

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	19 SEPTEMBER 2023	13
REVIEW OF UK PARLIAMENTARY POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES 2023			

PUBLIC ITEM

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

RELEVANT LEAD MEMBER

This item is within the remit of Lead Member for Finance and Resources (Councillor Ellie Gaunt).

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

In accordance with The Representation of the People Act 1983 each local authority is required to carry out a review of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places in its area every five years. Fylde Borough Council's next review will be carried out from **1 October 2023**.

RECOVERABILITY

This decision is not recoverable because it relates to:

- A recommendation to the council

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To endorse the review of polling districts and polling places commencing of 1 October 2023 in accordance with statutory requirements and note that the final recommendations will be submitted to the Council for adoption on 18 December 2023.

REPORT

1. A public consultation will begin on 1 October on the proposed Polling districts and polling places for 1 month. Any feedback will be published throughout the review together with comments from the Returning Officer.
2. The "Notice of Review" and "Schedule of proposed polling districts" are attached to this report for information. Ward maps and street indexes can be viewed on the Council's website at www.fylde.gov.uk from 1 October.
3. 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.

4. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election.
5. Representations are particularly being sought from individuals/groups with an interest/knowledge of the accessibility needs of disabled persons. Such as Age concern, Society for the blind, Society for the deaf, Disability centre Councillors, Parish Councillors, MP and Libraries. Feedback from the 2023 elections will also be considered.
6. The consultation will end on **31 October 2023**.
7. Since the last review in 2018, the Boundary Commission for England has published new UK Parliamentary constituencies whereby a change was proposed to the existing Fylde constituency in order to bring it within the permitted electorate range (no smaller than 69,724 and no larger than 77,062), resulting in the Borough of Wyre wards of Breck, Hardhorn with High Cross, and Tithebarn to be included in the Fylde constituency. These three wards comprise the town of Poulton-le-Fylde and this also enables the Fylde constituency to no longer include wards from the City of Preston. The new constituency will be called **Fylde County Constituency**.

The Fylde County Constituency brings the Fylde electorate just over 75,000, with an additional number of polling districts, polling places and polling stations to consider and comment. Fylde Council will conduct the element of the review of polling places and polling stations within the Fylde Borough Council boundaries whilst Wyre Council will conduct its own review of those contained within the town of Poulton-le-Fylde. The Returning Officer for Fylde will collate any comments received in relation to the Wyre review once instigated by that authority and feedback to Wyre's Returning Officer.

8. Following the consultation period, the Returning Officer will publish any representations throughout the review and proposed changes in November 2023. Final recommendations will be submitted to the Council for adoption on 18 December 2023 and will be in place for the next Parliamentary election. The new polling districts will form part of the new Electoral Register due to be published on 1 December 2023.

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	√

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

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The last full review of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places in the Borough was undertaken in 2018. Followed by an interim local review in 2022. The Returning Officer recommendations were approved.

BACKGROUND PAPERS REVELANT TO THIS ITEM

Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places / Maps / Street lists	1 October 2023	www.fylde.gov.uk

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Hazel McNicoll	hazel.mcnicoll@fylde.gov.uk 01253658516	8 August 2023

Attached documents

Notice of Review

Schedule of proposed polling districts

Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

In accordance with The Representation of the People Act 1983 each local authority is required to carry out a review of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places in its area every five years. Fylde Borough Council's next review will be carried out from **1 October 2023**.

We are looking for feedback on any aspect of polling districts and polling places currently used and invite representation and comments from interested persons.

Local political parties and Councillors will be consulted and views are invited from electors within the Borough of Fylde as well as such persons as may have particular expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for persons who have different forms of disability.

The consultation period for the review will commence on 1 October 2023 and end on 31 October 2023.

Unlike polling districts and polling places, which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the relevant Returning Officer for the election. Anyone wishing to make representations, should, if proposing alternative polling stations, provide details of alternative premises that may be used as a polling place.

Information on the proposed polling districts and polling places can be found on the Council's website at www.fylde.gov.uk or from the Town Hall at the address provided below from the 1 October 2023.

Representations should be sent to the Electoral Services Manager by 31 October 2023 to the address below:

Electoral Services Manager
Fylde Borough Council
Town Hall
Lytham St Annes
FY8 1LW

E-mail - electoral@fylde.gov.uk

Representations are particularly being sought from individuals/groups with an interest/knowledge of the accessibility needs of disabled persons.

If you have any queries or require further information on this review, please contact the Electoral Services Team on 01253 658658.

Tracy Manning
Returning Officer

Dated 1 October 2023