



**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT COVER SHEET**

<b>Title of Report:</b>	Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2018
<b>Meeting of:</b>	Council
<b>Date:</b>	4 March 2019
<b>Is this an Executive Decision:</b>	NO
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	YES
<b>Is the Report Confidential:</b>	NO
<b>If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:</b>	[ ]
<p><b>Essential Signatories:</b></p> <p><b>ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>Monitoring Officer: <b>Angela Wakefield</b></p> <p>Date 14/12/2018      Signature Angela Wakefield</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer: <b>Sal Khan</b></p> <p>Date 14/12/2018      Signature Sal Khan</p>	

**EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Report to Council**

**Date: 4 March 2019**

**REPORT TITLE: Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations**

**PORTFOLIO: Leader of the Council**

**HEAD OF SERVICE: Andy O'Brien - Returning Officer**

**CONTACT OFFICER: Nicky Gilligan Ext. No. 1332**

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: All**

**1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. To report on the responses to consultation and make recommendations in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places, and to seek approval of such.

**2. Executive Summary**

- 2.1. The Council is required to undertake a review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations with a view to establishing their suitability. There is no requirement to change any of the current arrangements but any 'no change' decision must be fully justified as part of the overall proposals.

**3. Background**

- 3.1. Section 18C (1) of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as inserted by Section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006), places a duty on all Local Authorities to review all UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places in their area before the end of December 2019 and at least once every four years.

3.1.1. The Council's current scheme of polling districts and places was adopted following a full review in 2003 when the new ward boundaries for the Borough took effect.

#### **4. Contribution to Corporate Priorities**

4.1. This review contributes to the Corporate Plan objective *Value for Money Council Services - protecting your money*. There is a corporate plan target to prepare for the Polling District Review (PSC02).

#### **5. Report**

5.1. The formal consultation period ran from 1 October to 31 October 2018.

5.1.1. A public notice giving notice of the review was placed on the Council's website and at Burton Town Hall. In addition, specific consultations were undertaken on the existing scheme of polling districts and places with comments being sought from the relevant Returning Officers, all East Staffordshire Borough Councillors, parish/town councils, political parties, Staffordshire County Council and groups with a particular interest and expertise in relation to access to premises for persons who have different forms of disability.

5.1.2. The responses to the consultation are set out in **appendix A** to this report.

5.1.3. The appendix provides details of the polling district, ward and polling place and sets out any specific comments received in response to the consultation and identifies any action proposed.

5.1.4. A number of schools are currently used for polling stations in the area and the Council's aim to seek alternative premises is ongoing. The schools which remain on the list for future use are the only suitable premises in those areas and therefore will continue to be used.

5.1.5. As can be seen from the appendix, the response to the consultation has been limited. It is disappointing to note that no response has been received from members of the public or from organisations representing people with disabilities. It should also be noted that no comments were received from the 39 members.

5.1.6. In most cases where parish councils have commented, they have indicated that they are satisfied and see no need to change the current polling stations.

5.1.7. Following each Election Presiding Officers and Polling Station Inspectors provide a risk assessment of each Polling Place and consideration is given to their observations. This approach is not intended to eliminate all risks and not all risks identified can be



8.1. There are no significant legal issues arising from this Report.

## **9. Equalities and Health**

9.1. **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required. Polling places have already been accessed for accessibility when they are hired for voting. This process is ongoing, both Polling Station Inspectors and Polling Station Staff are asked at the time of each Election if the premises remain suitable.

9.2. **Health impacts:** An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

## **10. Human Rights**

10.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

## **11. Sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures)**

11.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) N/A

11.2. Please detail any positive/negative aspects:

11.2.1. Positive (Opportunities/Benefits)

11.2.2. Negative (threats)

## **12. Recommendations**

12.1. That the responses to the consultation on the Polling District Review be noted and the recommendations set out in the appendix are approved.

12.2. That no changes be made to the existing Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations.

## **13. Background Papers**

13.1. Letters & emails received in response to the consultation process.

## **14. Appendices**

14.1. Appendix A – List of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations.