



Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts 2019

Stage 2 - Consultation on Proposed Amendments to Polling Districts and Polling Places

In October 2019 the council commenced its statutory review of Polling Places and Polling districts in the Moray UK Westminster constituency. The first stage consultation was completed in early November 2019, which sought comments on the existing polling scheme and polling district arrangements.

Due to an unscheduled local government by-election followed by the snap General Election in December 2019, the review was placed on hold to recommence in March 2019. Due to pandemic lockdown and closure of non-essential offices the review was then placed on further hold.

The review process has now recommenced and proposed amendments to the current polling districts and polling places in Moray follow overleaf for public consultation.

How to respond to the Consultation

We would be pleased to hear from you, by contacting the election office on election.enquiries@moray.gov.uk, writing to us at

Polling Place Review, Elections Office, Moray Council, Council Offices, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX

or calling 01343 563334 if you have any comments on the proposed changes.

This consultation is open until Thursday 19 November 2020.

If you require the information in any other format or require further information please contact as noted above.

Once stage 2 consultation responses are received we will further review our proposed amendments, in light of comments, as necessary. Thereafter the proposed amendments will be put before Moray Council for final approval. Any changes would not come into effect until February 2021, or later as required in advance of the Scottish Parliamentary Elections scheduled for May 2021.

PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE AMENDMENTS

WARD 1 - SPEYSIDE AND GLENLIVET

MM0102 Rothes (Grant Community Centre)

Amend Polling Place name from Grant Community Centre to The Grant Hall and amend corporate address gazetteer to reflect local name use.

WARD 2 – KEITH AND CULLEN

MM0207 Keith + MM0208 Keith Rural South (Longmore Halls)

Merge polling districts MM0207 / MM0208 into one area for administrative purposes and rename MM0207 Keith and District as current arrangement causes unnecessary issues with the polling scheme and split stations during polls.

BM0209 – Rothiemay

Renumber to BM0208 to reflect merge of polling districts above.

WARD 3 – BUCKIE / WARD 4 – FOCHABERS LHANBRYDE

No changes proposed in this review.

WARD 5 – HELDON & LAICH

MM0503 - Lossiemouth West & Drainie (currently Lossiemouth Community Centre)

Replace Lossiemouth Community Centre with Lossiemouth Community Complex Library due to building replacement with the construction of the Lossiemouth High School.

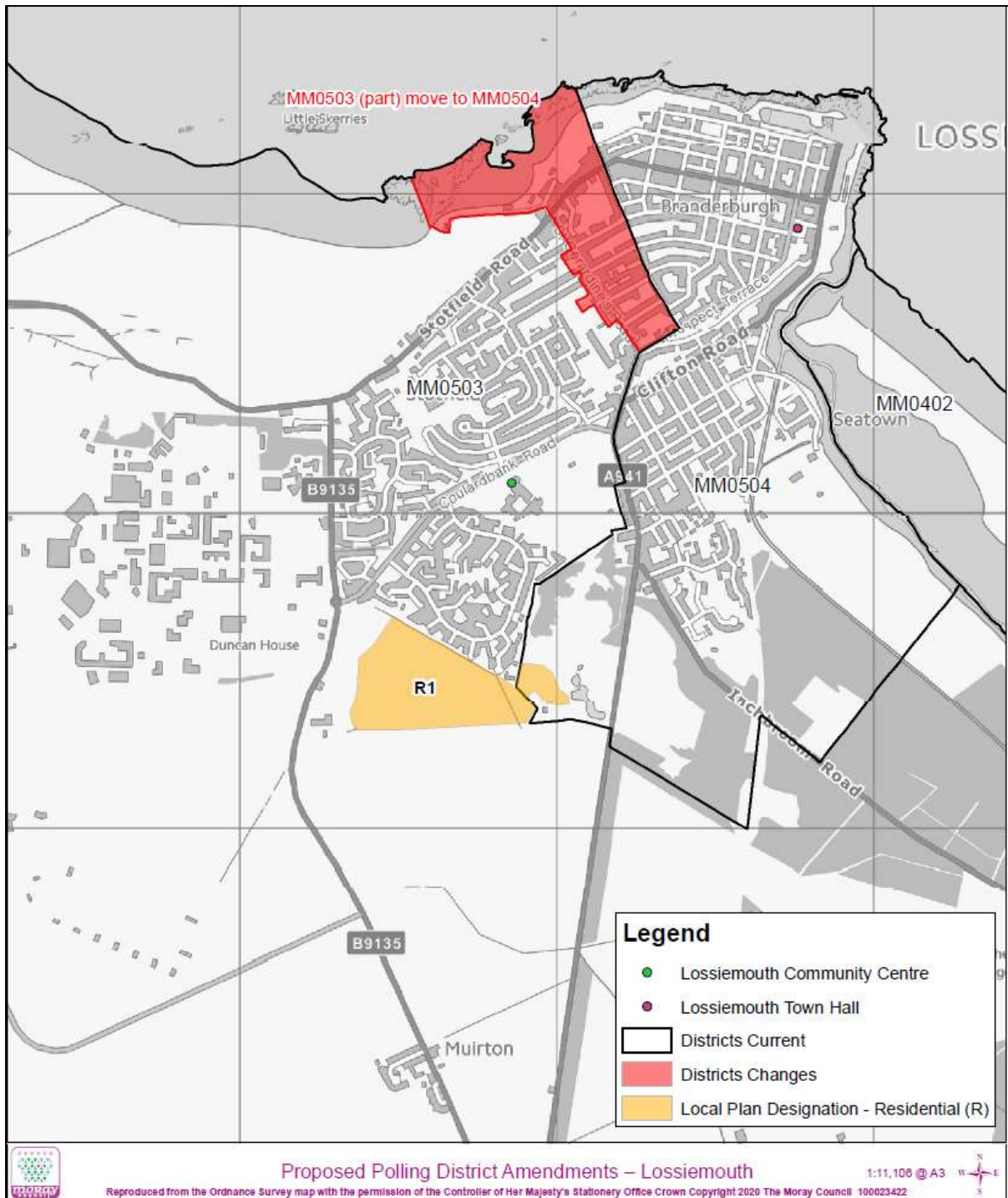
Due to current high electorate capacity issues, potential additional electorate from RAF Base expansion and additional residential building expected in this area in the long term, realign polling district boundary between MM0503 and MM0504 to create future capacity (217 properties). Areas to be moved to MM0504 include areas marked as R1 for residential build)

