

DESIGNATION OF POLLING PLACES – DELEGATION TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report seeks delegated authority to the Chief Executive to designate areas or buildings outside of a polling district as the polling place for that district.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Each electoral registration authority is divided into polling districts. These “polling districts” are subdivisions of a larger geographical area within which a polling place may be defined. A “polling place” is an area in which a polling station is situated. A “polling station” is the room or building in which the poll is held.
- 2.2 The designation of:
- “polling districts” is a matter for the Council;
“polling places” is a matter for the Executive’
“polling stations” is a matter for the Returning Officer for the elections.
- 2.3 A polling place must be within the relevant polling district, unless special circumstances apply. The Cabinet has designated the whole of each polling district in New Forest District as the polling place for that district. The Returning Officer then designates individual polling stations within the polling district. The polling place may be outside the polling district only if special circumstances apply.

3. JUNE 2009 ELECTIONS

- 3.1 The European Parliamentary and Hampshire County Council elections are being held on 4 June 2009. Two polling stations are not available for these elections – Hardley Methodist Church Hall and The Bold Forester (serving part of Denny Lodge). Insurance issues have arisen with regard to the caravan used as a polling station at Wootton (serving part of Brockenhurst) and it might be necessary to withdraw this polling station. In all three cases it is proving difficult to identify suitable alternative premises within the polling district.
- 3.2 Because of the current difficulties, delegated authority to the Chief Executive is sought to designate, in special circumstances, areas outside of a polling district as the polling place for that district. In each case the Chief Executive would consult with local district councillors and the town or parish council.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME & DISORDER AND EQUALITIES & DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Returning Officer will take accessibility issues into account in designating polling stations.

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That authority to designate polling places outside the relevant polling district in special circumstances be delegated to the Chief Executive, after consultation with local District Councillors and the relevant town or parish council.

For Further Information Please Contact:

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Background Papers:

None