

Report of the Chief Executive to the meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 21 October 2014

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Subject:

Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations 2014

Summary statement:

This report details proposals in respect of the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations, for consideration by Council and as required by law.

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Chief Executive

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is in respect of the review of polling provision and makes proposals for change, if necessary. It contains a summary of the findings and the Returning Officer's recommendations affecting polling district boundaries, polling places and polling stations.
- 1.2 The proposals in this report are put forward for consideration by Council and as required by The Representation of the People Act 1983, The Electoral Administration Act 2006, The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Regulations 2006 and The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council is required, by law, to review its polling districts, polling places and polling stations by 31st January 2015, in accordance with The Representation of the People Act 1983, Section 16 of The Electoral Administration Act 2006, The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places Regulations 2006 and The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. The previous review took place in 2011.
- 2.2 The review is undertaken to help improve polling provision and in particular to seek to ensure that:
- all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
 - so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to those who are disabled and
 - when considering or reviewing polling places, regard is given to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.
- 2.3 The Returning Officer is responsible for the provision of polling stations within polling districts and must make representations to the Council with regard to his proposals for suitable polling districts and stations within the electoral wards of Bradford.
- 2.4 The review commenced on 1st July 2014 with a consultation exercise, inviting representations to be submitted by 1st August 2014. Representations were sought from members of the public, elected Members, MPs, Parish/Town/Community Councils and disability/community groups.
- 2.5 Taking into account the submissions made, proposals were published on 15th August 2014 and a second consultation exercise, on those proposals was undertaken, inviting representations by 22nd September 2014. All Members were informed of the proposals and invited to comment.
- 2.6 Consideration was also given to the individual polling districts, polling places and polling stations, in line with the legislative requirements.



- 2.7 Following the consultation exercises and consideration of the comments received, the summary of proposed changes to polling districts, polling places, polling stations and recommendations, attached at Appendix A in this report, were prepared to be brought to Council for the meeting, 21st October 2014.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Council approval is required before any changes can be incorporated into the Electoral Register. In order to make changes to the Electoral Register to be published by the statutory date of 1st December 2014, approval is required at the meeting, 21st October 2014. Council is asked to consider the proposals made.
- 3.2 Following Council approval, the outcome of the review will be published, together with all representations made.
- 3.3 Changes made to polling districts, polling places, or polling stations will become effective for elections where the Notice of Election occurs after 1st December 2014.
- 3.4 It is the Council that designates a polling district as the polling place. This enables the swift activation of emergency changes to polling stations within a polling district, close to an election, when needed. This is the purpose of the option outlined at paragraph 9.2.

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 The proposals, if approved, will achieve annual spending reductions in the region of £7340, which contributes to the Council strategy to use money wisely and which does not disproportionately affect electors or political parties.
- 4.2 The proposals, if approved, will contribute to increase resource effectiveness where the same polling station is used for more than one polling district, by combining polling districts, with no affect upon electors.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

None.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

- 6.1 In approving the specific options, the Council would be compliant with the legislative requirements identified in this report.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

- 7.1.1 The accessibility of a building is considered as part of the selection process for all



polling stations. The rationale for these changes took into consideration the benefits of alternative voting arrangements offered by postal and proxy voting and accessibility, both in general terms and also under the Equalities Act 2010.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

7.2.1 The proposals do not involve continued additional financial expenditure, or additional resources and in any event the arrangements are reviewed annually to make appropriate adjustments in line with electoral law.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

7.5.1 Enshrined in electoral law. No adverse impact.

7.6 TRADE UNION

None.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

7.7.1 No implications for ward boundaries.

7.7.2 Please see Appendix A, the summary of proposed changes to polling districts, polling places, polling stations and recommendations, which is as a result of the consultations.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

None.



8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. OPTIONS

Council is asked to consider the report and to;

- 9.1 Approve the proposed changes to the polling districts, polling places and polling stations, set out in Appendix A of the report.
- 9.2 Approve the designation of the whole polling district as the polling place, referred to at paragraph 3.4.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the proposed changes to the polling districts, polling places and polling stations be approved.