MM0504 - Lossiemouth East (Lossiemouth Town Hall)

Due to issue noted above realign polling district boundary between MM0503 and MM0504 to accommodate additional electorate at this venue.

List of Streets affected or partly affected by change: (↘ See map 1)

Commerce Street, Coulardhill, Coulardhill Terrace, Dunbar Court, Dunbar Street, James Street, Kimberly Street, Marine Court, Marine Terrace, Prospect Terrace, Schoolhill Terrace, St Gerardines Road, and Stotfield Road



Map 1: Map of Proposed Polling District Amendments in Lossiemouth MM0503/MM0504

MM0506 – Alves & Roseisle (currently Alves School)

Relocate polling place from current shared school site at Alves School, Main Road to Alves Hall. Alves Hall has recently been partly refurbished and car park and access improvements have been made.

WARD 6 – ELGIN CITY NORTH

No changes proposed in this review

WARD 7 – ELGIN CITY SOUTH

MM0702 – New Elgin West (Greenwards School)

School closure on polling day, site not suitable for shared school venue. Venue is at high capacity due to continued residential building in area which poses risk during high turnout polls. MM0702 polling district boundary to be realigned alongside changes to MM0703 and new Polling Place and Polling District to be created. (476 properties moved from MM0702 to MM0703) This will lessen burden on the polling place.

MM0703 – New Elgin East (New Elgin and Ashgrove Hall)

High burden due to continued residential building in south of the polling district. Continue to monitor new build electorate increase.

Additional venue to be implemented east of district and splitting of polling districts MM0702 / MM0703 to create MM0704. (816 properties to be moved to MM0704) This will lessen burden on the polling place.

NEW MM0704 New Elgin Linkwood (Moray Sports Centre)

New Polling Place and Polling District to service continued residential development initially serving 816 properties as at March 2020. (see comments above). The proposed polling place is within Ward 4 along with additional residential development land at Linkwood. May be scope for future separate ward polling station within this polling place once properties in the ward 4 area of Linkwood are built.

