

Minutes of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

**Tuesday 2nd March 2021 at 6:00pm
Online Virtual Meeting**

Present: Her Worship The Mayor Councillor Dr Jaron (in the Chair);

Councillors Ahmed, Akhtar, Akhter, Ali, Allcock, Allen, Ashman, Bawa, Bostan, Carmichael, Cherrington, Chidley, Costigan, S Davies, Dhallu, Downing, Eaves, Edwards, Gavan, E M Giles, E A Giles, L Giles, G Gill, Hackett, Hadley, Hartwell, Horton, P M Hughes, P Hughes, M Hussain, M Y Hussain, Z Hussain, Jarvis, I Jones, O Jones, R Jones, Kausar, Mabena, McVittie, Melia, Millar, Millard, Moore, Padda, Phillips, Piper, Preece, Rouf, Sandars, Shackleton, Shaeen, Simms, Singh, Tagger, Taylor, Underhill, Webb and White.

Officers: David Stevens – Chief Executive; Surjit Tour – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer; Elaine Newsome – Service Manager - Democracy; Suky Suthi-Nagra – Democratic Services Manager; Stephnie Hancock – Senior Democratic Services Officer and Trisha Newton – Senior Democratic Services Officer.

18/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Crompton, Y Davies, M Gill, Hevican, S Jones, Khatun and Rollins.



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19/21 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor M Hussain declared a personal interest in Minute No. 29/21(b) – Nominations for the Office of Mayor.

20/21 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26th January 2021 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

21/21 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business for consideration.

22/21 **Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor confirmed that the Holocaust Memorial Day was commemorated online and acknowledged by Council staff, residents and members.

The Mayor asked members to join her in paying tribute to health and social care workers and all those working in schools, colleges and all public services for their continued efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Mayor thanked Council staff who taken on new roles and new methods of working during the pandemic.



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The Mayor urged members to take up the vaccination offer and act as ambassadors in support of the vaccination within their communities.

The Mayor reminded members of the many local charities and ward groups that needed support and encouraged councillors to continue to support them.

The Mayor continued to support her chosen charities, Brushstrokes and Sandwell Young Carers, which had continued to function despite dealing with additional pressures during the pandemic.

The Mayor asked councillors to note the day of action organised by Sandwell Young Carers on 16th March 2021.

The Mayor announced that Discover Sandwell had received a cultural recovery grant from the Arts Council which had funded a project called 'Message to Me in 2022', a campaign where people were encouraged to send messages to themselves in 2022. The campaign had received positive feedback.

23/21 **Petitions under Standing Order No. 5**

No petitions were received under Standing Order No. 5.

24/21 **Questions under Standing Order No. 6**

No questions were received under Standing Order No. 6.



25/21

Corporate Plan and 2020-2025 Budget

The Corporate Plan contained details about future service provision and how each directorate would spend their target budget available to them. A refresh of the detailed actions that underpinned the delivery of the strategic objectives was required, in order to take into account the impact of the pandemic upon Sandwell as a whole and on the organisation.

During 2020, Sandwell had responded to unprecedented challenges across all service areas. The Council had responded effectively to the emergency of the pandemic, establishing business continuity rapidly and calmly. Within its efforts to combat the pandemic, the Council had sought to demonstrate a one council, one team response where departments and colleagues worked together across service areas.

Building on the impact work undertaken in Phase 1 and 2 of Sandwell's recovery process, work had started to understand how the findings of would affect the Corporate Plan.

Approval was also sought to the net revenue target budgets for service areas.

In response to questions from members, the Cabinet Member for Resources and Core Services confirmed:

- Sandwell would increase its Council Tax by 2.99% in 2021-22 and was the only authority in the Birmingham and Black Country area not to increase its Council Tax by the full amount - 4.99%;
- with regards to PFI grant in the Housing Revenue Account, the income from the grants would be added to the HRA reserves and there were currently no issues;
- with regard to bin collections and street cleansing, members were reassured that the contractor was working to eliminate the backlog, including weekend bin collections.



