

APPENDIX 1

Details of changes to Polling Places

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for members of the Committee to designate Hoylake Community Centre as the polling place for polling districts NA and NB contained within Hoylake 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 Hoylake 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 The Council published the Decision Statement on the Hoylake Neighbourhood Development Plan on 14 September 2016 and subject to there being no challenge to the Decision Statement, the Plan will be submitted to a referendum of local electors on Thursday, 1st December 2016, 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) comprises polling districts NA (part), NB (all) and NC (part).
- 2.5 The designated polling place for polling district NA is St Johns Church Centre, School Lane, Meols CH47 6AU, however, for the referendum there are only 43 electors contained within the referendum area and are situated just outside the boundary of polling district NB.
- 2.6 The cost of hiring St Johns Church Centre as a polling station at the last election was £350.
- 2.7 The designated polling place for polling district NB is Hoylake Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Market Street, Hoylake, Wirral, CH47 3BH and they have expressed the wish not to be used on this occasion, to avoid further disruption to the pupils due to them already having to close the school for the elections held on 5 May and the EU Referendum held on the 23 June this year.

- 2.8 Hoylake Community Centre, Hoyle Road, Hoylake, Wirral, CH47 3AG is situated within polling district NB and after inspection by Electoral Services is considered to be suitable for use as a polling place for the forthcoming referendum.
- 2.9 There will be a cost of £276.15 for hiring the Community Centre as a polling place for the forthcoming referendum.
- 2.10 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 November and the aforementioned information needing to be provided prior to that date.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 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 Hoylake Community Centre, Hoyle Road, Hoylake, Wirral, CH47 3AG as the designated polling place for polling district NA and polling district NB contained within Hoylake Neighbourhood Area.