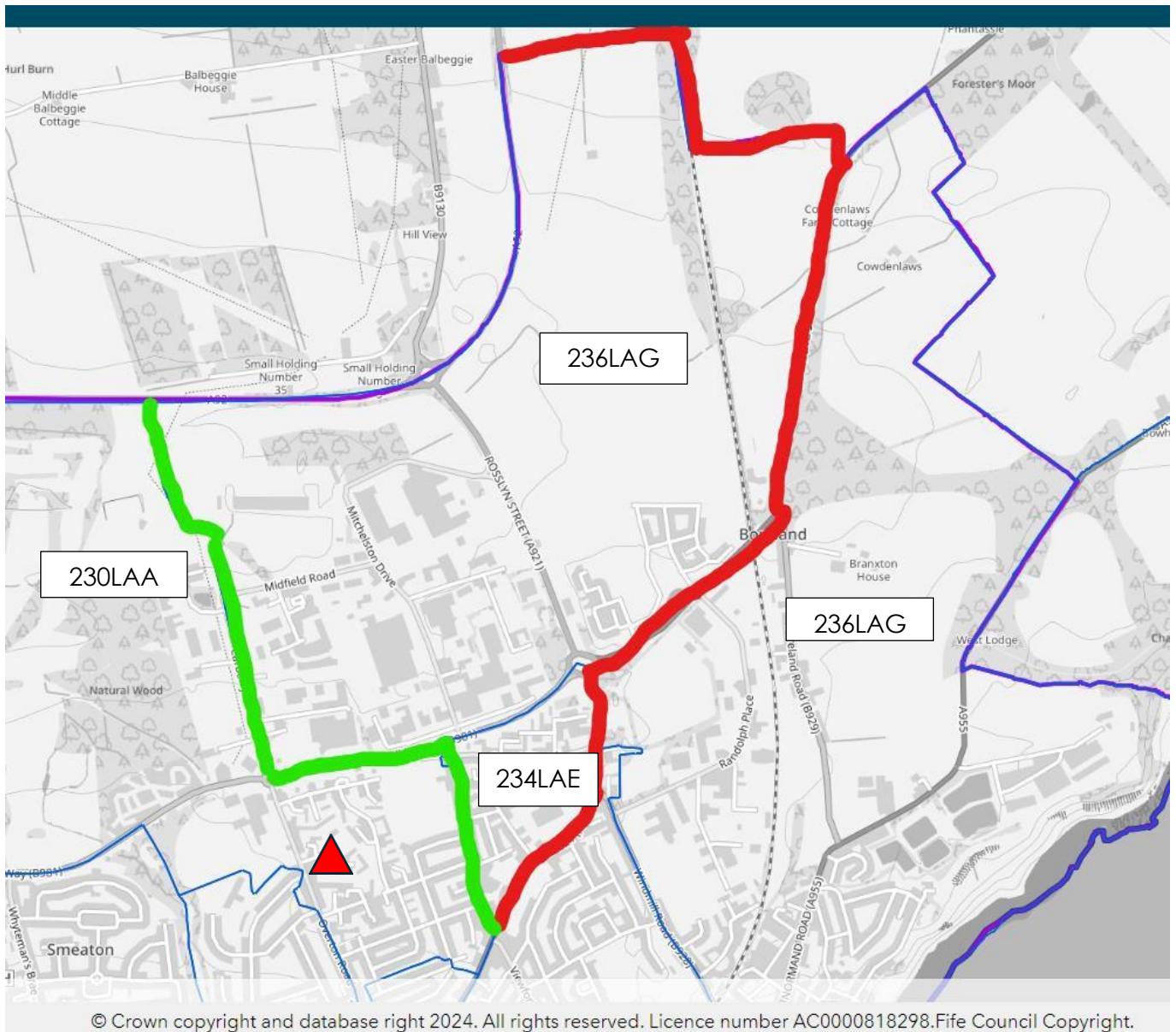
Map 9 – Amendments to polling district boundary for 230LAA

Proposal is to move the current polling district boundary for polling district 230LAA from Carberry Road/Dunniker Way/Park Road (shown in green) to Standingstone Road (A915) along Randolph Road and down Roslyn Street to meet the end of Park Road taking in part of polling district 234LAE (shown in red).



The polling venue for this amended polling district will be Overton Community Centre (current polling venue for polling district 230LAA).

As a result of this change a further proposal is to merge the amended polling district 236LAG and polling district 237LAH with a polling venue of Dysart Community Hall. (See map 8a)

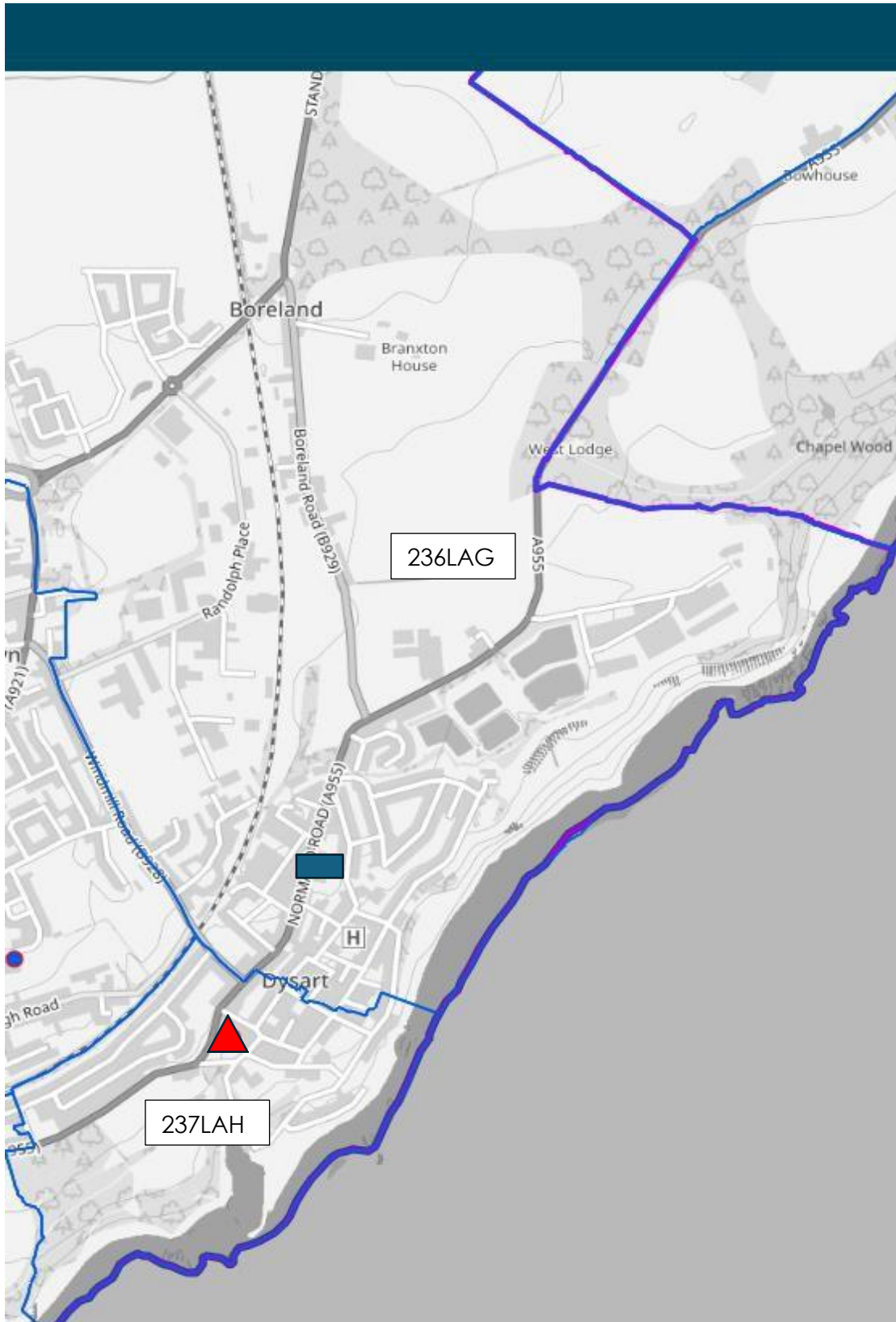
 Overton Community Hall



Map 9a – Polling Districts 236LAG and 237LAH

-  Dysart Community Hall -proposed
-  Dysart Primary School - current

Proposal – merge polling districts 236LAG and 237LAH and amend polling venue to Dysart Community Hall



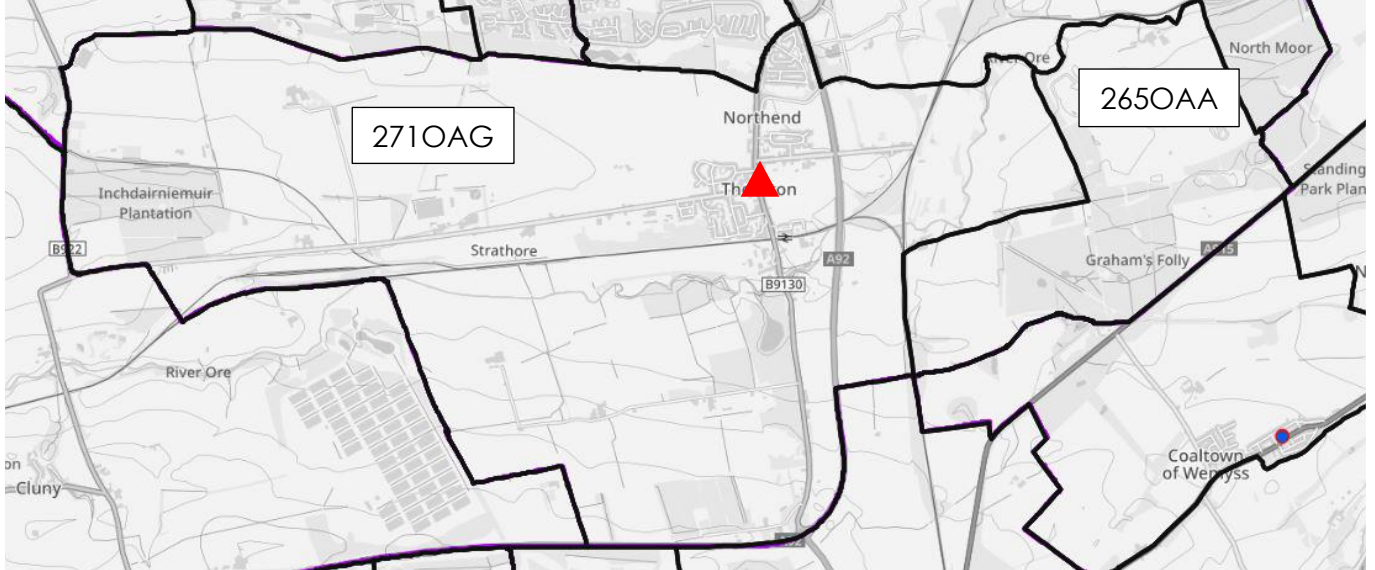
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Map 10 – Polling Districts 265OAA and 271OAG

