

03 September 2019

<b>Report of</b>	<b>Assistant Director - Customer</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>James Bennett 282242</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Polling Districts and Polling Places Review</b>		
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>All Wards</b>		

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 Local Authorities are required by law to review all polling districts and polling places every five years to ensure suitability. Colchester's previous polling districts and polling places review was completed in 2015, to coincide with the ward boundary changes.
- 1.2 During 2019 a further review of polling districts and polling places was undertaken. Electoral area boundaries remain unchanged and only limited changes to polling places. For the full schedule of proposed polling districts and polling places see Appendix A. The eight proposed changes to polling places are detailed within Appendix B. Responses to the public consultation are detailed in Appendix C.

**2. Recommended Decisions**

- 2.1 To recommend to Full Council that it approves and adopts Appendix A – Proposed schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places.

**3. Reason for Recommended Decision**

- 3.1 The Polling Districts and Polling Places Review needs to be agreed and approved before the annual register is published on 1 December 2019.

**4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 None. This review is a statutory requirement set out by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013, Part 2, Section 17.

## **5. Background Information**

### **5.1 Electoral procedure uses the following terminology:**

- Polling district – the geographical area created by sub-dividing a ward.
- Polling place – a polling place is the area in which polling stations will be selected by the (Acting) Returning Officer.
- Polling station – the building within the polling place where voting takes place.

### **5.2 The previous polling districts and polling places review was completed in 2015, to coincide with the ward boundary changes. No electoral area boundaries will be changed in 2019.**

### **5.3 The majority of polling places remain unchanged from the previous review. The limited amendments are detailed below and listed in Appendix B.**

## **6. Equality, Diversity and Human Rights implications**

### **6.1 The recommended schedule ensures, so far as is reasonable and practicable, accessibility for all electors.**

## **7. Strategic Plan References**

### **7.1 The Council's Strategic Plan sets out four themes one of which being: Responsibility – Encouraging everyone to do their bit to making our borough even better**

### **7.2 One of the five priorities under the Responsibility theme is to: 'Promote responsible citizenship by encouraging residents to get involved in their communities and to identify solutions to local issues.'**

### **7.3 The schedule of polling districts and places supports the above by providing robust infrastructure for residents to exercise their democratic rights.**

## **8. Consultation**

### **8.1 A public consultation period was open from Monday 4 March 2019, when the Notice of Polling District and Polling Place Review was published, until Monday 15 April 2019.**

### **8.2 The responses received are reproduced verbatim within Appendix C.**

## **9. Publicity Considerations**

### **9.1 During the period of consultation, maps, current polling districts, elector numbers, and any other relevant information was available for public inspection, along with details listed on the Colchester Borough Council website.**

### **9.2 The electoral areas for Colchester are available to the public.**

### **9.3 The final schedule of polling districts and polling places will be available for public inspection and details listed on the council's website.**

## **10. Financial implications**

### **10.1 There are no financial implications.**

## **11. Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications**

11.1 There are no Health, Wellbeing and Community Safety Implications

## **12. Health and Safety Implications**

12.1 Each polling station is assessed for Health and Safety purposes.

## **13. Risk Management Implications**

13.1 There are no risk management implications.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A – Proposed schedule of Polling Districts and Polling Places
- Appendix B – Explanation of changes to Polling Places and Polling Stations
- Appendix C – Responses received during public consultation