

**CITY OF DURHAM**

**COUNCIL**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007**

**REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES**

**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of recommendations following the review of the City Council's polling places.

**2. Background Information**

- 2.1 Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007, introduced a number of changes to the Representation of the People Act 1983 in respect of the way in which reviews of polling districts and polling places must be undertaken.
- 2.2 To comply with the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006, every Council in England and Wales has had to undertake and complete a review of all the polling districts and polling places within its area by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007. However, to be effective for the Revised Register of Electors to be published on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007, the review needs to be completed by 13<sup>th</sup> November 2007, the last Council meeting before that date.

**3. Report**

- 3.1 The initial review period commenced on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007 concluding on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007, a period of six weeks.
- 3.2 On the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2007, public notices were displayed throughout each of the City Info offices. The same notices were posted on the Council's website on the 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> July 2007.
- 3.3 Comments were then invited on the existing arrangements, or any alternative proposals they may wish to make from City Councillors, County Councillors and the MPs Office.
- 3.4 By the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2007, two responses had been received and an officer review had been undertaken as below.
- 3.4(1) Mr P Leake, Bowburn wrote in to say that in his opinion, the current arrangements were largely satisfactory although he made a general point relating to the disruption caused to schools by elections taking place. Also, he suggested that the polling station for polling district AD, Framwellgate South (Shakespeare Hall on North Road) did not meet the necessary standards for access or parking and that AD could be aligned with either AC, Framwellgate or AP, Crossgate (Lower) resulting in electors attending either St Leonard's RC School or the Crossgate Centre to vote.
- 3.4(2) Dr Roberta Blackman-Woods MP advised of her concerns at the changed voting arrangements in Brandon where the polling arrangement at Brandon

House had been relocated to Silver Courts Communal Hall. In addition, she enquired if an additional polling station could be located within Sherburn Hill.

- 3.4(3) A review of the existing Polling Stations by the City Council's Access Officer and an analysis of recent election statistics identified several premises which had problems with access or low election turnout. In such cases, where suitable alternative premises were not available, it was suggested that we promote the availability of Postal Voting arrangements.
- 3.5 No further responses relating to the review were received.
- 3.6 Following consideration of the comments/reports received, a report was prepared outlining proposed changes to voting arrangements.
- 3.7 On the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007 the report of proposed changes to voting arrangements was circulated for a further period of consultation until 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007.
- 3.8 Public Notices were again displayed throughout each of the City Info offices and posted on the Council's website. City Councillors, County Councillors and the MP's office were also invited to comment along with the respondents from the initial consultation.
- 3.9 By the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 four responses had been received.
- 3.9(1) Councillor P Thompson from Gilesgate e-mailed to advise that both Durham City Baptist Church Hall and Laurel Primary School were indeed accessible and that, in the case of the latter, transferring voting to the Pelaw View Centre would lead to a dramatic drop in voter turnout. He also referred to the regard that should be taken of 'an increasingly ageing population with which comes increasing infirmity' (Mr P Leake also referred to this in his reply to the initial consultation.
- 3.9(2) Mr K Walters e-mailed on behalf of the City of Durham Labour Party. They had considered each of the proposals in turn. In general, they considered that existing polling arrangements should be retained and that in removing polling stations to a more remote location, voters would be required to attend unfamiliar premises some distance away. Low elector turnout was also referred to at some locations. Again, the issue of an additional polling station at Sherburn Hill was raised.
- 3.9(3) Councillor P Mitchell of Gilesgate e-mailed on behalf of various Councillors as Deputy Leader of the Labour Group as well as in an individual capacity. His comments were largely as in 3.9(1) and 3.9(2) above and also made mention of the problems the elderly, less mobile electorate might face in crossing main roads etc to access polling stations further from home.
- 3.9(4) Councillor Mrs Robinson telephoned to advise the existing polling arrangements in Coxhoe and Tursdale should be retained.
- 3.10 The proposals and comments thereon were then subject to formal consultation between the Returning Officer and the leaders of the three political groups.

*NB – At Council Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007, the Constitution was amended and the Executive Director was designated as the Returning Officer, (Min. 260 refers).*

**4. Officers Recommendation**

Following consideration of the several comments and opinions received as above, I would recommend that the Polling Places/Stations detailed in Appendix 'A' be approved. (For ease of reference, a summary of changed arrangements is reproduced at Appendix 'B').

Furthermore, as it is acknowledged that voters residing in Littletown would be required to cast their vote in Pittington, they will be offered/encouraged to take up postal voting facilities should they so choose.

