

FLYPOSTING etc

1. It has been our practice for a number of years to prohibit the posting of election material promoting any candidate or party on Council land or property (including roadside verges and lampposts or other street furniture).

While a small number of other Councils may allow flyposting on local authority property, our own “zero tolerance” stance has always been clear and unequivocal. Should any instruction to remove material result eventually in a cost being incurred, we will require this to be borne by the appropriate candidate or party.

2. It has also been our practice that, during any election campaign, political candidates or party representatives are prohibited from using any Council facility in furtherance of their own electoral position (with the exception of public meetings). Clearly, where there is, for example, an issue relating to the closure of a Council facility, it might be viewed as a relevant electoral topic for candidates or political parties. Nevertheless, we will only permit candidates to visit such premises if this opportunity is available to all of those who are contesting any election.

3. Regarding the attendance of media representatives on the occasion of high-profile political figures casting their votes, our position has been that only electors, candidates and their agents, and authorised observers, apart from elections staff, should be allowed into a polling station, in accordance with accepted practice. Accordingly, no access will be permitted to the media to record any person casting a vote, in order to ensure the preservation of the secrecy of the ballot.

4. In relation to any potential difficulty in election candidates and party representatives gaining admittance to sheltered housing complexes in Aberdeenshire, this Council is very supportive of political representatives being democratically entitled to go about their duties. Accordingly, we have previously instructed wardens of sheltered housing complexes to ensure that all candidates and accredited agents have the right of access to any potential voter. This may be done through a pre-arranged meeting in a common room or by access to individual tenant flats, through individual wardens. We wish to ensure that no impediment is placed before any election candidate in this way.