

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 11 September 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Patel (Chair); Councillor Parekh (Deputy Chair);
Councillors Beardsworth, I. Choudary and Oldham.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Aziz, Councillor Begum, Councillor Duncan and Councillor Golby, and the Chief Executive.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Aziz, Begum, Duncan and Golby and from the Chief Executive.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th June 2012 were approved and signed by the Chair.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

4. DEPUTATIONS / PUBLIC ADDRESSES

There were none.

5. REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

The Democratic and Chief Executive Services Manager presented a report seeking amendments to polling places in eight polling districts in Northampton for all elections, referenda and polls from November 2012 onwards.

In response to Members' comments and questions she stated that:

- Changes were being recommended to polling places and polling stations largely as a result of feedback following Polling Day in May 2011 that some polling places which accommodated more than one polling station were becoming overcrowded or that some electors were having to travel more than a mile to their polling station, which was considered too far. A further change had resulted from Bective Mobile, which had previously been used in Westone Ward, no longer being available, and it was proposed that a new polling place be established at Northampton College as a replacement.
- She confirmed that all new polling places had been visited and were accessible for people with disabilities. Mobiles could have ramps provided if necessary.
- She would review the accessibility of Victoria Road Congregational Church in Castle Ward following comments by Councillor I Choudary that concerns had

been expressed in the past about the accessibility of the venue.

- Moving electors in NSMB from the polling station at Kingsthorpe Community Centre, which is a long distance for electors to walk, to the polling station at Holy Trinity Church Hall would result in three polling stations in the church hall but it was considered large enough to accommodate them as the electorate for NSMB is small, being less than four hundred in total with NSMA. This was an exception to the other proposed amendments, where the number of polling stations was being reduced in some polling places.

RESOLVED:

1. That the feedback and proposals outlined in appendix 1 of the report to the Committee be noted and that changes to the polling place that will be used by electors in the following wards and polling districts from November 2012 onwards be agreed:

Delapre & Briar Hill Ward	Polling District SDBD
East Hunsbury Ward	Polling Districts SNEHF and SNEHG
Rectory Farm Ward	Polling District NRFD
Semilong Ward	Polling District NSMA and NSMB
Talavera Ward	Polling District STVF
Westone Ward	Polling District NWT A

2. That the ability to amend the polling districts, polling places and polling stations as required for operational purposes be delegated to the Returning Officer.

6. MATTERS OF URGENCY WHICH BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR IS OF THE OPINION SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 6:10 pm.