**5. Legal Implications**

See Paragraphs 2.1 & 2.2 above.

**Background Papers**

Representation of the People Act 1983

Review of Polling Districts and polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006



**CITY OF DURHAM**  
**RECOMMENDED POLLING PLACES/STATIONS**

<b>City Ward/ Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Station</b>
<b>Bearpark &amp; Witton Gilbert</b>	<b>DR – Bearpark</b>	- Community Centre, Bearpark
	<b>DW – Witton Gilbert</b>	- Community Centre, Fyndoune Way, Witton Gilbert - Cooper Hall, Witton Gilbert
<b>Belmont</b>	<b>DX – Belmont</b>	- St Thomas More R. C. School, Thorndale Road, Belmont
<b>Brancepeth, Langley Moor &amp; Meadowfield</b>	<b>GA - Brancepeth</b>	- Village Hall, Brancepeth
	<b>HB – Langley Moor</b>	- Communal Hall, Blair Court, Langley Moor
	<b>HC – Meadowfield</b>	- Browney Primary School, Browney
<b>Brandon</b>	<b>HA - Brandon</b>	- Communal Hall, Silver Courts, Brandon
<b>Carrville &amp; Gilesgate Moor</b>	<b>DY – Carrville</b>	- Carrville Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Carrville
	<b>DZ – Gilesgate Moor</b>	- Durham Gilesgate Primary School, Kepier Crescent, Gilesgate - St. Hild's College C.E. Aided Primary School, Gilesgate
<b>Cassop-cum- Quarrington</b>	<b>DAA – Cassop</b>	- Community Centre, Front Street, Cassop
	<b>DB – TurSDale</b>	- Unit S4, TurSDale Business Park
	<b>DBB – Bowburn Nth</b>	- Community Centre, Marlene Avenue, Bowburn - Communal Hall, Lawson Road, Bowburn
	<b>DC – Bowburn Sth</b>	- Portacabin, Opp. 121/123 Park Avenue, Coxhoe
	<b>DCC – Bowburn (Central)</b>	- Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn
	<b>DG - Croxdale</b>	- Communal Hall, Rogerson Terrace, Croxdale
	<b>DGG – Hett</b>	- Village Hall, Hett
<b>Coxhoe</b>	<b>DA – Quarrington Hill</b>	- Community Hall, Quarrington Hill
	<b>DD – East Hetton</b>	- Communal Hall, 1 The Green, Woodland Crescent, Kelloe
	<b>DE - Cornforth Lane</b>	- Lansdowne Community Centre, Coxhoe
	<b>DEE – Coxhoe</b>	- Village Hall, Front Street, Coxhoe
	<b>DFF – Kelloe</b>	- Communal Hall, Union Place, Kelloe

<b>Crossgate &amp; Framwelgate</b>	<b>AC – Framwelgate</b> <b>AD – Framwelgate Sth</b> <b>AM – Crossgate</b> <b>AP – Crossgate (Lower)</b>	- St. Leonard's R.C. School, (Music Room), North End, Durham - St. Leonard's R.C. School, (Music Room), North End, Durham - The Cross Gate Centre, Alexandria Crescent, Durham - The Cross Gate Centre, Alexandria Crescent, Durham
<b>Deerness</b>	<b>HH – Esh Winning</b> <b>HI – Waterhouses No. 1</b> <b>HJ – Waterhouses No. 2</b>	- Newhouse R.C. Primary School, Durham Road, Esh Winning - Esh Winning Primary School, The Wynds, Esh Winning - Waterhouses Village Hall, Station Street, Waterhouses
<b>Elvet</b>	<b>AN – Elvet</b> <b>AO – Elvet Sth</b>	- St. Oswald's Institute, Church Street, Durham - Kenworthy Hall, St Mary's College - The Teesdale Hostel, Houghall College, Houghall
<b>Framwellgate Moor</b>	<b>DT - Brasside</b> <b>DU - Pity Me</b>  <b>DV – Framwellgate Moor</b> <b>DVA – Framwellgate Moor No. 1</b> <b>DVB – Framwellgate Moor No. 2</b>	- Portacabin in Car Park of Prison Officers Club, Brasside - Community Centre, Woodbine Road, Pity Me - Abbey Leisure Centre, Pity Me - Community Centre, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor - Community Centre, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor - Community Centre, Front Street, Framwellgate Moor
<b>Nevilles Cross</b>	<b>AK – Nevilles Cross Nth</b> <b>AL – Nevilles Cross Sth</b>	- Nevilles Cross Primary School, Relly Path - The Pavilion, Lowes Barn Playing Field, Merryoaks
<b>New Brancepeth &amp; Ushaw Moor</b>	<b>HD – Ushaw</b> <b>HE – Ushaw Moor</b> <b>HF – Broompark</b> <b>HG – New Brancepeth</b>	- St. Lukes Church Hall, Ushaw Moor - Ushaw Moor Parish Centre, Off Broom Lane, Ushaw Moor - Downstairs Activity Room, Deerness Leisure Centre, Ushaw Moor - Village Hall, New Brancepeth
<b>Newton Hall North</b>	<b>AA – Newton Hall Nth</b>	- St. Bede's R.C. Church Hall, Carr House Drive, Newton Hall - Finchale Primary School, Canterbury Road, Newton Hall
<b>Newton Hall South</b>	<b>AB – Newton Hall Sth</b>	- Durham Blue Coat, C.E. (Aided) Jnr School, Langley Road, Newton Hall
<b>Pelaw &amp; Gilesgate</b>	<b>AE – Gilesgate</b> <b>AF – Gilesgate (West)</b>	- St. John's Ambulance H.Q., Near Church Avenue, Gilesgate - Communal Hall, McNally Place, Gilesgate

