

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Delegated Officer Decision – 23 April 2019

**Report Title**

Designation of Polling Places – Maltby (Polling District IA) and Treeton (Polling District KA)

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Maltby  
Rother Vale

**Report Summary**

The Returning Officer has received confirmation that two polling place venues will not be available for use for the European Parliamentary Election, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday 23 May 2019.

Following the closure of Maltby Linx and Treeton Youth Centres, this report proposes that the Returning Officer designate Bevan Crescent Neighbourhood Centre in Maltby and Treeton Community Centre as alternative polling places.

**Recommendations**

1. That Bevan Crescent Neighbourhood Centre in Maltby be designated as the polling place for the IA polling district.
2. That Treeton Community Centre be designated as the polling place for the KA polling district.

**List of Appendices Included**

Appendix 1 Map of the IA Polling District  
Appendix 2 Map of the KA Polling District

**Background Papers**

[Consultation Paper](#) – Review of Polling Places 2019

[Report to Council](#) (23 January 2019) – Review of Polling Places 2019

[Minutes](#) – Council Meeting (12 July 2017)

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

No

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Designation of Polling Places – Maltby (Polling District IA) and Treeton (Polling District KA)**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the council has a duty to divide its area into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. “Polling places” are the buildings or areas designated by the council where electors in a polling district go to vote in person.
- 1.2 The Electoral Administration Act 2006, as amended, introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their polling districts and polling places at least once every five years. The Council resolved to undertake a review of polling places in January 2019, with consultation commencing on 4 February and due to conclude on 26 April 2019.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 12 July 2017, the Council delegated authority to designate polling places in accordance with section 18B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to the Chief Executive, with a caveat that such power should be exercised only in circumstances where a decision is required at short notice and it is not possible to await a decision of Council.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 In March 2019, the Government advised Returning Officers to plan for the administration and management of elections to the European Parliament on 23 May 2019. As such, the Returning Officer commenced the process of formally booking polling place venues for the election. Two venues are no longer available:-
  - Maltby Linx Youth Centre (IA)
  - Treeton Youth Centre (KA)
- 2.2 In view of the proximity of the European Parliamentary election, it is necessary for the Chief Executive to exercise delegated powers to designate alternative locations as polling places for those polling districts.

### **3. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 3.1 The consultation document for the current Review of Polling Places has identified the need to designate alternative venues to replace Maltby Linx Youth Centre and Treeton Youth Centre.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the Chief Executive designate Bevan Crescent Neighbourhood Centre in Maltby as polling place for the IA polling district and Treeton Community Centre at the polling place for the KA polling district. Maps of the polling districts are appended to this report (Appendices 1 and 2).

#### **4. Consultation on proposal**

- 4.1 The current Review of Polling Places is subject to public consultation until 26 April 2019. The consultation document has identified both proposed polling places as potential alternative venues within those polling districts in Maltby and Treeton.
- 4.2 Ward Members for Maltby and Rother Vale have been consulted in respect of the proposals and, where feedback has been received, are in support of the changes.

#### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 5.1 If the recommendations in this report are agreed, the proposed locations will be designated as polling places with immediate effect for the European Parliamentary elections on 23 May 2019. This decision does not impact on any recommendations to be made to the Council arising from the current Review of Polling Places.
- 5.2 The Electoral Services Manager will be accountable for the implementation of this decision.

#### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications for the General Fund. The Council only funds the cost of Borough elections, with all other elections being funded from grant monies from Central Government.

#### **7. Legal Advice and Implications**

- 7.1 The Council has a legal duty to review polling places for elections. The legislative framework for reviews of polling districts and places consists of sections 18A to 18E and Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as inserted by section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006. In supporting the proposals within this report, the Council will ensure that it is compliant with the requirements of the law.

#### **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

#### **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 There are no implications for children and young people or vulnerable adults arising from this report.

#### **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 The council must seek to ensure that, so far as is reasonable and practical, every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to people who are disabled. Provision of reasonably convenient polling arrangements is an

essential element of the free and fair elections required under Protocol 1, Article 3 of the Human Rights Act.

## **11. Implications for Partners**

11.1 There are no implications for partners directly arising from this report.

## **12. Risks and Mitigation**

12.1 Polling places are essential for the conduct of elections. Inadequate provision of polling places and polling stations could have a detrimental effect on voter turnout and could be the source of an election challenge.

## **13. Accountable Officer(s)**

Sharon Kemp, Chief Executive and Returning Officer

Claire Wardle, Electoral Services Manager