

## ELECTION POSTERS

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### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On the run up to past elections and the recent referendum political groups have sought agreement from the council to erect campaign material on lamp posts and sign posts. Permission has historically been granted providing that road visibility sight lines are not obstructed and the signs are placed sufficiently high not to impede the progress of pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Acceptance was also conditional on the campaign material including details of the local agent who could be contacted should the material not be removed within a couple of days of the campaign ending.

Following the recent referendum there have been a number of locations where campaign material had been left out after the date of the referendum. In many cases the material did not contain the agent's identification.

Through this report it is proposed that the council introduces a policy that would not permit any campaign materials to be affixed or displayed on any property under the Council's control.

Members are asked to:

- Note and endorse the report.
- Approve that the Election Poster Policy be taken to Council for approval as Council policy.

## ELECTION POSTERS

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### 2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 This report introduces a new policy proposing that election and referendum campaign material not be permitted to be displayed on council property, including street furniture.

### 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Members are asked to:

- Note and endorse the report.
- Approve that the Election Posters Policy be taken to Council for approval as Council policy.

### 4.0 DETAILS

4.1 Historically the council has allowed campaign material to be displayed on lamp posts and street furniture providing that it did not impede the flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic and providing there was no detriment to sight lines or road safety.

4.2 Following the recent referendum there were a number of locations where campaign material was left in place well beyond the referendum. There were also instances where material had been displayed immediately outside or close to polling stations. In these situations the material had to be removed.

4.3 In line with the Trunk Road Authority and an increasing number of local authorities this report proposes that the draft policy contained in the table below is adopted as council policy.

4.4 Where campaign material is affixed to Council property it shall be removed and where possible all reasonable costs associated with the removal shall be recovered from the party and/or individual responsible for it being erected.

<b>Election and Referendum Policy</b>
No campaign materials should be affixed or displayed on any property under the Council's control. For the avoidance of doubt this includes any area adopted by the Council as Roads Authority and any street furniture thereon, whether installed by

the Council or other bodies. Campaigning materials on telecommunications or power poles or apparatus or bus shelters situated on road verges or other areas owned or adopted by the Council are not permitted. This resolution also includes parks and Council buildings etc., regardless of whether these are owned, leased or adopted by the Council. However this prohibition does not apply to campaigning materials which Council tenants choose to put up on the windows of homes which they lease from the Council.

Where campaign material is affixed to Council property it shall be removed and where possible all reasonable costs associated with the removal shall be recovered from the party and/or individual responsible for it being erected.

## 5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report introduces a new policy proposing that election and referendum campaign material not be permitted to be displayed on council property, including street furniture.

## 6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1	Policy	Document proposes a policy for Election Posters
6.2	Financial	The Policy sets out how any costs shall be recovered
6.3	Legal	None
6.4	HR	None
6.5	Equalities	None
6.6	Risk	None
6.7	Customer Services	None

### **Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure**

**Policy Lead** Councillor Ellen Morton

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**For further information contact:** Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Amenity Services  
Tel:01546 604324 E-mail: [jim.smith@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:jim.smith@argyll-bute.gov.uk)