

| REPORT TO | ON |
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| COUNCIL | 27 NOVEMBER 2019 |



| TITLE | PORTFOLIO | REPORT OF |
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| Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places | Leader of the Council | Assistant Director of Scrutiny and Democratic Services |

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| Is this report a KEY DECISION (i.e. more than £100,000 or impacting on more than 2 Borough wards?) | Yes |
| Is this report on the Statutory Cabinet Forward Plan ? | Yes |
| Is the request outside the policy and budgetary framework and therefore subject to confirmation at full Council? | Yes |
| Is this report confidential? | No |

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This review, which local authorities are required to undertake every five years, refers to the review of polling districts and details the proposals for the polling places which will be used for all future elections from the Police and Crime Commissioner elections to be held on 7 May 2020.

PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the polling districts and polling places as indicated in Appendix 1 attached to this report be confirmed.
3. That the Chief Executive be authorised to determine any unforeseen changes to polling places which become necessary for future elections.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

4. Every five years local authorities are required to undertake a review of all polling districts and polling places and the next review has to be completed by 31 January 2020. The review seeks to ensure that all electors have reasonable facilities for voting in elections and every polling place is accessible to electors who are disabled.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

5. The new polling districts and polling places will come into effect for all future elections from the Police and Crime Commissioner elections to be held on 7 May 2020.
6. When undertaking the review consideration had to be given to the existing Parliamentary, County, Borough ward and Parish/Town Council boundaries. In addition, all polling places must be designated so that they are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district. The electorate figures used were the current electoral figures available but took account of any potential development to be completed within the next five years.

CORPORATE OUTCOMES

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (tick all those applicable):

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| Excellence, Investment and Financial Sustainability | |
| Health, Wellbeing and Safety | X |
| Place, Homes and Environment | |

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

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| Our People and Communities | X |
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BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

8. Council last considered a report concerning polling districts and polling places in January 2015. Therefore, a review needs to be undertaken before the end of January 2020.

PROPOSALS (e.g. RATIONALE, DETAIL, FINANCIAL, PROCUREMENT)

9. The proposals recommend changes to polling places/polling districts within Broadfield, Broad Oak, Buckshaw & Worden and Howick & Priory wards. The other 19 wards remain unchanged.
10. As part of the review, a new polling place was required in the Buckshaw & Worden Ward following the demolition of Wellington Park and there is a proposal to stop using an existing polling place within the Broadfield Ward. The report also proposes changes to polling districts within the Broadfield, Broad Oak and Howick & Priory Wards. Detailed reasons for all these proposals are contained within Appendix 2.
11. As the review is being undertaken, officers have also taken the opportunity to amend the polling district codes. These codes were designed to try and assist with understanding the new wards following the Review of Ward Boundaries which were introduced in 2015. The new codes are contained within Appendix 1.

12. From time to time changes are required to polling places before the next review is undertaken e.g. buildings being demolished or no longer being available. To deal with such situations it is requested that the Chief Executive continues to be authorised to determine any unforeseen changes to polling places which become necessary for future elections.

CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION

13. A consultation exercise has been undertaken with the public, borough councillors and neighbouring councils affected by the proposals. The consultation period ran from 14 August 2019 to 25 October 2019.
14. The proposals have also been available on the Council's website for members of the public to comment on or propose alternative polling places.
15. Three responses were received, with no objections to the proposals. However, one suggested the Civic Centre as an alternative to Prospect House for Buckshaw & Worden Ward. As the Civic Centre is further away from the majority of electors, and other venues were more suitable, it was not considered a suitable option.
16. All councillors were consulted regarding the proposed polling places and polling districts within their current wards. 29 out of the 49 councillors responded to the consultation but raised no objections.
17. Part of South Ribble borough falls within the Ribble Valley Parliamentary Constituency and therefore Ribble Valley Borough Council were consulted. They raised no objections to the proposals.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

18. As this review has to be undertaken by all local authorities every five years the council must undertake a review of polling districts and polling places.

AIR QUALITY IMPLICATIONS

19. Not applicable

RISK MANAGEMENT

20. The council would be failing to meet its statutory obligations if appropriate polling places are not designated.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPACT

21. The proposed polling places have been inspected to ensure that they provide fair access for all.

RELEVANT DIRECTORS RECOMMENDATIONS

22. As recommended in paragraphs 2 and 3.

COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

23. The review has been undertaken from within existing resources and there are no financial implications.

COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

24. There is a statutory requirement contained in the Representation of the People Act 1983 (Section 18) to formally designate polling places.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

There are no background papers to this report.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Appendix 2 – Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

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