

**Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
Improvement Group**



# **Copeland Polling Stations Review**

**Lead Member:** Councillor Brian Dixon

**Report Author:** Jessica Hall, Overview and Scrutiny Support Office



## **Chairs Forward**

As Lead Member for the Polling Station Review I am pleased to present this report to the Internal Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Accessible and user friendly Polling Stations are an important part of the democratic process and ensure all voters have the choice to cast their vote in the way they want to. On 6 May 2010, 82% of all votes (22 million votes) were cast in 40,000 polling stations across the country. It is still the most popular method of voting. From the outset, the Improvement Group has carefully considered the needs of Copeland's electorate in making its recommendations.

At the same time, however, the Improvement Group has been aware of the financial pressures the Council is under. It has attempted to bear in mind these pressures, while balancing them against the requirements of the Council to implement its electoral services in a way that meets the needs of voters.

### **Acknowledgements**

Acknowledgment and special thanks must go to the following:

Respondents to the Improvement Group's consultation

Anne Bradshaw of the Copeland Disability Forum;

Noel Moore and Gary Jackson of the South Copeland Disability Group;

Alison Walton, Equality and Diversity Officer;

Stephanie Shaw, Senior Elections Officer and;

Tim Capper, Democratic Service Manager

For the time and support they have given the group.

Elections will soon be upon us and I present the recommendations for consideration.

**Councillor Brian Dixon**

**Internal OSC and Lead Member of the Copeland Polling Station Review  
Improvement Group**

## **Membership**

Councillors:  
Brian Dixon,  
Chris  
Whiteside and  
Alan Jacob

Supporting  
Officers:  
Stephanie  
Shaw, Tim  
Capper and  
Jessica Hall



## **Meetings**

The Improvement Group met four times

- 25 October 2010 – Scoping
- 11 November – Research
- 14 January 2011– Interim Briefing, Witnesses and Draft Recommendations
- 24 January 2011 – Draft Report and Final recommendations

Notes from meetings are available on the Council's intranet or from the Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer

## **Methods of Consultation:**

Parish and Town Councils; Borough Councillors; District Councillors; Copeland Matters; Council website; Press Release; Copeland Disability Forum; South Copeland Disability Group; Age UK

Previous consultation had also been carried out by the Electoral Services Team with Polling Station Staff.

Feedback was received from a number of Borough and County Councillors and Parish and Town Councils. Both the Copeland Disability Forum and the South Copeland Disability Group agreed to attend one of the groups in a witness capacity. Both groups had previously support the Electoral Services team in visiting a number of the affected, inaccessible stations. All views will be referred to later in the report.

## Recommendations:

- a) That the OSC notes there have been no formal complaints regarding polling station access from members of the public;
- b) That the consultation responses are noted at appendix 1 and these have informed the considerations of the Improvement Group;
- c) That the Electoral Services Team explore alternatives for the seven polling stations identified as priorities requiring immediate attention at Table 2 and that this includes;
  - i) That Whitehaven Golf course is explored as an alternative to Casa Mia and an additional site is explored on the Loop Road North, Whitehaven
  - ii) That the Lingla Centre at Frizington is considered as an alternative to the Masonic Hall, Frizington
  - iii) That Rosehill Barn is considered as an alternative to Moresby Church Hall
  - iv) That Red Lonning Community Centre is considered an alternative to Jericho School
  - v) That an alternative to The Lodge at Sandwith is explored
  - vi) That an alternative to St Bees Village Hall is explored
  - vii) That a location for a temporary station at the top of Parton is explored
- d) That the financial implications of temporary portacabin stations are noted;
- e) That stations where an alternative is not feasible at this time are kept under review;
- f) That where the request for additional stations has not been met, this is kept under review;
- g) That no new home based stations will be introduced in Copeland and if further new sites are identified advice is sought from either the Copeland Disability Forum or the South Copeland Disability Group depending on location;
- h) That a further review takes place in 2011

## **Background**

The IG was established in response to Electoral Commission calls that that all Local Authorities running elections review their polling stations.

This came following problems at a number of stations across the country where high volumes of voters left many unable to participate in the General Election on 6 May 2010.

While these problems were not experience in Copeland, the Electoral Services Team took the opportunity to conduct a review of all of Copeland Borough's Polling Stations, their positions and accessibility.

The Internal OSC welcomed the opportunity to participate in this review.

## Scope

At its first scoping meeting on 25 October, the IG agreed that its work would focus on the following

“To consider and review current polling station sites, whether the number of polling stations are appropriate and whether they meet the needs of electors in the Borough”

### What was included in the review?

The group agreed it would consider the following during the course of the review;

- Criteria for reviewing the polling stations (Electoral Commission guidance)
- A comparison of the maximum number of electors in Copeland rolls and the maximum number of electors on rolls where polling station problems were experienced on 6 May 2010
- Accessibility and locations
- Only stations in the Copeland Borough wards (due to time and resources before the next local/town and parish and possible national referendum on an Alternative Voting System)

### What would not be included?

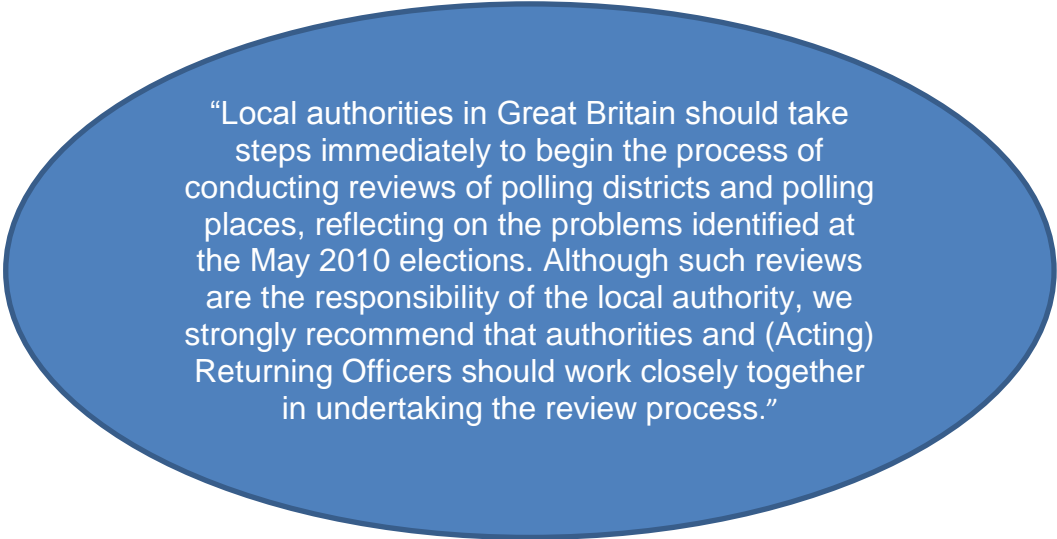
The group was clear it would not cover;

- Stations in the Copeland constituency and Allerdale wards of the constituency (due to the number of stations it was felt there would not be time or resources. However it was noted a review would be required by 2011 and this part of it would be fulfilled at a later date).
- Polling station interior set up (Electoral guidance is already followed)
- Polling station materials - ballot boxes etc

## Criteria for the Review

On 20 May 2010, the Electoral Commission published an interim report<sup>1</sup>. The purpose of the interim report was to investigate why problems had occurred at close of poll on 6 May 2010, leaving many unable to cast their vote.

