

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive as Returning Officer (Introduced by the Executive Leader)	Council	6 December 2011

CHANGE OF POLLING STATIONS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To report on the proposed changes to Polling Stations following requests from school Head Teachers and to seek approval from Members for these proposed changes.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That a decision is made on each of the proposals set out in paragraphs 5 to 6 regarding changes to polling stations

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Strong Family Support		Education and Jobs	
Being Healthy		Pride in Quality Homes and Clean Neighbourhoods	
Safe Respectful Communities		Quality Community Services and Spaces	
Vibrant Local Economy		Thriving Town Centre, Local Attractions and Villages	
A Council that is a consistently Top Performing Organisation and Delivers Excellent Value for Money			✓

BACKGROUND

- Due to the Elections for Police Commissioners being moved from May to November 2012 we have written to all our Polling Stations advising them of our need for use on 15 November 2012 as well as 3 May 2012.

At present this has resulted in five schools contacting us with a request for alternative arrangements and whilst we have been able to reach agreement with three of these allowing us to still use their premises, for the two schools included below we have been requested to find different venues:

PROPOSALS

5. BRINDLE AND HOGHTON WARD

A request was received from the Head Teacher of Brindle Gregson Lane Primary School, Hoghton (the current polling station) to consider an alternative location for the Police Commissioner elections in November 2012 and for all other elections. By agreeing to this request disruption to the school would be avoided in future.

A number of alternatives were considered and a suitable alternative is the Trinity Methodist Church Hall, Gregson Lane, Hoghton. This would be acceptable location for all future elections starting with the Local Elections in May 2012. It meets the necessary criteria and Members views are requested as to its use.

6. ECCLESTON AND MAWDESLEY WARD

Again a request was received from the Head Teacher of Eccleston St Marys Primary School for us to consider an alternative venue as a polling station. Whilst the school will still be used in the May 2012 local elections we consider that any alternative should be considered for all future elections after and including November 2012.

We have looked at a number of options and feel that in this case a suitable alternative would be the Bateman Hall off Sagar Street Eccleston.

We have visited the premises and if agreed by members then the owners are happy for us to use their building as a polling station for the Police Commissioner Elections in November 2012 and for any elections thereafter. Members views are again requested regarding this change and also on the possibility of it's use for all future elections after November 2012, thereby releasing the school from it's obligations as a polling station.

IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	✓
Legal		Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

8. No comments.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

9. It is the reasonable practice of this Authority to review the provision of Polling Stations after each election and after any other reasonable requests have been made.

The recommendations within this report are made after the consideration of proper assessment criteria.

GARY HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE/RETURNING OFFICER

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Phil Davies	5131	24 November 2011	***

OR

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
***	***	***	***

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
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