

Report to Pennines Township Committee



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| Date of Meeting | 12 th June 2018 |
| Portfolio | Councillor Liam O'Rourke, Cabinet Member for Resources |
| Report Author | Clare Poole |
| Public/Private Document | Public |

Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

Executive Summary

- 1.1 The statutory review of Polling Districts and Polling Places is due to begin and the consultation period will start on 2 July 2018.
- 1.2 Elected members play an important role in the consultation and participation is required to contribute to the recommendations.
- 1.3 A final report on any recommendations arising from the review will be taken to full Council on 17 October 2018 for approval.

Recommendation

2. All townships to contribute to the review of Polling Districts and Polling places and make any recommendations to the review.

Reason for Recommendation

- 3.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2013 included a new provision altering the timing of statutory reviews of parliamentary polling districts and polling places. This meant that all local authorities were required to complete a statutory review between 1 October 2013 and 31 January 2015.
- 3.2 Subsequent compulsory reviews must be started and completed within the period of 16 months that starts on 1 October of every fifth year after 1 October 2013.
- 3.3 This review must be completed and implemented by the end of December 2018, so for the changes to be included in the register on 1 December this year, Full Council must consider and confirm the proposals at their meeting on 17 October 2018.

Key Points for Consideration

- 4.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2013 requires electoral registration officers to review the borough's polling districts and places every 5 years.

- 4.2 The process requires a period of public consultation which will start on 2 July 2018.
- 4.3 Members role in contributing to the review is the local knowledge and links they have with the local communities of their wards to develop the most appropriate alignment of polling district boundaries and polling stations with the most suitable facilities to serve the electorate.
- 4.4 To allow for efficient publication of the register of electors, including any proposed alterations to polling districts, Council will be required to consider any amendments in October so that they can be included in the annual revision of the register of electors on 1 December.
- 4.5 Any changes to polling stations will be implemented in time for the local elections in 2019.
- 4.6 Any alternative polling districts or polling stations proposed during the consultation period will be considered.

Costs and Budget Summary

5. No direct financial implications.

Risk and Policy Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.
- 6.2 There are no workforce equality issues arising from this report.
- 6.3 There will be equality/community impact assessments completed during the consultation process on the proposals made.
- 6.4 The formal commencement of the review requires the local authority to give notice of the holding of a review and there are statutory requirements in respect of the display and publishing of the notice.
- 6.5 A 'review' means all the steps set out in Schedule A1 to the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Consultation

- 7.1 Public consultation will start on Monday 2 July until Friday 27 July.
- 7.2 All elected members, MP's and local political party offices will be contacted during the consultation period inviting them to make submissions.
- 7.3 Other interested parties will be contacted inviting them to make submissions – disability groups, community groups, voluntary organisations etc.
- 7.4 Details of the consultation will be on public deposit at Number One Riverside, Customer Service Centres in Heywood, Middleton, Milnrow and Littleborough and available to view on the council's website.
- 7.5 Final recommendations will be made for Full Council approval on 17 October.

| Background Papers | Place of Inspection |
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| 8. None | N/A |
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