While Copeland's electors were not affected by problems experienced in some other constituencies, the report made a number of recommendations.



"Local authorities in Great Britain should take steps immediately to begin the process of conducting reviews of polling districts and polling places, reflecting on the problems identified at the May 2010 elections. Although such reviews are the responsibility of the local authority, we strongly recommend that authorities and (Acting) Returning Officers should work closely together in undertaking the review process."

As referred to earlier, the IG would focus its attention on polling places and in particular accessibility.

The Electoral Commission specifically noted the following in relation to polling places (i.e. stations).

- Long queues at temporary polling stations
- Unsuitable or inappropriate stations
- Stations that were small, cramped and unsuited to dealing with a steady stream of voters

1200 voters were affected on 6 May 2010, at 27 polling stations in 16 constituencies<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> 2010 UK Parliamentary general election- Interim report of problems at polling stations at close of poll on 6 May 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Subsequent Electoral Commission report published in July 2010, "Report on the administration of the 2010 UK general election"

## Initial Questions about Copeland's Polling Stations

The Electoral Commission recommends that electors should be confident of receiving a high quality of service wherever they live. In terms of accessibility, polling stations should have disabled entrances that are well signposted with usable ramps

The IG wanted a number of specific questions answering in order to facilitate its review on Polling Station accessibility. These were as follows:

***a) Are the number of Polling Stations appropriate across the Borough and in certain wards?***

There are currently 76 Polling Stations serving an electorate of just over 55,000 across Copeland.

22 have been identified as having problems with accessibility. All stations and their suitability are attached at Appendix 2. The electoral service team have been able to propose an alternative location for some of these, however not all.

The IG has consulted with interested parties in order to determine what people think of their local facilities and what are problems/perceived problems.

Responses are attached at Appendix 1.

***b) What is the roll number per ward? How does this compare with other councils (where problems were experienced)?***

Roll numbers are attached at Appendix 3. The Electoral Commission advises that the ratio of elector to polling station should not exceed 2500:1. In several of the local authority areas where problems arose on 6 May, the electorate exceeded 3000 and up to 4500.

In comparison, Copeland's stations – even where there are 'two booth' stations – does not exceed this recommended maximum number.

For example, the following stations serve the highest number of electors and all have 2 booths:



**Table 1**

Bransty School	2175
Jericho School	2111
Seathwaite Community Centre	1694
Millom Infant School	1689

***c) How many polling stations are not accessible to disabled people?***

22 of the Borough's stations are not accessible to disabled people.

Several stations across the Borough are private home-based stations, none of these are fully accessible to disabled people.

***d) What are the Equality and Diversity implications?***

Consultation responses indicate there are implications for disabled people and potential implications for older people in terms of accessibility.

Otherwise there are general access issues (for example arguments that some stations are beyond a reasonable distance for people to walk to) and there have been calls for extra stations. These have been in the Mirehouse, Bransty and Red Lonning areas.

There have been no requests for additional stations elsewhere in the Borough.

***e) How does the IG contribute to achieving Corporate priorities?***

Under the current Corporate Implementation Plan 2010-2011 it does this under the Transformational Leadership theme and in particular customer focused services.

***f) What are the budget implications?***

Election costs are funded according to what elections take place. For example Copeland Borough Council funds Borough elections, County Council funds County elections, Parish/Town Councils fund such elections and Central Government funds national referenda. When these elections take place on the

same day, costs are split 2 or 3 ways accordingly between each funding authority.

On 6 May 2010, it cost on average £516.35 to run a polling station. Breakdown costs are attached at Appendix 4.

## **Review Findings and witnesses**

Three witnesses from two local disability groups gave valuable support and advice to the Improvement Group when it met on 14 January 2011 to look into accessibility in more detail. The Improvement Group had completed all of its background research and wanted to use the opportunity to question them and facilitate discussion before making final recommendations on the Borough's stations.

The purpose of this session was to:

- Assess witness feedback on questions drafted by the Improvement Group (Questions are attached at Appendix 5)
- Determine whether alternative stations could be explored where the current one was inaccessible.
- Consider whether there could be a reduction in the number of polling stations in operation in some parts of the Borough.

### **Gary Jackson and Noel Moore (Chair and Secretary respectively of the South Copeland Disability Group)**

The South Copeland Disability Group raised and discussed the following points:

- Signage for disabled voters at polling stations would be a 'quick fix'
- Parking is more difficult in some of the rural areas and isn't wheelchair friendly
- While a number of polling stations are accessible, getting to them is not easy due to lack of drop kerbs at the main entrance for example. Often problems are outside the building, not at the entrance or inside.
- Copeland Borough Council could support disabled voters by 'lobbying' building owners and partners such as County Highways where necessary
- Lack of disabled toilets in some stations. It is necessary to take into account if there are disabled electoral staff.
- At one station an emergency exit was utilised as an entrance for disabled voters. However this had been blocked. It was necessary to remind building owners of this.

### **Anne Bradshaw (Chair of the Copeland Disability Forum)**

The Copeland Disability Forum raised and discussed the following points with the IG:

- It is important to be realistic. While some venues are not DDA compliant they are suitable and serve a purpose. For example, there may be a ramp but no handrail and it is important to compromise.
- The Council ought to stop using homes and where there are alternatives use them – a view supported by the Equalities Officer and other Members
- The Council ought to be pragmatic about resources. While home based stations aren't appropriate, in a village such as Pica with an electorate of 395,

should the Council be spending money on expensive alternatives when there isn't a high level of concern among voters?

- Postal votes are an alternative if stations can't be made accessible to disabled people
- It is important that the Council explains why an alternative is not feasible
- The Council needs to consider where it puts its resources without disenfranchising people
- In terms of disabled entrance signage, this is not necessary if there is only one entrance to be used by everyone
- The council can support disabled people by encouraging building owners to make their buildings more accessible.
- The Council should publicise the use of postal voting where stations are not adequate – in an ideal world everywhere should be fully accessible and the Council should continue to strive for this and have it as its proposed policy.