● Coaltown of Wemyss Community Centre

▲ Thornton Hall

The proposal is to merge polling districts 265OAA and 271OAG with Thornton Public Hall as the designated polling place



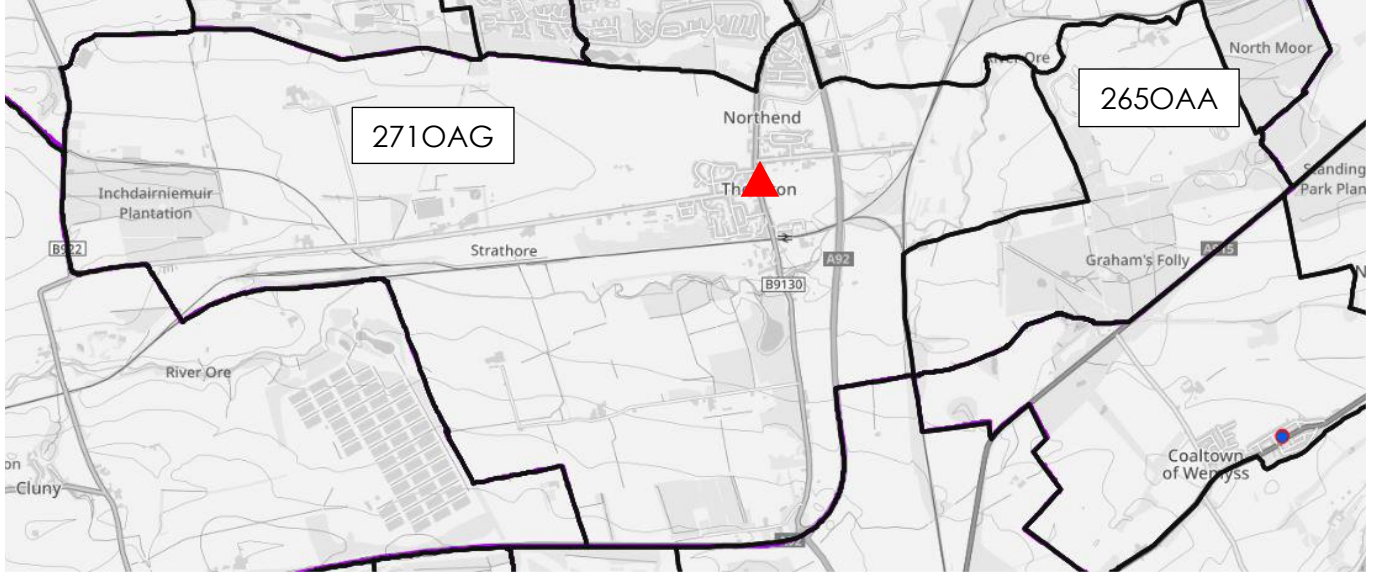
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Map 10 – Polling Districts 265OAA and 271OAG

● Coaltown of Wemyss Community Centre

▲ Thornton Hall

The proposal is to merge polling districts 265OAA and 271OAG with Thornton Public Hall as the designated polling place

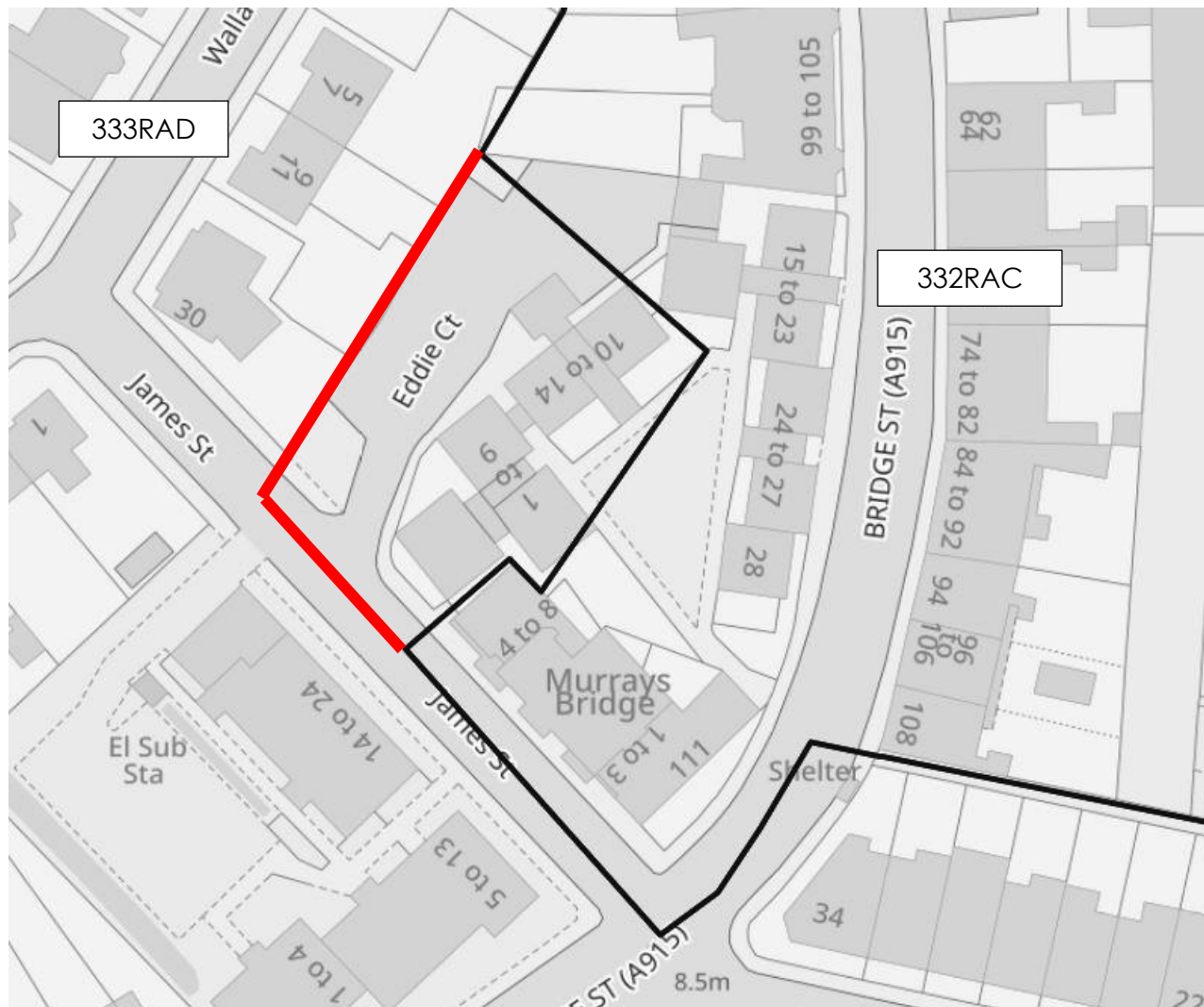


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Map 11 – Polling Districts 332RAC and 333RAD

Eddie Court, St Andrews

Amend boundary of polling district 332RAC and 333RAD shown in red moving electors in Eddie Court to polling district 332RAC.



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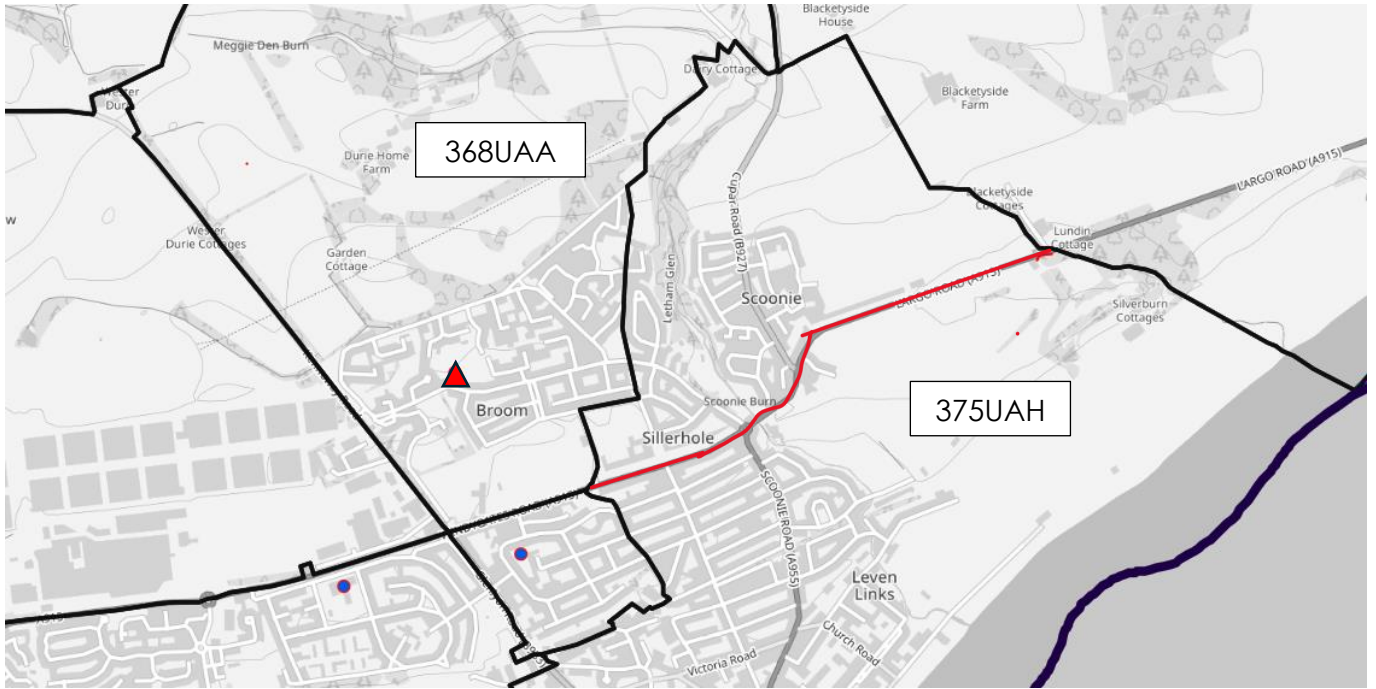
Map 12 - Polling Districts 368UAA and 375UAH

Forest Path area

Amend the boundary between polling districts 368UAA and 375UAH along the A915 shown in red below.