That the designation of the whole polling district as the polling place, be approved.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Summary of Proposed Changes and Returning Officer's recommendations.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- 12.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983, The Electoral Administration Act 2006, The Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Parliamentary Elections) Regulations 2006 and The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.
- 12.2 Representations received during the consultation stages of the review.



Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places & Polling Stations 2014

Summary of Proposed Changes & Returning Officer's Recommendations

* Returning Officer referred to as RO in the table below *

Appendix A

<u>Polling District</u>	<u>Ward Name</u>	<u>Existing Polling Station(s)</u>	<u>Submissions/ Proposals</u>	<u>Notes</u>	<u>Recommendations</u>
1B 1C	Baildon	Ian Clough Hall Moravian Sunday School	RO's submission - to move from using the Moravian Sunday School to the Ian Clough Hall for both 1B & 1C	Ian Clough Hall is across the road from the Moravian Church (a zebra crossing by the roundabout links both buildings) and is large enough to accommodate electors from both areas. Ian Clough Hall has a large car park and is a well-known community facility.	Proposal Recommended
1G 1H	Baildon	Baildon Community Link Mobile Station at Junction of Southlands/ Denby Drive	RO's submission - merge polling districts 1G and 1H and use the Baildon Community Link for both polling districts	No suitable venue is available in 1H and therefore, a mobile station has previously been hired, which is costly and does not provide a good voting experience for electors. The turnout at the last election was 27% (187 electors voted out of a possible 702) at this mobile station, at a cost of £8 per elector. Baildon Community Link is large enough to accommodate the additional electors from 1H. Estimated saving of £1730.	Proposal Recommended
1E/1F	Baildon	Church of St James	RO's Submission - merge polling districts 1E and 1F	The previous polling station for 1F (caretakers bungalow at Hoyle Court Primary) was demolished. At the last election electors in 1F	Proposal Recommended

				voted at the station in 1E (Church of St James). This was successful and no objections were received from residents. Propose to merge 1F with 1E and retain the polling station at the Church of St James.	
2F	Bingley	St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Request from school to look at alternative room in the school to allow school to remain open	In discussion with the school to determine whether the proposal is workable.	Currently under review and subject to Member & RO approval
5A	Bowling	Duke of Edinburgh Centre	RO's submission - re-align boundary	Slight realignment of the boundary for 5A, to include the polling station at the Duke of Edinburgh Award Centre within the polling district boundary for 5A. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended
5E 5F 5K	Bowling	Methodist Church, Brompton Rd	RO's submission – merge polling districts 5E, 5F& 5K	Electors within these 3 polling districts already vote at the same polling station. Resource effective to administer as 1 polling district rather than separately. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended
5F/5G	Bowling	Ebenezer Methodist Church Brompton Road Methodist Church	Recommendation received regarding the boundary including Lister Avenue	One side of Lister Avenue is currently in 5F and the other in 5G. Proposal to move the whole of Lister Avenue into 5G.	Proposal Recommended

7D	City	Grange Interlink Community Centre	To move from using the Grange Interlink Community Centre to polling station within the University of Bradford campus. University of Bradford and Bradford Student's Union expression of interest to host a polling station on campus	Bradford University have identified a suitable location for our use as a polling station. Proposal to move station from Grange Interlink to the University. This will be more central within 7D, improve convenience for electors and encourage students to vote. In addition, slight re-alignment of the boundary for 7D to ensure majority of the students fall within this area and therefore can cast their vote at the new proposed venue.	Proposal Recommended
11B	Great Horton	New Testament Church of God, Necropolis Road	Suggestion received to look at new rooms at same location which have better disabled access	Review undertaken – Improved access for electors.	Proposal Recommended
14C	Ilkley	Mobile Station	RO's submission – revert back to using scout hut	Mobile station was a temporary replacement for the station at First Ben Rhydding Scout Group Hut due to building work, which is now completed. Estimated saving of £1500.	Proposal Recommended
15A 15C	Keighley Central	North Beck House	RO's submission – to merge polling districts 15A/15C	For many years electors from both polling districts have voted at North Beck House. Resource effective to administer as 1 polling district rather than separately. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended

