

**BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE**

**20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010**

**ST JOHNS EAST (SJC) POLLING STATION REVIEW**

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr G N Denaro
Responsible Head of Service	Claire Felton

**1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To consider a temporary replacement for the Ryland Centre, New Road, Bromsgrove which is the current polling place for the St Johns East Polling District (SJC) following very recent notification of major renovation work during 2010.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That the Committee approve and adopt the United Reform Church Hall, Windsor Street, Bromsgrove as a temporary alternative polling place for the St Johns West Polling District (SJA) whilst renovation at the Ryland Centre, New Road, Bromsgrove is carried out.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In undertaking the review, the Council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances, and have regard to the needs of electors who are disabled.
- 3.2 Consultation has been sought from local District and County Council Members.

**4. FINDINGS**

- 4.1 All polling places and polling stations within the District have been evaluated in terms of suitability and accessibility. The law says that facilities for voting must be reasonable and practicable. What this means in practice is a matter of judgement, but there is certainly no duty on the Council to make an unreasonably high level of provision, or to provide facilities in locations where it is impracticable to do so.

4.2 The United Reformed Church Hall, Windsor Street, Bromsgrove was previously used as a polling place. It has a large main room suitable for use as a polling station and its toilet facilities has recently renovated to DDA standards. There are two small step to the double door entrance to the Hall which will require a temporary ramp to be put into place at an election. The owners of the Hall have indicated that they are seeking finance to provide a permanent ramp to this door. Car parking at the Hall is limited but there is a public car park within 20 metres.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There will be a cost for provision of a temporary ramp for access where there is small step at the double door entrance to the United Reformed Church Hall which can be recovered from the General Election accounts claim.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. In accordance with the requirements of section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

## **7. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES**

7.1. CO3, One Community and Well Being, helping to meet the needs of our customers by eliminating discrimination and promoting equality.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

8.1 There are no significant risks associated with the details included in this report.

## **9. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Changes of polling stations will be identified to the elector by a special note included on their polling card.

## **10. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 By addressing the issues with regard to access to the Polling Stations the Council is improving access to all areas of the Community.

## **11. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Not applicable in this case.

**12. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Procurement Issues
None
Personnel Implications
None
Governance/Performance Management
None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998
None
Policy
None
Environmental
None

**14. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT**

Portfolio Holder Cllr G N Denaro	Yes
Chief Executive as Returning Officer	Yes
Corporate Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Financial Services	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes
Head of Organisational Development & HR	No
Corporate Procurement Team	No

**15. WARDS AFFECTED**

St Johns Ward.

**CONTACT OFFICER**

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