Electors to the north of A915 to vote at Balmaise Community Centre, electors to south of A915 continue to vote at Leven Parish Church Hall

▲ Balmaise Community Centre

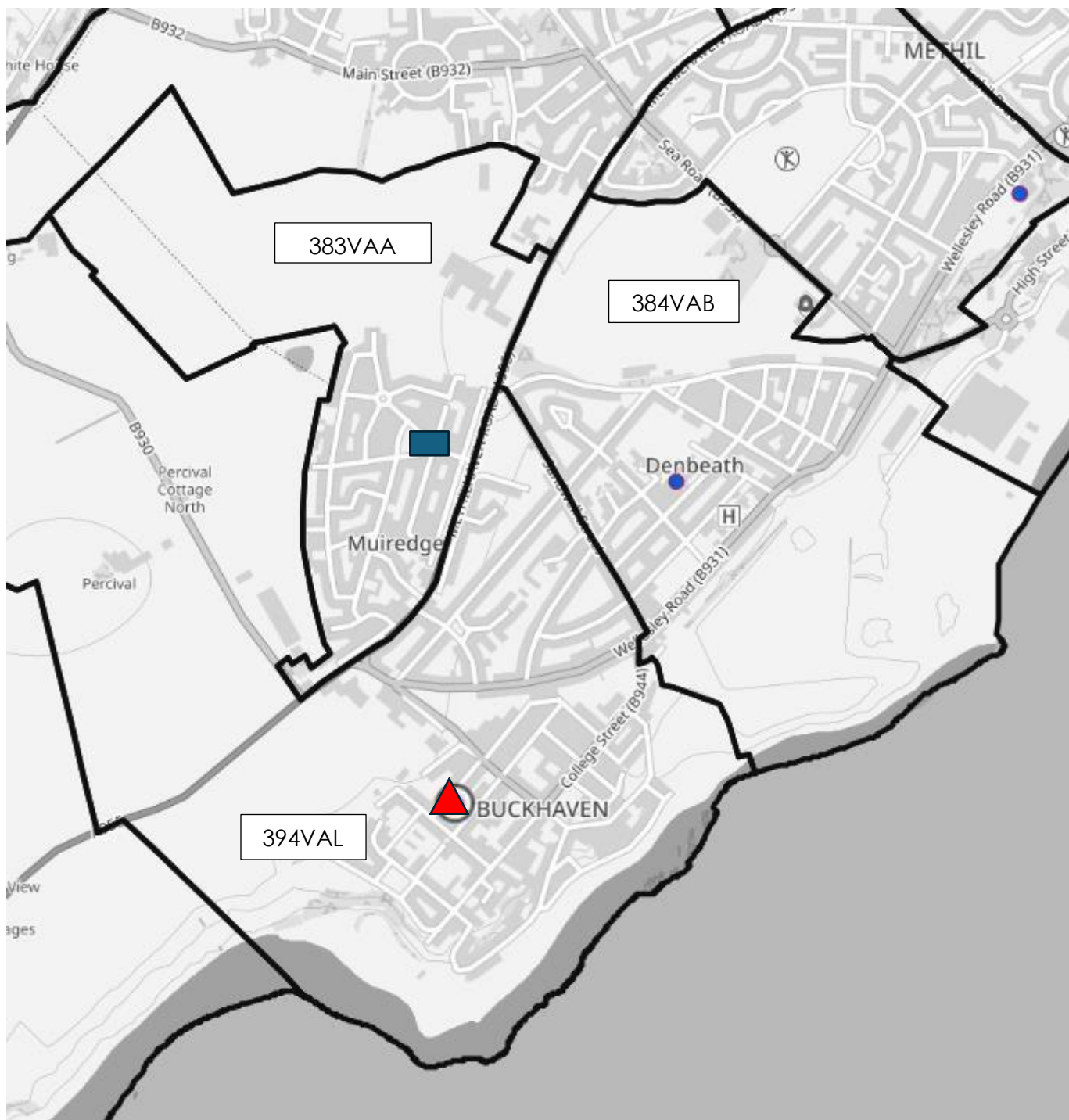


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Map 13 -Polling Districts 383VAA, 384VAB and 394VAL

-  Buckhaven Community Centre
-  Hyndhead School,
-  Buckhaven Portacabin

The proposal is to merge polling districts 383VAA,384VAB and 394VAL with Buckhaven Community Centre designated as the polling place.

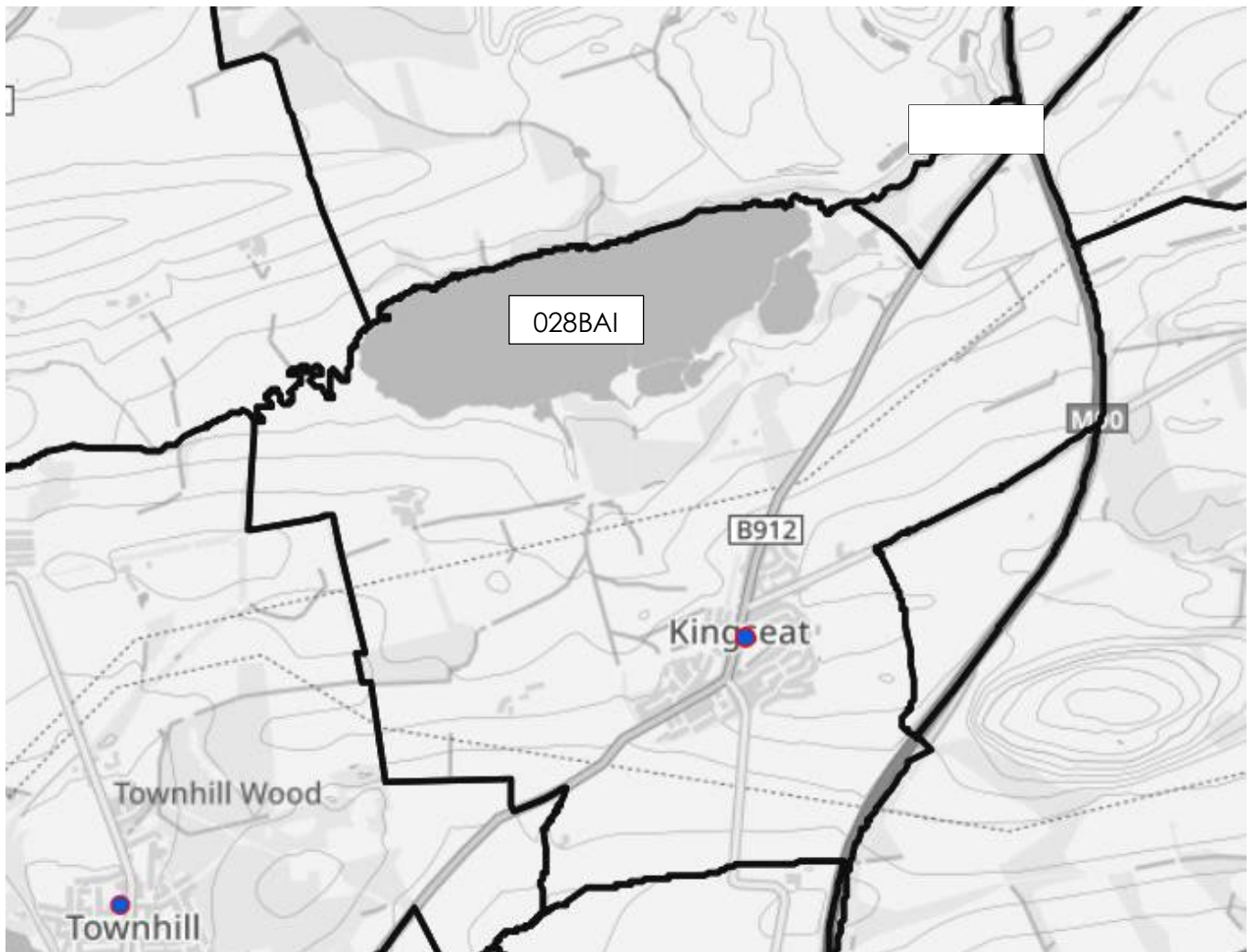


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Map 1 – Polling Districts 028BAI and 029BAJ

- Kingseat Community Leisure Centre - current

Proposal – merge polling districts 028BAI and 029BAJ – no change to polling venue

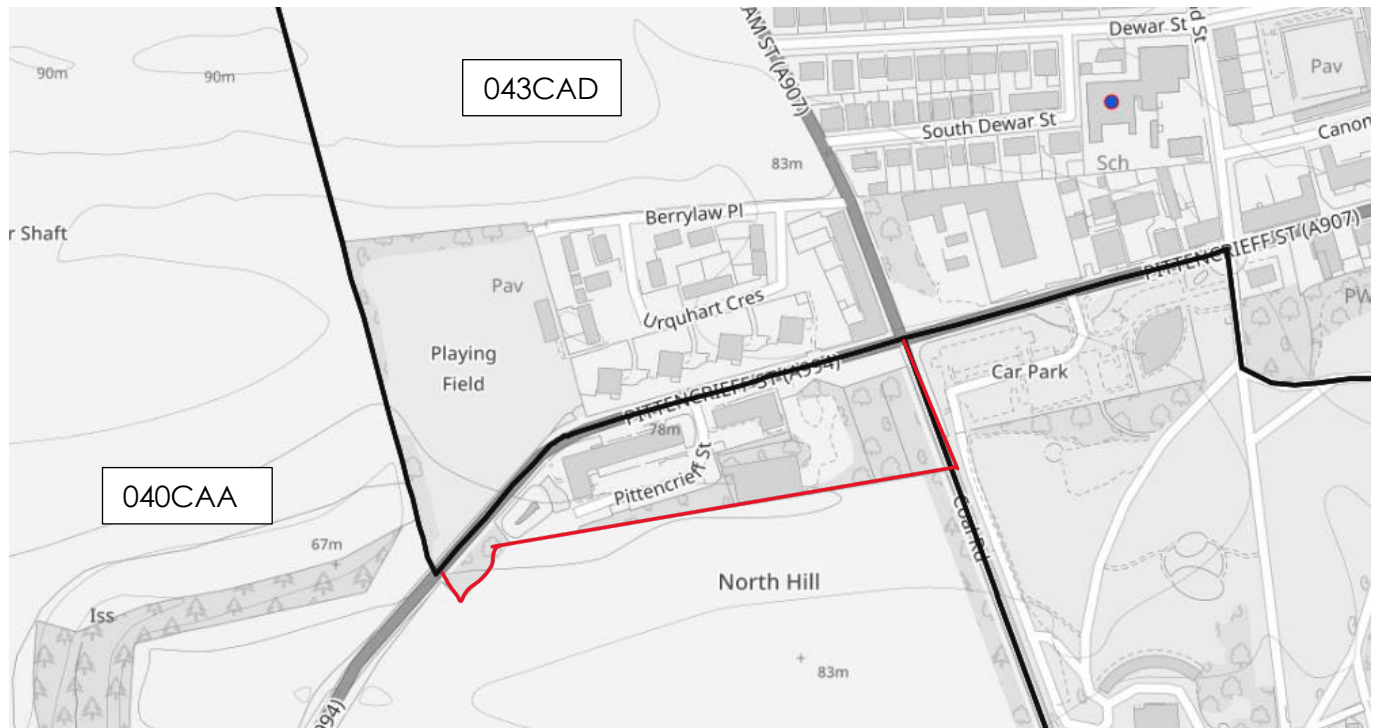


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Map 2 - Polling Districts 040CAA and 043CAD



Pittencrieff area, Dunfermline

Amend boundary of polling district 040CAA and 043CAD as shown in red to include flats on southside of Pittencrieff Street.