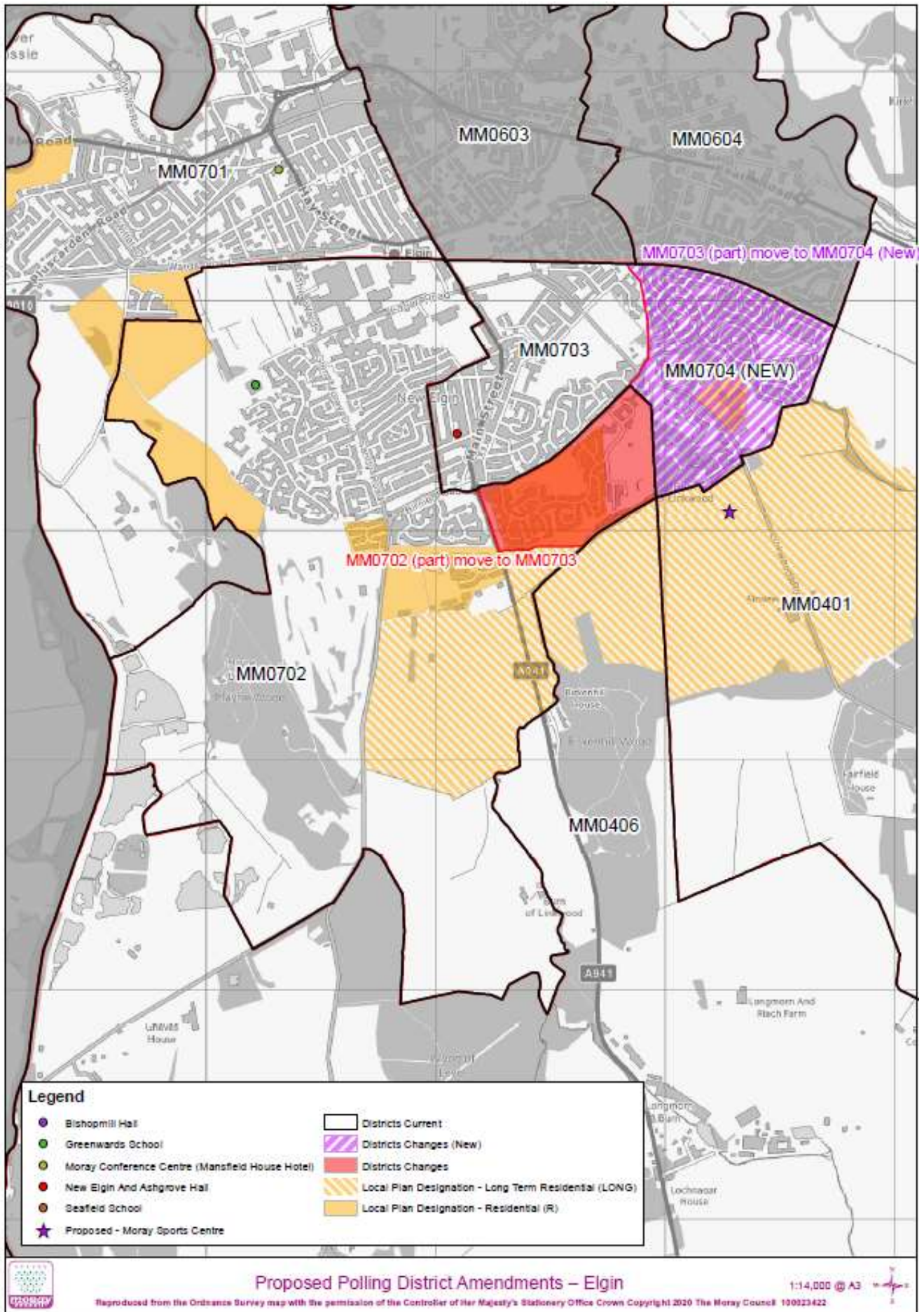
Streets affected or partly affected by these proposals; (↘ See map 2)

MM0702 move to MM0703

Ben Riach Court, Ben Riach View, Doocot Court, Dove Avenue, Dove Court, Fogwatt Crescent, Linkwood Avenue, Linkwood Court, Linkwood Drive, Sandstone Avenue, Sandstone Drive, Sandstone Place, Sandstone Street, Teindland Court, Teindland Place, Teindland Wynd, Thornhill Court and Thornhill Drive (18)

MM0703 move to MM0704 (new)

Ashburton Court, Bain Avenue, Bain Road, Barmuckity Lane, Brechan Rig, Calcots Crescent, Clarendon Court, Cooperage Close, Coxtan Crescent, Cumming Circle, Distillery Drive, Doocot Lane, Dunkinty, Ewing Howe, Fogwatt Lane, Gisborne Court, Gurness Circle, Hossack Drive, Linkwood Close, Linkwood Road, Longmorn Crescent, Manitoba Avenue, Manitoba Place, Mcmillan Avenue, Millbuie Street, Ontario Court, Pot Still Way, Quebec Place, Ross Lane, Rowan Lea, Stillmans Wynd and The Maltings. (32)



Map 2 – Overview of proposed polling district amendments in New Elgin – MM0702 /MM0703 and MM0704 (new)

WARD 8 - FORRES

Background

Forres town, and the immediate vicinity including Altyre, Waterford and Mundole, is currently served by five polling districts.

