

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL ELECTIONS THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022

Midlothian
VOTES

NOTICE TO CANDIDATES/AGENTS OF OPENING OF POSTAL BALLOT BOXES AND ENVELOPES

I HEREBY GIVE YOU NOTICE

- 1) that, in terms of Paragraph 18 of the Representation of the People (Postal Voting for Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, as amended, I shall, in connection with the above Elections, begin the opening of the Postal Ballot Boxes and the Envelopes contained therein in the Council Chambers, Midlothian Council, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith at 10am on Wednesday 20 April 2022 and thereafter on each working day at the same time and place, (including, if necessary, Saturday 23 April, Sunday 24 April, Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May 2022) until and including Thursday 5 May 2022 (Polling Day).

Please note that those postal packs then received will be checked on 19 April 2022 to ensure that any applications to cancel the postal vote can be retrieved prior to the deadline for receipt of such applications at 5pm on that date.

On Thursday 5 May 2022 (Polling Day) I will commence the opening of the Postal Ballot Boxes and the Envelopes contained therein at 10am in The Lasswade Centre, Eskdale Drive, Bonnyrigg EH19 2LA. This opening will proceed as and when necessary until all the postal ballot envelopes received timeously for the election have been processed. Please note that any postal votes collected from polling stations at the end of poll may be processed on Friday 6 May at 8am. Please note that if for any reason it is not practical to open the postal votes and process the postal voting statements therein at The Lasswade Centre (eg power failure) such openings will revert to the Council Chambers in Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

If any postal vote statement adjudication is required to be done by the Returning Officer, or her Depute appointed for that purpose, it will take place at 4pm each postal opening day other than Friday 22 April and Friday 29 April 2022 when it will take place at 3pm (**except** on Saturday 23 April, Sunday 24 April, Saturday 30 April and Sunday 1 May 2022 when it will be done as the openings proceed). On Thursday 5 May 2022 (Polling Day), and, if necessary, on Friday 6 May 2022 any postal vote statement adjudication will also take place as the openings proceed.

- (4) (a) that, in terms of Paragraphs 6 and 7 of the Representation of the People (Postal Voting for Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, as amended, each Candidate or a person appointed by him/her to attend in his/her place and each Election Agent or a person appointed by the Candidate to attend in the Election Agent's place will be entitled to be present at the Opening of Postal Ballot Boxes and the Envelopes contained therein.
I/...

I will also allow the Candidate or the Election Agent if he/she so wishes to appoint one agent in addition to the aforementioned.

(b) that, notice in writing of the appointments (made in terms of Paragraph 7(1) above) stating the name(s) and address(es) of the person(s) appointed shall be given by the Candidate or as appropriate the Election Agent to me. **This must be done before the time fixed for the relevant opening of the postal voters' ballot boxes.**

I shall issue to every person attending the proceedings for the issue or receipt of postal ballot papers a copy of Rule 27 of The Scottish Local Government Elections Order 2011, as amended, in regard to the requirement of secrecy.

NOTE – Where in terms of Paragraph 7(8) of the Representation of the People (Postal Voting for Local Government Elections) (Scotland) Regulations 2007, as amended, any act or thing is required or authorised to be done in the presence of the candidates or their agents, the non-attendance of any such persons or person at the time and place appointed for the purpose shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

Accordingly in the absence of such persons the Opening of Postal Ballot Boxes and the Envelopes contained therein will proceed at the times stipulated.

**Dr Grace Vickers
Returning Officer
4 March 2022**