

Amendments to Polling Places outside of the compulsory review period of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

Service: Electoral Services

Wards: All

Portfolio: Councillor Chambers, Finance and Personnel

Executive Summary report

The purpose of this report is to present recommendations (contained in Appendix A attached), for consideration by the committee, on changes to Polling Places and Polling stations.

Recommendations

That, subject to any comments Members may wish to make, the proposed changes to polling places, contained in Appendix A to this report, be submitted to the Council for approval.

Background information

Under the provisions of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, a local authority must carry out and complete a review of all the polling places and districts for UK Parliamentary elections in its area within the period of 16 months beginning from 1st October 2013, and the period of 16 months beginning with 1st October of every fifth year after that.

The reason for this is to align the reviews with the 5 year Parliamentary periods, and the five year cycle for UK Parliamentary boundary reviews implemented by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Act 2011.

The last review was completed and the report went to Council in November 2013.

Making amendments to polling places outside of the compulsory review period and interim reviews.

If a polling station becomes unavailable, the (Acting) Returning Officer can decide to change the location within the designated Polling Place which in most instances the Polling Place has been designated as the polling District. A few instances have arisen whereby alterations need to be made to the designated polling place and the Acting Returning Officer has set out his proposals in the attached Appendix. (Appendix A).

Resource considerations

There are no financial or staffing considerations that are outside the services budget.

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APPENDIX A

PELSALL WARD/ALDRIDGE BROWNHILLS CONSTITUENCY

	Proposed premise/location: PELSALL VILLAGE CENTRE (currently: Pelsall Village School)					Effect
Polling District Name	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Registers		Vote in person electors	Postal electors
MB	Same as Polling District	Pelsall Village Centre	MB			
<p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following on from the Police and Crime Commissioner Election in August, it is proposed that electors from MB continue to cast their vote at Pelsall Village Centre, rather than Pelsall Village School. <p><u>Reason:</u> The venue was more suitable than the school as a polling station, and no adverse comments were received. It will also avoid disruption to the school plus the Village Centre offers good access and is used for other community services.</p> <p>Note: Pelsall Village Centre falls just outside the Polling District, therefore requires a change of the designated polling place</p>						

APPENDIX A

PHEASEY PARK FARM WARD/WALSALL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

	Proposed premise/location: PHEASEY PARK FARM SCHOOL (tbc) (CURRENTLY TEMP SITED AT Cat & Fiddle PH).					Effect	
Polling District Name	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Registers		Vote in person electors	Postal electors	POLLING PLACE AMENDED
NA	Cat & Fiddle Public House	NB Polling District	NA				
NB	Same as Polling District	NB Polling District	NB				NO CHANGE
<p><u>Recommendation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An alternative venue for a polling station for NA & NB is sought. Pheasey Park Farm School is being investigated as a possible alternative or possibly the NISA shop or parking area. <p>As the 2PDs are combined into a single ballot box, and there is no suitable location within NA, it is suggested that the 2PDs have the same polling place designated to them to allow ease of venue change in the future.</p> <p><u>Reason:</u> There has been a change in circumstances at the Cat & Fiddle pub, meaning the car park is now pay and display. It is not possible to suspend parking restrictions due to it being maintained by a private company; therefore an alternative is being sought.</p>							

APPENDIX A

PADDOCK WARD/WALSALL SOUTH CONSTITUENCY

		Proposed premise/location: PARK HALL PLAY GROUP (tbc) (CURRENTLY TEMP SITED AT Liskeard shopping precinct).				Effect	
Polling District Name	Current Polling Place	Proposed Polling Place	Registers		Vote in person electors	Postal electors	POLLING PLACE AMENDED
UE	Liskeard Shopping Precinct	UF Polling District	UE				
UF	Same as Polling District	UF Polling District	UF				NO CHANGE
<p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following on from the Police and Crime Commissioner election we allocated polling district UF to Park Hall Play group and polling station UE to the Metro Inn as no temporary buildings were available. <p>We recommend, subject to a visit to the Park Hall Play Group that both electors from Polling District UE and UF be moved there.</p> <p>Reason: This will alleviate the expense of two temporary buildings located on the shopping precinct. If we make Polling District UE the polling place for UF then this means that we can move the locations of the two polling stations anywhere within UE which is the preferred location to send the voters. If the play group is too small, we can then if required keep UF as one temporary building on the Liskeard shopping precinct and send UE to the Play Group.</p>							