

Agenda Item No: 15 **Report No:** 34/16
Report Title: Change of Polling Place for Lewes Priory Electors
Report To: Council **Date:** 25 February 2016
Ward(s) Affected: Lewes Priory
Report By: Catherine Knight, Assistant Director of Corporate Services
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Purpose of Report:

To recommend to Council that the polling place for Lewes Priory electors be changed to account for a change in venue availability.

Officers Recommendation(s):

- 1 To approve the Returning Officer's proposal that the Projectile Hall, Lewes Leisure Centre, Mountfield Road, Lewes be designated as the polling place for Lewes Priory ward electors (Polling District LHC).
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Reasons for Recommendations

- 1 To enable the Council to meet its statutory duty to keep its polling places under review, in accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983 and guidance published by the Electoral Commission.

Information

- 2 A full review of the Council's polling districts and the places where electors are asked to vote was undertaken in 2014 and its recommendations were approved by Full Council at its meeting on 17 July 2014.
- 3 Although the next full review is not due until 2017 after the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's full East Sussex Electoral Review is complete, it is necessary to change this particular polling venue in advance of the Police and Crime Commissioner Election in May 2016.
- 4 At the review in 2014, Council designated the Southdown Building, Sussex Downs College, Mountfield Road as the polling place for Polling District LHC. Since the review, Sussex Downs College has informed us that it is no longer available to the Council for use as a polling venue.

- 5 As such it is proposed that the Projectile Hall, Lewes Leisure Centre, Mountfield Road be designated as the new polling venue for Lewes Priory electors.
- 6 The venue will provide electors with ample parking, disabled access and has a separate entrance from that of the Leisure Centre. It is close to the venue that was agreed by Council in 2014 and therefore does not change the distance that electors are required to travel.
- 7 The relevant District Ward Councillors representing Lewes Priory electors, Councillors Catlin, O’Keeffe and Rowell, have already been consulted on the proposed change.

Implementation

- 8 The suitability of the Projectile Hall, Lewes Leisure Centre as a polling venue has been evaluated. We have used a similar hall at the Downs Leisure Centre for all elections since 1983 and can see no reason why this venue should not work equally successfully.
- 9 Any change in polling place will become effective at all elections held after this date. Residents will be notified of the change by letter well in advance of the next scheduled elections. A reminder of the change will also be included on the poll cards for the area at the next elections. A notice of the change of polling station will also be displayed in advance of the election.

Financial Appraisal

- 10 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this Report. Election costs are borne by the body for whom the election is being held.

Legal Implications

- 11 None over and above those set out in the body of this Report.

Equality Screening

- 12 I have undertaken an equality analysis which concluded that the decision is robust, there is little potential for discrimination or adverse outcomes, and opportunities to promote equality have been taken.

Risk Management Implications

- 13 I have completed the Risk Management questionnaire and have identified that the main risk is that the Council would fail in its statutory duty to comply with the requirements for reviewing polling places. We will avoid this by keeping polling places under review in accordance with legislation.

Background Papers

- 14 None

Appendix

- 15 Equality Analysis Screening Report (Appendix 1)