Please note these minutes are F R Q V L G H U H G draft until they are
Fonsidered bythe Constitution Committee on 19 March 2024

item 2

Constitution Committee
22 November 2023

Present: Councillors: Dixon, Ford, Huntley, Kilgour, McCabe, Proudlock and Walsh

John Rumney (Corporate Lead Legal and Governance), Joanne Gelson (Elections Manager), Karen Connolly (Democracy Officer), Jonathan Lunness (Scrutiny and Democracy Support Officer)

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes of 25 October 2023

Agreed: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2023 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

3. Statutory Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations

Su

John Rumney, Corporate Lead Legal and Governance, presented the report which outlined the statutory review of polling districts, places and stations in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

Following the interim review of portable polling stations carried out in 2022, the number of portable polling stations was significantly reduced. At the local government elections in May 2023, there were 68 designated polling places, with six places using portable units , ten places hosting two polling stations and one place hosting three polling stations.

A number of small issues with the new allocation of polling places

Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations 2023 / 2024
Options and comments considered by Constitution Committee

PD	Polling Place in May 2023	Reason current place is not suitable and options for consideration (where the row is blank there are no options to be considered)	Comments Received (where the row is blank there were no comments received)	Recommendations Agreed by Constitution Committee
AA	Marine Park Primary School, Hatfield Square			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
AB	Nursery Unit, Hadrian Primary School, Fort Square			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
AC	Ocean Road Community Centre, Ocean Road			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
AD	The Word, Market Place, South Shields	The Word was not suitable due to the high level of library traffic. Consider relocating to		

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DA	The Community Room, Sheltered Accommodation, Falstone Avenue			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
DB	St Gregory's Church Hall, Borough Road			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
DC	St Lawrence Church Hall, Centenary Avenue			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
DD	Cleadon & District Working Mens Club, Fulwell Avenue			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
EA	Westoe Crown Community Hub, Unit R9 Sea Winnings Way		**Comment from a Ward Member** I think the polling stations worked well this year and I see no need for changes. **Comment from a Ward Member** They seemed to work ok except for the one in Highfield Rd Cllrs complained it needed handrails for the elderly and disabled **Comment from a Ward Member** There needs to be more stable handrails and preferably two to give extra support for those people who need it. Secondly, the signage on Highfield Road needs to be clearer. When I went to the polling station, it wasn't very clear from Highfield Road that a polling station was there and that there was parking.	No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
EB	Territorial Army (TA) Centre, Entrance off Highfield Road next to Callum Drive			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
EC	The Community Shop (Hospitality & Hope), 6 - 7 Horsley Hill Square			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
ED	The Baptist Tabernacle, Marsden Road			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
EE	The Community Shop (Hospitality & Hope), 6 - 7 Horsley Hill Square			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place

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FA	One Trinity Green, Eldon Street			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
FB	St Judes Church Hall, St Judes Terrace			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
FC	One Trinity Green, Eldon Street			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
FD	Portable Station, On grassed area next to block 34/50 Whitehead Street	Portable huts are no longer suitable and should only be used where no other permanent buildings are available. Consider relocating to **Hospitality and Hope, Hudson Street, South Shields**		Agreed Move polling place to Hospitality and Hope, Hudson Street, South Shields
FE	Lord Blyton Primary School, Blyton			

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NA	Cleadon Methodist Church Hall, Sunderland Road			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
NB	The Little Theatre, 5 Boldon Lane, Cleadon Village	Horse and Groom Pub, Front		No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
NC	Scout Hut, Rear of Grey Horse Pub, Front Street, East Boldon			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
ND				

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SA	The Community Room, Jubilee Court			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
SB	Communal Lounge, Fernyhough Hall, Ushaw Road, Hebburn			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
SC	The Lord Nelson Public House, Marquee in Car Park, Monkton Lane, Jarrow	The marquee was not suitable and voters were not happy with the move. Consider moving back to a **Portable Station on Hautmont Road / Penrith Road.**		Agreed Move polling place back to a Portable Station on Hautmont Road / Penrith Road.
SD	Monkton Park Methodist Church, Community Hall, Wood Terrace, Jarrow			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
SE	Lukes Lane Community Association, Marine Drive			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
TA	Millennium PHAB Club / Jarrow Focus, Grange Road, Jarrow			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
TB	Jarrow Cross C E Primary School, Borough Road			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
TC	Primrose Community Centre, Lambton Terrace, Jarrow			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place
TD	Primrose Community Centre, Lambton Terrace, Jarrow			No changes to polling district boundaries or polling place