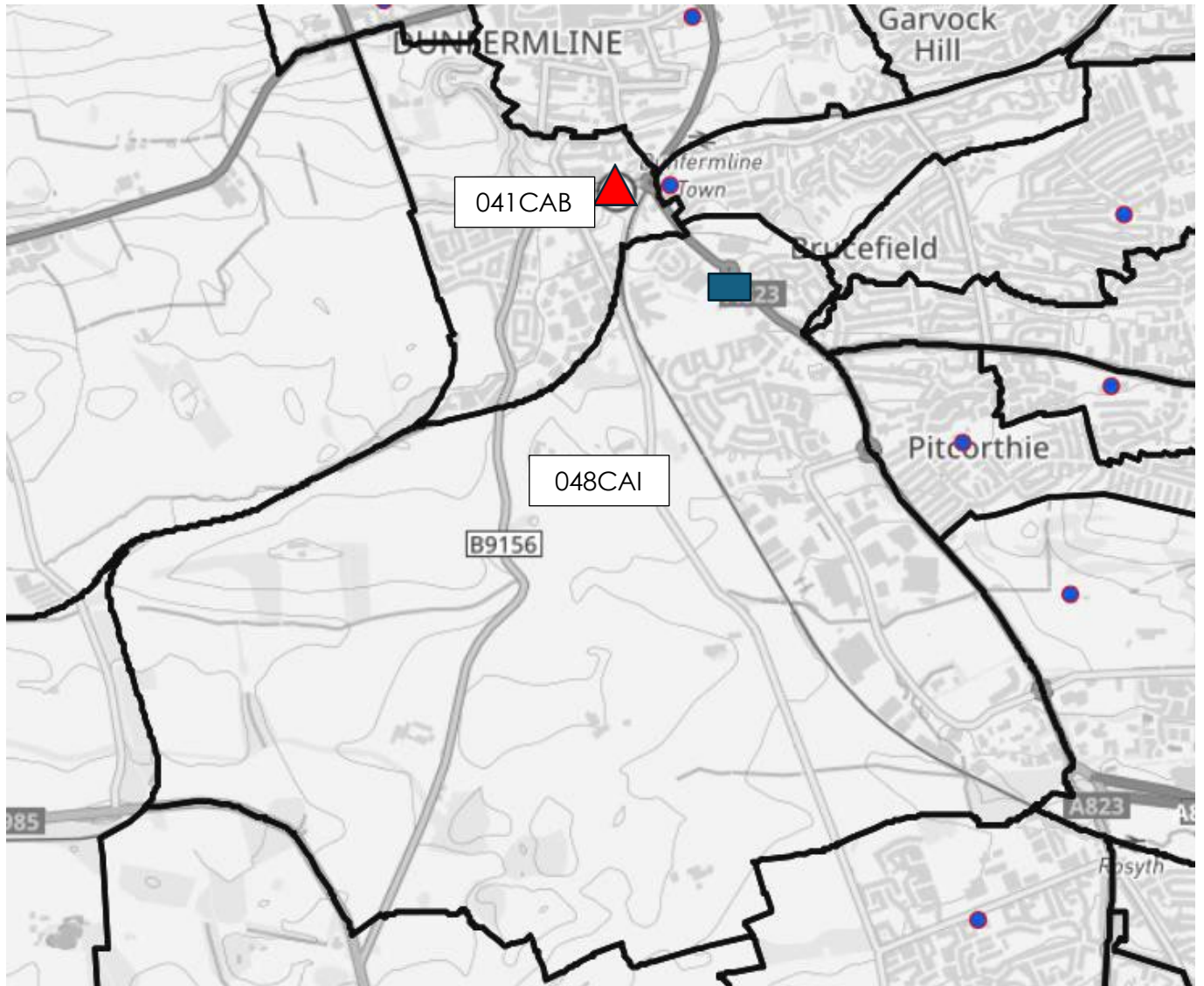


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Map 3 – Polling Districts 041CAB and 048CAI




-  Del Farquharson Community Centre
-  St Leonard's Primary School Annexe

Proposal also includes merging polling districts 041CAB and 048CAI which share the same UK, Scottish Parliament and ward boundaries.

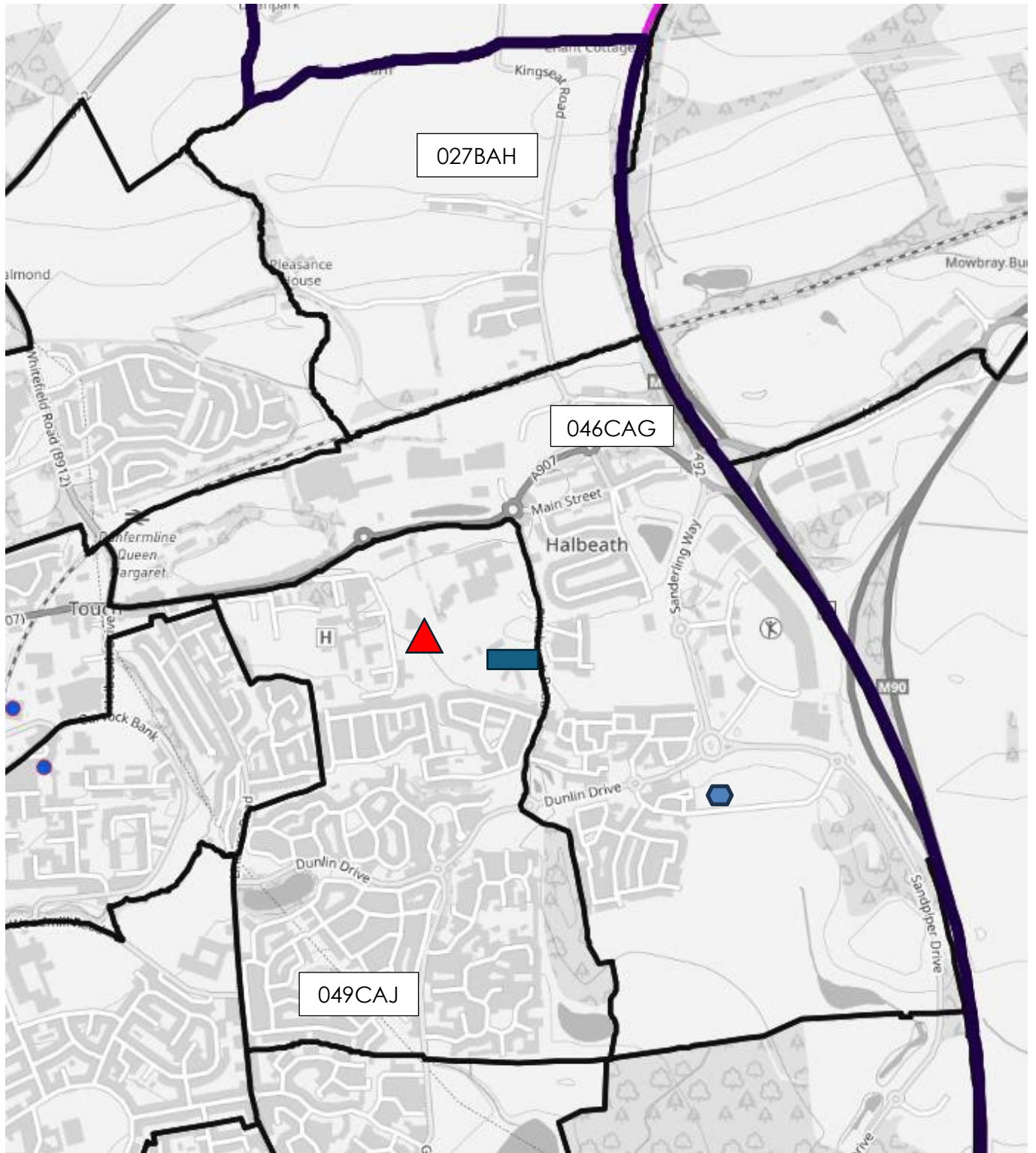


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Map 4 – Polling Districts 027BAH, 046CAG, 049CAJ

-  Carnegie Conference Centre -proposed
-  Carnegie Primary School – current
-  New Fife College Learning Campus

