



**Report Reference Number: C/19/06**

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**To: Council**  
**Date: 17 September 2019**  
**Ward(s) Affected: All**  
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**Lead Executive Member: Councillor Mark Crane, Leader of the Council**  
**Lead Officer: Janet Waggott, Chief Executive**

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**Title:** Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places 2019

**Summary:**

The Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty for the (Acting) Returning Officer to undertake a review of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places every five years. The current review must be completed by 31 January 2020.

This report sets out the (Acting) Returning Officer's final proposals for polling districts and polling places following the review along with responses received to the consultation during the review process.

**Recommendations:**

- i) To allocate the Comus Inn instead of Camblesforth Village Church as the polling station for the CAM polling district.**
- ii) Aside from the above change, to agree that all the other polling stations remain as outlined in the Acting Returning Officer's proposals.**
- iii) To delegate authority to the (Acting) Returning Officer to find an alternative polling station for an election if any of the polling stations outlined in the proposals are unavailable.**

**Reasons for recommendation**

To comply with the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

**1. Introduction and background**

- 1.1 The Representation of the People Act 1983 as amended by the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a duty for the (Acting) Returning Officer to undertake a review of UK Parliamentary Polling Districts and Polling Places every five years. The current review must be completed by 31 January 2020.
- 1.2 The aim of any such review as outlined in the guidance is:
- Seek to ensure that all electors in a constituency in the local authority area have such reasonable facilities as are practicable in the circumstances.
  - Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, every polling place which the local authority is responsible for is accessible to electors who are disabled.
- 1.3 The final decision with regard to polling districts and polling places is the responsibility of Full Council and it must now consider the proposals put forward by the (Acting) Returning Officer.

## **2. The Report**

- 2.1 The current review of polling districts and polling places must be completed by 31 January 2020. The Notice of Review set out at Appendix A which set out the aims of the review, the consultation timescales and the review timetable was published on Friday 5 July 2019. The (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals were also published on the same date. A list of the current stations is attached at Appendix B.
- 2.2 The Council is required by law to divide its area into polling districts for the purposes of parliamentary elections and designate the polling places for those districts. Traditionally, the same polling districts are designated for all elections.
- 2.3 A consultation was held between Friday 5 July 2019 and 5pm on Monday 19 August 2019 inviting electors within the local authority area to make representations regarding the proposals. A copy of the notice was also sent to the following representatives:
- The MP for Selby and Ainsty
  - Selby District Councillors
  - North Yorkshire County Councillors for the Selby area
  - Parish Councils.
- 2.4 The Council also had a duty to consult with any person or body with expertise for persons with any type of disability. In response to this requirement, the Council sent the notice of review to the following organisations:
- Selby District Disability Forum
  - Selby District Vision

- Bee-Able CIC
- Age UK Selby District
- Selby District Dial
- Selby Deaf Hub
- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Learning Disability Partnership Board, Selby and District Local Area Group
- Selby District AVS
- North Yorkshire Forum for Older People

2.5 A copy of the responses received during the consultation is outlined at Appendix C.

### **3. (Acting) Returning Officer's Recommendations**

#### Stutton Village Hall

It is proposed to retain this polling station for the AGM polling district due to concerns over the travelling distance to get to the next nearest polling station in Tadcaster. Due to the TAS polling district also being at this location, it means the polling station still benefits two polling districts.

#### Camblesforth Village Church

Concerns have been raised by polling staff regarding the condition of the building for this polling station. In light of the concerns raised, a suggestion has been made to move the polling station for the CAM polling district to the Comus Inn which is situated 0.2 miles from the Church. The Comus Inn has been inspected and is a more suitable venue therefore Council are asked to agree this proposal.

#### Gateforth – Three Greens

While concern has not been raised concerning the condition of the polling station, due to the polling station being inside someone's property, consideration has been given to finding another location. However following detailed consideration, no suitable alternative venue has been identified. The costs of installing a mobile polling station along with finding a suitable location to hold the station also make this option difficult. It will therefore be proposed to retain the current station.

#### Selby District Olympia HQ Scout Hall

Concerns have been raised regarding the heating and water facilities at the location however upon further discussions with the booking agent, both issues have been resolved and therefore no change is proposed to this location.

#### Other

Concerns regarding the disabled access to some other polling stations have been noted however it is felt that these could be solved with the implementation of temporary disabled access facilities during elections.

#### **4. Appeals Process**

4.1 Following the conclusion of the review, certain persons had a right to make representations to the Electoral Commission. If, on receipt of such representations, the Electoral Commission find that the review did not:

- Meet the reasonable requirements of the electors in the constituency, or a body of them, or
- Take sufficient account of the accessibility for disabled person of a polling station / polling stations within a designated polling place

then the Commission may direct the authority to make any alterations to the polling places that they think necessary and, if the alterations are not made within two months, make the alterations themselves.

#### **5. Implications**

##### **5.1 Legal Implications**

The legislation which applies to reviews is the Representation of the People Act 1983 and the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

##### **5.2 Financial Implications**

While the Government reimburses local authorities for the costs of polling stations for national elections, local authorities are required to pay for local government elections in their area.

##### **5.3 Policy and Risk Implications**

None

##### **5.4 Corporate Plan Implications**

None

##### **5.5 Resource Implications**

None

##### **5.6 Other Implications**

None

##### **5.7 Equalities Impact Assessment**

None

**6. Conclusion**

Council is asked to consider the proposals outlined by the (Acting) Returning Officer regarding the review of polling districts and polling places.

**7. Background Documents**

The (Acting) Returning Officer's proposals

Electoral Commission Guidance on the Reviews of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations

**8. Appendices**

Appendix A – Notice of Review

Appendix B – List of current polling stations

Appendix C – Consultation Responses

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