

Committee: Electoral Working Group

Agenda Item

Date: 28 October 2014

4

Title: Review of polling districts and places:
Final proposals for a revised polling scheme

Author: Peter Snow

Item for decision

Democratic and Electoral Services Manager

Summary

1. Members are invited to consider final proposals for a revised polling scheme, to be recommended to Full Council on 11 November 2014. Since the last meeting of the Electoral Working Group, stage 2 consultation has taken place, and site visits to assess potential polling places and buildings have been undertaken. This report informs members of the outcome of these site assessment visits; reports on the small number of further representations which have been received under the stage 2 consultation and presents draft final proposals for consideration.

Recommendations

2. To recommend to Full Council adoption of final proposals and statement of reasons for a revised polling scheme, as set out in appendix A to this report.

Financial Implications

3. *There are no financial implications arising from this recommendation:*

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

All papers referred to have already been published.

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	By publication on the Council's website and by direct consultation with all interested parties
Community Safety	No direct impact

Equalities	Take account of the need to designate where possible only fully accessible buildings
Health and Safety	See under Equalities above
Human Rights/Legal Implications	The Council must comply with legislation in conducting compulsory reviews
Sustainability	No impact
Ward-specific impacts	All wards
Workforce/Workplace	No implications

Situation

6. At the previous meeting of the working group on 18 September the group evaluated representations received during stage 1 consultation and considered proposals for a revised polling scheme. A draft proposed scheme of polling arrangements was agreed and published for stage 2 consultation. The proposals were published on the Council's website and consultees notified and encouraged to submit comments.
7. The stage 2 consultation started on 22 September and will close on Friday 24 October. At the date of preparation of this report, seven further representations have been received. Copies are attached to this report at Appendix C. Any further representations which are will be supplied to members at the meeting. Members are requested to refer also to the packs of representations supplied at the previous meeting (comprising the main bundle of representations circulated with the agenda plus a smaller set of representations which were tabled at the meeting).
8. Officers undertook site visits to those potential polling places which were the subject of proposals in representations. Reports of site visits are attached as Appendix B.
9. Members are invited to consider the final proposals and information relating to specific polling places where representations have been received and site visits made. In order that the final scheme may be adopted prior to the publication of the revised electoral register on 1 December 2014, members are asked to approve the final polling scheme proposals and statement of reasons and to recommend their adoption by Full Council on 11 November 2014.

Risk Analysis

10.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
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3 – the purpose of the review is to identify suitable arrangements for polling in every polling district	2 – action may be needed to change polling places in some areas and to identify new places where ward boundaries have changed	3 – the impact of continuing to operate an unsuitable polling scheme would be significant	Full consultation and proper examination of all potential polling premises as part of the statutory review
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1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.