

WIRRAL COUNCIL

LICENSING, HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

2 SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT:	DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACE FOR DEVONSHIRE PARK NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA
WARD/S AFFECTED:	DEVONSHIRE PARK IS IN PRENTON WARD BUT LIES DIRECTLY ADJACENT TO THE WARD BOUNDARIES WITH BIRKENHEAD AND TRANMERE AND WITH OXTON
REPORT OF:	REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL & MEMBER SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for members of the Committee to designate St Joseph's Parish Centre, Greenbank Road, Birkenhead, CH42 7JY as the polling place for Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Area.
- 1.2 The Council has a duty under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to designate Polling Places.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 and accompanying regulations, allow communities to have more control over planning and development within their area. Using these new powers, community groups can apply to the Council to be designated as a neighbourhood forum, to allow them to develop land-use planning proposals for their area which can include the preparation of a statutory Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 2.2 The Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Planning Forum and its corresponding neighbourhood area (shown on Plan 1 attached) were designated by the Council, following public consultation, in April 2013, and this allowed the Forum to prepare and submit a Neighbourhood Development Plan.
- 2.3 As the Council are satisfied that the Plan meets the basic conditions necessary for a neighbourhood development plan, the Plan will now be submitted to a referendum of local electors, as soon as practicable, which will be conducted in accordance with procedures similar to those used at local government elections.

- 2.4 The referendum area (shown on Plan 1 attached) is contained within LD polling district, however, the designated polling place for polling district LD is situated outside of the referendum area boundary.
- 2.5 St Joseph's Parish Centre, Greenbank Road, Birkenhead, CH42 7JY is situated within the referendum area and after inspection by Electoral Services is considered to be suitable for use as a polling place for the forthcoming referendum.
- 2.6 There will be a cost of £300 for hiring the Parish Centre as a polling place for the forthcoming referendum.
- 2.7 In order for this matter to be considered and addressed as soon as possible so that key information can be provided to the Council's external printers to progress requisite elections work, an extraordinary meeting is necessary given that the next scheduled meeting of the Committee is 23 September and the aforementioned information needing to be provided prior to that date.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 In order to ensure that the forthcoming Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan referendum can be run, the Council must ensure the referendum area has a suitable polling place available on the day of poll.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 There are no such implications arising.

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

- 7.1 Such implications are set out in this report.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Such implications are set out in this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?
Yes

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no such implications arising.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no such implications arising.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 In order for this matter to be considered and addressed as soon as possible so that key information can be provided to the Council's external printers to progress requisite elections work, the Committee determine St Joseph's Parish Centre, Greenbank Road, Birkenhead, CH42 7JY as the designated polling place for Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Area.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To comply with the Council's statutory obligation in accordance with the Representation of People Act 1983, to designate suitable polling places.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Devonshire Park Neighbourhood Plan Map of Plan Area

REFERENCE MATERIAL

[Localism Act 2011](#) (Part 6, Chapter 3 and Schedules 9 to 12 refer)

[The Neighbourhood Planning \(General\) Regulations 2012 \(2012, No. 637\)](#) Parts 2, 3 and 5 refer

[Neighbourhood Planning \(Referendums\) Regulations 2012 \(SI 2012 No. 2031\)](#) (as amended)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Planning Vanguard – Wirral Proposal (Minute 320)	3 February 2011
Cabinet – Neighbourhood Planning – Area and Forum Designations (Minute 25)	21 June 2012
Cabinet - Neighbourhood Planning Forum Designations – Devonshire Park and Hoylake (Minute 221)	14 March 2013
Council - Neighbourhood Planning Forum Designations – Devonshire Park and Hoylake (Minute 147)	30 April 2013