

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	26 September 2023
Title of Report:	Polling Districts, Place and Stations Review 2023
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Glenda Favor-Ankersen
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Your Reference:	PDPPR 2023 I
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To seek the Committee's support of the 2023 Polling District, Places and Polling Station Review to formally commence in October 2023.

Plymouth City Council has a duty under the Representation of the People Act 2013 to conduct a review of all the Polling Districts, Places and Polling Station in its area every five years. The last review of Polling District and Polling Places took place in 2018.

Under electoral legislation the review period must start in October 2023, and be completed within 16 months of this. Each local authority may choose the exact dates and length of the review; however it must fall within this window. The statutory review period is from 1 October 2023 to January 2025.

Recommendations and Reasons

For the Audit and Governance Committee to note and support the start of the 2023 Polling District, Places and Polling Station Review in October 2023 which will enable Plymouth City Council to fulfil its statutory requirement and for the review to be administered alongside the Local Government Boundary Commission electoral review that will also start in October 2023.

Reason:

The council is required, by electoral legislation, to complete a full review of all polling districts, places and stations every five years.

The review will seek to ensure

- that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places are accessible to all electors, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons.
- that polling places are within their polling district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area outside the polling district.

Alternative options considered and rejected

To not undertake the Polling Districts, Places and Polling Stations Review. This would mean that the council will not be fulfilling its statutory duty.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The Corporate Plan commits the Council to engaging with and listening to our residents, businesses and communities. The Council's values include a commitment to Plymouth being a place where people can have their say about what is important to them, and where they are empowered to make change happen. The recommendations of this report seek to deliver these commitments in respect of a key element of the Council's democratic arrangements.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The costs associated with a public consultation and analysis of the results, likely to be in the region of £5k will be met from within existing revenue resources.

Financial Risks

N/A

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Subject to the decision of Council in June 2022, the consultation will take place largely on-line, reducing reliance on printed media, although paper copies will be available where necessary.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

An equalities impact assessment will be undertaken to ensure that the review and consultation process of the review is carried out with due regard to facilitating participation by those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
		<i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Briefing report							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)
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	<i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Glenda Favor-Ankersen											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes. Giles Perritt Date agreed: 18/09/2023											