

**POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS  
REVIEW AND COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

To: Council

Date: 17 October 2019

Author: Chief Executive and Electoral Services Team Leader

[U91]

1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 To report the outcome of the review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) Note the outcome of the Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations as detailed in Appendix A.
- (ii) Agree the proposed changes in the Returning Officer's Proposals as detailed in Appendix A.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty on all authorities to review their Parliamentary polling districts and polling places every 4 years to ensure that people have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and to ensure reasonable and practicable accessibility for people with disabilities. The first review was conducted in 2007 and the last review was in 2015. We have made two interim polling district reviews, the first was to cover the County Divisional Changes and the second was to cover the new District and Parish arrangements, following the Local Government Boundary Reviews. This review covers the Parliamentary Constituency areas that fall within the District of East Cambridgeshire and must be concluded by 31 January 2020.

3.2 The current review is a statutory obligation and, as we have already completed two very detailed reviews over the last two years, the Returning Officer has not made any proposals for change for change sake.

3.3 9 responses have been received arising from the consultation on the polling places review: 1 from the local access group; 2 from parishes; 3 from District Members; 3 from organisations regarding hire of their hall as a polling station. Arising from the post-election evaluation process, responses were received from the majority of the Polling Station Inspectors, Presiding Officers and Poll

Clerks, most of which were positive or related to issues identified on the day which have already been resolved or will be resolved for the next election. In addition, the polling places venues have been contacted to ascertain whether they have any planned works or issues which may affect their availability over the next 4 years.

- 3.4 The proposals by the Returning Officer are detailed in the revised Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations document attached at Appendix A, which include a summary of the responses from the consultation.

#### 4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 Any increase in costs arising from variations in venue hire rates, etc.
- 4.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) completed and attached at Appendix B.

#### 5.0 APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix A - Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations document
- 5.2 Appendix B - Equality Impact Assessment (INRA)

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<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
Relevant Electoral Services files, Electoral Commission guidance on Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations The LGBCE guidance on Community Governance Reviews	Room 214 The Grange Ely	Joan Cox Electoral Services Team Leader (01353) 616460 E-mail: joan.cox@eastcambs.gov.uk