Please note these minutes are F R Q V L G H U H G draft until they are
Fonsidered bythe Constitution Committee on 19 March 2024

item 2



# Constitution Committee
# 22 November 2023

Present: Councillors: Dixon, Ford, Huntley, Kilgour, McCabe, Proudlock and Walsh

John Rumney (Corporate Lead Legal and Governance), Joanne Gelson (Elections Manager), Karen Connolly (Democracy Officer), Jonathan Lunness (Scrutiny and Democracy Support Officer)

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of 25 October 2023

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Statutory Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations

Submitted: Report of the Corporate Lead Legal and Governance

John Rumney, Corporate Lead Legal and Governance, presented the report which outlined the statutory review of polling districts, places and stations in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

Following the interim review of portable polling stations carried out in 2022, the number of portable polling stations was significantly reduced. At the local government elections in May 2023, there were 68 designated polling places, with six places using portable units, ten places hosting two polling stations and one place hosting three polling stations.

A number of small issues with the new allocation of polling places

Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations 2023 / 2024
Options and comments considered by Constitution Committee

| PD | Polling Place in May 2023 | Reason current place is not suitable and options for consideration (where the row is blank there are no options to be considered) | Comments Received (where the row is blank there were no comments received) | Recommendations Agreed by Constitution Committee |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AA | Marine Park Primary School, Hatfield Square | | **Comment from a Ward Member**<br>I don't have any particular issues/objections to these proposals. | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| AB | Nursery Unit, Hadrian Primary School, Fort Square | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| AC | Ocean Road Community Centre, Ocean Road | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| AD | The Word, Market Place, South Shields | The Word was not suitable due to the high level of library traffic.<br>Consider relocating to **St Hilda's Church, Market Place, South Shields** | | Agreed<br>Move polling place to St Hilda's Church, Market Place, South Shields |
| AE | The Register Office, Ceremony Entrance, 10 Broughton Road | The Register Office is not available for 2 May 2024 only (wedding booked)<br>Consider temporary relocation to **The Coroners Office, Beach Road, South Shields** | | Agreed<br>Temporarily move the polling place to The Coroners Office, Beach Road, South Shields for 2024. |
| BA | All Saints Community Centre, Stanley Street | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| BB | Holy Trinity C E Academy, Nursery Unit, Brockley Avenue | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| BC | Biddick Hall Junior School, Chesterton Road | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| BD | Chuter Ede Community Association, Galsworthy Road, South Shields | Chuter Ede is being demolished.<br>Consider moving to **Biddick Hall and Whiteleas Family Hub, Galsworthy Road, South Shields** (next to Biddick Hall Infants School) | | Agreed<br>Move polling place to Biddick Hall and Whiteleas Family Hub, Galsworthy Road, South Shields |

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| DA | The Community Room, Sheltered Accommodation, Falstone Avenue | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| DB | St Gregory's Church Hall, Borough Road | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| DC | St Lawrence Church Hall, Centenary Avenue | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| DD | Cleadon & District Working Mens Club, Fulwell Avenue | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| EA | Westoe Crown Community Hub, Unit R9 Sea Winnings Way | | **Comment from a Ward Member**<br>I think the polling stations worked well this year and I see no need for changes.<br><br>**Comment from a Ward Member**<br>They seemed to work ok except for the one in Highfield Rd Cllrs complained it needed handrails for the elderly and disabled<br><br>**Comment from a Ward Member**<br>There needs to be more stable handrails and preferably two to give extra support for those people who need it. Secondly, the signage on Highfield Road needs to be clearer. When I went to the polling station, it wasn't very clear from Highfield Road that a polling station was there and that there was parking. | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| EB | Territorial Army (TA) Centre, Entrance off Highfield Road next to Callum Drive | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| EC | The Community Shop (Hospitality & Hope), 6 - 7 Horsley Hill Square | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| ED | The Baptist Tabernacle, Marsden Road | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| EE | The Community Shop (Hospitality & Hope), 6 - 7 Horsley Hill Square | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |

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| FA | One Trinity Green, Eldon Street | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| FB | St Judes Church Hall, St Judes Terrace | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| FC | One Trinity Green, Eldon Street | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| FD | Portable Station, On grassed area next to block 34/50 Whitehead Street | Portable huts are no longer suitable and should only be used where no other permanent buildings are available. Consider relocating to **Hospitality and Hope, Hudson Street, South Shields** | | Agreed<br>Move polling place to Hospitality and Hope, Hudson Street, South Shields |
| FE | Lord Blyton Primary School, Blyton | | | |

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| NA | Cleadon Methodist Church Hall, Sunderland Road | | **Comment from an Election Agent in May 23**<br>In terms of Cleadon and East Boldon , the main issue at this year's election was the lack of knowledge by electors of the use of the Little Theatre as a Polling Station.<br>We made officers aware of this following contact with voters on the East Boldon Road estate in Cleadon.<br>These electors were used to,using the portable station at North Drive and we requested that a sign was put up at this location explaining the new location at the Little Theatre.<br>We were pleased that this happened and generally felt that the Little Theatre worked well as a polling station.<br>However it may be appropriate to improve signage at the Little Theatre site next year. | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| NB | The Little Theatre, 5 Boldon Lane, Cleadon Village | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| NC | Scout Hut, Rear of Grey Horse Pub, Front Street, East Boldon | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| ND | Scout Hut, Rear of Grey Horse Pub, Front Street, East Boldon | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |

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| SA | The Community Room, Jubilee Court | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| SB | Communal Lounge, Fernyhough Hall, Ushaw Road, Hebburn | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| SC | The Lord Nelson Public House, Marquee in Car Park, Monkton Lane, Jarrow | The marquee was not suitable and voters were not happy with the move. Consider moving back to a **Portable Station on Hautmont Road / Penrith Road.** | | Agreed<br>Move polling place back to a Portable Station on Hautmont Road / Penrith Road. |
| SD | Monkton Park Methodist Church, Community Hall, Wood Terrace, Jarrow | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| SE | Lukes Lane Community Association, Marine Drive | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| TA | Millennium PHAB Club / Jarrow Focus, Grange Road, Jarrow | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| TB | Jarrow Cross C E Primary School, Borough Road | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| TC | Primrose Community Centre, Lambton Terrace, Jarrow | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |
| TD | Primrose Community Centre, Lambton Terrace, Jarrow | | | No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place |