

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has been included in the relevant Forward Plan

**Report of the Executive
Director Core Services**

Statutory Polling District and Place Review 2019

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To give consideration to final proposals arising from a Review of polling districts and polling station provision which the Council is required to undertake under the Electoral Administration Act (EAA) 2006.
- 1.2 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act (ERAA) 2013 introduced a change to the timing of compulsory reviews of UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places. This means that a review must take place between October 2018 and December 2019

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the council designates the polling districts and places listed in Appendix 1 for all Parliamentary and Local elections.
- 2.2 That the council empowers the Returning Officer to make any enforced changes to this schedule as required if buildings become unavailable in consultation with the elected members for the affected ward until the next statutory review.

3. Introduction

- 3.1 Following the resolution of the council in July a consultation was held from Monday 29th July to Sunday 8th September.
- 3.2 We received 135 responses from the public, 12 responses from elected members and 11 responses from parish councils and other community groups and stakeholders. A summary of these responses is attached in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 Overall the responses were very positive with 65% of respondents answering that they were happy with the polling places proposed.
- 3.4 Only nine of the 150 polling places attracted negative comments, all of these were either schools or temporary buildings.
- 3.4 As a result of these responses and following investigations by staff of the Returning Officer four changes from the initial proposals have been made.

These are:

DC – The polling place to remain at the Temporary Building on Grasmere Crescent

JD – The polling Place be changed from Shawlands Primary School to Shaw Lane Sports Club

LF – The polling place to be changed from Shafton Primary School to Shafton Community Centre

QB – The proposed polling place to be Bethel Community Church instead of St John's Church

RD – The polling place to remain at the Temporary Building on Wingfield Road

4. Proposal and justification

4.1 That the council approves the schedule of polling districts and places as listed in Appendix 1.

5. Implications for local people / service users

5.1 There are 10 changes proposed to the current polling station arrangements, four of these changes will release schools from being polling stations and allow them to stay open on election days minimising disruption to pupils and parents.

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are no financial implications for the Council arising from this report.

7. Employee implications

7.1 None

8. Communications implications

8.1 None

9. Consultations

9.1 A summary of the responses received is attached in Appendix 2.

10. Appendices

10.1 Appendix 1: List of proposed polling districts and places

10.2 Appendix 2: Summary of consultation responses

11. Background papers

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

Officer Contact: A.C. Frosdick **Date:** 30th September 2019