

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 2023

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS 2022/23

REPORT OF THE ELECTIONS AND EXECUTIVE SUPPORT TEAM MANAGER

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 Every local authority is required to carry out a review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations every five years. This is to ensure reasonable facilities are provided for voting and that polling places are accessible to all electors.
- 1.2 The last compulsory review of polling districts and polling places in the South Staffordshire Constituency commenced in October 2018 and was completed in December 2018.
- 1.3 This review commenced in October 2022 and was completed in January 2023 and is as a result of the changes to District / Parish Ward boundaries following the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) Review of South Staffordshire; the review was timed to enable any changes to be implemented before the next scheduled District and Parish elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- Note the consultee responses
- Approve the final Polling Place scheme

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	The delivery of the democratic process underpins the operation of local government and thus the delivery of the Council Plan objectives.
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	N/A	The purpose of the review is to ensure that all voters have reasonable facilities for voting. Assessments for

		each polling station will be undertaken in accordance with requirements.
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	N/A – report to Standards and Resources Committee	
KEY DECISION	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	May 2023	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	Yes	All Polling Stations have a booking fee; there is an establishment budget for the paying of these fees.
LEGAL ISSUES	None	The Council has undertaken the review in accordance with the principles in the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES		
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	All	

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 4.1 A notice was published to launch the review on the 24 October 2022 and full details of the review were made available on the Council’s website and noticeboards and widely publicised via the Weekly News Round-Ups and through libraries, South Staffordshire Partnership, local MP’s and Staffordshire County Council. A paper version and web-based version of the consultation was created and was promoted on social media.

Information on the proposed scheme by the Returning Officer was also made available on the website during the review.

The proposed scheme takes in the changes because of the LGBCE Review, to reduce District wards to 20 (from 25) and consequential amendments to parish wards in Great Wyrley, Penkridge, Perton and Wombourne.

The polling district references have been revised to make identification of the polling districts easier with a clearer link to the different wards.

The following changes to the Polling Districts and Stations have been necessitated either by the outcome of the Boundary Review, or as a result of the availability of particular polling stations, or to ensure better equality of voter numbers. New polling district references are given first with the former reference in brackets:

- 1) **ACB** (ACA3) - District Ward changed from Codsall South to Bilbrook in accordance with Boundary Review recommendations.
- 2) **CEB** (BEA part) – New Parish Ward of Great Wyrley West created in Cheslyn Hay Village District Ward in accordance with Boundary Review recommendations.
- 3) **GBA** (BEA part) – Part of area moved to **CEB** and Polling Station moved to Great Wyrley Community Centre, Landywood Lane to better reflect polling district area.
- 4) **GCA** (BGA part) – Part of area moved from **HBA**, District & Parish Ward changed from Great Wyrley Town to Landywood. Polling station moved to Senior Citizens Centre, Broadmeadow Lane from Scout & Guide Centre, Walsall Road. Great Wyrley Labour Group have suggested using Great Wyrley Methodist Church, Walsall Road as alternative, both are at either end of Polling District, and the preferred option is to use Senior Citizens Centre as proposed.
- 5) **HBA** (BGA part) – Remainder of polling district continue to use Scout & Guide Centre, Walsall Road as a single polling station (was a double station).
- 6) **HCA** (BHA) – Polling Station moved to Great Wyrley Community Centre, Landywood Lane to better reflect polling district area.
- 7) **LBA** (BQA) – Polling Station moved to Kinver Sports & Community Centre, Legion Drive as used successfully during COVID19 elections.
- 8) **LDA** (BSA) – Polling Station moved to Kinver Sports & Community Centre, Legion Drive as used successfully during COVID19 elections due to Methodist Church Hall no longer being available.
- 9) **OFA** (CEA1 part) – Vale Gardens & part of Wolverhampton Road moved to **PAA**, remaining area changed from Penkridge West to Parish Ward Penkridge North East and District Ward to Penkridge North & Acton Trussell in accordance with Boundary Review recommendations.
- 10) **OGA** (CEA2) – District Ward changed from Penkridge West to Penkridge North & Acton Trussell in accordance with Boundary Review recommendations.
- 11) **PAA** (CAA & CEA1 part) – Vale Gardens & part of Wolverhampton Road moved from **OFA** (CEA1). Part of Polling District, South of Boscomoor Lane, moved to **PCA** (CDA) due to Polling Station not able to accommodate a double station at Reading Room Market Street, Penkridge.
- 12) **PCA** (CDA) – Part of Polling District **PAA** (CAA), South of Boscomoor Lane, moved due to Polling Station not able to accommodate a double station at Reading Room Market Street, Penkridge, double station at Princefield First School, Saxon Road, Penkridge.

