

COUNCIL – 3RD SEPTEMBER 2018

Report of the Chief Executive

ITEM 6.2 REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

Purpose of Report

To present a proposal to undertake the required compulsory review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the Borough.

Recommendation

That a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations within the Borough be undertaken, to commence on 1st October 2018, with final proposals being reported for decision at the scheduled Council meeting on 21st January 2019.

Reason

To comply with the requirements of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, and to ensure that any amended arrangements for polling districts, polling places and polling stations are in place in time for the Borough elections on 2nd May 2019.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced changes to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. The next compulsory review must be started and completed between 1st October 2018 and 31st January 2020 (inclusive).

The last such review was undertaken in 2014, and the recommendations were agreed by Council at its meeting on 10th November 2014 (minute reference 46.2).

The Chief Executive, in his capacity as the (Acting) Returning Officer for Parliamentary elections, considers that it would be beneficial to commence the review on 1st October 2018, so that any amended arrangements arising from the review can be in place for the Borough elections on 2nd May 2019.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

As set out in the recommendation, a further report setting out recommendations for appropriate arrangements will be brought to the Council meeting scheduled for 21st January 2019.

A period of public consultation will be included as part of the review, and relevant parties will also be informed and given an opportunity to comment on the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals before they are finalised, including MPs, Borough and County Councillors, political parties, and parish and town councils.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

The review can be undertaken from within existing budgets.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this decision.

Background Papers: Electoral Commission guidance on reviews of polling districts, polling areas and polling stations

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/electoral-administrator/polling-place-reviews>

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