

MINUTES RELATING TO THE POLLING PLACE AND POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW FROM KBC FORUMS/COMMITTEES

Body	Date	Minute
Research & Development Committee	16/04/2019	<p>A report was submitted that sought to notify members of the Committee in respect of the Polling Place and Polling District Review as well as seeking comment in regard to the review timetable and the process for considering the existing structure of polling stations within the Borough/Constituency.</p> <p>It was heard that there was a legal requirement for Returning Officers to review their polling districts and polling places every five years with the last such review for Kettering Borough having taken place in 2014 and its findings implemented at the Borough Council elections held in May 2015. Since that point, a small number of amendments had been made where premises had become unavailable or unsuitable for use as polling stations or in response to local requests to move polling stations. A list of current polling stations was supplied to the meeting.</p> <p>The meeting heard that as a result of planning for the upcoming European Parliament Elections, the timetable for the review as published in the report was very likely to be delayed. There was a statutory deadline for conclusion of the review by January 2020 and this was still deemed achievable even in light of the above elections.</p> <p>It was reported that the Notice of Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places had been published that day and this document invited comments and representations from all quarters. Media releases would be published to advertise the review and local press had already published an article in that regard.</p> <p>The Council maintained a database of existing polling stations and it was understood that although there were a number of existing polling stations that lacked suitability, there were also a lack of alternative venues available in certain areas.</p> <p>The following had been sent letters seeking comments and representations as part of the review:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parish and Town Councils in the Borough • Registered Political Parties active in the Borough • Local Groups representing people with disabilities • Any individual elector who expressed an interest <p>The committee raised concerns regarding the locations of certain existing polling stations being hard to find and asked that consideration be given to the placement of additional directional signage on the highway. These comments were made especially in relation to Highfield Barnes Community Centre and Counties Community Centre.</p> <p>It was heard that a new community centre was being developed on Britannia Road that could potentially replace Park Infant School as a polling station in future. In addition Barton Seagrave Village Hall would be replacing both the local schools as stations for the upcoming European Parliamentary Elections. It remained the Council's policy to reduce its reliance on schools as polling stations over time.</p> <p>Details of groups representing those with disabilities that had been contacted regarding the review were provided, including Shopmobility, Northamptonshire Association for the Blind and Kettering Voluntary network.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED</u> that the Committee noted the timetable and process for the review and made such comments as outlined above</p>
Kettering Town Forum	08/07/2019	<p>The Senior Electoral Services Officer attended the meeting and advised members regarding the ongoing statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review.</p> <p>It was noted that the last review for Kettering Borough took place in 2014, and the findings were implemented at the Borough Council elections held in May 2015. Details</p>

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		<p>were provided of changes made to polling stations since those elections, with specific reference to the recent European elections.</p> <p>The review consultation process was outlined to the forum who noted that comments would be sought from all the geographic forums.</p> <p>Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and queried the possible use of temporary buildings as polling stations and polling station location directions on poll cards.</p>
A6 Towns Forum	10/07/2019	<p>The Senior Electoral Services Officer attended the meeting and advised members regarding the ongoing statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review.</p> <p>It was noted that the last review for Kettering Borough took place in 2014, and the findings were implemented at the Borough Council elections held in May 2015. Details were provided of changes made to polling stations since those elections, with specific reference to the recent European elections.</p> <p>The review consultation process was outlined to the forum who noted that comments would be sought from all the geographic forums.</p> <p>Members were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and queried the possible use of temporary buildings as polling stations and polling station location directions on poll cards.</p>
Rural Forum	18/07/2019	<p>A report was submitted which sought 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.</p> <p>It was noted that the review did not permit changes to parish boundaries or wards. Any changes as a result of the review would be put in place from May 2020, with a further review being held in 2024/25.</p>

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		<p>A final report would be submitted to Full Council in December 2019.</p> <p>Discussion was held on grants available to address issues of access in village halls, and it was noted that Cransley Village Hall had applied for funding from the Council's community fund.</p> <p>Safeguarding issues needed to be addressed when schools remained open on polling day, and for this reason alternative venues were sought where possible, although at times the use of schools as polling places could not be avoided.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be noted.</p>
Research & Development	03/09/2019	<p>A report was submitted that sought comments from members in relation to the ongoing polling place and polling district review ahead of the meeting of Executive on 18th September.</p> <p>The meeting heard that the consultation period had now closed, with the report having been taken to various committees. Responses and feedback received was included as an appendix to the officer report.</p> <p>It was requested that the list of polling places and polling districts be included as part of the Executive papers.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the comment above be noted.</p>
Executive	18/09/2019	Unavailable at the time of publication