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| Report for: | Council |
| Date of meeting: | 27 November 2019 |
| Part: | 1 |
| If Part II, reason: | |

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| Title of report: | Use of Camelot RFC as a Polling Station for the UK Parliamentary General Election on 12 December 2019. |
| Contact: | Andrew Williams, Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for corporate & Contracted Services Author/Responsible Officer: J Doyle / M Brookes |
| Purpose of report: | To consider extending the use of Camelot Rugby Club as polling Station for Polling District AGB, Boxmoor Ward. |
| Recommendation | That Council agree to extend the amendment of THE BOROUGH OF DACORUM (PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES) ORDER 2011 to allow the use of Camelot RFC for the UKPGE 2019 due to St Mary & Joseph Church, Boxmoor being unavailable for the 'snap' election. |
| Period for post policy/project review | St Mary & St Joseph Church, Boxmoor will continue to be considered the optimum site for a polling station at future scheduled elections. |
| Corporate objectives: | The holding of elections contributes to the Council's community leadership role and fosters public engagement in the democratic process. |
| Implications: | <u>Financial</u> None from this report |
| 'Value for money' implications | <u>Value for money</u> The provision of Polling Stations for elections is reviewed on a regular basis and the funding is overseen by the Electoral Commission and the Elections Claims Unit. |
| Health and safety Implications | For this particular election, at this particular time of year, Camelot RFC will be able to provide extensive floodlighting at |

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| | the front of the building and over the Car park. |
| Risk implications | Electoral matters require continual review to ensure that the democratic process operates effectively. A failure to provide polling places would result in huge reputational damage. |
| Consultees; | Camelot Rugby Club St Mary & St Joseph Church, Boxmoor |
| Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report: | UKPGE – United Kingdom Parliamentary General Election |

At its meeting in January 2019, the Electoral Review Committee considered the provision of a Polling Station for the AGB Polling District in Boxmoor Ward. There were two appropriate sites in this district for use as the polling station: St Mary & St Joseph Church and Camelot Rugby Club.

St Mary & St Joseph Church have offered the use of St Joseph's Hall at the rear of the Church, which has all of the facilities required. The site is on the High Street, central to the polling district and if available, was considered by the committee to be the optimum site for elections. However the building is in constant use and although adjacent to the moor does not have a significant amount of parking.

Camelot Rugby Club is in Chaulden lane and on the Eastern boundary of the polling district. It is a well-used site and offers all of the facilities required for a polling station. On this occasion it offers substantial lighting at the front of the building and a significant amount of Parking. However, the sites' location at the boundary of the Polling District raised concerns about the distance those at the western boundary would have to travel to cast their vote.

St Mary and St Joseph church administrators were contacted when the December election was confirmed but due to the existence of a number of prior bookings they cannot provide the facilities we require for a polling station at such short notice. However they have confirmed once again that they would be prepared to be the venue for the Polling Station for future scheduled elections.