

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**MISCELLANEOUS FUNCTIONS COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES**

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	<b>Caroline Newlands, Head of Legal and Democratic Services</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Stella Fleming, Acting Principal Elections Officer</b>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>Appendix 1 – Location of Polling Places</b> <b>Appendix 2 – Consultation Documents</b> <b>Appendix 3 – Responses to Consultation</b>

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider the responses to a consultation exercise which has been carried out in accordance with Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006. This is a statutory requirement for 2007 and will continue to be carried out at least every 4 years thereafter.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that:

- 2.1 The Polling Districts and Polling Places within Wyre Forest District shall remain as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Report.**

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In accordance with Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, which amended Section 18 into the Representation of the People Act 1983, the relevant authority must conduct a review of polling districts and polling places not later than the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007 and thereafter before the end of every four years starting with the completion of the previous such review.
- 3.2. Consultation has been carried out by the Council with a closing date for representations to be received of the 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2007. (Appendix 2)
- 3.3. Responses received are enclosed. (Appendix 3)

**4. KEY ISSUES**

- 4.1 Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006 requires that, 'as far as is reasonable and practicable, only polling places which are accessible to electors with disabilities should be designated'.

**5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None.

**6. LEGAL AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended, requires that a review must be carried out by the 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007.

**7. CONCLUSION**

- 7.1 The responses received have generally been very positive. However, research has been carried out into the polling places that consultees feel present a problem to electors with the following findings.

- 7.2 The use of schools is avoided wherever possible. However, it is necessary to use school premises where no suitable alternative is available.

- 7.3 Lickhill Community Centre in Lickhill Road, Stourport on Severn, is a building which meets all the requirements as a polling place. Although it is accepted that this is not in the centre of the polling district, it is a much more suitable building for both electors and staff than a mobile polling station would be. There are many polling places within the District which are not located in the centre of a polling district, but there is no proof that this reduces turnout.

**8. CONSULTEES**

- \* Presiding Officers
- \* District Councillors
- \* County Councillors
- \* Parish/Town Clerks
- \* Local Political Parties
- \* Member of Parliament
- \* Local Disability Groups

**9. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 Electoral Administration Act 2006  
9.2 Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended)

25<sup>th</sup> September, 2007