

# North Tyneside Council

## Information Report to Council

### Title: Changes to Polling Places

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor		Cabinet Member(s): Mrs Norma Redfearn
Report from Service Area:	Law and Governance	
Responsible Officer:	Bryn Roberts, Head of Law and Governance and Returning Officer	(Tel: 0191 643 5339)
Wards affected:	Camperdown	

#### **PART 1**

##### **1.1 Executive Summary**

This report gives an update on the designation of polling places in Camperdown Ward following consideration of the Statutory Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts at the full Council meeting held on 26 September 2019.

##### **1.2 Council Plan and policy framework**

This report does not relate to any of the priorities contained in the Our North Tyneside Plan

##### **1.3 Information**

At the full Council meeting held on 26 September 2019, approval was given to proposals for the designation of polling places and polling districts in the Borough as part of the Statutory Review, subject to the Returning Officer, in consultation with the Camperdown Ward Councillors, being authorised to determine any changes to polling places and polling districts within Camperdown Ward as part of the review.

In accordance with the delegation approved by the Council and following consultation with the Camperdown Ward Councillors the following proposals have been agreed:

- Polling districts BA and BB will be merged (into polling district BA), which will remove Fordley Community Primary School as a polling station, and Jubilee Court Recreation Rooms will be used as the polling station for the newly merged polling district.
- Festival Cottages will be retained as a polling station for polling district BB (formerly BC).

- For polling district BC (formerly BD) the White Swan Centre will be used as a polling station instead of Bailey Green Primary School for the Parliamentary election on 12 December.

For the longer term, Grasmere Academy and Sedgefield Court will be contacted in the new year to see if either of those premises could be used as a polling station for future elections.

The above changes have been made in accordance with the Electoral Commission's guidance which recommends that the following factors are taken into consideration when reviewing existing polling places or when assessing new polling places:

- The location: is it reasonably accessible within the polling district? Does it avoid barriers for the voter such as steep hills and major roads? Are there any convenient transport links?
- Size: Can it accommodate more than one polling station if required? If multiple polling stations are required, is the polling place ample enough to accommodate all voters going into and out of the polling stations, even where there is a high turnout?
- Suitability: is the building readily available in the event of any unscheduled elections? Is there any possibility that the building may be demolished as part of a new development?
- Accessibility: Is the building accessible to all those entitled to attend the polling place?

#### **1.4 Appendices**

None

#### **1.5 Contact officers:**

Dave Brown, Senior Manager Democratic and Electoral Services 0191 643 5358

Jan Peirs. Team Leader Electoral Services 0191 643 5995

Claire Emmerson, Senior Manager Financial Planning and Strategy 0191 643 8109

#### **1.6 Background Information**

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available for inspection at the offices of the author.

- (1) Electoral Commission's Guidance for the review of polling places and polling stations.
- (2) Section 18B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006.
- (3) Evaluation checklist of each polling station.
- (4) Report to and Minutes of Council meeting held on 26 September 2019.

### **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

#### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

There are no financial implications arising from the changes to polling stations referred to in this report.

#### **2.2 Legal**

Under Section 18B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Authority is required to designate a polling place

for each polling district and has a statutory duty to keep under review the polling districts and polling places it uses for elections.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

The Camperdown ward members have been consulted on these changes and electors have been informed of the location changes.

### **2.4 Human Rights**

This report supports Protocol 1 Article 3 of the Human Rights Act, which provides a right to free elections.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

The equality and diversity issues arising from this report are set out in the body of the report. An evaluation checklist of each polling station has been undertaken, including an assessment of the accessibility of the premises.

### **2.6 Risk management**

The changes have been assessed for any relevant risks with the Senior Risk Advisor and if appropriate, will be added to the risk register.

### **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications arising directly from this report.

### **2.8 Environment and sustainability**

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

## **PART 3 - SIGN OFF**

- Chief Executive ☐
- Head(s) of Service ☐
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s) ☐
- Chief Finance Officer ☐
- Monitoring Officer ☐
- Head of Corporate Strategy and Customer Service ☐