

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 22 February, 2016

Report of the Electoral Registration Officer

Review of Polling Place and Polling Station - Lavernock Ward

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree the final proposals for the Polling Place and Polling Station for the Lavernock Ward, following the statutory review agreed by Cabinet on 30 November 2015.

Recommendation

1. T H A T Cabinet makes no change to the current Polling Place and Polling Station at the Rangers Office, Cosmeston Country Park for Polling District NBO, Lavernock Ward.

Reason for the Recommendation

1. To seek Cabinet approval of the final proposals as recommended by the Electoral Registration Officer following a statutory review..

Background

2. The Council has a duty under section 18B of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) ("the Act") to designate a polling place(s) for each polling district and to keep the polling place(s) under review in accordance with the requirements of sections 18B, 18C and Schedule A1 of the Act.
3. The Council carried out a comprehensive review of all Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations within its boundaries in December 2014. This was in line with the statutory obligation during the compulsory review period to carry out such a review. In addition to the statutory obligation to undertake a comprehensive review, section 18B of the Act also imposes a statutory obligation on the Council to keep polling places in its area under review.
4. On 17th November 2014, Cabinet approved the change of Polling Place and Polling Station NB0 (Lavernock ward) from a portacabin situated in Falcon Road to the Rangers Office at Cosmeston Country Park. This was subsequently approved on 17th December 2014 by Council as part of the comprehensive review.

5. After the consultation period concluded, concerns were raised about the change of Polling Place and Polling Station approved for the Lavernock Ward.

Relevant Issues and Options

6. In light of the concerns raised, a review relating to the Polling Place and Polling Station for the Lavernock Ward was agreed by Cabinet on 30 November 2015 (minute no. 2991) and was conducted from Monday 11 January 2016 to Friday 29th January 2016.
7. The stakeholders referred to at [Appendix 1](#) were consulted during the review; and [Appendix 2](#) details the representations made which were considered and taken into account by the Electoral Registration Officer during and following the consultation stages.
8. It is noteworthy that after the initial consultation stage when the proposal not to change the existing arrangements was published, no further representations were received during the second phase of consultation. Further, following consultation with the Operational Manager – Regeneration, agreement has been reached to make available a larger office at the Rangers Office which will address the concern regarding the size of the office used for the 2015 Parliamentary Election. Also building works to improve wheelchair access are scheduled prior to May 2016.
9. Following the review process no change to the Polling Place or Polling Station in the Lavernock Ward is proposed, therefore the Polling Place and Station will remain at the Rangers Office at Cosmeston Country Park. In coming to this conclusion the Electoral Registration Officer is satisfied that the facilities are reasonable and it is accessible to electors that are disabled.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

10. The publishing and administrative costs of the review will be met from the Electoral Registration Service's existing budgets.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

11. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

12. Sections 18B, 18C and Schedule A1 of the Act provide statutory authority for the review.
13. Cabinet has authority to approve changes to Polling Places and Stations.

Crime and Disorder Implications

14. There are no direct implications arising from this report

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

15. The review had regard to equality of access and needs of voters. No representations were received from the equality consultees referred to in [Appendix 1](#).

Corporate/Service Objectives

16. Electoral Registration has links to the following corporate priority:

'Citizens of the Vale of Glamorgan can easily access efficiently managed services that are focused around their needs, have confidence in how decisions are made and are proud to live in the Vale.'

Policy Framework and Budget

17. This is a matter for Executive decision.

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

18. Consultation has been undertaken with the relevant ward Councillors. [Appendix 1](#) details all stakeholders consulted.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

19. Corporate Resources

Background Papers

Electoral Commission Guidance - Reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations

Representation of the People Act 1983

Electoral Administration Act 2006

Contact Officer

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Officers Consulted

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