

Date of meeting:	16 September 2024
Title of Report:	Polling Districts, Places and Stations Review 2023
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Tracey Lee (Chief Executive)
Author:	Glenda Favor-Ankersen
Contact Email:	Glenda.favor-ankersen@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	PDPPR 2024 I
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The attached report presents final recommendations for the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review 2023/2024.

Local authorities must comply must comply with legislation about location and accessibility of polling districts and polling places. The mandatory review process is set out in the Representation of People Act 1983, and includes a public consultation. We are required to review every five years, and this review must be completed by January 2025.

In compliance with the legislation, the current review of polling places and polling districts began in October 2023, and initial recommendations report was published for consultation on Monday, 6 November 2023. The consultation phase of the Polling District and Polling Station Review ended on Monday, 18 December 2023 and included views from elected members, local residents and stakeholders in the city, including any issues regarding access to premises or facilities for persons with disabilities.

Draft proposed recommended changes to polling stations was submitted to and noted by Audit & Governance committee on 12 March 2024.

Recommendations and Reasons

- I. To note the 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.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- I. 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:

The changes of polling districts boundaries are not expected to have environmental implications. Polling stations are located, as much as possible, centrally within each polling district to minimise the need for travel.

The use of mobile polling stations is also kept to a minimum (need only basis). This is expected to improve the environmental impact of each election. Mobile polling stations are powered by diesel generators which emit carbon dioxide, but also cause other environmental issues, such as noise pollution. The installation and recovery of mobile polling stations also involves deployment of large delivery vehicles and their associated environmental impact. Conversely, permanent polling stations are not expected to generate additional pollution.

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.*

The risk register for this review is available as background paper to this report. The decision to use mobile polling stations on a "need only" basis is expected to have a positive impact in respect to accessibility, health and safety.

Although most mobile polling stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there is still ongoing concerns due to the inherent characteristics of mobile units, such as their narrow/elevated entrance and limited internal area. Minimum use of mobile units would therefore improve our ability to meet our duties under the Equalities 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							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							

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)						
	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.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
IA Briefing Note PDPPR 2023							
IB Business Case PDPPR 2023							
IC PDPPR 2023 Risk Register							
ID Polling District Review Methodology							

Sign off:

Fin	DJN. 24.25. 078	Leg	LS/00 0033 90/5/ LB/05 /05/2 4	Mon Off	Click here to enter text.	HR	Click here to enter text.	Asset s	Click here to enter text.	Strat Proc	Click here to enter text.
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Glenda Favor-Ankersen											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Choose											
Date agreed: Date.											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Tudor Evans 'approved by email'											
Date approved: 06/09/2024											