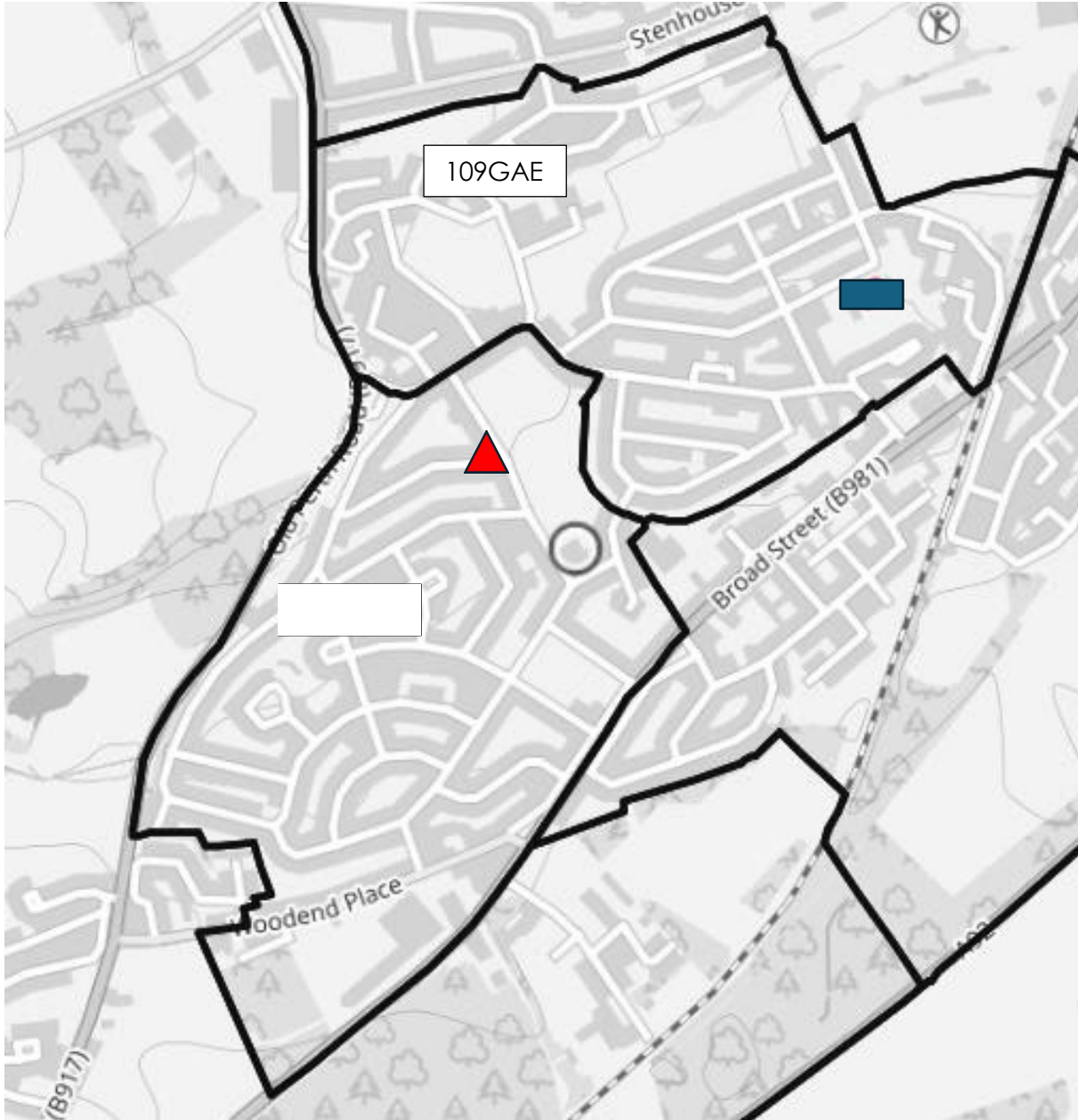
Proposal also includes merging polling districts 046CAG AND 049CAJ which share the same UK, Scottish Parliament and ward boundaries. Polling district 027BAH sits in a different ward but has same polling venue



Map 5 – Polling Districts 107GAC and 109GAE

-  Trinity Church
-  St Brides Primary School

Proposal also includes merging polling districts 107GAC and 109GAE which share the same UK, Scottish Parliament and ward boundaries.

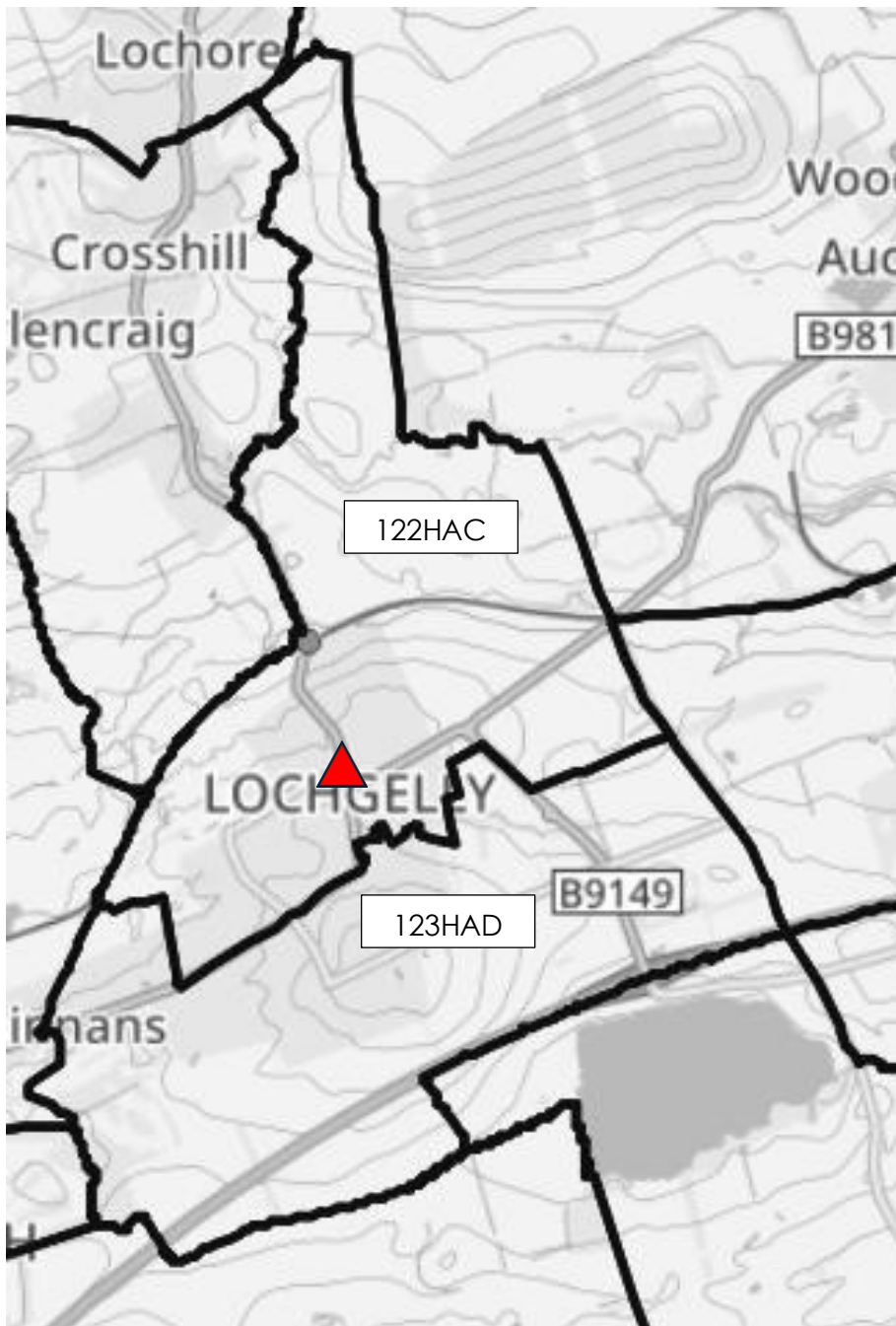


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Map 6 – Polling Districts 122HAC and 123HAD



 Lochgelly Centre

Proposal merge polling districts 122HAC and 123HAD – no change to polling venue

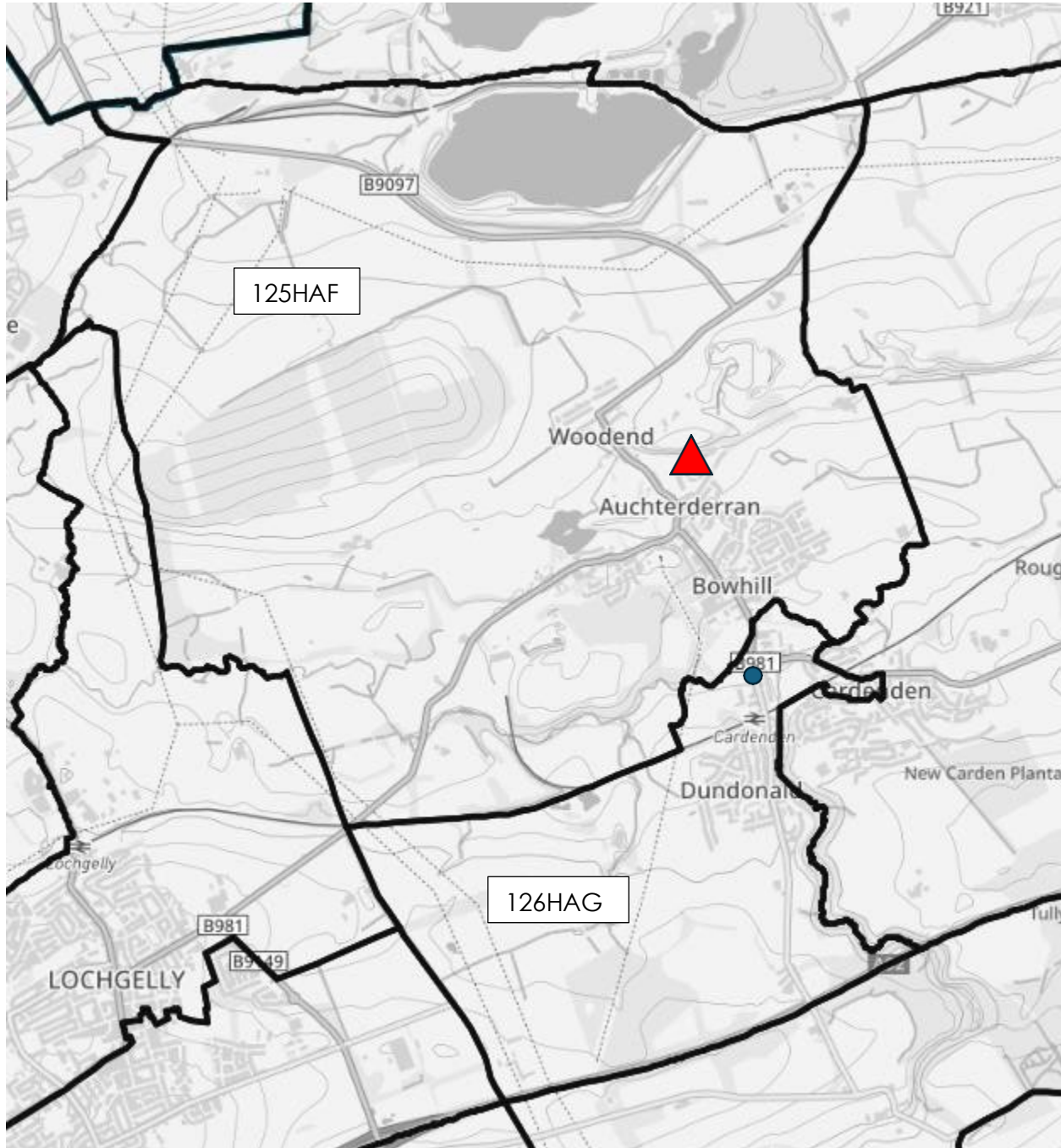


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Map 7 – Polling Districts 125HAF and 126HAG

-  Bowhill Centre
-  Denend Primary School

Proposal also includes merging polling districts 125HAF and 126HAG which share the same UK, Scottish Parliament and ward boundaries. Amend polling venue for 126HAG to Bowhill Centre



