

# CHANGE OF POLLING PLACES FOR THE 2019 DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Meeting **Council 28 March 2019**

Report Author **Committee Services Manager**

Portfolio Holder **Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Coastal Development**

Status **For Information**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Beacon Road, Central Harbour, Salmestone, and Viking**

**Executive Summary:**  
 This report is to inform Council of changes to a number of changes to polling stations for the forthcoming local government elections in May 2019. These are polling stations in the following wards: Beacon Road, Central Harbour, Salmestone, and Viking.

**Recommendation(s):**  
 None this report is for information only.

<b>CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS</b>							
<b>Financial and Value for Money</b>	Election costs are already budgeted for. The cost of running the Parishes will be reclaimed from the Parishes after the election.						
<b>Legal</b>	The Electoral Administration Acts 2006 and 2013 govern the process for undertaking reviews of polling districts and places.						
<b>Corporate</b>	By designating accessible polling stations, the Council seeks to encourage participation in the electoral process.						
<b>Equality Act 2010 &amp; Public Sector Equality Duty</b>	<p>Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy &amp; maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage &amp; civil partnership.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2" style="text-align: left; padding: 5px;">Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">x</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it</td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 5px;">x</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.		Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	x	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	x
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	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	
	The subject of equalities was considered during the 2011 review and has also been considered when identifying options for any subsequent alternative polling stations. The Electoral Commission provides comprehensive guidance on matters to be taken into account, and that guidance was followed.	

<b>CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant) ✓</b>	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	

<b>CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant) ✓</b>	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	x

## 1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report is to inform Council of changes to a number of changes to polling stations for the forthcoming local government elections in May 2019. The changes described within the report have already agreed by the Returning Officer and this report is for information only.

## 2.0 Changes to Polling Stations

### 2.1 Beacon Road Ward (BSB - Westover)

- 2.1.1 Westover Free Church Hall has closed. Electoral Services have undertaken a search and have not been able to locate another suitable venue in this part of the Beacon Road ward. Therefore St Andrews Church Hall will be used as a joint polling station covering the BSB Westover polling district as well as the other part of the Beacon Road ward (BSC Reading Street).

### 2.2 Salmestone Ward (MP2 - Westwood)

- 2.2.1 The Orb public house has been demolished and is therefore not available as a polling station. The polling station has now changed to the Global Generation Church in Strasbourg Street (behind the B&Q superstore).

### 2.3 Viking Ward (BSH - Dumpton Gap)

- 2.3.1 Extensive repair works are currently being carried out at Pierremont Hall over the period of the election rendering it unsuitable to be used as a polling station for the forthcoming election. The polling station has now changed to the Queens Road Baptist Church, Queens Road.

### 2.4 Central Harbour Ward (RH - Royal Harbour)

- 2.4.1 Electoral Services have been advised that the Elms Club is no longer available as a polling station. The new polling station will now be Forresters Hall, Meeting Street, Ramsgate.

Contact Officer:	Lyn Davey, Senior Electoral Services Officer
Reporting to:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

**Annex List**

None	None
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**Background Papers**

Title	Details of where to access copy
None	

**Corporate Consultation**

<b>Finance</b>	Matthew Sanham, Interim Head of Financial Services
<b>Legal</b>	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