**During the course of the discussion, Members sought assurances and clarified that**

- There were no formal complaints following elections on 6 May about any polling station or its accessibility
- Stations that had not been personally visited by either disability group were adequate in terms of accessibility. Members were advised that this was based on the previous knowledge of both groups.
- The Senior Electoral Services Officer has confirmed since that a portacabin will cost £1070 to hire. This does not include land hire and other facilities. Members noted however that the cost of this for forthcoming elections could be shared up to three ways.
- The Council is meeting other general recommendations made by the Electoral Commission already.

## Unsuitable/unavailable stations and possible alternatives

The Group considered all of the polling station sites that are inadequate in terms of accessibility or will be no longer available for use.

Officers had been able to suggest alternative venues for some of these but not all. Members dealt with the stations that the Council **would not** be able to use:

Table 2 – Polling Stations requiring immediate review

	Current Polling Station	Proposed alternative
1	Casa Mia (Home based/inaccessible)	Whitehaven Golf Course/ request to explore location on the Loop Road North.
2	Masonic Hall, Frizington (Inaccessible)	Lingla Centre, Frizington
3	Moresby Church Hall (inaccessible)	Rosehill Barn
4	Home at Sevenacres, Parton (home based/inaccessible)	No alternative
5	Jericho School (no longer available)	Red Lonning Community Centre
6	The Lodge, Sandwith (inaccessible)	Alternative being explored
7	St Bees Village Hall (inaccessible – as advised by Anne Bradshaw)	Alternative to be explored

Officers advised that a further list of stations were deemed questionable. These included;

- St Begas, Whitehaven Road
- Lowca Village Hall
- Keekle Mission

- Asby Road
- Rutland Avenue
- St Marys
- St Lukes Institute, Haverigg
- St James
- Black Coombe
- Orgill
- Waberthwaite
- Corney
- Eskdale Village Hall
- Kirksanton
- Pica Cottages
- Whitbeck

Members consider that the stations requiring immediate review ought to be addressed first and those listed above continue to be reviewed. The group heard that steps can be taken to make many of these as suitable possible.

Where they could not be made suitable, members felt the need to be pragmatic about resources. And as there had been no negative feedback regarding the 16 listed, there was not an immediate need to address.

***“The polling stations presenting the biggest problems need to be dealt with first”***

Is there the potential to reduce the number of stations?

Members observed that some stations were located quite closely together (for example, Egremont). They were advised that due to geographical distance or number of electors using these stations there was not scope for the number of polling stations to be reduced.

## Consultation Responses

Responses are attached at Appendix 2. These were all considered by the group.

### Bransty

The County Councillor for Bransty responded to the consultation identifying the need for a station around the 'Pelican' area of the ward. In previous years there had been one positioned there. However the area was around a busy garage and business and the original venue was now derelict and not in a suitable or safe condition.

It was queried whether a local pub might be a suitable alternative. Officers advised this was currently for sale and there could be implications should a sale take place between now and polling day. However the group agreed they would ask officers to investigate the possibility and keep under review for future elections.

### Mirehouse

One County Member and one borough member had expressed dissatisfaction at provision on Mirehouse (East and West). Members considered these representations in detail and after careful consideration and advice from officers on factors such as walking distance, agreed provision was adequate. Again Members requested that this position be kept under review for future elections.

### St Bees

The suitability of St Bees station was questioned by the Copeland Disability Forum and as a number of alternatives were available, it was agreed another venue would be found.

### Private home based stations

There was consensus among the group that the use of home based stations should be avoided. It was agreed that this would be a recommendation of the report.

However, it was also felt that voters should not have to go a long way to vote at a polling station. It was agreed that 3 would be retained for the purpose of the next election due to lack of an alternative venues (**Rutland Avenue, Pica Cottages and Whitbeck**). Members took this decision based on the following;

- That their electoral roll numbers were relatively small and there had been no complaints about them. For example at Whitbeck there are 69 voters on the electoral roll, however a portacabin alternative could cost over £1070 and members felt compromise was necessary.
- In relation to Rutland Avenue in particular, any alternative would be in a different ward

The Improvement Group made one exception with the station at the top of **Parton**. The group had noted the comments of the presiding officer at Parton Village Hall which suggested that there was a need for one only in the area. This position of this station had been added recently but Members were advised that there had been complaints about the station. Members recommended a temporary station be explored for this site on the basis that;

- Prior to its introduction there had been complaints about a lack of provision in this part of Parton due to its geographical/hilly spread.
- This particular position had a higher catchment of 476 electors compared to the Parton Village Hall of 261.

## **Conclusions**

The review has demonstrated that the majority of Copeland's Polling Stations are suitable and accessible. However there are a number that require change because they are inaccessible and do not meet the standards voters should expect.

These stations have fallen into 2 categories and the Improvement Group has requested that the first category (7 stations that are either unavailable or cannot be made suitable) are addressed first.

The Improvement Group has carefully considered the representations made by those who responded to the consultation and while it has not been able to make recommendations on all of this feedback, it has requested that these are taken into account in future reviews.

The group would like to thank again all of those who have supported its work.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Consultation responses

Appendix 2 – Review of Polling Station suitability

Appendix 3 – Electoral Roll Numbers

Appendix 4 – Polling Station Costs

Appendix 5 – Questions to witnesses



**Background Papers:**

2010 UK Parliamentary general election – Interim report: review of problems at polling stations at close of poll on 6 May 2010 (20 May 2010)

Report on the administration of the 2010 UK general election (July 2010)

Notes of the Improvement Group Meetings – available from the Overview and Scrutiny Support Officer and on the Council intranet

## Appendix 1

### Responses to the Improvement Group's Consultation

	Organisation/Member	Comments
Parish and Town Councils	Egremont	Satisfactory as they are
	St Bees	Adequate with portable ramp if required
	Wasdale	Good
	Lamplugh	Fine
	Waberthwaite	Necessary and fit for purpose - Corney Polling Station has assisted access
	Whicham	Both adequate – should Town End be amalgamated with Silecroft?
	Seascale	Fine and fit for purpose
	Ulpha	Suitable following renovation
	Gosforth and Ponsonby	Centrally placed and accessible with suitable facilities
	Ennerdale and Kinniside	Favourable of proposals
	Cleator Moor	Adequate
Borough Councillors	Cllr Margarita Docherty	Lack of provision in Red Lonning area
	Cllr Paul Whalley	Need for one more station around The Oval, Latrigg Rd area
	Cllr Keith Hitchen	Adequate
	Cllr Ray Cole	Provision fine
	Cllr Willis Metherell	Provision in Pica is a home-based station and local residents satisfied with this
	Cllr Alex Carroll	Avoid home based stations if at all possible