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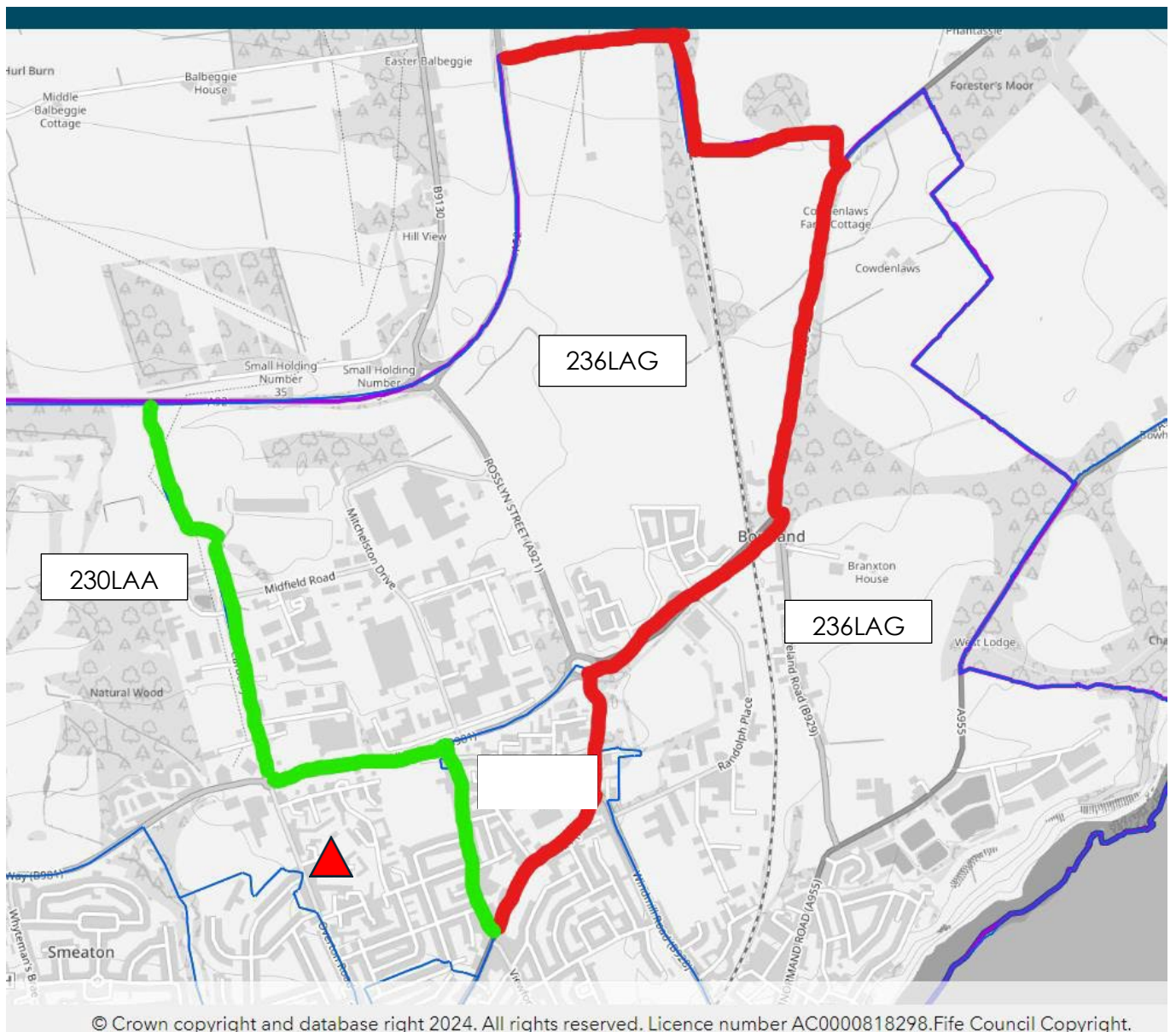
Map 9 – Amendments to polling district boundary for 230LAA

Proposal is to move the current polling district boundary for polling district 230LAA from Carberry Road/Dunniker Way/Park Road (shown in green) to Standingstone Road (A915) along Randolph Road and down Rosslyn Street to meet the end of Park Road taking in part of polling district 234LAE (shown in red).

The polling venue for this amended polling district will be Overton Community Centre (current polling venue for polling district 230LAA).

As a result of this change a further proposal is to merge the amended polling district 236LAG and polling district 237LAH with a polling venue of Dysart Community Hall. (See map 8a)

 Overton Community Hall

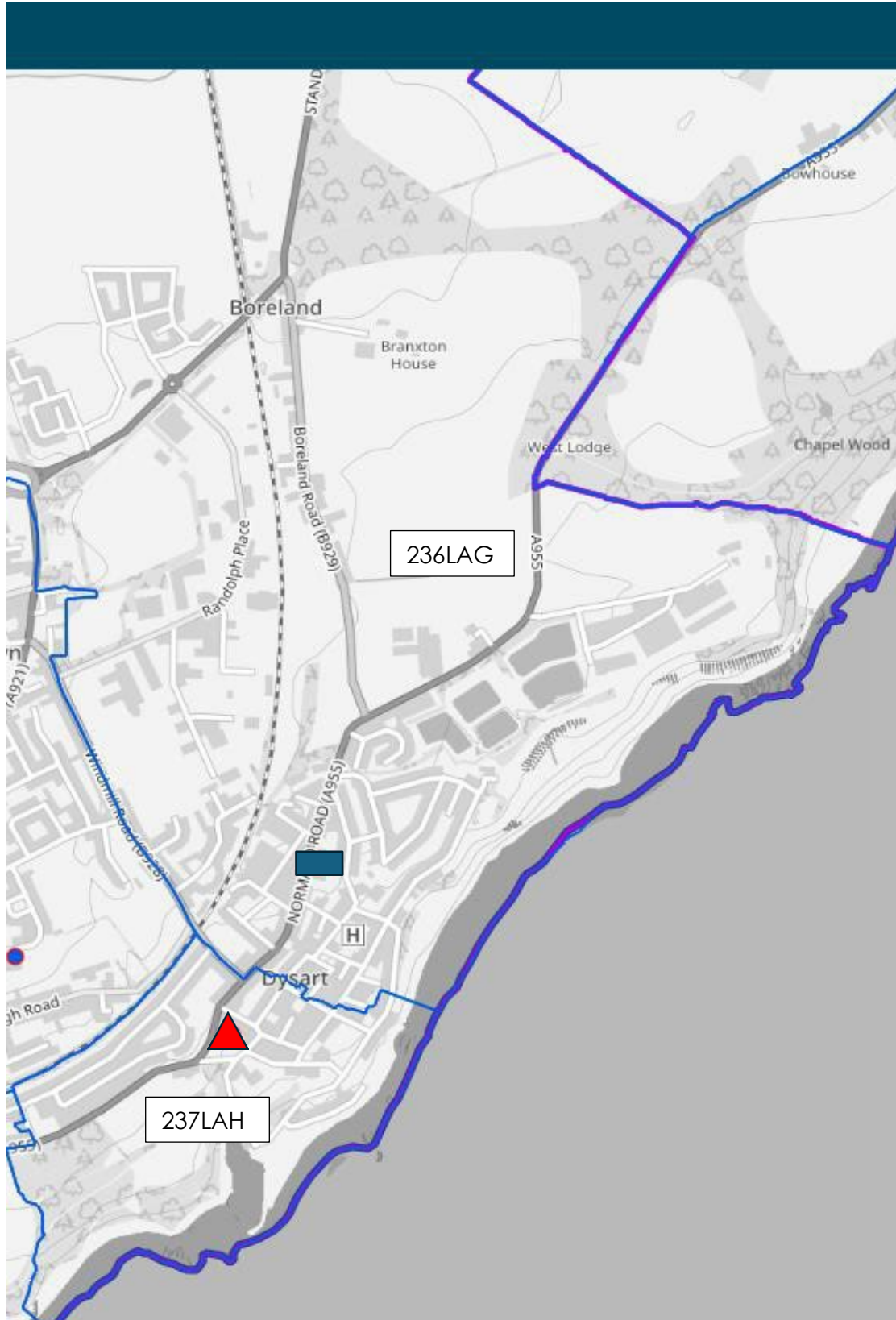


Map 9a – Polling Districts 236LAG and 237LAH

 Dysart Community Hall -proposed

 Dysart Primary School - current

Proposal – merge polling districts 236LAG and 237LAH and amend polling venue to Dysart Community Hall

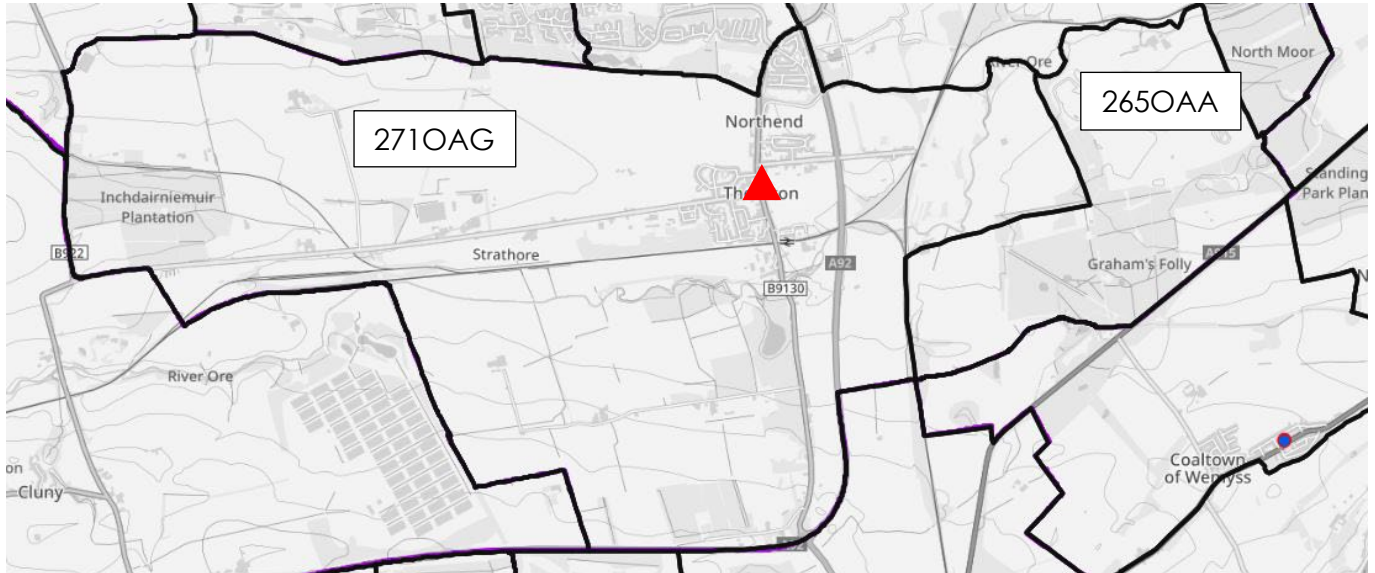


Map 10 – Polling Districts 265OAA and 271OAG

● Coaltown of Wemyss Community Centre

▲ Thornton Hall

The proposal is to merge polling districts 265OAA and 271OAG with Thornton Public Hall as the designated polling place