13) **RAA** (CGA2 & CFA part) – Rockingham Drive & part of Edge Hill Drive moved from **SAA/SBA** (CFA).

14) **SAA** (CFA & CGA2 part) – Rockingham Drive & part of Edge Hill Drive moved to **RAA** (CGA2), St Andrews Drive and surrounding area moved to **TAA** (CGA1). Polling district then split to **SAA / SBA** which will be moved to Perton Library, Severn Drive, Perton this will be more convenient for electors in part of Lakeside whilst allowing for the increase in electorate due to new development.

15) **SBA** (CFA) Polling district split to **SAA / SBA** and Polling station moved to Perton Library, Severn Drive, Perton this will be more convenient for electors in part of Lakeside whilst allowing for the increase in electorate due to the new development.

16) **TAA** (CGA1) St Andrews Drive and surrounding area moved from **SAA/SBA** (CFA) & District & Parish Ward changed from Perton Dippons to Perton Wrottesley in accordance with Boundary Review recommendations.

17) **TCA** (CJA) Polling station moved to Perton Library, Severn Drive, Perton this will be more convenient for electors.

18) **WCA** (CUA & CTA part) – Estate North of Common Road moved to **XAA** (CUA), Rookery Road, roads NE of Gittins Park & Copper Beech estates moved from **XAA** (CUA). District & Parish Ward changed from Wombourne South East to Wombourne North in accordance with Boundary Review recommendations.

19) **XAA** (CTA & CUA part) – Estate North of Common Road moved from **WCA** (CTA), Rookery Road, roads NE of Gittins Park & Copper Beech estates moved to **WCA** (CTA). District & Parish Ward changed from Wombourne South East to Wombourne South in accordance with Boundary Review recommendations.

20) **CCB** (ANA) – Polling Station moved to Salem Methodist Church Hall, High Street Cheslyn Hay, due to Cheslyn Hay WMC no longer being available. This will create a double station with **CDB** (APA).

4.2 During the consultation period there were a number of comments/representations made. These can be found at Appendix 1 along with the Returning Officer's response to the representations made. None of the comments resulted in a change to the original proposals.

4.3 The final Polling Places, Polling Districts and Polling Stations (Change Summary) are detailed at Appendix 2.

The final Polling Places, Polling Districts and Polling Stations (full details) are detailed at Appendix 3.

- 4.4 Mapping is detailed at Appendix 4a for the Polling Districts listed in 4.1 above.

Mapping is detailed at Appendix 4b for the Locality Areas listed in 4.1 above.

- 4.5 Following the combined local elections, feedback will be obtained from the Polling Station Inspectors, Presiding Officers, Candidates and agents along with any feedback from electors to ensure that the Polling Stations remain suitable for electors.

Publishing the conclusions of the review

- 4.6 Following approval from the Standards and Resources Committee, a notice of conclusion of the review will be published on the Council's website and a link to this report will be provided which shows all the correspondence received as part of the Review. Details will also be provided details to Parish Councils via the Elections newsletter.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Standards and Resources Committee on the 13 September 2018.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Consultation responses.

Appendix 2 – Final Polling Station scheme (Changes Summary).

Appendix 3 – Final Polling Station scheme (Full Details).

Appendix 4a – Polling District Maps

Appendix 4b – Area Maps

Report prepared by: Matt Powis, Elections and Executive Support Team Manager