## Appendix 1

	<b>Organisation/Member</b>	<b>Comments</b>
County Councillors	Cllr Ray Cole	Provision good
	Cllr Graham Roberts	Site required on flat level by the Pelican Garage area
	Cllr John Woolley	Under provision on East and West side of Mirehouse

Polling station	Visited	Accessable for Disabled?	Comments	Parking facilities	Pathways & external areas	Inside the building	Kitchen Facilities
Bransty School, Bransty	No	Yes	Fully accessable				Facilities adequate
St James Community Centre, High Street, Whitehaven	No	Yes		Small car park			Facilities adequate
Casa Mia, harras Road, Whitehaven	Yes	No	Private House - Golf course a possible alternative	No Parking	Sleep drive way leading up to front door	N/A	N/A
Moresby School	Yes	Yes		Parking available on road, however on polling day it would be acceptable for disabled voters to park outside the main doors of PS at rear of school	Level, Non slip and well maintained	Level throughout, adequate space.	Yes if needed
Masonic Hall, Duke Street, Whitehaven	Yes	Yes		No parking facilities	Pavements level, very slight step leading into enterence. Could possibly supply a ramp.	Level throughout, Large room and adequate door width	Good kitchen facilities
Cleator Moor Nursery, Ennerdale Road	Yes	Yes - Steep slope leading to enterence, some wheelchairs users may require assistance	New extension nearly complete that would be available for use as ps so that nursery could remain open. Fully accessable	Parking adequate	Sleep slope leading to enterence.	Level throughout, adequate space	Yes
Howgill Family Centre, Birks Road	Yes	Yes	Use side door rather than the Main enterence	Car Park is for Howgill staff only and can not be used by polling staff or voters. Limited Road side parking	All level and well maintained	Level throughout	?
St Bega's R C Church Centre, Whitehaven Road	Yes	Not Ideal	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	Parking is adequate	Gravelled and uneven surface on car park, very difficul for wheelchair users. No outside lighting	Level Throughout	Yes - Basic

Masonic Hall, Frizington	Yes	No	Not accessable. Lingla Centre at St Pauls Church a possible alternative	Parking to rear	Steps leading to enterence. Not maintained	Could not gain access on day of visit.	
St Josephs Church Hall, Yeathouse Road	No	Yes					
Jubilee Hall, Cleator	Yes	Yes		Car Park adjacent and roadside parking is necessary.	Level and well maintained. Ramp with handrail.	Level throughout	unable to access
Cleator Moor Civic Hall	No	Yes					
Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Street	Yes	Yes	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	No parking facilities, double yellow lines outside.	Level, non slip and well maintained	Level throughout	Yes
Masonic Hall, Bookwell	Yes	Yes	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	Parking is adequate	Level and well maintained	Level throughout	Yes
St Mary's Parish Centre	Yes	Yes	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	Parking is adequate	Level and well maintained	Level throughout	Yes
Distington Community Centre	No	Yes	Fully Accessable				
51 Pica Cottages	Yes	No	No alternative venue in Pica	Large car park adjacent to House	Enterance not suitable for wheelchair users	unable to gain access on day of visit	Yes
Lowca Village Hall	Yes	Not Ideal	Lowca rugby club or school are possible alternatives	Parking is adequate	Steep paths leading to both enterances. Pathways are not maintained.	Level throughout	Yes
Moresby Church Hall	Yes	No	Not convenient location for Low Moresby. Rosehill Barn better alternative	Parking is adequate	Gravllled surface, no external lighting. Slight step at enterence	Not level troughtout	Yes
Parton Village Hall	Yes	Yes	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	Parking is adequate	Level, non slip and well maintained	Level throughout	Yes

28 Seven Acres	Yes	No	Private House				
Haile Village Hall	Yes	Yes		Parking is adequate	Level, non slip and well maintained	Level throughout	Yes
Beckermert Reading Rooms	Yes	Yes	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	No parking facilities	Steep slope leading to enterace, unsuitable for unaided wheelchair users. Well maintained	Level throughout	Yes - very good
Thornhill School	Yes	Yes	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	Large car park - also disabled voters are able to park directly outside front door on polling day.	Level, non slip and well maintained	Level throughout	Access to school kitchen if required
Calderbridge Village Hall	Yes	Yes	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	Large car park	Level, well maintained and well lit	Level throughout	Yes
St. Marys Church, Ennerdale	No	Yes	Fully accessable				Adequate
Lamplugh Village Hall	No	Yes	Fully Accessable				
Kirkland Mission	No	Yes	Fully Accessable				
Gosforth Public Library	Yes	Yes	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	Parking is adequate - diabled parking bay at rear of building along with disabled access route.	Level, non slip and well maintained	Level throughout	Kitchen facilities are not accessable to wheelchair users
The Old School	Yes	Yes		Parking is adequate	Pathways are level, however does have a gravelled surface	Level throughout	Adequate
Keekle Mission	Yes	Yes but not fully	Polling Station is conveyiently located for voters	Parking is adequate	Pathways are not level. Enterace surface is uneven and there is a small step	Level throughout	Adequate
24 Asby Road	Yes	No	Private House. No alternative venue in village				
Adams Memorial Hall	No	Yes	Fully accessable				
Hensingham Branch Library	No	Yes	Fully accessable				

					work has now started on providing Dasiabled access. Work will be complete before next elections		
Richmond Pensioners Social Club	Yes	No - but work has started to fit new disabled ramp and toilets		No designated parking.		Level throughout	adequate
St John's Church Hall	No	Yes	fully accessable				
Community Hall, Sneckyeat Court	No	Yes	fully accessable				
8 Rutland Avenue	No	No	Private House				
St Begh's RC Jnr School	No	Yes	fully accessable				
SS Gregory & Patrick's Catholic Community School	No	Yes					
Jericho Primary School	Yes	No			Steep steps and slops leading to main entrance		
Kells ARLFC Social Club	No	Yes	Fully accessable				
Monkwray School	Yes	yes	Fully accessable	More than adequate	Level - disabled access from top entrance	Level throughout	
St Mary's CYMS Club	No	Yes	Accessable with exception of toilets				
The Lodge	Yes	No	Private House				
Greenbank Commuinity Centre	No	Yes	Fully Accessable				
St Peters Parish Hall	No	Yes	Fully Accessable				
St Lukes Institute, Haverigg	SCDG			Small car park at rear	Alternative enterance for wheelchair users	Door width adequate but powered wheelchairs may find it tight.	
Palladium Theatre, Millom	SCDG			Plenty of off road parking	Enterance ramped with handrail.	Adequate door width	
Black Combe Jnr School, Millom	SCDG			Adequate with reserved signed for disabled	Ramp with hand rail, dropped kerb required to get off pavement	Adequate door width	
St James RC School, Millom	SCDG			Very small car park	Ramp into building hand railed, but requires dropped kerb to get to entrance. Adequate door width.		

Millom Infant School	SCDG	YES		On street Parking		Alternative door, ramped and hand railed. Adequate door width	
Moor Row School	Yes	Yes		Adequate with reserved signed for disabled	All Level and well maintained	level throughout	Adequate
St Andrews Church Hall	Yes	Yes		Parking adequate	Ramped but no hand rail.	Level throughout, some door ways are narrow	Adequate
Seathwaite Community Centre	No	Yes	Fully Accessable				
Bigrigg Village Hall	Yes	Yes		Large car park	Level	Level with adequare width doors	adequate
Egremont Bowling Club	Yes	?		Large car park	Gravelled surface - not suitable for wheelchair users	Enterance not level and no hand rail. Double doors wide enough.	adequate
Orgill Primary School	Yes	?		Road side parking - some distance from enterence	No drop kerbs and some steep slopes.	Level throughout with adequate width doors	No kitchen facilities in community room
St Bees Village Hall	Yes	No		None.	Situated on a sleep hill with no footpaths. Wooden ramp at entrance is not acceppable as it lead straight into the road.	Level throughout with adequate width doors	adequate
Bootle Evangelical Church	SCDG	Yes		None - parking on adjacent road	Level, adequate door width		
Bootle Station Village Hall	SCDG	Yes		Large Car Park	Main entrance has steps and handrails. Disabled access via fire door at side of building	Door width inadequate for a powered wheelchair.	
Waberthwaite Village Hall	SCDG	?		None - parking on adjacent road	Ramped but no hand rail to main entrance		



Parish Hall Corney	SCDG			Availble but on rough ground	Not level - 4" step and no handrail at enterace.	Door width ok but could not be entered without a temporary ramp being made available	
Parish Hall, Silecroft	SCDG			Not adequate - Parking available on adjacent road	Not level or securely ramped with hand rail. Main enterace suitable for wheelchair user		
Town End Hall Farm, Whitbeck	SCDG			Adequate	very steep steps at entrance - reached by crossing very rough ground		
Drigg Parish Hall	No	Yes	Fully accessable				
Reading Room, Holmrook	Yes	Yes		No parking facilities.	Level and well maintained	Level Troughout	Adequate
Eskdale Village Hall	Yes	Not suitable for unaided wheelchair users		No parking	Steep Ramp - Inaccessable without help	Adequate door wodth, level throughout except for Kitchen.	Adequare. Step leading into.
Irton with Santon Institute	Yes	Yes		Adequate	Level and well maintained	Steps to main room, wheelchair access through kitchen. Adequate door width	Adequate
Parish Hall, Ravenglass	Yes	Yes		Roadside parking outside enterence	ramp with handrail leading to enterence	Level throughout, adequate door width	basic
Thwaites Village Hall, The Green	SCDG			Large carpark	Level access	adequate door width	
Village Hall, The Hill	SCDG			In a layby - this will require voter to cross a very busy road to access ps.	Ramped but a little steep to get off the side road. Additional ramp required to overcome step.	adequate door width	
Officers Club, Haverigg,	SCDG			Adequate	Level, easily accessible	adequate door width	
Brockbank Hall, Kirksanton	SCDG			Parking available on adjacent road	Not level & no hand rail. Steps at main enterace, wheelchaor access via fire door		
Browfoot Room, Ulpha	NO - under going major renovation work						
St Cuthbert's Church Hall	Yes	Yes		Roadside	Ramp with hand rail	Level Throughout	adequate
Seascale Primary School	Yes	Yes		Large Car Park	Ramp with hand rail	Level Throughout	good

Toilet Facitilites	Presiding Officer Comments	Parish Council's Comments	Member's Comments	Suitable for future use?
adequate				YES
	This station used to be at the pelican garage and a lot closer to the electors homes. A lot of the electors are elderly and struggle with the distance they have to walk to st james. Numbers attending has dropped over the years			YES - no alternative venue near pelican garage
No disabled Toilets				<b>No - Golf course a possible alternative, however some distance away from the electors living at The Highlands. New club house opeining Nov 2010, fully accessable.</b>
Disabled Toilet	No heating - very cold. Initially refused entry to kitchen. Tables to low and chairs very uncomfortable.Received some complaints from elderly that it was too far to walk to the rear of the school.	Chris Shaw suggested using Rugby Club instead of school as it a more central location		YES
Disabled Toilets	Some complaints received from elderly electors about having to walk far and not able to park nearby.			YES
Disabled Toilet	Some elderly electors had difficulty with the slpoe to the nursery enterance			YES
Disabled Toilet	No access for disabled, no ramp available. Had to interrupt a meeting in other part of building for disabled elector to gain access. <b>Side door should be used in future</b>			YES
Toilets are not suitable for wheelchair users	Facilities very basic.			<b>Look for possible alternative - note that it is the largest polling station. ELECTORATE 1700</b>

				<b>NO - LinglaCentre at St Paul's an alternative - fully accessible.</b>
				YES
Disabled toilet				YES
				YES
Disable Toilet		Egremont Town Council is satisfied that the current location of all polling station abd feel the electorate is adequately served. Any reduction in stations would result in a reduction of votes.		YES
Disable Toilet		Egremont Town Council is satisfied that the current location of all polling station abd feel the electorate is adequately served. Any reduction in stations would result in a reduction of votes.		YES
Disable Toilet				YES
				Yes
No Disabled Toilets				<b>Private house but no suitable alternative in Pica</b>
No Disabled Toilets				<b>Look for possible alternative, possibly school or rugby club</b>
No Disabled Toilets		Parish Council happy for station to be moved to Rosehill		<b>No - Rosehill Barn a very good alternative - fully accessible, level throughout, recently renovated, Lift available.</b>
Disable Toilet	Several complaints on the day from people coming here to vote who should have infact gone to 28 Seven Acres. Don't think there is a need for 2 stations at Parton			YES

		Parish Council comments that they believe only one station is required at Parton		<b>NO. No alternative in top area of Parton,could possibly use a porta cabin</b>
Disable Toilet				YES
Diabled Toilet				YES
Diabled Toilet				YES
Diabled Toilet				YES
		Accessability never been a problem.		YES
		The Parish council believes that both polling stations are essential in lamplugh and believe that additional stations would be benificial to electors based on the distance some have to travel.		YES
		As above		YES
Diabled Toilet				YES
Not independantly usable for wheelchair users		The Old school is the only public building in the Parish and is conveniently located for all electors.		Yes
No Disabled Toilets				<b>? - Not ideal</b>
	did discuss having a movable ramp if required to get over the door step but not required.			<b>Private house No alternatives available in Asby. Could be provide a ramp?</b>
				YES
	Several complaints on the day regarding distance to polling station from red lonning.			Yes - but poss alternative needed for electors based at Red Lonning.

