

**Public**  
**Key Decision - No**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Polling Districts and Polling Places Review – Consultation Outcome

**Meeting/Date:** Corporate Governance Committee – 2nd October 2019  
Council – 9th October 2019

**Executive Portfolio:** Executive Leader – Councillor G J Bull

**Report by:** Elections and Democratic Services Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 require each authority to undertake a review of all of the polling districts and polling places in its area on a regular basis and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires each authority to complete and carry out a review in a 16 month period beginning on 1st October of every fifth year after 1st October 2013.

The last full review was undertaken in October 2013 and an interim review undertaken in 2016 following the completion of the review of electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) of Cambridgeshire County Council and Huntingdonshire District Council. It is now necessary to carry out the next scheduled review which needs to be completed by 31st January 2020 so that any changes can be reflected in the new Register of Electors to be published on 1st December 2019.

The results of the formal consultation exercise detailing the representations made are summarised in the report.

### **Recommendation:**

The Committee

**notes the outcome of the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review and consultation undertaken.**

**RECOMMENDS**

**that the Council approve the Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019 as appended to the report now submitted.**

The Council is

**RECOMMENDED**

**that the Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019 as appended to the report now submitted be approved.**

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to acquaint Members with details of the process involved with a review of polling districts and polling places as required by Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and consider details of the representations made during the formal consultation process.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 require each authority to undertake a review of all of the polling districts and polling places in its area on a regular basis. The last such review was completed in 2013 and an interim review in 2016 following the completion of the review of electoral arrangements by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) of Cambridgeshire County Council and Huntingdonshire District Council. Following an amendment in the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, it has been necessary to carry out the next scheduled review in a 16 month period beginning on 1st October of every fifth year after 1st October 2013.
- 2.2 All wards within Huntingdonshire are divided into polling districts which form the basis upon which the register of electors is produced. Most are defined by parish boundaries, but there are exceptions. The Council is responsible for dividing its area into polling districts and for keeping polling districts under review. The Council must also define a polling place for each of its polling districts within which the polling station is located.

## **3. CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 A formal consultation exercise was undertaken and hosted on the Council's website from 3rd July 2019 until 14th August 2019, whereby all residents, County and District Councillors, MPs, Town and Parish Councils, Returning Officers, Political Agents/parties and local disability groups were asked to make comments on the existing arrangements for polling places and polling stations.
- 3.2 A total of 21 responses were received and detailed at Appendix A in the Consultation Responses Schedule. Arising from the representations made it has not been necessary to make any changes to the polling districts and polling places as the comments received related to polling station concerns that will be investigated further after the review. The new Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places is detailed at Appendix B.

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no significant legal implications other than the review is a legal requirement and must be completed by 31st January 2020.

## **5. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS**

- 5.1 In accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983, Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2006 and Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006, the Council must undertake a review of the polling district and polling places within a period of 16 months that starts on 1st October of every fifth year after 1st October 2013. The adequacy and suitability of polling stations is regularly reviewed to ensure that premises remain suitable and accessible for electors.
- 5.2 The Council is required to approve the Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places to ensure the effective delivery of elections.

## **6. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix A – Consultation Responses Schedule  
Appendix B - Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

[Website Consultation Document – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019](#)

[Review of Polling Districts, polling places and polling stations guidance – The Electoral Commission](#)

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