

Report of	Meeting	Date
Head of Customer, Democratic and Office Support Services (Introduced by the Executive Leader and Executive Member for Capacity and Resources, Councillor J Wilson)	Executive Cabinet	09/02/06

AMENDMENTS TO DESIGNATED POLLING PLACES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform members of proposed amendments to the locations of Polling Places within the Borough.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- The location and siting of Polling Places can be directly linked with the corporate priority of servicing our customers better.

RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy		Information	
Reputation	✓	Regulatory/Legal	✓
Financial		Operational	
People		Other	

- The current list of Polling Places was compiled as a result of boundary changes in 2001/2 with some changes being reported to Cabinet in January/February 2005. Since the boundary changes were introduced the Council participated in election pilot schemes in 2002, 2003 and 2004 in which the use of Polling Places was dispensed with and as such the Parliamentary and combined County Council Elections held in May 2005 was the first time that many of the identified stations were used

BACKGROUND

- The May 2005 elections were the first time since boundary changes that many polling stations were used.
- Below are a number of changes being proposed for some polling places. These have



arisen due to a number of reasons including, knowledge and experience gained at the 2005 elections, requests to consider alternatives not available to us in 2005 and the necessity to re-locate due to the closure of a school currently being used as a polling station.

7. Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods (Register 10B)
8. The proposal here is to use Whittle Village Hall on Union Street instead of the current designated station of Whittle-le-Woods Primary School, Preston Road. The Village Hall has just been refurbished and its use would allow the school to remain open
9. Clayton-le-Woods North (Register 11A)
10. For the 2005 elections the designated polling station for this register was originally St Bedes' School, Preston Road, Clayton-le-Woods. This was changed on request to Clayton Youth and Community Centre, Manor Road.
11. The Manor Road location is also the designated station for Clayton-le-Woods and Whittle-le-Woods Ward, Register 10A.
12. Both registers 10A and 11A are of a size to be allocated a "double station" needing 2 Presiding Officers and 2 Poll Clerks each and unfortunately on polling day at the 2005 elections problems were experienced due to the large volumes of electors and confusion caused by having two double stations (for different Wards) at the same location.
13. Because of this it is proposed that Register 11A of the Clayton-le-Woods North Ward is split for polling station purposes only between the originally identified location of St Bede's School (where the station would actually be in the Old School) and Clayton-le-Woods primary school (old school at the bottom of the hill) situated on Back Lane, Clayton-le-Woods. Geographically this would seem to offer the best solution. Both stations would require ramps for disabled access and we will of course ensure that ramps are in place on the day.
14. Chorley North East (Registers 6A and 6B)
15. In this instance the designated polling station of St Joseph's RC Primary School (infants), Railway Road, Chorley is closing and a new station had to be identified.
16. After exploring the options the suggestion is that a mobile station be positioned on the car park between All Seasons Leisure Centre and the former Bentwoods factory. This is geographically reasonably central to the two registers in question and would seem to be the best solution.
17. By adopting the above proposals there will be an estimated additional cost to the Council of £3000 (after a grant claim of 50% for the disabled ramps). This is the total of the purchase of two disabled ramps and the hire of a mobile station and accessories.

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 18./ There are no direct HR implications attached to this report.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

19. The resiting of the Polling Station will mean that additional expenditure will need to be incurred. Some of the expenditure will be recurrent for hire costs, whilst some is for one-off items for which grant funding is available from the ODPM. The costs are summarised in the table below.

	2006/07 £
Recurrent expenditure	984
Non-recurrent expenditure	3,924
Provision of Government grant fund at 50%	(1,962)
Cost to Council	1,962

20. The total shows that the one off cost to be funded from the Council is £1,962 with recurrent costs of £984. The costs should be contained within current cash limits and virements found from existing budgets, if required.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

20. That Members approve the amendments to Polling Places as outlined in this report.
21. That the Polling Places detailed in this report are designated as Polling Places for the Authority.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) (If the recommendations are accepted)

22. The above recommendations are offered as the best solution for voting arrangements in these particular areas and result from necessary changes.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

23. For Register 10B the other option considered was to remain with the school.
24. For Register 11A the other option considered was to have one polling station only at St. Bedes or at Clayton-le-Woods Primary. Each of these is at opposite ends of the area covered by the register and would not therefore be convenient for some electors. In addition the room to be used at Clayton-le-Woods Primary School is of a size that space would be tight for use as a double station.
25. For Registers 6A and 6B the St. Josephs RC Primary School on Cedar Road was considered (where the closed infants school has now relocated to). Whilst this would be a good facility its location is such that it is not geographically central to voters in registers 6A and 6B and is actually located in the area covered by register 6C (who currently vote at another polling station). As such it is felt that it's use for 6A and 6B would cause confusion among the electors of 6C and indeed would result in residents living next to the school having to travel to another place to cast their vote.

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There are no background papers to this report.

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P. Davies	5131	25/01/06	ADMINREP/REPORT