

| Report of | Meeting | Date |
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| Chief Executive as Returning Officer (Introduced by the Executive Leader) | Council | 2 November 2010 |

PROPOSED CHANGES TO POLLING STATIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To gain approval from Members for proposed changes to Polling Stations.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That a decision is made regarding the adoption of the new polling stations

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

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| Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the Central Lancashire sub-region | | Develop local solutions to climate change. | |
| Improving equality of opportunity and life chances | ✓ | Develop the Character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live | |
| Involving people in their communities | ✓ | Ensure Chorley Borough Council is a performing organisation | ✓ |

BACKGROUND

- The Electoral Services Office has received three requests for changes to polling stations. In addition the service has identified a further two possible changes which it is felt will be of benefit to the electorate.

PROPOSALS

- LOSTOCK WARD

Within the Lostock Ward in Croston (Polling District 18B) the current polling station is at Trinity and St. Michael's Primary School. A request was received asking if we would consider an alternative to this and the Church Hall at the Trinity Methodist Church was suggested.

The Church Hall has been visited and this would be a suitable alternative having the additional benefits of a suitable car park and as such it is recommended that this venue be used as a polling station in future.

6. CLAYTON-LE-WOODS AND WHITTLE-LE-WOODS WARD

Currently for those properties that are on Buckshaw Village (Polling District 10C) a mobile station has been used as a polling station. This is not ideal and as the number of properties increase it is likely that the mobile will not be a large enough venue. It is proposed therefore that the new Buckshaw Community Centre is used instead. This location has already been identified as for use as a polling station for the 02C Polling District of the Astley and Buckshaw Ward but the premises is sufficiently large enough to accommodate both polling districts. Whilst the premises is not actually within the Clayton-Le-Woods and Whittle-Le-Woods Ward, legislation does allow for such a situation should there be no other suitable alternative.

In addition to the above, in our considerations we have taken into account disabled access. Whilst we do provide ramps for the mobile stations disabled access is still not ideal and this change would provide for improved access.

7. ASTLEY AND BUCKSHAW WARD

As mentioned above, Polling District 02C of the Astley and Buckshaw Ward has been allocated Buckshaw Community Centre as a polling station. This was agreed by Council on 15 December 2009 pending the availability and suitability of the premises. The Centre is now open and available and is a suitable location and will therefore be used for future elections for this polling district.

8. PENNINE WARD

In the Pennine Ward, for Polling Districts 19A and 19B the current polling station is White Coppice Nursery. The owners of this have contacted us with a request that an alternative venue is considered in order to avoid disruption to the business on polling days.

We have considered this request and the only suitable alternative we can find is to use the Church Hall of Saint Barnabas Church on Chapel Lane, Heapey. The Church is a more suitable venue having a car park nearby and being easier to get to rather than the unmade road near the nursery.

Polling districts 19A and 19B would therefore transfer in full to this station and those properties on Chapel Lane and Trigg Lane who currently use Saint Chad's School will also transfer to Saint Barnabas.

Part of our proposal here is also centred around access for the disabled. The current polling station has got disabled access but in some respects this is negated due to the station being positioned on what is an unmade and uneven road. The use of the Church will improve this situation and although there is currently no level access we will be providing a ramp for polling day.

9. CLAYTON-LE WOODS WEST AND CUERDEN WARD

For Polling Districts 12B and 12C of the Clayton-Le-Woods West and Cuerden Ward a mobile station is currently used on Cuerden Residential Park, situated to the rear of the site's social club.

The use of mobiles has never been ideal and as such we have reached agreement with the site owners that we can now use the club house itself as a polling station. The club will obviously be closed for other purposes and under these circumstances it is a much more

suitable venue than the previous mobile and the recommendation is that the club house is used in future.

As in our other proposals we have again taken disabled access facilities into our considerations. Again whilst we do provide ramps for the mobile stations disabled access is still not ideal and this change would also facilitate improved access.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

10. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

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| Finance | | Customer Services | |
| Human Resources | | Equality and Diversity | |
| Legal | | No significant implications in this area | ✓ |

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION (HEAD OF GOVERNANCE)

11. It is the reasonable practice of this Authority to review the provision of Polling Stations after each election. The recommendations within this report are made after the consideration of proper assessment criteria.

DONNA HALL RETURNING OFFICER

There are no background papers to this report.

| Report Author | Ext | Date | Doc ID |
|---------------|------|----------|--------|
| Phil Davies | 5131 | 19/10/10 | *** |