Our Ref: GP 15/1

Cornerstone 39 Huntly Street Aberdeen AB10 1TJ

Please ask for Allan Bell Direct Dial (01224) 665119 Email allan.bell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk **Corporate Services**

Legal and Governance Woodhill House Westburn Road Aberdeen AB16 5GB Fax 01224 664019 www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk LP-1 ABERDEEN 3

28 November, 2013

Dear Sir / Madam,

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended by Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013), requires Aberdeenshire Council to conduct a review of polling districts and polling places every fifth year and this is once more being undertaken in respect of the parliamentary constituencies of Banff and Buchan, Gordon and West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine. The purpose of the review is to ensure reasonable facilities for voting and the accessibility of polling places to all electors, including those with a disability, so far as is practicable.

An important part of the process, therefore, concerns views expressed by persons or organisations with particular expertise in respect of access to premises for people with different forms of disability. Accordingly, should you so wish, you are invited to make representations on these matters. I should advise, of course, that this Council's continuing practice is to review the suitability of polling places and to explore alternative facilities at any time when these are brought to our attention.

In any event, comments regarding existing polling places should, wherever possible, be accompanied by suggestions of alternative venues which might be used.

I attach, for your information, a copy of the formal notice of the review, which I would ask that you read, together with details of current polling places and polling districts. Further information is available online at <u>www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/elections</u>, including relevant maps.

Any representations should be submitted in writing (by post or by e-mail) to the above address by Tuesday, 17 December, 2013. After receipt, all comments submitted will be considered and draft proposals produced. Thereafter, a further opportunity will be available for representations to be made before the review is concluded. It is intended that all submissions, together with decisions relating to the review will be posted on the Council's webpages in due course.

Yours sincerely

Allan Bell Depute Returning Officer