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The Cabinet Member for Resources and Core Services thanked the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board for their oversight of the budget process and all of the staff involved in preparing the budget.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the progress made towards the achievement of the strategic priorities in the Corporate Plan - Big Plans for a Great Place 2020-2025 be noted;
- (2) that the plan to refresh the Corporate Plan during 2021 be approved;
- (3) that the budget and associated documents outlining how Directorates will direct resources to meet the priorities of the Corporate Plan be approved.

26/21

Council Finances 2021-22 to 2023-24

Council considered the Council Finances for the period 2021-22 to 2023-24.

The final Local Government Finance Settlement was received on 4th February 2021.

The Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy set out how the Council would structure and manage its finances now and in the future in response to this settlement. It also detailed the assumptions and calculations behind the Council's estimated budget position for 2021/22 onwards.

The final settlement was broadly in line with the prudent planning assumptions contained in the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy. However, due to COVID-19, actions to address a number of budget pressures had not been possible during 2020/21 and therefore the expenditure budget for 2021/22 onwards had been adjusted to cover these additional costs.



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Provisional directorate and central items budgets had been calculated for 2021/22 as a result of the calculations contained in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Estimated provisional budgets had also been calculated for 2022/23 to 2023/24 to be approved by the Council.

Council Tax

The proposed Council Tax increase of 2.99% (including a 1% Adult Social Care precept) was within the referendum threshold.

The Council, on 26th January 2021, gave approval to set the tax base for 2021/22 at 74,387.79.

Both the West Midlands Fire and Rescue and Police and Crime Commissioner precepts were still provisional but not expected to change. Based on their provisional rate, the overall Council Tax increase would be 3.56% which equated to a total Band D rate of £1,741.57. Following confirmation of these precepts, any significant variation would be reported to the next full Council meeting in March.

Balances and Reserves

The estimated General Fund reserve balance as at 31st March 2021 was £74.656m.

After consideration of the Council's strategic risks, the forecast level of free balances at the end of 2020/21 was unlikely to reduce from the level of £11.470m which were held at the end of 2019/20. This was equivalent to 4.64% of the Council's net expenditure budget for 2021/22 and was within the prudent parameters set by the Section 151 officer.

Specific reserves and provisions had been reviewed during the budget process and found to be sufficient to meet existing known liabilities. They would continue to be thoroughly reviewed as part of the 2020/21 closedown of accounts process.



Treasury Management Strategy Statement

Full Council was also required to approve the authority's Treasury Management and Investment Strategies and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) policy prior to the beginning of the financial year.

Capital Strategy

The level of resources committed by the Council for capital investment was significant. In the period 2020/21 to 2023/24, total resources were expected to be around £486m. The effective use of these resources was deemed vital in achieving the Corporate Plan priorities.

The Council had a strategic approach to ensure funds were invested in capital projects that supported the longer-term objectives of the Council and its partners and provided value for money service provision.

Sandwell Children's Trust (SCT)

The MTFP for Sandwell Children's Trust had been assessed by Council finance officers and contract negotiations had been concluded. The revised contract sum of £68.028m for 2021/22 had been agreed. This is £0.550m higher than the existing Medium-Term Financial Plan sum for 2021/22.

Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account budget was included in the Corporate Plan presented to Cabinet on 10th February 2021 and was a ringfenced account which operates fully within its own resource, meeting expenditure from income obtained from tenants' rents.



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A 3-year rent increase of 2% was approved by Cabinet on 8th January 2020 for the years 20/21, 21/22 and 22/23. Due to the impact of COVID this resulted in a decrease of CPI to 0.5% in September 2020. As the 2% increase would have taken the authority above the maximum allowable increase of CPI +1%, a revised report was approved by Cabinet approving an increase of 1.5 % for the financial year 2021/22.

