

Subject:	Designated Polling stations for 2010 General Election		
Date of Meeting:	9 March 2010		
Report of:	Chief Executive		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Paul Holloway	Tel: 29-2005
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 A full review of polling districts and polling places was carried out in the summer of 2008. Under the Electoral Administrations Act 2006, the Council must carry out such a review at least every four years, so the next full review, which will comprise a formalised series of measures involving consultation, representations and publishing of information, is due in 2012.
- 1.2 Following the European Parliamentary Elections in June 2009, a number of issues arose about the suitability of certain polling stations. Electoral Services Officers have investigated the polling stations concerned, and where possible will ensure that ramps and extra signs are available as needed.
- 1.3 Pending a full review of polling districts and polling places, the Returning Officer has a duty to provide a sufficient number of polling stations, by virtue of Rule 25 of the Parliamentary Election Rules.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the Returning Officer's designation of the Children's Centre, West Hove Infant School, as the polling station for the designated area SY, within Wish Ward. (SY is an internal ward area reference used by the Electoral Services Team.)
- 2.2 That the reversion to Craven Vale Resource Centre as a polling place for designated areas DY, part of East Brighton ward, and ES, part of Queens Park ward be noted. (DY and ES are internal ward area references used by the Electoral Services Team.)

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 At the European Elections in June 2009, the Craven Vale Resource Centre was not available due to building works, so the Returning Officer designated The Vale

Community Centre as the polling station for district DY in East Brighton Ward, and Brighton College as the polling station for ES in Queen's Park Ward.

- 3.2 As Craven Vale Resource Centre is the designated polling place for DY and ES, it may now be used again.
- 3.3 Hove YMCA, in polling district SY, Wish Ward, will no longer be available for any elections. In the European Elections in June 2009 the Children's Centre, West Hove Infant School was used as the polling station. There were some access issues, but these have now been resolved. Therefore the Returning Officer intends to designate the Children's Centre, West Hove Infant School, as the polling station in the next elections.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Ward Councillors from the affected wards have been sent copies of this report for information.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications

- 5.1 Costs for hiring the polling stations have been included in the 2010/11 Electoral Services Budget.

Finance Officer Consulted: Alasdair Ridley Date: 16/02/10

Legal Implications

- 5.2 As indicated under paragraph 1.3 above, the returning officer has a duty to provide a sufficient number of polling stations for a parliamentary election; rule 25, schedule 1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 refers.
- 5.3 Under the council's scheme of delegation to officers, the Chief Executive has delegated power to perform the role of returning officer. This gives him the necessary authority to carry out the designations referred to in 3.2 and 3.3 above. The designations are being reported to members of the Governance Committee for information.

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon Date: 15/02/10

Equalities Implications

- 5.4 The Council must ensure that so far as is reasonable and practical every polling place for which it is responsible is accessible to people who are disabled.

Sustainability Implications

- 5.5 There are no implications.

Crime & Disorder Implications

5.6 There are no implications.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications

5.7 There are no implications.

Corporate / Citywide Implications

5.8 The recommendations are in line with council priorities, specifically for open and effective city leadership.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

None

Documents in Members' Rooms

None

Background Documents

None

