



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2023	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
Meeting of:	Corporate Management Team 17 January 2024	X
	Pre Cabinet 25 January 2024	X
	Leader's / Leader of the Opposition's Advisory Group 1 February 2024/7 February 2024	X
	Council 19 February 2024	
	Audit Committee [DATE] / Scrutiny Regeneration, Development and Market Hall Committee [DATE] / Scrutiny Health and Well Being Committee [DATE] / Scrutiny Climate Change and Environment Committee / Scrutiny Value for Money Council Committee [DATE]	



Is this an Executive Decision:	NO	Is this a Key Decision:	YES
Is this in the Forward Plan:	YES	Is the Report Confidential: If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	NO

Essential Signatories:

ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE

Monitoring Officer: **John Teasdale**

Date Signature

Interim Chief Finance Officer: **Stephen Fitzgerald**

Date Signature

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Council

Date: 19 February 2024

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

PORTFOLIO: Leader of the Council

CHIEF OFFICER: 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 compulsory review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations every five years 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 amended by section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013), places a duty on all Local Authorities to review all UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and polling places in their area at least once every five years.

3.1.1. The Council's current scheme of polling districts and places was adopted following a full review during 2020/21 and were implemented in 2023 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 *Improving Local Democracy*.

5. Report

5.1. The formal consultation period ran from 2 October to 30 November 2023.

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. These parties were informed of the review via email.

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 nor from organisations representing people with disabilities.

5.1.6. Four Parish Councils have commented. Two, Croxden & Mayfield, are happy with the current arrangements. However 2 councils have made representations, as follows:

7.3. **Negative** (Threats):

7.3.1. If changes are made it may make voting at certain polling stations more difficult than necessary.

7.4. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register.

8. **Legal Considerations**

This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team: []

8.1. The provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983 (as amended) sets out the procedure for the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations and requires each Local Authority to carry out regular reviews. The Act itself is supplemented by best practice guidance from the Electoral Commission.

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. **Data Protection Implications – Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)**

10.1. A DPIA must be completed where there are plans to:

- use systematic and extensive profiling with significant effects;
- process special category or criminal offence data on a large scale; or
- systematically monitor publicly accessible places on a large scale
- use new technologies;
- use profiling or special category data to decide on access to services;
- profile individuals on a large scale;
- process biometric data;
- process genetic data;
- match data or combine datasets from different sources;
- collect personal data from a source other than the individual without providing them with a privacy notice ('invisible processing');

- track individuals' location or behaviour;
- profile children or target marketing or online services at them; or
- process data that might endanger the individual's physical health or safety in the event of a security breach

10.2 Following consideration of the above, there are no Data Protection implications arising from this report which would require a DPIA.

11. **Human Rights**

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

12. **Sustainability** (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

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

12.2. Please detail any positive/negative aspects:

12.2.1. Positive (Opportunities/Benefits

12.2.2. Negative (threats)

13. **Recommendation(s)**

13.1. That the responses to the consultation on the Polling District Review be noted.

13.2. That there will be no change to the current arrangements and all Polling Districts, Polling Places & Polling Stations remain the same.

14. **Background Papers**

14.1. Emails received in response to the consultation process.

15. **Appendices**

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