

## **ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 19 November 2018**

### **INTERIM POLLING STATION CHANGES BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF FULL REVIEW IN 2019-2020**

#### **Report of the Performance and Governance Manager**

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#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Administration Committee agree that a number of changes to polling stations and polling districts are made as an interim arrangement for 2 May 2019 elections before a full review can commence between June 2019 and January 2020:

- (1) Polling district WN3 gains an additional station in the West End Parish Centre as there are approximately 60 electors who are in the same Borough Ward but in a different Parish and Parish Ward.
- (2) The polling station for polling district FA3 moves from Wyvern Technology School to Fair Oak Parish Council offices, 2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak.
- (3) Use Pilands Wood Centre, Chamberlayne Road, Bursledon for electors in Luck Road who are currently in BU5 into BU4, which will be geographically closer.
- (4) Use the HEYCA Building, St Johns Road for BU1 electors who vote at Bursledon Community Centre, as this is physically closer.
- (5) Use the Salvation Army as the polling station for the new Town Council Ward of Hedge End called "Station"
- (6) Any subsequent changes that arise during the Community Governance Review (CGR) implementation be delegated to the Administration Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and Returning Officer, on the recommendation of the Elections Specialist.

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#### **Summary**

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The next compulsory review must be completed by 31 January 2020 but the local authority must have regard to ensuring sufficient time to hold a consultation and due to the publication of the electoral register and booking polling stations in December 2018, interim proposals are being submitted until a full review can commence after May 2019 elections.

## Statutory Powers

Representation of the People Act 1983

Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

## Strategic Implications

1. This report relates to one the Council's most important statutory functions – the provision of fair and efficient election services. The review of Polling places and districts is a statutory function under the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA1983) which is not covered in the Corporate Plan

## Introduction

2. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced compulsory review of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. Taking into account the planned elections in 2019 it was considered that there is not sufficient time to consult with all interested persons and groups so an interim change to a few venues are proposed for 2 May 2019 until a full and comprehensive review can be held after the election in 2019 which must be completed by 31 January 2020.

## Graph of recommendations in more detail

Polling District	Address	Borough Ward	Proposed Change
WN3	West End Parish Centre, Chapel Road, West End, Southampton SO30 3FE	West End North	To add another station to this venue to accommodate electors who have transferred from West End Parish to Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish as these will have a different ballot paper for the Parish elections but the same ballot paper for the Borough.
FA3	Wyvern Technology College, Botley Road, Fair Oak SO50 7AN	Fair Oak and Horton Heath	Move the polling station to Fair Oak and Horton Heath Parish Council Offices, 2 Knowle Park Lane, Fair Oak SO50 7GL is more suitable.

BU5	Hound Parish Hall, Woolston Road, Butlocks Heath SO31 5FR	Bursledon and Hound North	Residents in Luck Road to move to polling district BU4 and vote at the Pilands Wood Centre, Chamberlayne Road, Bursledon, Southampton SO31 8DT as geographically this will be closer for residents.
BU1	Bursledon Community Centre, Portsmouth Road, Bursledon SO31 8ES	Bursledon and Hound North	This polling district to vote at HEYCA Building, St Johns Road, Hedge End, SO30 4AF due to closer proximity for residents
HN2 and HN3 (in part)	Hedge End Salvation Army Church and Community Centre, 85 Whites Way, Hedge End, Southampton SO30 2GL	Hedge End North	The new "Station" Ward of Hedge End Town Council will vote at Salvation Army. A new polling district may need to be created for ease of administration.

### **Financial Implications**

3. The changes have been conducted with existing staff resources and are no financial implication as a result of the recommendations in this report.

### **Risk Assessment**

4. The law places a duty on the Council to ensure safe and appropriate access arrangements for both voters and staff.

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

5. The Equality Act is not relevant to the decision in this report as the decision does not relate to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity, or fostering good relations between different people. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out. All polling stations comply with disability access requirements.

### **Conclusion**

6. These are interim arrangements for small changes for voting in the Borough of Eastleigh until a full compulsory review can be conducted after the local elections on 2 May 2019.

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Appendices Attached: 0

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D**

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

None.