	<p><b>AH – Pelaw (West)</b></p> <p><b>AI – Pelaw (South)</b></p> <p><b>AJ - Pelaw (East)</b></p>	<p>- Durham City Baptist Church Hall, Edge Court, Gilesgate</p> <p>- Laurel Avenue Primary School, Sherburn Road Estate</p> <p>- Pelaw View Centre, Hilda Avenue, Durham</p>
<b>Pittington &amp; West Rainton</b>	<p><b>DH – Pittington</b></p> <p><b>DHH – Littleton</b></p> <p><b>DI – West Rainton</b></p>	<p>- Village Hall, Pittington</p> <p>- Village Hall, Pittington</p> <p>- Jubilee Hall, North Street, West Rainton</p>
<b>Shadforth &amp; Sherburn</b>	<p><b>DII – Sherburn Hill</b></p> <p><b>DJ – Shadforth</b></p> <p><b>DJJ – Ludworth</b></p> <p><b>DK – Sherburn Village</b></p>	<p>- Community Centre, Sherburn Hill</p> <p>- Village Hall, Southside, Shadforth</p> <p>- Community Centre, Ludworth</p> <p>- Community Centre, Front Street, Sherburn Village</p> <p>- Community Centre, Attlee Square, Sherburn Village</p>
<b>Shincliffe</b>	<p><b>DM – Shincliffe</b></p> <p><b>DN – High Shincliffe</b></p> <p><b>DO – Sherburn/Whitwell House</b></p>	<p>- Church Hall, Shincliffe</p> <p>- Shincliffe C.E. Controlled Primary School, Beal Walk, High Shincliffe</p> <p>- The Board Room, Beddell House, Sherburn Hospital</p>
<b>St Nicholas</b>	<b>AG – St Nicholas</b>	- St. Nicholas Church (Lower), Market Place, Durham





## CITY OF DURHAM

## RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO POLLING STATIONS/PLACES

<b>City Ward/ Polling Place</b>	<b>Polling District</b>	<b>Current Polling Station</b>	<b>Recommended Polling Station</b>	<b>Reason for Change</b>
<b>Brancepeth, Langley Moor and Meadowfield</b>	<b>HB - Langley Moor</b>	<b>Scout Headquarters Former Salvation Army Hall Langley Moor</b>	<b>Communal Hall Blair Court Langley Moor</b>	<b>No longer available</b>
<b>Brandon</b>	<b>HA - Brandon</b>	<b>Brandon Junior School Brandon</b>	<b>Communal Hall Silver Courts Brandon</b>	<b>Access Problems at last 2 elections Low turnout</b>
<b>Cassop cum Quarrington</b>	<b>DB - Tursdale</b>	<b>Portacabin Tursdale</b>	<b>Unit S4 Tursdale Business Park</b>	<b>Access</b>
<b>Coxhoe</b>	<b>DD - East Hetton (Kelloe)</b>	<b>St Pauls Methodist School Room Front Street Kelloe</b>	<b>Communal Hall 1 The Green Woodland Crescent Kelloe</b>	<b>Access</b>
<b>Crossgate and Framwellgate</b>	<b>AD - Framwelgate (South)</b>	<b>Shakespeare Hall Durham</b>	<b>St Leonards RC School</b>	<b>Access Low turnout</b>
<b>Pittington and West Rainton</b>	<b>DHH - Littleton</b>	<b>Portacabin in layby at Littleton</b>	<b>Village Hall Pittington</b>	<b>Access</b>
<b>St Nicholas</b>	<b>AG - St Nicholas</b>	<b>Durham City Info Claypath</b>	<b>St Nicholas Church Market Place Durham</b>	<b>Low turnout Close proximity</b>



**CITY OF DURHAM**

**COUNCIL**  
**13<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES**

**1. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2008/2009**

Attached at Appendix A for Members information is the Schedule of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2008/2009.

