

## **HIGH PEAK BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **Report to Audit and Regulatory Committee**

**25<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Review of Polling Station</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>Councillor Emily Thrane</b>
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Marion Hancock - Senior Elections Officer</b>
<b>WARDS INVOLVED:</b>	<b>Whaley Bridge – Fernilee Ward</b>

**Appendices attached: Appendix A - Returning Officer's response.**

**1. Reason for the Report:**

1.1 To seek approval to change the location of a polling place in the Fernilee Ward of the Borough, as the current polling station is due to close to enable renovation works to take place.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 That the Committee approves the change of the polling place to enable the polling station location in the Fernilee Ward to change from Methodist Church at Elnor Lane, Fernilee to the Shady Oak Public House, Long Hill, Fernilee.

**3. Executive Summary**

3.1 The Council has responsibility for designating polling places within a polling district and the Returning Officer has responsibility for specifying the polling stations within a polling place to be used in an election. Polling station locations are reviewed periodically and occasionally the current location needs to change.

3.2 In this case, renovation works to the Church at Fernilee will make the current location unusable during the Borough, Town and Parish

Elections in May 2019. A review of alternative locations has taken place and the Shady Oak Public House is available and suitable.

- 3.3 The Returning Officer has been consulted upon the proposed change of location and his comments are set out at **Appendix A**.

#### **4. How this report links to Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 The recommendation in this report will support the corporate aim of ensuring our services are easily available to all our residents.

#### **5. Implications**

5.1 Community Safety - (Crime and Disorder Act 1998)

No implications

5.2 Workforce

No implications

5.3 Equality and Diversity/Equality Impact Assessment

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Council's Diversity and Equality Policies.

5.4 Financial Considerations

None directly

5.5 Legal

As referred to within the report.

5.6 Sustainability

No implications

#### **6. Background and Detail**

- 6.1 Every relevant authority in the UK must designate a polling place for every polling district in the constituency. The Returning Officer for the particular election must provide a sufficient number of polling stations and allot the electors to those polling stations in such manner as he or she thinks the most convenient.

- 6.2 Following a review of polling station locations ahead of the Borough, Town and Parish Elections in May 2019 we were notified that the

Methodist Church at Fernilee is due to be renovated and the building would not be available for use as a polling station next year.

- 6.3 The Shady Oak Public House was identified as a suitable alternative option. The Public House is accessible for users of vehicles and on foot and it is suitable for voters with disabilities. The area within the premises which is used for casting votes will be separate from the area used for licensable activities. The occupiers of the building have been approached and they have confirmed that the building can be made available if the recommendation is supported.
- 6.4 Ward Members have been consulted and no objections have been received and the Town Council will be notified about the proposed change of location.

Mark Trillo  
**Executive Director and Monitoring Officer**