Work underway to provide disabled toilets				Yes - once works are complete
				YES
				YES
				Private house - but no suitable alternative nearby.
	Facilities excellent			YES
	Facilities adequate			YES
				No - School has indicated that we may no longer be able to use the school as a polling station due to inconvenience it causes with the school having to close. Only alternative is Red Lonning Community Centre
No disabled toilet				YES
Very good disabled toilet				YES
No disabled toilet				?
				NO- look for possible alternative. Speak with Peter Tyson
				YES
				YES
not accessible				? - not ideal
Accessible				YES
Accessible				YES
Not accessible				? - not ideal

Disabled toilets				YES
Disable Toilets - currently used as storage area!				YES
Disabled Toilet (with alarm)			Cllr Paul Walley requests a third polling station at Mirehouse around the Oval or Latrigg Road Area.	YES
				YES
Disables toilet				YES
Disabled toilets		Egremont Town Council is satisfied that the current location of all polling station abd feel the electorate is adequately served. Any reduction in stations would result in a reduction of votes.		YES
Disabled Toilets		Egremont Town Council is satisfied that the current location of all polling station abd feel the electorate is adequately served. Any reduction in stations would result in a reduction of votes.		? - Any possible alternatives?
No disabled toilet		The view of the parish council is that the village hall is a reasonable venue - it is spacious, centrally located, close to a car park etc. The front entrance has a small step but is reasonably accessible.		NO - Couple of possible alternatives The Scout Hut, New College Hall, The Golf Club or The Football Club
Disabled Toilet		Both stations in Bootle are essential		YES
Disabled Toilet		Both stations in Bootle are essential		YES
Accessable WC via side enterace. Ok for semi ambulant but not for wheelchair users.				? - not sure if there would be a alternative

?				? - not sure if there would be a alternative
Disabled Toilet				YES
No disabled toilet				NO - but not sure if there would be a suitable alternative
				YES
Disabled toilets				YES
Disabled toilets				? Not Ideal
Disabled toilets				YES
Accessible toilet with hand rail etc				Yes
Accessible toilets				YES
Accessible toilets				YES - could ramp be provided?
Accessible toilets				YES
No Disabled Toilets				? Not Ideal but not sure if there would be a suitable alternative
		Currently undergoing major renovation work. On completion the room will have disabled access and toilets together with off road car parking.		YES once work is complete
disabled toilet		Fine for the purpose		YES
disabled toilet		Fine for the purpose		YES

# Appendix 3

A	Haile Village Hall	221
B1	Beckermest Reading Rooms, Sellafeld Road, Beckermest	117
B2	Beckermest Reading Rooms, Sellafeld Road, Beckermest	165
B3	Beckermest Reading Rooms, Sellafeld Road, Beckermest	416
C	Masonic Hall (Booth 2), Bookwell, Egremont	291
D1	Thornhill School, Thornhill	78
D2	Thornhill School, Thornhill	848
E1	Calderbridge Village Hall, Calderbridge	176
E2	Calderbridge Village Hall, Calderbridge	6
E3	Calderbridge Village Hall, Calderbridge	84
F1	Bootle Evangelical Church, Bootle, Millom	383
F2	Town End Hall Farm, Whitbeck	10
G	Bootle Station Village Hall, Bootle, Millom	226
H	Waberthwaite Village Hall, Waberthwaite	122
I	Parish Hall, Corney	85
J	Parish Hall, Silecroft	261
K1	Town End Hall Farm, Whitbeck	69
K2	Brockbank Hall, Kirksanton	110
L1	Bransty Primary School (Booth 1), Bransty, Whitehaven	359
L2	Bransty Primary School (Booth 1), Bransty, Whitehaven	283
L3	Bransty Primary School (Booth 2), Bransty, Whitehaven	1 533
L4	St. James Community Centre (Booth 1), High Street, Whitehaven	1354
L5	St. James Community Centre (Booth 2), High Street, Whitehaven	215
L6	Casa Mia, Harras Road, Whitehaven	816
L7	Moresby School (Booth 1), Moresby, Whitehaven	395
M1	Cleator Moor Nursery (Booth 1), Ennerdale Road, Cleator Moor	787
M2	Howgill Family Centre, Birks Road, Cleator Moor	734
M3	St Bega's R.C. Church Centre, Whitehaven Road, Cleator Moor	1732
M4	Howgill Family Centre, Birks Road, Cleator Moor	6
N	Keekle Mission, Keekle	383
O1	Jubilee Hall, Cleator	493
O2	Cleator Moor Nursery (Booth 2), Ennerdale Road, Cleator Moor	268
O3	Cleator Moor Nursery (Booth 2), Ennerdale Road, Cleator Moor	420
O4	Cleator Moor Civic Hall, Cleator Moor	1039
P1	Distington Community Centre, Distington	766
P2	Distington Community Centre, Distington	687
Q1	51 Pica Cottages, Pica	395
Q2	24 Asby Road, Asby, Workington	15
R1	Bigrigg Village Hall, Bigrigg	646
R2-1	Bigrigg Village Hall, Bigrigg	43
R2-2	Moor Row School (Booth 1), Moor Row	125
S1	Egremont Bowling Club, Egremont	769
S2	Orgill Primary School, Egremont	1168
T	Moor Row School (Booth 2), Moor Row	679
U1-1	Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Street, Egremont	1398
U1-2	Masonic Hall (Booth 1), Bookwell, Egremont	871
U1-3	St. Mary's Parish Centre, St. Bridget's Lane, Egremont	607
U2-1	Masonic Hall (Booth 2), Bookwell, Egremont	109
U2-2	Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Street, Egremont	160
V1	Adams Memorial Hall, Barwise Row, Arlecdon	711
V2	Kirkland Mission, Kirkland	18
W	24 Asby Road, Asby	152
X	St. Mary's Church, Ennerdale	261
Y	Lamplugh Village Hall, Lamplugh	297
Z	Kirkland Mission, Kirkland	256
AA1	Masonic Hall, Frizington	1201
AA2	St. Joseph's Church Hall, Frizington	828
AB1	Gosforth Public Library, Gosforth	523
AB2	Gosforth Public Library, Gosforth	515
AC	The Old School, Netherwasdale	70
AD1	St. James Community Centre (Booth 2), High Street, Whitehaven	331
AD2	Masonic Hall (Booth 1), Duke Street, Whitehaven	621
AD3	Masonic Hall (Booth 2), Duke Street, Whitehaven	736
AD4	St. Begh's R.C. Junior School, Coach Road, Whitehaven	254
AD5	Kells A.R.L.F.C. Social Club, Whitehaven	14
ADA1	St. Begh's R.C. Junior School, Coach Road, Whitehaven	809
ADA2	Ss. Gregory & Patrick's Catholic Community School (Booth 1)	386
ADA3	Ss. Gregory & Patrick's Catholic Community School (Booth 1)	276
AE	St. Luke's Institute, Haverigg	889
AF	Hensingham Branch Library, Hensingham	603



### Appendix 3

AFA1	Hensingham Branch Library, Hensingham	523
AFA2	Richmond Pensioners Social Club, Hensingham	433
AFA3	Hensingham Branch Library, Hensingham	90
AFA4	St. John's Church Hall, Hensingham	712
AFA5	Community Hall, Sneckyeat Court, Hensingham	683
AFA6	8 Rutland Avenue, Whitehaven	192
AG1	Jericho Primary School (Booth 1), Whitehaven	1157
AG2	Jericho Primary School (Booth 2), Whitehaven	954
AH1	Palladium Theatre, Millom	693
AH2	Palladium Theatre, Millom	611
AH3	Black Combe Junior School, Millom	618
AI	Lowca Village Hall, Lowca	661
AJ1	Moresby School (Booth 2), Moresby, Whitehaven	706
AJ2	Moresby School (Booth 2), Moresby, Whitehaven	73
AK	Moresby Church Hall, Low Moresby	298
AL	Parton Village Hall, Parton	261
AM	28 Seven Acres, Parton	476
AN1	Monkwearay School, Whitehaven	301
AN2	Kells A.R.L.F.C. Social Club, Whitehaven	723
AN3	St. Mary's C.Y.M.S. Club, Whitehaven	958
AO	Drigg Parish Hall, Drigg	228
AP1	Reading Room, Holmrook	158
AP2	Reading Room, Holmrook	121
AQ1	Eskdale Village Hall, Eskdale	144
AQ2	Eskdale Village Hall, Eskdale	26
AQ3	Eskdale Village Hall, Eskdale	12
AR	Eskdale Village Hall, Eskdale	83
AS1	Irton With Santon, Institute, Santon Village	103
AS2	Irton With Santon, Institute, Santon Village	26
AT	Parish Hall, Ravenglass	249
AU	Thwaites Village Hall, The Green, Millom	424
AV	Village Hall, The Hill, Millom	193
AW1	Officers Club, Haverigg	196
AW2	Brockbank Hall, Kirksanton	15
AX	Oakbank, Ulpha	120
AY1	Ss. Gregory & Patrick's Catholic Community School (Booth 2), Corkickle	276
AY2	St. Andrew's Church Hall, Mirehouse	643
AYA1	St. Andrew's Church Hall, Mirehouse	392
AYA2	St. Andrew's Church Hall, Mirehouse	452
AZ1	Seathwaite Community Centre (Booth 1), Mirehouse	429
AZ2	Seathwaite Community Centre (Booth 1), Mirehouse	468
AZ3	Seathwaite Community Centre (Booth 2), Mirehouse	407
AZ4	Seathwaite Community Centre (Booth 2), Mirehouse	390
BA1	St. James R.C. School, Millom	642
BA2	St. James R.C. School, Millom	461
BB1	Millom Infant School (Booth 1), Millom	1003
BB2	Millom Infant School (Booth 2), Millom	686
BC1	St Bees Village Hall, St Bees	1298
BC2	The Lodge, Sandwith, Whitehaven	55
BD	Greenbank Community Centre, Whitehaven	254
BDA1	St. Peter's Parish Hall, Woodhouse, Whitehaven	3
BDA2	St. Peter's Parish Hall, Woodhouse, Whitehaven	465
BDA3	St. Peter's Parish Hall, Woodhouse, Whitehaven	867
BDA4	The Lodge, Sandwith, Whitehaven	223
BE1	St. Cuthbert's Church Hall, Seascale	526
BE2	Seascale Primary School, Seascale	878

#### Appendix 4

Polling Station	Polling Station charges	Presiding Officer costs
Bransty Primary School ( <b>2 Booths</b> )	£180.00	390.00
St James Community Centre ( <b>2 Booths</b> )	£425.00	390.00
Casa Mia, Harras Road	£100.00	195.00
Moresby Primary School	£150.00	390.00
Masonic Hall, Duke Street, Whitehaven	£120.00	195.00
Cleator Moor Nursery <b>2 Booths</b>	£200.00	390.00
Howgill Family Centre, Birks Road	£175.00	195.00
St Bega's Church Centre <b>2 Poll CLerks</b>	160.00	195.00
Masonic Hall, Frizington	£100.00	195.00
St Joseph's Church Hall	£155.00	195.00
Jubilee Community Hall	£365.00	195.00
Cleator Moor Civic Hall	£295.00	195.00
Methodist Church Hall ( <b>2 Poll Clerks</b> )	£180.00	195.00
Masonic Hall, Bookwell ( <b>2 Poll Clerks</b> )	£170.00	195.00
St Mary's Parish Centre	£125.00	195.00
Distington Community Centre	£160.00	195.00
51 Pica Cottages, Pica, Workington, Ca14 4QA	£250.00	195.00
Lowca Village Hall	£110.00	195.00
Moresby Church Hall	£183.75	195.00
Parton Village Hall	£120.00	195.00
28 Seven Acres, Parton	£200.00	195.00
Haile Village Hall	£110.00	195.00
Beckermest Reading Rooms	£88.00	195.00
Thornhill School	£185.00	195.00
Calderbridge Village Hall	£120.00	195.00
St Marys Church, Ennerdale	£240.00	195.00
Lamplugh Village Hall	£155.00	195.00
Kirkland Mission	£240.00	195.00
Gosforth Library	£60.00	195.00
The Old School, Netherwasdale	£205.00	195.00
Keekle Mission	£200.00	195.00
24 Asby Road	£50.00	195.00
Adams Memorial Hall	£150.00	195.00
Hensingham Library	£60.00	195.00
Richmond Pensioners Social Club	£270.00	195.00
St Johns Church Hall, Hensingham	£250.00	195.00
Sneckyeat Community Hall	£100.00	195.00
8 Rutland Avenue	£110.00	195.00
St Begh's RC Junior School	£225.00	195.00
Ss Gregory and Patircks Catholic Community School ( <b>2 Booths</b> )	£100.00	390.00
Jericho Primary School ( <b>2 Booths</b> )	£275.00	390.00
Kells ARLFC	£200.00	195.00
Monkwear School	£250.00	195.00
St Marys CYMS Club	£187.50	195.00
The Lodge, Sandwith	£75.00	195.00
Greenbank Community Centre	£160.00	195.00

