

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Polling places – designation of alternative premises – delegation of authority	
Key Decision	n/a	Item No. 6
Ward	All	
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Class	Part 1	Date: 26 MARCH, 2009

1. Purpose

This report asks the Committee to consider delegating authority in relation to the designation of alternative polling places where necessary.

2. Recommendation

That the Committee delegates to the Chief Executive, following consultation with the respective local Ward Councillors, authority to designate alternative locations in the event of any polling place being available at any election,.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1983, it is a function of the Council to designate polling districts and polling places for use at election times. The Council carried out a comprehensive review of polling arrangements in 2007 and designated polling places within 109 polling districts. There is a requirement for such full reviews to be carried out at least every four years and the next is due by 2011.
- 3.2 At the present time, no formal arrangements exist for alternative polling places to be determined in circumstances where the designated location is unavailable for any reason, e.g. refurbishment, industrial action, etc. Practise has developed in such circumstances of officers looking for suitable alternative locations in the polling district area (or sites for portakabins where none exists) and consulting with local Ward Councillors on the options available.
- 3.3 For the 2009 European Parliamentary Elections, it is now known that a small number of designated polling places will not be available – in some cases possibly on a long term basis. Other possible locations in these areas are currently being identified and assessed It is

opportune, therefore, to seek approval from the Committee to regularise the existing arrangements for identifying and designating alternative polling places.

4. Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising other than where portakabins are used as temporary polling places, costs will be substantially higher than with other buildings.

5. Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising.

6. Crime and disorder implications

There are no crime and disorder implications arising.

7. Equalities implications

There will be a need in identifying any alternative polling places to ensure that there is satisfactory access for voters with disabilities.

8. Environmental implications

There are no environmental implications arising.

Background documents

None reported

If there are any queries on this report please contact Dave Kingdon – 020 8314 6907