

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

Date of Meeting: 21 November 2011

Subject: **Recommendations from the Review
of Polling Districts and Polling
Places Working Group**

Responsible Officer: Hugh Peart – Director of Legal &
Governance Services

Exempt: NO

Enclosures: Recommendations of Working Group
Polling District Review - WTA
Equality Impact Assessment

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

Appendix A sets out the recommendations from the Working Group.

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

2.1 Background

Members will recall that at their last meeting they agreed to set up a Working Group to conduct the review of the current polling district and polling places in accordance with Section 18(C) of the Representation of the People Act 1983.

The terms of reference for the Group and membership were agreed at that time.

2.2 The Review

The Working Group met on 18 and 31 October 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 Appendix A.

2.3 Financial Implications

No funding is available from Central Government to undertake the review. Therefore, all costs associated with the review must be met from within the current electoral services budget.

2.4 Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? **Yes**

Separate risk register in place? **No**

2.5 Corporate Priorities

The Review to be undertaken accords with the Corporate Priority of United and Involved Communities - A Council that Listens and Learns.

2.6 Equality & Diversity

The duty to conduct the review includes a responsibility to ensure that everyone who is entitled to vote can do so with equality of access – from actual arrangements at the polling station (such as provision of ramps and wide doors to enable those voters in a wheelchair to cast their vote) to the polling station being within reasonable proximity to their home address.

An initial Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and is attached.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| Name: Steve Tingle | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer |
| Date: 11 November 2011 | | |
| Name: Matthew Adams | <input type="checkbox"/> | on behalf of the Monitoring Officer |
| Date: 11 November 2011 | | |

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Pauline Ferris, Democratic & Electoral Services Manager

Background Papers: Polling Station Review.

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

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| 1. | Consultation | YES |
| 2. | Corporate Priorities | N/A |

APPENDIX A