St Peters Parish Hall ( 2 Poll Clerks)	£225.00	195.00
St Lukes Institute, Haverigg	£125.00	195.00
Palladium Theatre Millom	£225.00	195.00
Black Combe School	£200.00	195.00
St James RC School	£85.00	195.00
Millom Infants School (2 Booths)	£200.00	390.00
Moor Row School (2 Booths)	£200.00	390.00
St Andrews Church Hall	£200	195.00
Seathwaite Community Centre (2 Booths)	£175.00	390.00
Bigrigg Village Hall	£200.00	195.00
Egremont Bowling Club	£225.00	195.00
Orgill School	£140.00	195.00
St Bees Village Hall	£120.00	195.00
Bootle Church	£160.00	195.00
Bootle Station Village Hall	£90.00	195.00
Waberthwaite Village Hall	£105.00	195.00
Corney Parish Hall	£60.00	195.00
Parish Hall, Silecroft	£60.00	195.00
Town End Hall Farm	£75.00	195.00
Drigg Parish Hall	£100.00	195.00
Reading Room, Holmrook	£280.00	195.00
Village Hall, Eskdale	£250.00	195.00
Irton with Santon Institute	£50.00	195.00
Parish Hall, Ravenglass	£90.00	195.00
Thwaites Village Hall	£150.00	195.00
The Hill Village Hall	£150.00	195.00
Officers Club Haverigg	£100.00	195.00
Brockbank Hall, Kirksanton	£150.00	195.00
Oakbank, Ulpha	£160.00	195.00
St Cuthberts Church Hall	£150.00	195.00
Seascale Primary School	£150.00	195.00
	<b>£12,639.25</b>	<b>16770.00</b>

Poll Clerks Costs	Total
230.00	<b>£800.00</b>
230.00	<b>£1,045.00</b>
115.00	<b>£410.00</b>
230.00	<b>£770.00</b>
115.00	<b>£430.00</b>
230.00	<b>£820.00</b>
115.00	<b>£485.00</b>
230.00	<b>£585.00</b>
115.00	<b>£410.00</b>
115.00	<b>£465.00</b>
115.00	<b>£675.00</b>
115.00	<b>£605.00</b>
230.00	<b>£605.00</b>
230.00	<b>£595.00</b>
115.00	<b>£435.00</b>
115.00	<b>£470.00</b>
115.00	<b>£560.00</b>
115.00	<b>£420.00</b>
115.00	<b>£493.75</b>
115.00	<b>£430.00</b>
115.00	<b>£510.00</b>
115.00	<b>£420.00</b>
115.00	<b>£398.00</b>
115.00	<b>£495.00</b>
115.00	<b>£430.00</b>
115.00	<b>£550.00</b>
115.00	<b>£465.00</b>
115.00	<b>£550.00</b>
115.00	<b>£370.00</b>
115.00	<b>£515.00</b>
115.00	<b>£510.00</b>
115.00	<b>£360.00</b>
115.00	<b>£460.00</b>
115.00	<b>£370.00</b>
115.00	<b>£580.00</b>
115.00	<b>£560.00</b>
115.00	<b>£410.00</b>
115.00	<b>£420.00</b>
115.00	<b>£535.00</b>
230.00	<b>£720.00</b>
230.00	<b>£895.00</b>
115.00	<b>£510.00</b>
115.00	<b>£560.00</b>
115.00	<b>£497.50</b>
115.00	<b>£385.00</b>
115.00	<b>£470.00</b>

230.00	<b>£650.00</b>
115.00	<b>£435.00</b>
115.00	<b>£535.00</b>
115.00	<b>£510.00</b>
115.00	<b>£395.00</b>
230.00	<b>£820.00</b>
230.00	<b>£820.00</b>
115.00	<b>£510.00</b>
230.00	<b>£795.00</b>
115.00	<b>£510.00</b>
115.00	<b>£535.00</b>
115.00	<b>£450.00</b>
115.00	<b>£430.00</b>
115.00	<b>£470.00</b>
115.00	<b>£400.00</b>
115.00	<b>£415.00</b>
115.00	<b>£370.00</b>
115.00	<b>£370.00</b>
115.00	<b>£385.00</b>
115.00	<b>£410.00</b>
115.00	<b>£590.00</b>
115.00	<b>£560.00</b>
115.00	<b>£360.00</b>
115.00	<b>£400.00</b>
115.00	<b>£460.00</b>
115.00	<b>£460.00</b>
115.00	<b>£410.00</b>
115.00	<b>£460.00</b>
115.00	<b>£470.00</b>
115.00	<b>£460.00</b>
115.00	<b>£460.00</b>
<b>10350.00</b>	<b>£39,759.25</b>

# Polling Station Improvement Group

## Friday 14 January 2011

---

**Questions to officers (Stephanie Shaw – Senior Elections Officer, Tim Capper – Democratic Services Manager, Alison Walton – Equality and Diversity Officer – advising)**

1. Were there any complaints about any of the polling station positions on 6 May 2010?
2. Of the polling station sites that have not been visited, how have their accessibility and suitability been determined?
3. While this Improvement Group is considering polling places specifically, is the Council meeting other recommendations set out by Electoral Commission in terms of roll numbers and staffing levels?
4. How far has the use of temporary stations been explored as an alternative to home based stations?

**Areas of discussion/questions to Anne Bradshaw (Copeland Disability Forum) and Noel Moore and Gary Jackson (South Copeland Disability Group)**

1. What general observations did you make during the course of any visits you made and on the polling station sites the Council uses?
2. Were disabled entrances well signposted, with usable ramps, at the stations visited?
3. Given that a number of polling stations are inaccessible to some disabled voters, what are the wider implications for those people?
4. How can the Council assist disabled voters?
5. What is your advice to the Council when there are no accessible buildings in the vicinity?