

Date of meeting:	24 January 2022
Title of Report:	Plympton St Mary Ward: Polling District, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review
Lead Member:	Councillor John Riley (Cabinet Member for Governance, HR, IT and Community Safety)
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Glenda Favor-Ankersen (Head of Electoral Services)
Contact Email:	Glenda.favor-ankersen@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	PDPPR 2021
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The attached report sets out final recommendations for Plympton St Mary Ward's Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Review 2021/2022.

These changes will take effect from the local elections which will be held in May 2022 onwards.

Background

Plymouth City Council's aims are to uphold a high standard of compliance with our statutory duty to keep polling districts, polling places and polling stations under review and to limit the number of schools in the city used as polling stations.

After receiving feedback following the 2021 combined elections on the suitability of and access to Boringdon School as a polling station, a review of the polling districts and places in the Plympton St Mary ward was carried out. The review covered polling districts RB and RC only.

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

In compliance with the legislation, the current review of Plympton St Mary Ward's polling places and polling districts began in October 2021, and an initial recommendations report was published for consultation on 29 October 2021. The consultation phase ended on Friday 10 December 2021, and included views from local residents and stakeholders in the Ward, 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.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. To approve the proposed changes to polling districts set out in Plympton St Mary's Ward, polling districts RB and RC only, set out in the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Recommendations Report at Appendix A
2. To note the proposed changes to polling stations set out in the Polling Districts and Polling Places Review Recommendations Report at Appendix A

Alternative options considered and rejected

No other options considered as the review is mandatory. 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, fair and collaborative.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

No implications. Costs will be met from within existing budgets.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Polling stations are located as centrally as possible within each polling district to minimise the need for travel.

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.*

No implications.

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 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant exemption paragraph number.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations Recommendations Report							

B	Equality Impact Assessment Polling Review 2021								
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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
Plympton St Mary Ward Interim Review of Polling Districts and Polling Stations							
2021 PDPPR Risk Register							

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Glenda Favor-Ankersen (Head of Electoral Services)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 01/11/2021											
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor John Riley (Cabinet Member for Governance, HR, IT and Community Safety)											
Date approved: 12/01/2022											