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# Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee

Date: Time:	Wednesday, 22 January 2014 6.00 pm			
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall			

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# AGENDA

#### 1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests, in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

#### 2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2013.

#### 3. WIRRAL AWARD (Pages 5 - 8)

# 4. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES 2013 (Pages 9 - 22)

#### 5. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR

To consider any other business that the Chair accepts as being urgent.

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# LICENSING, HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 13 November 2013

Present:	Councillor	WJ Davies (Chair)		
	Councillors	S Niblock I Williams I Lewis	C Blakeley G Watt P Williams	
<u>Deputy:</u>	Councillor	M Sullivan (In place of P Glasman)		
Apologies:	Councillor	J Salter		

#### 13 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests in connection with the application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

#### 14 MINUTES

<u>Resolved</u> - That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2013 be approved.

#### 15 **PROPOSED ADOPTION OF BYELAWS MADE BY WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL** WITH RESPECT TO ACUPUNCTURE, TATTOOING, SEMI-PERMANENT SKIN-COLOURING,COSMETIC PIERCING AND ELECTROLYSIS.

The Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment invited Members to recommend to Council that a resolution be passed to affix the Common Seal of the Council to a Consolidated Byelaw "the Wirral Byelaw" which conformed with the Model Byelaw produced by the Department of Health to embrace acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, cosmetic piercing and electrolysis. The Consolidated Wirral Byelaw would replace three sets of existing byelaws and would provide better controls over the practices of acupuncture, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring and electrolysis. Members were also advised of the required statutory procedure that would need to be carried out and it was suggested that a consultation exercise be carried out with interested parties, in respect of the proposed new byelaw, to run concurrently with the Statutory advertisement period. Members were advised that any representations made in response to the statutory advertisement or to the voluntary consultation would be referred back to this Committee for consideration.

Members were informed that the adoption of the Wirral Byelaw would enable Environmental Health Officers to legally enforce hygiene standards within cosmetic piercing and skin colouring establishments and that this would contribute to preventing the spread of blood borne viral infections to the residents of Wirral and people visiting Wirral.

Colin Clayton, Environmental Health Strategic Manager, attended the meeting to outline the report. Kate Hitchin, Environmental Health Officer was also in attendance.

Colin Clayton and Kate Hitchin responded to questions from Members including matters relating to charges, their wish to support small businesses and also enforcement issues in relation to the potential for non compliance of the byelaws. Discussions also took place regarding the possibility of operators adopting a rating system which would give an indication of the cleanliness of the premises to members of the public.

#### Resolved -

(1) That Council be recommended to approve the proposed Wirral Byelaw as set out at Appendix D to the report.

(2) That Council be recommended to affix the Common Seal of the Council to the Wirral Byelaw as set out in Appendix to report.

(3) That Council be recommended to authorise the Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources (or his nominee) to carry out the required statutory procedure for the advertisement of a Notice of Intention to apply to the Secretary of State for Health for confirmation of the Wirral Byelaw and a copy of the sealed Wirral Byelaw be made available on deposit for a period of at least one month prior to application for said confirmation.

(4) That Council be recommended to authorise the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment (or his nominee) to carry out further non statutory consultation with interested parties concurrently with the advertisement period.

(5) That Council agrees that any subsequent representations received during the advertisement period, or from the non-statutory consultation, be referred back to a future meeting of the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee for further consideration.

(6) That Council be recommended, subject to due consideration being given, to any representations received, to authorise the Strategic Director of Transformation and Resources (or his Nominee), if appropriate, to apply to the Secretary of State for Health for confirmation of the Wirral Byelaw as set out in Appendix D to the report.

(7) That Council be recommended, subject to the adoption and subsequent confirmation of the Wirral Byelaw by the Secretary of State for Health, to revoke the existing Byelaws (as set out in Appendices A, B and C to the report) in relation to acupuncture, tattooing, ear piercing and electrolysis.

