

Officer Non Key Executive Decision

Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Report Author (Officer name and title):	Joanne Johnson, Electoral Services Manager
Implementation Date of Decision:	14 January 2019

CHANGE OF POLLING PLACE IN LAYTON WARD (POLLING DISTRICT K2)

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To change the polling place for polling district K2 in Layton ward from a temporary mobile unit that is sited on grassed area opposite 2 Shenstone Road, Blackpool to the Pavilion building sited within Kingscote Park, Kingscote Drive, Blackpool FY3 7EN.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 That the Pavilion at Kingscote Park, Kingscote Drive, Blackpool FY3 7EN be approved as the polling place for the polling district K2.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The proposed new polling place is a permanent building that has been renovated and has now become available for use as a polling place. The Pavilion provides better facilities for both electors and staff and is more cost effective.

- 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 other permanent alternative premises that could be used for the polling district K2. The alternative would be to continue with the existing arrangement of using a mobile unit that would be sited opposite 2 Shenstone Road .

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The mobile unit sited opposite 2 Shenstone Road within Layton ward has been used for many years with minimal complaints.

5.2 The use of a mobile unit is seen as a last resort when there are no other suitable premises available to be used as a polling place. Mobile units are costly and require additional facilities such as a generator, kitchen appliances, ramps, furniture and are often seen by staff as an unpleasant working environment.

5.3 The Chairman of Blackpool Stanley Rugby League Club contacted Electoral Services and offered the use of the Pavilion as a Polling Place at future elections. The Electoral Services Manager and Chief Polling Station Inspector visited and assessment the premises.

5.4 Initial concerns were raised regarding outside lighting and the condition of the surface of the car park outside the Pavilion that would also serve as direct pedestrian access to the building.

5.5 An evening assessment was conducted and the exterior lighting was deemed satisfactory. Traditionally elections are held in the spring/summer when evenings are lighter therefore exterior lighting would not be as imperative therefore it is reassuring that the additional outside lighting would also be suitable for elections held during autumn/winter months.

5.6 Assurance has been given by the Director of Community & Environmental Services that the car park will be resurfaced well in advance of the Local Elections (May 2019) and therefore provide safe pedestrian access to the Pavilion.

5.7 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.8 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.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 The Two Group Leaders, Layton ward Councillors and the MP for Blackpool North and Cleveleys.

13.0 Decision of Chief Officer

13.1 That the Pavilion at Kingscote Park, Kingscote Drive, Blackpool FY3 7EN be approved as the polling place for the polling district K2.

14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer

14.1 The Pavilion at Kingscote Park provides better facilities for both electors and staff and is more cost effective.