

Report to Council

Subject: Amendments to Scheme of Polling Places and Polling Stations

Date: 20 April 2016

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1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Background

2.1 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. Sections 18A and 18B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 places an obligation on the Council to keep polling districts and polling places under review in order to provide "reasonable facilities for voting."

2.2 There are four minor amendments that are proposed to the scheme that are intended to improve the facilities that the Council offers to voters. Two of the changes proposed are able to be implemented under the existing delegation to the Chief Executive, to relocate a polling place at short notice where one become unavailable, but are included in this report for completeness.

3. Proposal

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

Polling Reference and Name	Current Polling Place	Proposed New Polling Place	Comments
GC1 – Carlton 1	Bowls Pavilion, Onchan Drive.	St John's Baptist Church, Oakdale Road	The Bowls Pavilion has been the target of persistent vandalism and is severely damaged. The location is also a very cramped building. It is proposed to move the polling place into the very nearby church building. The facilities in the church are much

			improved.
GT2 – Trent Valley 2	Stoke Bardolph Village Hall	St Luke's Church Stoke Bardolph	There is current building work taking place at the village hall resulting in it being unavailable. The nearby church building is accessible and very close to the village hall.
GV2 – Woodthorpe 2	Thackerey's Lane Pavilion	Church of Good Shepherd, Thackerey's Lane	The pavilion has no natural light and is not a very suitable location for a polling place. It is also very cramped. The Church is next door and has excellent facilities.
SA2 – Bestwood St Albans 2	Mobile Unit, Killarney Park	Clubhouse, Squires Drive, Kilarney Park	The siting of a mobile unit at Kilarney Park is unsatisfactory in terms of the voter experience. The clubhouse building is very close by and has good facilities.

- 3.2 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 with a clear message highlighting the change.

4. Resource Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implication associated with this report.

5. Recommendations

Council is RECOMMENDED to:

Amend the polling place for polling districts GC1, GT2, GV2 and SA2 as detailed in the table at paragraph 3.1 of the report.