

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES ARISING FROM RECENT PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW OF NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To consider and approve the review of Polling District and Places requested by Council (minute 2850 refers) required as a consequence of the recent Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) review of electoral arrangements in North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The polling districts and places review will be introduced for the North Lincolnshire Council elections in May 2023, in accordance with the requirements of the Electoral Review.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its Annual Meeting on 18 May 2022, the Council received the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) final recommendations for electoral arrangements in North Lincolnshire following its review. This concluded and finalised arrangements for the election of 43 councillors across 19 wards to commence from the North Lincolnshire Council elections scheduled for 4 May 2023. Council also agreed to commence a consequential review of Polling Districts and Places within the recommended 19 wards, particularly for new wards and where boundaries had been recommended to change by the LGBCE. The LGBCE's review was expected to become law following an Order to be laid before Parliament before the end of October 2022.
- 2.2 The Polling District and Places review has now been completed and the proposals for arrangements for the polling districts and polling places (stations) within the 19 wards are set out in the appendix to the report. This includes known electorate size figures for polling districts which will be updated on 1 December 2022 when the current annual canvass of the electorate for electoral registration is completed and published.

- 2.3 The review gave particular attention to new wards created by the electoral review especially three adjoining wards where boundaries had resulted in streets moving between wards and polling districts within - Ashby Central ward, Kingsway and Lincoln Gardens ward and Ashby Lakeside ward. The details of which are specified in the appended review document.
- 2.4 Apart from the specific changes indicated in paragraph 2.3 above, the review has resulted in few overall changes for polling districts and places within the 19 wards, especially as there were no changes to most wards following the electoral review. As council is already aware, some of the 19 wards have received new names, and now have new corresponding polling district abbreviations and numbers for identification as listed in the appendix. Polling places (stations) located within all polling districts remain in existing current buildings used at recent elections and therefore will remain familiar to voters.
- 2.5 The review of Polling Districts and Polling Places continued to apply associated guidance and standards of the Electoral Commission.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To approve the recommendations of Polling District and Polling Places review as proposed in the appendix to the report and implement for the North Lincolnshire Elections scheduled for 4 May 2023 in accordance with required electoral arrangements of the LGBCE Electoral Review of North Lincolnshire.
- 3.2 To not approve the recommendations of the Polling District and Places Review and therefore not comply with required electoral arrangements of the LGBCE Electoral Review of North Lincolnshire.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Approval of the Polling District and Places Review recommendations will comply with the LGBCE's review of electoral arrangements for North Lincolnshire which soon become law. Approval will also enable the local Returning Officer to continue providing suitable and proportionate polling districts with convenient, accessible and safe polling places (stations) for all voters and elections staff which meet the requirements of Electoral Commission guidance and standards.
- 4.2 To not approve the Polling District and Places Review recommendations will result in non-compliance with the LGBCE's review of electoral arrangements for North Lincolnshire. Suitable and proportionate polling districts with convenient, accessible and safe polling places for all voters and elections staff will not be achieved and not meet associated guidance and standards expected by the Electoral Commission.

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 There are no specific resources implications arising from the review of polling districts and polling places, apart from expected costs of hiring buildings/accommodation from owners/organisations during an election.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 The recommendations of the Polling District and Places Review will continue to meet the required guidance and standards of the Electoral Commission ensuring that suitable and proportionate polling districts with convenient and accessible polling places (stations) provide all voters and elections staff with a safe environment to fulfil their democratic role, experience and responsibilities.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 No conflicts of interest have been identified or declared.

8.2 Both political groups were consulted of the review's draft recommendations prior to being finalised. The final draft recommendations of the Polling District and Places Review have also been published on the council's website inviting comments and observations, and at the time of writing none have been received.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That the recommendations of the Polling District and Polling Places review as proposed in the appendix to the report be approved, and they be implemented for the North Lincolnshire Elections scheduled for 4 May 2023 in accordance with required electoral arrangements of the LGBCE Electoral Review of North Lincolnshire.

DIRECTOR: GOVERNANCE AND COMMUNITIES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) on New Electoral Arrangements for North Lincolnshire Council.