EDBACK FROM ACCESS OFFICER



- To Timothy Spittle/BConsultancy/BCC@BCCE10K
- cc Robert Connelly/LegalServices/BCC@BCCE10K, Cheryl Mulvihill/Finance/BCC@BCCE10K, Safeena Tonks/Finance/BCC@BCCE10K

bcc

Subject Re: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2011

thanks very much for this Tim.

I will report this back to Management Team so we can discuss how we include these items into our checks in future. Yvonne

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Timothy Spittle/BConsultancy/BCC

Timothy Spittle/BConsultanc y/BCC

To Yvonne Thompson/Finance/BCC@BCCE10K

CC

01/08/2011 12:32

Subject Re: Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2011

Yvonne

I have looked at all the information you sent through and can comment on the review of polling places, polling districts and access arrangements document. I have nothing to raise concerning the pollong distict streets and maps

My points are as follows:

- First you have only considered disabled people which you have termed "the disabled" on page 15. This tern should not be used and should be changed to people with disabilities or disabled people.
- Within Appendix B consideration should also be given to access for all. Under the equality Act 2010 which replaces the Disability Discrimination Act there are nine different protected characteristics to consider.
- I think therefore with polling stations consideration should be give to parents with children. In practice this should mean space for double buggies through doorways or space for storage of buggies under cover if doorways are too narrow.
- Please note that double buggies and powered mobility scooters are considerably wider than manual wheelchairs. A minimum doorway

width of 1m is usually necessary to accommodate these forms of transport.

 With mobility scooters again space to leave them outside the polling station room, under cover may be an option if doorway widths are not sufficient. That is providing the route to the polling station and booth is not too great from the place to leave scooters

 Parking for disabled people has been covered in your check list however I assume general parking for the public in the vicinity of the polling station should not be an issue. This is for ambulant disabled people and parents with children to be able to park in close proximity to the station in addition to specific space for disabled people who are wheelchair users.

 Consideration has not been given to people with a visual impairment ie colour contrast, obstructions and wayfinding to the polling station from the building curtilage. Signage and directions indicating the route to the station needs to be prominently placed to avoid obstructions on the access route to the building

 I assume toilet facilities for the public are not provided within polling stations as this can lead to a lot of other facilities and space considerations

Considering the fire risk assessment procedures, the presiding
officer may be the person responsible for ensuring everyone
evacuates the polling station the event of a fire. This could include
helping wheelchair or mobility scooter users out of an alternative exit
from the building. Fire exit routes should therefore be assessed for
suitability and the possibility of assistance needed to negotiate stairs

I trust the above is of use please call if you need any explanation Regards

Tim