

COUNCIL – 7TH NOVEMBER 2022

Report of the Chief Executive

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS- OUTCOME

Purpose of Report

To present the outcomes of the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the Borough.

Recommendation

That the proposals of the Chief Executive as set out in the Annex to this report, which are put forward in his capacity as the Returning Officer for elections, for future arrangements for polling districts, polling places and polling stations be approved.

Reason

To comply with requirements of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, and to ensure that any amended arrangements for polling districts, polling places and polling stations are in place in time for the Borough elections on 4th May 2023 following the review undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced changes to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. Although a compulsory review is not yet due, it has been necessary to undertake an interim review following the changes to Borough wards arising from the recommendations made by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The last compulsory review was undertaken in 2017, and the recommendations were agreed by Council at its meeting on 21st January 2019 (minute reference 62.4)

At the meeting on 25th April 2022, Council approved proposals to undertake a review, and this report presents the outcomes of that review for approval.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

If approved, the arrangements set out in this report will come into effect for the Borough elections on 4th May 2023 and any subsequent elections.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

The population of the Borough, and consequently the number of electors, is increasing as new residential developments proceed, and this is reflected within the proposals to create a number of new polling districts and polling stations, which will have ongoing cost implications.

The anticipated costs of the 2023 Borough elections, taking account of the proposals within this report, will be included within the 2023/24 budget which will come to Council for approval in due course.

The costs of other elections (eg. Parish and Town Councils, County Council, Parliamentary, and Police & Crime Commissioner elections) are met by the relevant external organisations.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

Background Papers: Electoral Commission guidance on reviews of polling districts, polling areas and polling stations:
<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/polling-place-reviews>

Officers to contact: Rob Mitchell
Chief Executive
(01509) 634600
rob.mitchell@charnwood.gov.uk

Adrian Ward
Head of Governance & HR
(01509) 634573
adrian.ward@charnwood.gov.uk

Katie Owens
Elections & Land Charges Manager
(01509) 634612
katie.owens@charnwood.gov.uk

Annex

Returning Officer's Final Proposals