15E 15F	Keighley Central	St Marks Church Mobile Station, Arctic Street	RO's submission – to merge polling districts 15E/15F	Mobile station is costly. The residential area in 15F is largely close in proximity to the boundary of 15E. 191 electors voted in person at the mobile station at last election at a cost of £7.85 per elector. The 563 electors in 15F can be merged with 15E to vote at St Marks Church that was at a cost of £0.95 per elector in the 2014 elections. Estimated saving of £1500.	Proposal Recommended
16H 16J	Keighley East	Hainworth Wood Community Centre	RO's submission – to merge polling districts 16H/J	For many years electors from both areas have voted at this station. Resource effective to administer as 1 polling district rather than separately. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended
17D 17E	Keighley West	Nessfield Primary School	RO's submission- to merge polling districts 17D/17E	Currently, electors from both polling districts vote at same station. Resource effective to administer as 1 polling district rather than separately. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended
18F 18K	Little Horton	West Bowling Youth Centre	RO's submission – to merge polling districts 18F/18K	Electors from both polling districts already vote at same station. Resource effective to administer as 1 polling district rather than separately. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended
18G 18L	Little Horton	St Stephen's Primary	RO's submission – to merge polling districts 18G &18L	Electors from both polling districts already vote at the same station. Resource effective to administer as 1 polling district rather than separately. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended

18H 18M	Little Horton	St Stephen's Primary Newby Primary School	RO's submission – to merge polling districts 18H & 18M and use Newby Primary School as the polling station	Both 18H and 18M form part of the same parish ward and can be merged together to form a single polling district with combined electorate of 1459 electors. Resource effective to administer together rather than separately. Proposal for electors for the combined polling district to vote at Newby Primary School.	Proposal Recommended
22A 22B	ShIPLEY	Mobile Station, Titus Salt School St Hugh's Church	RO's submission – to merge 22A & 22B	Both small polling districts in terms of electors. 22A requires a mobile station to be hired at a cost of £12 per elector. Merge together and use St Hugh's Church for voting (current cost per elector £1.80). Combined electorate of 1214. Estimated savings of £1730.	Proposal Recommended
23A	Bethel Baptist Church	Thornton & Allerton	Request received to amend the address of the polling station	To amend the address of the polling station from Haworth Road to Cottingley Road to reflect the most used entrance for the premises and one which also has disabled access.	Proposal Recommended
28B 28C	St Cuthbert's Church Hall	Windhill and Wrose	RO's submission – to merge 28B & 28C	Electors from both polling districts have voted for many years at the same station. Resource effective to administer to 1 polling district rather than separately. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended
28B 28C	St Cuthbert's Church Hall	Windhill and Wrose	Suggestion received regarding using United Reform Church as alternative to St Cuthbert's	The main entrance at St Cuthbert's is via stone steps that can be slippery. The ramp access is via a different car park route. United Reform Church is a suitable venue and proposal is to use this for next year's election.	Proposal Recommended

28F 28G	Windhill Community Centre	Windhill & Wrose	Proposal received to merge 28F & 28G from ward Members	Electors from both polling districts already vote at the same station. Resource effective to administer to 1 polling district rather than separately. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended
29A	The Lamb Inn	Worth Valley	Issue raised regarding the access route to the polling station at the Lamb Inn	Rural location and no other alternative venue. Undergrowth to be cleared to allow unimpeded access to polling station.	Proposal Recommended
30A	St Matthew's CE Primary School	Wyke	Suggestion received to look at Bradford Bulls Stadium as an alternative	Current polling station, St Matthew's Primary School, is outside the ward and is some distance from 30A. In addition, there is significant increase in new housing developments requiring a review of the location of a polling station. Adequate venue identified at Bradford Bulls for use at next year's election.	Proposal Recommended
30F 30J	Wyke Christian Fellowship	Wyke	RO's submission – to merge 30F & 30J	Electors already vote at the same polling station. Resource effective to administer together rather than separately. No change for electors.	Proposal Recommended