



North Devon Council

Report Date: 10th January 2023

Topic: Polling Places Designations

Report by: Head of Governance

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report sets out the current proposal for polling places arrangements recommended as a result of the council's responsibilities under the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 and Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That Governance Committee recommend to Full Council that the proposed Polling Places for the District and Parish Elections in May 2023, as contained in Appendix A, be adopted.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. To update the North Devon District polling places arrangements for the local government elections in May 2023. The full list is contained within Appendix A, with the main changes highlighted in blue, which includes:

- Barnstaple Forches Ward: St Johns Community Centre
- West Ward (Part) of Ilfracombe Parish: Holy Trinity Church
- North Molton: Memorial Hall, North Molton
- Fremington & Yelland Ward (Part 2): 31 Linscott Crescent, West Yelland

3.2 St Johns Community Centre is just outside the polling district but no alternative polling place could be found.

3.3 The previous polling place for Yelland was a garage of a private property, which is no longer available. Consideration was given to a temporary building but that would require physical ground works to an area of open space and with the hirer fees the costs were prohibitive. There are no suitable public buildings in the polling district but we have been able to find an alternative venue from a private resident wishing to use their property as a polling place.

4. DEFINITIONS

4.1. Polling district: the area created by the division of a constituency, ward or division into smaller parts, within which a polling place can be determined which is convenient to electors

4.2. Polling place: the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the Returning Officer



4.3. Polling station: the room or building where the poll takes place, chosen by the Returning Officer for the election and publicised on the Notice or Poll or the Notice of Situation of Polling Stations and communicated via poll card after the Notice of Election.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There were no resource implications

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. Any changes seek to ensure that so far as is reasonably practicable, the polling places are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled. When considering the designation of a polling place, regard must be given to the accessibility needs of a disabled person.

6.2. A provision in the Elections Act 2022 is to make it easier for disabled people to vote from May 2023. Disabled voters can choose anyone who is over 18 to accompany them in the polling station to help them vote. There is also a requirement for Returning Officers to take all reasonable steps to provide equipment to support disabled voters to vote independently and in secret at the polling station.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. No environmental impact from the changes within the report.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

8.1. Article of Part 3 Annex 1 paragraph: 5(e)

8.2. Referred or delegated power? Delegated

9. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

11. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers

Adam Tape, Head of Governance