**MEETING OF SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Monday, December 9th**

**HEADED ITEM**

**POLLING SCHEME 2020**

**Background**

[**Section 28 of the Electoral Act 1992**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1992/en/act/pub/0023/sec0028.html) requires that each County Council shall, as soon as may be, and thereafter at least once in every ten years, make a scheme dividing the County into Polling Districts and appointing a polling place for each polling district.  (A Polling Scheme does not specify Polling Station locations).  Such a Scheme is called a Polling Scheme. The Register of Electors is then produced in accordance with the districts defined within the scheme.

The last Polling Scheme was approved by South Dublin County Council in 2010.   Since then a number of circumstances have given rise to changes to the Register of Electors.  These include the existing 2013 Dáil Constituency Boundary, the Dáil Constituency Commission Report 2017, and the Local Electoral Areas as contained in the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 2 Report 2018.

The selection of Polling Stations (place of vote) prior to polling day is the responsibility of the Dublin County Returning Officer (Sheriff)

Some changes were enforced due to the new constituency/lea boundaries, and others were made to improve voting arrangements other than those already in place for some electors.  A number of large housing developments and a number of physical ground provisions and natural boundaries have also had an impact.

**Statutory Provisions**

Under Section 28(1) of the Electoral Act 1992, the Minister for Environment has set out the [**Electoral (Polling Scheme) Regulations 2005**](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2005/en/si/0108.html).  This document was the guiding reference used in the preparation of this draft Polling Scheme.

**Procedure**

Preparation of the draft scheme was based on the following factors:

1. The existing Register of Electors was used as a baseline for the preparation of the Polling Scheme, alongside a critical examination of the 2010 Polling Scheme.
2. Electoral (Polling Scheme) Regulations 2005.
3. The addition of all new housing developments received from Land Use Planning and Transportation Directorate since the last Polling Scheme in 2010.
4. Population levels in each Polling District.
5. Examination of voting arrangements in place for elections/referenda held in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019.
6. Consultation with Elected Members.
7. Consultation with County Registrar.
8. Public Consultation.

The main changes brought about by the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 2 Report 2018 was the creation of 7 Local Electoral Areas. The following is a detailed description setting out the electoral divisions that comprise each recommended local electoral area:

**Clondalkin**

Clondalkin-Dunawley, the part of the Clondalkin-Monastery electoral division west of the M50 motorway, the parts of the Clondalkin-Cappaghmore electoral division and the Clondalkin-Moorfield electoral division south of the South Western Commuter and Intercity railway line, Clondalkin Village, Newcastle, Rathcoole and Saggart.

**Firhouse - Bohernabreena**

Bohernabreena, Edmonstown, Firhouse-Ballycullen, Firhouse-Knocklyon and Firhouse Village.

**Lucan**

Lucan-St Helens, Lucan Heights, and the parts of the electoral division of Lucan Esker not contained in the Palmerstown-Fonthill electoral area.

**Palmerstown - Fonthill**

The parts of the electoral divisions of Clondalkin-Cappaghmore and Clondalkin-Moorfield not contained in the Clondalkin electoral area, Clondalkin-Rowlagh, the parts of the electoral division of Lucan Esker to the east of a line drawn along the R136 (outer ring road) commencing at the southern boundary of the electoral division marked by Kishoge railway station, and continuing along the R136 in a northerly direction to the junction of the R136 and the northern boundary of the electoral division, Palmerston Village and Palmerston West.

**Rathfarnham - Templeogue**

Ballyboden; those parts of the electoral division of Clondalkin-Ballymount and Clondalkin-Monastery electoral division east of the M50 motorway, Rathfarnham-Ballyroan, Rathfarnham-Butterfield, Rathfarnham-Hermitage, Rathfarnham-St. Enda's, Rathfarnham Village, those part of the electoral division of Tallaght-Kilnamanagh east of the M50 Motorway, Templeogue-Cypress, Templeogue-Kimmage Manor, Templeogue-Limekiln, Templeogue-Orwell, Templeogue-Osprey, Templeogue Village, Terenure-Cherryfield, Terenure-Greentrees and Terenure-St. James.