**Recommended:** That the Schedule of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2008/2009 be approved.

**2. BISHOP COSIN'S ALMSHOUSES TRUSTEES**

The City Council, together with the Lord Bishop of Durham, the Chapter of Durham Cathedral, and the Council of the University of Durham, appoints Trustees to the Bishop Cosin's Almshouses, most recently at Annual Council in May 2007.

The Almshouse closed some time ago, and steps have been taken to, in effect, merge the Charity with Durham Aged Mineworkers Association. Trustees also agreed to seek their replacement by the Trustees of Durham Aged Mineworkers Association.

A final meeting of the Almshouses Trustees was held on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, when agreement was given to amend the Scheme dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1914, for replacement of the Trustees of the Almshouses with the Trustees of Durham Aged Mineworkers Association. Accordingly, the City Council's right to nominate Trustees to the organisation has now been extinguished.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted.





## SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - 2008/2009

Committee	Time	<u>2008</u>								<u>2009</u>				
		May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May
Development Control Committee	5.30 pm	14	4/25	16	6/27	17	8/29	19	10	7/28	18	11	1	-
Cabinet	2.00 pm	28	-	9	-	3	15	26	-	7	18	-	1	-
Standards Committee	5.30 pm	-	17	-	-	16	-	9	-	19	-	3	-	-
Scrutiny Committee	5.30 pm	-	2	14	-	1	13	24	-	5	16/23	30	-	-
Policy Scrutiny Panel	5.30 pm	28	23	21	28	22	20	17	15	14	11	12	9	-
Community Services Scrutiny Panel	5.30 pm	7	3	2/29	-	2/30	28	25	-	12	9	9	6	-
Environment Scrutiny Panel	5.30 pm	21	18	23	-	3	1	5	3	6	4	4	7	-
Economic Scrutiny Panel	5.30 pm	13	10	8/31	-	4	2/21	27	-	15	12	11	8	-
Licensing Panel	9.30 am	-	14	-	-	17	-	-	17	-	-	18	-	-
Audit Overview Committee	5.30 pm	-	19** 9.30 am	10	-	-	2	-	-	20	-	-	16	-
Council	5.30 pm	-	24***	22	-	23***	-	11	-	13*	24**	-	-	-
Annual Council	12 noon	6												

May Day

5 May 2008

Spring Bank Holiday

26 May 2008

Summer Bank Holiday

25 August 2008

Christmas Holidays

25 – 31 December 2008

New Year's Holidays

1 January 2009

Good Friday

10 April 2009

Easter Monday

13 April 2009

May Day

4 May 2009

\* (Tax Base)

\*\* (Council Tax)

\*\*\* (Statement of Accounts)



**CITY OF DURHAM**

**COUNCIL**  
**13 November 2007**

**REPORT OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES MANAGER**

**APPOINTMENT OF PARISH REPRESENTATIVE TO STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

A vacancy arose for appointment of a second parish representative to the City Council's Standards Committee as a result of Parish Councillor Beswick not being re-elected to the Brandon & Byshottles Parish Council in May 2007.

The 15 parishes were requested to forward nominations to the Council on prospective candidates to be appointed to the Standards Committee. A report was prepared for Cabinet on the 5 September (Minute 199) requesting that a small interview panel be convened to consider the nominations received from the parish councils with a view to recommending a suitable candidate for appointment by Council. The panel was to be made up of 4 members of the City Council and the Chairman of the Standards Committee.

5 interested parties attended for interviews by the panel on the 11 October 2007. At the conclusion of the interview process the panel recommended that Parish Councillor Mrs Patricia Hudson of Shincliffe Parish Council should be recommended to Council to be the second parish representative on the Standards Committee.

The appointment of member to the Standards Committee is a function of Full Council and Members are therefore requested to approve the appointment of Parish Councillor Hudson to the Standards Committee.

