

Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive as Returning Officer (Introduced by the Executive Leader)	Council	18/12/07

## REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the outcome of the recent review of polling districts and polling places.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. The following are recommended:
  - a) That the report be noted and the proposed changes approved.
  - b) That Polling Districts, Places and Stations are kept under constant review and any issues addressed as they arrive.
  - c) That any suggested changes to polling station locations be investigated and subsequently reported on.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

3. This report sets out the proposed changes to polling districts/places/stations and meets the requirements of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 that has formalised the way that reviews of polling districts and polling places are conducted.

### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

#### (If the recommendations are accepted)

4. The proposals are considered to be the most suitable provisions for voters for future elections within the borough.

## CORPORATE PRIORITIES

5. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Put Chorley at the heart of regional economic development in the central Lancashire sub region		Improved access to public services	✓
Improving equality of opportunity and life chance	✓	Develop the character and feel of Chorley as a good place to live	
Involving People in their Communities		Ensure Chorley is a performing Organisation	

## BACKGROUND

6. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a number of amendments to the Representation of the Peoples Act 1983 including the formalising of the way in which reviews of polling districts and polling stations are undertaken.

7. One aspect of this was that Local Authorities should have undertaken a review of all polling districts and polling places by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007. Following on from this such a review must also be carried out every 4 years from this date. Therefore the next formal review will need to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

8. For clarification,

- a) A polling district is a geographical sub-division of an electoral area, i.e. a division of a Parliamentary Constituency, a division of a European Parliamentary Constituency or for local government elections a division of a borough ward or county district.
- b) A polling place can be either an area or a building and some authorities designate entire polling districts as polling places so that it is easier for polling stations to be changed in the event of a building becoming unavailable. This is the situation in Chorley.
- c) A polling station is the actual area where the process of voting takes place and unless it is unavoidable the polling station should be located within the polling place designated for the polling district in question. In some circumstances, where a suitable polling station cannot be found then it is permissible to locate the polling station in the next most suitable location, even if this is within a different polling district or even a different borough ward.

9. Within Chorley polling districts and stations have been constantly reviewed in recent years. In 2003 boundary changes took place across the borough with a necessary review of polling districts at the same time. Elections in Chorley in 2003 and 2004 were pilot scheme elections negating the need for polling stations but since then changes have been introduced to both polling districts and polling station locations in 2005, 2006 and 2007. These changes resulted from feedback by Elected members, polling station staff and members of the public as well as being brought about by such issues as premises being no longer available and requests to use other premises instead of schools as

polling stations. It is intended that such interim reviews will continue to be made inside of the 4 yearly cycle of reviews required under the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

## PROPOSALS

### 10. CLAYTON-LE-WOODS AND WHITTLE-LE-WOODS WARD

It is proposed that in this ward a new polling district be created for those properties on Buckshaw village. This would not involve any changes to the ward other than the creation of a polling district and register which would in then simplify plans for a separate polling station for this polling district. The actual location of the polling station is still to be determined.

The introduction of a new polling station here will have financial implications. These will include staff costs in running the station on the day (about £300) but in addition if no suitable existing facility is available then there may be the costs also of a mobile station that would be in the region of £800 - £1000.

### 11. CLAYTON-LE-WOODS NORTH WARD

From the last local government elections in 2007 it was identified that within this ward some streets were allocated to the wrong polling station. In order to rectify this it is necessary to move these properties from one polling district and register to another as follows:

- a) Move the properties in Clayton Villa Fold from 11C to 11A
- b) Move the properties in Camwood from 11A to 11C

Again this is primarily for voting purposes and has no other effects on the Ward or Polling Districts.

### 12. HEATH CHARNOCK AND RIVINGTON WARD

A request was received to consider a change of polling station from Rivington Primary School to the nearby Church Hall in order to prevent the school having to close on polling day. This proposal is to be investigated as to the suitability of the Hall as a polling station. This change will not affect the make up of the polling district concerned.

### 13. ADLINGTON AND ANDERTON

A request was received as to the possibility of having an additional polling station in this ward with St. Joseph's school on Rothwell Road being suggested. The practicality and suitability of this will be investigated but again such a change will not affect the polling district.

## IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

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

Finance	✓	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	

Legal		No significant implications in this area	
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**COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BUSINESS AND TRANSFORMATION)**

15. The potential costs are up to £1000, the 2008/09 budget will be adjusted accordingly to reflect the potential costs.

CORPORATE DIRECTOR NAME – DONNA HALL

CORPORATE DIRECTOR DESIGNATION – CHIEF EXECUTIVE (RETURNING OFFICER)

There are no background papers to this report.

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
Phil. Davies	5131	27/11/07	***