Report to Council

Subject: Amendments to Scheme of Polling Places and Polling Stations
Date: 30 January 2019
Author: Service Manager, Democratic Services

Purpose of the Report

To approve amendments to the published scheme of polling places, polling districts and polling stations for Gedling Borough.

Recommendations

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

1) Amend the polling place for polling districts GA3 and SB1 as detailed in the table at paragraph 2.1 of the report.

1. Background

1.1 Following the completion of the Local Government Boundary Commission Review of Gedling in 2014, the Council published a new scheme for polling districts, polling places and polling stations in the Borough. Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 places an obligation on the Council to keep such schemes under review in order to provide “reasonable facilities for voting.” Minor amendments to the scheme of polling places were approved by Council in April 2016.

1.2 There are two minor amendments that are proposed to the scheme that are intended to improve the facilities that the Council offers to voters.

2. Proposal

2.1 The changes that are proposed are outlined in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polling Reference and Name</th>
<th>Current Polling Place</th>
<th>Proposed New Polling Place</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GA3 – Bestwood St Albans 3</td>
<td>Emmanuel Church Hall, Church View Close.</td>
<td>Oakwood Academy, Bewcastle Road.</td>
<td>The Polling Station at the Church Hall is on the edge of the polling district and feedback has been</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
received from electors that the location is not easily reached. The school site is a well-known site at the centre of the area so will provide a better experience for voters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SB1 – Calverton 1</th>
<th>Calverton Methodist Church Hall, Collyer Road, Calverton (Polling place to be retained for polling districts SB3, SB4 and SB6)</th>
<th>Calverton Village Hall, William Lee Recreation Ground, Park Road, Calverton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The new village hall is conveniently located for voters in the polling district and has more parking facilities. The Methodist Hall will be retained as a polling station for polling districts SB3, SB4 and SB6. The voter experience should also improve at the Methodist Hall as the facility will accommodate fewer voters.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2 For all of the proposals outlined above extra signage will be deployed on upcoming polling days to remind voters of the changes. Each elector will be receiving a poll card including a map with a clear message highlighting any change of polling station. The Council website has an interactive “find my polling station” facility which will be updated with the changes. The Council also works with the Democracy Club to provide specific co-ordinates of polling station to their national look up facility.

3. **Resource Implications**

3.1 The costs of hiring one additional location as a polling place can be contained within existing budgets.