

Electoral Matters Committee

Thursday, 18th December,
2025

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor William Boyd (Chair), and Councillors Matthew Dormer and Jen Snape

Officers:

M. Bassett and D. Whitney

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND NAMED SUBSTITUTES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mathur with Councillor Snape as named substitute. No further apologies for absence were received.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

21. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Electoral Matters Committee at the request of Members.

22. ELECTORAL PILOT EARLY VOTING HUBS FOR MAY 2026 ELECTIONS

The Electoral Services Manager presented the report regarding possible locations for early voting hubs as part of the electoral pilot to be held in May 2026.

Members expressed their support for the pilot and their regret was noted that electronic voting pilots were not being allowed by Government.

Officers had investigated a number of locations that had the potential to be used within the Borough and the Electoral Services Manager updated Members on each location that had been referred to within the report. To support this, a paper was circulated which

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covered the progress regarding each potential hub (Appendix 1 to the minutes). Each location was discussed, and Members determined that only four were viable to be utilised within the tight timetable.

These were:

- Abbey Stadium
- Arrow Valley Visitor Centre
- Kingfisher Shopping Centre
- Temporary Building(s) near café in Morton Stanley Park, Windmill Drive

It was noted that three of the four locations were directly connected to the Borough Council which would make progressing arrangements easier. Officers informed Members that there had been positive discussions with the Kingfisher Shopping Centre in securing a unit for a voting hub at that venue, although they would not be able to give an exact location until late January 2026. The Committee had previously agreed to set up a working group to review the locations, however no nominations had been received outside of the Committee. Taking this into account along with the viable locations, Members decided that a working group was no longer necessary and that officers could proceed with the pilot arrangements using the four locations stated above.

RESOLVED that

subject to consultation with Group Leaders, officers approach:

- **Abbey Stadium;**
- **Arrow Valley Visitor Centre;**
- **Kingfisher Shopping Centre; and**
- **Morton Stanley Park.**

to establish early voting hubs, for the May 2026 electoral pilot, at those locations.

The Meeting commenced at 5.25 pm
and closed at 5.34 pm

Appendix 1 Possible Early Voting Hub locations

Name	Location	Notes
Abbey Stadium	Dance Studio (downstairs or upstairs)	Downstairs preferable. Will promote early voting on their social media/screens
Alexandra Hospital	"The Street" Main Corridor	Would have to move if there was an emergency Electors would need pay for parking
Arrow Valley Visitor Centre	In the Committee room on first floor	Ideal room for a Hub Additional access by lift Could also have an area downstairs for those that cannot climb stairs/enter lift.
Kingfisher Centre	Within the centre	Cannot give exact location until mid/end Jan. Would like to know if Members have a preference if Kingfisher management have a number of units available.
Kingsley Sports Centre, Tudor Grange Academy	Within the Sports Centre	School have not yet replied.
Morrisons	Within store or portable building in car park	Officers are still arranging a visit Would not need to venue if Arrow Valley is used.
Morton Stanley Park, Windmill Drive	Temporary buildings on car park near cafe	Would need to investigate access to get temporary building down drive
Tesco Extra, Coldfield Drive	Within store or portable building in car park	Officers have not had a reply to email as yet.

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