

Summary Fair Treatment Assessment (FTA)

Area for Assessment:		
Name of service or function etc	Access to polling stations used for national and local elections	
Which Service does this affect?	Democratic Services	
Is this a new, existing or revised function?	Existing	
Summary of findings:		
Main conclusions on the likely impact of the function on different equality groups (protected characteristics):		
<p>The scope of this FTA has been limited due to the prescribed nature of the democratic process which limits the monitoring and data collection that can be done.</p> <p>However from consultation and professional experience some issues have been identified and actions planned to address these are set out below.</p>		
Actions:		
Actions identified to address negative impacts identified or to better promote equality, human rights, cohesive and sustainable communities and safeguarding issues		
Action	Outcome	Timescale
Provide accessible polling booths in each polling station	Wheelchair users are able to access polling booths	Before 2011 elections
Provide door wedges for polling stations	Heavy doors can be kept open to save people struggling to open them	Before 2011 elections
Ramps to be provided at polling stations where difficulties have been identified	Polling stations are more easily accessible for wheelchair users and people with pushchairs etc	Before 2011 elections
Where corridors are not wide enough for wheelchair access, reinforce polling station staff training to offer to take ballot paper to the voter at the polling station door if acceptable or look for access into the building from elsewhere	Wheelchair users who cannot get in to the polling station are still able to vote in person	Immediate in readiness 2011 elections
Large print is provided at the station. Polling station staff are trained to assist voters who are visually impaired.	Voters who are visually impaired are able to vote in the polling station	Immediate in readiness for 2011 elections
Polling Station checklist to be issued to all Presiding Officers	Elections team will have an up to date assessment of the polling place and any	For 2011 elections

for completion on election day, to assess suitability of facilities and feedback on any issues	issues needing to be addressed before the next elections.	
Date Assessment Signed Off	20 January 2012	