

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Cllr Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Joanne Johnson, Electoral Services Manager
Implementation Date of Decision:	7 March 2018

CHANGE OF POLLING PLACE IN HAWES SIDE WARD (POLLING DISTRICT R1)

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To change the polling place for polling district R1 in Hawes Side ward from Waterloo Methodist Church, Waterloo Road, Blackpool FY4 3BJ to the Function Room in Marton Institute, Oxford Square, Blackpool FY4 4DR.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That the Function Room in Marton Institute, Oxford Square, Blackpool FY4 4DR be approved as the polling place for the polling district R1.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The polling place currently used for polling district R1 has recently changed ownership and is now unavailable to be used as a polling place.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

There are currently no permanent alternative premises that could be used for the polling district R1. A temporary mobile unit could be sited in Crossland Road Park but this would present lighting and voter access issues.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is:

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Whilst booking polling places for the Parliamentary election to be held 8 June 2017 we were informed by the booking agent for Waterloo Methodist Church that the premises was up for sale and a sale was due to be complete in the near future. The premises would be available for the Parliamentary election held on 8 June 2017 but due to the change of purpose an alternative venue would need to be sought for future elections.

5.2 The Electoral Services Manager and Chief Polling Station Inspector visited the polling district R1 and identified the Function Room at the Marton Institute, Oxford Square, Blackpool FY4 4DR as a suitable alternative.

5.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.4 List of Appendices:

None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The Council is empowered under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 to allocate polling places to any polling district.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None.

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 A risk assessment of the proposed polling place has been carried out (attached).

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Two Political Group Leaders, Hawes Side ward Councillors and the MP for Blackpool South.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 The Function Room at Marton Institute, Oxford Square, Blackpool FY4 4DR be approved as the polling place for the polling district R1.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 The polling place currently used for polling district R1 is no longer available due to change of ownership.