The 10-year HRA investment programme was currently under review. A report was due to be presented to Cabinet during 2020, however, due to the impact of COVID and the revised rent increase it was necessary to defer this by 12 months. This would also enable the programme to include items that help to meet the Council's climate change priorities

Fees and Charges

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the low level of inflation, it had been decided that fees and charges should be retained at the same level across all Council Services. Any service that might require a different approach to this would be asked to seek approval from Cabinet.

In response to questions, the Cabinet Member for Resources and Core Services confirmed:-

- with regard to Children's Trust, it was important to look after the young people of Sandwell and many schemes were being offered;
- the Council Tax increase was necessitated due to the reductions in Government grants. Despite this, the Council continued to provide most services during the pandemic and some local services, such as parks, had seen a considerable rise in demand. In addition, the Council had been engaged in providing an emergency response to the pandemic;
- Council Tax reduction schemes had been retained and residents were encouraged to contact the Council to find out if they were eligible.



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In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, and Standing Order 12, the decision relating to Council Finances 2020-21 to 2022-23 was put to a named vote as follows:-

For:

Councillors Ahmed, Akhtar, Akhter, Ali, Allcock, Allen, Ashman, Bawa, Bostan, Carmichael, Chidley, Costigan, S Davies, Dhallu, Downing, Eaves, Edwards, Gavan, E M Giles, E A Giles, L Giles, G Gill, Hackett, Hadley, Hartwell, Horton, P M Hughes, P Hughes, M Y Hussain, M Hussain, Z Hussain, Jaron, Jarvis, I Jones, O Jones, R Jones, Kausar, Mabena, McVittie, Melia, Millar, Millard, Moore, Padda, Phillips, Piper, Preece, Rouf, Sandars, Shackleton, Shaeen, Simms, Singh, Taylor, Underhill, Webb.

Against:

Councillor White

Abstention:

Councillor Cherrington

Resolved:

- (1) that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, as detailed in Appendix A to the report now submitted, be approved;
- (2) that the expenditure level for 2021/22, as detailed in Appendix B1 and B2 to the report now submitted, and the resultant Council Tax, as detailed in Appendix C to the report now submitted, be approved;
- (3) that the provisional budgets for 2021/22 to 2023/24, as detailed in Appendix B3 to the report now submitted, be approved;
- (4) that the revised financial position and the forecast reserves position for the end of 2020/21 be noted;



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- (5) that the supporting information on the robustness of the budget process and adequacy of the Council's reserves, as detailed in Appendix D to the report now submitted, be noted;
- (6) that the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy, as detailed in Appendix E to the report now submitted, be approved;
- (7) that the Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2024/25, as detailed in Appendix F to the report now submitted, and the Capital Strategy, detailed in Appendix G to the report now submitted, be approved;
- (8) that the Council note that, at its meeting on 26th January 2021, Council approved the amount of 74,387.79 as its Council Tax base for the year 2021/2022 in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 made under Section 33 (5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992;
- (9) that the following amounts calculated by the Council for the year 2021/2022, in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, be approved;
- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| (a) | Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) (a) to (f) of the Act; | £1,165,801,947 |
| (b) | Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates | £1,054,147,559 |



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for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act;

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------------|
| (c) | Being the amount by which the aggregate at 9(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 9(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax requirement for the year; | £111,654,388 |
| (d) | Being the amount at 9(c) above, all divided by the amount at 8 above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year; | £1,500.98 |



(e)	Valuation Bands: Being the amounts given by multiplying the amount at 9(d) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands;	£																
		<table border="0"> <tr><td>A</td><td>1,000.65</td></tr> <tr><td>B</td><td>1,167.43</td></tr> <tr><td>C</td><td>1,334.20</td></tr> <tr><td>D</td><td>1,500.98</td></tr> <tr><td>E</td><td>1,834.53</td></tr> <tr><td>F</td><td>2,168.08</td></tr> <tr><td>G</td><td>2,501.63</td></tr> <tr><td>H</td><td>3,001.95</td></tr> </table>	A	1,000.65	B	1,167.43	C	1,334.20	D	1,500.98	E	1,834.53	F	2,168.08	G	2,501.63	H	3,001.95
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(10) that Council note, for the year 2021/2022, the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-



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Valuation Bands	West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority (£)	Police & Crime Commissioner for the West Midlands (£)
A	42.02	118.37
B	49.03	138.09
C	56.03	157.82
D	63.04	177.55
E	77.04	217.01
F	91.05	256.46
G	105.06	295.92
H	126.07	355.10

- (11) that, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 9(e) and 10 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, sets the following amounts as the Council Tax for the year 2021/22 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Valuation Bands	£
A	1,161.04
B	1,354.55
C	1,548.05
D	1,741.57
E	2,128.58
F	2,515.59
G	2,902.61
H	3,483.12

- (12) that the Chief Finance Officer takes any necessary action to collect revenues and disburse monies from the relevant accounts;



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- (13) that the requirements of any relevant legislation, to consider reports as a consequence of the approval of the Council's Finances 2021/22 report, be dispensed with on the grounds that in the opinion of the Council the items are urgent;
- (14) that the contract sum for Sandwell Children's Trust of £68.028m for 2021/22 be approved;
- (15) that the freezing of fees and charges across the Council be approved.

27/21 **Cabinet**

The minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 10th and 17th February 2021 were received.

28/21 **Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board**

The minutes of the meetings of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board held on 9th and 18th February 2021 were received.

29/21 **General Purposes and Arbitration Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 22nd February 2021 were received.



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The Council considered the recommendations of the Committee on the following matters:-

29/21(a) **Changes to Polling Stations**

Resolved:-

- (1) that approval be given to changes to Polling Places and Polling Stations, as set out in Appendix 1;
- (2) that the Returning Officer be delegated authority for making future changes to Polling Places, as a result of unforeseen safety concerns, subject to consultation with relevant Ward members;
- (3) that the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer implements the changes identified.

29/21(b) **Nomination for the Offices of Civic Mayor and Deputy Civic Mayor**

Resolved:-

- (1) that Councillor M Hussain be nominated to the office of Civic Mayor of the Borough of Sandwell for the 2021/22 Municipal Year;
- (2) that the nominations for the office of Deputy Civic Mayor be deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

(The meeting ended at 7.13pm)

The meeting was broadcast live and is available to view [Full Council - 2nd March 2021](#)

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk



Proposed Polling Places Changes for May 2021 Elections

1. Blackheath Central Methodist Church, High Street, Blackheath (BLA and BLH)

This Polling Place is situated in the BLA district of the Blackheath Ward and has, in recent years, served not only voters from that district but also voters who live in the neighbouring BLH area.

However, the Council has been informed by the Church that they do not anticipate being open at the time of the election and therefore will not be available to be used as a Polling Station for use in May 2021.

Consideration has therefore been given to alternative venues within the Blackheath town centre area and beyond.

Following a discussion with the council's Principal Libraries Officer about the possible suitability of using Blackheath Library as a Polling Station, it is felt that the building would be suitable on the accessible ground floor area of the building. The Library is situated less than 100 metres away from the Central Methodist Church.

There are also some on-street and off-street car parking spaces available for those who choose to drive to the Polling Place and spaces for disabled staff and visitors are immediately adjacent to the Library.

However, following consultation with Ward members, it was felt that, whilst this is a suitable a move for electors in BLA ward, there could be a better, more accessible Polling Place for electors in the BLH Ward and so an alternative venue was sought, for electors living in this District.

The BLH district is very limited in terms of having suitable buildings and/or suitable land on which to position a Temporary Hut that could act as a Polling Station.

Research has therefore looked at suitable places in immediately-adjacent Polling Districts and it is felt that relocation of the Polling Station to Temple Meadow Primary School in the neighbouring Cradley Heath and Old Hill Ward is the best option. This school currently serves a Polling Station for the CRF District and so is used to hosting elections. There would therefore be two Polling Stations in one Polling Place and there would be clear signage and safeguards in place for voters to ensure that they vote in the correct Ward, as well as additional Covid-safeguards in place (as in all double stations) given the increased footfall.

According to Google Maps, the distance from the mid-point of the BLH Polling District to Temple Meadow School is 0.3 miles and a 4-minute walk closer than it is from the same mid-point to Blackheath Library. Also, for electors who choose to walk to their polling station, the route is far less hilly.

Ward members have been consulted on these proposals and have assisted in arriving at the recommendation below.

Recommendation:

In the knowledge that the Blackheath Central Methodist Church is not available for use in 2021, it is recommended that for the forthcoming and future elections, residents living in

- a) the BLA Polling District go to vote at Blackheath Library, High Street, Blackheath and
- b) the BLH Polling District are invited to vote at Temple Meadow Primary School, Wrights Lane, Cradley Heath.

2. Smethwick Fire Station,

Entrance in Green Street, Smethwick (SMC)

This Polling Place is situated in the Community Room of the Fire Station and lies within the Smethwick Ward.

The Council has been informed that, owing to restrictions associated with Covid-19 this Polling Place will not be available for use in 2021.

In looking for a suitable alternative location, officers initially sought to gain permission to erect a Temporary hut on the Fire Station car park, but after further correspondence with the Station Commander, he advised he was not certain he would be able to gain permission to site the hut in the grounds of the Fire Station, it was decided to seek an alternative proposal for the 2021 elections. The Returning Officer would very much like to be able to use the Community Room at Smethwick Fire Station for election purposes again in the future, as soon as circumstances permit.

Therefore, in view of the likely temporary nature of a change away from the Fire Station, it is proposed to re-locate to an existing Polling Station facility in a neighbouring Polling District in the Smethwick Ward for 2021, rather than trying to identify a brand new Polling Place.

Having spoken to the Presiding Officer at the Polling Station for SMD, Holy Trinity Church in Church Hill Street, and the Minister at the Church, additional floor space can be used at this building to cater for the increased footfall. According to Google maps, this site is 0.3 miles or 5 minutes' walk away from the Fire Station.

Despite the increase of voters at this location, there are not considered to be any on-street car parking issues.

Ward members have been consulted on this proposal and have not raised any objections to the recommendation below.

It is recommended that, for elections in May 2021, the Polling Station previously housed in Community Room at Smethwick Fire Service is re-located Holy Trinity Church in Church Hill Street, Smethwick.

3. Akrill Memorial Methodist Church, The Uplands,

Entrance from Taylors Lane, Smethwick (SMG and SME)

The Council has been informed that this Polling Place, which serves as the Polling Station for two Polling Districts (SMG and SME) in the Smethwick Ward is unable to commit to being open in May 2021 and therefore alternative sites have had to be considered.

Having considered alternative options, the most practicable is to re-locate to the Dance Studio in the nearby Harry Mitchell Leisure Centre, situated in Broomfield, approximately 300 metres from the entrance to the existing Polling Place.

The facility enjoys ample on-site car parking, and, like the Akrill Memorial Church, is situated in the SMG District. The site is on level ground and is not considered to have any accessibility issues. Ward members have been consulted on this proposal and have not expressed any objections to this recommendation.

Assuming this re-location proves successful, there is no reason why the new location could not become a permanent Polling Place for these Districts.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Polling Station for SME and SMG Polling Districts is relocated from the Akrill Memorial Methodist Church to the Dance Studio at Harry Mitchell Leisure Centre, Broomfield, Smethwick for the foreseeable future.

4. Brandhall Golf Course (Coffee shop)

Heron Road, Oldbury (LAE)

The Polling Station is situated in the Langley Ward.

Members will be aware that the Council permanently closed this Golf Course in summer 2020 and therefore the Club House/Coffee Shop is no longer available for use as a Polling Station.

Having considered a number of alternative options, and having consulted Ward members, it is thought that the most desirable option is for a temporary hut to be

positioned on council-owned land, a short walk away from the previous site at the junction of Heron Road and Brook Road, Oldbury.

