

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**



<b>DATE</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Leader</b>
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**Changes to Polling Stations**

**PURPOSE**

1. To advise Members of the Returning Officers proposal to change a number of Polling Stations for elections from May 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That Full Council approve the following permanent changes to Polling Stations:
  - (a) Brunshaw Ward (FD) from Brunshaw Methodist Church to Belmont Community Centre, Belmont Grove, BB10 4NR;
  - (b) Daneshouse & Stoneyholme Ward (DC) from Chai Centre to Ghausia Centre, Abel St, Burnley BB10 1QY;
  - (c) Cliviger with Worsthorpe (HA) from 67 Richmond Avenue to Pike Hill Library, Langwyth Road, Burnley BB10 3JX (double station);
  - (d) Coalclough with Deerplay Ward (KC, KD and KE) from REMEC Engineering to Burnley Golf Club, Glen View Road, Burnley BB11 3RW and
  - (e) Whittlefield with Ightenhill (MB) from St Mary Magdalene’s School to St Mary Magdalene’s Church, Gawthorpe Road, Burnley BB12 0JP (double station)
  - (f) With the exception of a) to e) above, Members note the Returning Officers decision not to change any other polling stations.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3. In order to take account of premises that are no longer available, to improve facilities for electors and to comply with the Electoral Administration Act 2006.

## SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. In May 2021 a number of polling stations were unavailable for use for election purposes for a variety of reasons. The Chief Executive was able to make temporary changes to these stations using delegated powers.

As we approach the May 2022 elections either the polling station continues not to be available, or the temporary replacement was found to offer better availability and/or facilities for both electors and polling station staff.

To summarise, it is proposed that the majority of the existing polling stations remain the same except for the following:

Ward & Electoral District	Existing Polling Station	Temporary Polling Station	Reason
Brunshaw (FB)	Brunshaw Methodist Church, Rimington Ave	Belmont Community Centre, Belmont Grove, BB10 4NR	The proposed venue offers good facilities and has been used previously.
Daneshouse & Stoneyholme (DC)	Chai Centre, Hurtlely St	Ghausia Centre, Abel St	NHS owned centre unavailable
Cliviger with Worsthorne (HA)	67 Richmond Avenue, Cliviger	Pike Hill Library (Double Station)	Improved accessibility at new station. Used previously
Coalclough with Deerplay	Remec Engineering, Summit Works, Manchester Rd	Burnley Golf Club, Glen View Road	Offers better facilities for electors polling station staff
Whittlefield with Ightenhill	St Mary Magdalene's School, Wellfield Drive, Burnley	St Mary Magdalene's Church, Gawthorpe Road	If there is a viable alternative to a school, this is preferred. The proposed venue has been used previously and is suitable.

## 5. Guidelines

The following considerations were taken into account when drawing up the proposals. The first two are required by law; the others are guidelines, not strict rules.

- (1) The Council must seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- (2) The Council must seek to ensure that as far as is reasonable and practicable every polling district is accessible to electors who are disabled.
- (3) Ideally the polling place should be in its own polling district;
- (4) No polling place should be shared by two wards;
- (5) Where possible “natural” boundaries should be used, eg. railways, major roads, waterways;
- (6) All properties in a minor road or estate should be in the same polling district; and
- (7) Polling places should be “logical”, that is, electors should not have to pass another polling place to get to their own place.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

6. The costs arising from the proposed changes will be met from existing budgets.

### **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7. None.

### **DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

8. Group Leaders, Member Structures Working Group, Polling Station Inspectors, Chief Operating Officer, Returning Officer

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

9. [https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/word\\_doc/Polling-district-review-guidance.doc](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/word_doc/Polling-district-review-guidance.doc)

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Alison Stirling**

### **PLEASE CONTACT:**

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### **ALSO:**