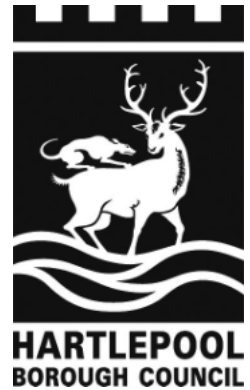


GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AGENDA



Monday 5 December 2011

at 4.00 pm

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

MEMBERS: GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE:

Councillors Aiken, C Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Cook, James, Lawton, Simmons, Thomas and Wells.

- 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 7 November 2011.
- 4. ITEMS REQUIRING CONSIDERATION**
 - 4.1 Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations – *Legal Services Manager*
- 5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

7 November 2011

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Rob Cook (In the Chair)

Councillors: Christopher Akers-Belcher, Marjorie James, Trisha Lawton,
Chris Simmons, Stephen Thomas and Ray Wells.

Officers: Alyson Caman, Legal Services Manager
Lorraine Bennison, Principal Registration and Members'
Services Officer
Angela Armstrong, Principal Democratic Services Officer

34. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher.

35. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

36. Confirmation of the minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2011

Confirmed.

37. Parliamentary Constituencies Review (*Chief Solicitor*)

The Legal Services Manager presented a report which updated Members in relation to the Parliamentary Constituencies review being undertaken by the four UK Boundary Commissions in their respective parts of the UK. The background and specific criteria for the review were outlined in the report. It was noted that the initial proposals for the north east comprised 26 constituencies as opposed to the current 29. It was highlighted that the Hartlepool constituency remained untouched apart from the inclusion of the Billingham North Ward from the Stockton constituency. It was proposed that the Constituency name remained as Hartlepool with no reference to Billingham. Details of the consultation to be undertaken were

included within the report.

A discussion ensued on the social and political connections between Hartlepool and Billingham and surrounding areas. It was noted that suggesting alterations to the proposed constituency boundaries would have a knock on effect to neighbouring constituencies and form part of a much bigger picture.

It was considered that the main impact of this proposal would be on the residents from Billingham who would 'share' the representation of the Hartlepool MP. It may also cause difficulties for residents of Billingham identifying who was the most appropriate contact for certain issues, whether it was Stockton Borough Council or the MP for Hartlepool.

In response to a question, the Principal Registration and Members' Services Officer confirmed that Hartlepool was the only constituency in the local area to remain intact with the remaining constituencies losing areas to other constituencies. It was confirmed that the figures used to calculate the review of constituencies were the current figures and not those estimated for 2016 when the review would be implemented.

Decision

The report was noted.

38. Any Other Items which the Chairman Considers are Urgent

Members were informed that the Constitution Committee Task and Finish Group had invited Members of the General Purposes Committee to be co-opted and form a joint working group to consider the political structure in light of the reduction in Councillors from April 2012 a result of the Electoral Review on the political structure of the Council. Democratic Services would liaise with the Chair of the Constitution Committee Task and Finish and General Purposes Committee to identify a suitable date.

The meeting concluded at 2.28 pm

CHAIR

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

5 December 2011



Report of: Legal Services Manager

Subject: REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite the Committee to approve their report to the Council upon the conclusion of the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006) introduced a duty for all polling districts, polling places and polling stations to be reviewed by the end of 2007 and at least every four years thereafter.

2.2 In aiming to reduce the requirement of a full review, the Council has, following each year's elections, conducted a mini review of polling places, resulting in a number of changes to polling places.

2.3 At previous meetings of the General Purposes Committee on 18 April and 16 June 2011, reports on the review of polling districts and polling stations were considered and a Working Group formed to consider the most suitable approach and agreed a timetable to meet the requirements of the EAA 2006.

