

## **COMPULSORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS 2019**

REPORT OF: HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES  
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Wards Affected: ALL  
Key Decision: Yes  
Report to: COUNCIL  
24<sup>th</sup> July 2019

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### **Purpose of Report**

1. To notify Members of a forthcoming compulsory review of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.

### **Summary**

2. In accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983 (RPA 1983) all local authorities must review their UK Parliamentary polling districts and polling places at least once every five years.

### **Recommendations**

3. **Council is recommended to note that;**
  - (i) **Electoral Services will conduct the following review stages to the timescales indicated:**

**Preliminary Review & internal project planning – August 2019**

**Stage 1: Notification & Promotion of Review – 2 September – 20 September**

**Stage 2: Public & Stakeholder Consultation – 23 September – 29 November**

**Stage 3: Concluding the Review – 2 December 2019 – 17 January 2020**

**Stage 4: Report Outcomes of the Review to Council – 29 January 2020**

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### **Background**

4. The previous compulsory review was conducted in late 2013 and reported to Council in early 2014. Reviews are to be conducted at least every 5 years. The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the scheduled timings in that the next compulsory review must be started and completed between 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020 (inclusive).

### **Public & Stakeholder Consultation**

5. The Acting Returning Officers (ARO) for the three parliamentary constituencies wholly or partly within the Mid Sussex District area must be specifically consulted and be offered the opportunity to provide a public statement. Representations & comments will be sought from Elected Members of the Council, Parliament, European Parliament, County, Town & Parish Councils, Political Parties, Members of the Public and others.

### **Other Options Considered**

6. None – it is a statutory requirement to conduct the review.

### **Financial Implications**

7. No material implications. Polling place costs are reimbursed for all elections except those to Mid Sussex District Council.

### **Risk Management Implications**

8. The timing has been selected to occur between the 2019 local elections and the forthcoming PCC election in May 2020. There is perceived to be an ever present risk that the UK may need to undertake an early General Election, but as this can occur at almost any time, activities such this must proceed.

### **Equality and Customer Service Implications**

9. Local authorities have a duty to review the accessibility of all polling places to disabled voters and ensure that every polling place, and prospective polling place, for which it is responsible is accessible to disabled voters 'so far as is reasonable and practicable'. To this end a range of disability organisations will be invited to contribute to the review and any representations received will be given due consideration.

### **Other Material Implications**

10. None.

### **Background Papers**

- None at this stage – All ARO public statements and consultation responses will be published at the Council's website at regular intervals throughout the review.