- *MM0804, Forres Sanquhar* served by a small polling place at the Tennis club house serves a geographically discrete area. There is no planned large scale residential building in this area.
- *MM0805, Forres East* is served by Forres House Community Centre. This venue has significant capacity for future electorate across more than one room. There are long term sites (Lochyhill) which would be accommodated in the future at this venue. Some capacity therefore has to be maintained.
- *MM806, Forres Central* is served by Forres Town Hall and covers the very centre of Forres, both sides of the High Street to a point just west of the Forres Town hall. There are some small scale and long-term additional residential sites planned in the district.
- *MM0808, Forres Knockomie & Rural* is also served by Forres Town Hall and covers a large population to the South-east of Forres, west of Grantown Road. This area has large scale residential housing sites, both in progress and planned, in the south of the district.
- *MM0807, Forres West* is served by Victoria Hotel Function Suite. This area covers the area west of the Grantown Road, which has seen growth in previous years and there is some smaller scale and long term additional residential sites planned in the south of the district.

Polling Place reviews are statutorily conducted every 5 years. However capacity is generally put in place to serve the districts long-term.

Issues

The two main issues within Forres are the forecast number of residential builds, particularly in the south of the town and the pressure on the Forres Town Hall capacity as a venue to serve the current polling district alignment, in particular during high turnout polls.

Although other venues have been identified during this review none are felt to be suitable at this time to supplement the venues currently used and alleviate specific pressures seen above, without mass changes to the polling district boundaries. This is not advisable in advance of major polls.

Therefore it is proposed to make some minor adjustments to the polling district boundaries in Forres to create the necessary capacity.

Proposed amendments to polling districts in Ward 8; (↘ see map 3)

MM0805 – Forres East (Forres House Community Centre)

Polling Place has capacity to take additional electorate.

- Adjust northern boundary of polling district MM0806 to move voters into MM0805 and create additional capacity at another Polling Place Forres Town Hall, leave some capacity in venue for additional long term residential sites to the east of Forres (see comments below).

MM0806 – Forres Central (Forres Town Hall)

Town Hall total electorate is reaching capacity and high burden on venue. Venue is subject to refurbishment on a yet undetermined timescale which may or may not affect future polls, temporary arrangement may be required.

- Amend northern boundary of polling district MM0806 to move voters into MM0805 (voting at Forres House Community Centre) and create additional capacity at Forres Town Hall (58 properties)

Streets affected or partly affected by these proposals;

MM0806 to MM0805

Bogton Road, Caroline Street, Claremont, Gordon Street, Lea Road and North Road (6)

MM0808 – Forres Knockomie & Rural (Forres Town Hall)

High burden on capacity due to continued building in south of the polling district. Continue to monitor new build electorate increase.

- Adjust polling district boundary between MM0807 and MM0808 to create capacity in MM0808 for residential building taking place east of Grantown Road. Amendment affects 465 properties.
- Renumber MM0808 to MM0807 and rename *Forres South and Rural* for administrative purposes

Streets affected or partly affected by these proposals;

Current MM0808 to current MM0807

Balnageith, Balnageith Rise, Balnageith Road, Beech Avenue, Brander Gardens, Cumiskie Crescent, Findhorn Park, Grantown Road, Grosvenor Park, Knockomie, Knockomie Rise, Mundole Court, Oak Grove, Redcraig, Redcraigs Place, Riddock Gardens, Rowan Crescent, Rowan Road, Springbank and Whiterow Drive (20)

