

Name of meeting: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 13 September 2019

Title of report: Compulsory Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations

Purpose of report

The Council is required, periodically, to undertake a review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations. The (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals in connection with the review (undertaken by Electoral Services) are set out in the attached report (Appendix 1).

The Committee is asked to consider the (Acting) Returning Officer's report, to approve the boundary changes proposed and to note the (Acting) Returning Officer's determinations in relation to Polling Stations.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	No.
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	Yes
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	Rachel Spencer Henshall: 13 August 2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director (Finance)?	Eamonn Croston: 14 August 2019
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Julie Muscroft: 12 August 2019
Cabinet member portfolio	Corporate Cllr Graham Turner

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: All

Public or private: Public

Have you considered GDPR? Yes, there are no GDPR implications arising from the content of the report.

1. **Summary**

The location of proposed polling districts and polling places is the responsibility of the local authority and the location of the polling stations within them is the responsibility of the (Acting) Returning Officer.

Kirklees Council has, historically, designated the whole polling district as the 'polling place'. This approach allows flexibility for the (Acting) Returning Officer to select different buildings within the polling district, enabling last minute changes to polling stations prior to an election if that becomes necessary. Ward councillors are always consulted at the time of any change of a polling station in such circumstances.

In preparing her submission, the (Acting) Returning Officer has considered the accessibility levels of the current polling stations, information received from polling stations as part of their evaluation of facilities at recent elections, comments received from various individuals/groups as part of the recent consultation process and any comments received from electors. The evaluation of all polling stations is an on-going process at all elections.

All relevant Ward Members have been consulted on any proposed changes.

Only minor amendments have been proposed by the (Acting) Returning Officer to existing polling districts with no new polling districts being created.

2. **Information required to take a decision**

The paper attached to the report at Appendix 1 details the (Acting) Returning Officer's final proposals to council in respect of the above review, as required by the Electoral Administration Act 2013 and the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006.

It is the Council that determines the polling district boundaries within wards. Legislation requires that the (Acting) Returning Officer submits recommendations in relation to boundary changes for approval by the Council. The Council has delegated decision making on boundary changes to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee.

Decisions are required on the proposed boundary changes affecting:

- CL08/CL02
- DE02/DE03
- MF04/MF05
- AB01

The (Acting) Returning Officer has personal responsibility for determination of the location of polling stations within those boundaries.

A list of existing polling stations is also attached for information at Appendix 2. Those polling stations affected by this review are highlighted.

3. **Implications for the Council**

There are no specific implications for the council other than the requirement to provide the most suitable polling districts to enable the (Acting) Returning Officer to provide polling stations which are as convenient and accessible as possible to electors.

Financial implications: the proposed changes to boundaries are cost neutral.

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

All Ward Councillors, Members of Parliament, Constituency political parties and local disability groups have been consulted. Their responses are included in the attached report.

The consultation was also promoted through 'Involve' section of the council's website where members of the public were asked for their views.

Reponses received are attached to this report.

5. **Next steps and timelines**

If the report is approved, the Electoral Registration Officer will make appropriate amendments to the Register of Electors in relation to the alteration of polling district boundaries referred to in the (Acting) Returning Officer's submission and these will take effect on publication of the next annual electoral register.

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

The (Acting) Returning Officer and Electoral Services Manager recommend that the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee approve the proposals in the report attached at Appendix 1 in relation to polling district boundaries and note the (Acting) Returning Officer's determinations in relation to the changes to location of polling stations, for the reasons detailed in the report.

7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

8. **Contact officer**

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9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Background papers attached:

- Polling District and Polling Station Review 2019 – (Acting) Returning Officer's submission (Appendix 1)
- List of polling stations detailed where polling station will change and accessibility levels (Appendix 2)

10. **Service Director responsible**

Rachel Spencer Henshall