

<b>COUNCIL</b>	AGENDA ITEM No 15 (b)
<b>7 DECEMBER 2011</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

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## REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council approves the polling districts and polling places as set out at Appendix A.

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a duty on all local authorities in Great Britain to review their Parliamentary polling districts and places at least once every four years. The Council's last review was undertaken in 2007. Polling districts and places for local government elections are not automatically part of this review. However, reviews of local government polling arrangements should nevertheless be conducted simultaneously with a review of UK parliamentary arrangements.
- 1.2 Under Electoral Law, the (Acting) Returning Officer rather than the Council is responsible for the designation of polling stations. However, polling districts and polling places are fixed by the local authority and under the terms of this review, the decision regarding approving any recommendations fall to the Council.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A polling district is a geographical area created by the sub-division of a constituency, ward or division into smaller parts.
- 2.2 A polling place is the building or area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer
- 2.3 A polling station is the room or area within the polling place where voting takes place. Unlike polling districts and polling places which are fixed by the local authority, polling stations are chosen by the (Acting) Returning Officer for the election.
- 2.4 The polling districts and places that are recommended for adoption are set out at page six to nine of Appendix A.

## 3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council has a statutory duty to carry out a review of polling districts and places every four years. The last review was carried out in 2007 and a further review has now been completed. The latest review included a statutory consultation process where the Council engaged with key stakeholders, visits to all 91 polling stations to assess facilities and accessibility arrangements and further inspections of alternative venues where necessary. The Council is now satisfied that it has a comprehensive list of fully accessible venues that are conveniently located for electors in the area and allow the most effective throughput of voters without compromising the secrecy of the ballot.

#### **4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

4.1 All materials have been published as part of the report.