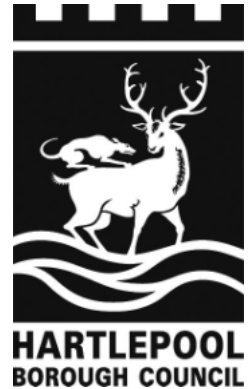


GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Friday, 19 March 2010

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

Councillors C. Akers-Belcher, S. Akers-Belcher, Atkinson, R. Cook, Flintoff, Griffin, Laffey, G Lilley and Shaw

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2010
4. **ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**
 - 4.1 Review of Polling Places – *Chief Solicitor*
5. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

5 February 2010

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillors: Pauline Laffey (in the Chair)
Christopher Akers-Belcher, Stephen Akers-Belcher, Reuben Atkinson, Rob Cook, Bob Flintoff, Sheila Griffin, Geoff Lilley and Jane Shaw

Officers: Ann Turner, Governor Support Officer
Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

18. Apologies for Absence

None.

19. Declarations of interest by Members

Councillors Christopher Akers-Belcher declared a prejudicial interest in minute number 21 and indicated his intention to leave the meeting during consideration of his application under this item of business.

20. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2009

Confirmed

COUNCILLOR CHRISTOPHER AKERS-BELCHER DECLARED A PREJUCIAL INTEREST AND LEFT THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF HIS APPLICATION UNDER THE FOLLOWING ITEM OF BUSINESS

21. Appointment of Local Authority Representatives to Serve on School Governing Bodies *(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

Members were advised that applications had been invited from members of the general public, Elected Members and those governors whose term of office was about to expire and who were interested in serving or wished to continue to serve as a Local Authority (LA) representative governor on

school governing bodies. The criteria agreed by the Council for the recruitment of LA representative governors in 2000 was outlined in the report.

A schedule, attached at Appendix 1, was attached to the report which set out details of vacancies which existed for LA representative governors together with applications received in respect of the vacancies, attached as a confidential appendix to the report.

Members considered the applications in detail and sought clarification from the Governor Support Officer on a number of issues.

In relation to the vacancy at Owton Manor Primary School, Members discussed the two expressions of interest in detail and queried the possibility of Mr Vale's application being considered as an associate member or community governor. Following discussion and clarification from the Governor Support Officer, Members recognised the importance of retaining experienced governors and suggested that the governing body be encouraged to consider the application from Mr Vale as a community governor.

The Committee went on to discuss the benefits of Elected Members and parents serving on school governing bodies and the current methods of communicating governing body vacancies to Elected Members. Whilst it was acknowledged that details of vacancies were regularly circulated by the Governor Support Team, it was suggested that in addition to this process, information relating to the school governing body process, current vacancies together with meeting schedules be included as part of the Member induction programme.

Decision

- (i) That the following recommendations for the appointments of Local Authority representative governors be referred to the Children's Services Portfolio Holder for approval:

Catcote School – Mr M Banim

Golden Flatts Primary School – Councillors C Hill and C Akers-Belcher

Owton Manor Primary School – Councillor M James

St Cuthbert's RC Primary School – Councillor M D Aiken

Stranton Primary School – Mr B Hanna

- (ii) That information relating to school governing body arrangements, current vacancies together with meeting schedules be included as part of the Elected Member induction programme.

The meeting concluded at 10.30 am.

CHAIR

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

19 March 2010



Report of: Chief Solicitor

Subject: REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider and review the suggestions for alternative polling places to be used at future elections.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Under Section 18 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, local authorities are required to review their polling districts and polling places on a 4 yearly cycle. The last review of polling districts and polling places was undertaken in autumn 2007 and agreed by Council in December 2007. The next scheduled review must be completed by December 2011.

2.2 In addition to the above, each Council is required to keep their polling districts and places under review during the intervening period.

2.3 An interim review was undertaken in February 2009, with a number of changes to Polling Places being approved in March 2009.

2.3 Attached at **Appendix A** is a table detailing the existing polling districts and places. No adverse comments or complaints were received regarding any of the venues used at the combined European and Mayoral elections in June 2009.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Currently the authority has 59 polling districts which reflect local areas and communities. There are no plans to review polling districts and therefore it is will not be necessary to revise and republish the Electoral Register.

3.2 However, a number of potential new locations for polling places have been identified, offering improved access and car parking facilities. Attached at **Appendix B** are details of the affected polling districts together with the existing and proposed polling places.

