

<b>COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 13 (d)</b>
<b>16 OCTOBER 2024</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Report of:	Neil McArthur – Director of Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr Mohammed Jamil – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Governance	
Contact Officer(s):	Mark Emson, Electoral Manager Rachel Edwards, Head of Constitutional Services	Tel. 01733 452282

**REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, PLACES AND STATIONS**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <i>Matthew Gladstone – Chief Executive and (Acting Returning Officer</i>	<b>Deadline date:</b> <i>31 January 2025</i>
<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"> <li>1. To move the electors located within the GLC polling district back to Glington Village Hall as this is the closet polling station that falls within the same constituency and ward boundaries.</li> </ol>	

**1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 For Council to consider the proposed polling districts, polling places and polling stations following the recent Polling District Review.
- 1.2 Following the implementation of the new Parliamentary constituency boundaries. It is proposed to move the electors located with the GLC polling district back to Glington Village Hall for voting purposes, as this is the closet polling station that falls within the same constituency and ward boundaries.

**2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 Section 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 and Section 17 of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 *introduced a duty on all local authorities to review their UK polling districts and polling places at least once every five years. The Council's last review was undertaken in 2019.*
- 2.2 A consultation on the new polling districts and polling places began on 09 August 2024 and ended on 09 September 2024. 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. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 3.1 Sustainable Future City Council
  - How we Work
  - How we Serve
  - How we Enable

Further information on the Council's Priorities can be found here - [Link to Corporate Strategy and Priorities Webpage](#)

### **Environment and Climate Change**

There is no anticipated impact to carbon emissions. The relocated polling station is not expected to impact travel emissions due to the small number of electors.

The review process is ongoing; any further amendments will be subject to a carbon impact assessment.

## **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Details of the existing arrangements and the (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals for the change formed the basis of this review and feedback was invited from any elector residing within the Council area or any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability as well as local political parties, MPs, city councillors and parish councils.
- 4.2 Representations received about the existing or proposed arrangements and their accessibility for electors are laid out below (all consultation issues have been responded to separately):
- 4.3 Five representations were received by electors concerning the polling station allocated to polling district HAH3. The current polling station is located at Hampton Hargate Community Room which has been suggested as being too far for the electors residing within HAH3 polling district to walk to. Following these representations, the Acting Returning Officers has made enquiries about the use of School buildings located within the HAH3 polling district and will continue to monitor the situation for all future polls.
- 4.4 Two representations were received regarding the location of the polling station for the electors residing in polling district PAR2. The current location of the polling station is PARCA Unity Hall on Northfield Road which is located at the south of the polling district which is quite far away from electors residing in the north of the polling district. The electors were advised that PARCA Unity Hall on Northfield Road, it is the only building we have been able to hire within the polling district of PAR2. In previous years, we have hired a room at the former St Georges School and sited a mobile unit in the car park of the Elm Tree Tavern. With neither of these options available to us anymore and the fact that all the other premises we have contacted are unwilling for us to hire them out, we will continue to use PARCA Unity Hall until a suitable alternative can be found.
- 4.5 One representation was received regarding the location of the polling station for polling district ORL1 where we currently use Orton Hall Hotel. The representation came from an elector with mobility issues who stated that the room used as a polling station as too far from the car park. The Acting Returning Officer advised that enquiries would be made to see if any rooms closer to the car park could be used for future polls.
- 4.6 One representation was received suggesting alterations to the boundaries of Central/Park wards. 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

## **5. IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no additional financial implications as a result of this review.

### **Legal Implications**

5.2 The legal implications are set out in the report.

### **Equalities Implications**

5.3 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.

## **6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

6.1 *Appendix 1 – Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations by Peterborough City Council 2024*

## **7. APPENDICES**

7.1 Appendix 1 – Review of Polling Districts, Places and Stations by Peterborough City Council 2024

