

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>26 SEPTEMBER 2019</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>INTERIM REVIEW OF POLLING PLACES</b>		
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND CROSS PORTFOLIO SUPPORT</b>		
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL WARDS</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>NO</b>		
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>NO</b>		

### **Purpose of Report**

This report sets out proposals for revised polling places following an interim review dealing with urgent polling place issues. The proposals are based on the recommendations of the Polling Places Review Working Group.

### **Recommendation(s)**

1. That Council approves the recommendations of the Review Working Group as set out in the minutes of the meetings held on 1 August and 16 September 2019 (Appendices "A" and "B" refer);
2. That subject to the above, Council approves the final proposals setting out the changes to the polling districts (Appendix "D");
3. Should a polling place be unavailable in the run up to an election, the (Acting) Returning Officer be delegated authority to select an appropriate alternative and formal retrospective approval be sought by Council following the election should this be a permanent proposed change;
4. To note that approved changes will take effect on 27 September 2019.

### **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

To deal with urgent polling place issues. 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)*

None.

## **Detailed Information**

### **Introduction**

A full review of polling places and polling districts was completed in 2018 in line with legislative requirements. This interim review has been carried out to deal with urgent polling place issues identified at recent elections.

### **Interim Review Process**

The Council appointed the Polling Places Review Working Group to conduct an interim review and report final recommendations to Council on 25 July 2019 in line with the timetable and remit set out by the Council. The Group met on two occasions and the minutes of those meetings are attached at Appendix "A" and "B".

The process included a consultation period which ran from 15 August – 12 September 2019 where interested parties, electors and elected representatives were invited to make comments on the proposals. During this period, maps of the proposals for the proposed polling places were published on the Council's website.

Consultation responses received during the above period are attached at Appendix "C". These were considered by the Working Group at its final meeting.

### **Final Proposals**

A copy of the final proposals incorporating all of the recommendations of the Working Group is attached for consideration by Council at Appendix "D"

Subject to approval of the recommendations of the Working Group, a schedule of the new polling districts and polling places will be published, on 27 September 2019.

### **Implications**

#### **Corporate Plan:**

Enable thriving, prosperous and self-sufficient communities where people shape their own futures.

Ensure effective community leadership, through good governance, transparency, accountability and appropriate behaviours.

#### **Legal:**

A full review of polling places and polling districts was completed in 2018 in line with legislative requirements. This interim review has been carried out to deal with urgent polling place issues identified at recent elections.

**Finance:**

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Costs arising from the review can be met from existing budgets
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

**Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Elector confusion around changes to existing polling places	Effective communications around changes

**Human Resources:**

None

**Equalities:**

The purpose of the review is 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.

**Report Author and Contact Officer**

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