- 3.3 In the Rift House Ward, the Children’s Centre at Rift House Primary School is identified as the polling place for Polling District LA. The Masefield Centre, which was previously used as a Polling Place when it was the Masefield Road Nursery, is now available once again and offers improved access and car parking facilities.
- 3.3 Previously, we have been unable to secure Hartfields as a Polling Place for Polling Districts DB and ID, however, after liaison with management and residents, the facility is now available for use.
- 3.4 The use of Hartfields as a Polling Place will reduce the requirement of 1 No. portable unit.
- 3.4 Following changes to polling places, there is a requirement to publish the revised details. Public notice is usually given at council buildings including the Civic Centre, branch libraries and community buildings. Notice is also published on the Council’s website.

4. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 An access audit has been undertaken at all proposed locations to ensure that buildings units are fully accessible

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That Members consider and agree the alternative venues or polling districts that have been identified as possible polling places as detailed in **Appendix B**.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

General Purposes Committee Minutes – 5 December 2007
Council minutes – 13 December 2007
General Purposes Committee Minutes – 13 February 2009
General Purposes Committee Minutes – 20 March 2009

7. CONTACT OFFICER

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4.1 APPENDIX A

EXISTING POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES 2009

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE
BRUS WARD	
AA	Area bounded by King Oswy Drive, Fulthorpe Ave, Nicholson Way & Joyce Rd
AB	West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue
AC	St Thomas More's Parish Centre, Easington Road
BURN VALLEY WARD	
BA	Eldon Grove
BB	St Matthew's Community Centre
BC	Polling District BC
DYKE HOUSE WARD	
CA	Lime Crescent Flatlets
CB	Jesmond Road Primary School
CC	Brougham Annexe, Wharton Terrace
CD	Parton Street
ELWICK WARD	
DA	Village Hall, Front Street, Hart
DB	Polling District DB
DC	WI Hall, The Green, Elwick
DD	Polling District DD
DE/DF	Village Hall, Dalton Piercy
DG/DH	Polling District DH
FENS WARD	
EA	The Vineyard, Mowbray Road
EB	Fens Primary School
FOGGY FURZE WARD	
FA	Foggy Furze Branch Library
FB	St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Stratford Road
FC	Belle Vue Community Centre
GRANGE WARD	
GA	Supporters Club Car Park – Portable Unit
GB	Lynnfield Community & Learning Centre
GC	Polling District GC
GREATHAM WARD	
HA	Polling District HA
HB	Greatham Community Centre, Front Street, Greatham
HART WARD	
IA	Barnard Grove Primary School
IB	St Marks Community Centre
IC	Bamburgh Court
ID	Polling District ID
OWTON WARD	
JA	Owton Manor Primary School
JB	Owton Manor Community Centre
JC	Grange Primary School

POLLING DISTRICT	POLLING PLACE
PARK WARD	
KA	High Tunstall School
KB	Bow Is Pavilion, Ward Jackson Park
KC	Hartlepool Cricket Club
RIFT HOUSE WARD	
LA	Rift House Primary School
LB	Browning Avenue Baptist Church
LC	Kingsley Primary School
LD	Polling District LD
ROSSMERE WARD	
MA	Tanfield Road Nursery
MB	Rossmere Centre, Rossmere Way
MC	Rossmere/Ardrossan Community Building
MD	Jutland Road Community Centre
SAINT HILDA WARD	
NA	Phoenix Centre
NB	St Helens Primary School
NC	Constables Lounge, Borough Hall
SEATON WARD	
OA	The Schooner, Warrior Drive
OB	Seaton Carew Branch Library
OC	Seaton Carew Youth Centre
STRANTON WARD	
PA	Mill House Leisure Centre
PB	Polling District PB
PC	Central Library, York Road
PD	Burbank Community Centre
THROSTON WARD	
QA	Polling District QA
QB	Throston Grange Community Centre
QC	Jesmond Road Primary School

4.1 APPENDIX B

PROPOSAL FOR REVIEWING POLLING PLACES

POLLING DISTRICT	ELECTORATE (APPROX)	EXISTING POLLING PLACE	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE
ELWICK WARD			
DB	120	Polling District DB – currently a portable unit	Hartfields
HART WARD			
ID	1121	Polling District ID – currently a portable unit	Hartfields
RIFT HOUSE WARD			
LA	860	Children’s Centre, Rift House Primary School	The Masefield Centre