

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Ian White Electoral Services Manager	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> N/A	
Wards Affected	All	8 th July 2019	
Title	POLLING PLACE AND POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the comments of the Forum in relation to the polling place and polling district review and its impact on the Kettering Town area.

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 is available on the Council's website at 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 4,300 houses built within the Borough. The estimated total for Kettering Town is 1700 properties.

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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.

Below is an analysis of each of the Kettering Town wards 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 are any planned developments of community facilities as a result of the increase in residential properties.

Area:	Kettering Town
Wards	All Saints, Avondale Grange, Brambleside, Ise Lodge, Northfield, Pipers Hill, St Michaels & Wicksteed, St Peters, William Knibb.
Existing Polling Districts	KA to KF (All Saints), KG to KI (Avondale Grange), KM to KN (Brambleside), KW to KX (Ise Lodge), KY (Northfield) , KZ to LB (Pipers Hill), LT to LV (St Michaels & Wicksteed), LW to LX (St Peters), MJ to MM (William Knibb)
Existing Polling Stations	See Appendix C to this report.
Levels of Development	There is minimal development in All Saints, Avondale Grange, Brambleside, Northfield, Pipers Hill, St Michaels & Wicksteed and William Knibb Wards. However there is large scale development within Ise Lodge (East Kettering development) and St Peters Wards.
Impact of Development Individual Wards	<p>The wards which have minimal development are expected to be able to cope in terms of polling district set-up and polling places. However, close attention needs to be paid to the other Wards individually to ensure that they have adequate structures and facilities for the forthcoming five years.</p> <p>Ise Lodge Ward will have an estimated 721 new houses and 1200 new electors as part of the East Kettering SUE by 2024. Clearly by that time, the existing polling places will not be suitable for accommodating such a large number of voters, and it is likely that either schools or community buildings planned as part of the</p>

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	<p>development will need to be utilised. There will also be the need to introduce additional polling districts to this Ward. However, the difficulty in relation to this area is the timing of the building and then occupancy. Further information will be needed in respect of this issue before any restructuring of the Register of Electors or allocation of voters to polling places can take place. It may be that if the occupancy rate is slow and facilities are not available, then for a short time (a) mobile building/s may have to be used for polling purposes in this area.</p> <p>St Peters Ward will have an additional 588 houses which could lead to an estimated 980 additional electors within the Ward. The development area is in one of the existing polling districts, which is served by one polling place. However, due to the size of the development there will need to be an appraisal of the polling district structure for the ward and polling place provision. It may be that an additional polling place could be used, or that the polling districts are restructured so that the allocation to the existing polling places is adjusted accordingly. It is considered that both of the existing polling places could cope with additional voters but care would need to be taken to ensure that the allocation of voters to polling stations was the best geographic fit.</p>
Actions	<p>Ise Lodge Ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if schools or community buildings planned as part of the East Kettering SUE can be utilised. • Plan to introduce additional polling districts to this Ward, taking into account the difficulty in relation to the timing of construction and then occupancy. • In the case of the occupancy rate being slow and facilities not being available, consider the feasibility for a short time of (a) mobile building/s being used for polling purposes in this area. <p>St Peters Ward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will need to be an appraisal of the polling district structure for the ward and polling place provision. • Consider using an additional polling place or that the polling districts are restructured so that the allocation to the existing polling places is adjusted accordingly. It is considered that both of the existing polling places could cope with additional voters but • Ensure that the allocation of voters to polling stations is the best geographic fit.

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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 area of the town of Kettering.

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

Ref:
Date: