

Minutes of General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

**24 November 2022 at 6.00pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Dhallu (Chair)
Councillors Costigan, S Jones, Millar, Simms and Trumpeter.

In attendance: Tracey Hurst (Electoral Services Manager); David King (Elections Assistant) and Trisha Newton (Deputy Democratic Services Manager).

11/22 **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

12/22 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

13/22 **Review of Polling Places and Polling Stations 2022/23**

The Committee considered the review of polling places and polling stations 2022/23.

The Elections Team had undertaken a review of polling places following the May 2022 elections. Although not statutory, it was considered good practice to undertake a review after an election year.



When reviewing polling places, it had been necessary to review their appropriate efficacy. The perspective of the electorate had to be considered in any change, such as, the accessibility of the site, its suitability, parking arrangements and disabled access. If alternative sites could not be found in the vicinity, then the site would not be changed.

The changes now recommended took into account the commitment made following the 2021 review to reduce the number of schools and temporary huts used as polling stations.

Resolved to recommend to Council that:-

- (1) the proposed changes to specific Polling Places and Polling Stations as set out in Appendix 1 be approved;
- (2) subject to (1) above, the Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to implement the approved changes detailed in Appendix 1;
- (3) subject to any required changes with a Polling Place or Polling Station within the Borough prior to elections in 2023 (and beyond), the Returning Officer (or in their absence/unavailability, the Deputy Returning Officer) be authorised to change any Polling Place(s) and/or Polling Station(s), following consultation with relevant Ward Members and Chairperson of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee, as considered necessary to enable the efficient and effective running of elections.

14/22

Nomination for Honorary Alderwoman

The Committee considered a nomination for conferment of the title of Honorary Alderwomen in respect of former Councillor Dr Ann Jaron.



The Local Government Act 1972 gave authority to the Council to confer the honour of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen of the Borough on elected members who had given eminent service to the Borough. This honour was in accordance with the Council's honorary scheme.

Dr Jaron had represented the Borough for 25 years. She had been a Cabinet Member for Social Care for a number of years and had also served as Mayor of Sandwell for the municipal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Dr Jaron had confirmed that she would be minded to accept the nomination.

Resolved to recommend to Council that the title of Honorary Alderwoman is conferred to Dr Ann Jaron, in recognition of her eminent service to the Borough of Sandwell.

Meeting ended at 6.33pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

