

Date of meeting:	16 September 2019
Title of Report:	Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review
Lead Member:	Councillor Peter Smith (Deputy Leader)
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Emmanuelle Marshall
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Your Reference:	PDPR 2020
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The attached report presents our final recommendations for the Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review for 2019/2020.

Local authorities must comply with legislation about the location and accessibility of polling districts and polling places. The mandatory review process is set out in the Representation of the People Act 1983, and includes a public consultation. We are required to review every five years, and this review must be completed by 31 January 2020.

In compliance with the legislation, the current review of polling places and polling districts began in October 2018, and an initial recommendations report was published for consultation on Monday 5 November 2018. The consultation phase ended on Friday 14 December 2018, and included views from local residents and stakeholders in the city, including any issues with access to premises or facilities for people with disabilities. The review also took into account the impact of the next four years' worth of planned residential developments on existing electoral arrangements.

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

The polling districts, polling places and polling stations finally decided on will be used for the May 2020 Local and Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

Recommendations and Reasons

To approve the proposed changes (PD1 to PD30) to polling districts set out in the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Recommendations Report, starting at page 4 of that report for the reasons set out in that report.

To note the proposed changes to polling stations (PS1 to PS35) set out in the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Recommendations Report, starting at page 4 of that report.

Alternative options considered and rejected

The review is mandatory, and the recommendations are based on extensive consultation, as required by the Representation of the People Act 1983.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This report complies with statutory obligations and requirements and supports Plymouth City Council's corporate values of being democratic, responsible and fair.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The Council reviewed value for money considerations and is recommending the reduction in the number of mobile polling stations from 13 to 8 which will result in a saving of a maximum of £10k, subject to ongoing monitoring.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The changes of polling district boundaries are not expected to have environmental implications. Polling stations are located as centrally as possible within each polling district to minimise the need for travel. The reduction in the number of mobile polling stations is expected to improve the environmental impact of each election. Mobile polling stations are powered by petrol generators which emit carbon dioxide, but also cause other environmental issues, such as noise pollution. The installation and recovery of mobile polling station also involves the deployment of large delivery vehicles, and their associated environmental impact. Conversely, permanent polling stations are not expected to generate additional pollution. Replacing mobile polling station by permanent ones will result in a reduction in the carbon footprint of each election.

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 a background paper to this report. The reduction in the number of mobile polling stations is expected to have positive implications in respect of accessibility and health and safety.

Although mobile polling stations are suitably equipped to enable access for all voters (ramps and handrails for disabled access) there are still ongoing concerns due to inherent characteristics of mobile units, such as their narrow entrance and limited internal area. Reducing the number of mobile units would therefore improve our ability to meet our duties under the Equalities Act 2010.

Although all essential staff welfare facilities are provided in mobile polling stations, transferring some polling stations from a mobile unit to a permanent location is expected to have a positive impact on the welfare of polling station staff during elections.

Appendices

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	OFFICIAL Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Recommendations Report							
B	OFFICIAL Equality Impact Assessment Polling Review 2018 v0.1							

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) <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
IA OFFICIAL Briefing Note PDPR 2018							
IB OFFICIAL Business Case PDPR 2018							
2 OFFICIAL PDPR 2018 Risk Register V0.03							
3 OFFICIAL Polling District Review Methodology V3							
4A OFFICIAL 2018 Electorate Numbers for each polling station							
4B OFFICIAL 2018 Projected Electorate per Ward							
4C OFFICIAL 20180817 Future Potential Housing Growth 1st April 2017-2034							
4D OFFICIAL 2018 Polling Stations Costs and Attendance							

Sign off:

Fin	pl.19. 20.92	Leg	lt/321 66/2/ 2808	Mon Off	lt/321 66/2/ 2808	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Glenda Favor Ankersen											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 02/09/2019											

Cabinet Member approval:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a distinct "S".

Date approved: 05/09/2019