

POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS REVIEW

To: Council

Date: 18 July 2019

Author: Chief Executive/Electoral Services Officer

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1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To advise Members of the commencement, process and timetable for the review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to note the process and timetable for the review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations commencing on 30 July 2019.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 Under section 18C(1) of the Representation of the People Act [RPA] 1983, local authorities must carry out and complete a review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the period specified by Section 18C(2)(a) of the RPA 1983 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.. A compulsory review must be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020. However, this does not prevent changes being made at any time before the next full statutory review in October 2023. The Returning Officer has carried out two similar reviews in the last 2 years, arising from changes to the County Electoral Divisions and District Council Wards within this District resulting from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) reviews of the electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council. Therefore, he has no new proposals to make for this full review, outside of issues relating to individual Polling Places identified from the recent District and Parish Elections and the European Elections.

3.2 As part of the review, all District and County Councillors for East Cambridgeshire; Parish Councils; local MPs; Political Parties; Returning Officers for Parliamentary Constituencies that fall within East Cambridgeshire boundaries; the local Disability Access Group; and the County Council will be consulted. In addition, the public are notified via public notices, together with information on the Council's website. The consultation must seek comments from people who have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have disabilities. Any elector may make

representations. The Returning Officer also will take into consideration responses received from Presiding Officers, Poll Clerks and Polling Station Inspectors arising from the local and European Elections held in May 2019. 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.

3.3 The timetable for the review is as follows:

Notice of start of review - 30 July 2019
 Council publishes the Returning Officer's proposals – 30 July 2019
 Consultation on proposals ends on – 30 September 2019
 Report to full Council – 17 October 2019
 Adoption by Council – 18 October 2019
 Arrangements come into force at the publication of the next revised Register of Electors – 1 December 2019

3.4 The proposals by the Returning Officer will be detailed in a 'Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Background Information and Returning Officer's Proposals' document, to be published on the Council's website and circulated to all consultees, including District Councillors, on 30 July 2019.

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 (EIA) will be completed as part of the review process.

5.0 APPENDICES

None

<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