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**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF  
THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2003**

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**COS.20/03 REVIEW OF POLLING ARRANGEMENTS**

There was submitted the Head of Legal and Democratic Services' report LDS.08/03 concerning the annual review of polling arrangements in the City, undertaken as a statutory duty in line with the requirements of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Departmental Service Plan.

Details of the background to the matter and the statutory provisions and review criteria were provided.

Polling arrangements in Brampton, Great Corby and Geltsdale, Hayton and Wetheral Wards had not been reviewed since no elections were scheduled to take place in those Wards during the current year.

No representations had been received in respect of the following Wards and it was therefore recommended that the polling arrangements remain unchanged:

Belah	Dalston	St Aidans
Belle Vue	Harraby	Stanwix Urban
Burgh	Longtown and Rockcliffe	Upperby
Castle	Lyne	Yewdale
Currock	Morton	

It was recommended that:

Botcherby Ward

Harraby Community Centre be designated as the polling place for polling districts DD and DE

Denton Holme Ward

At the present time the polling arrangements in Denton Holme Ward remain unchanged.

Irthing Ward

Gilsland Methodist Church Hall be designated as the polling station for polling districts PX1, PX2 and PX3

Stanwix Rural Ward

It the Secretary of State made the necessary Order to alter the boundary between Stanwix Rural and Rockcliffe Parishes, a new polling district designated PAG3 be created as shown on Map 4 and the polling place be Rockcliffe Community Centre.

In considering the matter, Members welcomed the recommendations contained within the report.

They did, however, raise concerns as regards:

- Access for disabled people – Members stressed the importance of ensuring that all those who wished to vote were able to do so throughout the whole of Election Day and felt that the Council should be facilitating the same.
- Mobile Polling Stations – it was not particularly easy for people to get up the wooden steps into the stations. Was there any obligation on the contractor who supplied the same to provide an appropriate means of access?
- Castle Ward – polling arrangements had changed two or three years previously and it was felt that some voters were experiencing difficulties in travelling to their nominated polling stations.
- The posters displayed at the various Polling Stations were on occasion left in place after polling and damaged and made the areas appear untidy.

The Senior Electoral Registration Assistant was present at the meeting. He appreciated the importance of disabled access and advised that everything possible would be done to address that concern. It may be possible to arrange for mobile Polling Stations to be on site somewhat earlier so that access arrangements could be checked. The issue of the contractor's obligations would also be investigated.

There was no evidence to suggest that the location of Polling Stations in Castle Ward was a deterrent to voting. The difficulty was finding suitable alternatives.

If reports were received advising that Posters had been damaged, then arrangements were made to replace the same.

RESOLVED – That the City Council be advised that this Committee endorses the recommendations contained within report LDS.08/03, with the following points being stressed:

- (a) Every endeavour should be made to allow easy access to all polling stations throughout the whole of Election Day, particularly as regards disabled persons.
- (b) Arrangements should be made to replace damaged posters where necessary.