

TITLE OF REPORT : REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR POLICY AND GREEN ISSUES - CLLR DAVID LEVETT

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to assist the Review of the Polling Districts and Polling Places.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee re-establishes the polling districts and polling places, set out at Appendix A, for a further four year period, commencing forthwith.

2.2 That the Committee comments on the polling stations listed at Appendix B.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To fulfil the requirement to review Polling Districts and Polling Places.

3.2 To assist the Acting Returning Officer (ARO) to undertake a review of Polling Stations.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

5.1 The views of each Member of the Council; known political agents operating in the area; voluntary organisations concerned with access issues; neighbouring ARO's County Councillors, MP's, MEP's and the general public have been sought. No amendments to the existing arrangements have been proposed.

6. FORWARD PLAN

6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision. It has been included in the Forward Plan to assist public awareness.

7. BACKGROUND

7.1 A Polling District is an area within a parliamentary constituency containing electors. A Polling Place is a convenient area, within a Polling District, to site a polling station(s). Responsibility for defining Polling Districts and Places is delegated to Area Committees.

- 7.2 In this authority, Polling Places are coterminous with Polling Districts. This means that the ARO is unrestricted in carrying out his duty to site Polling Stations. The location of polling stations must also be reviewed, by the ARO, at the time the Council reviews polling districts and places. The ARO would welcome any views on polling stations which may emerge during the debate.

8. ISSUES

- 8.1 No amendments to the existing arrangements (Appendix A) are proposed. It is considered that the arrangements continue to serve the authority well.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 requires each local authority to undertake a complete review of the polling arrangements within the Council's area by no later than December 2007 and thereafter at four yearly intervals.
- 9.2 However, the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of reviews. The current review must be undertaken during 2014.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Failure to determine a polling district scheme will mean that the ARO will be unable to set up polling stations for the first ordinary day of elections in 2014.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The current practice of ensuring that Polling Places are coterminous with Polling Districts means that the ARO may act without delay to relocate a polling station where access or other issues, arise unexpectedly.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The recommendations do not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of social value (Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012) need not apply.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 None.

15. APPENDICES

- 15.1 Appendix A - Proposed Polling Districts (boundaries in urban areas are shown in red, rural polling districts are co-terminus with parishes and are shown in green).
- 15.2 Appendix B – Proposed Polling Stations.

16. REPORT AUTHOR

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.1 Reviews of Polling Districts, Places and Stations, Electoral Commission (2013).