

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 8(a)
15 JANUARY 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive and Acting Returning Officer Fiona McMillan – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	N/A	
Contact Officer(s):	Mark Emson – Electoral Services Manager	Tel. 01733 452282

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Chief Executive and Acting Returning Officer</i>	Deadline date: 31 January 2020
<p>It is recommended that Council approves the following changes to polling districts, places and stations as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Way Family Church, The Green, Werrington, to be assigned as the dedicated polling station for the GUN1 (Gunthorpe Ward) Polling District. 2. Peakirk Village Hall to be assigned as the polling station for the GLC (Glinton and Castor Ward) polling district. 3. A mobile unit to be sited in the Elm Tree Tavern Car Park and used as the polling station for the PAR2 (Park Ward) polling district. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 For Council to consider the revised polling districts, polling places and polling stations following the recent Polling District Review.

2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006) introduced a duty on all local authorities to review their UK polling districts and polling places at least once every four years. The Council's first review was undertaken in 2007.
- 2.2 A consultation on the new polling districts and polling places began on 1 October 2019 and ended on 31 October 2019. The consultation included local political parties, district ward councillors, local MP's, parish councils, disability awareness groups, neighbouring authorities and electors. Notice of the consultation is given at Appendix 1.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 A petition with 158 signatures was submitted to full Council on 24 July 2019 expressing support for a dedicated polling station within the GUN1 polling district. Brookside Methodist Church is located in GUN4 and used by both GUN1 and GUN4 electors. As a result of the Petition, the Acting Returning Officer's proposals for consultation recommended that a Mobile Unit be located in the Werrington Lodge Care Home Car Park in GUN1.

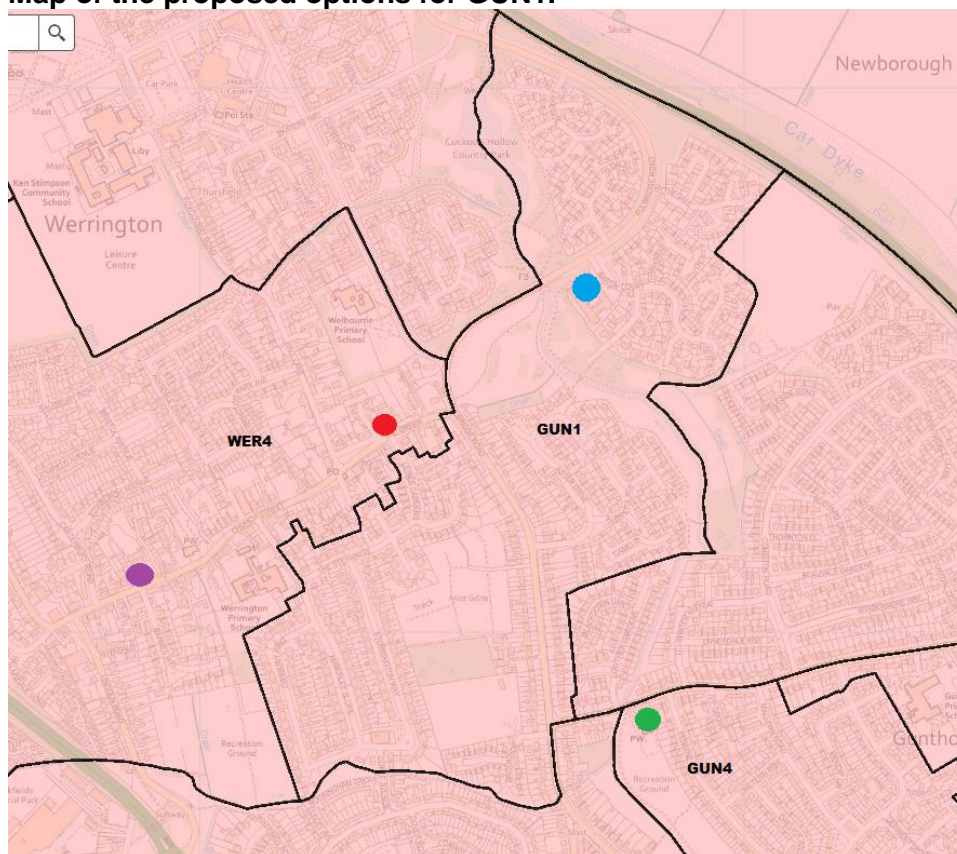
3.2 The consultation has provided feedback from interested parties.

3.3 All consultation issues have been responded to separately. Four representations were received against the proposals to place a Mobile Unit within the Werrington Lodge Care Home Car Park to provide a dedicated polling station for GUN1. Lack of parking at the Care Home was the primary reason given for all four objections.

One representation was received in favour of these proposals, noting the distance between parts of GUN1 and the GUN4 polling station at Brookside Methodist Church as a key reason for the need for a dedicated polling station for GUN1. This representation noted the concerns regarding parking at Werrington Lodge and suggested that an alternative site should be found if possible while acknowledging the lack of obvious suitable sites in GUN1.

3.4 Following the representations received regarding GUN1, the Acting Returning Officer elected to propose that The Way Family Church, The Green, Werrington be used as a polling place for the GUN1 polling district. Although not located within the boundaries of GUN1, it would allow for a shorter travelling distance for the majority of electors. This proposal was supported by Werrington Neighbourhood Council. Ward Councillors were consulted on this proposal and no objections were raised.

3.5 **Map of the proposed options for GUN1.**



Brookside Methodist Church

Werrington Lodge

The Way Family Church (TO BE TAKEN FORWARD)

Werrington Village Centre (polling station for WER4)

3.6 One representation was received suggesting alterations to the boundaries of Central Ward. The respondent was advised that reviewing ward boundaries could only be done as part of an official review conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) and was beyond the scope of a Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review. The representation also suggested a change of polling station for FLW1 from the Dragonfly Hotel to the Quaker House on River Lane. This was rejected due to the Quaker House being located in

a different polling district (CEN4) and a suitable venue is already located within the FLW1 polling district.

- 3.7 A final representation was received expressing no objection to any of the proposals.
- 3.8 No representations were received against proposals to use Peakirk Village hall for GLC or a Mobile Unit in the Elm Tree Tavern Car Park for PAR2 instead of the main building. The Acting Returning Officer therefore elected to propose these changes to Council.

- 3.9 The timetable for this review:

Notice of start of review – 1st October 2019

Council publishes the (Acting) Returning Officer's Proposals – 1st October 2019

Consultation on this proposal ends on – 31st October 2019

Proposal to be submitted to Full Council for approval– 15th January 2020

4. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 4.1 Setting up a polling station at the Way Family Church would cost upwards of £1,200 to hire, equip and staff for polling day.

Setting up a mobile polling station in the Elm Tree Tavern Car Park would incur a cost of approximately £4,000 compared with £1,200 for a conventional polling station.

The Council does not receive any additional funding to support mobile polling stations for local elections so this will need to be funded from the Local Government Elections Budget.

Legal Implications

- 4.2 As part of a review the Council must seek to ensure (a) that all electors in a constituency in the city have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances and (b) that so far as is reasonable and practicable every polling place and polling station is accessible to electors who are disabled.

Equalities Implications

- 4.3 The Electoral Commission, while not having a direct responsibility for the review, can intervene where it considers that the reasonable requirements of electors or the needs of disabled electors have not been taken in account.

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 4.5 The use of a small diesel generator will be required for the running of the mobile unit located at the Elm Tree Tavern, this will have a slight negative effect on carbon impact.

5. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 5.1 None.

6. APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations by Peterborough City Council 2019

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