

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive

Summary:

- 1.1 To seek Area Committee views on the current polling arrangements within the area in order to inform the Polling District review currently underway.

Information:

- 2.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires Councils to undertake regular reviews of all polling districts and polling places in its area. The Act provides that the next review must be held between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020. Subsequent reviews must be every five years within a sixteen month period beginning with 1 October 2023.
- 2.2 Given the timetable of electoral registration and election activity during 2018 and 2019 the review is being undertaken at the earliest opportunity ie commencing on 1 October 2018. This will allow any proposed changes to be included on the electoral register to be published on 1 February 2019 and brought into effect for the local elections in May 2019.
- 2.3 The responsibility for designating polling districts is for the council to determine. In drawing up polling district boundaries the Council must ensure that all electors in the area have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- 2.4 The Council must also designate a polling place for every polling district. This is usually within the boundary of the polling district unless there are special circumstances eg lack of suitable buildings.
- 2.5 In designating polling places, the Council must:
 - a) Seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
 - b) Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility

needs of disabled persons. There should be no barriers to voting for people with a disability. Access issues identified by SCOPE and Disability Stockport will be considered as part of the review. The review will include recommendations where applicable as requested in the motion passed at the Council meeting on 18th January 2018 and will be referred to in the findings.

- 2.6 The polling station is the actual area where the voting takes place ie the room or area where electors cast their vote. The Returning Officer is responsible for designating the polling station which must be within the polling place agreed by the Council.
- 2.7 The attached schedule sets out details of the current polling places for this area, including the total electorate at September 2018 and the number of electors that are eligible to vote in person ie excluding postal voters.
- 2.8 The timetable for the review is set out below.

Activity	Date
Publish Notice of Commencement of Review	1 October
Seek views from interested parties (including Returning Officer for Denton & Reddish Constituency)	1 October
Corporate Leadership Team	16 October
Area Committees	5 – 9 November
Deadline for comments on existing scheme	9 November
Publish Returning Officer representations	19 November
CRMG Scrutiny Committee	4 December
Area Committees	10-13 December
Cabinet	18 December
Council meeting	17 January 2019

Recommendation:

- 3.1 The views of the Area Committee are sought on the existing polling arrangements. Any comments or suggestions will then be considered and a recommended scheme brought back to the Area Committee in December for consideration prior to submission to**

the Cabinet on 18 December 2018 and full Council on 17th January 2019.

Background papers: - Anyone wishing to discuss the report or examine the background papers should contact Caroline Cooke or Gulderen Harwood on 0161 474 3173