

## BOROUGH OF KETTERING

<b>Committee</b>	<b>RURAL FORUM</b>	Item 10	Page 1 of 3
<b>Report Originator</b>	Ian White Electoral Services Manager	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> N/A	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	
<b>Title</b>	<b>POLLING PLACE AND POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW</b>		

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the comments of the Rural Forum in relation to the polling place and polling district review and its impact on the Parishes in the Borough.

### 2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 amends the Representation of the People Act 1983 to make it a legal requirement that Returning Officers review the polling districts and polling places within their Council area every five years. The last review for Kettering Borough took place in 2014, and the findings were implemented at the Borough Council elections held in May 2015. They have been in place since then, subject to a small number of amendments when premises have become unavailable or unsuitable for use as polling stations or in response to local requests to move polling stations.
- 2.2 As detailed above the review of polling districts and places is a statutory requirement that must be undertaken and completed by January 2020 irrespective of any impending changes to the provision of local government services in Northamptonshire.
- 2.3 At Appendix A to this report, members of the Forum will find a copy of the Terms of Reference for the review.
- 2.4 At Appendix B to this report, members of the Forum will find a copy of the Acting Returning Officer's Report on existing Polling Places.
- 2.5 Further documentation that will assist members of the Forum in this matter is available on the Council's website at [https://www.kettering.gov.uk/downloads/download/13838/polling\\_district\\_and\\_polling\\_place\\_review](https://www.kettering.gov.uk/downloads/download/13838/polling_district_and_polling_place_review)

### 3. FUTURE PROVISION

- 3.1 Kettering Borough continues to grow in terms of the numbers of residential houses and electors. Over the next five-year period, it is estimated that there could be up to an additional 4,200 houses built within the Borough.

## BOROUGH OF KETTERING

<b>Committee</b>	<b>RURAL FORUM</b>	Item 10	Page 2 of 3
------------------	--------------------	------------	----------------

3.2 Although there are many external factors that can affect these figures coming to fruition, we must base our planning for the provision of facilities for voters and the structures for polling on the basis that these levels of development will take place. This will necessitate reviews of the structure of the Register of Electors in areas of high development, along with a review of the available facilities to ensure they are capable of dealing with increased numbers of voters, and the identification of new facilities where necessary. We must ensure that what is in place for the 2020 elections is also suitable for polls up to 2024. The structure of the Register of Electors will also need to reflect both existing levels of electors and accommodate the increases that will inevitably follow the development and occupation of new housing.

3.3 Below is an analysis of rural areas that highlights

- the anticipated development and the potential increase in electorate
- what is available currently in terms of premises used for polling and the impact on future usage of those buildings as a result of the increased numbers.
- whether or not there is any planned developments of community facilities as a result of the increase in residential properties.

<b>Area:</b>	Rural
<b>Wards</b>	Queen Eleanor and Buccleuch, Slade and Welland Wards
<b>Existing Polling Districts</b>	Each Parish Council or Meeting area is a polling district.
<b>Existing Polling Stations</b>	One in each Parish apart from Orton (voters go to Loddington), Brampton Ash (voters go to Dingley) and Sutton Bassett (voters go to Weston by Welland). Additionally, in Geddington, Newton and Little Oakley Parish the electors from Newton vote at the polling station in Geddington. See list at Appendix C.
<b>Levels of Development</b>	There is only minimal development in the rural areas – apart from the part of the East Kettering development affecting Cranford.
<b>Impact of Development Individual Wards</b>	Apart from Cranford, all existing polling places and polling districts are likely to remain fit for purpose throughout the 2020 - 2024 period. In respect of Cranford we need to monitor the development taking place at Hanwood Park and the impact of any further community governance reviews. There is a link to a previous Community Governance Review which recommended that a further review take place once a figure of either 100 occupied houses or 200 electors in residence had been achieved. Any outcome that established a new Parish would require [a] polling place/s, polling district/s and polling station/s to be identified at that time.
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Review provision for Cranford at the time of any future CGR</b></li> </ul>

# BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	<b>RURAL FORUM</b>	Item 10	Page 3 of 3
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## 4. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 4.1 The following people may make representations or comment in respect of this or any other matter relating to the review:
- Any elector in the Kettering Constituency or within Kettering Borough
  - Any person or body with expertise in access for persons with any type of disability

Persons or bodies making representations should, if possible, identify alternative places that can be used for polling. Comments and representations may be made up until the end of July 2019.

- 4.2 Public notice of the review has been given and a copy of the notice relating to the review and the accompanying documentation is on the Council's website. Letters asking for comments and representations have also been sent to:-
- Parish and Town Councils in the Borough
  - Registered Political Parties active in the Borough
  - Local Groups representing people with disabilities
  - Any individual elector who expresses an interest

## 5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 amends the Representation of the People Act 1983 to make it a legal requirement that Returning Officers review the polling districts and polling places within their Council area every five years.

## 6. USE OF RESOURCES

The cost of this review can be met from the allocated electoral services budget for 2019-20.

## 7. RECOMMENDATION

The Forum's comments are requested in relation to polling places and polling districts within the rural area.

### Background Papers:

Title of Document: Electoral Commission Guidance  
Date: February 2013  
Contact Officer: Ian White (ext 4200)

### Previous Reports/Minutes:

Ref:  
Date: