

COUNCIL - MONDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

Part A

POLLING PLACES REVIEW

Purpose of Report

To present a proposal to undertake a formal review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the Borough as required under the Electoral Registration & Administration Act 2013.

Recommendation

That a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the Borough be undertaken to commence in October 2023, with final proposals being reported for approval at the January 2024 Council meeting.

Reason

To comply with the requirements of the Electoral Registration & Administration Act 2013.

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. The next 5 year compulsory review must be started and completed between 1st October 2023 and 31st January 2025 (inclusive).

The last compulsory review was undertaken in 2018, and the recommendations were agreed by Council at its meeting on 21st January 2019 (minute reference 62.4)

Although an interim review was undertaken during 2022/23 following the ward boundary changes and in advance of the May 2023 Borough elections, this does not avoid the requirement to also undertake a compulsory review. However, given the recentness of the interim review it is not anticipated that any significant changes to the current arrangements will be required.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions

As set out in the recommendation, a further report setting out recommendations for appropriate polling arrangements will be brought to the January 2024 Council meeting. The review will also take into account the proposed new parliamentary constituency boundaries.

A period of public consultation will be included as part of the review, and relevant people and organisations will also be informed and given an opportunity to comment, including MPs, Borough and County Councillors, political parties, and parish and town councils.

Report Implications

Financial Implications

The review can be undertaken within existing budgets.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

Equality and Diversity

Suitable arrangements will be made for disabled voters wherever reasonably practicable, and in accordance with Electoral Commission guidance.

Climate Change and Carbon Impact

None identified.

Crime and Disorder

None identified.

Wards Affected

All Wards.

Publicity Arrangements

The review will be publicised via the Council's website and via social media channels.

Consultations

A period of public consultation will be included as part of the review.

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Caring for the Environment	No
Healthy Communities	No
A Thriving Economy	No
Your Council	Yes

Background Papers: None

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