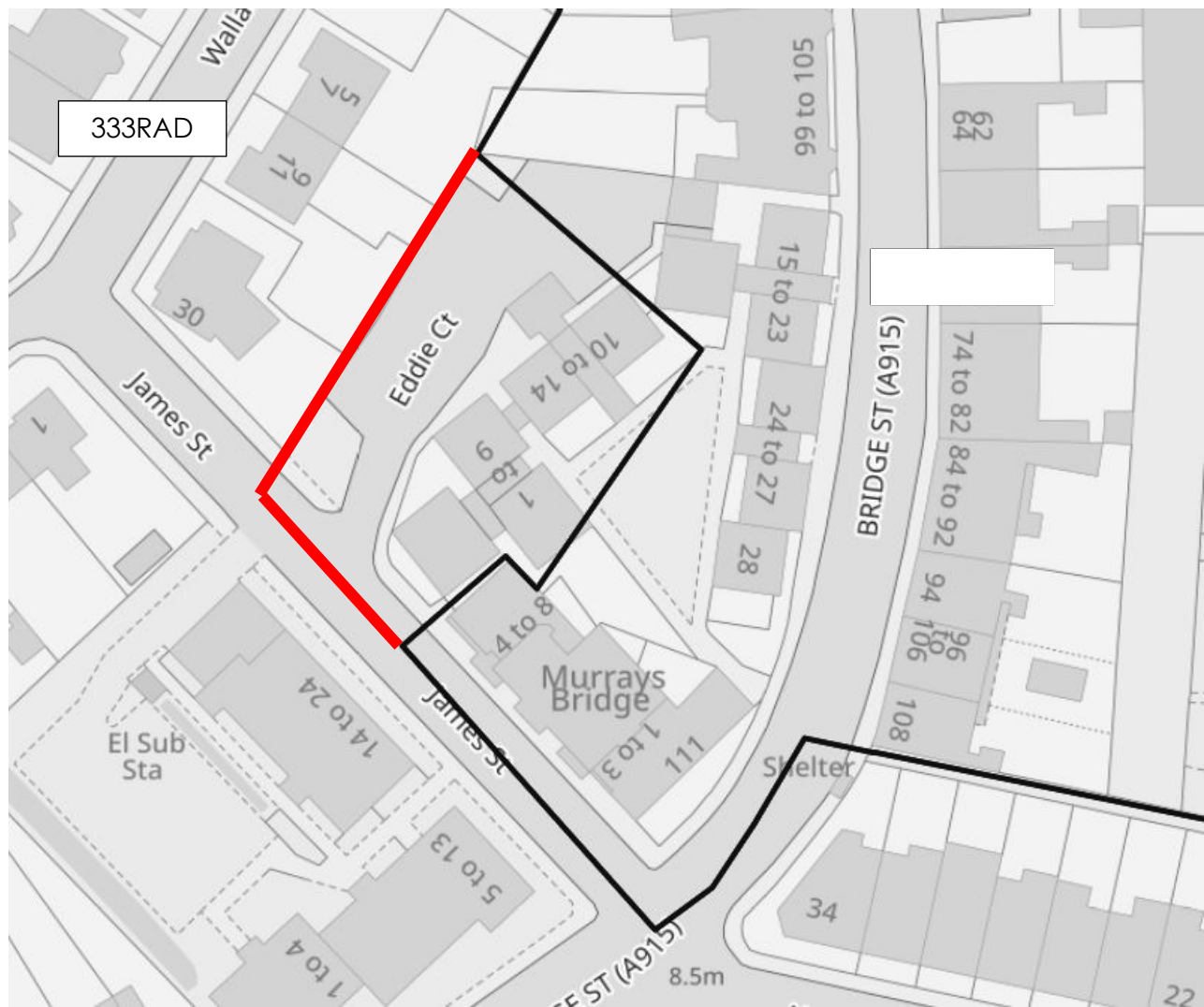


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Map 11 – Polling Districts 332RAC and 333RAD

Eddie Court, St Andrews

Amend boundary of polling district 332RAC and 333RAD shown in red moving electors in Eddie Court to polling district 332RAC.



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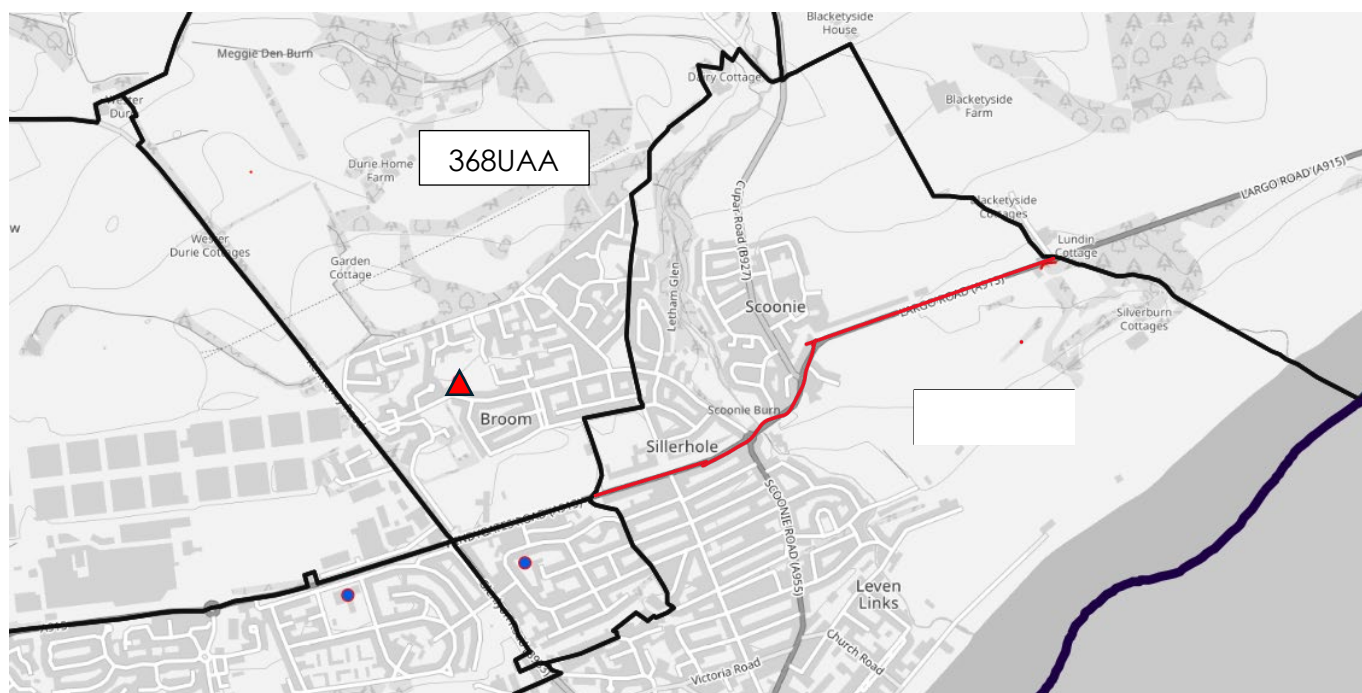
Map 12 - Polling Districts 368UAA and 375UAH

Forest Path area

Amend the boundary between polling districts 368UAA and 375UAH along the A915 shown in red below.




Electors to the north of A915 to vote at Balmaise Community Centre, electors to south of A915 continue to vote at Leven Parish Church Hall

▲ Balmaise Community Centre

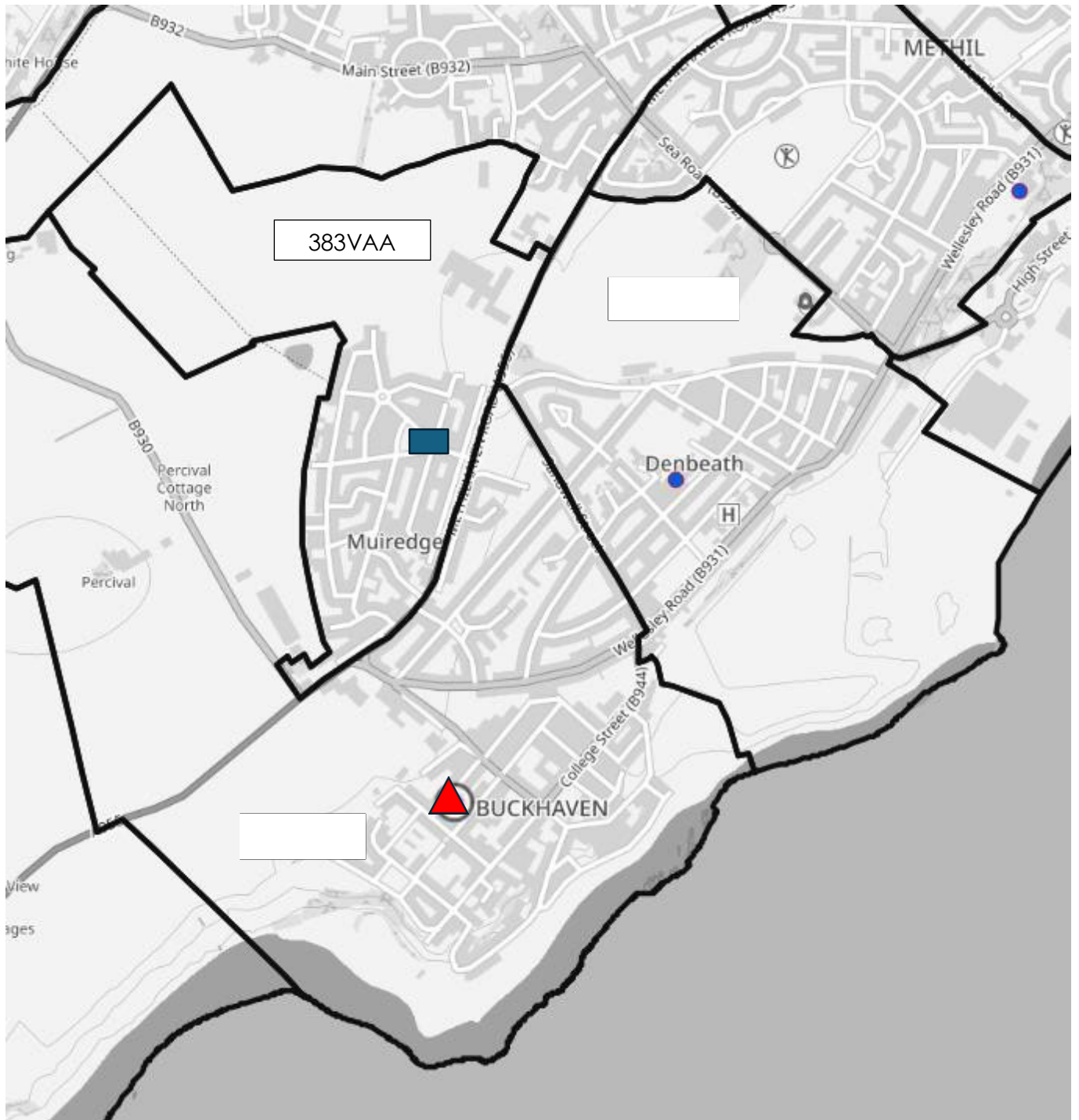


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Map 13 -Polling Districts 383VAA, 384VAB and 394VAL

-  Buckhaven Community Centre
-  Hyndhead School,
-  Buckhaven Portacabin

The proposal is to merge polling districts 383VAA,384VAB and 394VAL with Buckhaven Community Centre designated as the polling place.



