

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 11 November 2019

Report Title

Designation of Polling Places – Anston and Woodsetts (Polling District AD) Wath (Polling District SB) and Wickersley (Polling District TD)

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

Anston and Woodsetts
Wath
Wickersley

Report Summary

The Returning Officer has received confirmation that three polling place venues will not be available for use for the Parliamentary Election, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday 12 December 2019.

Following the unavailability of South Anston Methodist Community Hall, Oaks Day Centre and Blessed Trinity Church, this report proposes that the Returning Officer designate South Anston Methodist Church, Fir Close Community Centre, and Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club as alternative polling places.

Recommendations

1. That South Anston Methodist Church be designated as the polling place for the AD polling district.
2. That Fir Close Community Centre be designated as the polling place for the SB polling district.
3. That Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club be designated as the polling place for the TD polling district.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Map of Anston and Woodsetts

Appendix 2 Map of Wath

Appendix 3 Map of Wickersley

Background Papers

[Report to Council](#) (30 October 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 – Anston and Woodsetts (Polling District AD) Wath (Polling District SB) and Wickersley (Polling District TD)

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 concluded its most recent review of polling places at the Council meeting held on 30 October 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 Following receipt of the Writ for the UK Parliamentary Election on 12 December 2019, the Returning Officer commenced the process of formally booking polling place venues for the election. Two venues are no longer available:-
 - South Anston Methodist Community Hall (AS)
 - Oaks Day Centre (SB)
 - Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church (TD)
- 2.2 In view of the proximity of the UK 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 It is proposed that the Chief Executive designate South Anston Methodist Church (AS), Fir Close Community Centre (SB), and Wickersley Old Village Cricket Club (TD) as alternative polling places. Maps of the polling districts are appended to this report (Appendices 1, 2 and 3).

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 Ward Members for Anston and Woodsetts, Wath and Wickersley 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 UK Parliamentary election on 12 December 2019.
- 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