

West Lothian Council issues guide for by-election voters

Voters in the Armadale and Blackridge ward will soon be going to the polls to elect one councillor to fill a vacancy for the council ward area.

And there's no need for photo ID for this council by-election.

Registered voters will have already received their poll cards, detailing their local polling station. Polling stations are open from 7am to 10pm on Thursday 22 August. You don't have to take your polling card with you to the polling station.

Once voters have received ballot papers, follow the instructions carefully. Voters are asked to number the candidates in order of your choice. You should put a 1 in the box next to your first choice, a 2 in the box next to your second choice and so on. You can make as many or as few choices as you wish.

Only numbers should be used, and any other marks on the ballot paper could mean your vote may not be counted.

Replacement ballot papers are available from polling station staff if you make a mistake. Pencils will be provided, and you can bring your own pen or pencil if you want.

Arrangements are available in the polling stations for voters who need help with reading the ballot paper or marking it.

Emergency proxy applications can be made in some circumstances up to 5pm on polling day (5pm on Thursday 22 August).

Applications can be made by contacting the Electoral Registration Officer by the deadline on 0131 344 2500.

Postal voters have started to receive their ballot papers. Please carefully follow the instructions included and return your postal vote as soon as possible, allowing sufficient time for mail to be delivered. It can be posted using the pre-paid envelope.

You can also hand in your completed postal vote at any time at the Civic Centre in Livingston, or on polling day up to 10pm at any polling station in the Armadale and Blackridge Ward. There is no form to complete if you do that. All postal votes must have been received by 10pm on polling day. Replacements for lost or spoiled postal vote packs can be obtained until polling closes if required.

More detailed information and guidance for voters in the Armadale and Blackridge Local Government By-Election is available via the West Lothian Council website: <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/article/82696/Armadale-and-Blackridge-By-Election>

By Stuart Sommerville Local Democracy Reporter