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

#### LICENSING, HEALTH & SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

#### 22 JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL AWARD 2013		
WARD/S AFFECTED:	'ALL'		
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF TRANSFORMATION AND		
	RESOURCES		
<b>KEY DECISION?</b> (Defined in paragraph 13.3 of Article 13 'Decision Making' in the Council's Constitution.)	NO		

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to request that the Committee agree that the Wirral Award 2013 be granted to the nominees recommended by the Wirral Award Working Party.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Wirral Award is intended to confer civic recognition upon individuals or organisations resident or located in Wirral for an outstanding achievement within the previous twelve months, or for distinguished service to the Borough over a period of twenty years or more.

#### 2.2 Wirral Award Working Party

The Wirral Award Working Party, comprising the Mayor and representatives of the three political groups met on 9 December, 2013 to consider the nominations submitted. Their recommendations have been circulated to Committee Members for consideration.

#### 2.3 Presentation Ceremony

Once nominations are agreed a presentation ceremony will be arranged, to be attended by:

- (i) The Mayor of Wirral
- (ii) Leader of the Council
- (iii) Group Leaders
- (iv) Chair of Licensing, Health and Safety, and General Purposes Committee
- (v) Chief Executive
- (vi) Nominees and one guest each

#### 3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

#### 4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

#### 5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Nominations are sought and accepted from all areas of the local community.

#### 6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 The Wirral Award is equal opportunity based and nominations are welcomed from all sections of the community.

#### 7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 The costs of the presentation ceremony would be fairly minor and could be accommodated within the Mayor's Hospitality budget without difficulty.

#### 8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report.

#### 9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed.

#### **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

#### **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The Wirral Award is community based and many of the nominees have contributed to an improved environment for the people of Wirral through their community activities.

#### 12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That the Wirral Award 2013 be conferred on the recipients recommended by the Wirral Award Working Party, and the suggested arrangements be agreed.

#### 13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The Wirral Award is an annual Award. Recipients are selected by the Wirral Award Working Party consisting of the Mayor and Mayoress and representatives of the three political groups.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Surjit Tour, Head of Legal and Democratic Services. telephone: (0151) 691 8569 email: <u>surjittour@wirral.gov.uk</u>

#### APPENDICES

#### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

Recommendations of the Working Party.

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee – Wirral Award 2010	8 November 2010
Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee – Wirral Award 2011	23 January 2012
Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee – Wirral Award 2012	23 January 2013

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#### WIRRAL COUNCIL

#### LICENSING, HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

#### 22 JANUARY 2014

SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF WIRRAL POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES 2013		
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL		
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE		
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO	COUNCILLOR ADRIAN JONES		
HOLDER:	(CORPORATE RESOURCES)		
KEY DECISION?	NO		

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is provide details of the review undertaken in relation to the current polling districts and places within the Borough and seek approval of suitable alternatives and changes.
- 1.2 For the avoidance of any doubt, the responsibility to determine polling stations within a polling place rests with the (Acting) Returning Officer. The (Acting Returning Officer has (through Electoral Services) carried out a review of the polling stations. Any relevant changes and representations are included within the Summary of Responses and Recommendations set out at Appendix 1
- 1.3 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty on all local authorities to review polling districts and places within their boundaries every four years. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 has now amended this duty as detailed in paragraph 4.2 and 4.7 below. The Council in practice constantly keeps polling places and stations under review.
- 1.4 Subsequent compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013.

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 That the Committee agrees to all the recommendations made pursuant to the Polling Districts and Places Review 2013 and detailed in the Summary of Responses and Recommendations set out at Appendix 1.

2.2 That the (Acting) Returning Officer be authorised to amend, vary and change all necessary official Polling District and Places records held by the Council in order to give effect to paragraph 2.1 above.

#### 3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to undertake a review of all Polling Districts and Places within the Borough and make such changes as are considered necessary to ensure they remain accessible to all Electors.

#### 4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council has a duty under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to divide Wirral Borough into Polling Districts and to designate Polling Places for each Polling District.
- 4.2 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 then placed a duty on all Councils to undertake a review every four years of all Polling Districts and Places.
- 4.3 This was amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, which provides that there must be a review of all "polling districts" and "polling places" within each "compulsory period". "Compulsory period" is defined as:
  - a) The period of 16 months beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, and
  - b) The period of 16 months beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> October of every fifth year after that.

This provision is to align polling district and polling place reviews with the 5 year fixed term Parliaments and UK Parliamentary boundary reviews. Nothing in the 2013 Act prevents the Council carrying out an earlier review of some or all of it's polling districts or places.