Officers from Property Services and Housing have also been consulted and have advised that they have no objections to this proposal and have confirmed that, subject the Council granting approval to this proposal, they will notify shopkeepers and residents in the immediate locality of some possible minor disruption on the day of the election, as a result of a Polling Station being positioned on this land.

According to Google maps, the proposed new site is less than 100 metres away from the entrance to the Club house at the Golf course.

Assuming this re-location proves successful, the new location would become the permanent Polling Place for the District.

Recommendation:

That, as a result of the permanent closure of Brandhall Golf course, and the consequential loss of the venue as a Polling Station, approval is granted to the positioning of a hut on land at the corner of Heron Road and Brook Road, Oldbury as a replacement for the Station. This arrangement shall continue for all future elections, until further notice.

5. Temporary hut on the Car Park of Ron Davis Family Education and Training Centre Ballot Street, Smethwick (SVD)

This Polling Place is situated in the Soho and Victoria Ward and has one of the smallest of all electorates in the Borough, currently with 789 electors.

The Council has been informed that this Centre could, at the time of the election in May 2021, be undergoing extensive refurbishment work and therefore cannot commit to the car park being available to house a Polling Station, in the form of a temporary hut, as has previously been the practice.

Investigations have therefore taken place to establish a suitable alternative venue.

The SVD district is immediately adjacent to the neighbouring area of SVC where electors go to vote at the Community Action Project (CAP) in Windmill Lane, Smethwick.

Following a site visit it was clear that, by moving to a larger room within the CAP Centre than is currently used, this Polling Place could easily accommodate additional voters.

There is a good -sized car park at the rear of the building with an entrance in Windmill Precinct. The building is accessible for voters with mobility difficulties.

According to Google maps, this venue is situated within a five-minute walk and 0.2 miles away from the Ron Davis Centre.

In the event that experience proves that this enforced re-location is successful, then this change will continue beyond 2021.

Members have been consulted on these proposals and have not raised any objections.

Recommendation:

That approval is granted to the re-location of the Polling Station for voters in the SVD Polling District from a Temporary hut on the Car park of the Ron Davis Family Education and Training Centre to the Community Action Project in Windmill Lane, Smethwick for elections in 2021 and thereafter.

6. Committee Room A, West Bromwich Town Hall,

Entrance from Lodge Road, West Bromwich (WBG)

Members will be aware that Committee Room A, inside West Bromwich Town Hall, has been used as a Polling Station for many years.

Members will also be aware that the ground floor of the Town Hall is currently being used a Covid-19 testing site.

The need to continue to use the Town Hall for this important function is likely to continue until at least the Spring of 2021, and therefore means it is unlikely it can be used as a Polling Station for the elections on 6th May 2021.

It is proposed, therefore, that for these elections, the Polling Station for the WBG Polling District is transferred to the Ground Floor of the council's premises at 1, Providence Place, West Bromwich. This building remains within the boundaries of the WBG district and is accessible for voters with mobility difficulties.

Clearly, it is hoped that this will be a "one-off" alteration and that, for future elections, the Polling Station for the WBG district can revert back to West Bromwich Town Hall.

Members have been consulted on these proposals and have not raised any objections.

Recommendation:

That approval is granted to the re-location of the Polling Station for voters in the WBG Polling District from Committee Room A in West Bromwich Town Hall to the Ground Floor of 1, Providence Place, West Bromwich for the elections in May 2021.

For information only

Langley Swimming Centre,

Vicarage Road, Oldbury (BRA, BRB and BRC)

The Council has, in recent years, used small rooms inside the Langley Swimming Centre to enable voting to take place in the Bristnall Ward and, in particular, in the BRA, BRB and BRC Polling districts.

In view of the need to maintain, as far as possible, safe working distances in Polling Places, it is not considered advisable to continue to use these facilities.

It is therefore being planned to move the exact location where people vote in the 2021 elections from these small rooms to temporary huts - to be located on the car park at the rear of the Swimming Centre – i.e. with access from Brookfields Road.

The huts will be brand new and will be larger than those used for previous elections at various other locations in the Borough and will be accessible for voters with mobility difficulties.