

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	12 March 2024
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

The attached report presents draft recommendations for the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review 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.

This review of polling places and polling districts began in October 2023. An initial recommendations report was published for consultation on Monday 6 November on our website, social media channels and shared with our key stakeholders. The consultation phase of the Polling District and Polling Station Review ended on Monday 18 December 2023.

The review considered representations from local residents and stakeholders in the city, including any issues regarding access to premises or facilities for persons with disabilities.

It is the Returning Officer's role to select the polling stations. It will be Full Council which will make decisions on any proposed changes to polling districts or polling places. The final scheme for polling arrangements will be adopted by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Council's constitution.

The recommendations of the 2023 Polling District and Polling Places Review (PDPPR) will be part of the supporting documents that will inform the review of local ward boundaries which the Local Government Commission of England (LGBCE) began this year. The final recommendations of the LGBCE review, once approved by Parliament, will automatically initiate a new PDPPR to be undertaken. The newly initiated PDPPR will use the new ward boundaries and changes will be implemented at the 2026 Council elections.

Recommendations and Reasons

To note the draft proposed recommended changes to polling stations as set out in the Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2023 Recommendations Report, for the reasons set out in that report. The

final recommendations for Council to approve will be brought to a later Audit & Governance Committee.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None. The review is mandatory, and the recommendations are based on consultation against a range of criteria.

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:

N/A

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	Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2023 Recommendations 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)						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	CH 04.03. 24 1446	Leg	LS/00 0010 75/4/ AC/4/ 3/24	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Asset s	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 04/03/2024											