

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

1. Purpose of Report

To ask the Committee to recommend to Council the proposed changes to polling places as set out in the appendices to the report.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to RECOMMEND to Council that the proposed changes to the designation of polling places set out in Appendix 2 be approved.

3. Detail

At the Governance, Audit and Standards Committee on 23 September 2024 a report was noted regarding the proposed arrangements for a review of polling districts and polling places. The purpose of this review was specifically to consider changes to two polling places but comments from any interested party were also welcomed on all other existing polling districts and polling places. Following a public consultation during October 2024, just one representation was received, this is shown in **Appendix 1**, along with (Acting) Returning Officer comments. No representations were received regarding the current polling district boundaries.

Appendix 2 details the proposed amendments to polling places. The changes are recommended following preliminary consultation work, feedback from polling staff and current polling places being no longer available. The new polling places will need to be designated by Council so that they are effective for the elections in May 2025 onwards.

4. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications to consider at this stage with activity being contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications going forward, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

5. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Representation of the People Act 1983 places a legal duty on the Council to carry out a review of polling districts and polling places within each parliamentary

constituency in its area. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews.

Chapter 3 Part 1 of the Scheme of Delegation in the constitution allows the Chief Executive to make necessary changes to polling stations at short notice before an election with any permanent changes being approved at Full Council.

6. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

7. Union Comments

Not applicable.

8. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

11. Background Papers

Nil.

Appendix 1

Representations Received During Public Consultation

| Reference | Connection to polling district | Polling District(s) commented on | Representation | (Acting) Returning Officer Comments |
|-----------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| PDR/001 | Ward Councillor | KIM2/3/4 KIM5 | <p>KIM2/3/4 - Kimberley Parish Hall is to be demolished and rebuilt over the next year. It will not be available in May 2025.</p> <p>KIM5 - Hollywell School is no longer available, older people must make their way down to Kettlebrook Lodge. Not aware of an alternative location.</p> | <p>Kimberley Parish Hall was not available for the elections in May 2024 so Rumbletums Café was successfully used on that occasion. This location could be used again for the election in May 2025.</p> <p>Hollywell School was used as a polling place until 2019. Following building works in the school they felt they could no longer accommodate a polling station. No complaints have been received by the Council directly regarding the new station at Kettlebrook Lodge. It will be kept under consideration and should an appropriate location be found it will be reconsidered at a future review.</p> |

Appendix 2

Recommended Changes to Polling Places

| Ward/Polling District/Current Polling Station Electorate | Current Polling Place | Proposed Polling Place | Comments |
|--|---|---|---|
| Beeston West BEW2 / BEW3 Polling Station Electorate: 927 / 638 | Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall, Foster Ave, Beeston | The Pearson Centre, Nuart Road, Beeston | Our Lady of the Assumption Church Hall was no longer available as a polling station so a replacement polling place was required for elections in 2024. The Pearson Centre was identified as a suitable alternative. It has good level access and facilities and is close to the previous polling place. It has been used twice with no issues reported and positive feedback from polling staff. |
| Toton and Chilwell Meadows TCM1 Polling Station Electorate: 1,454 | Coronation Hall, Portland Road, Toton | Lombardy Lodge, Portland Road, Toton | Lombardy Lodge was used as a polling place for many years. It moved to Coronation Hall in 2021 when COVID-19 requirements meant that it was preferable to have more space. In May 2024 polling staff raised concerns regarding lighting and access at Coronation Hall so Lombardy Lodge was used for elections in July 2024. The feedback from staff and voters confirmed that this was a better venue and being a Council property it is free of charge. |
| Kimberley KIM2 / KIM3 / KIM4 Polling Station Electorate: 1,071 | Kimberley Parish Hall, Newdigate Street, Kimberley | Rumbletums Café, Newdigate Street, Kimberley (on a temporary basis) | Kimberley Parish Hall is not available in 2025 due to it being redeveloped. Rumbletums Café was used successfully as a polling station in May 2023 and feedback from the polling staff on this occasion was positive. The Café is very close to Kimberley Parish Hall and has good access. |