

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	A6 TOWNS FORUM	Item 8	Page 1 of 3
Report Originator	Ian White Electoral Services Manager	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> N/A	
Wards Affected	All	10 th July 2019	
Title	POLLING PLACE AND POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To notify members of the Forum in respect of the above review.

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 As part of the consultation process for the review, members will be asked for their comments on the existing situation with regard to polling districts, polling places and polling stations.
- 2.4 At **Appendix A** to this report members of the Forum will find a copy of the terms of reference for the review.
- 2.5 At **Appendix B** to this report, members of the Forum will find a copy of the Acting Returning Officer's report.
- 2.6 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
- 2.7 It is envisaged that reports will be submitted to the following meetings of various Committees and Forums as follows:

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<u>Committee</u>	<u>Date</u>
Research & Development Committee	16 th April 2019
Kettering Town Forum	8 th July 2019
A6 Towns Forum	10 th July 2019
Rural Forum	18 th July 2019
Research & Development Committee	3 rd September 2019
Executive	18 th September 2019
Council	25 th September 2019

2.8 The timetable for the review is as follows:

- Mid-April 2019 – Publish notice of the holding of the review
- End of May 2019 – Publish the report of the (Acting) Returning Officer within 30 days of the notice of review and seek representations on its content
- End of July 2019 – Deadline for receipt of representations
- Late-September – Final report to full Council and publication of the decision of the Borough Council
- 1st December 2019 – Any amendments needed to the structure of the Register of Electors to be implemented

3. FUTURE PROVISION

3.1 Kettering Borough continues to grow in terms of the numbers of residential houses and electors across the Borough and 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 the increased numbers. The identification of new facilities may also be required in some areas.

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:-

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- 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

Members' of the Forum are invited to comment in respect of the existing structure of polling stations within the A6 Towns area of the Borough/Constituency area in accordance with the timetable as detailed above.

Background Papers:

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

Previous Reports/Minutes:

Ref: None
Date: N/A