

Report To:	COUNCIL	Date:	25 JULY 2019
Heading:	INTERIM REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES		
Portfolio Holder:	PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNANCE & CROSS PORTFOLIO SUPPORT - COUNCILLOR DAVID HENNIGAN		
Ward/s:	ALL WARDS		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

This report outlines a proposal to undertake an interim review of polling places to review a limited number of polling places, where issues have been identified at the recent council elections and European Parliamentary elections held in 2019.

Recommendation(s)

1. The Council approves the establishment of a Polling Place Review Working Group with a remit as outlined in this report;
2. The working group to consist of 7 Members;
3. The Council to appoint the Members and Chairman of the Working Group;
4. The timetable as outlined in the report be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

To ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and that, as far as is reasonable and practicable, polling places are accessible to disabled electors.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

A full review of polling places and polling districts was carried out in 2018 in line with legislative requirements. It is good practice to conduct interim reviews to resolve identified issues with existing polling places.

Detailed Information

Introduction

In line with the provisions of Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, a full review of polling districts and polling places took place in the compulsory review period commencing on 1 October 2018. Recent council elections and European Parliamentary elections in 2019 identified some issues with the below polling places, which require an alternative location to be agreed for use in future elections.

- Kingsway Primary School (KWY2, KWY4)
- Sports Hall at Morven Park Primary School (SUM4)
- Bestwood Youth & Community Centre (HSO3)
- Titchfield Park Pavilion (HSO1, HSO5)

Proposed Timetable

In order to make a recommendation to Council, it is proposed to delegate the interim review to a Working Group to work through proposals based on the below timetable.

Polling Places Working Group	1 August 2019
Notice of Review and consultation period	15 August – 12 September 2019
Polling Place Working Group	24 September 2019
Full Council	10 October 2019
Publish revised scheme (subject to Council approval)	w/c 14 October 2019

Implications

Corporate Plan:

- Ensure effective community leadership, through good governance, transparency, accountability and appropriate behaviours
- Put our residents at the heart of what we do and inform, consult and engage with them

Legal:

- A full review of polling places and polling districts was carried out in 2018 in line with legislative requirements contained in the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Costs will be met from existing budgets
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A

Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Unscheduled polls may impact timeline	Restricted remit of review to consideration of identified polling places

Human Resources:

The remit of the review has been restricted to deal with identified issues, which will allow for it to be completed within the timeframe

Equalities:

The review will have regard to equality of access and the needs of voters at polling places by ensuring that there are reasonable facilities to vote where practicable.

Other Implications:

N/A

Reason(s) for Urgency

N/A

Reason(s) for Exemption

N/A

Background Papers

None

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