2.4 The Working Group reviewed current arrangements and taking account of the Further Electoral Review, prepared proposals which were recommended for consultation by General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 5 September.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 A consultation exercise has taken place on the proposals which were approved by the General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 5 September 2011.
- 3.2 At the time of writing this report, no responses to the consultation exercise have been received. A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 As previously reported, the review took account of the Further Electoral Review (FER). The final recommendations of the FER (currently laid in Parliament) made some minor changes to Ward names. These changes have considered as part of this review and Polling District letter identifications have been amended.
- 4.2 The use of Jesmond Gardens Primary School as a Polling Station was investigated as an alternative to Grayfields Pavilion. Suitable accommodation has been identified in the Foundation Stage of the school premises and has been incorporated within the proposals at **Appendix 1**.
- 4.3 Attached at **Appendix 2** is a draft report to Council on 8 December 2011, inviting the Council to approve the proposals.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the committee now submit the proposals to Council for approval in accordance with the draft report at **Appendix 2**.

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

PROPOSALS

PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	ELECTORATE (APPROX)	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	COMMENTS
AA	1551	Eldon Grove Bowling Club	Eldon Grove Bowling Club	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
AB	1937	St. Matthews Community Centre	St. Matthews Community Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
AC	1132	Walmsley Hall	Walmsley Hall	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
AD	870	Stranton Centre	New	Due to changes in polling district composition, Stranton Centre considered easily accessible to electorate and provides acceptable accommodation
AE	1066	Epilepsy Outlook, Oxford Road	Oxford Road Baptist Church	Epilepsy Outlook Charity outlet is considered to be acceptable. Whilst acceptable as a polling station, Oxford Road Baptist Church is outside the Polling District and should not be used where other acceptable premises are available.
BA	999	Barnard Grove Primary School	Barnard Grove Primary School	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
BB	2173	Northern Lights Academy	Northern Lights Academy	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
BC	1759	Polling District BC	Training Room, West View Community Centre, Miers Avenue	Polling District BC identified to give the option of moving location if suitable accommodation is unavailable in a particular community venue on polling day
BD	964	St Thomas More Church Hall	St Thomas More Church Hall	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable

PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	ELECTORATE (APPROX)	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	COMMENTS
CA	2031	The Mow bray	The Mow bray	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
CB	2159	Fens Primary School	Fens Primary School	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
CC	1115	St Teresa’s Church Hall	New	Due to changes in polling district composition, St Teresa’s Church Hall considered easily accessible to electorate and provides acceptable accommodation
CD	834	Rossmere/Ardrossan Centre	Rossmere/Ardrossan Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
CE	1054	Rossmere Youth Centre	Rossmere Youth Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
DA	1235	Browning Avenue Baptist Church	Browning Avenue Baptist Church	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
DB	1156	Kingsley Children’s Centre	Kingsley Children’s Centre	No Change – the polling place is considered to be acceptable and a more user friendly room with direct access will be made available for 2012 elections onwards
DC	2020	Foundation Stage, St Aidan’s Primary School	Foundation Stage, St Aidan’s Primary School	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
DD	1099	St Cuthbert’s Church Hall	St Cuthbert’s Church Hall	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
DE	976	Belle Vue Community Centre	Belle Vue Community Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable

4.1
APPENDIX 1

PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	ELECTORATE (APPROX)	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	COMMENTS
EA	501	Hart Village Hall	Hart Village Hall	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
EB	1361	St Mark’s Community Centre	St Mark’s Community Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
EC	1648	Bamburgh Court	Bamburgh Court	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
ED	1269	Hartfields Manor	Hartfields Manor	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
EE	1379	Polling District EE	Portable Unit, Moorhen Road/Throston Grange Lane	Currently, no suitable premises available in Polling District EE but a portable unit could be located at the junction of Merlin Way/Moorhen Road. Portable units are generally unacceptable providing inferior accessibility to disabled voters and substandard accommodation for staff. Also inadequate capacity at peak voting times. They should not be used unless no adequate alternative is available.
FA	1161	Phoenix Centre	Phoenix Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
FB	1476	St Helen’s Primary School	St Helen’s Primary School	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
FC	1330	Borough Hall, Middlegate	Borough Hall, Middlegate	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
FD	849	Marketing Suite, Maritime Avenue	Marketing Suite, Maritime Avenue	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
FE	827	Burbank Community Centre	Burbank Community Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable

4.1
APPENDIX 1

PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	ELECTORATE (APPROX)	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	COMMENTS
GA	1202	Throston Community Centre	Throston Community Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
GB	1081	Throston Youth Project	New	Due to changes in polling district composition, Throston Youth Project considered easily accessible to electorate and provides acceptable accommodation
GC	1425	Jesmond Gardens Primary School	New	Suitable accommodation identified in Jesmond Gardens Primary School.
GD	1102	Lime Crescent Flatlets	Lime Crescent Flatlets	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
GE	1537	Wharton Annexe	Wharton Annexe	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable and a more user friendly room will be made available for 2012 elections onwards
HA	1516	Grange Primary School	Grange Primary School	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
HB	1469	Owton Manor Primary School	Owton Manor Primary School	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
HC	1687	Wynyard Road Community Centre	Wynyard Road Community Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
HD	1615	St Columba, Dryden Road	New	Due to changes in polling district composition, the facility at St Columba considered easily accessible to electorate and provides acceptable accommodation
HE	907	Masefield Road Centre	Masefield Road Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable

PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	ELECTORATE (APPROX)	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	COMMENTS
IA	1019	Ward Jackson Bowls Pavilion	Ward Jackson Bowls Pavilion	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
IB	937	Cricket Club	Cricket Club	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
IC	1985	High Tunstall School	High Tunstall School	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
ID	244	Dalton Piercy Village Hall	Dalton Piercy Village Hall	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
IE	498	Elwick WI	Elwick WI	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
IF	252	Wynyard Woods Grange, Wynyard Woods	Wynyard Woods Grange, Wynyard Woods	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
IG	883	Greatham Community Centre	Greatham Community Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
JA	1936	The Schooner	The Schooner	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
JB	1662	Seaton Library	Seaton Library	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
JC	1732	Seaton Rugby/Cricket Club	Seaton Youth Centre	Facilities at proposed polling place provides improved accessibility and accommodation
JD	800	Jutland Road Community Centre	Jutland Road Community Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
JE	668	Polling District JE	New	Due to changes in Polling District composition, Polling District JE identified to give the option of moving location if suitable accommodation is unavailable in a particular community venue on polling day

PROPOSED POLLING DISTRICT	ELECTORATE (APPROX)	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE	EXISTING POLLING STATION	COMMENTS
KA	1334	St Luke's Church Hall	New	Due to changes in polling district composition, St Luke's Church Hall considered easily accessible to electorate and provides acceptable accommodation
KB	1422	Portable Unit, Supporters Club Car Park	Portable Unit, Supporters Club Car Park	No change – although portable units are generally unacceptable, there is no alternative accommodation available in this polling district. A portable unit has been used in this location for a number of years and no problems have been reported by the electorate or staff. If a suitable venue becomes available this should be used.
KC	1258	Mill House Leisure Centre	Mill House Leisure Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
KD	1602	Lynnfield Community & Learning Centre	Lynnfield Community & Learning Centre	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable
KE	597	Central Library	Central Library	No Change – the polling station is considered to be acceptable



Report of: General Purposes Committee

Subject: REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To invite the Council to approve to the proposals attached at Appendix 1 for following the review of the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations for the Hartlepool Parliamentary Boundary.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In discharge of the requirement for review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations imposed on all authorities by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006) to undertake a full review every four years, the General Purposes Committee have produced proposals for review of the polling districts, polling places and polling stations in the Hartlepool Constituency.

2.2 Proposals prepared by the General Purposes Committee have been the subject of a public consultation exercise from 12 September to 2 December 2011. The proposals have been reviewed in the light of the responses received in the consultation exercise.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 Appendix 1 set out the proposals as approved by the Committee at their meeting on 5 December 2011. Members wishing to view plans showing street names should contact the Electoral Registration Officer.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That Council approve the polling districts and polling places as set out in Appendix 1 and authorise the Electoral Registration Officer to take all necessary steps to implement the changes proposed, including publication of the review as required by the Electoral Administration Act.

5. CONTACT OFFICER

Alyson Caman, Legal Services Manager