REPORT FOR:

Licensing & General Purposes Committee

Date of Meeting:	25 November 2014
Subject:	Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places
Responsible Officer:	Hugh Peart – Director of Legal & Governance Services
Wards affected:	All
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix A - Recommendations of Working Group Appendix B - Equality Impact Assessment

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

In accordance with the 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:

Approve the recommendations of the Working Group in relation to the individual polling districts and polling places for the next four years.



Section 2 – Report

Background

In August 2014, a Working Group was established to conduct the review of the current polling districts and polling places in accordance with the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. The terms of reference for the Group and membership were agreed at that time.

The Review

The Working Group met on 13 and 30 October 2014 to consider the comments from the Returning Officer and officers on the various polling districts and polling places. The recommendations from the working group are set out in Appendices A and B.

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 on the Directorate or other Corporate risk registers.

Equalities implications

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

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

The accessibility of polling stations for enabling everyone to engage in the democratic process contributes to the administration's priorities.

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for communities
- Making a difference for local businesses
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Steve Tingle	X	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 10 November 2014		
Name: Linda Cohen Date: 13 November 2014	X	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

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 - http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/5056/notice_of_review

Polling District Review Ward Booklets - <u>http://www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/download/355/polling_district_review</u>

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	YES
2.	Council Priorities	N/A