

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

MINUTES of the meeting of the ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, which was open to the press and public, held on THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2010 at LEWISHAM TOWN HALL, CATFORD, SE6 4RU at 7 p.m.

Present

Councillor Robson (Chair) Britton, Hall, Johnson and Peake.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Paschoud

<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<u>MINUTES</u> (page RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee, which was open to the press and public, held on 22 July 2009 be confirmed and signed.
2.	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS</u> (page None
3.	<u>POLLING PLACES FOR ELECTION 2010</u> (page and appendices at page
3.1	The Electoral Services Manager said that of the 109 polling stations written to as referred to in paragraph 3.5 of the report, only ten responses were still awaited, this number included four schools. Officers would be writing to the schools reminding them of this council's statutory powers and would be chasing up the other six.
3.2	The Head of Law said that progress had been made in reducing the use of portacabins; only six would be used for the next election.
3.3	Councillor Britton asked about access to the Grove Park Youth Club. The Electoral Services Manager said that access to the club had been improved. Disabled access was now at the back of the club. Councillor Britton considered the station to be too small and asked whether a double polling station at Marvels Lane was feasible. The Head of Law did not advocate double stations since it proved too difficult to ensure that ballot papers were placed in the correct ballot box.

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3.4	Councillor Hall said that the polling places Ennersdale Road and Handen Road were very close and asked officers to make it very clear which polling station voters should attend. Officers agreed to look into the matter.	ESM
3.5	The Chair said that Liberal Democrat Councillors were concerned about access to the replacement polling station, Ten Em Bee Sports Development centre, for Millwall FC Training Ground, which is unavailable during the football season. . The Electoral Services Officer said that the path was well lit but the speed humps were too high and could damage cars entering the premises.	
3.6	Councillor Johnson asked whether the temporarily coded Z polling districts would disappear. The Electoral Services Manager said that the codes would change after the canvass and before publication of the revised register by 1 December 2010 election when all the polling district codes will have to be changed.	
	RESOLVED that the current status and possible alternative locations be noted.	
4.	<u>PREPARATIONS FOR ELECTIONS 2010</u> (Page and Appendix at page	
4.1	The Electoral Services Manager that 3 poll clerks would be employed at most polling stations because there would be three elections requiring three separate ballot boxes that would be colour coded.	
4.2	The Head of Law said that she would be giving very clear legal advice to candidates about acceptable behaviour at polling stations; she had received reports about unacceptable behaviour at previous elections.	
4.3	The Head of Law explained that Parliamentary Agents had stated that they wanted sight of the ballot papers on the night of the count. She said that the count for all three elections would be held at Sedgehill School but space would be very tight and that relevant counting agents would be asked to leave after each election. The planning of elections night was in the early stages, but it was intended to provide two break away rooms with large TV screens.	
4.4	The Electoral Services Manager said that the count would be manual. For ward elections split votes would be counted using either counting sheets or the 5 bar gate method . A company in	

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London had been employed to print the ballot papers; a local company had been chosen to ensure that there were no delivery problems. The Chair asked what percentage of the electoral roll would be ordered; the Electoral Services Manager said that 100% of the electoral roll would be ordered to ensure that there was not a shortage. The uncounted Ward and Mayoral ballot boxes would remain in Sedgehill overnight; security would be provided by Staff and Police.

4.5 Councillor Peake asked what would happen to the issue of postal votes if there was a postal strike. The Head of Law said that staff employed for canvassing would be employed to deliver the postal votes in the event of a strike.

4.6 Councillor Britton asked who members should advise if they are aware of a death of an elector. The Elector Services Manager said that officers usually expected written notification from family members.

4.7 The Head of Law said that the advice from the Electoral Services Commission was weak with regard to political parties collecting postal votes. Her advice would be that members should not be involved with the collection of postal votes.

4.8 The Head of Law said that she would be holding an urgent meeting with agents to discuss the current proposals for the May 2010 elections.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting ended at 8.20p.m.

Chair