- 4.4 The term 'Polling District' refers to the area created by the division of a constituency, ward or division into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to electors.
- 4.5 The term 'Polling Place' refers to the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.
- 4.6 The term 'Polling Station' refers to the room or building where the poll takes place for each election.
- 4.7 The first Polling District and Place review was undertaken in 2007. A further such review was completed in 2011 in time for the publication of the Register of Electors on 1 December 2011.
- 4.8 In practice, the Council's Electoral Services evaluates the effectiveness and suitability of polling places and stations following each election and report any issues/changes required to the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee as necessary.

- 4.9 The purpose of the review is to principally ensure that:
  - a. all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
  - b. so far as reasonable and practicable, the polling districts, places and stations are accessible to all electors including those who are disabled and when considering the designation of a polling place to have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons; and
  - c. where there is no fully accessible building conveniently located for the electors in an area, where it is necessary to use a place where the access is not ideal then every reasonable adjustment must be undertaken to provide access for all Electors.
- 4.10 The 2013 Polling District and Place Review formally commenced on 1st October 2013 with the publication of a formal notice on the Council's Notice Board, Council's website, and notices circulated to all Council One-Stop Shops.
- 4.11 Proposals to improve Polling Districts and Places were sought from Electors, Councillors, MPs, Presiding Officers and Polling Station Inspectors with regards to existing Polling Districts and Places. The consultation ended on 3rd January 2014.
- 4.12 The Council's (Acting) Returning Officer has, as required by legislation, duly considered all proposals received (including representations) during the consultation period.
- 4.13 A summary of responses received in relation to Polling Districts and Places and the (Acting) Returning Officer's responses and recommendations to this Committee are set out at Appendix 1 (Summary of Responses and Recommendations).
- 4.14 For the avoidance of any doubt, where no reference is made to an existing Polling District or Place in the Summary of Responses and Recommendations, the (Acting) Returning Officer has still undertaken a review of those Polling Districts and Places. These Polling Districts and Places have not been included because no comments were received in relation to them and the (Acting) Returning Officer is of the view that the status quo should continue.

#### 5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to complete a Polling Districts and Places Review within each "compulsory period". "Compulsory period" is defined as:
  - a) The period of 16 months beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013, and
  - b) The period of 16 months beginning with the 1<sup>st</sup> October of every fifth year after that.

5.2 The Review provides a further opportunity for the Council to ensure accessibility to all Electors, mitigate any potential hazards and health and safety risks; and ensure that the Council addresses any identified risks affecting any potential Electors, particularly if they suffer from a disability.

#### 6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 No other options were considered. The Review has been undertaken as required by legislation.

#### 7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Details of the consultation are set out within this report. All stakeholders, interested parties and persons have been consulted.

#### 8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 There are no such implications arising out of this report.

#### 9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 There are no staffing implications arising out of this report.
- 9.2 All financial implications have been detailed within the Summary of Responses and Recommendations set out at Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 The legal implications have been set out within the main body of this report.

#### **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The Review has been conducted consistently with the Council equality and diversity obligations.
- 11.2 The Review included use of the Electoral Commissions Evaluation Checklist which addresses equality and diversity issues relevant to Polling Districts, Places and Stations.
- 11.3 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)
  - (a) Is an EIA required?

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No – see paragraph 11.2 above.
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(b) If 'yes', has one been completed?

#### **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are no such implications.

#### 13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no such obligations.

#### **REPORT AUTHOR:** Kate Robinson

Principal Electoral Services Officer Telephone: 0151 691 8511 Email: <u>katerobinson@wirral.gov.uk</u>

#### APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of Responses and Recommendations

#### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None

#### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date	
Minute 16 – Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	11th October 2012	
Minute 30 – Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	8th March 2012	
Minute 23 – Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	23rd January 2012	
Minute 18 – Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	10 <sup>th</sup> November 2011	

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#### **APPENDIX 1**

# SUMMARY OF RESPONSES AND RECOMMENDATIONS (Review of Polling Districts and Places 2013)

#### 1. Heswall Ward

#### District RD:-

The current polling place is St Peter's Centre [Village Road]. Concerns persist regarding parking facilities in the area.

#### Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

On 10th November 2011, the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee agreed to move the polling place from St Peter's C of E Primary School [Thurstaston Road] to St Peter's Centre [Heswall Lower Village].

The Centre is located in the village at the bottom of the hill [Village Road] and is a very suitable venue with good disabled access and facilities and there are parking bays outside the centre.

Two elections have been successfully administered in this venue, however, concerns persist regarding parking in the area and whether it is adequate enough during a Parliamentary election.

Electoral Services have reviewed whether this venue remains the best option for a polling place within the polling district.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the status quo should continue

#### 2. Leasowe and Moreton East Ward

District TC:-

The current polling place is Eastway Primary School Children's Centre [Eastway]. Prior to this the polling place was Yew Tree Online Centre [Yew Tree Road] however, during preparations for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election held on 15 November 2012 it was reported that this venue was no longer available for future use.

On 11 October 2012, the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee agreed to the change in polling place to Eastway Primary School Children's Centre [Eastway] for polling district TC for the

police and crime commissioner elections held in November 2012 but that this be reviewed for future elections.

#### Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

During the 2011 Polling District and Place review the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 10 November 2011 agreed to move the polling place for polling district TC from Sacred Heart Primary School [Danger Lane] to the Yew Tree Online Centre [Yew Tree Road].

However, during preparations for the Police and Crime Commissioner Election held on the 15 November 2012 the Centre Manager reported that the venue was being sold and was no longer available for future use.

At a special Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 11 October 2012 it was agreed to change the polling place to Eastway Primary School Children's Centre [Eastway] for the police and crime commissioner election but that it be reviewed for future elections.

The Children's Centre is a very suitable venue with good disabled access and facilities and remains the best option for a polling place within the polling district.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the status quo should continue.

#### 3. Moreton West & Saughall Massie Ward

District YC:-

The current polling place is Foxfields School [Douglas Drive]. Electoral Services have received communication from the Education Department that there is a possibility the school will be sold off in the future for redevelopment.

#### Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

Further investigations have revealed that two schools are to be amalgamated but the location to which they will be situated is uncertain. The remaining vacant site will be sold off for re-development.

Although a notice of closure has been published with regard to Foxfield School it is not anticipated to happen until late 2014 if at all.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the status quo should continue for the Combined European Parliamentary and Local Government elections being held on 22nd May 2014 but that it be reviewed for future elections.

#### 4. Pensby & Thingwall Ward

#### District FE:-

The current polling place is Christ Church Hall, Barnston Road. During the Local Government elections in May 2012 a candidate for the ward observed inadequate visibility of the access route into the site from Barnston Road.

#### Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

The Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee on 9 November 2009, resolved to create a new polling district (FE) within the Ward and to use the Christ Church Hall, Barnston Road as the polling place.

Following observations made by a candidate in the Local elections in May 2012 regarding the visibility of the access from Barnston Road, consideration has been given as to whether this venue remains the best option for a polling place within the polling district.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the status quo should continue.

#### 5. Seacombe Ward

Districts SB and SD:-

Electoral Services request that a small adjustment be made to the polling district boundary between SB & SD.

#### Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

The polling place for polling district SD was traditionally in Poulton Primary School, Alderley Road. Poulton Primary School closed some years ago but the building was used to house Park Primary School whilst its old site was cleared and redeveloped.

The polling place was thus able to continue in the same building on Alderley Road, being known as "Park Primary School, ex. Poulton Primary School". The rebuilding of Park Primary School was completed in 2011 and as such, the school moved to the new premises on the corner of Love Lane and Woodstock Road.

It was agreed at the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 10 November 2011 to relocate the polling place for polling district SD to the new Park Primary School (situated on the corner of Love Lane/Woodstock Road).

However, it has since been realised that the school sits just over the polling district boundary and is in fact located within polling district SB.

The effect of the change is that the SD polling district boundary would move slightly west to encompass the whole of Park Primary School. This would not effect any residential properties therefore the electorate would not change.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the proposal be agreed.

#### 6. Wallasey Ward

District VB:-

The current polling place is Mount Pleasant Primary School [Mount Pleasant Road]. However, the venue has not proved satisfactory and does not provide the best option for a polling place within the polling district.

#### Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

During the 2011 Polling District and Place review the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee held on 10 November 2011 agreed to move the polling place for polling district VB from All Saints Church Hall [Hoseside Road] to Mount Primary School [Mount Pleasant Road] due to the closure of the church.

The use of this venue has not been as successful as had been hoped. There has been difficulty with the car park and complaints about the pedestrian access which does involve negotiating a slope from Mount Pleasant Road to the school. Also, the layout of the school means that the school cannot be open whilst any election is being conducted, a situation that the school is unhappy with.

Since the adoption of Mount Primary School as a polling place, New Brighton Children's Centre has been completed on an adjacent site. This building has been inspected and is considered a very suitable venue with good disabled access and facilities. It also benefits from a car park directly accessed from Mount Pleasant Road with separate entrance and exit gates.

#### Recommendation:

That the polling place for polling district VB be changed to New Brighton Children's Centre.

If approved, the (Acting) Returning Officer confirms that the Multi Function Room be designated as the polling station.

#### 7. West Kirby and Thurstaston Ward

Districts QA & QE:-

A council member, in agreement with Wirral West Conservative Association, has requested that Electors registered in polling district QA, specifically in and around Grange Cross Lane and Column Road, be moved into polling district QE. This would enable Electors to vote at Newton Village Hall in Grange Cross Lane which is closer to them than their current polling place, St Michaels Church Hall, Frankby Road.

The properties proposed to be moved are the even house numbers in Grange Cross Lane, and no's 73 & 75 Column Road.

#### Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

Polling District **QA** has an electorate of 2,490. There are 482 postal voters which results in a polling station electorate of 2008.

Polling District **QE** has an electorate of 1,938. There are 392 postal voters which results in a polling station electorate of 1,546.

Part of the boundary runs down the middle of Grange Cross Lane and turns east along Column Road for a short length. This results in no's 73 and 75 Column Road and the even numbers of Grange Cross Lane being located in polling district **QA** whilst the even numbers of Grange Cross Lane and most of the remainder of Column Road are located in **QE**.

It is proposed that the current boundary that runs down the middle of Grange Cross Lane and turns east along Column Road for a short length be replaced with a new, shorter one (**see map**) to encompass the residential properties listed in the table below.

Road/Street	House No.'s	No. of properties	No. of electors	No. of Postal Voters
Grange Cross Lane	68 – 50 20 – 2	21	46	4

Column Road	73 – 75	2	4	0
TOTAL		23	50	4

The new boundary would run:-

- (a) from the southern end of Ennisdale Drive in an easterly direction for a short length;
- (b) then south between the rear of number 68 Grange Cross Lane and the side of 55 Newton Park Road;
- (c) then east again along the rear of 55 Newton Park Road and the side of 66 Grange Cross Lane;
- (d) then south and east along the western and southern boundary of Newton Park Allotments as far as the ward boundary at Newton Brook.

Under the proposal, the polling place for these properties would change from St Michaels Church Hall, Frankby Road to Newton Village Hall, Grange Cross Lane.

The proposal is a modest adjustment, which aims to assist Electors. It does not have any significant impact on the number of Electors in each polling district.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the boundary between QA & QE be adjusted in accordance with the proposal outlined above.

District QC:-

The current polling place is St Bridget's Church of England Primary School [St Bridget's Lane]. A council member has stated that access to the polling station involves a long walk, partly down a steep slope, from the nearest parking space. The entrance also lacks any covered space for tellers.

A council member, in agreement with Wirral West Conservative Association, has requested using the recently completed St. Bridget's Centre as an alternative venue.

#### Acting Returning Officer's Comments:

To access the current polling station, which is situated in the school hall, electors are required to journey from the entrance of the school via a sloped pathway. There have never been any complaints regarding the access and it remains a very suitable venue.

St. Bridget's Centre is a suitable alternative venue with good disabled access. It is located next to St Bridget's Church of England Primary School and uses the same pathway. There is level access from the car park to the Centre.

The proposed alternative venue would offer reasonable facilities for voting and would be accessible to all electors but there would be a charge which as yet has not been determined whereas the council can make use of the school without payment.

#### **Recommendation:**

That the status quo should continue.

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