Continued over/

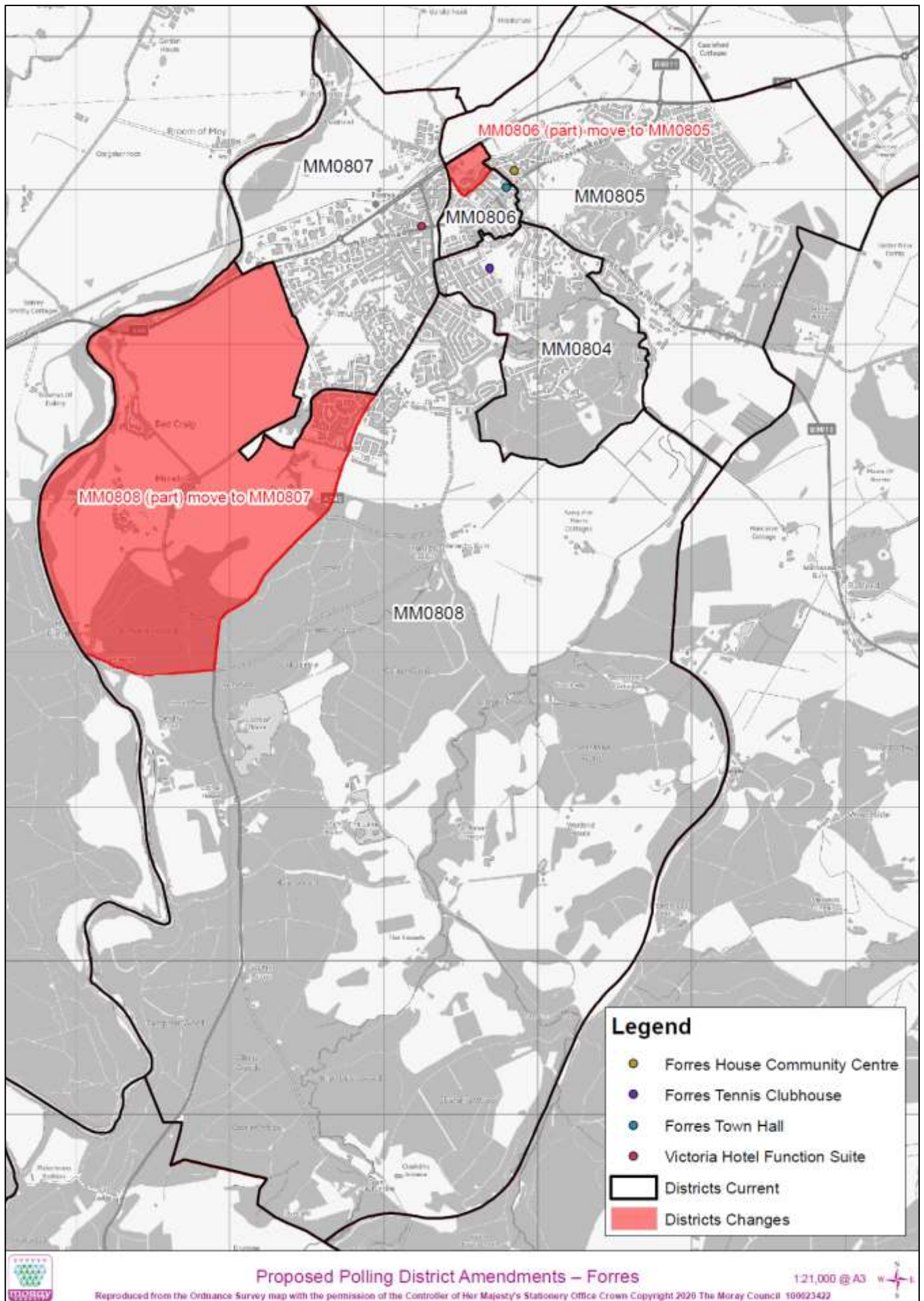
MM0807 – Forres West (Victoria Hotel Function Suite)

This polling place saw a recent change of ownership but continued availability as Polling Place. The elections office has recently been advised that the premises are to be sold and therefore due to potential redevelopment opportunity not be available in the near future for polling.

Continue to monitor new build electorate increase in this polling district.

- Replace current venue with new polling place at **Pilmuir Primary School**, Pilmuir Road, Forres, using the school hall via a separate entrance. School will remain open to staff and pupils with a shared site and local arrangements put in place to facilitate this.
Note: Whilst the use of the school is not the ideal venue in terms of use of educational establishment usually during term time, the lack of any other suitable premises in the west of the town, with two already high volume polling places to the east, neither of which have the capacity to take 2700+ additional voters, this presents the most viable option at this time. Other premises were examined in this review and the previous review in this area to service the continued residential development in the south west of the town.
- Adjust Polling District Boundary between MM0807 and MM0808 to move electors in the Knockomie Rise development and all planned development west of the Grantown Road to new Polling Place from the Forres Town Hall and also take in voters from the west from Mundole. (465 properties (currently built as at March 2020))
- Renumber MM0808 to MM0807 rename *Forres West and Mundole* for administrative purposes.

↘ See map 3 overleaf for summary of boundary changes



Map 3 - Overview of proposed polling district amendments in Forres in MM0805 – MM0808