

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Information**

**Report to:** Constitutional and Nomination Committee – 15 May 2019

**Subject:** Re-designation of polling places for the European Parliamentary Elections on 23 May 2019

**Report of:** The Chief Executive

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**Summary or Purpose of the report**

To report to the Committee decisions made under delegated powers to change the scheme of polling places for the European Parliamentary Elections (EPE) on 23 May 2019.

**Recommendations**

1. To note and endorse the urgent decisions made by the Chief Executive to change the scheme of polling places to be in use for the European Parliamentary Elections later this month.
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**Wards Affected:**

Cheetham, Chorlton Park, Deansgate, Didsbury West, Fallowfield

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of how this report aligns to the OMS
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	<p>The Our Manchester Strategy sets out the vision for the city to 2025. Local elections provide the opportunity for eligible Manchester residents to elect Councillors to represent them and therefore to influence how the strategy is delivered.</p> <p>The Council's scheme of polling districts and polling places is a key part of the city's governance arrangements.</p> <p>The changes were urgent and necessary as a result of the short notice given for the EPE. Temporary EPE-only arrangements were put in place by the Chief Executive.</p>
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

**Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:**

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

**Financial Consequences – Revenue**

None

**Financial Consequences – Capital**

None

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

None

**Appendices:**

None

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Not all of the locations used as polling places in the Local Election on 2 May are also available at short-notice for use for the European Parliamentary Elections on 23 May. Where a polling place was not available to Chief Executive used delegated powers to re-designate an alternative.

## **2.0 The designation of polling districts, polling places and polling stations**

- 2.1 The designation of the city's polling districts and polling places within them is the responsibility of the Council and the relevant functions are delegated to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee in the Scheme of Delegation. This includes the Council's duties under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to divide constituencies into polling districts and the power to divide wards into polling districts at local elections.
- 2.2 On occasion, it may be necessary to change the designation of a polling place outside the statutory review process or meeting of the Constitutional and Nomination Committee. This usually occurs as a result of premises being closed or unexpectedly becoming unavailable, often at short notice, or if an unscheduled poll takes place. Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place in such circumstances, in consultation with group leaders, ward Councillors and the Chair of Constitutional and Nomination Committee, as agreed by the Council in January 2018 (Minute CC/18/11).

## **3.0 Changes necessary for the European Parliamentary Elections**

### **Ward / District – Cheetham, Deansgate 1CTB/1DGA**

- 3.1 As a result of the short notice given for the European Parliamentary Elections the Electoral Services Unit was unable to secure a booking for the polling station currently designated for the 1CTB / 1DGA polling district located at The Park Inn, Cheetham Hill Road. It has not been possible to secure a polling place within either of the polling districts. However, an alternative polling place for the EPE only has been identified at Manchester Cathedral Visitors Centre. Although it is located in the adjoining polling district 2DGC, it is in a well-known location and is accessible to all electors. Having consulted the relevant Councillors, the Chief Executive made the decision to re-designate on a temporary basis this polling place for the EPE only.

### **Ward / District - Chorlton Park - 4CPA**

- 3.2 As a result of the short notice given for the European Parliamentary Elections the Electoral Services Unit was unable to secure a booking for the polling place currently designated for the 4CPA polling district which is at Loreto High School. Exams are taking place in the school at this time. Unfortunately the Maris Centre on the same site is also not available for use. An alternative location, for the EPE only, has been identified as the Function Room located within Sai Spice Indian Restaurant on Mauldeth Road West. This is on the

ground floor, is accessible to electors and has some parking available outside. Having consulted the relevant Councillors, the Chief Executive made the decision to re-designate on a temporary basis this polling place for the EPE only.

#### **Ward / District - Didsbury West - 4DWE**

- 3.3 As a result of the short notice given for the European Parliamentary Elections the Electoral Services Unit was unable to secure a booking for the polling place currently designated for the 4DWD polling district located at St James and Emmanuel Church Parish Centre. An alternative location, for the EPE only, has been identified as Ivy Church Manchester, which is also the polling place for 4DWE. The building is well known to local residents and has enough space to accommodate both stations. Having consulted the relevant Councillors, the Chief Executive made the decision to re-designate on a temporary basis this polling place for the EPE only.

#### **Ward / District - Fallowfield – 3FAD**

- 3.4 As a result of short notice given for the European Parliamentary Elections the Electoral Services Unit was unable to secure a booking for the polling place currently designated for the 3FAD polling district located at the Armitage Centre. An alternative location, for the EPE only, was identified at Owens Park. This polling place is already used by electors in polling district 3FAE. There is enough room for all electors from both polling districts to use this polling place and the building is well known to all electors in the area. Having consulted the relevant Councillors, the Chief Executive made the decision to re-designate on a temporary basis this polling place for the EPE only.

### **4. Polling Places shown on Poll Cards**

- 4.1 Given the overlap of the legal timetables for the Local Election and the EPE, the poll cards for the European Parliamentary Elections had to be sent out whilst the Local Election campaigning was underway. In order to allow the re-designations to take place and to stop electors being confused by multiple poll cards, and so perhaps going to vote in the wrong polling places for the local elections, where necessary a holding message was added to the poll cards for the EPE. This informed the electorate that their polling station was not yet confirmed and that a further poll card would be sent providing these details.

### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 Recommendations appear at the front of the report.