



PART B:	RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL
REPORT TO:	COUNCIL
DATE:	6 MARCH 2014
REPORT OF THE:	COUNCIL SOLICITOR ANTHONY WINSHIP
TITLE OF REPORT:	POLLING DISTRICT, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS REVIEW
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report upon the review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations carried out in accordance with the Council's statutory obligations as prescribed by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Council is recommended to approve the relocation of polling places and polling stations as set out in Annex 1.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Act requires the Council to undertake a review in the period of 16 months beginning with 1 October 2013. It is necessary for the Council to formally approve any proposed amendments to polling places.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 All of the proposed new polling places have been visited and assessed to ensure that they comply with Electoral Commission good practice. No significant risks are posed by the proposed changes. The risk matrix is attached at Annex 2.

REPORT

5.0 BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty on local authorities to carry out and complete reviews of polling districts and places in the period of 16 months beginning with 1 October 2013, and then in the period of 16

months beginning with 1 October of every fifth year after that.

6.0 POLICY CONTEXT

- 6.1 The review links into corporate aim 5, to transform the Council, and in particular strategic objective 9, to know our communities and meet their needs.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation has been undertaken with elected members, electors, local political parties, parish councils, disability awareness groups and local community groups. A period of two months consultation took place, ending on the 30 November 2013. A schedule of consultees is attached at Annex 3. There was then a further period for consideration and comment on the proposals of the (Acting) Returning Officer, which concluded on 31 January 2014.

8.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 8.1 Guidance on the conduct of such reviews was issued by the Electoral Commission in 2013. The Council is required to publish notice of the review. Notice was given on 1 October 2013 by publication on the Council's website and at Ryedale House, parish notice boards and local libraries.
- 8.2 The notice stated that the review commenced on the 1 October 2013 and invited comments and representations from interested parties and bodies. All representations received arising out of the consultation are attached to this report at Annex 4. Such representations have been taken into account in making recommendations for change to the Council.
- 8.3 The Act also places a duty upon the (Acting) Returning Officer to submit recommendations for amendments to electoral arrangements. Such recommendations must be published in the present parliamentary constituency. The (Acting) Returning Officer's recommendations, which took account wherever appropriate of the representations received during the consultation period, were published on 5 December 2013. Copies of the recommendations were published on the Council's website and at Ryedale House, and at local libraries. Members were notified of the publication of the recommendations and which wards they affected. The recommendations are set out in Annex 5.
- 8.4 Wherever possible, the proposals for change have relocated those polling places with inadequate facilities for voters to venues affording better facilities. A schedule outlining the proposed changes is attached at Annex 1.
- 8.5 No changes have been proposed to polling districts and their boundaries.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
There are no significant financial implications arising from the review. Any changes in costs arising from the proposed new polling stations are marginal.
 - b) Legal
The review has been conducted in accordance with legal requirements and

Electoral Commission guidance.

- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)

An equality impact assessment has been conducted. The proposed changes improve access for voters. Any issues can be mitigated by an elector applying for a postal vote or proxy vote. Disabled voters may also be accompanied by a companion at the polling station.

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Background Papers:

Electoral Commission Guidance – Reviews of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations
Notice of Review

Background Papers are available for inspection at:
Democratic Services, Ryedale House