

SHARED SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM



WORKING TOGETHER

INSERT TITLE OF REPORT

Author: Cathryn Filbin
Meeting date: ***

Implications of report: (Please tick relevant item)

	CBC	SRBC	Shared
Directorate level delivery changes			
Significant MTFS implications			
Significant staffing impact			
Strategic risk	x		
Escalated from Shared Senior Leadership Team for decision			
Corporate strategy delivery			

Issues for discussion:

1. Results of the Member's polling station review 2022 survey for information.

Recommended decision

2. That no changes to polling station are recommended, with the exception of, using St Chad's Church Hall instead of a portacabin as was originally approved at the council meeting in November 2021.
3. Increase in appropriate signage at St George's Primary School, to be displayed at the entrance on Carr Lane be recorded as a requirement for future elections.

Report/information (attached):

4. After each election, it is usual practice for the Returning Officer (RO) to consider the success of polling stations used that year. Once the review is complete, a report, including any recommendations is presented at a council meeting in time for the next year's election.
5. To inform his decision, the RO conducted a survey of elected members during the month of July to seek their views and understand any issues that may have not already been brought to his attention.
6. Members were able to respond to the survey on multiple polling stations, and in total there were 14 responses. A summary of the main responses and proposed actions are detailed below –

Polling Station	Comments	Response
<p data-bbox="328 232 592 394">Temporary Mobile, St Chad's Parish Church Hall (Chorley North East Ward)</p>	<p data-bbox="655 232 944 461">The use of a temporary mobile polling station instead of the Church Hall was not considered appropriate.</p> <p data-bbox="655 1272 938 1541">The church hall would be preferable although there is concern over a steep slope that which may prevent some people with mobility issues from gaining access.</p> <p data-bbox="655 1644 938 1872">It was also reported that parish priest was unaware that the car park was being used to site a portacabin on for the use as a polling station.</p>	<p data-bbox="967 232 1372 967">At the Council meeting in November 2021, Members approved the recommendation to use the Church Hall. However, it was brought to the RO's attention that as a result of the hall not being used during the lockdown (imposed due to the covid pandemic), a problem with the flooring , which was unnoticed due to the closure, was allowed to go untreated. This caused extensive damage. Due to this and other internal structural issues resulted in the hall not being safe to use. As the car park was large it was decided that a portacabin would be used at future elections until the Church Hall was open.</p> <p data-bbox="967 1003 1367 1236">At the time of writing this report it is understood that repairs have been carried out and the Church Hall is now available for hire. As such the polling station will be located into the building as planned.</p> <p data-bbox="967 1339 1351 1505">A risk assessment to be carried out at the entrance to the Church Hall and appropriate measures put in place to overcome this issue.</p> <p data-bbox="967 1608 1372 2038">During the pandemic Liverpool Diocese contacted councils across their area, stating that there was a review of their buildings, which in some cases would not reopen once restrictions were lifted. Therefore, any of their buildings used for polling stations had to be booked through the head office. Out of curtesy the RO's staff tried to contact the parish priest at</p>

		<p>St Chad's on numerous occasions, but unfortunately never got the opportunity to speak to him directly.</p> <p>Since the survey expired, contact has been made with the parish priest and a dialogue has already begun to book the Church Hall for next year.</p>
St George's CE Primary School (Chorley South East & Heath Charnock)	Not enough signage was used at the entrance on Carr Lane. Proposed that additional, larger weatherproof signage be allocated to this polling station for future elections.	The equipment log for this polling station has been updated to include a record of additional, appropriate signage, the placement of which to be on Carr Lane.
St George's Church (Chorley North West ward)	Move voters to St Mary's Social Club.	<p>As a result of the boundary review in 2019 polling districts served by St George's Church, St Mary's Social Club and Chorley Methodist Church all fell in the same polling district.</p> <p>As the electorate for all three polling stations were in the same boundaries for borough ward and county division it was proposed the number of polling stations in this area be reduced from three to two.</p> <p>At the council meeting in November 2021, members approved recommendations that voters normally attending St Mary's Social Club would instead attend Trinity Methodist Church. There would be no changes to St George's Church.</p> <p>The RO felt that the was insufficient reasons put forward to use St Mary's Social Club..</p>

7. Other polling stations highlighted in the survey which were considered appropriate for polling station use and received positive responses were Whittle-le-Woods Village Hall

(Buckshaw and Whittle Ward); Astley Village Community Centre, St Joseph's Parish Centre and St Peter's CE Primary School (Chorley North & Astley Ward); Clayton Brook Village Hall (Clayton East, Brindle and Hoghton Ward); The Fields Community Centre (Eccleston, Heskin & Charnock Richard) Buttermere Community Centre (Chorley South West) and Duke Street Primary School (Chorley South East & Heath Charnock). For these polling stations no changes are proposed.