

**NON EXEMPT**

## **HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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**Cabinet**

**23 October 2019**

### **Polling Review 2019 of Havant**

Jayne Day – Electoral Services Manager

#### **FOR DECISION**

**Portfolio:** Cabinet Lead for People and Communications - Cllr Lulu Bowerman

Brian Wood, Head of Customer Services

**Key Decision:** No

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#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1. Electoral Services has undertaken a review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations within the Havant Borough.
- 1.2. The purpose of the report is to highlight any changes and recommendations made by Electoral Services during the review period and agree the recommendations before it is taken to Council in December 2019.

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

##### **2.1 Members are recommended to:**

approve and recommend to Full Council on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019, that the following changes to Polling Districts, Polling places and Polling stations within Havant are agreed: -

- Emsworth – Havant Road – No's 1 – 19, 33 – 41 odds, 12 – 16, and 30 evens – move from EC to EE
- Emsworth – Convent Lane – No's 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10 and 12 – move from EC to EE
- Emsworth – Hollybank Lane – move all properties to EB
- All other Polling districts and Polling places will remain the same as 2019 elections, please see appendix A, for a full list of polling stations.

### **3.0 Executive Summary**

- 3.1. Consultation was held throughout August; we contacted Borough Councillors, disability groups and the public. See appendix A for responses.
- 3.2. The Electoral commission recommend that one polling station should not have more than 2500 electors, and therefore we have reviewed all our polling places and stations.
- 3.3. Under sections 18A to 18C of the Representation of the People Act 1983 the council is under a duty to:
  - Divide its area into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary elections
  - Designate a polling place for each such polling district (unless the entire polling district is treated as the polling place), and
  - Keep such polling districts and polling places under review.
- 3.4. Councillors will wish to note that it is the function of the council, and not the Returning Officer, to designate and periodically review the polling districts and polling places in its area. It is, however, the responsibility of the Returning Officer to provide adequate polling stations within the polling district/ polling place so designated by the Council.

### **4.0 Additional Budgetary Implications**

- 4.1. There are no additional financial costs.

### **5.0 Background and relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Directorate Business Plan/s**

- 5.1. Supports Corporate Strategy – Organisation and Society.

### **6.0 Options considered and reasons for the recommendation**

- 6.1. The polling review must be carried out between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 and January 2020. We have decided to conduct the review towards the end of that period to ensure we capture the recent growth of new dwellings within the borough.

### **7.0 Resource Implications**

- 7.1. Financial Implications – There are no financial implications.
- 7.2. Human Resources Implications – There are no human resource implications
- 7.3. The core team consists of a part time Elections Manager and three part-time Electoral Service officers. Additional hours will be worked as in previous years ensure all changes are implemented and future elections run smoothly.

7.4. Other Resource Implication – There are no other resource implications

## 8.0 Legal Implications

8.1. Legal implications – Every relevant authority in the UK is responsible for dividing its area into polling districts

- The council is responsible for the review of Polling districts and places not the Returning Officer
- The Returning Officer is responsible for the allocation of polling stations
- The review applies to the Parliamentary Constituency not the Local Authority, but the local authority deals with the area that is contained within their area

8.2. Relevant authorities must:

- a) Seek to ensure that all the electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances;
- b) Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places they are responsible for are accessible to all electors, including those who are disabled, and when considering the designation of a polling place, must have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons

8.3. In addition, the polling place for a polling district must be within the area of the district unless special circumstances make it desirable to designate an area either wholly or partly outside of the polling district.

The polling place must also be small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach their designated polling station.

Should a relevant authority fail to designate a polling place, the entire polling district will be classed as the polling place for that district.

## 9.0 Risks

9.1. A risk register will be maintained for the Election Project, these are kept and reviewed regularly by the Electoral services core team.

9.2. A risk register is also held corporately which again is reviewed regularly.

## 10.0 Consultation

10.1. The Electoral Services team has completed a consultation exercise with Councillors, Disability groups and the electorate. See Appendix A for responses.

## **11.0 Communication**

11.1. No additional communications are planned

## **12.0 Appendices:**

12.1. Appendix A – a full list of polling stations showing results from the polling review consultation

## **13.0 Background Papers: None**

### **Agreed and signed off by:**

Monitoring Officer: (170919) David Brown  
S151 Officer: (170919) Lydia Morrison  
Director: (170919) David Brown  
Portfolio Holder: (170919) Cllr Lulu Bowerman

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