

COMMITTEE REPORT

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

26 SEPTEMBER 2012

CHANGES TO POLLING STATIONS

RICHARD LONG,

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To seek Members' agreement to proposed changes to the of location of polling stations currently based at:
 - a) North Ormesby Youth and Community Centre – North Ormesby and Brambles Farm ward (Polling District EA).
 - b) Grove Hill Library – Clairville ward (Polling District HA).
 - c) Grove Hill Youth and Community Centre – Clairville ward (Polling District HB).

BACKGROUND

- 2 In preparation for the elections due to take place on 27 September 2012 (North Ormesby and Brambles Farm by election) and 15 November 2012 (PCC), the premises previously agreed by committee as polling stations were considered or contacted. Due to changes arising from Council's decisions on the use of Council assets the locations identified are no longer available as the accommodation will be either undergoing refurbishment or is to be demolished.
- 3 Alternative accommodation has been identified, inspected and polling station assessments completed.

Ward Implications

- 4 a) North Ormesby Youth and Community Centre – This building is to be refurbished and the proposed alternative provision within the polling district is North Ormesby Library. Following refurbishment of the Youth and Community Centre the library will be relocated to the YCC. As the buildings are adjacent there is no change to travel distances for the electorate and car parking is available.

- b) Grove Hill Library and Grove Hill Youth and Community Centre are both to be demolished. The alternative premises proposed are: respectively, St Edward's Primary School, Eastbourne Road, and Grove Hill Resource Centre, Bishopton Road. Again, both locations are within the current ward boundaries on the same roads and there is no appreciable change to travel distances from the present polling station locations. Car parking is available at the Resource Centre. Roadside parking would need to be utilised for the school premises. Parking spaces may also be available at the nearby shopping centre.

Reasons

- 5 The unavailability of some of the current polling stations agreed by the committee has made it necessary to move to alternative accommodation for the forthcoming by North Ormesby and Brambles Farm by election and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) election.
- 6 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 There are no hire charges involved for using local authority buildings such as schools although a fee for caretaking, heating and lighting may be claimed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8
 - a) That North Ormesby Library be approved as an alternative polling station within the North Ormesby and Brambles Farm ward.
 - b) That St Edward's Primary School and Grove Hill Resource Centre be approved as alternative polling stations within the Clairville Ward.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

AUTHOR:

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