


<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>COUNCIL</p> <p>24 February 2016</p>	
<p>CHANGE OF POLLING STATION</p>	
<p>Report of the Returning Officer – Nigel Pallace</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification: For Decision Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: Askew</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Tasnim Shawkat, Director of Law</p>	
<p>Report Author: Martina Reid, Deputy Electoral Services Manager</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 8753 2640 E-mail: martina.reid@lbhf.gov.uk</p>

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To outline the recommendation of the Returning Officer that a temporary change of polling arrangements for ASA polling district from the London Mayor and Assembly Elections 5 May 2016.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the polling place for ASA polling district be temporarily moved from St Saviour’s Church, Cobbold Road to Wendell Park School, Cobbold Road.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a cycle of regular statutory reviews and prescribes that Electors are given such reasonable and accessible facilities for voting as are practicable. The venue used during the 2015 elections is no longer available and therefore requires us to seek an alternative.

4. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 4.1. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a duty to divide the borough into polling districts and to designate a polling place for each district. It also has to keep these arrangements under review. A Polling Place is defined as “a geographical area in which a polling station is located”. It is widely accepted to be a specific building identified for the purpose, which the Local Authority is responsible for determining. A Polling Station is the actual area where the process of voting takes place, and must be located within the polling place designated for the particular polling district for which the Returning Officer is responsible for determining.

5. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 5.1. To temporarily change the polling station for polling district ASA from St Saviours Church, Cobbold Road to Wendell Park School, Cobbold Road. St Saviours Church, Cobbold Road has informed the Returning Officer that the church hall is not available on 5 May. The main church was made available, but it does not, in the Returning Officer’s opinion offer good access for voters with disabilities and lighting is insufficient. There are also safeguarding issues concerning the nursery using the building during an election. Wendell Park School is available and the head teacher is content for their premises to be used. Wendell Park School has been used as a polling station at previous elections.

6. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 6.1. An alternative venue, the main church at St Saviours Church has been suggested. This would require the installation of an external ramp for disabled access, additional internal and external lighting. The Returning Officer has taken the view that Wendell Park School should be used as an alternative as it has good disabled access, lighting and good facilities for both voters and polling station staff.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1. Local Ward Councillors and Returning Officer.

8. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. There is level and excellent access to Wendell Park School. The alternative venue proposed, the main church at St Saviours Church, does not have good access. The installation of an external ramp would be required for disabled access.

9. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The cost of using St Saviours Church as a polling station would be in the region of £500.

Implications completed by: Martina Reid tel: 020 8753 2640

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR BUSINESS

10.1. Wendell Park School has an unallocated inset day that will be used to accommodate polling on 5 May.

Implications completed by: Martina Reid tel: 020 8753 2640

11. RISK MANAGEMENT

11.1. There are no additional risks associated with the recommendations.

Implications completed by: Martina Reid tel: 020 8753 2640

12. IT STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

12.1. There are no relevant implications.

Implications completed by: Martina Reid tel: 020 8753 2640

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT**

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	Polling Arrangements Review 2013	Martina Reid x2640	FCS, Electoral Services, Room 28 Hammersmith Town Hall

LIST OF APPENDICES:

None