

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS

Report of the Chief Executive

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To seek the views of the Committee on the current proposed polling arrangements within the area in order to inform the Polling District Review currently underway.
- 1.2. The first stage of the public consultation on the Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations opened on 7 July 2022 and closes on 18 August 2022. Members are encouraged to submit their comments on the proposals either directly to officers by email to localwardboundary@stockport.gov.uk via this area committee, via a meeting with officers or via the consultation portal online [Polling District Review - Stockport Metropolitan Borough Citizen Space - Citizen Space](#).
- 1.3. The decisions on designation of polling districts, places and stations has been delegated from the Council Meeting to the Chief Executive under Article 8 of the Council's constitution. Members' views are of course encouraged and welcomed given their valued local knowledge of their own wards and all views will be taken into consideration when coming to a decision, in addition to those of the public.
- 1.4. Once the decision has been taken all electors will be written to, to update them on any change to their polling district and/or polling station. This will be in addition to the usual poll card and further communications to residents via the usual communication channels the council uses.
- 1.5. There may be some instances where we have created some very small polling districts as part of the proposals included in this report. These have been created to enable supply of the relevant parts of the registers councillors are currently entitled to. This is because the revised electoral register for the new wards, following the Local Government Boundary Review, will be published on 1st December 2022. However, by law, currently elected Councillors will not be entitled to copies of the register for the new wards until they become a candidate for the 2023 Local Elections, as the new wards devised by the LG BCE are not the electoral areas Councillors have been elected to represent at this time. Councillors will still be entitled to the annual register and monthly updates for the old wards which they are currently elected to represent.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has undertaken a review of the Council's electoral arrangements and made recommendations for new warding patterns, to be used for the May 2023 Local Elections onwards.
- 2.2 Accordingly, a review of polling districts should be undertaken to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for May 2023, relating to polling district

boundaries within wards and the polling stations that will serve these new districts. This review will cover the drawing of new polling district boundaries within wards, and the designating of polling places to serve those districts.

- 2.3 Schedule A1 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 prescribes the statutory steps for an authority conducting a polling district review.
- 2.3 The responsibility for designating polling districts is a Council Meeting function which has been delegated to the Council's Chief Executive under Article 8 of the Constitution. 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 e.g. a lack of suitable buildings. This is a Council Meeting function which has also been delegated to the Council's Chief Executive under Article 8 of the Constitution.
- 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. Any access issues identified by Disability Stockport will be considered as part of the review.
- 2.6 A polling district is a sub-area, an electoral area (such as a ward or constituency) is divided into, for the purposes of delivering an election. A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be located. A polling place within a polling district must be designated so that polling stations are within easy reach of all electors from across the polling district. The polling station is the actual room or area where the voting takes place.
- 2.7 Some of the proposed polling districts are smaller in these proposals than in the previous electoral arrangements for the Council. The reason for this is to enable publication of the Electoral Register on the new boundaries on the 1st December 2022 while retaining the ability to provide currently elected Councillors with copies and updates of the register into 2023.
- 2.8 The timetable for the review is:-

Activity	Date
Publish Notice of Commencement of Review	Published
Commencement of Stage 1 of public consultation on proposed polling districts	7 July 2022

and polling places	
Seek views from interested parties (including Returning Officer for Denton & Reddish Constituency)	7 July – 18 August 2022
Report to all Area Committees	1 – 4 August 2022
Deadline for comments on initial proposals	18 August 2022
Commencement of Stage 2 of public consultation on revised proposals	25 August – 7 October 2022
Deadline for comments on revised proposals	7 October 2022
Report to all Area Committees	12-16 September 2022
CRMG Scrutiny	11 October 2022
Cabinet	1 November 2022
Council Meeting	17 November 2022

3. CURRENT PROPOSALS

- 3.1. A map of the proposed new polling districts and polling places is available on the Council website below:-

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/review-of-polling-districts-and-polling-places-2022>
- 3.2. Due to the nature of the ongoing feedback being received via the consultation portal, a verbal update on the number of responses and types of responses will be provided at the Area Committee as that information will have likely changed following the publication of the agenda for this committee.
- 3.3. Below are details of the current proposed polling districts and places for the wards covered by this Area Committee, including the total electorate for each district:-

MARPLE AREA COMMITTEE
POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES
AUGUST 2022

* Denotes double station

Marple North (MN)

Proposed arrangements		
Polling District	Total Electors	Polling Place
MN1	1536	Ludworth and Mellor Women's Institute
MN2	561	Visitors Centre, Etherow Country Park
MN3	1586	Marple Senior Citizens Hall
MN4	1692	Rose Hill Primary School
MN5	1050	Jubilee Methodist Church Hall
MN6	1520	Mellor Sports Club
MN7	1704	Rose Hill Primary School

Marple South & High Lane (MH)

Proposed arrangements		
Polling District	Total Electors	Polling Place
MH1	1379	High Lane Library *
MH2	1266	High Lane Village Hall
MH3	1225	Hawk Green Reading Room
MH4	490	St Paul's Church Schoolroom
MH5	1767	Marple United Reform Church *
MH6	1019	Guide Hut
MH7	1652	Marple United Reform Church *
MH8	1203	High Lane Library *

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1. The views of the Area Committee are sought on the proposed polling arrangements. Any comments or suggestions will then be considered, together with those received via the public consultation (Stage 1 and Stage 2). Revised proposals will be brought back to the Area Committee cycle in October 2022 for consideration prior to a final report being considered by the Cabinet Meeting on 1 November 2022 and the Council Meeting on 17 November 2022.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Vicki Bates on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 3219 or alternatively email vicki.bates@stockport.gov.uk or caroline.bell@stockport.gov.uk