

Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 18 December 2018



Subject: Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

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Recommendation:

That the Committee agree that the Governance Select Committee report directly to the Council at its meeting in July 2019, on any proposals arising from the next review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.

1. At its meeting on 23 October 2018, the Governance Select Committee considered a comprehensive report of the Returning Officer reviewing the planning and delivery of the local elections held in May 2018 and addressing other matters related to the responsibilities of the Returning Officer and the Electoral Registration Officer.
2. The Committee was advised that the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 had introduced changes to the timing of compulsory reviews of parliamentary polling districts and polling places and that the next review for the constituencies within the Epping Forest District was required to be completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020. Whilst it is for local authorities to decide when to carry out reviews within the determined period, the Returning Officer considers that the review should commence in January 2019, as this approach will enable the completion of the annual canvass for the Register of Electors for 2018 and allow the completion of the review prior to the commencement of the canvass for 2019.
3. The findings of the review of parliamentary polling districts and polling places and any recommendations arising therefrom, is a matter for the Council to approve. Although the Governance Select Committee would normally recommend the findings of the review to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then to full Council, given the desirability of completing the review by July 2019, the Committee has requested that it be authorised to submit its report directly to the Council in order to ensure that the review timescale can be achieved.
4. The Committee is therefore requested to agree that the Governance Select Committee report directly to the Council at its meeting in July 2019, on any proposals arising from the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.

Resource Implications:

The recommendation of this report seeks to ensure that proposals arising from the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations can be considered on a timely basis.

Legal and Governance Implications:

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Safer, Cleaner, Greener Implications:

There are no implications arising from the recommendations of this report in respect of the Council's commitment to the Climate Local Agreement, the corporate Safer, Cleaner, Greener initiative, or any crime and disorder issues within the district.

Consultation Undertaken:

At its meeting on 23 October 2018, the Governance Select Committee considered arrangements for the next compulsory review of parliamentary polling districts and polling places.

Background Papers:

None.

Impact Assessments:***Risk Management***

The Council's constitution sets out rules for the management of its overview and scrutiny responsibilities.

Equality:

There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations of this report.