



DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	28 SEPTEMBER 2022	6
REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2022			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

To consider the Returning Officers proposals arising from the review of polling districts and polling places within the Borough of Fylde.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To authorise the Returning Officer recommendations included in the attached schedule.
2. To authorise the Returning Officer to make amendments to polling districts and polling places, where required, prior to the next statutory review.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The last full review of polling districts and polling places in the Borough was undertaken in 2018. The Returning Officer recommendations were approved.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

REPORT

1. Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 and section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the Council has a duty to divide the borough into polling districts and to designate polling places for each district. It also has to keep these arrangements under review.
2. Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 requires each local authority to carry out a review of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places in its area.
3. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has recently published final recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Fylde Council. The Fylde order has now passed Parliamentary scrutiny; therefore a review of polling districts and polling places is required to be in place for the local elections scheduled for May 2023. The new polling districts will form part of the new Electoral Register due to be published on 1 December 2022.

4. The Council has powers to change polling places and polling district boundaries but not ward boundaries. These are defined as follows:

A **Polling District** is the geographical sub division of an electoral ward. The Council is responsible for dividing its area into polling districts for UK Parliamentary elections and for keeping polling districts under review.

When designating polling districts, the Council must:

- Seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
- Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place is accessible to electors who have disabilities.

A **polling place** is the building in which a polling station is located.

A **polling station** is the actual area where the process of voting takes place, and must be located in the polling place designated for the particular polling district.

5. In preparing the review, officers have scrutinised areas and where necessary identified alternative polling district areas and polling places located within the new wards.

In considering the suitability of polling places the following factors have been taken into account – the availability of suitable premises, accessibility, public safety and location in relation to the centers of population within the area.

6. During the consultation many comments and suggestions were made from members of the public, Parish and Town councils and local ward councillors. Officers have investigated all options and made changes where necessary. All comments together with the Returning Officers final recommendation is included in the attached schedule.
7. From time to time, due to building works being carried out, or for other reasons, designated polling places become unavailable for a particular election. In these circumstances, it is recommended that the Returning Officer be authorised, following such consultations as she considers appropriate, to make any changes necessary, therefore, to use alternative locations prior to the next statutory review.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	None
Legal	None
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022	1 September 2022	Maps and Street lists available on the Fylde website.

Attached documents

Review of polling districts and polling places Returning officer schedule.