

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE		
Report Title	Polling places for Elections 2010	
Key Decision	n/a	Item No. 3
Ward	All	
Contributors	Kath Nicholson, Head of Law and Malcolm Constable, Electoral Services Manager	
Class	Part 1	Date: 28 JANUARY, 2010

1. Purpose

This report sets out the current position with regard to polling station availability for the Elections in 2010.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Elections Committee notes the current status and possible alternative locations.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 At the Elections Committee meeting on the 26 March 2009 the Committee delegated to the Chief Executive, authority to designate alternative locations, in the event of any polling station being unavailable at any election after consultation with relevant Ward Councillors.
- 3.2 The delegation was used in respect of 6 locations for the European Elections in June 2009.

Polling District	Alternative Location	Approved but unavailable
DECBZ	Lewisham Methodist Church Hall	College Park Baptist Chapel
DLC	St. John's Medical Centre	Lewisham Bridge Primary school
DNE	Portakabin adj. Eckington Gardens	Monson Primary School
EDA	Catford Wanderers Sports Club	Meadows Estate Community Hall
WEWBZ	Portakabin - Hafton Road	Portakabin Cumberland place
WSG	Sydenham Catholic Social Club	All Saints Church Hall

- 3.3 After writing to check preliminary availability we have become aware of the need to continue to use the alternative venues identified at the European Election in some cases and situations where other premises are now unavailable. Given funding issues identified at previous Committee meetings we have also focussed on reducing the number of portakabins used, given their expense, difficulty in siting and fitting out, and voter experience. At the European Elections we used 10 portakabins, we have found four alternative locations but it has proved impossible to find alternative locations in the Polling District for the 6 remaining detailed below.

Polling District	Ward	Site Address
DLB	Ladywell	Portakabin Car Park Rear of 122 Marsala Road
DLF	Ladywell	Portakabin Entrance to Hilly Fields, Hilly Fields Crescent
ELF	Lee Green	Portakabin on approach to Hither Green railway Station, Staplehurst Road
WEWBZ	Whitefoot	Portakabin adj.to the allotments, Hafton Road
WBB	Bellingham	Portakabin at Rutland Walk sports club, Rutland Walk
WFG	Forest Hill	Portakabin outside 141-181 Eliot Bank

- 3.4 At the European Elections in 2009 we used 109 polling stations (Appendix A). The same number will be used for Elections in 2010. The polling stations used at those elections will be the same except for 10 detailed on the attached list (Appendix B). We have not updated the election management system yet as these changes are proposed and we need to contact the relevant Ward Councillors. Of the 12 locations detailed in Appendix B we need to continue to use two alternative sites used for the European election.
- 3.5 As this “mini” review followed on from provisional booking letters sent out before Christmas we will shortly be producing revised Ward and poll card maps, the poll cards for the areas where polling places are changing will highlight the change of location. Of the 109 polling stations written to ,at the time of this report, we are still awaiting 25 responses, mainly from the Deptford Constituency.
- 3.6 The Council reviewed its polling districts and places in the Autumn of 2007 and is required, under the Electoral Administration Act 2006 to

conduct such a review every 4 years, with the next review being due autumn 2011.

4. Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising other we save costs by not using portakabins.

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

All alternatives will need to have satisfactory access for disabled voters.

8. Environmental implications

There are no environmental implications arising.

Background documents

Previous Election Committee report and minutes relating to the meeting of 26 March 2009.

Polling District and Polling Places review submitted to the Election Committee at it's meeting on 27 November 2007

If there are any queries on this report please contact The Electoral Services Manager - Malcolm Constable– 020 8314 6907