

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

To: Council

Date: 5 January 2017

Author: Chief Executive/Electoral Services Officer

[R164]

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 at 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. The last such review was conducted in 2014. The Returning Officer has also made several changes with regard to premises that can be designated as polling stations since the last review. The Council must conduct a full review of its polling districts, polling places and polling stations by 31 January 2015, and thereafter every five years from 1 October 2013. However, this does not prevent changes being made at any time before the next full review in October 2018. The Electoral Commission has produced guidance on the conduct of reviews. Whilst Polling Districts and Polling Places for Local Government Elections are covered by separate legislation (Representation of the People Act [RPA] 1983), reviews of Local Government polling arrangements should be conducted simultaneously with the Parliamentary review.

3.2 The current review was required due to the changes to the County Electoral Divisions within this District resulting from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) review of the electoral arrangements for

Cambridgeshire County Council. As part of the review, all District and County Councillors for East Cambridgeshire; Parish Councils; local MPs; Political Parties; the local Access Group; and the County Council have been consulted. In addition, the public were notified via public notices, together with information on the Council's website. The Returning Officer also took into consideration responses received from Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks and Polling Station Inspectors arising from the Police & Crime Commissioner Elections and European Referendum held in May and June 2016.

- 3.3 As a result, 8 responses have been received arising from consultation on the polling places review: 1 from the local Access Group; 3 from Parishes; 4 from the public. 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 Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations document  
Appendix B INRA

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