

Report subject	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Meeting date	5 November 2019
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To seek adoption of the new polling district and polling place boundaries following a review across the BCP Council area.
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that Council:</p> <p>(a) Approves the minor amendments to specific polling district boundaries within Alderney & Bourne Valley Ward, Bearwood & Merley Ward, Canford Cliffs Ward and Queen's Park Ward as set out in Appendix 3.</p> <p>(b) Agrees to combine polling districts in Highcliffe & Walkford Ward (HW2 & HW3), Musliff & Strouden Park Ward (MS7 & MS8), Parkstone Ward (PS2 & PS3) and Poole Town Ward (PT4 & PT5) to make one larger polling district in each case to effect an alignment of the average electorate per polling station across the BCP Council area.</p> <p>(c) Agrees to continue to designate the entire Polling District as the Polling place for that Polling District.</p>
Reason for recommendations	To comply with the relevant legislation and create more appropriate polling districts to ensure voters are allocated to their closest polling place where possible and to provide electors with suitable and accessible places to vote.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Vicki Slade, Leader of the Council
Corporate Director	Julian Osgathorpe - Corporate Director of Resources.
Report authors	<p>Matt Pitcher – Head of Elections, Land Charges & Registration Services</p> <p>Debbie Kirkby – Electoral Services Manager</p>
Wards	All
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The Representation of the People Act 1983 Section 18c (as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 Section 17) introduced a duty for all parliamentary polling districts and polling places to be reviewed every 5 years. The review must be undertaken between October 2018 and January 2020. The review that has been undertaken meets this requirement.
2. This report and the appendices set out the (Acting) Returning Officers Final Recommendations for polling districts and polling places as a result of this review.
3. The Electoral Commission provides guidance on the review process, which has been taken account of during the review and in the formulation of the recommendations
4. This report is presented to Council as part of its remit in relation to Polling Districts and Polling Places carried out under the Representation of the People Acts.
5. Council is also asked to note that it is the responsibility of the (Acting) Returning Officer to designate actual polling stations for each election or referendum.

Summary of financial implications

6. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

7. The Council has a legal duty under the relevant legislation referred to in this Report to undertake this review and consider the outcomes to reach a formal decision as to the appropriate designation of Polling Districts and Polling Places. Council is therefore required to consider the outcome of the review and reach a decision following the review.

Summary of human resources implications

8. There is a requirement to make the changes contained within this report if agreed, but this can be undertaken within current officer time.

Summary of environmental impact

9. There are no environmental impacts arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

10. There are no public health implications arising from this report

Summary of equality implications

11. The equality implications of proposed changes have been considered during the review to ensure that the impact of the changes and options on specific groups are taken into account.

Summary of risk assessment

12. Carrying out this review reduces the risk of using unsuitable polling stations. The Council is legally required to carry out this review and thus not to do so is a significant risk.

Background papers

None

Appendices

Appendix 1: Notice of review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.

Appendix 2: Representations received from individuals during the consultation period

Appendix 3: (Acting) Returning Officer's Final Recommendations report containing statistical data on the current arrangements from the last election in May 2019 along with summaries of any comments and suggestions from the consultation stages.

Appendix 4: Copies of Ward maps where changes are recommended.