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## **EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 13 December 2010**

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### **EX.218/10    REVIEW OF POLLING ARRANGEMENTS** (Non Key Decision)

**Portfolio**     Governance and Resources

#### **Subject Matter**

The Assistant Director (Governance) submitted report GD.65/10 presenting the results of the annual review of polling arrangements as required by the Representation of the People Act 1983. He informed Members that all City Councillors had been consulted on the polling arrangements in their particular wards, and set out the statutory provisions and the criteria which had been used in carrying out the review.

He drew Members' attention to the use of mobile polling stations and the use of schools as polling places, commenting that in the light of concerns and in response to requests from School Governing Bodies, the number of schools used as polling places had been reduced in recent years, and now only ten Schools within the Council's area were used as polling venues.

The large majority of polling places were satisfactory and had remained unchanged for many years. The choice of suitable buildings was limited and, in most cases, there was no alternative to the present arrangements.

The Assistant Director (Governance) then reported in more detail on suggested changes in voting arrangements for the Belah and Stanwix Rural, Stanwix Urban, Castle and Morton Wards. He further recommended that the Returning Officer be given authority, after consultation with the relevant Ward Councillors and the Portfolio Holder, to change polling place locations at the elections in 2011 if the usual premises proved to be unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances.

The Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations contained within the report.

#### **Summary of options rejected**

A number of options set out in Report GD.65/10 with regard to polling arrangements

#### **DECISION**

That Report GD.65/10 and the recommendations therein be referred to Council for consideration, the recommendations being that:

- (1) Officers continue to monitor the use of portable cabins as polling stations and continue to investigate potential alternatives. It be further recommended that Officers discuss with the supplier the use of self contained units and improved units with a wider door as detailed in paragraph 17 at a number of polling station locations where portable cabins are used it being noted that the costs of using these improved models as a means of accommodating disabled access would require additional funding to be voted to the Election Management Budget (paragraph 19);
- (2) the polling arrangements in all other Wards remain unchanged (paragraph 23);
- (3) the Portable Cabin on the east side of Kingstown Road located in the car park of the Gosling Bridge continue to be the polling place for districts AE, BF and PBK (paragraph 24);
- (4) the St Michael's Parish Centre continue to be the polling place for districts BB, BC and BE but Officers monitor the possible future use of the Stanwix Community Building (paragraph 25);
- (5) the West End Temperance Hall in Caldewgate continue to be designated as the polling place for district JB and Officers discuss with the leaseholders the possibility of siting a polling station notice outside the premises prior to polling day (paragraph 28);
- (6) the portable cabin at Borrowdale Road continue to be used as the polling station for district KD (paragraph 29);
- (7) the Returning Officer be given authority, after consultation with relevant Ward Councillors and the Portfolio Holder, to change polling place locations at the elections in 2011 if the usual premises prove to be unavailable due to unforeseen circumstances (paragraph 30).

### **Reasons for Decision**

To carry out a review of the Council's polling arrangements.