

Chief Executive Urgency Decision: Decision to move Polling District

Please note that this decision was originally included on the published Cabinet agenda on 24 March 2020 at

<https://democracy.westsuffolk.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=521&MIId=4316&Ver=4>

On 12 March 2020, the Chief Executive exercised his urgency powers and made a decision to move Haverhill North 2 Polling District to poll at Army Cadet Centre, Withersfield Road (in Haverhill North 1 Polling District). In addition, the Chief Executive has decided to move Haverhill West 1 Polling District to poll at Parkway School (Unity Trust), Park Road (in Haverhill West 2 Polling District). The reason for this was because a review of polling places in Haverhill and the arrangements for portacabins sited in Haverhill for the use as a polling station following the snap General Election held in December 2019 has identified no other suitable alternative venues are available within the Polling District. It is therefore considered prudent to designate suitable venues in neighbouring polling districts.

Alternative options considered were to retain the current situation; however this was discounted as it is unlikely that alternative venues within the polling district will be made available in the near future.

Information considered in making the decision

S18B(4)(d) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 provides that the polling place for a polling district must be an area in the district, unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area wholly or partly outside the district. The decision to move a polling place must be made by the Council unless specific delegations are in place. The term 'special circumstances' is not defined but there is evidence of other councils using this provision.

The Assistant Director (HR, Legal and Democratic Services), the Deputy Returning Officer, Ward Councillors and Haverhill Town Council were consulted on this matter prior to the decision being made.