

## **COUNCIL – 25th APRIL 2022**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **ITEM 6.3 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS**

##### Purpose of Report

To present a proposal to undertake a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the Borough to prepare for the new warding arrangements that will come into effect for the Borough elections on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

##### Recommendation

That a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the Borough be undertaken, to commence in May 2022, with final proposals being reported for approval at the November 2022 Council meeting.

##### Reason

To ensure that any amended arrangements for polling districts, polling places and polling stations are in place for the next Borough elections in May 2023.

##### 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 2023 and 31st January 2025 (inclusive).

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

Although the next compulsory review is not be required to be undertaken at this point in time, because of the changes to Borough wards that will come into effect for the May 2023 elections following the recent review by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, it is necessary to undertake an interim review.

##### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

As set out in the recommendation, a further report setting out recommendations for appropriate arrangements will be brought to the November 2022 Council meeting.

A period of public consultation will be included as part of the review, and relevant parties 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

The following implications have been identified for this report.

### *Financial Implications*

The review can be undertaken within existing budgets.

### *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>

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