

AGENDA ITEM: 5

**CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**THURSDAY, 11 March 2010**

**POLLING STATIONS**

**RICHARD LONG, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1 To seek members' agreement to the proposed changes of location of polling stations currently based at:
  - a) St Alphonsus School, Cadogan Street – North Ormesby and Brambles Farm ward (Polling District EB).
  - b) The Nursery, Berwick Hill Primary School, Westerdale Road – Pallister ward (Polling District IA).
  - c) Whinney Banks Youth & Community Centre, Harehills Road – Ayresome ward (Polling District BB).

**BACKGROUND**

- 2 In the run up to a Parliamentary General Election, all polling stations were contacted to ascertain their availability. It was established that:
  - a) Due to current building works, the polling station based in St Alphonsus School is not available for the Parliamentary General election 2010.
  - b) Due to current building works, the polling station based in The Nursery, Berwick Hills Primary School is not available for the Parliamentary General election 2010.

- c) Due to demolition, the polling station based in Whinney Banks Youth & Community Centre is not available for the Parliamentary General election in 2010.

3 Alternative accommodation was identified, inspected and polling station assessments completed.

#### Ward Implications

- 4 a) As regard St Alphonsus School, alternative, appropriate accommodation could not be identified within the polling district (EB), North Ormesby & Brambles Farm ward. However accommodation was located just outside of the polling district boundary. This does mean that electors would need to travel slightly further. However, this venue was utilised as a polling station during the European Election, June 2009 and no problems were reported and no adverse comments received.
- b) As regards Berwick Hills Primary School, a polling station would still be located on the grounds of the school and therefore there are no implications within the polling district IA, Pallister ward.
- c) As regards Whinney Banks Youth & Community Centre, permanent alternative accommodation could not be identified within the polling district (BB), Ayresome ward. However, a temporary station could be sited in a more central position within the polling district, the distance the majority of electors would need to travel would not be adversely affected.

### **PROPOSALS**

5 In preparation for the Parliamentary General Election, it is proposed:

- a) To replace the polling station based within St Alphonsus School, Cadogan Street to a polling station based within St Alphonsus Church located on Westbourne Grove.
- b) To replace the polling station based within The Nursery, Berwick Hills Primary School, Westerdale Road to Berwick Hills Primary School, Westerdale Road.
- c) To replace the polling station based within Whinney Banks Youth & Community Centre to a temporary polling station located on West Lane.

#### Reasons

- 6 a) St Alphonsus Church located just outside of the polling station but still within reach of the electors. The premises has both vehicle and pedestrian access and has good parking facilities on site. The building has ideal

access for wheelchair users or people with disabilities (level access and double entrance doors). Street lighting lights the exterior of the building.

- b) Berwick Hills Primary School is still located within the polling district and close to where the majority of the electors live. The premises has both vehicle and pedestrian access and has good parking facilities on site. The building has ideal access for wheelchair users or people with disabilities (a permanent ramp is in situ). The exterior of the building can be floodlit. However, there may be a logistical problem for the school which may have to close for the day.
- c) A temporary station sited on West Lane would be close to where the majority of the electors live. West Lane has suitable on road parking for electors and would not interfere with the flow of traffic. An electrical supply is in place and street lighting is present.

The interior of each of the above buildings are acceptable for use as a polling station, providing adequate facilities for both polling station staff and electors.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7 a) The fee involved for hiring accommodation at St Alphonsus Church would be £100
- b) There are no hire charges involved for using local authority buildings such as schools.
- c) The usual fee for hiring and siting a temporary station and associated costs approx £550.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8 a) That St Alphonsus Church, Westbourne Grove be approved as an alternative polling station within the North Ormesby and Brambles Farm ward.
- b) That Berwick Hills Primary School, Westerdale Road be approved as an alternative polling station within the Pallister Ward.
- c) That a temporary station, West Lane be approved as an alternative polling station within the Ayresome ward.

## **AUTHOR**

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