

COUNCIL – 21ST JANUARY 2019

Report of the Chief Executive

ITEM 6.4 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS - OUTCOME

Purpose of Report

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

Recommendations

1. 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 (Acting) Returning Officer for parliamentary elections, for future arrangements for polling districts, polling places and polling stations be approved.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to make suitable alternative arrangements for polling stations in the following cases where details have yet to be finalised, as detailed in the Annex:
 - Polling District CD – Birstall Wanlip No.2 (Birstall Wanlip ward)
 - New Polling District of Hamilton Lea (Queniborough ward)
 - New Polling District of Mountsorrel No.3 (Rothley & Thurcaston ward)
 - Polling District R – Loughborough Shelthorpe No.1 (Loughborough Shelthorpe ward).

Reasons

1. 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 2nd May 2019.
2. To allow suitable arrangements for polling stations to be made should it not prove possible to implement the relevant indicative proposals set out in the Annex.

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 compulsory review must be started and completed between 1st October 2018 and 31st January 2020 (inclusive).

The last such review was undertaken in 2014, and the recommendations were agreed by Council at its meeting on 10th November 2014 (minute 46.2 2014/15 refers).

At its meeting on 3rd September 2018, 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 2nd May 2019 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 2019 Borough elections, taking account of the proposals within this report, will be included within the 2019/20 budget which will come to Council for approval.

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>

Summary of Consultation Responses Received

Updated polling district maps (these are not available at the time of the publication of the agenda but will be published on the Council's website as soon as possible)

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