
Review of Polling Place for Polling District HOD - Wirehill

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Baker, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Regeneration and Governance
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Claire Felton
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Wards Affected	Headless Cross & Oakenshaw
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	Yes
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	N/A
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RESOLUTION

- 1.1 that the Committee notes the contents of the report and makes changes, if any, in respect of the polling place as contained in the report (as amended).**

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The report revisits the polling place for Polling District HOD - Wirehill which was considered by this Committee on 7 November 2024. Members of the Committee asked officers to carry out a consultation with householders within the polling district.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 No direct costs from this report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Authority to set polling district boundaries and to designate polling places rests with the Council (Statutory elements of the Council's

Constitution under the Local Government Act 2000). Redditch Borough Council has delegated full relevant powers to this Electoral Matters Committee.

- 4.2 Decisions about the situation of polling stations within designated polling places are for the (Acting) Returning Officer. Arrangements must comply with relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Acts and Regulations and the Equality Act 2010.

5. STRATEGIC PURPOSES - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 5.1 This report deals with statutory functions but relates to the strategic purpose of an effective and sustainable council.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.1 None for this report.

Operational Implications

- 6.2 The current polling place for polling district HOD – Wirehill is a portable building near the entrance to Atworth Close.
- 6.3 At the meeting of this Committee held 7 November 2024 it was noted that the venue was used for the first time in May 2024 and again in July. Previously electors went to vote at Woodrow Community Centre, but the 671 electors of polling district are in a different borough ward so a portable building on Atworth Close was decided to be the best option for polling.

The portable building was sited near the entrance to Atworth Close on a strip of grassy land.

Officers further noted that due to the complexities of the ramp which needed to be installed and the lack of on street parking which generated some complaints by constituents. The polling station was not deemed appropriate to be retained.

A potential solution was proposed, which was to combine the polling districts HOC and HOD which would use the same polling station on Grangers Lane, However, as the move would require the commute of

the constituents in the HOD polling district, it was recommended that a consultation take place.

- 6.4 A survey letter was sent to all households within the polling district asking for their preference on where they would like to vote in the future.

In total, 67 responses were received of these 39 wanted to remain voting at Atworth Close, 13 were content with Grangers Lane and 15 use an absent vote.

There was an additional option regarding suggestions for an alternative venue which no one completed.

- 6.5 Although a Committee decision the Returning Officer has suggested that the polling place remain the same due the resident responses received.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Any changes agreed must be likely to be sustainable for a reasonable number of years, as frequent changes of Polling Station are not helpful for electors and undermine their knowledge of, and confidence in, electoral systems.

- 7.2 Choice of Polling Place / Polling Station should not give rise to significant grounds of complaint which might put election results at risk of challenge.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

**ELECTORAL MATTERS COMMITTEE
2025**

26 February

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder		
Head of Service		
Financial Services		
Legal Services		