
POLLING PLACES FOR PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

Responsible Cabinet Member(s) – Councillor John Williams, Leader

Responsible Director(s) – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To approve arrangements for polling places for the next Parliamentary Election.

Information

2. Officers have over recent weeks been giving attention to the arrangements to be made regarding Polling Stations for the next Parliamentary Election, although at the time of drafting this report a date for the election has not been announced.
3. As Members will be aware it is a number of years (2001) since there has been a “traditional” election with polling places in Darlington. For the local elections in 2003 and the European Election, North Road By-Election and the Referendum in 2004 voting was undertaken by post on a pilot basis. The Government has made it known, that there will be no postal pilot arrangements for the next Parliamentary Election.
4. In addition, following the Ward boundary review for Darlington, ward boundaries have changed since the last “traditional” election, therefore there has been a need to look at the location of all polling places within the Borough.
5. When considering changes in wards, consideration has been given to how attractive polling stations are to the electorate in terms of their location and to access to venues for the disabled.

Polling Places

6. The list of polling places for the whole Borough (which includes all of Darlington and part of Sedgefield Parliamentary Constituencies) is attached as an appendix.
7. Where changes are suggested, additional information will be delivered to the electorate with their poll cards indicating the new venue for their polling place.

Consultation

8. All Political Groups on the Council and the Darlington Association on Disability have been consulted on the proposals and are in agreement with the suggested locations.

Legal Implications

9. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

10. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

11. The issues contained within this report are required to be considered by Council.

Recommendation

12. Members are asked to approve the arrangements for polling places as detailed in the Appendix attached to the submitted report.

Reasons

13. The recommendation is to enable polling places to be reserved for the next Parliamentary Election.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

No background papers were referred to in the completion of this report

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