**Tallaght Central**

Those parts of the electoral division of Clondalkin-Ballymount west of the M50 motorway; Tallaght-Avonbeg, Tallaght-Belgard, Tallaght-Glenview, those parts of the electoral division of Tallaght-Kilnamanagh west of the M50 motorway; those parts of the electoral division of Tallaght-Kiltipper situated within the following line: commencing at the junction of the Firhouse Road West and Old Bawn Road (R113) (referred to hereafter as the first mentioned point), then proceeding in a south-easterly direction to the junction of the Old Bawn Road (R113) and the Kiltipper Road, proceeding along Kiltipper Road in a south westerly direction along the boundary of the Tallaght-Kiltipper electoral division to the roundabout marking the junction between the Kiltipper Road and the Kiltipper way, then proceeding along Kiltipper Way northwards until reaching the roundabout that intersects with the boundary line of the Tallaght-Kiltipper and Tallaght-Oldbawn electoral divisions, then proceeding along the boundary line in a easterly direction to the first mentioned point, Tallaght-Kingswood, Tallaght-Millbrook, Tallaght-Oldbawn, Tallaght-Springfield and Tallaght-Tymon

**Tallaght South**

Ballinascorney, Tallaght-Fettercairn, Tallaght-Jobstown, Tallaght-Killinardan and the part of Tallaght-Kiltipper electoral division not contained in the Tallaght Central local electoral area.

Amendments to the polling arrangements were presented to the OP&F Meeting of 21st March 2019 and at headed item no 14. at the Council Meeting of Monday 8th April 2019. These amendments are included in the following summary which reflects all the proposed changes to be included in the 2020 Polling Scheme.

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| **Register Book No.** | **Local Electoral Area** | **Recommended Change** |
| FA | Lucan | There is a proposed change to the polling scheme for the area contained in Lucan-St Helens Electoral Division. The proposal is to split the current polling district Book FA and create a new polling district Book F8 to provide a new polling place in closer proximity for the residents of Adamstown. This recommendation is to come into effect with the publication of the 2020-21 Register of Electors in February. |
| **F2** | Lucan | **This is a new book. The Townlands included in this book were previously included in Book FD which was split because of transferring over to voter.ie. Book FD originally traversed two Electoral Divisions and was incompatible with the implementation of the new voter.ie portal.** |
| **F3** | Lucan | **This is a new book. The Townlands included in this book were previously included in Book FO which was split because of transferring over to voter.ie. Book FO originally traversed two Electoral Divisions and was incompatible with the implementation of the new voter.ie portal.** |
| **F4** | Palmerstown -Fonthill | This is a new book. The Townlands included in this book were previously included in Book FO which was previously contained in Lucan LEA. Book FO was split based on the recommendations of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 2 Report 2018. |
| F7 | Palmerstown -Fonthill | **This is a new book. The Townlands included in this book were previously included in Book FP which was previously contained in Lucan LEA. Book FP** was split based on the recommendations of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 2 Report 2018. |
| F5 | Clondalkin | **This is a new book. The Townlands included in this book were previously included in Book FL,** which was split based on the recommendations of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 2 Report 2018. |

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| **F6** | Clondalkin | **This is a new book. The townlands included in this book were previously included in Book FN, which** was split based on the recommendations of the Local Electoral Area Boundary Committee No. 2 Report 2018. |
| **G3** | Tallaght South | **This is a new book. The townlands included in this book were previously included in Book GR, which was split because of transferring over to voter.ie. This book GR traversed two Electoral Divisions and was incompatible with voter.ie.** |
| GJ | Tallaght Central | **This is a new book. The townlands included in this book were previously included in book GI, which was split because of transferring over to voter.ie. This book traversed two Electoral Divisions and was incompatible with voter.ie.** |
| GY | Tallaght South | **This is a new book. The townlands included in this book were previously included in book GI, which was split because of transferring over to voter.ie. This book traversed two Electoral Divisions and was incompatible with voter.ie.** |
| GZ | Tallaght South | **This is a new book. The townlands included in this book were previously included in book GQ, which was split because of transferring over to voter.ie. This book traversed two Electoral Divisions and was incompatible with voter.ie.** |
| HV | Tallaght South | **This is a new book. The townlands included in this book were previously included in book H, which was split because of transferring over to voter.ie. This book traversed two Electoral Divisions and was incompatible with voter.ie.** |

