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**REPORT FOR:           Licensing & General  
Purposes Committee**

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<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 January 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Hugh Peart – Director of Legal & Governance Services
<b>Exempt:</b>	No
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix A Recommendations of the Polling District Review Working Group  Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment

## **Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

In accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 the Council is required to undertake a review of its polling districts and polling places. A Working Group was established to undertake this review and the recommendations of the Working Group are attached at Appendix A.

### **Recommendations:**

The Committee is requested to:

- (i) Approve the recommendations of the Working Group in relation to the individual polling districts and polling places for all future elections up to 2022.
- (ii) Note that following the publication of the final recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) work will now commence on the future polling district and polling places arrangements which will come into effect in May 2022.

## **Section 2 – Report**

The current polling districts and polling places were last reviewed in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 in November 2014.

The Act requires the Council to undertake a review every 5 years.

In February 2019, this Committee agreed to establish a cross party Review Working Group to undertake the review of the polling districts and polling places in Harrow. The terms of reference for the Group and membership were agreed at that time.

The Review Working Group is required to make recommendations on the proposed review to Committee.

The consultation commenced on 1 April 2019 and ended on 12 May 2019. The notice of the review was published on the Council's website and sent to all Members of Council, Members of Parliament for Harrow East, Harrow West and Ruislip Northwood and Pinner Constituencies, The Member of the London Assembly for Brent and Harrow, Key Stakeholders and the Electoral Registration Officer for Hillingdon (in relation to Pinner, Pinner South and Hatch End, Wards).

Representations were received from 3 members of the public in relation to Polling Districts EGB, requesting that the polling stations be moved from Cedar's Children Centre, EJB that the polling station be moved from Whitefriars Children Centre Delivery Site and that EJA polling district should be split.

The Working Group met on 13 July and 9 October 2019 to consider (a) the representations made by the Returning Officer as to the location of existing and proposed polling stations within the existing and proposed polling places and (b) to consider all representations made on the review and any other comments received on the Returning Officer's representations.

The Working Group agreed to recommend that in view of the larger piece of work to be undertaken following the receipt of the final recommendations from the LGBCE that no changes should be made to the current arrangements and that the recommendations as set out in Appendix A should be made to the Committee for approval.

The Working Group requests that the Committee note that work will now commence on the future polling district and polling places arrangements following the publication of the final recommendations from the LGBCE. Recommendations will in due course be submitted to the Committee for consideration and approval.

## Legal Implications

Under s.18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council has a legal duty to undertake a review of polling districts and places every five years. This requirement was introduced in accordance with the provisions Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, with the first review having taken place in November 2014. Each review must be completed within 16 months of 1 October every five years, starting with 1 October 2013. The current review must be completed within 16 months of 1 October 2018 i.e. by 31 January 2020.

## Financial Implications

No funding is available from Central Government to undertake the review. Therefore, all costs associated with the review will be met from within the current Electoral Services budget

## Risk Management Implications

The duty to undertake the review is not included in the Directorate risk register.

## Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed and no potential disproportionate impact has been identified.

## Council Priorities

The accessibility of polling stations enabling all eligible residents to engage in the democratic process contributes to the creating an inclusive and vibrant Harrow, a strong and resourceful community sector, able to come together to deal with local issues.

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sharon Daniels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Chief Financial Officer
Date: 23 December 2019		
Name: Caroline Eccles	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the* Monitoring Officer
Date: 23 December 2019		

Name: Charlie Stewart

Corporate Director

Date: 6 January 2020

**Ward Councillors notified:**

**YES**

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Elaine McEachron, Democratic & Electoral Services Manager  
Tel: 020 8424 1097  
Email: elaine.mceachron@harrow.gov.uk

### **Background Papers:**

Notice of Review  
Polling District Review Ward Booklets

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES
2.	Priorities	YES