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Comments Received during the consultation process.

Ward 1 – West Fife and Coastal Villages

Member of the Public

There is no suitable disabled toilet in the current polling station, there has never been a hearing loop installed.

RO Comment: *respondent does not name polling station. However, believe that this is related to the facilities at Kincardine Community Centre. Election Team will review.*

Ward 3 – Dunfermline Central

Member of the Public

The newish flats on the south side of Pittencrieff St (nos. 195-223) in Dunfermline are allocated to 040CAA Crossford PD, so that they have to vote at Crossford Scout Hall. The walk to the polling place at the Crossford Scout Hall is in excess of the 20min target, and in any event is along a busy road (A994), the rural part of which has no street lights and involves crossing the road (40 mph limit), without benefit of traffic lights, half way along where the single narrow pavement changes sides.

Older flats on the opposite north side of Pittencrieff St are in 043CAD Dunfermline West and vote at Dunfermline North Church, which is much closer and reached by walking along streets with normal pavements and streetlights.

Solution - alter the boundary between 040CAA and 043CAD, either so that it runs along the southern curtilage of nos. 195-223 Pittencrieff St., or by some other suitable line.

RO Comment: *Proposal now included to amend boundary between 040CAA and 043CAD to take in properties to south of Pittencrieff Street.*

Ward 6 - Inverkeithing and Dalgety Bay

Member of the Public

Greener Kirkcaldy's community building at 8 East Fergus Place could be considered as a potential polling place.

RO Comment: *the Election team have surveyed the venue which would be suitable for polling purposes. However, we have been advised by the Manager of the venue that due to their constitution they are not permitted to open for hours required by the Returning Officer on polling day.*

Ward 11 – Kirkcaldy Central

Member of the Public

The distance to the polling station (221KAB) from our home is 1.3 miles, uphill. In the past, we have walked to Abbotshall church hall to vote, but we had to take the car to Strathallan Primary School (after looking it up on the map, as we'd never heard of the place). We are fortunate enough to own a car, but for some residents who may not have a car or are no longer be able to drive 1.3 miles is a long way, and there are no obvious bus routes.

I understand that many people may prefer to drive, and parking may have been an issue at the previous polling location, but it is important that polling stations are accessible to all and that means local.

RO Comment: *Abbotshall Church Hall was unavailable for use at the UK Parliamentary election on 4 July due to a prior booking which could not be cancelled at short notice, so polling reverted to the closest available polling place at Strathallan Primary School.*

Ward 14 – Glenrothes North, Leslie and Markinch

Polling Staff

Whilst Leslie Primary School is a good and accessible venue for the other end of Leslie, could Leslie Library not be used? They have meeting rooms (however, I do not know the layout of the library or its suitability).

I have worked the elections at Leslie Primary for a number of years and it is a question we are often asked as to why the school is used when there are other options. I also think you could consider reducing the 2 stations to 1 station as it has its peaks and troughs, but one station would be more than capable of handling the flow of electors.

RO Comment: *The Election team has reviewed the facilities at Leslie Library which are suitable for use as a polling place. Amendment from Leslie Primary School to Leslie Library recommended.*

Ward 18 – St Andrews

Elected Member

Strathkinness Church Hall has I believe been sold so will no longer be available; the obvious alternative is Strathkinness Village Hall.

RO Comment: *Proposal now included to amend polling place from Strathkinness Church Hall to Strathkinness Village Hall*

Amendment previously discussed to move 111 Bridge Street (Murray's Bridge) from St Andrews Central into St Andrews South.

15-28 Eddie Court which like the rest of the street are in St Andrews South, is physically between 99-101 Bridge Street and the flats 1-8 Murray's Bridge at 111 Bridge Street. James Street, Sloan Street and Wallace Street are all in St Andrews South, so it does seem anomalous that there is a pedicle of St Andrews Central in this location.

RO Comment: *Proposal now included to amend boundary between polling districts 332RAC and 333RAD at Eddie Court, St Andrews.*

The Appeals Process

Following the conclusion of the Council's review certain persons have a right to make representations to the Electoral Commission and this section sets out the Appeals Process which requires to be followed.

Who is entitled to make a representation to the Commission?

- An interested authority.
- Not less than 30 electors in the UK parliamentary constituency, in which the polling district and/or polling place that is subject of the appeal is situated.
- A person (other than the Returning Officer) who has made representations to the authority during the review under Schedule 1A to the Representation of the People Act 1983.
- A person who is not an elector in a constituency in the authority's area but who the Commission think has sufficient interest in the accessibility of disabled persons to polling places in the area of has particular expertise in relation to the access to premises or facilities of disabled persons.

Grounds for Appeal

An appeal can only be brought on the grounds that the review of UK Parliamentary polling districts or polling places was not conducted so as to:

- Meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency or any body of those electors; or
- Take sufficient account of the accessibility to disabled persons of polling stations withing a designated polling place.

Making an appeal

An appeal should, as a minimum, include the following information:

- The name of the polling district and/or polling place that is the subject of the appeal, and in Great Britain the name of the local authority that carried out the review.
- If possible, the date of the review, including the date of the notice of holding the review and the date of the decision.
- A statement as to which of the four categories of eligible person applies to the appellant, together with the relevant evidence.
- Full details of the grounds of appeal, together with any evidence that is relied upon.
- The appellant's contact details so that the Commission can provide the appellant with its decision and also in the case the Commission has any queries. In the case of an appeal brought by not less than 30 electors in the constituency, the appeal should indicate the person who is acting on behalf of the electors and to whom correspondence should be directed.

How to submit an appeal

An appeal can be submitted to the Commission by post addressed to:

Legal Team
The Electoral Commission
3 Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Appeals can also be emailed to appeals@electoralcommission.org.uk.

If possible, an appeal should be made in writing.

Upon receipt of an appeal, the Commission will assess whether the appeal is valid and acknowledge receipt.

Deadlines for bringing an appeal

There is no deadline for bringing an appeal to a polling place review.

Decision on appeal

The Commission will reach a decision as soon as possible and advise the appellant accordingly.

If an appeal is successful, the Commission may direct the authority to make any alterations to the polling places designated by the review which the Commission thinks necessary in the circumstances.

If the authority fails to make those alterations before the end of two months starting on the day the direction is given, the Commission may make alternations themselves.

The Commission has no power to direct changes to be made to the designated polling districts or to direct the authority to carry out another review, However, if the Commission considers it appropriate it will recommend that the authority makes a change to its polling districts or recommend that the authority carry out another review.

20 March 2025

Agenda Item No. 9

Notice of Motions

Report by: Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

In terms of Standing Order No. 10, the attached notice of motions have been submitted.

Recommendation(s)

Council is asked to consider the motions.

Resource Implications

Not applicable.

Legal & Risk Implications

Not applicable.

Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

Consultation

Not applicable.

Lindsay Thomson
Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

Tel. 03451 55 55 55 Ext No 442180

Email: lindsay.thomson@fife.gov.uk

Motion 1

Compensation of WASPI Women

“Council notes the findings of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsmen of maladministration when it failed to properly communicate changes to the state pension age to women born in the 1950s. This recommended the payment of £1,000 to £2,950 per person affected.

Council further notes the announcement on 17/12/24 of the Work and Pensions Secretary to not accept this compensation recommendation.

In light of this decision, Council therefore resolves to support the original recommendations of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsmen and calls on the UK Government to also accept this.”

Proposed by Councillor Fiona Corps
Seconded by Councillor Jane Ann Liston

Motion 2

“Council commends the decision of the South & West Fife Area Committee of 5/2/25 (Para 200 (5)) which “requested a report from Roads and Transportation Services on what changes were required to incorporate carriageway thin surfacing / patching schemes into the Area Roads Programme” and asks that this report be brought forward as soon as possible.”

Proposed by Councillor Dave Dempsey
Seconded by Councillor Conner Young

Motion 3

Support for WASPI Women and Pension Inequality Redress

“This Council notes that:

1. The Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign represents women born in the 1950s who have been unfairly impacted by changes to the State Pension Age.
2. The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) has found that the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) was guilty of maladministration in failing to properly notify affected women of the changes.
3. Many of these women have faced financial hardship due to inadequate notice, impacting their retirement plans and overall well-being.
4. Council notes that it is estimated that in excess of 350,000 women were impacted in Scotland and more than 23,000 in Fife.
5. The ruling by the PHSO is vindication of the tireless efforts of the WASPI campaigners including groups here in Fife and the injustice that has been served by successive UK Governments, this has not only had a profound effect on the individuals but also on the wider community in Fife. Council acknowledges the PHSO has confirmed that women affected are owed compensation on the grounds of maladministration by the DWP, and instructs the Leader on behalf of the Council to write to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Secretary of State for Work and

Pensions, urging them to implement a fair compensation scheme for all WASPI women without further delay.”

Proposed by Councillor Ann Verner
Seconded by Councillor John Beare

Motion 4

Ukraine – 3 Years of the 2nd Russian Invasion

“Council notes the motion approved unanimously on March 10th, 2022, condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Council recognises that three years on from what it understands was Russia’s illegal full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022 that Ukraine and its people continue to resolutely defend their sovereign nation from Russian aggression.

Council also notes the support for the European Parliament resolution of 23 January 2025, which called on the Russian Federation to immediately terminate all military activities and withdraw from Ukraine, and similar motions debated in the Scottish Parliament on March 5th 2025 and in the House of Commons on 27th February 2025.

Council reiterates its ongoing support for President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people in their right to live freely in a Ukraine as recognised by the international community since 1991.

Council also condemns absolutely the violations of human rights and international humanitarian law that have been committed in Ukraine by the regime of Vladimir Putin and which have been documented by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine established by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Consul General of the Russian Federation in Scotland, conveying the council’s condemnation of the actions of his government. And additionally writes to the Consul General of Ukraine in Edinburgh indicating our support to the people of Ukraine.”

Proposed by Councillor John Beare
Seconded by Councillor Louise Kennedy-Dalby