**Public Consultation Process**

Copies of the Draft Polling Scheme 2020 went on public display on the 2nd October 2019 at County Hall, Tallaght, Dublin 24YNN5, Clondalkin Civic Offices, Ninth Lock Road, Clondalkin, D22E9X5, the Council’s Consultation Portal at [**http://consult.sdublincoco.ie**](http://consult.sdublincoco.ie/)and on the Council’s website at  [**www.sdcc.ie**](http://www.sdcc.ie/)   from Wednesday 2nd October 2019 until Wednesday 6th November 2019. Notice that a Draft Polling Scheme was produced was advertised in the Local Newspapers on Thursday 3rd October 2019. Submissions were invited in relation to the Draft Polling Scheme to be received or before 5 p.m. on the 6th November 2019.

Six submissions were received as part of the consultation process. Two corrections to the Draft Polling Scheme have been made following on from the consultation process.

The following submissions were received.

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| **No** | **Summary of Submission** | **Response** |
| 1. Lynda Curtis | Schools should not be used as polling stations. Libraries and Community Centres should be used instead. | The requisition of polling stations is a matter for the Dublin County Returning officer. |
| 2. Cllr Liona O’Toole | A request to add another polling station to the Adamstown Area. | This is proposed in the Draft Polling Scheme to Split the FA Book and create a new book F8 and add a polling station in closer proximity to the residents of Adamstown. |
| 3. Brendan Fox | A request to add another polling station to the Adamstown Area. | This is proposed in the Draft Polling Scheme to Split the FA Book and create a new book F8 and add a polling station in closer proximity to the residents of Adamstown |
| 4. Maura McNamara | An Observation was made that there was an error in the Draft  Polling Scheme regarding the spelling of a townland as Wooddale instead of the correct spelling of Wood Dale. | Advised this clerical error will be resolved prior to the publication of the final Polling Scheme. |
| 5. Cllr Guss O’Connell | A Request was made that in the event of the name of the LEA “Palmerstown – Fonthill” being changed in the future, could the name Palmerstown be given prominence. | Section 23 of the Local Government Act 2001 empowers the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government to divide a local authority area into local electoral areas and to amend those areas. |
| 6. Cllr Guss O’Connell | In 2015 a plebiscite was held in Palmerstown that the name Palmerston Village to be amended to the name of ***Palmerstown Village***. The name Palmerston Village is still referred to in the Draft Polling Scheme. | The Plebiscite held in 2014 was approved by resolution at the Council meeting held in November 2014 specifically related to addresses in the geographical area of Palmerstown Village. Palmerston Village in the context of the Draft Polling Scheme refers solely to the Electoral Division. |

**Members’ Statutory Business**

As the making of a Polling Scheme is a reserved function the adoption of the following resolution is required:

***“That the Draft Polling Scheme 2020 is hereby confirmed by this Council in accordance with*** [***Section 28 of the Electoral Act 1992***](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1992/en/act/pub/0023/sec0028.html) ***as amended by*** [***Section 12 of the Electoral (Amendment) Act 2001***](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2001/en/act/pub/0038/sec0012.html)

Once the scheme is formally approved it will come into effect with the publication of the 2020-21 Register of Electors on the 15th February 2020, and shall be furnished to the Minister and to each returning officer, each local authority and member of the Dáil for each constituency to which the scheme relates.   It will also be required to give public notice of the making of the scheme.