

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 11(b)
22 FEBRUARY 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Matthew Gladstone - Chief Executive and Returning Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Coles, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance	
Contact Officer(s):	Mark Emson – Electoral Manager Rachel Edwards – Head of Constitutional Services	Tel. 01733 452282

POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Chief Executive and Returning Officer	Deadline date: 22 February 2023
<p>It is recommended that Council approves the following changes to polling districts, places and stations for elections taking place in 2023 as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eye Youth & Community Centre, Crowland Road, Eye Village to be assigned as the dedicated polling station for the EYE2 (Eye, Thorney & Newborough Ward) Polling District replacing House of Feasts, Crowland Road, Eye Green. 2. St George’s Community Hydrotherapy Pool, Dogsthorpe Road to be assigned as the dedicated polling station for the PAR2 (Park Ward) Polling District replacing Elm Tree Tavern, Garton End Road. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 For Council to consider the revised polling districts, polling places and polling stations following the lack of availability of usual venues for the 2023 elections.

2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 If a building becomes unavailable before an election, the polling place can be changed by the local authority in accordance with their decision-making arrangements. At Peterborough City Council, this falls within the remit of Full Council.
- 2.2 The changes recommended are set out below:
 - Eye Youth & Community Centre, Crowland Road, Eye Village to be assigned as the dedicated polling station for the EYE2 (Eye, Thorney & Newborough Ward) Polling District replacing House of Feasts, Crowland Road, Eye Green who have advised that they cannot accommodate a polling station on their premises in 2023 due to closure.
 - St George’s Community Hydrotherapy Pool, Dogsthorpe Road to be assigned as the dedicated polling station for the PAR2 (Park Ward) Polling District replacing Elm Tree Tavern, Garton End Road who have advised that they cannot accommodate a polling station on their premises in 2023 due to closure.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The recommendations links to the Sustainable Future City Council Corporate Priorities and support the city of Peterborough residents in participation of local democracy.

There will be a minimal impact on carbon emissions. As energy used in proposed buildings will be offset by reductions in buildings previously used. The proposed polling stations are close to previous sites, and therefore voters are expected to travel by similar means as previously.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Group leaders and the ward Councillors for Eye, Thorney & Newborough ward and Park ward have been consulted on the proposed changes to polling places for the 2023 elections.

5. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 5.1 The proposed changes to polling places will result in a reduction in hire charges for the council for the 2023 elections.

Legal Implications

- 5.2 As part of a Polling District review the Council must seek to ensure (a) that all electors in a constituency in the city have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and (b) that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place and polling station is accessible to electors who are disabled.

Equalities Implications

- 5.3 The Electoral Commission, whilst not having a direct responsibility for the review, can intervene where it considers that the reasonable requirements of electors or the needs of disabled electors have not been taken in account.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 6.1 None.

7. APPENDICES

- 7.1 None.